



**BALDWIN COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING**  
January 2, 2024  
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220  
6:00 PM

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## MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Emily Davis  
John Westmoreland  
Kendrick Butts  
Sammy Hall  
Henry Craig

### OTHERS PRESENT

Brandon Palmer  
Carlos Tobar  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Reverend Edward Jackson delivered the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sammy Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Bud Owens with Atrium Health expressed his appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to address them and present information on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He introduced staff members present including Steve Chappel, John Gonzales, David Carver and Greg Joiner. Mr. Owens reported there were 29 employees when the contract began, has increased to 32 with a target goal of 39. He stated \$1.3 million dollars have been invested in new fleet and state of the art equipment. He presented data for the months of November and December including volume number of 91 1 requests, number of transports, refusal rates, transport destinations, top call types and areas where most calls are located. Mr. Owens stated when the volume goes up-the resources go up. He stated the main goal is to take care of the citizens of Baldwin County. Mr. Owens responded to a question about the number of ambulances running in the County. He stated the contract requires 3 1/2 ambulances; however, many days there are 4 to 5 ambulances running. Mr. Owens stated any Commissioner or the County Manager should feel free to contact him at any time with any questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting as submitted. Vice Chair John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE 1 FISCAL MATTERS

Update on Fleet Management Program

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented a fleet planning analysis. She stated the County has been utilizing the Enterprise Fleet Management Program for one year. She presented data for the base year of 2022 stating the County had a total fleet of 129; purchasing 12 vehicles for a cost of \$501,556.00; recouping \$35,600.00 (sale of used vehicles); paying maintenance costs of \$360,426.00 (due to age of fleet) for a net cost of \$826,382.00. In 2023, the County had a total fleet of 129; leasing 52 vehicles; recouping \$151,865.00 (sale of vehicles); paying maintenance costs of \$247,467.00 for a net cost of \$548,703.23. The actual savings for the year is \$277,678.77. Ms. Hudson stated Commissioners should contact her with any questions regarding the Fleet Management Program.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Emily Davis opened the floor for nominations for Chair for 2024.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to nominate Commissioner John Westmoreland for Chair and Commissioner Sammy Hall for Vice Chair. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion. Chair Davis stated nominations would be accepted separately for Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to nominate Commissioner Emily Davis to continue to serve as Chair. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion.

Chair Davis called for a vote on the motion to elect Commissioner John Westmoreland as Chair for 2024. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Craig, Hall, Westmoreland                      Nay: Butts, Davis

Commissioner Emily Davis opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to nominate Commissioner Kendrick Butts as Vice-Chair for 2024. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to nominate Commissioner Sammy Hall to serve as Vice-Chair. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated the Vice-Chair will not automatically become Chair in the year following service as Vice-Chair. He stated there is no formal protocol for the ViceChair to automatically move to the position of Chair. This has been done on occasion in the past; however, he would like to reiterate the fact that there is no process to advance the Vice-Chair to the position of Chair.

Commissioner Emily Davis called for a vote on the motion to elect Commissioner Kendrick Butts as Vice-Chair for 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to amend the Agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Board

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Board

## COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT

County Manager Tobar presented an update on County activities to include: work on Meriwether Convenience Center is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>; 13 flock safety cameras will be installed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January; Courtrooms 1-3 are now operational which concludes the renovation at the Courthouse; bid documents for the aquatic center will be available soon; update on shared use path. Mr. Tobar stated he had received an email from Ms. Courtney Hitchcock regarding incidents when she was running in the area.

Ms. Hitchcock, 114 North Woods Drive, stated she previously lived in Dove Field and ran frequently in the Airport area. She stated in June 2017 she was almost run over by a car; she ended up on the hood of the vehicle. She stated she didn't report the incident to law enforcement at that time. She also had a second incident where she had to jump into the ditch to avoid being hit. Mr. Tobar read a letter of support from Mr. Tom Glover of Bike Walk Baldwin.

Mr. Tobar then discussed two contracts for the project. GDOT approved a TAP grant for \$300,000 for design with the County's match of \$75,000.00. He stated FAA did not approve the path in the runway protection zone; however, FAA has now approved the logical termini for path construction. The County has the green light to move on the project. Mr. Tobar stated the end goal is to complete the path and apply for construction funds. County Manager Tobar stated increasing paths throughout the County is in the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion continued about the proposed path, the contracts, etc.

Mr. Jim Wolfgang discussed the multiuse path He stated the path is not an airport project just because it is located in the airport area. However, it is important to the airport, as all projects are. How this project is handled has an impact on future funding of projects throughout the County. Mr. Wolfgang discussed the impact of such a project on economic development, education and recreation. He stated health is an important factor; however, safety is the number 1 priority. Mr. Wolfgang asked the Board to carefully consider their decision and consider any ramifications of their decision regarding this matter.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following people addressed the Board:

William Gordon, 144 Newport Road, addressed the Board opposing the multiuse path, Danny Blair, 585 Meriwether Road, addressed the Board regarding the Meriwether Road Convenience Center and the fact that no work has been done at this center; Elizabeth Campbell, 112 Newport Road, addressed the Board regarding target audience of path; people will not come to walk here, cost for maintenance and repair of path; Chris Colwell, 114 Newport Road, stated there has been misrepresentation of facts on path; Ms. Linda Colwell, 114 Newport Road, discussed letter to GDOT she feels misrepresents facts on use of path; Ricky Giles, 205 Lakeshore Circle, opposition to path since residents do not want it; Joan Crumpler, 237 Lakeshore Circle, discussed path and runway protection zone stating opposition to path, Stephanie Spivey, 342 Log Cabin Road, requesting pickleball and tennis courts resurfacing; David Glover, 109 Lakeshore Circle, stating opposition to path; Chris Evans, 101 Island View Drive, builder of homes on Newport Road, stating he knew nothing of the proposed project and none of the people he built homes for knew Of project; felt it lessens valuation of homes.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:40 to discuss personnel. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion.

## REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 8:03 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

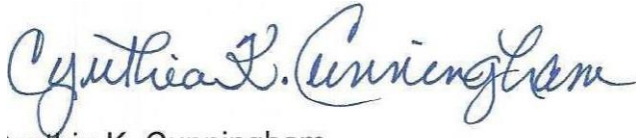
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m .  
Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. Westmoreland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John H. Westmoreland  
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cynthia K. Cunningham". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the last name "Cunningham" being the most prominent.

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk

ia K. Cunningham