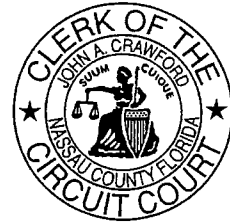




John A. Crawford
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Nassau County



April 19, 2007

The Honorable Jim B. Higginbotham, Chairman
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 1010
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

Dear Chairman Higginbotham and Commissioners:

Please be advised that, pursuant to your policy adopted unanimously January 19, 2005, I am unable to accommodate payment to the two new Maintenance employee positions approved at your meeting April 18, 2007. As you recall, this was part of the "County plan of action" back in 2005 to create financial soundness by increasing reserve levels, meeting financial commitments, and implementing a new budget policy. I understand the occasional legitimate emergency that may arise which needs to be accommodated through the use of reserves for contingencies; however, adding additional personnel seven months into a budget year is not the indication of an emergency, but of mismanagement and poor budget planning. Creating recurring expenditures with non-recurring revenues is violating your existing policy.

With the great strides this Board has recently made to reduce debt and to protect reserves, I would hope you would accept my recommendation to provide the necessary personnel to meet your needs through existing personnel sources rather than by adding new personnel mid-year that have not been budgeted for. Additionally, please be reminded that, if you add these new personnel mid-year, you have automatically increased next year's budget by that amount.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Crawford".

John A. Crawford

jgb