

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

5:30 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, met in regular session on November 22, 2016 at 5:30 PM in the Government Center Commission Room, Building C, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rita Pritchett	Vice Chairwoman/Commissioner District 1	Present	
Jim Barfield	Commissioner District 2	Present	
John Tobia	Commissioner District 3	Present	
Curt Smith	Chairman/Commissioner District 4	Present	
Kristine Isnardi	Commissioner District 5	Present	

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Carol Wheatley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATHS OF OFFICE, RE: RITA PRITCHETT, JOHN TOBIA, AND KRISTINE ISNARDI

Honorable Judge John D. Galluzzo administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Rita Pritchett, John Tobia, and Kristine Isnardi.

KRISTINE ISNARDI, DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Isnardi expressed appreciation to her family, friends, and supporters for giving her the opportunity to serve on this Board.

RITA PRITCHETT, DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Pritchett expressed appreciation to everyone for coming out and supporting her; and she stated she is honored to be serving with the quality of people on the Board.

JOHN TOBIA, DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Tobia expressed appreciation to everyone throughout the campaign and his family; and he stated he looks forward to serving this community.

SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Board appointed Commissioner Curt Smith as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jim Barfield, Commissioner District 2
SECONDER: Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5
AYES: Pritchett, Barfield, Tobia, Smith, Isnardi

SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Board appointed Commissioner Rita Pritchett as Vice Chairwoman of the Board of County Commissioners.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jim Barfield, Commissioner District 2
SECONDER: Curt Smith, Chairman/Commissioner District 4
AYES: Pritchett, Barfield, Tobia, Smith, Isnardi

ITEM II.A., AUTHORIZATION, RE: USE CURRENT CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE PLATES

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated each year when Chairmanship is changed, staff does not know who the new Chairperson will be, so the old Chairperson's signature plates are used until such time as the new Chairperson's signature plates come in; and this is the request to utilize the previous Chairperson's signature plates for Payroll and Accounts Payable until such time as the new chairperson's plates come in.

The Board granted permission to continue to use the current Chairman's signature plates for signing Payroll and Accounts Payable checks until the new signature plates can be obtained with the new Chairman's signature.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rita Pritchett, Vice Chairwoman/Commissioner District 1
SECONDER: Jim Barfield, Commissioner District 2
AYES: Pritchett, Barfield, Tobia, Smith, Isnardi

ITEM II.B., DELEGATE AUTHORITY, RE: COMMISSION DISTRICT OFFICE SPACE

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated this is a request to delegate the County Manager the authority to negotiate and execute any lease agreements that maybe necessary for County Commissioners who desire to lease offices that are outside of County facilities or that are in commercial facilities; this would expedite those Commissioners who may desire to move into those facilities because there are very few meetings between now and the end of the calendar year; and this is an execution of the negotiation and approval of those leases pending review and approval by the County Attorney's office.

Chairman Smith asked if the County Manager had already looked at leases and the contents thereof.

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Mr. Whitten stated yes he has and needs to quickly get through negotiating, looking at the leases, and then executing them; this is where the Boards consideration comes in; and he believes he will be looking at two leases.

Chairman Smith clarified that the Board would only be giving the County Manager permission to look at those leases and negotiation of those leases.

Mr. Whitten stated he left it open as to whether or not those are coming back; the new Commissioners are starting today and there is a need to actually execute them as soon as possible to get them into whatever offices they are going to occupy.

Nancy Higgs commented she was a County Commissioner for 12 years; she is very enthusiastic for the new Boards service to the County; and she wished them all the best in what it does. She continued she is here to discuss the leases and where the County Commissioners should be; most importantly County Commissioners have very little power themselves, but as a Board, can do some things; it is the Board who sets the criteria for where District offices are; and it is the Board that will ultimately approve any kind of lease or action there. She went on to urge the Board to make it clear that this is an open process and the procurement process should be consistent with other procurements; it should be advertised; it should be open for those who want to come forward and offer to rent to the Board, therefore being a transparent process; and in her own opinion, she believes the Commission office should be in the District the Commissioner represents, and readily accessible, so people can get there to meet with their elected Commissioner. She recommended before the Board goes further with this to decide if there are any constraints, it should be in a public building, if a suitable one is available, and if that is not the case, then it should go through a competitive process as it would any other acquisition.

Scott Knox, County Attorney, stated the authority that the County Manager has asked for is approval of the lease and execution of the lease; he can go ahead and negotiate the lease and sign on behalf of the Board; but any lease that he signs is going to have to be subject to approval by the Board, because the statute requires the Board to approve any leases that it engages in.

Chairman Smith clarified that it is the County Attorney's view that the Board should allow the County Manager to do that; and then the Board can consider it at a later meeting.

Attorney Knox replied yes he thinks that is what should be done and to later ratify what he does when he comes back to the Board.

Commissioner Tobia asked if any criteria was going to be set any ground rules as far as rent, and other things such as the time line, is it going to be a one-year, three-year, or five-year lease; what the cost will be; and where the burden will come from.

Mr. Whitten stated he believes what is best in terms of the term is to at max be a four year lease, which would be consistent with the term of the Commissioner; the expense would either be a combination of their existing dollars in the current Commissioners budget, but most probably out of reserves for this current fiscal year; and then as part of the budgeting process for subsequent fiscal years.

Commissioner Tobia asked if this has happened where the County Manager on behalf of a County Commissioner has gone outside to seek private space as an outside expense.

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Mr. Whitten stated this will be his first time; the County does lease space for the Health Department, record storage; and maybe from time to time for other functions, but not to his knowledge for a County Commissioner.

Chairman Smith asked if the lease would include a prerequisite or reserve that the County could renew the lease for another four years.

Commissioner Barfield asked what the anticipated cost would be.

Mr. Whitten stated different markets, square footage, and utilities would make that hard to determine; and ultimately it will have to come before the Board for approval, if the Board would like to place a cap on it.

Chairman Smith stated at this point it is really not known; all the Board is doing tonight is giving permission for the County Manager to survey and report back to it.

Mr. Whitten stated he is going to negotiate and execute contingent upon the Board's approval.

The Board delegated authority to the County Manager for negotiation, approval, and execution of any leases for office space for County Commissioners who desire to lease offices outside of County-owned facilities.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Rita Pritchett, Vice Chairwoman/Commissioner District 1
SECONDER:	Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5
AYES:	Rita Pritchett, Jim Barfield, Curt Smith, Kristine Isnardi
NAYS:	John Tobia

ITEM III.A., STOCKTON WHITTEN, COUNTY MANAGER

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, reminded the Board that it sets the annual calendar and his office will be getting that out for its consideration at the December 6 meeting.

ITEM III.E., JOHN TOBIA, DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Tobia pointed out that Ellie, Nora, and Ivan had arrived, and expressed his appreciation for their appearance.

ITEM III.F., CURT SMITH, DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER

Chairman Smith stated he always has something to say; he welcomed the new Board; and he went on to read a written statement to the new Commissioners. He continued this night is all about the new Board Members, their hard work and passion that got them elected; they will meet the challenges of the upcoming months and years with himself and Commissioner Barfield, the two veterans, with two years of service; and they thought they knew a lot and quickly discovered they did not. He went on to say it is going to be a learning experience for them; the five of them will make decisions for the good of the people; each one brings a different perspective to the decision making process; and he wants them to strongly understand that three votes is a priority, two votes are not. He stated they may agree and they may not, but neither makes anyone a bad person or a good person; if someone disagrees, it does not make

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him or her bad or good, it is just a difference of opinion; there is always another issue and another day; and he pointed out for every vote made there will be supporters and there will be detractors. He noted although there will be no calls from supporters there will be calls from the detractors, their friends, and their relatives. He stated the one thing he has heard each of them say is the roads need fixed; how to find the money to do that is the challenge he charges each of them with; and he mentioned he was the deciding no vote last November to the issue that would have mandated a five-cent a gallon gas tax. He continued after being on the Board of County Commissioners for the last two years and scouring the budget, he has not been able to find the funds that could solve the decaying roads; John Denninghoff, Director of Public Works, and the County Manager both believe that the County needs \$10 - \$12 million a year to start playing catch up; and he has spoken to three different asphalt plants and they all told him that they have not seen asphalt this cheap in 20 years. He went on to say with that knowledge they all have to understand that with every day they are not paving means they will be paying more later; this is a problem that has to be solved; this is a heavy burden that they must be acknowledged; and it is the biggest challenge that they are all faced with as they represent the tax payers and residents of Brevard County. He stated although Brevard is the ninth most populated County in the State, it is the 56th or 57th in spending per capita; they have their work cut out for themselves because to responsibly represent the people of Brevard County this problem has to be solved; and he once again welcomed the new members to the Board.

ITEM III.G., KRISTINE ISNARDI, DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Isnardi thanked her family for their patience and understanding throughout this chaotic election cycle; she stated most of the new members have had their fair share of making people happy and not so happy; she looks forward to finding the road money; and that taxation is the last thing on her list. She went on to say that as long as this Board has the commitment, she believes it can be done with prioritization.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

CURT SMITH, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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