



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Personnel, Budget, and Finance Policy Committee
September 3, 2009

MINUTES

A meeting of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Personnel, Budget, and Finance Policy Committee was held on Thursday, **September 3, 2009**, at 9:04 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida 32216. **Chairman Williams** called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

Hugh Fish	Jane Miller	Robert Page
Cyndi Stevenson	Bob Sgroi	Larry Williams

Absent: Art Graham

Excused: Chip Laibl

Staff: Donna Starling, Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor and Sheron Forde

*Approval of Minutes

Chairman Williams called for a motion on the August 6, 2009 minutes. Ms. Miller moved approval, seconded by Mr. Sgroi; motion passed unanimously.

*July 2009 Financial Report

Ms. Starling reported that the Council posted a net loss of \$6,596 for the month of July, with a year-to-date net loss of \$159,949. She noted that the major factors for the loss were severance payouts for terminated employees, warranty extension and vehicle maintenance of Council fleet vehicles, along with various monthly general fund expenses that included membership dues and travel costs. Mr. Teeple mentioned the status of County dues and provided an update on Duval County stating that the County had placed the Council dues below the line, meaning they were not going to fund the Council. He added that one of the Finance Committee member requested information regarding the number of Council employees who resides in counties other than Duval County. He stated that Council staff has provided the requested information; indicating that 19 of the Council's 22 employees live in Duval County, 2 in Baker County and one in Nassau County. This information was also provided to all members of the Jacksonville City Council. In addition, staff has been in contact with the City of Jacksonville's Finance Committee Vice Chair, Councilman Bishop, the Mayor's office, members of the City's Planning Department and the Council Auditor's staff. Mr. Teeple stated that this issue has now been placed on the City's Finance Committee agenda for Friday, September 4th, which he will be attending. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Fish arrived during discussion of this item.

Chairman Williams inquired if the Council started the FY with the same amount of cash on hand as we currently have. Ms. Starling stated that we are at about the same place or close to that figure. **Chairman Williams** thanked Mr. Teeple for his foresight in putting funds away in reserve to help the Council weather the tough economic times.

Chairman Williams called for a motion on the June 2009 Financial Report. Mr. Sgroi moved approval, seconded by Mr. Fish; motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Chairman Williams stated that this Committee, sitting as the Nominating Committee for the leadership of the Council recommends that the Council must now 1) determine whether to maintain the current line of succession, with the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents moving up; 2) recommend a successor to the current 2nd Vice President position, pending Councilman Graham's resignation from the City of Jacksonville's Council; and 3) recommend an in-coming 2nd Vice President. Discussion followed resulting in the following motions:

Mr. Fish motioned that the recommended line of succession be maintained, seconded by Councilman Page; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Williams stated that with the passing of this motion, the 1st Vice President, Commissioner Griffis, would move into the President position and 2nd Vice President would move into the 1st Vice President spot. **Chairman Williams** then open the floor for discussion regarding backfilling the 2nd Vice President position being vacated by Councilman Graham and suggested that it be kept in the County that is currently holding the position. Discussion ensued.

Councilman Page motioned to nominate Ms. Elaine Brown to assume the current 2nd Vice President position being vacated by Councilman Graham, seconded by Mr. Fish; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Williams stated that with the passing of the motion the Committee recommends Ms. Elaine Brown to fill the current 2nd Vice President position, currently held by Councilman Art Graham, and as such will continue in the line of succession and move up to the 1st Vice President with the recommended slate of officers.

Chairman Williams opened the floor for discussion regarding the in-coming 2nd Vice President position. Past succession discussions indicated that Flagler County is next in the rotation to fill this position. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stevenson arrived during discussion of this item.

Councilman Page motioned to nominate Mr. Sgroi for the in-coming 2nd Vice President position, seconded by Mr. Fish; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Williams stated that these recommendations will be brought to the Board for a vote.

Other Business

Mr. Fish stated that this coming year may not be as challenging as the year following it, economically, gives him added confidence in the recommendations as the next couple of years will be very challenging.

Mr. Teeple added that in the next two years, during Mr. Sgroi's Presidency, the Board will be asked to redo the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. This will be a challenge as it must be adopted under Administrative Rule under the Administrative Procedures Act.

Mr. Williams echoed Mr. Fish's comments regarding the recommendations made today.

Mr. Taylor provided an update on the roof, stating that it is finalized with only one invoice remaining that is due from the contractor. He further stated that he had previously indicated that he would provide a PowerPoint presentation of the entire roof project and inquired if it is still the Committee's desire to have such presentation. It was decided that a presentation was not necessary at this time.

Commissioner Stevenson apologized, again, for her late arrival due to the misinterpretation of the Committee meeting acronyms and suggested that staff spell out the names in future communications.

Commissioner Stevenson provided an overview of the Florida Association of Counties' Energy Workgroup meeting that focused on energy and dependency. This year's meeting discussions surrounded energy efficiency and making good decisions for your counties, which is in line with the requirements of having an energy policy in our comprehensive plans. She inquired if the Council will be taking this up at any point in time. Mr. Teeple stated that it was his intent to bring this up in the Legislative Committee meeting later today as a discussion item. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Taylor briefly mentioned a press release in the Tampa Tribune regarding a retraction that a group had solicited and gained support from a number of 501(c)(3)s, more specifically the St. Johns River Alliance, for their cause. The St. Johns River Alliance has stated that not only were they not approached; but as a 501(c)(3), could not offer support to this group. A brief discussion ensued.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 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 before the Committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.