

**MINUTES
LONGBOAT KEY TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 - 8:00 A.M.**

Present: Vice Mayor Jim Brown, Commrs. David Brenner, Lynn Larson, Robert Siekmann, Phillip Younger

Also Present: Town Manager Bruce St. Denis, Town Clerk Trish Granger

Not Present: Mayor George Spoll and Commr. Lenobel

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Brown called the Special Meeting of the Longboat Key Town Commission to order at 8:01 a.m., in the Town Commission Chamber, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

1. Discussion Regarding Longboat Key Trolley Service

At the September 13, 2010 Regular Meeting the Town Commission discussed the issues associated with Manatee County's proposed discontinuation of funding the Longboat Key Trolley service. Commissioners and staff attended the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners September 14, 2010 9:00 AM session as well as the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners September 14, 2010 1:30 PM session to present the Town Commission's position regarding continued trolley service. The Mayor has called a Special Meeting in order for further consideration of this issue. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Vice Mayor Brown noted the attendance and discussions held at the Manatee Board of County Commission (MBOCC) and Sarasota Board of County Commission's (SBOCC) meetings on September 14, 2010, and advised that Commr. Brenner would review discussion points for the MBOCC meeting to be held later this date (budget hearing scheduled for 6:00 p.m.).

Commr. Brenner noted discussions held with Town Manager Bruce St. Denis and Town Staff on the issue of maintaining trolley/transit service throughout the Town.

Town Manager Bruce St. Denis noted discussions with Sarasota County Administrator James Ley and Manatee County Administrator Ed Hunseker relating to the resolution of the issues and scheduling a future joint meeting between the two Counties and the Town.

Commr. Brenner noted time constraints to resolve issues and that Town Staff is researching available grant options, and advised that the Longboat Key, Lido Key, and St. Armands Key (LLSA) Chamber of Commerce President Tom Aposporus was present and could provide information relating to the trolley/transit service.

Mr. Tom Aposporus, President of the LLSA Chamber, noted his membership in the Anna Maria Chamber of Commerce, reviewed issues with the trolley/transit vehicles relating to maintenance costs, advised that the three beach communities (Anna Maria, Holmes Beach, and Bradenton Beach) have pledged funding to assist with vehicle maintenance costs, and noted discussions with additional agencies to obtain support for the continuation of the trolley/transit service (Route 18). Discussions were held with Mr. Aposporus on the following topics/issues:

1. Discussion Regarding Longboat Key Trolley Service - Continued

- options for selling advertising on busses
- lack of a established policy for the Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) pertaining to vehicle advertising
- trolley operating schedule/options to reduce services on holidays and/or hours during the week
- statistical ridership data.

Commr. Brenner noted a draft Resolution (2010-38) developed for consideration for submittal to the MBOCC later this date.

Vice Mayor Brown commented the issues discussed at the MBOCC meeting on September 14, 2010, and the support received from the SBOCC to maintain bus service on Longboat Key.

Town Manager St. Denis noted the support for a joint meeting by SBOCC, options for Staff level discussions in lieu of a joint meeting, and the direction from the Elected Officials for Staff to work together to resolve the issues.

Vice Mayor Brown opined that Manatee County may be looking for funding support from Longboat Key and discussion ensued on issues to be discussed with the Manatee BOCC at the 6:00 p.m. meeting.

Commr. Brenner noted a request from Commr. Larson to amend the word "tourists" to reflect "visitors" in draft Resolution 2010-38 in the Whereas clauses.

Subsequent to additional discussion on the necessity to maintain a regional transit route, Commr. Brenner moved to pass Resolution 2010-38, with the amendment to utilize the word visitors. The motion was seconded by Commr. Younger.

Discussion ensued on the process to follow at the MBOCC budget hearing at 6:00 p.m. this date.

Commr. Siekmann suggested that the verbiage be amended from "Longboat Key Trolley" to reflect that the issue is a regional transportation network and the link provided by Route 18.

Assistant Town Attorney Kelly Martinson advised that an additional Whereas clause could be included in the Resolution. Public Works Director Juan Florensa suggested the following language:

"WHEREAS, Route 18 provides a vital link in the regional transit system in both Sarasota and Manatee Counties; and"

Following comments on the placement of the Whereas clause, optional language, and the schedule for a special meeting between the entities, Commr. Brenner restated his motion to pass Resolution 2010-38, as amended, without objection.

1. Discussion Regarding Longboat Key Trolley Service - Continued

The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote, as follows: Brenner, aye; Younger, aye; Larson, aye; Siekmann, aye; Brown, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Brown adjourned the September 16, 2010, Special Meeting at 8:34 a.m.

s/s/ Trish Granger
Trish Granger, Town Clerk

/s/ George Spoll
George Spoll, Mayor

Minutes Approved: 11/01/2010