

**SPECIAL CALLED BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DEC. 1, 2020  
MEETING & WORKSHOP**

The Board of Sumter County Commissioners (BOCC/Board) convened in a special called meeting/workshop session on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at The Villages Sumter County Service Center in Wildwood, Florida with the following members present to wit: Gary Search, District No. 1; Doug Gilpin, District No. 2; Craig Estep, District No. 3, Vice Chairman; Garry Breeden, Chairman, District No. 4; and Oren Miller, 2nd Vice Chairman, District No. 5. The following individuals were also present and acting in their respective official capacities: Bradley Arnold, County Administrator; and Caroline Alrestimawi, Deputy Clerk. Commissioner Breeden called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The complete audio recording of this meeting is available by request through the Clerk's Website - [www.sumterclerk.com](http://www.sumterclerk.com).

**1. Public Forum**

There was no input from the public.

**2. Review of Workshop Topics and the Schedule (For Direction)**

Commissioner Breeden went over the proposed Workshop Schedule on the attached Executive Summary. Commissioner Miller requested to move the No-Kill Animal Shelter discussion from December 29, 2020 to December 15, 2020. Commissioner Search and Commissioner Breeden have possible conflicts with the December 29, 2020 meeting. However, Mr. Arnold noted that as long as there is a quorum (three Commissioners), full Commissioner attendance was not required. After further discussion, Mr. Arnold proposed moving the No-Kill and the Anti-Tethering Ordinance discussion to December 15, 2020. If that change is agreed upon, then the December 29, 2020, Special Called Meeting would only address the State of Emergency Declaration Extension. All other topics on the proposed schedule will remain the same. The Commissioners provided consensus to move the No Kill-Open Shelter and Anti-Tethering Ordinance discussion to the December 15, 2020 Special Meeting and Workshop. No other changes were proposed. Commissioner Estep proposed the following topics for future workshops: Clarification of chain of command in Ordinances; and increasing investments in road maintenance in more rural locations. Commissioner Miller touched on an item that Commissioner Gilpin has in the past and requested to have a workshop regarding sewer systems in more rural areas.

12-1-20-2

**3. Review of Board of County Commissioners Meeting Times (For Direction)**

At a previous meeting, Commissioner Miller proposed BOCC Meetings starting at 7:00 p.m. to give citizens a better opportunity to attend. Commissioner Breeden has no issues with moving the meetings to 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Search voiced support for a 7:00 p.m. meeting because if there are meeting times that people cannot attend, it makes

people feel they are not welcome. Commissioner Gilpin stated that he had no interest in changing the meeting time and the only change that he would like to make was to move one of the regular meetings back to the Courthouse because having all meeting in The Villages gives too much a “Villages focus”. Commissioner Estep feels that the current location is more centrally located and has better sound quality than the Courthouse. Commissioner Breeden and Commissioner Miller both voiced that they had no issues with meeting in one location or two locations. Commissioner Estep has no issues with moving the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. because after looking at all of the surrounding counties meeting times, he was most impressed with Sumter County trying to reach out to more people so a later time would take that a step further. Mr. Arnold made the Commissioners aware that the decision would have to take place through an Ordinance so it would have to go on a regular meeting agenda for a vote. Mr. Arnold also stated that from an implementation standpoint, a new meeting time would best start in January 2021. The Commissioners provided consensus to putting meeting times and locations with a January 2021 state on the next regular meeting agenda for a vote.

12-1-20-3

**4. Sumter County Code Compliance Complaints Procedure (For Direction)**

Mr. Ron Edwards spoke under public forum on November 24, 2020, requesting the Board allow anonymous complaints for code enforcement purposes. The Code Compliance Complaint Procedures were changed on September 4, 2014, by the direction of the Board due to complaints from property owners of the overreach of government as well as frivolous complaints due to allowing anonymity of the complainants. The Board also established that the code enforcement process would not be active but passive (i.e. complaint-driven only). For individuals desiring anonymity, some have verbally contacted a County Commissioner, and the Commissioner uses their name for purposes of the file and open records and staying consistent with the Board’s decision. The Commissioners discussed the item and provided consensus to keep the current process, with the minor tweak that individuals be instructed by staff to contact their district's Commissioner. Mr. Arnold will provide his staff with the necessary information and direction to implement that minor change.

12-1-20-4

**5. Letter for the Sumter County Legislative Delegation Meeting on December 9, 2020 (For Direction)**

The Commissioners provided consensus that they support the proposed letter.

12-1-20-5

**6. Road Impact Fee (For Direction)**

This item was raised by Commissioner Miller at a prior meeting. Mr. Arnold asked the Board if they wanted him to go through the provided documents or if there was a certain aspect of Road Impact Fees that Commissioner Miller wanted to discuss. Commissioner Miller proposed raising the Road Impact Fees from 40% to 100%, so the Developers are responsible for new roads in their Developments. Commissioner Estep feels that the item should not go for a vote immediately but should be discussed because there are also impacts to other businesses, which Commissioner Gilpin agreed with. Commissioner Estep also specified that he does agree with Commissioner Miller that raising fees would potentially raise revenue but it could also be a detractor so all sides need to be looked at. Commissioner Breeden proposed taking the pertinent information from the documentation and better compiling it to address the specified aspects of the Road Impact Fees. Commissioner Search asked if there was a way to do a projective study to better illustrate how different rates would affect the budget. Mr. Arnold explained why the study was done and what the study shows. Mr. Arnold also made the Commissioners aware that implementing a change in the Road Impact Fees would be better done in October 1, 2021 to allow the business community an opportunity to adjust their budgets. The Commissioners provided consensus to move this item to the January 5, 2021 workshop, with the discussed additions to the presented materials.

12-1-20-6

**7. State Of Emergency Declaration (Staff Recommends Approval).**

Mr. Arnold noted that December 4, 2020 is the last day for CARES Act applications for housing or business assistance. This date was set to allow staff time to process and close out the books by the due date, December 30, 2020. The following groups have been served through CARES Act funding: 49 businesses (\$460,284); 57 individuals (\$136,922); and 7 government entities, including the School Board (1.286 million). In two days, The Villages Charter School should be executing the agreement to receive funds. There are 95 cumulative deaths with 24 individuals hospitalized, seven in ICU and two on a ventilator. Commissioner Search asked questions regarding how individuals were made aware of the opportunity for housing assistance under the CARES Act. Commissioner Search also expressed concerns about individuals in certain parts of the County feeling disconnected and asked how they can better obtain information regarding available resources. Commissioner Miller commended the work that the Wildwood Food Bank and Commissioner Search were doing to help out the community.

12-1-20-7

**Commissioner Estep moved, with a second by Commissioner Search, to approve the Local State Of Emergency Declaration Extension. The motion carried 5 - 0.**

Commissioner Miller also provided an Open Shelter No-Kill Resolution that he would like voted on at the next agenda. Mr. Arnold commented that volunteers are allowed

under the previous Resolution. Stephen Kennedy, Assistant County Administrator, spoke regarding the volunteer and fostering process. Volunteer applications are now being accepted at Animal Services. After further commentary from the Commissioners regarding the shelter potentially becoming No-Kill, Mr. Arnold asked Commissioner Miller if he had any objections to holding the resolution until the December 15, 2020 Workshop, where the topic would be discussed. Commissioner Miller agreed with Mr. Arnold's proposal. The Resolution proposed by Commissioner Miller is attached. Clerk's Note: Although the title reads proclamation, it would be a resolution if approved to be adopted.

12-1-20-Proposed Open Admission No Kill Resolution

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.