

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORKSHOP OF
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

MARCH 14, 2019

Present: Commissioner Lumon J. May, Chairman, District 3
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Vice Chairman, District 5
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, District 4
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1
Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, District 2
Amy Lovoy, Interim County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Judy Witterstaeter, Agenda Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Report prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the Committee of the Whole (C/W) Workshop to order at 8:59 a.m.

2. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The C/W was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on March 9, 2019, in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule.

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

3. Economic Development Update

A. Board Discussion – The C/W heard an update on Economic Development in Escambia County from Scott Luth, FloridaWest CEO, and:

(1) Was advised by Mr. Luth that;

- (a) The CO:LAB, which is a program to incubate and accelerate business growth in Pensacola, currently has an 81% occupancy rate, 16 tenant companies, and 28 tenant employees, with gross revenues of \$30,145,000;
- (b) FloridaWest performs visits to existing industry for support and this quarter has completed four manufacturing visits, 10 cyber IT visits, one aerospace visit, and 10 visits in other sectors;
- (c) In the area of business retention and attraction, there are 17 active projects in various sectors with 2,131 potential jobs;
- (d) FloridaWest has partnered with other organizations for outbound missions and trade shows; and
- (e) The company is continuing to move forward with a cybersecurity initiative to promote and support the industry, recently took part in an aviation round table, and plans to continue their mission of workforce development; and

(2) Was advised by Jeff Dyer, Director of Workforce Innovation for FloridaWest, that:

- (a) FloridaWest has partnered with Achieve Escambia to promote workforce development through their Career Readiness Collective Action Network and are working towards the goal of placement to meaningful employment;
- (b) They have applied for a grant from the Inclusion Development Network with plans to bridge the gap of equity amongst employment opportunities within the community;
- (c) He has worked with career academies and school districts to identify the gaps within the programs and is happy to say the programs are continuing to grow, specifically in the fields of aviation and cybersecurity; and

(Continued on Page 3)

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

3. Continued...

A. Continued...

(2) Continued...

- (d) There are several upcoming and ongoing events to promote the growth of workforce development including a career academy on March 28th and a job fair on April 8th; and

B. Board Direction – None.

4. Master Developers for the Midtown Commerce Park

A. Board Discussion – The C/W discussed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Parkside Partners for the development of the Midtown Commerce Park, and the C/W:

(1) Was advised by Eli Green, Parkside Partners, that:

- (a) The goal for the project, which they are calling EMC², is to take a blighted liability and turn it into an asset;
- (b) Parkside Partners is Atlanta-based and works on infill development and ground up development;
- (c) The plan is to get infrastructure in place and then identify the best use for the property, which would be market-driven, ideally with a healthy mix of research and development industry and manufacturing industry;

(2) Upon inquiry from Commissioner May concerning the method of attracting companies to the site, was advised by Scott Luth, CEO of FloridaWest, that there would be a combination of actively finding companies to fill the spaces and answering the inquiry from companies already looking for space;

(3) Was advised by Mr. Green that the plans for development are not contingent on having National Energy as an anchor tenant;

(4) Was advised by Commissioner Underhill that, unless Parkside Partners planned to pierce the vault below ground in Midtown Commerce Park, the land was actually some of the cleanest property in Escambia County, and was advised by Mr. Green that a superfund site carries stigma;

(Continued on Page 4)

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

4. Continued...

A. Continued...

- (5) Heard clarification on the goals of the current proposed MOU from Amy Lovoy, Interim County Administrator;
- (6) Discussed moving forward with the MOU and heard consensus from the Board to have time for staff and legal to work on the terms of the MOU;
- (7) Was advised by Pat Johnson, Waste Services Director, that communication is still open with National Energy, but he has nothing concrete to submit for consideration at this time;
- (8) Was advised by Mr. Green that he would be happy with Board support to work with Ms. Lovoy and County Attorney Rogers to craft a new MOU;
- (9) Requested that staff work with Parkside Partners and bring back an acceptable document in 60 days; and
- (10) Requested that staff bring back a plan for the parcels on the Clarinda side of the site for discussion at a meeting or C/W workshop; and

B. Board Direction – None.

5. New Escambia County Correctional Facility Update

A. Board Discussion – The C/W heard a construction update on the progress of the new correctional facility provided by George Bush, Facilities Management, and Roland Koomen, Bay Design, and the C/W:

- (1) Was informed by Mr. Koomen that several areas have been formed, reinforced, and had concrete poured; the rough in of underground electrical conduits in Area C have been completed; underground plumbing in Areas A and C was installed; the storm water pond has been excavated to the design depth of 35 feet; installation of domestic and fire main piping connections is completed; and the date for substantial completion is set for May 28, 2020;
- (2) Upon inquiry from Commissioner Barry, was advised by Mr. Bush that there is anticipated tax savings to the County of \$1.4 million and that the company is working towards making up the delta in late completion;

(Continued on Page 5)

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

5. Continued...

A. Continued...

- (3) Was advised by Mr. Bush that the storm water pond is not yet functional, but that there have been no issues since completing the juvenile parking lot and that upon completion, the pond is expected to withstand all commercial development in the planned area;
- (4) Discussed the Delano basin and plans for flooding issues in that area and was advised by Joy Jones, County Engineer and Public Works Director, that 100% of the plans have been completed and submitted for permitting for the Delano project;
- (5) Was advised by Commissioner May that he would like to see the plans for amenities for the Delano project as well as reports on the silica dust being created with the correctional facility construction sent to the commissioners and that he would like to see outreach done to neighboring citizens who may be affected by the dust; and
- (6) Was advised by Chips Kirschenfeld, Natural Resources Management Director, that he is sending someone from the lab out to monitor the air quality; and

B. Board Direction – None.

6. American Red Cross Shelter Staffing

A. Board Discussion – The C/W viewed and discussed a PowerPoint presentation, which was also provided in hard copy, outlining issues and plans for staffing of hurricane shelters, presented by John Dosh, Emergency Manager, and the C/W:

- (1) Was advised by Mr. Dosh that:
 - (a) The County has 14 General Population shelters that need staffing and 20 square feet of space is needed per person;
 - (b) The 2020 sheltering space estimates are for 11,757 people;
 - (c) Previous support provided by the American Red Cross included shelter management and operations, feeding of the sheltering population, and cleanup after closing the shelter; additional support was provided by hosting facility staff;

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AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

6. Continued...

A. Continued...

(1) Continued...

(d) This year's sheltering gaps include staffing to run the 14 hurricane shelters and provide feeding to those being sheltered

- Eleven of those shelters are located in Escambia County Schools – suggested solution is to ask the School District to provide shelter staffing and feeding as suggested in Florida Statute 252.38 (d)
- Two of those shelters are located in County owned community centers – suggested solution is to use County staff to provide shelter staffing and feeding
- Two shelters are located on the campus of the University of West Florida (UWF) – suggested solution is to use County staff to provide shelter staffing and feeding
- Red Cross commented that they could possibly help with the transportation of meals for some of the shelters without kitchen facilities

(e) The Red Cross reached out and may be able to provide more support than was previously stated by an employee and Mr. Dosh will update the County as more information becomes available;

(2) Was advised by Commissioner Barry that staff should reach out to UWF about staffing the shelters on their campus;

(3) Was advised by Commissioner Underhill that he is concerned with the quality of the volunteers and that they would need training to support the shelters;

(4) Discussed training shelter staff with Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies and Red Cross; and

B. Board Direction – None.

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

7. County Administrator Search

A. Board Discussion – The C/W discussed the search for the new Escambia County Administrator, and the C/W:

- (1) Was advised by Amy Lovoy, Interim County Administrator, that there have been over 120 applicants for the County Administrator position and that the application period ends Monday (March 18th);
- (2) At Commissioner May's request, discussed and agreed to extending the application period by 10 days;
- (3) Was advised by Eric Kleinert, Human Resources Director, that there are a total of approximately 75 candidates who have met the minimum requirements and will be sent on to be reviewed and short-listed by the Florida Association of County Managers (FACM);
- (4) At Commissioner Barry's request, discussed firming up dates in the hiring process and agreed to discuss the candidates at the April 11th C/W Workshop and schedule a Special Board Meeting for April 29th to interview candidates;
- (5) Requested that Mr. Kleinert ask that FACM, while creating the short-list of candidates, not limit the list to a specific number; and
- (6) Was advised by Commissioner May that he would like to see a list of all applicants who did not meet the minimum requirements, and their resumes, sent to the Commissioners; and

B. Board Direction – None.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

1. Efficiency and Employee Engagement

A. Board Discussion – The C/W discussed the Request for Proposals and Scopes of Services for an efficiency evaluation and an employee engagement survey and requested the item be brought back to the April 4th meeting; and

B. Board Direction – None.

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

8. Adjourn

Chairman May declared the C/W Workshop adjourned at 11:01 a.m.