



## Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida

Thursday, March 30, 2017

### *Workshop*

The Board met this date in a Workshop in the Civic Center Highway 98 North, at 1750 Highway 98 North in Okeechobee, Florida at 6:00 PM.

### **Call to Order**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Terry Burroughs	Chairman	Present	
Bryant Culpepper	Commissioner	Present	
Kelly Owens	Commissioner	Present	
David Hazellief	Commissioner	Present	
Bradley G. Goodbread	Commissioner	Present	
Robbie Chartier	County Administrator	Present	
John Cassels	County Attorney	Present	
Jeff Shain	Deputy Clerk	Present	

### **I. Commencement**

Chairman Terry Burroughs called the meeting to Order. Commissioner Bryant Culpepper offered the invocation, after which Commissioner Bradley G. Goodbread led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. Public Comment**

There were no Public Comments.

### **III. Agenda**

#### **1. JOINT WORKSHOP BETWEEN COUNTY, CITY OF OKEECHOBEE AND OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY (OUA) TO DISCUSS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

Chairman Terry Burroughs asked all the Boards to introduce themselves. City Council, OUA and BOCC.

Chairman Burroughs stated the purpose of this meeting is not to disband the OUA Board, the purpose is to create more interaction between the three Boards, City Council, OUA and BOCC.

#### **County Discussion Items:**

1. Pg. 6 OBWA: shall mean the Okeechobee Beach Water Association, Inc. A Florida not-for-profit corporation organized for the purpose of, and currently engaged in, constructing, maintaining and operating a water system for the supplying of water....etc."  
- The Status of the corporation indicates inactive on Sunbiz and was dissolved August, 1996. Therefore, is this still applicable today?

a. Chairman Terry Burroughs discussed item #1 and asked if it is still applicable.

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b. All parties agreed that it should be taken out.

2. Pg. 14 4.2 in part states:"... one appointment by the county must be a resident of the area currently within the Service Area of Okeechobee Beachwater Association." - Is this still applicable today?

a. Everyone agreed it could be taken out.

3. Pg. 15 4.4 in part states "...appoint a fifth member of the Authority Board .... said fifth member and alternate for that member, so long as the District encompasses a portion of Glades County, said fifth member and the alternate for that member, shall be a resident of that area within the District located in Glades County. - Is this still applicable today?

a. Everyone thought it is still applicable today.

4. Not specific to the Interlocal Agreement, Discussion regarding Accountability of OUA to the County. Reporting more regularly to the Board of County Commissioners, impact to road and drainage facilities, infill of service area, new expansion projects, capital connection fees and debt philosophy.

The following items were discussed:

- a. OUA Board Member should update the City and County. It should be the OUA Chair.
- b. Video the OUA Meeting via a web cam or move OUA Board Meeting to the BOCC Boardroom.
- c. Chairman Burroughs asked if OUA has a Strategic Plan. OUA Board Member discussed OUA projects. Strategic Plan has changed as things change. Three-year plan is the most realistic.
- d. Chairman Burroughs discussed expanding OUA to bring in more customers. OUA Board Member stated they would continue to lobby County Commission for mandatory hookups.
- e. OUA Board Member, mandatory hookups where they are available, where not available it costs millions of dollars to run pipe.
- f. Hookups are about \$2,500 per connection for water and sewer after a 75% fee reduction.
- g. The three Boards should work collectively and lobby Tallahassee for grants.
- h. Is the City in favor for mandatory hookups.
- i. OUA should come up with a plan for hookups where there are existing pipes and bring it before the Board of County Commissioners and City Council.
- j. Work with developers on new projects to insure hookups are mandatory.
- k. B-Map project going through legislature now.
- l. Need a plan on how to get off septic tanks in our community.
- m. Infill, the process of developing vacant or under-used parcels within existing urban areas that are already largely developed.
- n. Possibility of creating a 1% sales tax to help communities get onto the sewer system.
- o. County not happy with work in Bet-Her Acres. OUA's contractor will put the streets

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- back correctly.
- p. OUA might use the BOCC Boardroom for their April 11th meeting.

**City Discussion Items:**

1. Accountability of OUA to the City, reporting more regularly to the City Council.
  - a. City Council stated common ground issues should be shared between both City and OUA.
  - b. Worry about East Okeechobee, which is a poor area.
  - c. Connections and infill.

**OUA Discussion Items:**

1. Pg. 7 Quorum: Shall mean four-fifths of the full membership of the Authority Board established by this Interlocal Agreement. Pg. 17 4.10 all decisions of the Authority Board shall require a four-fifths majority vote of the entire Board membership. - OUA requests a simple majority rather than a super majority.
  - a. OUA requests the County and City consider a simple majority.
  
2. Pg. 17 4.9 Authority Board members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provide in Section 112.061, Florida Statutes. - OUA requests compensation for attendance at meetings as it takes away from their businesses and there are costs incurred by them.
  - a. OUA requests some compensation.
  
3. Not specific to the Interlocal Agreement, Discussion regarding Connection Policy. Currently the County and the City do not require mandatory connections for existing homes or businesses when the services are available. OUA requests the respective agencies discuss this continued policy and consider revising to provide for increase customers to their system.
  - a. Form a subcommittee to redo the interlocal agreement and compensation.
  - b. Once subcommittee is complete with interlocal agreement the boards will meet again.

**Requested Action:** Conduct a joint workshop with the City of Okeechobee and Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) for reviewing the Interlocal Agreement.

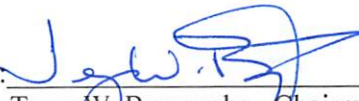
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CONDUCTED</b>
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**IV. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Terry Burroughs declared the Workshop of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

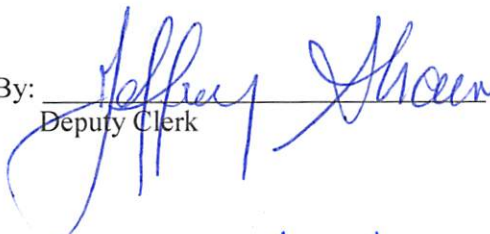
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Terry W Burroughs - Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Robertson  
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

By:   
Deputy Clerk



Approved: 4/25/2017

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