



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Personnel, Budget, and Finance Policy Committee
February 5, 2009

MINUTES

A meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Personnel, Budget, and Finance Policy Committee was held on Thursday, **February 5, 2009**, at 9:00 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida 32216. **Vice Chair Sgroi** called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. with the following members present representing a quorum:

Bob Sgroi	Bob Page	Hugh Fish
Chip Laibl	Cyndi Stevenson	

Excused: Larry Williams

Absent: Art Graham,

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Donna Starling, and Joyce Rhodes

Guest: Commissioner Wendell Davis

*Approval of Minutes

Mr. Liabl moved approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting; seconded by Mr. Page; motion unanimously carried.

*December 2008 Financial Report

Ms. Starling reported that the Council posted a Net Loss of \$18,941 for the month of December and a Year to Date Net Loss of \$25,896. The loss was primarily attributed to the three payrolls expensed in the month and the additional salaries incurred for Reality Check and the Regional Leadership Series. Ms. Starling advised that a loss is also expected in January due to the payment of the regional council's quarterly membership dues and salary costs for Reality Check and the Regional Leadership Series that will be recurring through July 2009. **Ms. Stevenson moved approval of the December 2008 Financial Report; seconded by Mr. Liabl; motion unanimously carried.**

Organizational Changes

Mr. Teeple advised that the Council is probably not going to break even this year due to the current financial climate of the State of Florida and does not anticipate the Council's State funding being approved for FY 2009-2010. In light of the economic outlook, efforts will be made to streamline and flatten the organization. As a result, the current vacant positions will remain unfilled, some employee positions may be cut back to part time positions, and approximately 10% to 15% of the work force will be released. Mr. Teeple and Mr. Taylor are currently reviewing all possible cost saving options. These options may include cost savings from the reduction of service contracts, adding tenant lease space on the second floor and the re-consideration of a four (4) day work week. Discussion from the Committee followed.

Florida Economic Overview

Mr. Teeple presented the Florida Economic Overview dated January 5, 2009 which defines the current economic climate of Florida. The Overview reveals the State Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as ranking 47th in the nation in real growth, down from 12th in 2006 and 2nd in 2005. Unemployment rates vary from 4.9% to 11.9% as of November 2008 with Flagler and Putnam Counties having the highest unemployment in the Northeast Florida region. The Overview indicates that Florida has more job losses than any other state. In addition, the Florida housing market has been hit by falling home prices and tightening credit, with Florida home prices falling 20% from the peak. It is estimated that an excess supply of homes is likely greater than 300,000. The foreclosure rate for Florida placed it at #2 nationally, with 1 in every 173 housing units being foreclosed.

Roof Replacement Update

Mr. Taylor reported that the roofing project is currently on schedule. The roofing subcontractor, East Coast Systems, has been extremely responsive to any problems or concerns of the Council. We are working with the contractor, Design-Build Solutions, a Subsidiary of Garland Industries, regarding their responsiveness. The building had considerable water intrusion throughout the west wing during recent rain events. That wing has been significantly "weathered in" now. Further damage was incurred when an electrical conduit was compromised, resulting in the loss of operation of one of the heating/cooling units.

Mr. Taylor presented samples of the roofing components which included the steel framing, metal paneling and the bolts being used to bring the roof into a 150 mph wind code.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 5, 2009**, at 9:00 a.m., at the **Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida 32216**.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.