

Minutes of the Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting Held December 14, 2009

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of December 14, 2009 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sears led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilor Nebel led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Nebel, Councilor Crowder, Town Attorney Blom-Ramos and Town Clerk Brasher.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Green

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Council Minutes of October 26, 2009 and Land Planning Agency Minutes of November 9, 2009.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Crowder, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Town Center/Walkable Community Energy Efficient Grant Application

Traffic Engineer Watanabe gave detailed background on this item. He further stated the grant may not be submitted today but it can be submitted in the next cycle.

Consideration and Approval of S. Lakeshore Blvd. /E. Revels Road Design and Permitting (Phase 2) Fee Proposal in the Amount of \$86,060.00

Traffic Engineer Watanabe gave detailed background on this item.

Mayor Sears voiced his concern with the realignment of E. Revels Road. **Traffic Engineer Watanabe** said it won't take a lot to revise the plans, he further stated the other side of Revels Road would need to be realigned as well, per Lake County.

Councilor Crowder said without the realignment, the bus issue won't be resolved.

Traffic Engineer Watanabe said a larger radius can be implemented on E. Revels Rd.

Mayor Sears said the funding is not in place for the realignment and the project will be held up until the realignment is done.

Councilor Ernest asked why E. Revels Road is being done by the Town. **Councilor Nebel** said F.D.O.T. has been involved with E. Revels Road intersection issue.

Councilor Ernest said he is tired of what is being told is not the case.

Councilor Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Ernest**, moved to approve Work Authorization No. 08 with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., subject to a Purchase Order issued by Lake County in the amount of \$86,060.00 for this project. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Traffic Engineer Watanabe gave background on the Public Meeting F.D.O.T. is holding on January 14, 2009 and suggested the Town Council and the residents attend for input.

Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 2009-014, Supporting the Redesignation of the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPO Director Fish was present to answer questions and gave background on this item as well as the SR 19 bridge project.

Mayor Sears asked what the advantages are of allowing Sumter County additional votes. **MPO Director Fish** said it is an advantage to become a two region MPO.

Mayor Sears asked about the proposed 3 / 4 lanes through Town. **MPO Director Fish** said he was concerned with the lanes through Howey-in-the-Hills and said Lake County worked with Astatula on their road project.

Resolution No. 2009-014 was read by title only.

Ron Jacobs and **Bob Olsen** spoke on this subject.

Councilor Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, moved to adopt Resolution No. 2009-014, Supporting the Redesignation of the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Groveland Annexation and 180 District Boundaries Overlap

Mayor Sears explained the City of Groveland is annexing two parcels in the Town's 180 Utility District, which was adopted in 2003. He further stated Groveland and Minneola's 180 Utility District Maps overlap portions of the Towns 180 Utility District. He asked for direction from the Town Council. **Councilor Nebel** said she met Mayor Smith at the LCLC and he is interested in working with the Town. **Councilor Crowder** said he feels the Town should negotiate with the City of Groveland. **Councilor Ernest** said he does not like the fact that the property will be zoned Industrial. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, moved to authorize Mayor Sears to meet with the City of Groveland and the City of Minneola regarding the 180 Utility District. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Shawn H. (last name not clear) who resides on E. Dewey Robbins Road said he has started a petition and his concerns with the annexations.

Patty Ritson asked for clarification on the industrial zoning. Mayor Sears clarified the zoning of the annexed property.

Bob Morse said the Town may be able to provide the housing for the industrial side.

Town Planner Shira reminded the Town Council about the earlier annexations that did not come into the Town because the Town was not ready to annex. She further stated there are new rules with regards to annexations. **Mayor Sears** said the Town needs to hold a work session with the Town Planner and the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss annexations. **Councilor Crowder** expressed his concern with the EAR.

Ron Jacobs said as a former P&Z board member, annexations were discussed to use as a buffer around the Town.

Bob Olsen discussed the Jeppesen property.

Discussion: Stormwater Planning Initiatives

Mayor Sears said the Town collects \$5.00 per month on the utility bill and the Town needs to adopt a stormwater plan. **Councilor Crowder** said the Town needs to look at other methods other than baffle boxes.

Town Engineer Shira said a Master Stormwater Plan runs into many thousands of dollars but the Town needs to adopt a regional plan for the downtown area.

Councilor Crowder, seconded by **Councilor Nebel**, moved to authorize B&H Consultants, Inc. to conduct a Stormwater Plan. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Town Planner Shira said DCA is happy with the EAR, however, they will not allow the Town to adopt the EAR until the Town adopts the Water Supply Plan. She further stated the Town is required to adopt a 10-year water plan and the EAR can not be adopted until the water plan is completed.

Councilor Ernest requested that the president of Neel-Schaffer, Inc. attend a Town Council Meeting to discuss this matter.

Consideration and Approval of Vehicle Purchase for Public Works/Transportation in the Amount of \$3900.00 from Account No. 539650(Public Works) and 541650(Transportation)

Councilor Crowder, seconded by **Councilor Ernest**, moved to authorize the purchase of the Ford F250 from Mr. Ramos. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Annual Report of Investment Activity for Police Officers Pension Trust Fund

Cpl. Miller was present to answer questions.

Re-Appointment of Pension Trustee Bill Herrington

Councilor Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Ernest**, moved to reappoint Bill Herrington to the Police Pension Board. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration of Fiduciary Insurance Reimbursement Request for Police Officers Pension Trust Fund

Councilor Ernest, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, approves the payment of the Fiduciary Insurance Reimbursement request in the amount of \$126.25, subject to the funds coming from the Police Department Budget. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Appointment of Lake County League of Cities Alternate Director

Councilor Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Ernest**, moved to appoint Councilor Barry Crowder as the alternate director to the Lake County League of Cities. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval of Audit Service Provided by Davis Monk & Company for FY 2009 (\$25,000), 2010 (\$26,000) and 2011 (\$27,000)

Councilor Ernest, seconded by **Councilor Nebel**, moved to approve the three-year agreement with Davis Monk and Company. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Population and Taxation Shortages, Preparing for Additional Budget Constraints

Councilor Crowder gave detailed background on this item and said the financial outlook is grim for next year.

Discussion: Maintenance Program for Town Vehicles and Equipment

Councilor Crowder discussed the maintenance program for the Town equipment and Town vehicles.

Mayor Sears asked the all equipment that needs maintenance to provide a copy in January. He stated the fire hydrant maintenance program will begin in January and to exercise all valves in Town.

Councilor Crowder asked Public Works Director Padgett what maintenance is implemented on the vehicles and equipment. **Public Works Director Padgett** gave a brief overview on the maintenance on equipment and vehicles. **Mayor Sears** said a list will be provided at the January meeting.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Ernest voiced his concerns with the absence of the Mayor Pro-Tem as he has missed half of the Council meetings. **Mayor Sears** said he and Town Clerk Brasher are working on items that need to be amended with the Town Charter.

Councilor Ernest thanked the Council for having the opportunity to hold the Christmas Festival.

Councilor Nebel- None

Councilor Crowder - Thanked Councilor Ernest for the outstanding job as well as the other boards, staff members and citizens who assisted with the Christmas Festival.

Mayor Sears said the Chief of Police and himself were chasing down a small dog that lost its owner. He thanked the Police Department for the offering of the laptops and explained the process. He further said he learned a lot from the Howey descendents who came to Town for the festival and thanked all who participated in the Christmas Festival.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Morse asked if he gets sued as a board member, is he covered by the Town insurance. **Mayor Sears** explained the process.

Bob Olsen thanked John Ernest for his hard work and stated there were too many food vendors.

Diane Sullivan asked why the seat of Kenny Green was not addressed during the special election.

Steve Kondo discussed the article he read in the paper regarding the lawsuit and the non-response to the reporter. **Mayor Sears** said he returned the reporters call and felt it was not in the best interest of the Town to discuss the lawsuit on the advice of the legal council. **Councilor Crowder** said he spoke to the reporter.

Patty Ritson said she would like to donate a tree to the Town that she won from the Garden Club.

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:40 p.m.



Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Brasher, CMC