



Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission

Bruce Glassman, Chair
Tom Crabtree, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2004
4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Bruce Glassman (Chair), Randall Deen, Tony Bates, Marcella Lowe, Charles Curley, John Palombi, Dick Berry, Mark Roesser, Louvenia Tippins, Lee Martin, Tom Crabtree, Dan Davis, Mike Meroney, Charlie Magee

Excused: Elaine Burnett

The meeting convened at 4:03 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 20, 2004 meeting were previously distributed.

.. The minutes were **approved as distributed.**

Committee Reports

Audit #541 – Jacksonville Children's Commission: the item was deferred to the next meeting.

Audit #580 – First Coast Black Business Investment Corporation: Chairman Bates stated that he had spoken with John Alderson of the JEDC staff to discuss JEDC's monitoring of the City's Public Service Grant to 1st Coast BBIC and learned that the JEDC's role was limited to ensuring that the grant funds were properly requested and disbursed. The JEDC did not play a role in deciding to make the Public Service Grant to 1st Coast BBIC and was not charged with evaluating the efficiency or effectiveness of the programs operated by BBIC. Commissioners Lowe, Crabtree and Meroney volunteered to serve on a committee chaired by Commissioner Bates to further explore the commission's unanswered questions related to Audit #580 and the committee will report at the next meeting.

Powers and Duties Committee - 57.105(a): Commissioner Palombi distributed and discussed a revised committee report dated July 12, 2004.

Motion: Commissioner Palombi moved that the committee report be approved. One amendment was suggested, to add to the Attachment for Task 9 – Training Program – a new #4 to read "Copy of commission by-laws shall be distributed to new commission members."

♦The motion was **approved as amended.**

Performance Measurement Committee: Commissioner Palombi reported that the committee is in the process of poring over reams of performance data from several departments and is seeking volunteers to assist in the data analysis and to meet with personnel from the affected departments. The committee will continue its work and report at the next meeting.

Cash Management Committee: Commissioner Lowe reported that she had met with Mitchell Perin of the General Accounting Division who is working on a revision of the City's cash management policy. A mayoral executive order on the subject is being prepared by the Office of General Counsel and will be available soon for review by the committee. It appears from review of an early draft that new policy will cover much of what the Cash Management Committee has recommended. Mr. Perin recommended that the committee temporarily hold off on review of cash management policies while the executive order is being finalized and instead look at Ordinance Code Chapter 112 (Claims By and Against City) where various fees have not changed since 1991. The committee will report again at the next meeting.

Audit #589 – JEA Pipe Bursting Contract: deferred to the next meeting.

Audit #592 – Fleet Management: deferred to the next meeting.

Powers and Duties Committees – 57.105(b)-(f): the consensus of the commission was that the items in 57.105(c) and (d) appear to be covered by the Policies and Procedures Manual media relations section, so no further work is needed. Consideration of subsections (b) and (f) was deferred to the next meeting.

57.104 – Purposes: Commissioner Roesser distributed a draft document relating to a statement of the TRUE Commission's purposes. The matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Auditor's Report: None

Chairman's Report: None

New Business:

Commissioner Bates reported that he had attended the JEDC's reorganization study meetings and felt that most of the reforms and metrics proposed by the review committees were being adopted in the final reorganization plan. Commissioner Glassman asked commissioners Bates and Berry to report back after the JEDC reorganization is finalized.

The commission discussed two articles from that morning's *Florida Times-Union* outlining the projected cost overruns for the Better Jacksonville Plan's courthouse and road construction projects (\$26 million and \$71 million, respectively). There was considerable discussion of what role, if any, the TRUE Commission might play in determining why these aspects of the overall Better Jacksonville Plan are failing to be accomplished within budget.

Motion: Commissioner Martin moved that the Commission authorize the Chair to contact the appropriate parties to come and brief the commission about what is happening with the Better Jax courthouse and roadway projects and to provide enough background to enable the commissioners to really understand what is going on and why. Commissioner Roesser suggested the need for the commission to better define what it wants to know and how it plans to study the issue before inviting guests in to testify before the group.

♦ The original motion was **approved**.

Commissioner comments

Commissioner Lowe reported that she attended the last meeting of the Council Committee on Governmental Performance, Audit, Technology and Education (GPATE) and that Committee Chairwoman Suzanne Jenkins had stated her desire to have the TRUE Commission review the Council Auditor's audits before they are presented to her GPATE Committee. Her preference would be to schedule a joint meeting of a GPATE subcommittee and TRUE subcommittee to explore an audit when TRUE finds items that seem to indicate the need for closer inspection so as to eliminate any duplication of effort. By consensus the commission agreed to invite Councilwoman Jenkins to the next TRUE Commission meeting to discuss her ideas for the GPATE/TRUE relationship, and asked that she be invited to state in writing her expectations of the TRUE Commission with regard to audit review before that visit.

Commissioner Bates reminded the group that the commission has never heard back from the Jacksonville Housing Commission in response to 2 letters concerning the new Housing Commission's responses to the Auditor's audit of the former Duval County Housing Finance Authority. He recommended that the item be shown on the commission's list of pending items, and that the Chair consider issuing another letter to the Housing Commission to prod a response to TRUE's inquiries.

Next meeting

The commission's next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21st at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Items pending further follow-up

Children's Commission audit – Commissioners Wolfson and Bates
Cash Management Committee – Commissioner Lowe
JEA Pipe Bursting audit committee – Commissioner Martin
Government in the Sunshine Law briefing – Chairman Glassman
Performance Measurement Committee – Commissioner Palombi
First Coast Black Business Investment Corporation – Commissioner Bates
Powers and Duties – 57.105(b) – Commissioners Curley and Myers
Powers and Duties – 57.105(f) – Commissioners Roesser, Glassman and Palombi
Fleet Management audit – Commissioner Berry
Housing Commission response to TRUE inquiries – Chairman Glassman
JEDC reorganization – Commissioners Berry and Bates
Councilwoman Jenkins invitation to attend TRUE meeting – staff
Better Jacksonville Plan courthouse and roadway projects update – Chairman Glassman
TRUE Commission Purposes – 57.104 – Commissioner Roesser