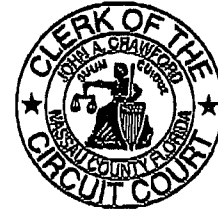


John A. Crawford
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Nassau County

August 22, 2007



The Honorable Jim B. Higginbotham
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1010
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035

Dear Chairman Higginbotham and Commissioners:

While several significant fiscal milestones have been achieved over the past twelve months, we must not lose sight that much more work is needed to protect the taxpayers of Nassau County. As protectors of the public trust, we have the duty and responsibility to understand the law and to apply it for the protection of the taxpayers. In my capacity as Chief Financial Officer working with your staff and the County Attorney, I have become aware of a situation of great concern that exists and must be addressed immediately. The current approach to the use of fair share agreements with developers could place the county in great fiscal peril over the next several years.

Your present processes of accepting money from developers wherein a current "level of service" (LOS) deficiency exists, such as a roadway operating above its designated capacity, places you in the position of guaranteeing you will correct those deficiencies, regardless of the costs to taxpayers, once a developer tenders a check to you under a fair share agreement. This may commit you to expending taxpayer dollars for which you have inadequate tax revenues. If this current process is not amended, this will lead nowhere but to financial disaster.

To assist you in correcting this present condition, it is my recommendation that you encourage your planning staff and legal counsel to meet with the Clerk's staff to develop recommendations for your consideration for replacing the present system of dealing with developers' agreements and for correcting level of service deficiencies. In any event, no development should take priority over projects already on the Capital Improvement Plan adopted by the County Commission.

If you are to take control of the costs of rapid growth in our county, it is my recommendation that you change your current development agreement processes. By doing so, you will help assure the protection of the financial interests of generations to come.

Sincerely,

John A. Crawford