

January 16, 2007

SPECIAL CALL MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR
EXECUTIVE AIDE TO THE BOARD KIM MASSUNG

The Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, met in Special Session at the County Commission Chambers, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at 11:23 a.m to discuss the Commissioners office Executive Aide Kim Massung possibly resigning. Present were Chairman Gary C. Wheeler, Vice Chair Sandra L. Bowden, and Commissioners Wesley S. Davis, Joseph E. Flescher, and Peter D. O'Bryan. Also present were County Administrator Joseph Baird, County Attorney William G. Collins II, Executive Aide Kimberly Massung, and Deputy Clerk Maria I. Suesz.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m.

The meeting began with a reading of the Ordinance on Special Call meetings by Attorney Collins, at the request of Vice Chair Bowden. Vice Chair Bowden said it would be "more practical" to delay the meeting for 12 hours, since the Chairman was providing no backup, and she was lacking understanding of the subject matter. Chairman Wheeler did not feel the delay would make a difference. He explained that recently it was brought to his attention that their Executive Aide Kim Massung was considering resigning. He told the Commissioners that as of today he was given a copy of Kim's evaluations since 1986, and that he wanted to ask the Commissioners for a vote of confidence for her and the job she has done for this County for the past 22 years. Vice Chair Bowden reiterated her request for a delay to give the Board an opportunity to look over the evaluations and the subject matter at hand.

The Board continued to discuss delaying the meeting, asking questions, and offering comments. Then Chairman Wheeler, who was ready to proceed, asked for a motion.

MOTION WAS MADE by Vice Chair Bowden,
SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, for discussion,
to delay the Special Call meeting for 12 hours.

Discussion ensued.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION and the motion FAILED 2-3 (Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners' Davis and Flescher opposed). The Board denied Vice Chair Bowden's request to delay the Special Call Meeting for twelve hours.

Chairman Wheeler was hoping that a vote of confidence from the Board would have some bearing on whether or not Kim Massung would resign.

Commissioner Davis had opposed the retirement portion of Kim's contract at the time of renewal when he voted against the contract, but it was not due to her performance, he said. If his action was the cause for this meeting, he said, he would give Kim a vote of confidence today.

Chairman Wheeler acknowledged he was opposed to all three contracts (County Attorney Collins, Administrator Baird, and Kim Massung), but it was not a reflection on their work, it was a reflection on his philosophy towards contracts.

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Davis,
SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan for discussion, to
give Kim Massung a vote of confidence.

Under discussion, Commissioner O'Bryan said he was not on the Board at the time Kim's contract was renewed, however, based on Kim's performance that he had seen in the last two months he had no problem giving her a vote of confidence.

Vice Chair Bowden stated she too voted against Kim's contract, but it was not a reflection on her performance at all. She wanted a copy of the evaluations. She lacked an understanding of the Chairman's direction and intentions and wondered if it had to do with the subject of having personal aides in the new building.

Chairman Wheeler said he would provide a copy of the evaluations to Vice Chair Bowden. Regarding aides he said all the Board needed was three votes to hire aides, if that was their desire. He believed there was a situation that was in question of Kim's role with this Board, and he wanted Kim to know that the Board approved the work that she had been doing. He spoke of "Government in the Sunshine", feelings of pressure, and the Board giving direction to staff.

Vice Chair Bowden thought staff was sophisticated enough to know that they have options in their contracts if they become unhappy. She reiterated that she had no knowledge of what the Chairman was talking about and added that other Counties have aides and that is what she would like to see.

Chairman Wheeler alluded to Vice Chair Bowden's unhappiness with Kim. Vice Chair Bowden took exception to his comments saying he was making assumptions and that was not true. She refused to discuss this matter now. She agreed to give a vote of confidence that Kim was doing an excellent job, if that was what he wanted.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION and the Motion carried unanimously. (The Board approved a vote of confidence to Executive Aide Kim Massung that she is doing an excellent job.)

Vice Chair Bowden stated for the record that the Board needed to look into having personal aides. The Chairman advised her to place it on the agenda for discuss at their next meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

ALL BACKUP DOCUMENTATION, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES

There being no further business, on Motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jeffrey K. Barton, Clerk

Gary C. Wheeler, Chairman

Minutes Approved: _____

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