

JOINT MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES

1. CALL TO ORDER: January 15, 2002, at 10:10 a.m., in the Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

1.A. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Warren H. Newell
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts
Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Commissioner Addie L. Greene
Commissioner Mary McCarty
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus
Commissioner Tony Masilotti - Absent
County Administrator Robert Weisman
Chief Deputy County Attorney Gordon Selfridge
Recording Clerk Joseph Smith
Condensing Clerk Joan Haverly

PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES

President Ken Schultz
First Vice-President Carmine A. Priore
Second Vice-President Beverly Smith
Secretary/Treasurer Mo Thornton
City Manager Leif J. Ahnell, City of Boca Raton
Commissioner Mary Brandenburg, City of West Palm Beach
Mayor Gerald Broening, City of Boynton Beach
Councilmember Donald D. Daniels, Town of Jupiter
City Manager David T. Harden, City of Delray Beach
Immediate Past President Rethe Lowe, PBC League of Cities
Councilmember Peter A. Noble, City of Greenacres
Councilmember Charles O'Meilia, Village of North Palm Beach
Council Chair Edward Rodgers, City of Riviera Beach - Absent
Mayor Rodney G. Romano, City of Lake Worth
City Manager Antonio ("Tony") Smith, City of Belle Glade
Councilmember Carmela Starace, Village of Royal Palm Beach
Executive Director James Titcomb, PBC League of Cities

1.B. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Newell welcomed those assembled.

Mayor Schultz thanked County Legislative Affairs Director Todd Bonlarron and League Executive Director James Titcomb for setting up the joint meeting.

Commissioner Newell observed that the League of Cities had become a strong ally of the county and that the commission and the league worked very well together. He noted that the two had passed school concurrency, which he cited as an excellent example of working together.

Those attending introduced themselves.

2. OVERVIEW

Mr. Bonlarron reported that he and Mr. Titcomb decided there was a need for the boards to meet to have an open conversation about issues of interest that required intergovernmental coordination. Commissioner Newell noted that despite a lack of formal meetings, county commissioners and city officials conferred on issues that arise almost daily.

3. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

3.A.

ANNEXATION. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- The need for a joint cities and county task force committee to examine annexation issues and areas of concern. League of Cities members expressed the need for the reactivation of the league's annexation issues committee, but with county participation and additional people involved.
- The need for a new reserved annexation area map of the county that would more resemble the projected build-out of the county.
- A state legislature proposal that would encourage cities and counties to come together in workshops to deal with annexation issues. Based on the success of those workshops, the legislature would then consider revisional annexation language in the 2003 legislative session, according to Mr. Titcomb.
- Formulating an overall annexation plan generated by the cities and the county, rather than one that the state legislature later might dictate.
- The need to include depressed areas in overall annexation plans. Commissioner Newell noted that the county was authorized to pay over one-third of the cost of infrastructure costs in conjunction with the annexation of depressed areas.

Staff was directed to:

- Begin work on organizing such a committee. Mayor Schultz said the League of Cities would assume the responsibility for the committee, and Commissioner Newell asked that Mr. Titcomb and Mr. Bonlarron work jointly to develop recommendations regarding its makeup.

3.B.

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- An explanation of the state's proposed one-half cent local option sales tax, which would be used for infrastructure. The proposal would create a new tax option for the state's largest cities by referendum.

3.B. - CONTINUED

- That neither the League of Cities nor the county had taken a position on the tax option, but the Florida Association of Counties opposed it.
- An observation by Commissioner Aaronson that such a tax could negatively impact tourism and the Convention Center. He urged a position against the tax.
- A revelation by Commissioner Brandenburg that the City of West Palm Beach was interested in exploring the issue, though support was not unanimous among the city's officials. She said that if the matter was not likely to get very far, maybe it did not need immediate attention.

3.C.

TRANSPORTATION. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

a. LOCAL REVENUE SHARING. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- That the League of Cities Transportation Committee had examined the gas tax and how it is allocated and concluded that the division was reasonable and equitable.
- That the committee had concluded when a large municipality has a special provision of its own concerning the allocation, that the statutory provision should be followed.
- That lane mile statistics needed to be updated to assure a fair allocation between the cities, according to Mr. Harden, who chaired the committee.

b. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- That the Town of Jupiter had no Palm Tran service and was attempting to create its own master transportation plan. Councilmember Daniels said that not having county bus service was an inequity and asked for the county's help with the matter. He was advised that Palm Tran service had not been sufficiently utilized in the past to justify the cost, but that the plan could be taken before the Municipal Planning Organization. Commissioner Marcus noted that the county was providing trolley service in Jupiter.
- That funding was expected to become available for community buses within the next year.
- Concern by Commissioner Newell that cities were not using their gas tax allocations for mass transportation costs.

3.D.

RESOURCE COORDINATION - PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- That the county was looking at availability of resources for public safety issues through a new program using a grant process. The Interagency Threat Assessment Group (ITAG) seeks to coordinate the purchase and availability of equipment and resources to be used in the event of potential terrorist threats. Commissioner Newell disclosed that additional requests for anti-terrorist supplies came following the September 11, 2001, terrorist incidents.
- That the county commission was coordinating this as a countywide effort through the Criminal Justice Commission.

Staff was directed to:

- Make a presentation on the ITAG program to the League of Cities.

3.E.

SHERIFF'S MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (MSTU). DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- That cities generally favored the possible creation of a municipal service taxing unit (MSTU) for the sheriff's office, similar to Fire-Rescue's, to deal with the concern over the possibility of double taxation and duplication of services.
- That County Administrator Weisman and county staff were investigating the concept, which Mr. Weisman said would require state legislative action and a twofold assessment process, one for true countywide expenses and another for incorporated expenses. He said he hoped to bring the matter back before the commission in months to come and then create a committee of representatives of the cities and county.
- A contention by the sheriff's office that double taxation did not exist and that cities often received services from the sheriff's office without direct charge.
- A recollection by Commissioner Roberts that the league had been a party to lawsuit over the prospect of double taxation in the 1980s and had lost.

3.F.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Mr. Bonlarron noted that when the two boards work on issues, they work very well together and solve problems very quickly. Occasionally, broad issues need to be jointly explored, he observed. He encouraged the boards to continue meeting and working together.

4. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ISSUES

4.A.

UTILITY TAX-SPRINT AUDIT. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Discussion included:

- That the county received income from utility services such as cellular phones, distributed through a database.
- That the county audited Sprint through its internal audit system and determined that Sprint had distributed approximately \$950,000 to cities that should have gone to the county and that the county has requested the money back.
- That there was a problem in imprecise zip codes that direct funds to the wrong municipalities. Councilmember Noble suggested approaching postal authorities to re-map the county regarding zip codes.

Staff was directed to:

- Draft a letter from the league and the county commission to the county's federal delegation, asking for help from the postal service with the continuing problem of incorrect zip codes.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The following three items were not listed on the agenda.)

4.B.

EXOTIC PLANT REMOVAL. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Commissioner Newell noted that the county had proposed a new ordinance providing for removal of exotic plants. He suggested that cities join with the county to take the measure countywide. Mayor Schultz said the League of Cities would consider the matter at its February meeting.

4.C.

SENATE REDISTRICTING. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Mr. Bonlarron reported that there had been a collective effort by county representatives to express concern over the re-drawing of districts in Palm Beach County, particularly senate districts. He said the county was trying to get at least three seats drawn that had a majority of constituency within Palm Beach County. He asked for letters of support to be sent to the Florida Senate Redistricting Committee.

Staff was directed to:

- Assure that officials attending the upcoming Palm Beach County Day in Tallahassee had access to information regarding the Florida Senate Redistricting Committee.

4.D.

TAX REFORM SUPPORT. DISCUSSED 1-15-2002

Commissioner Marcus noted that the Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, and Florida School Board Association had developed a joint position to support tax reform in hopes of a constitutional amendment. She encouraged local league officials to schedule a presentation on the matter.

5. CLOSING COMMENTS

5.A. LEAGUE OF CITIES

Mayor Schultz said he thought the meeting was very beneficial and time well spent. He thanked those attending.

5.B. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

On behalf of the county, Commissioner Newell thanked those attending. Commissioner Aaronson said he thought the meeting should be held every six months, not every five years.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Clerk

Chair