

Board of County Commissioners
Workshop: Proposed Fire Inspection Ordinance
August 19, 2010

The Board of County Commissioners in and for Wakulla County, Florida met for a Workshop on Thursday, August 19, 2010 with Chairman Howard Kessler presiding. Present were Commissioners Mike Stewart, Lynn Artz, Alan Brock, and George Green. Also, present were County Administrator Ben Pingree, Assistant County Attorney Bethany Burgess, and Deputy Clerk Evelyn Evans.

6:12 p.m. Workshop called to order.

The purpose of the workshop is to allow the Board to discuss the proposed Fire Inspection Ordinance.

Florida law requires all Florida counties that have fire safety responsibilities to employ a fire inspector to conduct all fire inspections required under the Florida Fire Prevention Code, the Life Safety Code and the Uniform Fire safety Standards. The proposed Ordinance will implement state statutes and rules requiring enforcement of those codes and fire inspections of buildings constructed within the County.

Chief Lamarche is a fire inspector and there is a full time inspector at the building department.

It was discussed that many of the required inspections are being performed by different entities to include the State Fire Marshal, the County Building Department and private entities.

In addition to the statutory requirements the county does not currently have a fully developed fire inspection program. The purpose of the fire inspection program is to both educate building owners and occupants so that they can identify and correct building conditions that may contribute to starting fires or impede ingress to and egress from buildings for occupants and firefighters in the event of a fire.

Discussion included concerns about old businesses in Sopchoppy and how this would affect them. Also, many small businesses would close down and there was concern expressed about historic buildings.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.