

# BJP Finance and Project Administration Committees Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2012

**FAC:**

Karen Bowling (for K. Hyde)  
Jim Dickenson (also on PAC)  
AJ Dunn

**Absent:**

Charlie Tomm  
Vacancy

**CITY:**

Judie Garard  
Janice Billy  
Marcy Cook  
Chuck McNeil

**JTA:**

John Davis

**PAC:**

Blair Fishburn (for M. Blaylock)  
Dave Schneider (for J. Beck)  
John Osborn  
Manny Papalas

**Public:**

Tony Bates

**JEA:**

Nadine Carswell

**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks** **Jim Dickenson**

**II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**  
*Minutes of October 28 approved unanimously.*

**II. FINANCE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** **JIM DICKENSON**

**A. COJ Financial Report** **Judie Garard**

Looking at BJP summary report, all years, we have \$16 million left in total capital projects. Expecting \$3.3 million from the state. Reminder that the sales tax graphs now only show last five years of performance. We are currently reviewing proposal to refund bonds to reduce debt service. Estimated infrastructure bond series savings of 8.5% and transportation bond savings above 12.5%. Mr. Belton could speak in greater detail.

We are also looking at recommendation to reduce items in courthouse budget. Hopefully savings mean won't have to spend all the money programmed for the courthouse and thus finish program earlier. Mr. Dickenson asked if the refundings are actively moving forward. Response was that right now taking proposals and analysis. Mr. Dickenson replied that JEA just went through \$450M of refunding bonds and saved a lot of money because the markets are really good.

**B. JTA Financial Report** **Thomas Cerino**

Life-to-date through 12/31 – commitments stand at \$ 463M, down about \$100,000 from last quarter. Represents 73% total project cost JTA is responsible for. Total spent LTD is \$453.8 M, up \$2.5M from prior quarter. Total encumbrances at \$ 9.17M, down \$2.6M from prior quarter and makes sense as life cycle of program coming to end. Of the funds expended, \$2.3M was spent on BJP1 and balance on BJP2. Primarily Heckscher Dr and SS Blvd study. Figure is down about \$108k from prior quarter report.

Recap of sales tax/gas tax: gross proceeds on transportation tax is down slightly from prior year, \$15.7M verses \$16M. Unfortunately JTA's budget was \$17M. The net sales tax, which after debt service is what funds busses, stands at \$5.2M. Last year was \$5.9M. Gas tax through Oct-Dec was \$6.9M; last year was at \$7.1M. Projection for sales tax this year expected to be better. Sales tax in Oct-Dec represents summer, hoping Q2 improves.

Mr. Dickenson asked if the \$171M budget balance is for completion of projects, and is it cash on hand or is that dependent on revenue coming in? Mr. Cerino replied that the cash is yet to be realized. Projects aren't cancelled, they're deferred. Mr. Dickenson commented that it falls into "no new projects" – budget balance but the dollars aren't really there. Mr. Dunn asked about the progress of rapid transit; both Mr. Fishburn and Mr. Cerino explained the funding isn't available. Mr. Dickenson said both JTA and COJ are being careful to balance projects against available revenue.

**C. General Discussion**

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None

### D. FAC ADJOURNED

### IV. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BLAIR FISHBURN (FOR M. BLAYLOCK)

### A. COJ – Key Active Projects

#### 1. Courthouse

Dave Schneider

Four months remaining on construction of the courthouse; scheduled to open in May. Plan is to start the move on May 18 and open for business on May 29. Awarded bid to do the move to a company out of Tampa. On site, currently doing finish work, flooring, painting – lots of activity. Close to starting on the Old Federal Courthouse, which will house the State Attorney. GMP numbers for that project are in and within budget, so they hope to start work within month or so. Administration eliminated some furniture and the elevated walkway that saved about \$4M, which will be real at the end of the project. Question asked if that \$4M would get redistributed to other BJP projects. It was explained that the funding can't move.

Mr. Dickenson asked if the courthouse is funded out of 5 different sources, where do savings get counted toward? Ms. Billy replied that the funds are intermingled, and that in the ordinance that appropriated the funds the administration had the authority to move it around and fund from different sources. Mr. Schneider added that because of the BJP funding weaknesses they've been spending other sources first, so that all that remains to be spent is out of the \$211M of BJP. Savings would, in the job, be reflected in the BJP funding. They were asked to spend non-BJP first because of revenue flow issues. Mr. Dickenson asked if that non-BJP funding included the future bonding backed by the general fund. Mr. Schneider replied that it's not "future" anymore, all \$300M that was authorized had been bonded.

#### 2. COJ Road Program

*Attendees advised to refer to the COJ Project Status Report.*

### B. JTA Road Program

John Davis

Heckscher Drive is substantially complete; they will have the final inspection with FDOT and close-out in the next couple of months. Otherwise, JTA is doing some minor right of way acquisition.

### C. EBO/JSEB

Chuck McNeil

Of the COJ total expenditures of \$ 9.7M, \$902k went to JSEBs. JEA had no expenditures due to no BJP activity. Of JTA's total expenditures of \$3.3M, \$156k or 4.72% went to DBE. All totaled, of the \$15M of work in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, \$1.4M went to small businesses. Still need to work more with the courthouse team to capture all the data related to the project.

Mr. Schneider said that he'd met w/Mr. McNeil to figure out why his records are lower than what's being tracked in the courthouse project. One reason is that right now the dollars being spent are out of the general fund; in the city's accounting system (FAMIS/JaxPro) those dollars are not being "counted" as BJP. Also, once a JSEB "graduates" out of the program (no longer qualifies to be considered a small/emerging business) FAMIS takes the tag off. What we've done in the past is continue to track companies even after they graduate if it's midway through the project. Mr. Schneider continued to say he believes these issues explain the disparity in numbers now and would impact past figures; as an example, he stated any contractor being paid by fair share money on a road project would not necessarily get counted.

Mr. Cerino asked if, when the city makes payments to prime contractors, does FAMIS track the subsequent payment to subs. The response was that tracking system should be updated to be able

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to do that. Ms. Bowling mentioned hearing about a contractor getting paid twice from two different COJ departments. Mr. McNeil stated the city needed to do a better job of tracking payments to sub-contractors.

### **D. General Discussion**

Ms. Connie Benham once again joined the committee to discuss the deleted Caron Drive Extension project. She distributed the “last public record” she was able to find about project. Halfway down the page, read about conflicts with JEA transmission then about the land being developed after the vote and launch of program. Says development created new problems – traffic backed up on 295 and Greenland. Greenland is a bedroom community with lots of schools and lots more of development there. She read the regional transportation study, which showed improvement of Caron Dr. has no regional impact, only has local improvement. She says it’s wrong; safety issue, big tractor trailers, concrete trucks, etc. People voted on Caron Dr. as a connector. None of the improvements recommended in the paper solve the problem. The turn lane proposed does not solve the problem. She would like FAC/PAC to reconsider the project. Banking fund is dangerous, it has been abused. Gone as high as \$615M; money being re-spent instead of paying down debt. TRUE commission did a study; transportation money being spent on things that aren’t transportation. Mayor has legislation to spend banking fund money on a radio system; the money is BJP money, needs FACPAC to get involved and turn lane is not the answer.

No further discussion.

### **V. PAC ADJOURNED**