

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Occupational License Ordinance Proposed Changes

DEPARTMENT: Fiscal Services **DIVISION:** Administration

AUTHORIZED BY: Cindy Hall **CONTACT:** _____ **EXT.** 7172

Agenda Date <u>4/22/03</u> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Session <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing <input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing – 1:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Request authorization to advertise and hold a public hearing on May 13th to amend the occupational license ordinance to include new rates and classifications.

BACKGROUND:

The current Occupational License Ordinance was essentially passed in 1995 to comply with FS 205.0535 allowing a reclassification and restructure of fees charged for local occupational licenses. The license classification structure, however, received few updates from the ordinance passed in 1980, and may in fact largely resemble the ordinance passed in 1972. The office of Tax Collector has proposed a new streamlined approach to the license process which would be beneficial to all involved, and yet will remain revenue neutral as a funding resource. Florida Statutes require that a committee of business representatives provide input to the rates and classifications of the occupational license ordinance. This Equity Study Commission was approved by the Board on December 10, 2002, has met on two occasions, and has endorsed the proposal. Attached are the committee's recommendations which are included within the ordinance.

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: _____
CM: _____
File No. <u>CFSA00</u>

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT
FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

ORDINANCE NO. 2003- _____

SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAXES IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 45.1 OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY CODE, REPEALING THE PREEXISTING SECTION 45.2 OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR A NEW SYSTEM OF BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS AND TAX STRUCTURE TO BE CODIFIED AS A NEW SECTION 45.2 OF THE CODE; REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 45.3 OF SAID CODE; CREATING A NEW SECTION 45.3 AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES THROUGH INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida enacted section 205.0535, Florida Statutes providing for a new methodology for reclassification of businesses and occupations, and restructuring of occupational license taxes as of October 1, 1995 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, section 205.0535 requires that Seminole County (the "County") establish and appoint an Equity Study Commission of the purpose of reviewing and approving any proposed reclassifications and restructuring of local occupational license taxes; and

WHEREAS, Seminole County heretofore appointed an Equity Study Commission who met, discussed, reviewed and approved of

the restructuring and reclassification plan as detailed in this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the County finds that simplification of the current, cumbersome and archaic classification system into a new system of only two (2) classifications is in the best interest of the citizens of Seminole County by virtue of facilitating more efficient administration and enforcement of collection of said taxes; and

WHEREAS, the new classification and tax structure presented in this Ordinance is intended to be revenue neutral, producing approximately the same annual, aggregate occupational license tax dollars realized in the immediately preceding fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the new rate structure and simplified reclassification conforms to the maximum allowable adjustments described in section 205.0535(3), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, providing authority for entering into interlocal agreements with municipalities in Seminole County to issue the County's occupational license and collection of the taxes thereon will afford citizens the opportunity for savings of time, effort and enhanced convenience in obtaining an occupational license while affording the County opportunity for more effective enforcement of said tax; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.2D of the Seminole County Home Rule Charter, an economic impact statement has been performed to determine the economic cost to the public or taxpayers of Seminole County as a result of adopting this Ordinance,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known and referred to as the "Occupational License Tax Ordinance of 2003".

Section 2. Authority. This Ordinance is enacted under the authority of Section 1(g), Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, Chapters 125 and 205, Florida Statutes, and under the authority of the general Home Rule Power of the County of Seminole.

Section 3. Purpose. The purpose of this Ordinance is to reform and simplify occupational license tax classifications and rates in order to promote fairness, equity, and improved efficiency in the levying, collection and enforcement of the tax.

Section 4. Scope. This Ordinance shall be applied and enforced within all areas of Seminole County pursuant to section 205.032, Florida Statutes.

Section 5. Amendment of Section 45.1, Seminole County Code. Section 45.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 45.1 Levy of tax; general penalty for non-payment; disallowance of refunds.

(a) Seminole County hereby levies an occupational license tax for the privilege of engaging in or managing any business, profession, or occupation within Seminole County and authorizes the issuance of occupational licenses as authorized by Chapter 205, Florida Statutes. All licenses issued under this Code shall be annual licenses which shall commence running on October 1, on which date they shall have been paid for, and shall expire on September 30 of the following year. The sale of such licenses shall commence on the date set forth by section 205.053(1), Florida Statutes, or any successor statute and shall be due and payable as prescribed by section 205.053(1), Florida Statutes. If a license is issued after October 1, but before April 1 of the following year, the applicant shall pay the entire appropriate annual license tax. If a license is issued after March 31, but before October 1 of the year in which the license elapses, the applicant shall pay one-half (1/2) the annual appropriate license tax, provided no delinquency exists.

(b) The penalty authorized by section 205.053(3), Florida Statutes, for failure to pay a required occupational license tax within one hundred fifty (150) days of the initial notice of the tax due is hereby set at TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$250.00). In the event, the County enters into an interlocal

agreement with any municipality for the transfer of administrative duties relative to issuance of County occupational licenses and collection of related taxes as authorized hereinafter, such interlocal agreement may allow for the municipality to retain such penalty to help defray the administrative costs attributable to its duties under that agreement.

(c) Occupational license taxes paid to the County shall not be refundable for any reason.

Section 6. Classifications of Business, Occupations and Professions. Section 45.2 of the Seminole County Code is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Section 45.2 which shall read as follows:

Sec. 45.2 Classifications subject to tax.

Unless specifically exempted in whole or in part from the levy and collection of occupational license taxes by sections 205.054, 205.063, 205.064, 205.065, 205.162, 205.171, 205.191, 205.192, 205.193, and 616.12(2) or successor statutes thereto, or such other exemptions as may hereafter be created by enactment of the State Legislature, the following classifications shall be subject to an occupational license tax in the manner set forth below.

There shall be two (2) classifications of businesses, professions and occupations for purposes of occupational license tax levy and collection as follows:

(a) Class "A", Non-regulated Business, Profession, or Occupation. This classification shall include all businesses, professions, or occupations which are not required to hold any license, certification, or registration with any branch, department, agency or authorized licensing board of the United States Government or the State of Florida, and which are not subject to regulation by any other ordinance of the County or any municipality therein. The annual occupational license tax for all Class "A" licenses shall be TWENTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$25.00).

(b) Class "B", Regulated Business, Profession or Occupation. This classification shall include all businesses, professions, and occupations for which a license, certification, or registration is required by any branch, department, agency or authorized licensing board of the United States Government, the State of Florida, or which are subject to regulation under any other ordinance of Seminole County or any municipality therein. The annual occupational license tax for all Class "B" licenses shall be FORTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$45.00).

(c) All business entities and individuals engaging in any occupation or profession shall only be required to purchase one

(1) occupational license from the County for each business location, even if such individual person or business entity shall engage in more than one (1) business, profession, or occupation under his, her, or its name at that location. If at least one of that entity's or person's business, occupational, or professional activities qualifies as a Class "B" regulated business, profession, or occupation, then he, she, or it shall be issued a Class "B" occupational license.

(d) All new applicants for an occupational license which are within the Class "B" regulated business, profession, or occupation shall be required to produce all Federal, State, or local licenses, certifications, or registrations as a condition precedent to the issuance of any County occupational license. Subsequent production of such other licenses, certifications, or registrations for renewals of an occupational license shall be as required by Florida Statutes in effect at the time of renewal.

Section 7. Repeal of Existing Section 45.3, Seminole County Code and Enactment of A New Section 45.3 Authorizing Transfer of Administrative Duties. Section 45.3, Seminole County Code entitled "Sections of Florida Statutes Saved From Repeal" is hereby repealed and replaced with an all new Section 45.3 authorizing the County to enter into interlocal agreements with municipalities for issuance of County occupational licenses

and collection of taxes thereon, which new section shall read as follows:

Section 45.3 Transfer of Administrative Duties

Pursuant to the authority of section 205.045, Florida Statutes (2002), the County may hereafter enter into an interlocal agreement with any municipality within Seminole County for the purpose of having the municipality issue the County's occupational licenses, collect and remit the taxes thereon. Such interlocal agreement may allow for reasonable compensation to the municipality for its expenses in assuming such duties and responsibilities. No such transfer of administrative duties shall occur prior to the time the requisite interlocal agreement becomes effective.

Section 8. Codification. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Seminole County Code and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or other appropriate word or phrase and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intention; providing, however, that Sections 1 through 4, and Sections 8 through 10 of this Ordinance shall not be codified.

Section 9. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or

circumstance is held invalid, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

Section 10. Effective date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon filing a copy of this Ordinance with the Florida Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.

ENACTED this _____ day of _____, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Daryl G. McLain, Chairman

AS/lpk
3/26/03; revised 04/10/03
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ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

DATE: April 9, 2003

DEPT./DIVISION: Fiscal Services

CONTACT PERSON: Cindy Hall/Lin Polk

EXTENSION: 7172/7177

DESCRIBE PROJECT/PROPOSAL:

This ordinance simplifies the occupational license structure from numerous out-of-date and complicated classifications to two classifications: B - regulated business; and A - non-regulated business. It also limits the number of licenses purchased to one per business.

DESCRIBE THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT/ PROPOSAL UPON THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY: The new ordinance is constructed to be revenue neutral, so there should be no direct revenue impact on the county. Implementation of the ordinance should be easier for the Tax Collector's Office and consequently require less staff time.

DESCRIBE THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT/ PROPOSAL UPON THE PROPERTY OWNERS/TAX PAYERS/CITIZENS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED:

The proposal sets the minimum tax rate at \$25. Currently several business classifications pay less than that rate, typically \$20. Any business paying less than \$25 will pay an increased price. Similarly, the proposed maximum rate is \$45. Businesses that currently pay more than that fee will get a reduction. Several businesses now must purchase multiple licenses. Licenses will be limited to one per business by the new ordinance.

IDENTIFY ANY POTENTIAL INDIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE WHICH MIGHT OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL: The simplified ordinance enables the county to work with the cities to offer one-stop purchasing for licenses at the respective city halls. It is likely to be economically beneficial to business individuals to be able to purchase their county and city license in one location. Enforcement of the licenses may be increased as the cities will be more directly involved with the issuance of county licenses.

Recommendations of the Seminole County Occupational License Study Equity Commission

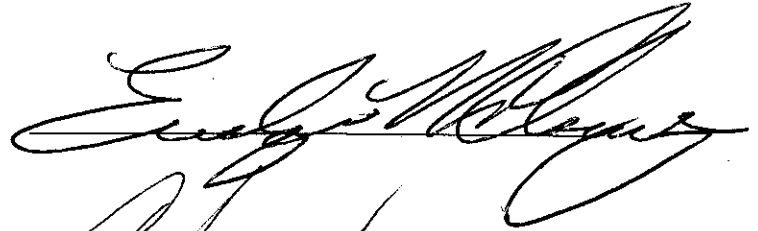
The members of the 2003 Seminole County Occupational License Study Equity Commission held two meetings at the County Services Building at 1101 East 1st Street, Sanford, on January 27, 2003 and March 10, 2003. Minutes are attached.

The current occupational license ordinance and its components were discussed as well as potential changes to the ordinance in order to simplify the process for the business community and implementation by the Seminole County Tax Collector.

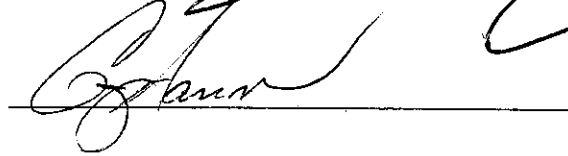
The 2003 Seminole County Occupational License Study Equity Commission makes the following recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners related to the occupational license ordinance:

1. Rewrite the ordinance eliminating all current classifications and rates.
2. Include the following two classifications and rates:
 - a. Class A Business – a business that is not regulated by the state of Florida or required to have a State license or certification. \$25
 - b. Class B Business – a business or occupation that is required to hold a State of Florida professional license or certification or is governed by County ordinance \$45
3. A business is required to purchase only one occupational license which will be determined based on whether or not the business has any regulated components.
4. Businesses with a single office location that own multiple vending machines in various locations require one Class A license.
5. No part of the annual license fee is refundable. (Currently in place.)
6. One-half year licenses will be available after April 1. (Currently in place.)
7. Business owners over 65 years of age, and charitable or non-profit businesses will be exempt from license fees, but not from regulations by the city, state, or county. (Currently in place.)
8. The occupational license transfer fee should remain \$3.00. (Currently in place.)
9. Late renewal penalties should remain 10% first month, 15% second month, 20% third month, and 25% thereafter. (Currently in place.)
10. The County should pursue efforts to enact one-stop purchasing so that a business person may secure a County license at the same time he/she purchases a city license – at the city location.
11. Revenues received from the change in classifications and rates should remain essentially the same as received in FY 2001/02.

Evelyn Cloninger, Attorney at Law
Small Professional



Greg Hanson, Albertson's Supermarket
Large Retail



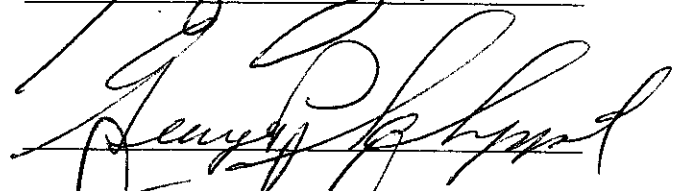
Greg Leary, Omni Home Services
Small Service



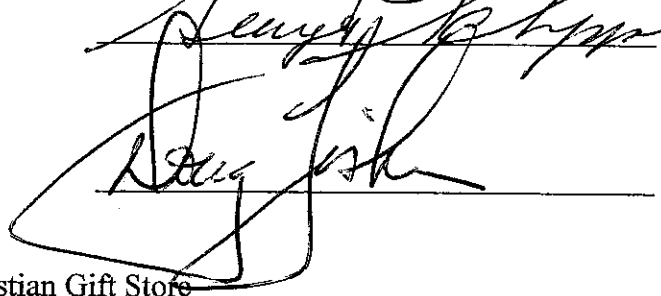
Kent Reagin, Euro Motors
Small Service



George Schnippel, Wood Crafters
Small Contractor



Doug Fisher, Fiserv
Large Hi-Tech



Angela Tindel, Grace and Glory Christian Gift Store
Small Retail



Rob Muellman, Outback Steakhouse
Large Restaurant



MINUTES

**Seminole County Occupational License
Study Equity Commission Meeting**

Date: January 27, 2003
Time: 1:37 p.m.
Location: Conference Room #3024

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>Members Present:</u>
Ms. Evelyn W. Cloninger
Mr. Greg Hanson
Mr. Greg Leary
Mr. Kent Reagin | <u>Staff Present:</u>
Cindy Hall
Paul Warscki
Arnold Scheinder
Liz Parkhurst |
|--|---|

A quorum is not necessary per State Statutes as stated by Arnold Schneider, County Attorney's Office. This committee is convened for citizen input on the proposed Occupation License ordinance changes.

2. Opening

The Seminole County Occupational License Study Equity Commission meeting was opened by Cindy Hall, Director, Fiscal Services, at 1:37 p.m.

3. Introduction:

Ms. Hall began by explaining the purpose of this meeting. The committee is here to study the occupational ordinance and the goal of this committee is to recommend changes to the current occupational license ordinance. By statutes the County is required to have a committee of business representatives to recommend a fair and equitable rate structure for all businesses at any time classifications to the occupational license ordinance are changed.

Introductions of members and staff in attendance were made.

Goals of Meeting

- a. To inform committee of the purpose of occupational licenses
- b. To explain their legal authorization
- c. To provide a brief history of the County's implementation & use
- d. To relate problems with current structure – complexities
- e. To explain the legal process to make changes
- f. To present the County's proposal to make changes to this ordinance.

Ms. Hall explained that the meeting was to review the occupational license information, answer any questions, and set up a second meeting after everyone has had an opportunity to review the handouts. The second meeting is to discuss the proposed changes and how they would affect the business community in Seminole County.

Mr. Warscki explained the current ordinance and the effect that it has on both the customer and the Tax Collector staff. Money that is raised from this tax is dedicated to economic development in the County. The County has not increased tax rates in many years. Last year approximately 25,000 licenses were issued. Of these approximately 18,000 went to service type businesses, which are unregulated. The new proposal is to simplify the process and fee structure. The current ordinance is complex and attempts to list every possible business.

Ms. Hall went over a history of the occupational license tax.

- a. In 1869 Florida legislation gave counties cities and towns power to levy an occupational tax. The money went to the State.
- b. In 1967 legislation made extensive changes to the occupational license statutes – hundreds of businesses were added and new tax rates were set.
- c. The 1972 legislation formed the core of current statute and allowed counties to keep the revenue. At this time the rates and structure were set and restricted by State statutes.
- d. Some changes were made from 1972 to 1989, mainly to the rate structure.
- e. In 1993 the legislation permitted local governments to revise their own license rates and structures. There were explicit instructions in implementing the legislation.

Included in the legislation:

1. County could elect to dedicate revenue to economic development, which Seminole County has approved and currently does.
2. Counties and cities could collect taxes for each other.
3. The legislation provided local control by government related to classifications, rates and increases.
4. Implementation resulted in a different tax distribution formula which favored counties. (Cities keep all of their revenue, but the County is required to share with the cities).

Any changes had to be completed by October 1, 1995.

Seminole County complied with the new legislation largely to reap the local control benefit and funding formula changes. The County now has the flexibility to make changes as necessary. A study equity committee convened in 1995, but few changes were made to the ordinance's rates

and classifications. Because the County chose to go through this process in 1995, we are allowed by Statutes to make changes today.

Mr. Warscki explained the problematic issues with the current ordinance. The complexity of the current ordinance makes it difficult for staff to implement, and a business today may need several licenses to operate.

The proposed change is revenue neutral and the reason for the changes is to streamline the process.

If the proposed changes are made, businesses will purchase one of two types of licenses – regulated or unregulated. Regulated businesses are identified by State Statutes. Unregulated businesses make up the majority of the licenses issued today.

The regulated licenses would cost \$45 and the unregulated \$25. The different rates reflect the efforts the Tax Collector's Office must employ to verify that the business has met regulations set by the State.

The second intent behind this ordinance is to allow the businesses which operate within a city to purchase both their city and county license at one time at their City Hall. The businesses in unincorporated Seminole County would still have to come to the Tax Collector's office.

4. Questions from the Committee:

Question – What is the ultimate goal of this new ordinance?

Answer – To simplify the process and to allow the business customer to get both a county and a city license at one time.

Question – How will this affect the 500 vendors at Flea World which is in unincorporated Seminole County?

Answer – Since they are in business in unincorporated Seminole County they would come to the Tax Collector's Office and pay the unregulated fee of \$25.

Question – Has this proposal been discussed with the various mayors and city managers and are they on board with this proposal?

Answer – The County presented the proposal to the cities and they like the concept. They understand that the first thing that has to happen is that Seminole County must pass a new ordinance that will be simple to administer. Once that happens, each of the cities is interested in pursuing the concept. County staff will

discuss the issues with them to make that coordination happen. All of the cities thought it sounded good simply from a customer service standpoint.

Comment – This ordinance is unfair in many respects. It penalizes some businesses. As Mr. Warsicki's memo points out, there are some very obvious flaws. There is a need for revision. Anything the County can do to simplify is good.

Question – Is there resistance within the cities?

Answer – No there isn't. Staff has informally informed the Board members and the County Manager and they like the idea. The County hasn't met any resistance. It isn't necessary for the cities to change their procedures or even to take advantage of this one-stop shopping concept. However, the County needs to know how the business community feels about the proposal and that's the reason for holding these meetings.

Question – How many fewer licenses will be generated by the simplification?

Answer – There would still be the same number of accounts, currently almost 29,000 licenses for 26,000 accounts. There is a statutory allowance which states that \$25 can be the minimum for issuing a license. The reason why \$25 and \$45 were selected for this proposal was to keep the revenue neutral at the Board's direction. The goal is not to increase revenue; the goal is to simplify the process. The overall impact is estimated at 3.1% more revenue for all licenses.

Question – Professional businesses (doctors, lawyers) have to buy individual licenses and then their office has a main license. Will the 500 vendors at Flea World each have to buy an individual license?

Answer – Yes. Also a hair salon is a regulated business. They have to hold one license and each stylist has to have his/her own license.

Question – It seems odd that a professional business person must each hold individual licenses along with the main office license while a large corporation with hundreds of employees holds just one license.

Answer – Professional business is regulated by the State and the County must follow their guidelines. For example the hospital holds a license and each doctor also holds a license because they are regulated.

Question – How much are the cities going to charge to collect tax for the County?

Answer – The Tax Collector is paid by Seminole County to function as their collection agent. If the cities are willing to collect the tax the County will give them the fee the Tax Collector currently gets from the County. No additional expense will be charged. By the cities collecting these fees, it will lower the expense for the Tax Collector. The current cost is \$2.50 per license for collection.

Question – (Attachment B-page 8)

Is that saying that 79.46% of the Class A type businesses are charged an increase for their license.

Answer – YES

Question – Then 80% of the business out there will be paying 25% more for their license?

Answer – Yes, \$4.97 more for their license: from \$20 to \$25.

Comment by Committee Member – That's an irrelevant amount of money

Answer – Recently the Tax Collector did an informal survey in their office with their customers who have dealt with a city and then had to come to the County for their county license. The Tax Collector asked if they would pay \$4 more to skip the trip to the Tax Collector's Office. There was no argument that they would appreciate the simplification.

An additional benefit would be enabling the Tax Collector's Office to investigate unlicensed businesses. Currently there are only 1.5 staff members available to research unlicensed businesses. If the Tax Collector investigates only the unincorporated areas, they could enforce the laws to make it more equitable for the licensed businesses.

5. **Closing:**

The plan on this day was to provide information only and to schedule time to review the information. The minutes and a calendar for scheduling the next meeting will be distributed.

MINUTES**Seminole County Occupational License
Study Equity Commission Meeting**

Date: March 10, 2003
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room #3024

1. Members Present:

Ms. Evelyn W. Cloninger
Mr. Doug Fisher
Mr. George Schnipple

Staff Present:

Cindy Hall
Paul Warscki
Arnold Scheinder
Liz Parkhurst

A quorum is not necessary per State Statutes as stated by Arnold Schneider, County Attorney's Office. This committee is convened for citizen input on the proposed Occupation License ordinance changes.

2. Opening

Cindy Hall, Director, Fiscal Services opened the Seminole County Occupational License Study Equity Commission meeting, at 1:05 p.m.

3. Approval of minutes:

By consensus, the committee members approved the minutes of the January 27, 2003 meeting with one correction as stated by Liz Parkhurst. (Corrected member present from Mr. Leary to Mr. George Schnipple).

4. Update of Process with Municipalities:

Ms. Hall began by reviewing the handouts regarding the proposed changes to the occupational license fees.

Ms. Hall asked the committee if there were any questions or comments concerning the proposed changes of the ordinance. The committee expressed that they felt the proposed changes would be beneficial to the business community as a whole by removing the complexities of what and how many licenses one would need to operate.

Ms. Hall updated the committee on the response from the municipalities and city managers as to the proposed changes of the occupational license fees and collection process.

- All are in favor of the proposed changes and the streamlining of the process.
- They agree that once the licenses are either Class A or B, they would be able to administer the sale of County license while they are processing their own city licenses.
- As a note, the businesses in unincorporated Seminole County will still have to come to the County Tax Collector offices to acquire their licenses.
- This process will be beneficial for the business owners by allowing them to purchase their licenses in one location.
- If the cities choose to participate, staff plans on working with them to get the program up and running.
- If they choose not to participate, it does not affect the ordinance which will still be revised to Class A or B licenses.

The Seminole County Tax Collector's Office has scheduled meetings with each of the municipalities to review our proposed changes and to go over the details necessary to make this work. The goal is to meet with the technical staff with each municipality in order to implement this plan as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Next week Ms. Hall will attend the Mayors and Managers meeting in regards to updating them on the committee's stand on the process. So far the cities seem to be on board with the proposed changes.

5. Input from Committee Members

Ms. Hall reviewed the last page of handout: "Recommendations of the Seminole County Occupational License Study Equity Commission".

Ms. Hall explained the 11 items on the page and received input from the committee and their recommendations for inclusion on the revised ordinance to be drafted by Arnold Schneider, County Attorneys' office.

Ms. Hall commented on several recommendations that are currently in place. These items are not anticipated to be changed in the current proposal.

Ms. Hall referred primarily to item numbers 1 and 2, which would eliminate all the current classifications and replace them with two classifications, Class A - Non-regulated for \$25 and Class B - Regulated for \$45.

Ms. Hall asked the committee members for feedback on the proposal and recommendations.

The committee exchanged positive comments as to the simplification.

6. Discussion of specific recommendations:

Question 1: Please clarify number 3 as to what components are?

Answer: Currently some businesses have to purchase multiple licenses to operate (example: a bowling alley). The recommendation is that the County issue only one license for each business location. The license they purchase is based on whether there are any regulated services within that business. The food industry for example currently has to purchase three (3) or more licenses to operate. Since the County is required by the State to inspect food industry they would have to purchase a Class B license. Any part of a business that is state regulated, even if it is not their primary business, would have to purchase the Class B license. In the long run it would be cheaper, as they would not have to purchase the multiple licenses they currently purchase.

Question 2: Does this mean that the business has to buy the license that is the most intensive use of those that they have at that location?

Answer: No, it would be difficult to identify the primary business. Therefore a regulated business is one that must carry a State certificate or State license. So if any part of the business is a regulated operation, the business will be issued a Class B license. Although it may not be a majority of the business, a regulated portion is required to be checked.

Question 3: So anything that is regulated will require a Class B license?

Answer: Yes. But the business would not be listed by its type. It would be listed as a regulated business.

7. Process from here:

- a. The plan is to request County Attorney's Office to update the current ordinance to reflect the changes as discussed. To do this, 5 or more committee signatures recommending the changes as presented are needed.

- b. Once Mr. Schneider has revised the ordinance then staff will send it to each of the committee members to review the recommendations. There is no need to convene as a group.

To make changes to an ordinance is a two-step process. First staff must ask permission from the Board to hold a public hearing. At the first meeting staff would present the revised ordinance to the Board along with the committee's recommendations. The public hearing will be held at a subsequent meeting.

- c. Staff would like at least one member of the committee to attend both of these meetings to express concurrence with the recommendations. The Board would like to hear from the committee.
- d. The revised ordinance should be ready for the committee members to review in 30 days (April 10th). Any comments need to be submitted to the County within seven (7) days.
- e. Staff will request permission for a public hearing at April 22, at 9:30 am meeting.
- f. If approved, staff will advertise and hold a Public Hearing Tuesday, May 13th at 1:30 pm.
- g. It is desirable to have committee representation at the April 22 meeting. Questions from the Board would be asked at the April 22 meeting.

August is when the Tax Collector sends out renewal notices to current license holders due by October 1.

Mr. Schneider stated that once this ordinance is drafted there would need to be a uniform inter-local agreement with each city. Therefore it is important to move forward with a recommendation in order to have everything in place prior to October.

Ms. Hall asked committee members if anyone would be able to attend the April 22 and tentatively Doug Fischer and Evelyn Cloninger agreed to attend. Staff will attempt to schedule the item on the agenda as early as possible to accommodate their attendance at the meeting.

8. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.