

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: May 3, 2010

Date Submitted: April 19, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Heather J. Encinosa, County Attorney
Scott McDermid, Public Safety Director
Louis Lamarche, Fire Chief

Subject: Request Board Approval to Schedule and Advertise a Public Hearing
to Consider Adopting the Proposed Fire Inspection Ordinance

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval to schedule and advertise a public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance requiring fire inspections. Florida law requires that all Florida counties having fire safety enforcement responsibility to employ a fire inspector to conduct all fire inspections required under the Florida Fire Prevention Code and Uniform Firesafety Standards. The proposed Ordinance will implement state statutes and rules requiring fire inspections of buildings constructed within the County.

Background:

Section 633.081, Florida Statutes, requires Wakulla County to employ or contract with a certified fire inspector to perform inspections of buildings constructed within the County. This Ordinance will implement that section and other related statutes pertaining to fire inspections and fire codes.

In July 2009, the Board directed staff to begin researching and developing of an Annual Commercial Firesafety Inspection Program as required by Florida Statute.

Analysis:

The proposed ordinance (Attachment #1) adopts the Florida Fire Prevention Code and Uniform Firesafety Standards and requires that all new construction occurring within Wakulla County be reviewed and inspected to determine compliance with such codes and standards.

If approved, the Ordinance will also authorize annual inspections of all non-residential buildings already in existence in the County and any common areas in multi-family residential buildings and the imposition of a fee for such inspections.

In addition, the Ordinance provides that fire inspectors employed by the County may enter private property in order to conduct fire inspections and provides for investigation of complaints and enforcement of the codes and standards in the event a violation is found. Such enforcement mechanisms include the authority to issue cease and desist orders. Cases involving violations and

appeals of cease and desist orders will be heard by the Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board pursuant to the procedures pertaining to the Board already incorporated in the Wakulla County Code of Ordinances.

Options

1. Approve to Schedule and Advertise a Public Hearing to Consider adopting an Ordinance Requiring Fire Inspections.
2. Do Not Schedule or Advertise a Public Hearing to Consider adopting an Ordinance Requiring Fire Inspections.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation

Option #1

Attachments:

1. Proposed Ordinance