

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: May 5, 2008

Date Submitted: April 24, 2008

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Andrea B. Simpson, Deputy County Administrator
Jennifer Langston, Special Projects Coordinator

Subject: Ratification of Board Direction Regarding Pursuing
Charter County Government

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board ratification of Board direction regarding pursuing Charter County Government.

Background:

On February 4, 2008, the Board directed staff to research becoming a Charter County. On April 7, 2008, the Board held a workshop to discuss information regarding what a Charter County is, an analysis of what this would mean to Wakulla County, and the process necessary to becoming one. An agenda item on April 21, 2008 was tabled (Attachment #1).

Analysis:

Staff presented the Board background and analysis as to what a Charter County is, the differences between Charter and Non-Charter Governments, and the steps necessary to becoming a Charter County, if deemed appropriate by the Board. After much deliberation, the Board directed staff to bring back an agenda item presenting the options necessary to begin the Charter County process. Staff presented the Board with an agenda item at the April 21, 2008 Board Meeting with options to begin the Charter process as requested. At that time the Board voted to table the agenda item until a future Board meeting in order for staff and the Chairman to meet with the Constitutional Officers, and City of St. Marks and City of Sopchoppy Officials to review and discuss the potential impacts of a proposed Charter on County Government. After staff and the Chairman meet with the Constitutional Officers, and City of St. Marks and City of Sopchoppy Officials staff will report back to the Board verbally at the May 8, 2008 Board meeting.

Options:

1. Direct staff to draft a simple charter that presents Wakulla County Government as found in current State law.
2. Direct staff to engage Kurt Spitzer & Associates as consultants on this endeavor.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1 & #2