The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Sauls presiding. Present were Commissioners DePuy, Thaell, Rackleff, Dailey, Desloge and Proctor. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, Finance Director David Reid and Board Secretary Rebecca Christmas.

The invocation was provided by Reverend Dan Myer, Pastor of Biblical Counsel, Element 3 Church and Commissioner Rackleff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Awards and Presentations**
- Chairman Sauls presented a Resolution to the Leon County Public Works Department Recognizing their Outstanding Efforts in Response to the Tornado Event on March 7, 2008. Chairman Sauls expressed the County’s appreciation and gratitude for a job very well done and recognized March 25, 2008 as Leon County Public Works Day. Mr. Dale Brown accepted the Resolution on behalf of the Public Works employees and thanked the Commission for their recognition.
- Commissioner Thaell introduced the Sealey Elementary Green Team who gave a vocal presentation of the song written for the Leon County Climate Action Summit.

**Consent**

Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge to approve the following Consent Agenda with the exception of Item #5, which was removed from the agenda and Items #8 and #9, which were pulled for discussion. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).

1. **Approval of Minutes:** February 26, 2008 Workshop on Tourist Development Council and the February 26, 2008 Regular Meeting.

   The Board approved Option 1: Approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2008 Workshop on Tourist Development Council and the February 26, 2008 Regular Meeting.

2. **Acceptance of the FY 2006/07 Annual Audit and Financial Report**

   The Board approved Options 1 & 2: 1) Accept the FY 2006/07 Annual Audit and Financial Report, and 2) Authorize the Chairman to sign letter in response to the audit findings in the Management Letter
3. Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for March 25, 2008, and Pre-Approval of Payments of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of March 26 through April 7, 2008:

The Board approved Option 1: Approve Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for March 25, 2008, and Pre-Approve Payments of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of March 26 through April 7, 2008:

4. Acceptance of Report on Stormwater Pond Fencing and Landscape Requirements

The Board approved Options 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: 1) Accept staff’s report on Stormwater Pond Fencing and Landscaping; 2) Direct staff to develop Ordinance revisions to eliminate galvanized (silver) chain link stormwater pond fencing and provide requirements for more aesthetically pleasing fences; 3) Direct staff to develop Ordinance revisions to require the placement of trees on the pond rim or side slopes at an appropriate density; 4) Direct staff to develop Ordinance revisions to provide a landscape credit that incorporates a curvilinear pond design, and 5) Direct staff to develop and include the proposed Ordinance revisions in the Phase 2 LDR changes.

5. Approval of Status Report on the Application for Comprehensive Plan Policy 2.1.9 Subdivision of Property of Mr. Lonnie Yarbrough.

Item #5 was removed from the Agenda.

6. Approval of Agreements with DOCS and Office Depot for Office Supplies, Continuing Supply

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the Agreements with DOCS and Office Depot, Inc., and authorize the Chairman to execute.

7. Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Services for Phase 2A, State Two Renovations at the Leon County Courthouse.

The Board approved Option 1: Authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals for Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Services for Phase 2A, State Two Renovations at the Leon County Courthouse.

8. Approval of Resolution Adopting the Fee Schedule for Special Events at the Division of Parks & Recreation Facilities

Commissioner Desloge asked that this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Desloge requested information on the current fee schedule and voiced concern over the proposed fee for cross-country events.
Mr. Pat Plocek, Parks and Recreation Director, responded that the fee schedule affects J. Lee Vause Park only; other county facilities are not included. He explained that the County is requesting reimbursement for staff and equipment used for event preparation, i.e., extra clean up, special cutting of grass, preparation of parking lot, etc. Mr. Plocek shared that a new tracking system is in place that allows exact tracking of expenses; the cost to hold event will be estimated and any difference returned or invoiced to vendor. He added that if prep and clean up are done by the event sponsor, no charges will be incurred. He informed Commissioner Desloge that the cross country event requires special cutting and the site continuously prepped for the next event.

Commissioner DePuy inquired about inmate mowing. Mr. Plocek stated that inmates are allowed to use hand mower but not to operate tractors or riding mowers.

Mr. Alam explained that the fee schedule set is for the J. Lee Vause Park only; the fee schedule for most park facilities consists of the cost incurred by the County for the preparation for the event.

 Commissioners DePuy moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to approve Option 1: Approve the Resolution Adopting the Fee Schedule for Special Events at the Division of Parks & Recreation Facilities, with an effective date of April 1, 2008.

Commissioner Thaell stated his support for the motion and moved to call the question, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chamber).

The original motion as stated by Commissioner DePuy, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to approve Option 1: Approve the Resolution Adopting the Fee Schedule for Special Events at the Division of Parks & Recreation Facilities, with an effective date of April 1, 2008 carried unanimously 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chamber).

9. Request to Schedule a First and Only Public Hearing for the Proposed Abandonment of a Portion of County Right-of-Way Known as Lake Drive on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Rackleff asked that this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Rackleff asked for clarification on staff’s recommendation for Site B only, when the applicant’s request includes abandonment of Sites A & B.

Mr. Joe Brown, Engineering Services, responded that although the applicant has requested abandonment of Areas A & B, staff will make clear at the public hearing that Area A will not be recommended for abandonment. Mr.
Brown shared that a site plan for a proposed development which would utilize Area A as its access, has received approval by GEM and a Development Order has been issued. He added that the applicant is aware of the county’s position and wishes to proceed with the application.

Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey to approve Option 1: Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to consider the abandonment of portions of County Right-of-Way known as Lake Drive for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

10. Acceptance of Assessment Roll for Cloudland Drive 2/3 Paving Project: Adopting of a Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for Cloudland Drive Paving Project; and Request to schedule Public Hearings on the Proposed Special Improvement Liens for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board approved Options 1, 2, & 3: 1) Accept the Assessment Roll for Cloudland Drive 2/3 Paving Project; 2) Schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to impose the liens for Cloudland Drive paving Project, and 3) Schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to adopt a non-ad Valorem assessment roll for Cloudland Drive 2/3 Paving Project.

Citizens to be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items (3-minute limit; non-discussion by Commission)

Rick Bateman 215 South Monroe, spoke on behalf of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Executive Director Sue Dick. Mr. Bateman expressed the Chamber’s commendation and pledge of support to City and County representatives as they move toward a functional consolidation of fire/EMS services.

General Business


County Administrator Alam noted that the Board provided a total of $810,704 for Vision 2020.

Mr. Christopher Campbell, CEO of Vision 2020 relayed that Vision 2020 has made substantial progress in the establishment of the Fund as a key service provider to meet the needs of the entrepreneurial community. He provided an overview of the Vision 2020 brochure and presented the Quarterly Report highlighting the following areas:

- $1.4 million dollars have been committed and verbal commitments received in excess of $3.6 million;
- website is fully functional and provides investors and entrepreneurs a means to communicate with Vision 2020;
- ability to receive on-line business plans;
• mentoring provided to 27 companies;
• four plans are currently under review for potential investment opportunity;
• 55 business plans have been received (4 currently being evaluated; 29 are under consideration, and 22 were rated as not meeting investment criteria);

Mr. Campbell added that he feels confident that processes are in place from an operation and communications perspective to be successful and a clear message stating mission and vision is in place.

Commissioner Thaell asked if there is an effort to collaborate with other investment groups within the region. He expressed concern that local tax dollars are being used to generate jobs and industry in communities further away from Tallahassee than anticipated. He stated that he would prefer that other venture capital groups collaborate with Vision 2020 in support of investments which would generate employment and industry in Tallahassee or the Big Bend Area. Commissioner Thaell inquired about the method used to solicit investors.

Mr. Campbell responded that collaborative efforts are being made. He shared that local entrepreneurs are provided, either through financial assistance or mentoring, assistance and support to bring their product to fruition. Mr. Campbell noted that the approach to potential investors has changed, and he has had to focus on individuals with a much higher net worth than initially anticipated: they are focusing on investors with a net worth of $5+ million.

Commissioner Desloge asked that a more detailed financial statement be provided on the next report.

**Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to approve Option 1: Accept the Vision 2020, LLC Quarterly Report. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).**

12. **Consideration of Proposed Voluntary Annexation of Capital Circle Southwest/Linderand Property**

County Administrator Alam explained that the proposal is an annexation request from the City to voluntarily annex approximately 14 acres on Capital Circle Southwest, adjacent to the Airport Industrial Park.

Commissioner Thaell recalled that the property will be used by Lutheran Social Services to build 39 units of HUD subsidized housing for disabled individuals.

**Commissioner Thaell moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey to approve Option 1: Do not object to the proposed voluntary annexation of**
Capital Circle Southwest/Linderand property. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Commissioner Proctor asked if any consideration has been given to include “green” approaches in the project. Commissioner Thaell stated that he was not aware of any “green” approaches associated with the project.

Commissioner Thaell requested a future agenda item to review/amend land development regulations to require proposed developers incorporate more energy efficient technologies in developments.

Commissioner DePuy stated his intent to attend the Climate Action Summit and asked for registration information. Rebecca Gipson-King, Public Information Specialist, responded that any Commissioner attending should contact her or Leigh Root.

Commissioner Proctor recognized and welcomed Ms. Evelyn Jackson, Ms. Natasha Walker and Ms. Bridgett Simmons, from Florida A&M's State and Local Government Class.

13. Acceptance of Status Report on a Request for the Renaming of West Jennings Street

Commissioner Dailey articulated his support for the measure to rename West Jennings Street to Jakes & Patterson Street to commemorate their historic actions, which were instrumental in the Tallahassee Bus Boycott. He added that Reverend Foutz has worked extremely hard to acquire the signatures of all property owners who reside on the street but has been unable to obtain signatures from property owners who live out of town. Commissioner Dailey shared that the issue received majority approval from the Addressing Steering Committee representing the 9-1-1 agencies.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner DePuy to approve Options 1, 2, & 3: 1) Accept the status report on the Request for the Renaming of West Jennings Street; 2) Direct staff to rename the segment of West Jennings Street from South Adams Street to South Bronough Street “Jakes & Patterson Street”, pursuant to Section 10-11.108, Leon County Code of Laws, 3) Waive the $750 fee required for street renaming applications.

Commissioner Proctor stated that he served as Chairperson for the Inter-Civic Council of the Southern Christian Leadership Council, 50th Anniversary of the Bus Boycott. He noted for the record that it was the Council’s goal to rename the street where Ms. Jakes and Ms. Patterson lived at the time the cross burning incident occurred be renamed in their honor. Commissioner Proctor stated his support for the motion and acknowledged that the street renaming is a reminder of the progress made by our community.

Commissioner Desloge asked why this action was not adopted by the City. County Attorney Thiele responded that addressing is a countywide function.
the county assumes that authority due to the fact that it controls the E911 system. Commissioner Desloge stated his support for the motion, but expressed concern that waiving the application fee would set a precedent for future initiatives. Commissioner Desloge reaffirmed his support for the motion and commended Rev. Foutz for his leadership in this effort.

Commissioner Thaell requested that the motion be amended to include the scheduling of a celebration to coincide with the renaming and invite Ms. Jakes to attend. He also suggested an exhibition of photographs from the Florida Memory Project be placed in the Courthouse to commemorate the historical significance of the event. Commissioner Dailey (maker of the motion) accepted the amendment.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner DePuy to approve Options 1, 2, & 3 as amended: 1) Accept the status report on the Request for the Renaming of West Jennings Street; 2) Direct staff to rename the segment of West Jennings Street from South Adams Street to South Bronough Street “Jakes & Patterson Street”, pursuant to Section 10-11.108, Leon County Code of Laws, 3) Waive the $750 fee required for street renaming applications. And schedule a celebration to coincide with the renaming and invite Ms. Jakes to attend. Place an exhibition of photographs from the Florida Memory Project in the Courthouse to commemorate the historical significance of the event. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Commissioner Proctor asked that the full Agenda Item #13 along with a letter from Chairman Sauls be forwarded to Florida A&M for inclusion in its archives.

14. Approval of Probation and Supervised Pre-Trial Release Fees

County Administrator Alam stated that the recommended fees are lower than most counties in Florida and are estimated to generate approximately $629,000 in additional revenue. He added however that even with the revenue generated from the fees, the projected general revenue subsidy to the probation and pretrial program is over $1.1 million. Mr. Alam added that it would also save the County money by reducing the jail population.

Commissioner DePuy provided background on the item. He advised that staff were asked to research comparable counties to determine the fee rates charged to defendants under court ordered sanctions, i.e., SCRAM, GPS, alcohol testing, etc. Staff’s findings indicate that the County’s current fee rates were generally less than the comparable counties and that services are being provided (18,800 alcohol tests) that are not being charged for. Commissioner DePuy reported that staff is not recommending that the maximum survey rates be applied, as they feel it would be counter-productive in terms of net County costs. Commissioners were referred to tables included in their agenda item for specific information on the issue.
Commissioner DePuy moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge to approve Options 1 & 2: 1) Direct staff to implement the recommended fee increases as reflected in Table 1, effective May 1, 2008, subsequent to notification of its Supervised Pretrial Release and Probation defendants and offenders; and 2) Authorize staff to increase fees annually consistent with the Consumer Price Index. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Commissioner Proctor asked Ms. Wanda Hunter, Director, Probation and Supervised Pre-Trial Release if there is a concern that the “bar is being raised too high” for individuals who are unable to pay for the services. Ms. Hunter responded that the court has a way of assessing whether or not the defendant has the ability to pay and this would not take away that option. She added that the proposed fee increase is in line with what other county’s are charging.

15. **Approval to Negotiate a Joint Project Agreement with the Florida Department of Health for the Construction of a Smoking Cessation Program Classroom Addition at the Roberts & Stevens Public Health Clinic Facility.**

County Administrator Alam explained that, if approved, the State will pay for construction of the classroom at a cost of approximately $667,000. The County’s impact would be a yearly maintenance cost of about $23,000. Mr. Alam noted that this is an unfunded mandate and staff is concerned that the classroom would not be used and the program would not be ongoing. He suggested that if the building is not used, the County would have a 2,000 sq. feet building that was paid for by the state that can be used for other purposes.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge to approve Option #1: Direct the County Administrator to negotiate a Joint Project Agreement with the Florida Department of Health, in a form approved by the County Attorney’s Office, for a Department of Health-funded Smoking Cessation Program classroom addition at the Leon County Roberts & Stevens Public Health Clinic Facility, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Joint Project Agreement and all documents necessary for the construction and delivery of the classroom. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

16. **Expirations, Vacancies and Appointments to:** Contractors Licensing and Examination Board, Human Services Grant Review Committee, Science Advisory Committee, Senior Outreach Advisory Committee, and Woodville Recreation Council

Contracting Licensing and Examination Board
- Commissioner DePuy reappointed John Salvo
- Commissioner Desloge reappointed Chris Robinson
- Commissioner Rackleff reappointed Helen Arnold
Human Services Grant Review Committee
• Commissioner Proctor appointed Ms. Cynthia Gardner

Science Advisory Committee
• Commissioner Dailey reappointed William Landing
• Commissioner Rackleff reappointed Kevin Robertson
• Commissioner Sauls reappointed Ben Fusaro

Senior Outreach Advisory Committee
• Commissioner Proctor appointed Delores Gardner

Woodville Recreation Council
• Commissioner Proctor appointed Antoinette Thompson

County Attorney (Herb Thiele)
• Mr. Thiele noted that as a part of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Day, the FAC attorneys will conduct a Board of Directors meeting to discuss the Regional Conflict Counsel Legislation. He stated that they will vote on whether to collectively proceed with a Declaratory Judgment Action on behalf of one or more counties. He recommends that Leon County participate as one of the named plaintiffs. He advised that as much work as possible will be done in-house, but outside counsel will be retained. He shared that there are a dozen major counties who will participate in the action.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to authorize the County Attorney’s Office to enter into a challenge to the ruling regarding Regional Conflict Counsel. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

County Administrator (Parwez Alam)
• Mr. Alam asked for follow up on the Regional Conflict Council issue brought up by Mr. Thiele and the subsequent action taken by the Board. He asked Mr. Thiele for direction on what the County’s response should be in response to space requests for conflict counsel. Mr. Thiele responded that the County should respond “no” to these requests.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to direct the County Administrator to say “No” regarding providing space for conflict counsel. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Commissioner Proctor noted for the record that these counsels have provided their own expenses in the past and counties have never incurred these expenses.
• March is Women’s History Month and a presentation will be held at the City Commission meeting on Wednesday March 26, 2008, honoring women in local governments. Those being honored include all past and present city and county commissioners, including Chairman Sauls.

• Mr. Alam asked Ken Morris, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator to provide a brief summary of proposed HB399.

  ▪ Mr. Morris shared that HB 399 seeks to expand the Clerks’ auditing authority to include pre and post audit functions. The bill was filed in response to a legal decision between the Collier County BOCC and the Collier Clerk of Courts. The court ruled in favor of the BOCC, limiting the clerk’s powers to pre-auditing functions. Staff is concerned that the broad language used to describe auditing functions could step into the boundaries or programmatic and policy decisions that have historically been reserved for BOCC.

    He added that the FAC is working with the sponsor to add language that would exclude charter counties from these provisions. He advised that the Bill is not moving in the Senate and staff is working to oppose as it stands today.

  ▪ Mr. Morris noted that the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission will meet tomorrow at the Department of Transportation to consider the spending cap proposal that the Board opposed in its resolution at the last Board meeting.

  ▪ FAC activities will begin tomorrow and will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott.

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

**Commissioner DePuy**

• Commissioner DePuy shared that he met with representatives from a company that specializes in the privatization of library services and he offered to put forward the idea with fellow commissioners. He stated that he is not advocating support for the idea of privatization, but suggested that it is important to consider any cost saving options that may be available. Commissioner DePuy requested that: 1) agenda the item for further discussion or 2) schedule a workshop and invite potential vendors to make presentation.

*Commissioner DePuy moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge to schedule a Workshop on the consideration of privatizing/outsourcing Library services.*
Speaker: Carol Kio-Green, 4823 Sullivan Road - voiced that she does not support the motion and objects to further cuts in library services and using staff resources for analysis.

The Board engaged in considerable discussion regarding the privatization issue.
- Commissioners Thaell & Rackleff commented that they could not support the motion or the concept of privatization for library services.
- Commissioner Proctor remarked that with the advancement of the Internet, the public has better access to information and books and he supports exploring alternative library management ideas.
- Commissioner Dailey expressed concern about 1) the need for more information prior to scheduling a workshop, public libraries remaining public, holding a special workshop for a potential vendor presentation, and use of staff's time during budget preparation.

**Commissioner DePuy withdrew his motion.** He emphasized that he only presented an idea that he deemed worthy of discussion, was not promoting a particular vendor, did not intend to spend a lot of staff time and supports the current library structure.

**Commissioner Dailey**
- Thanked staff members David McDevitt, Tony Biblo, John Kraynak, and Bob Bass from Growth Management; Laura Youmans, County Attorney’s Office, and Judith Dougherty, Commission Aide, for recent work on various issues.

**Commissioner Desloge**
- Requested Resolution for the Tallahassee Film Festival scheduled for May 15 – 17, 2008.
- Provided an update on the negotiations with the City regarding the fire services contract and shared a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City in regards to merging Tallahassee Fire Department and the County’s Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS) to improve efficiency in service delivery. He will meet with the City on Friday, March 28th to further discuss issues that they have. Commissioner Desloge relayed that he will keep the Commission apprised and expects by next Commission meeting to have a signed Memorandum of Understanding and will ask for staff commitment to develop an Inter-local Agreement.
- Commissioner Proctor commended Commissioner Desloge on his efforts in merging city/county services.
County Administrator Alam corrected information that was reported in the Tallahassee Democrat article regarding the consultant hired to determine how the transition of EMS would proceed; the consultant did not recommend that the City take over EMS.

Commissioner Thaell
- Requested Leigh Root, Assistant to the County Administrator, present latest details on the Climate Action Summit.
  - Ms. Root provided that there are currently 300+ registered participants, 35 scheduled exhibitors, approximately $40,000 raised and a $10,000 in kind contribution was received from the Tallahassee Democrat.
- Commissioner Thaell publicly thanked Ms. Root, Rebeka Gipson-King, Shington Lamy, and Martin Green for their efforts in making the Summit a success.
- Announced that the ICLE Conference addressing local government concerns will be held on Thursday, March 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the Civic Center. A reception will be held at the Brogan Museum, and will provide an opportunity for Commissioners to observe the Brogan Energy Exhibit before it is open to the public.
- Commended Commissioner Desloge on his hard work on the fire/EMS negotiations.
  - Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, authorizing Chairman Sauls to write a letter to Rep. Curtis Richardson, stating the Board’s concerns to the Clerk Audit Bill (HB399). The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Desloge out of Chamber).

Commissioner Proctor
- Reported that the Proclamation for Sam Madison, defensive back for the New York Jets and former Baby Rattler was presented during the Sam Madison Day celebration today.
- Applauded Commissioner Thaell and the Board on the leadership in conservation efforts.
- Stated concern over proposed legislation by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission and asked the County Attorney to provide the Board and community with options on addressing an equal protection constitutional claim against such a proposal.
- Requested board support to schedule a meeting with House Speaker Rubio to follow-up on “payment in lieu of taxes” legislation, due to Leon County’s unique situation of having 42% of property off the tax rolls.
  - Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner DePuy to support Commissioner Proctor’s efforts in scheduling a meeting with House Speaker Rubio to follow-up on “payment in lieu of taxes” legislation. Staffing will be provided by Alan Rosenzweig and Ken Morris. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.
Chairman Sauls

- Thanked Commissioner Desloge for his work on functional consolidation of fire and EMS services.
- Congratulated Commissioner Thaell on pulling together the Climate Action Summit.
- Reminded Commissioners of the three-minute time limit for Commissioner Discussion items.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

APPROVED: ____________________
Jane G. Sauls
Chairman

ATTEST:

_______________________
Bob Inzer
Clerk of the Circuit Court