

BOARD MINUTES FOR 02/16/10

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 1:00 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, PATE, HOLMAN, HOWELL AND STRICKLAND PRESENT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY, CLERK COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW WERE ALSO PRESENT.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER. COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED PRAYER AND LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS CALLED TO REVERSE THE DECISION THAT WAS MADE FRIDAY. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO RESCIND THEIR VOTE, DECISION THEY MADE FRIDAY TO ELECT HIM, THE CHAIRMAN OVERSEEING THE COUNTY. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO RESCIND THAT VOTE AND TAKE AND PUT SOMEONE TEMPORARY IN CHARGE IN MR. HERBERT'S PLACE UNTIL SUCH TIME THEY CAN ADVERTISE AND HIRE FOR A NEW COUNTY MANAGER.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID FRIDAY THEY HAD ASKED ATTORNEY HOLLEY IF THE DECISION THE BOARD MADE WAS OKAY. HE THEN ASKED DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW TO READ THE MINUTES CONCERNING THAT.

DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW READ AN EXCERPT FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2010 MINUTES:

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED, ACCORDING TO THE TRAINING THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE HAD, THEY ARE NOT SUPPOSE TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF ANYTHING.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED ATTORNEY HOLLEY TO ANSWER THAT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY AGREED THAT IS A GENERAL POLICY THE COMMISSIONERS ARE NOT SUPPOSE TO BE INVOLVED IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS; YOU CAN BE SUPERVISORS AND HE TAKES IT THAT IS THE ROLE CHAIRMAN HOLMAN WOULD BE IF HE TOOK THIS POSITION IS A SUPERVISOR.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED, UPON THE DECISION THAT WAS MADE, AFTER THE MEETING HE WENT TO THE COUNTY'S HR OFFICER, MS. FINCH, AND ASKED HER AT THAT TIME TO CALL KEN MONEGHAN, WHICH IS WITH THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES. THEY TALKED TO KEN IN REFERENCE TO THE DECISION THAT WAS MADE. KEN TURNED AROUND AND CALLED TIM WARNER, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LAWYERS THAT HANDLES DIFFERENT SITUATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. WITH THEIR ADVICE THIS WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA AND WITH TALKING WITH THEM, CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID HE MADE A DECISION AT THAT TIME TO READVERTISE FOR THE BOARD TO MEET TODAY AND RESCIND THEIR VOTE THEY MADE FRIDAY AND FOR THE BOARD TO TAKE AND PICK SOMEONE TO PUT IN MR. HERBERT'S PLACE. AFTER THE MEETING, HE FELT HE NEEDED TO DO THIS BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT HIMSELF OR ANY OF THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS TO GET IN ANY TROUBLE. AT THIS TIME, CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED THE BOARD TO RESCIND THEIR VOTE AND MAKE A DECISION ON WHO THEY WANT TO PLACE IN THE POSITION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR COUNTY MANAGER.

COMMISSIONER PATE, AS A POINT OF ORDER, ADVISED TO RESCIND A DECISION IT HAS TO BE SOMEBODY ON THE PREVAILING SIDE TO MAKE THE MOTION AND SECOND IT.

CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO RESCIND THEIR ACTION FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO TAKE THE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED THE BOARD FOR THEIR DECISION WHO THEY WANT TO PLACE TEMPORARY IN CHARGE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK TO GIVE THE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION TEMPORARILY TO EMORY PITTS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ASKED WHO IS GOING TO DO MR. PITTS JOB WHILE HE IS DOING THE COUNTY MANAGER'S JOB.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID RIGHT NOW THERE IS NOT THAT MUCH BUILDING GOING ON. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED MR. PITTS IF HE COULD DO BOTH THINGS UNTIL THE BOARD COULD GET SOMEBODY.

MR. PITTS STATED THE WAY IT HAS BEEN CURRENTLY HE COULD. IT MAY COME TO A POINT THEY MAY HAVE TO HIRE A PART TIME INSPECTOR DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THIS GOES ON.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID HE BELIEVES THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THEY CAN ADVERTISE AND HIRE A COUNTY MANAGER.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THEY COULD GET A NEW SET OF EMPLOYEE JOB DESCRIPTION AND ADVERTISE IT; BUT, THEY CAN'T HIRE ANYBODY UNTIL AFTER THE 90 DAYS IS OVER AND IT MAY TAKE THAT LONG TO DO IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID IT IS NOT TO SAY YOU CAN'T HIRE ANYBODY UNTIL AFTER THE 90 DAYS IS OVER; THEY COULD HIRE SOMEBODY IN A MONTH IF THEY WANTED TO IF THEY HAD THE FUNDS TO DO IT WITH.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE SAFE TO SAY IT WOULD BE AFTER THE 90 DAYS. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THOSE FUNDS ARE PRETTY WELL TIED UP AND HE IS NOT SURE BUT MR. HERBERT HAS A CERTAIN LENGTH OF TIME TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT FOR THEM TO RELEASE THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED MR. HERBERT HAD SEVEN DAYS WHICH WOULD BE THURSDAY.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH EMORY TAKING THE POSITION; HE FEELS LIKE IF EMORY HAS ANY PROBLEMS MR. HAGAN CAN HELP EMORY IN SOME OF THE ISSUES THE COUNTY IS FACING. IF IT COMES TO THE POINT, EMORY CAN'T DO IT, THEY WILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED THE BOARD WOULD BE COMING UP WITH THE BUDGET PROCESS WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. WHILE HE WAS ON THE BUDGET PROCESS, EMORY AND ROGER AT DIFFERENT TIMES SERVED ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. HE SUGGESTED WHILE IN THE ABSENCE OF HAVING A COUNTY MANAGER, THEY HAVE EMORY AND ROGER ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR THEIR EXPERTISE; THERE IS A LOT OF EXPERTISE THERE ON BUDGETING AND HISTORY OF WHAT GOES ON WITH THIS. HE SUSPECTS IT WOULD KEEP A PRETTY STRONG BUDGET COMMITTEE GOING. HE MAY BE MISSING HIS GUESS; BUT, THIS BUDGET WILL PROBABLY BE THE WORST ONE THEY HAVE EVER HAD TO COME UP WITH BECAUSE OF THE REDUCTION IN FUNDS WE FACE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH EMORY AND ROGER BEING ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE ALONG WITH CLERK COOK, DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW AND DEBBIE OF PUBLIC WORKS.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED WOULDN'T THERE A MOTION ON THE FLOOR.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HIS ONLY CONCERN ABOUT THIS IS IF WE HAVE APPROVAL AMONG OURSELVES HERE, FIRST OF ALL IS THIS SOMETHING EMORY WANTS TO DO. EMORY SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID SECONDLY IF THE BOARD SEES EMORY IS TIED UP TOO MUCH AND HE CAN'T DO HIS BUILDING INSPECTIONS, THEY WILL HAVE TO HIRE SOMEBODY TO DO THAT AND WE DON'T HAVE A BUDGET FOR THAT EITHER.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID WHAT HE HAD PROPOSED TO THE BOARD LAST FRIDAY WOULD SOLVE THEIR ENTIRE SITUATION. THEY HAVE PEOPLE ON STAFF THAT CAN DO IT; THEY CAN MOVE PEOPLE, HERE, HERE AND THERE AND CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE COUNTY JUST LIKE IT IS NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY DROP BACK

AT ALL. HE SAID HE WASN'T OPPOSED TO EMORY DOING IT AND HE WILL VOTE FOR IT IF IT COMES DOWN TO THAT; BUT, HE DOESN'T THINK IT IS THE BOARD'S BEST OPTION.

THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO GIVE THE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION TEMPORARILY TO EMORY PITTS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN READ A LETTER INTO THE RECORD ON MS. LINDA WALLER'S RESIGNATION; SHE HAS MADE A DECISION TO RETIRE FROM EMPLOYMENT FROM THE COUNTY EFFECTIVE MARCH 12, 2010.

"IT IS WITH REGRET I LEAVE MY POSITION WITH THE COUNTY AS I LOVE MY JOB AND THE CHALLENGES IT PRESENTS; HOWEVER, THE INCREASED WORK LOAD RESULTING FROM THE REVISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, LACK OF STAFF SUPPORT FOLLOWING MS. ANDERSON'S DEPARTURE HAS HAD A NEGATIVE AFFECT ON MY HEALTH AND OVERALL WELL BEING. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO SERVE EACH OF YOU."

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THE BOARD NEEDS TO HAVE EMORY AND MS. FINCH TO LOOK OVER THE QUALIFICATIONS OF WHAT WE NEED AND WE NEED TO ADVERTISE AND HIRE SOMEONE IN HER PLACE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED THE BOARD NEEDS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS AS THE TIMING IS NOT REAL GOOD. THE EAR BASED AMENDMENTS THEY ARE INVOLVED WITH NOW AND THE SECTOR PLAN IS FINALIZED IN THE AGREE- MENT NOW; THIS IS SOMETHING EMORY WILL HAVE TO GET INVOLVED WITH BIG TIME TO GET UP WITH SPEED ON THIS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED HE WAS SURE MR. HAGAN WILL ASSIST EMORY WITH ANYTHING HE NEEDS OR WITH ANY QUESTIONS EMORY MAY HAVE. HE ASKED MR. HAGAN IF HE COULD DEPEND ON HIM TO ASSIST EMORY. ROGER SAID "YES."

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSION- ER HOWELL AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

ATTEST: _____

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 02/16/10