

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Virtual Town Hall Meeting
(Special Meeting)
June 5, 2012**

A Special Meeting of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners was held on June 5, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Attending were Chairman Akin Akinyemi and Commissioner Bryan Desloge. Also in attendance were County Administrator Vincent Long, Deputy County Attorney Patrick Kinni and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

The invocation was provided by James Shaw and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Desloge.

Chairman Akinyemi convened the Virtual Town Hall meeting and welcomed those individuals who were in attendance, may be watching on television or participating via the Internet. He announced that the purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum to allow the public an opportunity to be more involved and inter-active in County government. It was noted that no formal actions or motions would be taken at the meeting.

County Administrator Long provided introductory comments and information on the manner in which the meeting would be conducted. He encouraged citizens to submit questions through the County's web-site www.leoncountyfl.gov and stated that all questions would be addressed immediately by staff and/or Commissioners or within a designated time on the County's web site.

Ion Sancho, Supervisor of Elections, provided an update on the status of the State of Florida Congressional and House Redistricting and changes to the 2011 Voting Law that may impact Leon County residents. It was announced that every registered voter in Leon County would receive a new Voter Information Card and a map to their respective polling location. Citizens were also invited to visit the new live mapping web site www.leonvotes.org/map.

At this time, the questions submitted by citizens were responded to by Commissioners and, as needed, by staff. A total of 24 questions and comments were received which included, but were not limited to, topics such as, how can citizens assist the County in meeting its strategic initiatives, budget, consolidation, costs for NE Park, ambulance idling, justification for upper management salaries, Innovation Park, job creation or economic stimulus, bicycling safety and education, job opportunities, no-kill policy at animal shelter, re-establishment of passenger rail service; Lake Munson clean up, and the opening of the Lake Jackson branch library. (A complete list of the questions submitted is attached.)

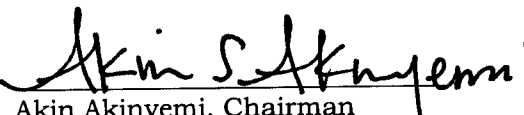
Closing comments were provided. Chairman Akinyemi thanked media partners WCTV, Tallahassee Democrat and WFSU Radio for their assistance in promoting the event. He also expressed appreciation to all citizens who viewed or contributed questions for discussion. He mentioned that he was encouraged and pleased by the participation.


Chairman Akinyemi adjourned the Virtual Townhall meeting at adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: 
Akin Akinyemi, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BY: 
John Stott, Deputy Clerk
Edcb Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida

Questions from the Virtual Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, June 5, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m

1. What are the 3 - 5 major strategic leadership development challenges your organization faces today and what can we as the Leon County greater community do to help you address those challenges in the coming years? Or, said another way, what senior leadership talent management initiatives are in place today and how do they compare with best practices in government and the private sector on a global scale?
2. Why does the ambulance parked at Northeast Branch Library keep the engine running? We thought the idea of having EMS stationed at the libraries was to help them cut down on gas use and emissions.
3. To each of the business owners serving on the commission (Akin, Desloge, Dozier), how does Leon County transform itself to run as a business other than a traditional tax and spend government entity?
4. How does the County justify the high salaries paid to its chief administrators, and how much do they currently make?
5. What is going on over at Innovation Park, to have the new Director leave after such a short while on the job?
6. Why were the development costs of Northeast Park stated as being so high, and how can the community help bring these costs down?
7. To all commissioners: What are some programs that you would like to see reduced, cut or eliminated from County in order to balance the budget?
8. Now that we have minimum County-wide environmental ordinances, when may the public expect to see the building and environmental permitting offices of City and County consolidated?
9. How do we lower the property taxes, so that I can afford to continue living in our community once I retire, since I will be on a fixed income?
10. There are five City commissioners and seven County commissioners and then your supporting staff; so, how do we reduce the overall numbers?
11. Is the goal to have a park on every street corner? A library? When do we have enough? Consequently, what is too many?

12. The County has lost its focus on providing basic government services in favor of "doing everything for everybody." How do you reduce the service you provide and return us to the low-cost model?
13. What has the County done in way of jobs creation and where do I get one of these jobs if I need one?
14. I want to thank the Commission for its commitment to improving animal control ordinances. Can we come up with a plan, as the state's Capitol county, to take the lead of the Legislature's idea of making Florida a no-kill shelter state? Some things to look at are:
 - a. Aggressively targeting dog fighting and animal abuse. Many of the unwanted animals are a result of backyard breeding and an overpopulation of dogs bred for fighting or to use as bait dogs and then "disposed". Consider the Baltimore Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Committee's "Show your Soft Side" PSA's and PETA's campaigns as models.
 - b. Creating more public/private partnerships by getting grants and other funding for local rescue groups to help adopt out the animals. We do that some here in Leon County, but there is a real need for more partnership and more groups. Rescue groups allow better matches between dog and adopter and reduce shelter returns.
15. When will passenger rail service return to North Florida (specifically Tallahassee)?
16. What are Leon County and the City of Tallahassee doing to educate drivers that bicyclists belong on roads, and to educate bicyclists about safe riding on roads? Bicycle-friendly infrastructure goes beyond bicycle lanes.
17. Thank you for making Leon County meetings available online! It goes a long ways towards engaging Leon County's residents.
18. Thank you for investing in new libraries, both the new Eastside one and the soon-to-be-new Lake Jackson one.
19. The Democrat had an article recently about "green lanes," the placement of plant barriers between a car lane and a bicycle lane. Would Leon County and the City of Tallahassee consider converting one lane of Tennessee Street in each direction to a green lane? I realize that Tennessee Street is a state road, but I assume that the state consults the County and City on this matter. I would prefer a green lane to sharing my bicycle lane with a bus.
20. Thank you for organizing the first-ever collection for styrofoam, batteries and other hard-to-recycle household items. I look forward to recycling more next year!
21. When will there be public transportation to and from the Tallahassee airport?

22. What is the status of the lake Munson clean up? When will it be safe for public use?
23. What are Leon County's and the City of Tallahassee's plans for installing sidewalks on both sides of every road, except in the most rural areas? Many major roads lack sidewalks, or have them only on one side of the road. This is dangerous for pedestrians and creates "islands" unreachable by foot.
24. I am watching this meeting on a computer at the Lake Jackson Branch Library. The construction workers are still working in the new library space tonight and it is exciting to hear and see their progress. When will our new library be ready to open?