

**JOINT MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE PORT OF PALM BEACH**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** September 16, 2003, at 3:23 p.m., at the Port of Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Florida.

**I.A. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Chair Karen T. Marcus  
Vice-Chair Tony Masilotti - Absent  
Commissioner Burt Aaronson  
Commissioner Addie L. Greene  
Commissioner Jeff Koons  
Commissioner Mary McCarty  
Commissioner Warren H. Newell - Absent  
County Administrator Robert Weisman  
County Attorney Denise Nieman  
Recording Clerk Donna Atwood  
Condensing Clerk Denise Carmona

**PORT OF PALM BEACH:**

Chair George E. Mastics  
Vice-Chair Priscilla A. Taylor  
Secretary/Treasurer Wayne M. Richards  
Commissioner Blair J. Ciklin  
Commissioner Rafael F. Rondon  
Executive Director Richard A. Wainio  
Legal Counsel John W. Gary - Absent

**I.B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**I.C. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

George E. Mastics, the Port of Palm Beach chair, introduced the following representatives of the state legislature: Adam Hasner, Anne Gannon, James Harper, Susan Bucher, Senator Jeff Atwater's office representative, Jessica Jaeger, Joe Negron's office representative, Holly Demers, and Palm Beach Legislative Delegation Executive Director Edward M. Chase. In addition to the state legislature, Commissioner Mastics introduced the following members of the Navy League: Admiral Tom Morris, Commander Norman Daly, Colonel Tom Sullivan, Captain Dan Petrick, Rick Morrell of Tropical Shipping, and Terry Collier owner of Palm Beach Cove, and president of the Port's Seaport Association.

**I.D. BRIEF OPENING STATEMENTS**

**I.**

THE HONORABLE KAREN T. MARCUS, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003

Commissioner Marcus introduced Legislative Delegation Representative Carl Domino, County Attorney Denise Nieman, and County Deputy Administrator Verdenia C. Baker. She thanked the Port for hosting the meeting.

## **BRIEF OPENING STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**

### **II.**

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF PALM BEACH DISTRICT GEORGE E. MASTICS. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003

Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Mastics gave a tour of the Port facilities, and said he hoped it was informative. He then related the history of how the Port of Palm Beach came into existence.

### **I.E. DISCUSSION OVERVIEW**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RICHARD A. WAINIO. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003

Executive Director Richard A. Wainio gave an overview and current status of the Port of Palm Beach. The following points were discussed:

- Diversity, vastness, and busyness;
- Several of the growing components were cargo, containers, new trade, yachts, lumber, steel, and passengers;
- New completely funded projects included in the Port's Five-Year Master Plan were (a) elevating U.S. Highway 1 over the Port; (b) building new slips for cargo and cruise operations; (c) building a new cruise terminal and executive office building; (d) demolishing old buildings; (e) paving and fencing large areas for cargo storage; (f) adding parking areas; (g) expanding, completing, and completely rehabilitating the 11th street Port entrance;
- Two million dollars spent on security projects such as the relocation of the entry gate, placing additional high mast security light throughout the Port, and installing a CCTV surveillance system on the port side;
- Annual operational costs of \$1.8 million for an expanded security force, local police coverage, bomb-sniffing dogs, more training and other security related expenditures;
- Upon a surprise inspection, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) reported very favorable results;
- One of the major fully funded security projects was the relocation of a main entry gate that required the closure of a portion of avenue E, with an expected project completion date of April 2004;
- Key element of long-term master plan was to split traffic coming into the port into 3 components; (a) cruise business would enter into the Port on the new 11th street entrance; (b) container business would come down the Port road through the new container interchange; and (c) all other traffic, would enter the Port through a new south gate; and

## **DISCUSSION OVERVIEW - CONTINUED**

- On the ocean side the transportation chain was increasingly efficient, however, on the land side, South Florida was heavily congested and frequent gridlock conditions hindered the region's ability to facilitate local and international commerce; the problem could be alleviated by expanding intermodal capability to provide east west connectors such as State Road 710 and expansion of intermodal rail capacity.

### **I.F. INTERACTIVE BRIEFING AND GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE PORT OF PALM BEACH: Year-End Review and Outlook for Fiscal Year 2004**

#### **I.**

PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORTATION OPTIMIZATION. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003

To provide an optimal relationship with the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), Tri Rail, and Amtrak on transportation issues, Commissioner Koons suggested that the county partnership with the Port of Palm Beach. Commissioner Mastics and Executive Director Wainio expressed a desire to work with Commissioner Koons on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) committee.

Port of Palm Beach would be a viable alternative in comparison to Broward and Miami-Dade ports, Commissioner Mastics pointed out, because of the shorter traveling distance and less congestion.

#### **II.**

BUFFERING PLANS. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003

Commissioner McCarty inquired if there were plans for a berm between the port and residential area to buffer the industrial use in the Port's Five-Year Master Plan. Because of an interlocal agreement with the City of Riviera Beach, Commissioner Mastics commented, the city would be required to do the buffering. Commissioner McCarty contended that everyone should take responsibility for it. The area could be inexpensively landscaped, Commissioner Marcus said.

#### **III.**

TOURISM IN THE COUNTY. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003

Commissioner Aaronson identified the need for cruise lines to increase tourism in the county. He proposed that the Port and the airport work together on the issue. Commissioner Mastics explained that the port was limited in size and did not have the capacity for cruise lines. Commissioner Blair J. Ciklin communicated that the main purpose of the Port was to keep cargo and cruises separate. Commissioner Aaronson requested that a task force be created to entice cruise ships to come to the Port. Commissioner Marcus agreed and said expansion of the Port was necessary for ensured success.

**INTERACTIVE BRIEFING AND GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE PORT OF PALM BEACH: Year-End Review and Outlook for Fiscal Year 2004 - CONTINUED**

**IV.**

**THIRTEENTH STREET AND STATE ROAD 710 ELEVATION. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003**

Commissioner Marcus indicated that elevating 13th Street over the railroad tracks would alleviate traffic for the city of Riviera Beach. Executive Director Wainio pointed out that by elevating State Road 710, the 13th street traffic problem would be resolved. Commissioner Marcus stated it was important for the delegation members to realize that the county needs financial resources to build flyovers to make the Port successful.

Another point Commissioner Marcus brought up was the Port's police and fire-rescue services. Executive Director Wainio related that they had a small contract with the City of Riviera Beach for police and no contract for fire-rescue, but the cities of Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach would provide service as needed.

Executive Director Wainio reported that the approximate cost of elevating 13th Street and State Road 710 would be \$40 million.

**V.**

**RELOCATION OF PORT ENTRY AND ELIMINATION OF HOMES. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003**

Commissioner Greene asked how far down on State Road 710 the entrance to the Port was going to be moved and how many homes would be removed. Commissioner Koons responded that he would have Florida Department of Transportation give her the typical alignment. He added that when State Road 710 comes as far as Old Dixie, the mobile home park would be eliminated.

Commissioner Marcus suggested buffering along the road on the residential side of the Port to hide the unattractive view. Commissioner Mastics noted that the Port gave \$50,000 to the City of Riviera Beach for landscaping.

**VI.**

**FINANCIAL CONCERNS FOR SECURITY OF THE PORT OF PALM BEACH. DISCUSSED 9-16-2003**

Secretary/Treasurer Wayne M. Richards said he opposed raising taxes to pay for the security of the Port, as did several other commissioners of the Port. Commissioner Koons indicated that the MPO was unable to fund any programs. He added that the funding sources would have to be Port dollars, since there would be no federal or state assistance to pay for the security of the Port. Commissioner Koons suggested establishing a tri-party agreement with the City of Riviera Beach, the Port of Palm Beach, and the county to find creative funding sources.

Commissioner Marcus said that there was a need to begin developing a financial package for additional grant money and present to the legislature. Executive Director Wainio said that the Port would have a draft of a new master plan for the board's review in an April/May timeframe.

**INTERACTIVE BRIEFING AND GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE PORT OF PALM BEACH: Year-End Review and Outlook for Fiscal Year 2004 - CONTINUED**

Commissioner Marcus made the following list of issues to be addressed during an upcoming joint meeting with the Port of Palm Beach:

- Cruise industry with the Tourist Development Council;
- State Road 710 overpass;
- Tri-Party Agreement; and
- Cities of Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, and the Port of Palm Beach landscape issues.

**I.G. SUMMARY AND WRAP UP**

Commissioner Mastics pointed out that the Port's waterfront was limited and expressed concern about how expansion was possible. He said he hoped everyone understood the issues of the Port of Palm Beach better and thanked everyone for attending.

**I.H. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.**

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Clerk:

Chair: