

SEMINOLE COUNTY EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY MEETING
Seminole County Services Building
1101 East First Street; Room 1028; Sanford, Florida

May 12, 2009
4:00 P.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Gary L. Brender, Vice Chairman, Presiding
Commissioner Brenda Carey
Commissioner Carlton Henley
Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide
Commissioner Art Woodruff

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Michael J. McLean, Chairman
Commissioner Bob Dallari

STAFF PRESENT:

Gary Johnson, P.E., Executive Director
Bob McMillan, County Attorney
Jerry McCollum, P.E., County Engineer
Fred Coulter, Fiscal Services Department, for Lisa Spriggs, SCEA Secretary-Treasurer
Sheralyn Brinson, Administrative Assistant, SCEA Recording Secretary
Tony Matthews, Planning & Development Department

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mike Snyder, P.E., Executive Director, Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority
John Reichardt, Seminole County Administrative Services Department
(Member of the Seminole County Employee Academy)

ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Brender called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and thanked everyone for attending. He announced that he would be chairing the meeting because Commissioner McLean (SCEA Chairman) and Commissioner Dallari are on County business at the St. Johns River Water Management District Office in Palatka. He advised those in attendance that there were no plans for any kind of vote or determination of layouts on the Wekiva Parkway for today's meeting. He stated that the engineers assigned to the Wekiva Parkway Project were not present today. He further stated there may be further information on the Wekiva Parkway Project at the November meeting; and he suggested that interested parties keep an eye out for notification of public meetings which may be happening some time late in the summer.

ITEM #2: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Van Der Weide gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2008 MEETING

Upon motion by Commissioner Van Der Weide and second by Commissioner Carey, the November 18, 2008, Minutes were approved unanimously.

ITEM #4: INFORMATIONAL UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (a) **Wekiva River Basin Commission/Wekiva Parkway Update from 02/27/09 Meeting - Gary Johnson, P.E., SCEA Executive Director**

Gary Johnson stated:

We had a meeting of the Wekiva Basin Commission in February and I will combine the (a) and (b) parts of this update. Mr. Snyder was at the Basin Commission meeting and explained that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) are still evaluating historic structures in the Lake and Orange Counties segments of the Parkway alignment to maintain compliance with the Federal Highway Administration and the need for process so that we can preserve the opportunity for future funding by the Federal Government for parts of the Parkway. The complications involving those historic structures will take some time to resolve; so it does not appear we will be ready for a public hearing on the alignment until later this year. We thought that might occur closer to this meeting; but it appears it will take a little longer as that evaluation continues.

- (b) **Wekiva Parkway Project - Gary Johnson, P.E., SCEA Executive Director**

Gary Johnson stated:

The other topic of discussion at the Wekiva River Basin Commission continues to be the septic tank issue and how it relates to the environmental requirements related to the Parkway. There are some folks present who will remember this discussion. I understand that the Legislature took some action in their recently-concluded session regarding funding of the additional study by the Department of Health. Commissioner Carey may have more details on this; but I believe the Legislature did not approve the funding for the additional study if I'm not mistaken.

Commissioner Carey stated:

There is some language in the budget and funds are in the budget that were approved before for continuation of the study to go forward; that's Line Item 471. I brought this to the Board this morning; we passed a resolution unanimously to send a resolution to the Governor's Office asking him to support Line Item 471 and not to veto it. If that item is vetoed, the funds would go away and the study would stop at that particular moment in time; and the Department of Health would continue to move forward. The language that was in there associated with it said the Department of Health could not move forward with any rulemaking or any agency could not move forward with any rulemaking until such time as the studies were concluded. That's where we are on the septic tank issue. We will try to get word out to all of our constituents who have an interest in following that issue. Many of them are here today who have contacted all of our offices here at the County asking us to make sure we stay on top of this so everybody can contact the Governor's Office because that's where it is now.

(c) Municipal Representatives' Terms - Gary Johnson, P.E., SCEA Executive Director

Gary Johnson stated:

With regard to the municipal representatives' terms on this Board, with the recent re-appointment of Commissioner Woodruff, we are now good through 2010 with Commissioners Brender and Woodruff. Congratulations and thank you for your service.

Commissioner Brender called for questions on any of the items presented; there were none.

ITEM #5: NEW BUSINESS

(a) Approval of Resolution for the Authority's FY 09/10 Annual Budget (Enclosure)

Gary Johnson stated:

Once again we are keeping expenses to a minimum. Our expenses are going to be very close to our actual expenditures this year of just under \$700 and we would request the Board's approval of the budget.

Commissioner Van Der Weide made a Motion to approve the Resolution for the Authority's FY 09/10 Annual Budget; the Motion was seconded by Commissioner Woodruff.

Discussion: **Commissioner Carey** noted that we have actual expenditures of \$675.00. Is there some reason why we are making the proposed budget less than what we actually spent?

Mr. Johnson stated it appears our advertising costs are expected to go down a little bit. That would be an anticipated reduction.

Commissioner Carey stated:

I think we probably expected we would have some advertising for the Wekiva Parkway Project that would have happened in this budget year that did not happen. Would that get pushed out to the next budget year?

Mr. Johnson replied the funds would be carried forward.

Commissioner Brender called for the vote; the Motion carried unanimously.

(b) Discussion: Regional Expressway Authority

Commissioner Brender stated:

This is an item the County Commission has spoken of at length. I too have had some discussions with Mike Snyder at OOCEA about it. It is something I think we probably need to put on the public agenda now and try to discuss some ideas and concepts and see if we can get something going. If we are going to try to reach regional solutions to our transportation issues, one of the ways we will have to do it is through a regional transportation or regional expressway authority. Considering some of the problems the Orlando Mayor is having with the Expressway Authority, perhaps a regional authority may be the answer.

Commissioner Henley stated:

This spun out of some comments made at the MPO meeting a month or so ago. I shared with them a conversation I had with Mike Snyder who came over a couple of months ago asking if I would support the idea of the Expressway Authority completing the Wekiva Parkway. He said we have run the numbers; with the increase in fee we can fund it. My response to him was that I could enthusiastically support it provided Seminole County was given a seat on the Authority. I don't like the idea of Seminole County being subjected to another entity where there are gubernatorial appointments primarily rather than those accountable to the public. He said he understood my position and that was basically the end of the conversation. At METROPLAN I shared with them the conversation I had with Mike and as soon as I indicated that if they are going to go ahead and expand in Seminole, Lake and Osceola Counties, etc., then I thought we ought to have a regional authority, immediately two of the Commissioners from Orange County said I support what Commissioner Henley is saying. Osceola County chimed in. There has recently been contact with the Chairman in Lake County who expressed interest and support for it. Basically, that's where it is. Our Commission passed a resolution to that effect; but as we all know, this has to come about as a result of legislative action. I met with Fred Leonhardt yesterday who is one of the lobbyists for Lynx. I shared with him and he immediately endorsed the idea, saying that is exactly what ought to happen. Very similar to what happened to Lynx, if you recall, Lynx at one time had 18 or 19 members, most of them appointed by the Governor. There were constant changeovers, etc.; so the Legislature changed the makeup of that board which is now 4 elected officials and the DOT Secretary from this district. Basically that's what I had in mind with the expressway authority; that you have people on there who are accountable to the people. Right now you have only one elected official on that Board and that's the Mayor and that position is specified by law. The rest of them are gubernatorial appointees; as you know, the Governor is so busy with other issues he does not have time to monitor what his appointees are doing. I just felt it was time to put it on the table and Fred said they needed to talk to Dean Cannon (Florida House of Representatives) and others. That's why it has not been too widespread publicly; you have to lay the groundwork with the appropriate people in order to be able to get support or otherwise it is not going to happen legislatively.

Commissioner Carey stated:

We sent a letter to everyone letting them know that we would be interested in pursuing that discussion.

Gary Johnson noted he believed Chairman Dallari brought it up at the most recent Mayors and Managers meeting.

Commissioner Carey stated:

He actually sent a letter after that meeting saying the County Commission and the Mayors and Managers support the idea.

Commissioner Henley reiterated that we don't need to get too far out front of the Legislative Delegation.

Commissioner Brender stated:

If the Wekiva Parkway Project is going to be touching virtually every county in the Central Florida region, it only makes sense there should be some elected official from each county.

Commissioner Henley stated:

I tried to make it clear to METROPLAN that this did not come up as a result of all the noise of the Expressway Authority; I reminded them that this Board had expressed concern previously even when Chairman Dallari was on the Oviedo Council there was great concern about the gridlock in downtown Oviedo and use of that strip and how unfair the fee was. The Expressway Authority at that time did a pilot which they ended; but that's the first time it came up. We were not really happy about the Expressway Authority and what was happening there.

Commissioner Brender stated:

Commissioner Woodruff and I are here because of the CALNO organization, which puts us on as representatives from different organizations; I think we have done a good job here. Now, it's a matter of seeing if we can move it through a much bigger organization.

Commissioner Van Der Weide stated:

The only comment I have is it has to go through the Legislature as mentioned; and that won't be an easy task.

Commissioner Carey stated:

That's the reason we should start working on it now for next year.

(c) Discussion: SR-417 Signage / Seminole Way Signage**Commissioner Carey stated:**

We have discussed this in the past and it was discussed earlier today. The only question I would have is when you're talking about 417 being Seminole Way, I don't know how you get it signed all the way out to the Port of Sanford. It doesn't go all the way to the Port. I don't know if we are trying to spend money to make signs that just say Seminole Way or are we having a whole campaign. You really have to think about what you're going to do. I would suggest we have staff prepare a recommendation about what they would propose doing about signing of Seminole Way. Innovation Way in Orange County has been signed as Innovation Way; they don't have a lot of signs up; they have a lot of plans for Innovation Way; it's along the Innovation Way corridor; it has an overlay district and those kind of things. I would like to know what it is we are proposing to talk about other than just putting up signs.

Commissioner Van Der Weide asked whether CALNO has discussed this?

Commissioner Brender stated:

There has been no discussion at CALNO; you can name sections of roadways just as Orlando has hyped up Innovation Way; this would give us the opportunity if we are interested in proceeding.

Commissioner Van Der Weide stated signage would involve other entities.

Commissioner Carey stated: It's going to involve the Turnpike for the most part at this point.

Commissioner Henley stated:

I think we are a little premature on taking action; I think Commissioner Carey has suggested the right approach particularly in doing the right thing with the Turnpike Authority.

Gary Johnson stated:

We have been in contact with the Turnpike Enterprise. There is a process by which they will designate a roadway in this fashion; it involves some work in the Legislature; and we don't want to get ahead of them in that regard. There is a fairly simple process to apply for that designation through the Turnpike and it would appear from first glance at the materials we have been provided that the cost would be absorbed by the Turnpike. It would not be a large number of signs and it would not change the official name of the roadway. It would be a designation of that segment as Seminole Way, with some signage at appropriate locations.

Commissioner Carey stated:

Even where they have the signs that say "Welcome to Seminole County", you could have some type of logo or something that says Seminole Way or however we end up moving forward. I would like to see some suggestions about what that would be. Innovation Way is not part of the Expressway; it is a totally different corridor that Orange County controls all by itself; so they can pretty much go out there and say this is Innovation Way and this is how we are going to sign it. Our process will be much greater because it involves the Turnpike Enterprise, the Legislature and they already have processes in place. What I would like to see if we are going to have Seminole Way, is a logo, like we have "Seminole County - Florida's Natural Choice". We have a logo that goes with it and we fight very hard to keep the logo exactly like it is instead of everybody's version from every different department about what that is. So when you see the logo, you think Seminole County. Many cities have the same situation. I think Seminole Way probably needs something, so when you see the symbol you would know you are on Seminole Way. We should take lessons from the 17-92 Way Finding Study.

Commissioner Woodruff stated it seems premature at this point.

Gary Johnson stated:

At this point we are exploring how that might occur and we would obviously bring something back to you before anything would be acted upon

Commissioner Brender stated:

We would like more information; perhaps some kind of estimates, etc., without spending a lot of staff time on it, of what's involved. If you would come back to us in November with some concepts, we'll take it from there.

ITEM # 6. OTHER BUSINESS**(a) Chairman's Report**

Commissioner Brender stated he had nothing to report from Chairman McLean.

(b) SCEA Member Reports

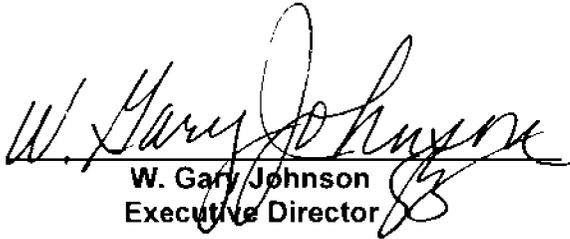
There were no member reports.

END OF REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

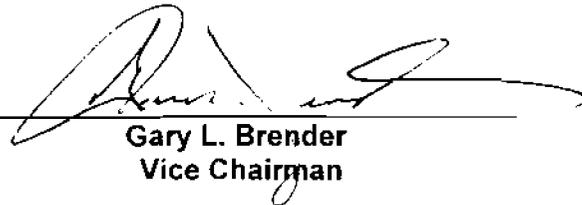
ITEM #7: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 10, 2009.



W. Gary Johnson
Executive Director



Gary L. Brender
Vice Chairman

Attachment
Resolution for the Authority's FY 09/10 Annual Budget

Approved: 11-10-2009

/sb