

JANUARY 25, 2011

The [Joint Meeting](#) of the [Board of Lee County Commissioners and the Town Council of Fort Myers Beach](#) was held on this date in the Bay Oaks Recreation Center, located at 2731 Oak Street, Fort Myers Beach, Florida, with the following members present:

LEE COUNTY COMMISSION

Frank B. Mann, Chair
 John E. Manning, Vice-Chairman
 Ray Judah
 Tammara Hall
 A. Brian Bigelow (arrived at 2:18 p.m.)

Senior Staff Participants:

Interim County Attorney Andrea Fraser
 Deputy County Manager Bill Hammond
 Assistant County Manager Pete Winton
 Assistant County Manager Doug Meurer

FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Larry Kiker
 Vice-Mayor Bob Raymond
 Councilwoman Jo List
 Councilman Tom Babcock
 Councilman Alan Mandel

Senior Staff Participants:

Town Manager Terry Stewart
 Town Attorney Marilyn Miller

I. CALL TO ORDER

Town of Fort Myers Beach (TFMB) Mayor Larry Kiker called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. and reviewed procedural guidelines and identified senior staff present for his Council's support and for that of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Wing Chaplain Major Vincent A. Cummings, USAFR, of the 482nd Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Force Reserve Base. Major Cummings began by requesting a moment of silence in memory of Lehigh Acres resident Marine Sgt. Jason G. Amores, killed on January 20th while serving in Afghanistan.

II. WELCOME

(Commissioner Bigelow arrived during the following comments.) After both Mayor Kiker and Chairman Mann offered brief opening comments, the Mayor recognized the County's past efforts; acknowledged current budget constraints; and reviewed the objective of consensus on project priorities, timelines, and policy. Stating that he intended no reduction in the FMB roles and responsibilities, the Mayor advised he sought a matching commitment to accomplish the jointly-determined projects in a timely manner, and emphasized the historical importance of Estero Boulevard as the number one priority. He cited the northern portion, recently re-vamped by the Town, as a valid example of what the Town wanted to achieve.

A. ESTERO BOULEVARD: - 2011-009

TFMB Councilwoman Jo List spoke to the issue first, offering alternative methods for shifting focus and funding to complete short-term phases of the Estero Boulevard project first for a more immediate impact and relief in the traffic bottleneck in front of the Seafarer Village location. Discussion ensued between the BoCC and the Town, with input from LDOT Planning Manager Dave Loveland, on the following: the integration of activities required by the Seafarer acquisition into the overall Estero project; the utilization of a Complete Streets approach; an update on current short-term projects and funding details; and agreement that new opportunities may exist with the purchase of the Seafarer property. Concurrence was reached on the need to coordinate and integrate similar project phases to avoid duplication. Commissioner Hall and Mr. Loveland pointed out that the County could not move forward (specifically pertaining to transportation planning for the Seafarer site) until the Town submitted their recommendations for preferred uses for the site previously requested by the BoCC. TFMB Councilmember Tom Babcock, utilizing a [Project Schedule](#) (Gantt Chart) (copy on file in the Minutes Office) focused on cost and projected completion time utilizing the 'Complete Streets' approach; emphasized the fact that Estero Boulevard is an evacuation route; and requested DOT Capital funds beginning next year. Commissioner Hall and Assistant County Manager Doug Meurer led the discussion for general consensus of the Town's objective to have Town and County staff work together, bringing back a proposal with estimated costs and an overall Master Plan addressing utilities, roads, sidewalks, etc., which could then be cost-shared appropriately; as the County currently does with other agencies. It was noted that the remaining estimated \$1 million currently 'earmarked' for long-term Estero Boulevard projects might then be able to be shifted to short-term phases, with an ultimate goal of establishing a 5 or 10-year CIP plan. Following additional discussion between Town Manager Stewart and Chairman Mann, Councilman Babcock requested verbal consensus on the subject of developing a reprioritization. Mayor Kiker verified the consensus from all. (AT A LATER POINT IN THE MEETING DUE DATES FOR ITEMS A THROUGH B WERE DISCUSSED. IT WAS DETERMINED AND AGREED UPON BY ALL THAT ITEM A-2011-009 WAS THE PRIORITY ITEM, DUE PRIOR TO FINAL BOCC BUDGET CYCLE, FOR WHICH MEETINGS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN)

B. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – 2011-010:

Town of Fort Myers Beach (TFMB) Vice Mayor Bob Raymond, closely following [prepared comments](#), (copy on file in the Minutes Office), reiterated his commitment to public transportation; the County's responsibility; the need to maintain daily and seasonal core service, and the need to provide specifics regarding the Town's scheduling issues and concerns with discrepancies in cost apportionment. Following input from Commissioner Judah regarding a Transit initiative, LeeTran Director Steve Myers explained route and cost differences which resulted in general agreement to revisit the subject by including it in discussions regarding Transit. Final dialog included comments from Councilman Babcock and Mayor Kiker, and a request from Commissioner Hall that staff review the issue during budget time. Assistant County Manager Pete Winton agreed to do so; and the TFMB and BoCC concurred. (AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, DUE DATES FOR ITEMS A THROUGH B WERE DISCUSSED. IT WAS AGREED UPON THAT ITEM B-2011-010 COULD BE ROLLED INTO THE OVERALL TRANSIT FUNDING DISCUSSIONS, ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR THE COUNTY BUDGET CYCLE)

C. TRANSFER OF COUNTY PROPERTIES – 2011-011:

Town of Fort Myers Beach (TFMB) Councilman Alan Mandel, closely following a [PowerPoint presentation](#) (copy on file in the Minutes Office), reviewed the pro's and con's of a transfer of County properties to the Town. Following brief discussion on key issues to be considered, there was general concurrence in further investigation and discussion, and identifying the Tourist Development Council (TDC) as a major stakeholder. It was further determined that there was no particular due date set for this item, unless the Town was presented with a specific window of opportunity on a certain property. (AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, DUE DATES FOR ITEMS A THROUGH B WERE DISCUSSED. IT WAS AGREED UPON THAT ITEM C-2011-011 WAS THE LEAST CRITICAL, WITH A DUE DATE OF UP TO 6 MONTHS OR MORE)

OTHER ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

BEACH RENOURISHMENT SCHEDULE – Commissioner Judah advised all that the Beach Renourishment Project, approved by the BoCC in their Regular Board meeting earlier in the day, was scheduled to begin during season, in order to retain State funding for the project. He did assure the Town that adequate information would be communicated regarding the timeline; and all possible measures taken to reduce negative impacts.

VANDALISM AT SEAFARER SITE – Commissioner Judah noted receiving a report of instances of vandalism and vagrancy at the Seafarer Village property, and asked what the Town's decision was on leveling the building. TFMB Manager Terry Stewart confirmed he was working the issue with the appropriate County Departments (County Lands and Parks and Recreation).

SUGGESTION BOX – TFMB Councilwoman Jo List and Mayor Kiker advised they had implemented a resident's suggestion and set up an e-mail address 'suggestion box' so residents could submit ideas they might have, which originally pertained to uses for the new park. Mayor Kiker reiterated that any uses under consideration would be fully discussed and mutually agreed-upon by the County and the Town.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kiker adjourned the meeting at 4:04p.m.

ATTEST:

CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK

Deputy Clerk

[Chairman, Lee County Commission](#)