Baker County

MIDPOINT PARKWAY PROJECT
FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND APPLICATION

PRESENTED TO:
Enterprise Florida (EFI) and
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed.

Governmental Entity Information

Name of Governmental Entity: Baker County

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: [Redacted]

Contact Information:
Primary Contact Name: Ms. Kennie Downing
Title: County Manager
Mailing Address: 55 North 3rd Street
Macclenny, FL
Phone Number: (904) 259-3613
Email: kennie.downing@bakercountyfl.org

Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible governmental entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. (View Florida’s Targeted Industries here.)
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public.
1. Program Requirements:

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

A. Provide the title and a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.

"Midpoint Parkway Project"- Midpoint Parkway is designed to develop in 3 segments. Plans call for a three-lane roadway: two lanes each 12 feet wide and center lane 14 feet in width to allow for the wider turning movements required**Complete answer attached**

B. Is this infrastructure owned by the public?  

☑ Yes  ☐ No

C. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?  

☑ Yes  ☐ No

D. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity?  

☐ Yes  ☑ No

E. Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

Midpoint Parkway is projected to generate interest in Baker County’s developing marketing areas, for future industrial/commercial development. Midpoint Parkway will also provide an alternative truck route between Interstate 10 and U.S. 90 providing a more attractive incentive to Midpoint Business Park establishments and alleviate heavy truck traffic and congestion in downtown Macclenny, which is also is a major goal of the project.

New roads and road improvements boost the economy of a community by improving transportation networks that provide economic benefits to adjacent properties. A reduction in travel time equates to reduced fuel costs for people in local communities. Theoretically these cost savings increase local property values through the buildup of the surrounding infrastructure.

Midpoint Parkway is destined to be a catalyst for economic growth and development.....
F. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;

- Economic diversification; or

- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry (View Florida’s Targeted Industries here.)

  - As part of this response, describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include a description of the number of jobs that will be retained or created, the average wages of such jobs, and in which industry(ies) the jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or grow jobs or make capital investment.

  - Further, include the economic impact on the community, region, or state and the associated metrics used to measure the success of the proposed project.

According to researchers at the University of Central Florida, The Sunshine State is on pace to see its economy reach the $1 trillion mark by 2018 and set to become the 16th largest economy in the world by 2019, as ranked by World Bank.

Baker County, FL is the 52nd largest county in Florida by population. The median household income in Baker County, FL was $47,121 in 2015, which represents a 0.55% growth from the previous year. Additionally, there were 10,174 residents in Baker County, FL with jobs in 2015, which is a 1.32% increase from the previous year.

Comparatively, the median household income in Duval County, FL was $49,554 in 2015, which represents an 8.25% growth from the previous year. Additionally, there were 433,627 residents in Duval County, FL with jobs in 2015, which is a 5.67% growth from the previous year.

Employment in Baker County, FL has been growing at a rate of 1.32%, from 10,041 employees in 2014 to 10,174 employees in 2015.

Baker County is geographically and demographically often included in Jacksonville/Duval County’s “First Coast” region excluding the County from many rural county incentives due the proximity of Baker County to the metro area. Many residents live in Baker and work in the Jacksonville Metro area.

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Baker County’s Wealth Migration increased in 2016. Wealth Migration is the amount of Adjusted Gross Income this ........
2. Additional Information:

A. Is this project an expansion of an existing infrastructure project?
   □ Yes  □ No

B. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.
   Commencement Date is 6 months from funding date; 18-24 months completion

C. What is the location of the public infrastructure? (Provide the road number, if applicable.)
   Midpoint Parkway Project will extend from near the Walmart Distribution Center on........

D. Who is responsible for maintenance and upkeep? (Indicate if more than one are applicable.)
   □ Federal  □ State  □ County  □ City  □ Other______________

E. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?
   St. Johns River WMD, FDOT driveway-connection permit & Army Corps of Engineers

F. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?
   Listed permits have not been secured. The time line is 5-6 months from the funding date. Local permits are not required.

G. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?
   The proposed infrastructure improvements of Midpoint Parkway falls within an Agricultural zoning and FLUM district.
   The proposed infrastructure improvements will not require any zoning or FLUM changes.
H. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

☐ Yes ☑ No

If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

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I. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

☑ Yes ☐ No

If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

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J. Does this project have a local match amount?

☐ Yes ☑ No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

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K. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal.

To supplement this application, there is a 39 page attachment of additional information unable to fit in text boxes as well as images supporting the project.
3. Program Budget

**Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding:** Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

A. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:
   - Construction: $6,419,000.00
   - Reconstruction: $0.00
   - Design & Engineering: $0.00
   - Land Acquisition: $0.00
   - Land Improvement: $0.00
   - Other: $0.00

   **Total Project Costs:** $6,419,000.00

B. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:
   - City/County: $0.00
   - Private Sources: $0.00
   - Other (grants, etc.): $2,034,376.00

   **Total Other Funding:** $2,034,376.00

   **Total Amount Requested:** $4,384,624.00

**Note:** The total amount requested must equal the difference between the public infrastructure project costs in 3.A. and the other public infrastructure project funding sources in 3.B.

C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.

   The County has already completed the engineering design of the project with FDOT TRIP funds awarded in the amount of $650,000.00.

   The County has also been awarded funding from FDOT for Segment 3 in the amount of 2,034,376.00. This is $529,000.00 short of the funding needed to complete this portion of the project which is $2,563,000.00.

   Baker County is also prepared to commence with the construction of Segment 2. Construction costs for this portion of the Midpoint Parkway Project is........
4. Approvals and Authority

A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners will have to approve the grant agreement.

B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

   i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

   **Complete answer attached**

   ii. State whether that group can hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days’ notice.

   Yes. Upon 5 days notice.

C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.
I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described governmental entity.

Name of Governmental Entity: Baker County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Bobby Steele, Vice-Chairman

Representative Signature: [Signature]

Signature Date: 9/19/2017
Additional Application Response Detail
SECTION 1A

"Midpoint Parkway Project" - Midpoint Parkway is designed to develop in 3 segments. Plans call for a three-lane roadway: two lanes each 12 feet wide and center lane 14 feet in width to allow for the wider turning movements required by 18-wheelers; ROW will include a corridor 120 feet wide along the entire 3.3-mile length of Midpoint Parkway, as well as additional lands for at least two retention ponds, utility easements and a “flyover” bridge across U.S. 90 and the CSX railroad tracks.

The County is requesting funding for segments 2 & 3 through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.
The volume of semi-truck traffic from this one business park vendor is approximately 700 trucks a day funneled through the local streets of downtown Macclenny.
The planned Midpoint Parkway will end at this section of Enterprise Boulevard.
An example of the extensive curb damage that can be seen throughout the County and City as trucks navigate through narrow streets to the Interstate.
Local Realtor map depicting available business park parcels near Wal-mart Distribution Center; prime property with the development of Midpoint Parkway. All parcels created along the new Midpoint parkway will generate optimal industrial sites for businesses seeking direct access to I-10, Jacksonville and I-75 all built to suite.
SECTION 1E
Midpoint Parkway is projected to generate interest in Baker County’s developing marketing areas, for future industrial/commercial development. Midpoint Parkway will also provide an alternative truck route between Interstate 10 and U.S. 90 providing a more attractive incentive to Midpoint Business Park establishments and alleviate heavy truck traffic and congestion in downtown Macclenny, which is also a major goal of the project.

New roads and road improvements boost the economy of a community by improving transportation networks that provide economic benefits to adjacent properties. A reduction in travel time equates to reduced fuel costs for people in local communities. Theoretically these cost savings increase local property values through the buildup of the surrounding infrastructure.

Midpoint Parkway is destined to be a catalyst for economic growth and development within Baker County. The Parkway will provide support to Midpoint Business Park which has an opportunity to provide over 4,100 jobs and will also support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, currently supplying 750-800 jobs locally. The strategic location gives industrial users access to major travel routes and railroad service to future potential business that will find this a valuable location for their operations. The project will also open an area designated for residential development, called the Baker Commons subdivision, near SR 228, which has been approved for construction.

Local officials are optimistic that the future development potential along the new corridor could provide hundreds of new jobs, as well as opportunities for the City of Macclenny to profit by extending water and sewer utilities to the site. The pending development of the vacant parcels provides a valuable opportunity to create a partnership for the benefit of all. Our economic development partners are working hard to increase desirability for companies to locate within the Midpoint Industrial Business Park and promote opportunities to assist in creating new jobs and increase private investment. Please see the attached PowerPoint from the County wide public meeting pertaining to this project.

SECTION 1F
According to researchers at the University of Central Florida, The Sunshine State is on pace to see its economy reach the $1 trillion mark by 2018 and set to become the 16th largest economy in the world by 2019, as ranked by World Bank.

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Employment in Baker County, FL has been growing at a rate of 1.32%, from 10,041 employees in 2014 to 10,174 employees in 2015.
Baker County is geographically and demographically often included in Jacksonville/Duval County’s “First Coast” region excluding the County from many rural county incentives due the proximity of Baker County to the metro area. Many residents live in Baker and work in the Jacksonville Metro area.

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Baker County’s Wealth Migration increased in 2016. Wealth Migration is the amount of Adjusted Gross Income this county gains or loses each year from people migrating into and out of the county.

It is predicted by the Florida Chamber of Commerce that Baker County will require over 1300 new jobs to sustain its growth by the year 2020. The First Coast economy has struggled to recover from the Great Recession in 2008. However, unemployment has fallen below the national average to 4.1% vs 4.4% (National Average). Pay is low in some key industries, comparatively speaking. The First Coast is home to 3 of the 17 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Florida: Winn-Dixie, CSX, and Fidelity National Finance and will Amazon will soon call Jacksonville, FL home with the development of a new fulfillment center.

The Midpoint Parkway Project will promote economic recovery in the Northeast region of the state by providing growth and expansion opportunities in Baker County, FL as well as throughout the adjacent counties in Northeast Florida.

Modern roads and bridges, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and innovative projects to restore, protect and showcase the natural beauty of the Baker County are all necessary pieces to reclaim, maintain and sustain a vibrant economy and a place for our children to call home.

The Parkway will support the developing Midpoint Industrial Business Park with the potential to sustain employment similar to that of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center currently located in the area.

Due, in part, to the development of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Baker County, Sales Tax Revenues are increasing along with improving poverty rates and education as reported by the Florida Chamber of Commerce in 2016. Fundamental factors like these create economic recovery.

According to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, the average truck flow in and out of the site is around 700 trucks per day. The staffing fluctuates with the work volume, but the average is 750-
800 associates. It is important to note employment remained steady throughout the economic downturn in this industry.

Darryl Register, the Director of Chamber of Commerce and coordinator for Baker County Economic Development states, the following about the Midpoint Parkway Project: “I think the answer to the question is going to be mostly us (Baker County) describing how the future development of the 750+ acres (Midpoint property) industrial property will benefit the County. How does 6 million SF of industrial development change the County for the better?

For example, Walmart Distribution Center is over 900,000 SF and they have 800 employees and pay tangible taxes of $214,035 and property taxes of $455,616 to the County, schools, etc. for a total of $669,651; then extrapolate the (potential tax revenue) for projected development of the Midpoint Industrial Business Park property (approximately 6 million SF of additional development space).

The new Parkway would serve as a “bridge of development”, between city and county, and would help to sustain the expected growth due to the increase in population in the County. As population patterns continue to migrate, improved access to existing commercial properties will allow for increased value both in business volume and sales.

This new three-lane divided roadway will provide a crucial link between major commercial development along SR 228 and US 90. The area adjacent to the new corridor is primed for additional commercial development, which would be a boost to the local economy, provide significant opportunities for new jobs in Baker County, and provide sustainable tax revenues to the County and State for the foreseeable future. Immediate benefits would be felt locally with a reduction in traffic congestion and short-term construction projects benefiting industry suppliers, construction workers, hotels, restaurants, etc. The long-term positive economic benefits would include new businesses, additional jobs and a vibrant new economy to enhance the existing community.

The new Amazon 1-million-square-foot fulfillment center in Jacksonville is projected to provide approximately 2,500 jobs to the First Coast. About 500 of those jobs are expected to average $50,000 a year with the rest in the $12-$15-an-hour range.

The Target Distribution Center in, Columbia County, adjacent to Baker on the west, is a 420,000 SF high-rise food distribution center with Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (ASRS), 85’ tall (-15F) freezers, 65’ tall (34F) coolers, meat, wet produce, banana rooms, and 45’ tall (55F) dry goods. Ammonia refrigeration system, shrinkage compensating concrete floors, and Quell fire protection technology. The Target Distribution Center employs approximately 250 workers.

Baker County intends to market the Midpoint Industrial Business Park supported by the infrastructure improvements to Midpoint Parkway for developments similar to the ones attracted to this region. The Park will have direct CSX Rail service available into the site. It is centrally located between I-95 to the east and I-75 to the west, sited on the north side of I-10 with convenient access at SR-228.
Truck traffic will have 2 dedicated turn lanes at a signalized intersection just off SR-228 into Midpoint Parkway to access the park with little local traffic congestion. Departure from the park can be by SR-228 or to US-90 to the north off Midpoint Parkway. I-75 is less than 45 minutes west via I-10 while US-301 is 5 miles east via either I-10 or US-90. I-295 is 20 minutes east of Midpoint on I-10.

Jacksonville International Airport is 25 minutes away via I-10 East to I-295 North. The Port of Jacksonville is 40 minutes away via I-10 East to I-95 North. The Distribution Matrix validates the Midpoint Industrial Park location as superb for business and commerce requirements throughout the Southeast and Florida.

In respect to safety, numerous repairs have been required to fix damaged curbs run over by the big rigs that routinely travel from Interstate 10 through Macclenny’s commercial core to reach the distribution center. In addition to easing local traffic congestion, the Midpoint Parkway will open up opportunities for economic development and the creation of hundreds of new jobs on more than 700 acres of woodland that have been bypassed by developers.

Traffic Engineering Specialists with the Florida Department of Transportation reports traffic data on Highway 90 and also on 5th Street traveling towards Interstate 10. From 2011 through 2015, There have been 80 reported accidents along the section of roadway from 5th Street to I-10, fortunately, with no fatalities.

*The infographic metrics used in the section were provided by The Florida Scorecard™; a dynamic online tool that identifies and tracks key metrics that are important to Florida’s economy today and into the future. The Florida Scorecard gives stakeholders the power to measure progress on a statewide level and within their own communities. The Florida Scorecard™ is provided by the Florida Chamber of Commerce.
SECTION 2C
Midpoint Parkway Project will extend from near the Walmart Distribution Center on US 90 to the intersection at Barber Road in front of Walmart SuperCenter on CR 228 and I-10. Macclenny and County officials have been pushing for the new infrastructure for years (see attached newspaper articles) to reduce the volume of heavy truck traffic, including 18-wheelers serving Walmart, at the crowded intersections of US 90 at SR 121 and SR 228.

SECTION 3C
The County has already completed the engineering design of the project with FDOT TRIP funds awarded in the amount of $650,000.00. The County has also been awarded funding from FDOT for Segment 3 in the amount of 2,034,376.00. This is $529,000.00 short of the funding needed to complete this portion of the project which is $2,563,000.00.

Baker County is also prepared to commence with the construction of Segment 2. Construction costs for this portion of the Midpoint Parkway Project is $3,856,000.00. The County has not been able to obtain any funding for this segment of the project. With Segment 3 funding primarily in place and plans completed for all segments, Baker County is requesting $4,384,624.00 to fund the construction of Sections 2 and 3 as shown on the attached drawings.

Because engineering design has been completed for this project, the only major task to complete before construction is Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition. Early ROW discussions have already taken place with landowners and the landowners are willing to donate or sell the needed ROW to the County. Several landowners have already donated ROW in support of this project totaling $49,940.00 in value.

It is anticipated that the ROW acquisition process will take approximately 4 months. Then approximately 2 months are needed to advertise and award the construction contract. After the construction contract is awarded, approximately 10-12 months are needed to construct the project. This amount represents approximately 68% of the total project cost.
SECTION 4.B.I
Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

The Baker County Board of County Commissioners meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm.

- Tuesday, 19 September 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 3 October 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 7 November 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 21 November 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 5 December 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 19 December 2017 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 2 January 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 15 January 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 6 February 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 20 February 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 6 March 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 3 April 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 1 May 2018 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 5:00 PM
SECTION 4C

Attached are minutes from the December 6, 2016 Baker County Board of County Commissioners Meeting electing Jimmy Anderson Chairman of the Board thereby giving Chairman Anderson all necessary authority to execute this proposal.
BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

December 6, 2016

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting with the following members present:

Chairman, James G. Bennett
Commissioner, Bobby Steele
Commissioner, James Croft
Commissioner, Cathy Rhoden
Commissioner, Jimmy Anderson

Also Present: County Attorney, Rich Komando
Clerk, Stacie D. Harvey
County Manager, Kennie Downing

Note: These meeting minutes are a summarized version of the actual discussions at the meeting. These are not verbatim transcripts. For a complete audio recording of the discussion please visit www.bakercountyfl.org/board or contact Sara Little at sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bennett welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. Chairman Bennett led in the invocation and pledge.

Chairman Bennett requested that item 10 under new business be moved to the first item on the agenda. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the regular agenda with the requested modification. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Bennett called for approval of the consent agenda which consisted of:

1. Expense Report
2. Minutes, November 15, 2016 – Regular Session
3. Minutes, November 15, 2016 – Public Hearing
4. Request to waive Ag Center Rental Fee

Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Bennett called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Clerk to the Board, Stacie D. Harvey called for nominations for Chairman of the Board. Commissioner James Croft moved to nominate Commissioner Jimmy Anderson as Chairman to the Board. Commissioners James Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.
Clerk to the Board, Stacie D. Harvey called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board. Commissioner James Bennett moved to nominate Commissioner Bobby Steele as Vice-Chairman to the Board. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman James Bennett recognized the Baker County Historical Society. The Historical Society was recently recognized by the Northeast Florida Regional Council for their efforts on restoration to the Historic Jail. The Board thanked the members of the Historical Society for the work put in to restoring the old jail and seeking grants to fund those repairs.

Chris Milton, Director of Community Development appeared before the Board to request that Mrs. Christy Linster be appointed to the Land Planning Agency as an alternate member. Commissioner James Croft moved to appoint Mrs. Linster to the LPA. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing requested the Board authorize staff to issue a bid for updates to Fire Station 20. Mrs. Downing stated that the work requested was to extend one bay to house the fire truck that is assigned to that fire station. The truck is too large to be housed inside the facility and is currently parked on site and subject to inclement weather. Mrs. Downing stated that estimated costs were $15,000 to $20,000 and were budgeted. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the request. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented a request to piggy-back off the City of Jacksonville for the purchase of one ems unit. Mrs. Downing stated that this purchase would be grant funded. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the request. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented a request to award the Grant Writing Services RFP to North Florida Professional Services. Mrs. Downing stated that proposals were received and reviewed by staff. North Florida Professional services ranked the highest of all received. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the request. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented the 2017 County Holiday calendar for approval. Mrs. Downing stated this calendar coincides with the Federal and Circuit Court Calendar and does not included any new holidays from prior years. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the 2017 Holiday Calendar. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented the 2017 Commission liaison list. After a brief discussion it was determined that the following list would apply for 2017:
Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the 2017 liaison list. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented the public official bond for Commissioner Cathy Rhoden and Commissioner Bobby Steele for approval. Commissioner James Croft moved to approve the bond. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Commissioner James Croft requested that the monthly stipend of $150.00 issued to Commissioners be removed as County policy and no longer offered. Commissioner Croft stated that currently no Commissioner is receiving the stipend but that it is still on the record as policy. Commissioner James Croft moved that the policy be removed and no longer offered to Commissioners. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented the pending business report as follows:

Continued on next page
Kennie Downing presented an updated organizational chart that included the merger of the recreation and maintenance departments. Mrs. Downing stated that once approved this chart will be made available on the County website. Commissioner James Croft moved to approve the organization chart. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Rich Komando requested the Board extend the moratorium on mining given that the new mining Ordinances are still under review by the Commission. Mr. Komando stated that the current moratorium is set to expire on December 31, 2016. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to extend the moratorium for an additional six months. Commissioner Jimmy Anderson moved to approve the extension for a six month period. Commissioner James Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.
Midpoint Parkway Public Meeting
PowerPoint Slides
Midpoint Parkway

Public Meeting

June 6, 2017
Overall Project

Segment 1
- Urban Section
- 1 Storm water system with pond
- Less R/W Width
- More Property Owners
  Cost @ $2.253M

Segment 2
- Rural Section
- 3 Storm water ponds
- Greater R/W Width
- Single Property Owner
  Cost @ $3.856M

Segment 3
- Rural Section
- 1 Storm water ponds
- Greater R/W Width
- Two Property Owners
  Cost @ $2.563M
Urban Typical Section

- 12’ Travel Lanes
- Bike Lane
- Curb and Gutters
- Storm Water Drainage Pipes
25’ Buffer between Property Line and Pond
Retention Pond
15 landscape outside Road R/W
Midpoint Parkway Design Plans
Cover Sheet
COMPONENTS OF CONTRACT PLANS SET
SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKING PLANS
SIGNALLIZATION PLANS
BRIDGE STRUCTURE PLANS
UTILITY PLANS

A DETAILED INDEX APPEARS ON THE KEY SHEET OF EACH COMPONENT

INDEX OF ROADWAY PLANS

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GOVERNING STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS:
Florida Department of Transportation, 2016 Design Standards and revised Index Drawings as supplemented herein, and 2016 Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction as amended by Contract Documents.

For Design Standards click on the "Design Standards" link at the following web site:
http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rd/design/

For the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction click on the "Specifications" link at the following web site:
http://www.fdot.state.fl.us/specificationsoffice/

PROJECT LENGTH IS BASED ON Q OF CONSTRUCTION

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<th>LENGTH OF PROJECT</th>
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<td>LINEAR FEET</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET LENGTH OF PROJECT</td>
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<td>EXCEPTIONS</td>
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<td>CROSS LENGTH OF PROJECT</td>
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FDOT PROJECT MANAGER: C.J. THOMPSON

PROJECT LOCATION

END PROJECT STA. 263+50.75 & CONST. ENTERPRISE BLVD

END BRIDGE STA. 255+11.50 (I.S. 30)

BEGIN BRIDGE STA. 254+20.00 (I.S. 90)

END BRIDGE STA. 252+20.00 (I.S. 90)

NOTE: THE SCALE OF THESE PLANS MAY HAVE CHANGED DUE TO REPRODUCTION.

BAKER COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JAMES A. CROFT - CHAIRMAN       DISTRICT 1
JIMMY ANDERSON                  DISTRICT 2
GORDON CROW                      DISTRICT 3
JAMES G. BENNET                  DISTRICT 4
MARK HARTLEY                    DISTRICT 5

ROADWAY PLANS
ENGINEER OF RECORD: CLEVE E. GREEN, R.E.

P.E. NO.: 3305

FISCAL YEAR SHEET NO. 17 1
Midpoint Parkway
Citizen Acquired & Donated ROW
Baker County Press News Articles Concerning the Design of Midpoint Parkway
Two deputies jump in court clerk race
Field numbers four so far

Sarah Harvey

Four candidates are in the race so far to replace Clerk of Court Al Fraser, who announced two weeks ago he’s leaving office after 20 years in the middle of his current term.

The list is expected to expand before the May 19 deadline to qualify by petition to be on the November ballot. The salary is increased annual salary of $99,222 is likely too high for growth.

A dozen years on both criminal traffic and a criminal felony and a dozen years in state in- ever will be needed to walk the county and circuit civil departments.

Ms. Combs is mar- ried with three grown children.

Suspect

Ms. Register of Macclenny is the third hopeful and a political newcomer. Her experi- ence spans 30 years in the customer service departments of the former Glennus Bank and Mercantile Bank, and she is currently employed at TD Bank.

Ms. Register, who also has bachelor’s degree in education, worked for one decade between bank posi- tions for NEICOM, the local phone company.

She has two grown sons, and she and her husband have six grandchildren between them.

Joey Johnson is the fourth candidate to pick up qualifying papers, but did not respond this week to an

The truck bypass route, a two-lane corridor, will extend directly to CR 228 at Interstate US 90 just east of Macclenny.

The list is expected to grow after he was elected.

Growing up, Baxter resident John David Peterson was always fascinated with insects. Now, at 22, he’s turned that lifelong passion into a career as a beekeeper with the World Honey Market.

Mr. Peterson became inter- ested in bees at a young age af- ter seeing an episode of “The Magic School Bus” that focused on insects into the project’s engineering and design.

The interest continued into middle school when he and his younger brother learned con- struction of hard knocks.”

The foundation for his cur- rent business was laid dur- ing high school when he was a member of the Future Farm- ers of America. With the en- co ming of his agriculture teacher Greg Johnson, Mr. Peterson won the FFA State Star in Agri- kulture for Agro Entreprenurship in 2010.

He competed against other stu- dents who specialized in cows, chickens and hogs with only one other entrant working with bees.

“I was tenacious about it,” Mr. Peterson said. “I didn’t want it to whip me. It’s a diff- icult endeavor. I get an educa- tion in agriculture from the school of hard knocks.”

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Baker County Commissioner Bennet, DOT's urban transportation director, announced the county was given a new $65,000 grant to help with a countywide traffic congestion project.

The funding was awarded to Baker County by the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of its state-wide traffic congestion efforts.

Bennet, who chairs the county's transportation planning committee, said the grant will help the county address traffic congestion issues in several areas of the county.

"This is a significant grant for our county, and it will help us address traffic congestion in areas where it is most needed," Bennet said.

The grant will be used to fund a comprehensive traffic congestion study, which will identify areas with the most significant traffic congestion issues.

Bennet said the study will be conducted by a team of transportation experts, who will work with the county to develop solutions to address the traffic congestion.

The study will include data collection, analysis, and recommendation for potential solutions.

Bennet said the grant will help Baker County improve its transportation infrastructure and address the needs of its residents.

"We are grateful to the Florida Department of Transportation for this grant, and we look forward to working with them to develop solutions that will benefit our residents," Bennet said.

The grant is expected to be awarded in late 2023, and the study is scheduled to be completed in early 2024.
Three by each scorer and was the only one firm was ranked in the top three by each scorer and was the number one overall.

— C.J. Thompson

The county fair will start its annual run on Friday with more midway rides, new activities and some new music performers.

Cathy Rhoden of the Baker County Fair Association said last year the midway vendor, Premium Concessions of Hubbard, OH, was brought in on short notice when the previous vendor opted not to renew its contract with the association and had only half its rides in place for the 2013 event.

This year, she says, there will be 20 midway rides plus two new attractions — helicopter rides and laser tag games every night of the 10-day fair run.

The laser tag vendor is Red Dragon Laser Tag of Hamersville, OH.

"They contacted us about coming," said Mrs. Rhoden said of the laser tag and helicopter vendor that is here to design a new road east of Macclenny that will open up woodlands for future industrial-commercial development and provide an alternative truck route between Interstate 10 and U.S. 90.

With final plans due by mid-October 2013, the long-awaited and greatly-anticipated eastern bypass, labeled the Midpoint Parkway, could be well under construction in 2016 at an estimated cost of around $10 million.

To make the project work, the corporation," an alternative truck route between Interstate 10 and U.S. 90.

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A Macclenny man was arrested the night of September 29 for disorderly intoxication and resisting arrest without violence. He became belligerent with police when they tried to question him and then sprayed two devices into his face, the sheriff's department said.

Deputy Teo McCullough were performing a property check at this park when they noticed a man later identified as Matthew Thornton, 20, of Macclenny, who entered the park. The suspect had an unsteady and unbalanced walking pattern as he entered the park and said “hey” at hour after it closed. Deputy McCullough told him it was closed for the night and told him to move out of the park boundary. He continued moving in the opposite direction, the sheriff's department said.

The suspect told Deputy Robert Simpson that he was building an electric fire at the park; he had already failed to vacate it by check out time of 11 a.m. Mr. Thornton supervised the women about 12:30 p.m. as they were carving carving items from a tree. The suspect told him the owner of the property was Rita Larry and gave her birth date, as the second woman. Both were reluctant to give their names and were in a hurdle state to leave, according to the report.

The clip recorded the officer the suspect and told him he had no right to be there. The suspect continued at ASD the phone and threatened the officers as the suspect was placed in the patrol car. Mr. Thornton told multiple commands to stop fighting his plan on the ground of Daniel McCullough's personal belongings, which resulted in him being pepper sprayed. Deputy Simpson temporarily detained the suspect until it was out of the county jurisdiction and took him to the sheriff's office.

The complaint noted that Mr. Thornton is a suspect in other cases and that he’s charged because the activity took place within 100 feet of a nursing home. The sheriff's department also made a request of a court order to seize the suspect.

The case file was sent to the Florida Department of Corrections for a review and possible charges.
Disputes logic that added gas tax is tax

Dear Editor:

The addition of The Press included an article stating that one of our local county commissioners is promoting the gallon of gas tax. His clarification was that "the only ones paying it are the ones driving," as though that made it any less of an increase. I believe that is flawed logic in attempting to "attract" a "few" extra dollars in revenue. The fact is, that small, five cents per gallon is not equal from one household to another when certain households require more gas or are on limited budgets. A household who uses a lot more gas will come likely will feel the tax much less than the household with a low fixed income.

Those who live in town will feel the tax less than those who live on the vast back roads. If we travel farther to get in town, individuals in work who own their own vehicles (both county and those who drive to work) will feel and pay more, but if we want to bring revenue into the county, you must produce more goods. Businesses (both vehicle and those who save money by driving to work) with vehicles that try to save money by driving to work may well be considered dead. If we continue with "Mayberry" atmosphere, with "businesses or franchise companies" will not come to Baker County or those who will not come will not support the businesses.

• It has been said that businesses or franchise companies will not come to Baker County, but I feel some could not support the business.

It is the intention of the current county and the new proposed Midpark Parkway then that some will support the businesses in our community. We only can do that if we have the revenues needed.

• Offer tax incentives for development: For every $100,000 of new business or franchise that comes to the county, state and local governments will put $25,000 of additional local income that could be applied to the building of the Midpark Parkway.

• Commercial, industrial, and business parks in the county will be considered dead. The project will add jobs to Baker County and get residents into our community. Wouldn't it be nice to have a Cracker Barrel (It has been discussed many times), a Texas Roadhouse, a Chick-fil-A, or even a Popeyes' in Macclenny? We want to think Union County and put "awareness bumps" on the edge of the highway and the new Midpark Parkway. I only add do it when we have the revenues.

• New road bumps save lives

All the little birds are living the nest. I’ve been aware of productions since ugly in Baker County and directing since 1979. That’s a long time.

I’ve also been directed at many locations and directed at seven different places over my career. I look at all these shows that we use and think of the things that stage and you won’t be disappointed.

New road bumps will save lives

I want to thank Union County and put “awareness bumps” on the edge of the highway and the new Midpark Parkway. I only add do it when we have the revenues.

I was texting.

To get those kind of roles in a classic like To Kill a Mockingbird is not easy. I thought the last law (ACA) promised to do that. Our money needs to be spent on the arts and on a stage like Theatre Jacksonville. Both are home grown when they do come back. There’s a welcome mat out in the sense of fuel prices and anything else.

Dear Editor:

Spreads support and gas tax hike

Dear Editor:

For many years, Macclenny has had some trucks turning to and from fifth and sixth street with much to no manuevering space. Macclenny trucks to have to move back on those streets for some semi trucks and really big vehicle or trucks. Eventually a major accident will occur if the problem is not fixed, or even fixed.

It has been proposed for the last two years, trucks to have to move back on those streets for some semi trucks and really big vehicle or trucks. Eventually a major accident will occur if the problem is not fixed, or even fixed.

I-10 and the Walmart Supercenter will be considered dead. The county must come up with $500,000 or the project could not support the businesses or franchise companies. I do not believe if we want to bring revenue into the county, you must produce more goods. Businesses (both vehicle and those who save money by driving to work) with vehicles that try to save money by driving to work may well be considered dead. If we continue with "Mayberry" atmosphere, with "businesses or franchise companies" will not come to Baker County or those who will not come will not support the businesses.

According to Commissioner Bennett.

Third, it will spark commerce to The Baker County

Money needs to be spent on the arts and businesses or franchise companies. I can’t tell you how much I love that. Seven of them are at Florida Canteen. I do want this at Theatre Jacksonville. Both are home grown when they do come back.

I've been doing theatre productions since the Plan of a five-cent per gallon gas tax. He's quoted saying that and on a stage like Theatre Jacksonville. Both are home grown when they do come back. You're thinking of the things that stage and you won’t be disappointed.

When a product or service becomes too pricey, consumers will lose of it. This stubborn economic principle will be a bit of commerce. LEETGERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Baker County Press

Baker County Inc. Periodicals postage

This newspaper is printed by Baker County Press,

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Minutes from August 1, 2017 detailing BOCC support and authority to commence with the submittal of applications on behalf of Baker County for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting with the following members present:

Chairman, Jimmy Anderson
Commissioner, James Croft
Commissioner, Cathy Rhoden
Commissioner, James G. Bennett
Commissioner, Bobby Steele

Also Present:
County Attorney, Rich Komando
Clerk, Stacie D. Harvey
County Manager, Kennie Downing

Note: These meeting minutes are a summarized version of the actual discussions at the meeting. These are not verbatim transcripts. For a complete audio recording of the discussion please visit www.bakercountyfl.org/board or contact Sara Little at sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. Commissioner Bobby Steele led in the invocation and pledge.

Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve the regular agenda. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Anderson requested approval of the consent agenda which consisted of:

1. Expense Report
2. Minutes- July 18, 2017 – Regular Session

Commissioner Cathy Rhoden moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Anderson called for public comment. There were no public comments.

Kennie Downing presented a request to award the employee benefits as reviewed in the workshop earlier in the day (can be heard on audio file). Mrs. Downing stated that the insurance committee had reviewed and ranked the responses received and recommended two options to the Board. Both options were plans presented by Florida Blue, with similar offers to the current health coverage offered by United Healthcare. Options 32 and 33 came in with a 15.3% and 9.7% increase respectively. Commissioner Bobby Steele moved to select Option 33 with Florida Blue with a 9.7% increase. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Megan Carter representing North Florida Professional Services presented two grant applications for consideration. Ms. Carter stated that the State will accept applications until the money runs out. The applications will be submitted for the construction of Midpoint Parkway and paving of Nursery Boulevard. Commissioner Bennett suggested the Board move forward with
the application but requested a few changes be made to the grant application first. The Board agreed to allow Commissioner Bennett change the language in the application given his background with road projects. Commissioner Bennett moved to approve applications with changes and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous. Chairman Bennett moved to approve the task order associated with the grant application for Nursery Boulevard. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous. Commission Bennett moved to approve the task order associated with the grant application for Midpoint Parkway. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing recognized Alicia Lamborn, Interim Extension Director for an Achievement Award by the National Association of County Agriculture Agents. The Achievement Award is awarded to Agents with less than 10 years of service in Cooperative Extension Service who have exhibited excellence in the field of professional Extension. The Board thanked Alicia for her hard work and efforts representing Baker County across the Nation.

Kennie Downing gave a presentation of the new St. Mary’s Shoals Park website to the Board. The website allowed users to pay for park passes, access trail maps, view pictures and location information as well as many other options. The website will be officially open to the public in the next few weeks.

Sieglinde Campbell, Acting Director of the Baker County Health Department, presented a request to sell the surplus dental bus that is no longer in use. Mrs. Campbell stated the intent would be to sell the bus to Duval County Health Department for $165,000. Those funds will then be used in the Baker County Health Department Dental Office. Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve the request. Commissioner Bobby Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Kennie Downing presented the pending business report as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pending Business Item</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>% Complete</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Controls HVAC audit</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>3/7/2017</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>BOCC to decide on proceeding with audit 8/1/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDR Revisions</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>05/06/2014</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>LPA finishing biosolids report for August 2017 BOCC mtg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bee Keeping at Shoals Park</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>07/05/2016</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Staff is drafting policies in companion with draft beekeeping contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olustee Park- electricity, parks equipment</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>09/23/2016</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>RAB recommends any improvements be put on hold until the RAB can schedule a community meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Box, Fees, Online pay at Shoals Park</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>09/23/2016</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Honor boxes are being installed, fee envelopes ordered on-line pay website being developed. Est completion of all: 2 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poles and Gate at Shoals Park</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>11/01/2016</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Gate and fence has been installed. The FPL poles should be available in June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of Jonesville Community Center</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>11/15/2016</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Chairman Anderson is leading the rebuild efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire &amp; EMS Department Vision committee</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>02/07/2017</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Meeting held on 7/25/17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COA Senior Center/community center</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>02/21/2017</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Setting up meeting with grantwriters to discuss grant funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure funding for Transportation</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>07/18/2017</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Meeting with Grantwriters 7/20/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Collector Roof</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>07/06/2017</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Contractors have been selected. Work begins soon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kennie Downing presented a review of the animal control fees. Mrs. Downing stated this was prompted by extreme backlash on social media towards Officer Georgia Monfort for a citation that was issued that the public felt was unfair. The Board thanked Mrs. Monfort for her efforts in complying with the fines and fees established by the Board. The Board also expressed that the public understand that Mrs. Monfort has been simply doing her job by enforcing the fines and fees that were established years ago. The Board agreed that the fines and fees should be reviewed since they have not changed in 17 years. The Board requested the newly formed Animal Advisory Committee take this as their first project and report back to the Board once a recommendation has been made.

Chairman Anderson stated that he received a speaker card and would allow public comment again. Charles Lantz requested the Board look at the drainage ditch near his home located at 9138 Pinetop Road. Mr. Lantz stated that he believe the ditch has been filled in due to the increase in standing water on his property in recent months. The Board requested staff notify Robert Fletcher, Road Superintendent, and have him address the issue.

Kennie Downing presented the tentative millage to the Board. Mrs. Downing explained the current millage is 7.2916 and the Board could set the tentative millage today at their desire. Chairman Anderson stated that the Board cannot exceed a millage rate higher than what is set today as a tentative millage rate. Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve the tentative millage rate at current, 7.2916 without any increase. Commissioner James Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

_________________________                         ________________________________
Stacie D. Harvey, Clerk                                  Oliver J. Anderson, Chairman
The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting with the following members present:

Chairman, Jimmy Anderson  
Commissioner, Bobby Steele  
Commissioner, James Croft  
Commissioner, Cathy Rhoden  
Commissioner, James G. Bennett

Also Present:  
Clerk, Stacie D. Harvey  
County Manager, Kennie Downing

Absent:  
County Attorney, Rich Komando

Note: These meeting minutes are a summarized version of the actual discussions at the meeting. These are not verbatim transcripts. For a complete audio recording of the discussion please visit www.bakercountyfl.org/board or contact Sara Little at sara.little@bakercountyfl.org

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone in attendance and opened the public hearing.

Kennie Downing presented Ordinance 2017-09 for final hearing. This Ordinance established rules and regulations for all County owned parks by approving Administration Policy 2017-01.

Chairman Anderson called for public comment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson closed the public hearing and reopened the regular session.

Commissioner James Bennett moved to approve Ordinance 2017-09 and read by title. Commissioner Cathy Rhoden seconded the motion.

Kennie Downing read Ordinance 2017-09 by title which states:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 28 – PARKS AND RECREATION, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 28-1; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, FEES AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO STAFF; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE CODIFIER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Chairman Anderson called for any additional comments. Hearing none, the motion carried unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

__________________________________                       ___________________________________
Staci D. Harvey, Clerk               Oliver J. Anderson, Chairman