



## Barrow County Board of Commissioners Annual Strategic Planning Retreat

Friday, March 20, 2015  
Sims Career Academy  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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### Minutes

Present: Pat Graham, Joe Goodman, Kenny Shook, Steve Worley, Isaiah Berry, Billy Parks, Ben Hendrix, Randall Dowling, Danielle Austin, Jim Dove (facilitator), Mott Beck (facilitator), Kurt Cooper (Parks & Recreation Director), Monica Franklin (Elections Director), Charlie Felts (HR Director), John Skinner (Emergency Services Director), Jud Smith (Sheriff).

8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast Items

1) Call to Order (Chairman)

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

2) Brief Review of Previous Year's Retreat Items

Randall Dowling reviewed items from the previous year's retreat. Commissioners received an update on SDS, and reviewed the fact that the County Manager has a meeting with the cities each month on the first Tuesday at 8:30 am at the Historic Courthouse to discuss SDS. Commissioners requested a quarterly update of the meetings and the progression of the SDS process and eventual policy discussions.

3) Review and Discussion of the Five Year Capital Improvement Program FY 2016 – FY 2020

a) Develop a funding strategy to implement the CIP including road and bridge improvements and vehicle replacement

The Board of Commissioners briefly discussed the needs based Five Year CIP and would like to see a yearly prioritized list.

4) Discussion of the Board's FY 2016 Budget Priorities (Short Term Goals)

a) FY 2016 Budget Calendar

The Commissioners gave the County Manager direction on how they would like to see the budget calendar and process changed from the previous year along with how they would like the budget prepared this year. Commissioners stated that they desire to have more input in setting the priorities early on in the budget process.

b) Millage Rate Philosophy

Commissioners desire a revenue neutral budget for discussion purposes.

c) Merit/COLA % Determination

Commissioners gave the County Manager permission to proceed with talking to the previous low bidder on the Classification/Compensation Study as well as the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The County Manager is to bring back cost numbers and time frames from both, as well as stats compiled from Human Resources on the cost to the county of restoring all past salary reductions to current employees.



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Lunch (around noon)

5) Discussion of Board's Longer Term Goals

Commissioners would like to have a workday set with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to work on setting long term departmental goals for Barrow County.

6) Discussion of Various Policies:

a) General Fund Fund Balance Policy

Commissioners decided they would like to change the current General Fund Fund Balance policy from 30% to a policy with a minimum of two months and a maximum of 3 months of general fund expenses, and anything over that can only be spent on one time expenditures – no recurring expenses.

b) County Vehicle Replacement Policy

Commissioners would like to see a RFQP prepared for Fleet Maintenance.

c) Take Home Vehicle Policy

Commissioners reviewed the existing take home policy and found that it is being adhered to. Sheriff Smith made it clear to the Commissioners that his department does not fall under the BOC's policy, but he does have his own take home vehicle policy.

7) Discussion of SPLOST 2018 Referendum Dates and Plan

Commissioners discussed possible referendum dates as well as the possibility of assembling a citizens committee for accountability. Although no dates were finalized, Commissioners were made aware that such dates must be determined soon.

8) Wrap Up (Facilitator)

a) Additional topics if time allows:

- Discussion of Economic Development activities

Commissioners discussed the Economic Development department and how it might be improved.

- Revisions to the Storm Water Utility Program that incorporates "Business Friendly" practices

Commissioners discussed adopting some type of credit program similar to the Athens-Clarke County storm water program in hopes of making the Barrow County program more business friendly.

- Discuss if improvements can be made to recreational facilities and programs

Commissioners discussed ways to make the County's recreational programs profitable – possibly by having more associations handle more sports.

- Discuss Retirement Plan to Address Unfunded Liability



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8) Wrap Up (Facilitator)

a) Additional topics if time allows:

- Implementation of the Water First Program

Commissioners discussed the benefits of the WaterFirst program and the need for Barrow County to try and get started with the application process.

**Barrow County Board of Commissioners**

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Pat Graham, Chairman

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Joe Goodman, District 1

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Kenny Shook, District 2

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Steve Worley, District 3

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Isaiah Berry, District 4

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Billy E. Parks, District 5

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Ben Hendrix, District 6

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Danielle Austin, County Clerk