

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2009

Date Submitted: December 19, 2008

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Jennifer Langston, Special Projects Coordinator

Subject: Ratification of the January 6, 2009 Workshop held to Identify the 2009 State & Federal Legislative Priorities for the upcoming 2009 Legislative cycle.

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board ratification of the January 6, 2009 Workshop held to identify the 2009 State & Federal legislative priorities for the upcoming 2009 legislative cycle.

### **Background:**

On January 6, 2009, the Board held a workshop to facilitate Board discussion and identify the 2009 State & Federal Legislative Priorities for the upcoming 2009 legislative cycle (Attachment 1).

### **Analysis:**

The Board considered the guidelines set forth in the workshop item, and expressed interest in establishing the following State & Federal Legislative Priorities for 2009, in no ranked order, include:

- ✓ Continuing Appropriation Requests established by the Board in 2008 (Attachment 1, pg. 2.)
- ✓ Construction of a New Fire & EMS Facility
- ✓ Expanding/Widening U.S. Highway 319
- ✓ Seeking Amendment One Offset Funding for Wakulla County, a fiscally constrained county

In addition to discussing the legislative priorities, staff notified the Board of the State Legislature not formally accepting Community Budget Issue Requests (CBIRS), for the upcoming legislative session, due to the budget deficit of State revenues. However, at the Federal level, potential funding opportunities may exist for in the Federal Government's Economic Stimulus Plan. There may be an opportunity for Wakulla County to identify those projects that would create jobs and are near construction stage ("shovel-ready"). A preliminary discussion was recently held with regional partners to begin identifying those potential projects from a regional approach for possible consideration. Funding amounts, guidelines, requirements, and distribution methods have not yet been formalized. The Board discussed various projects to possibly consider.

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With the identification of State and Federal Legislative priorities being established at the workshop, the county's contract lobbyists, staff, and each commissioner will work together to seek funding for these priorities

**Options:**

1. Ratify the discussion during the January 6, 2009 Workshop on the Establishment of the 2009 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.
2. Do not Ratify the discussion during the January 6, 2009 Workshop on the Establishment of the 2009 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.
3. Board direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option 1.

**Attachments:**

1. January 6, 2008 Workshop Agenda Item