Agenda Item 12. Leon County Code Section 10-837(b) and 10-837(c)

After an in-depth discussion the Board directed staff to make a determination on a case-by-case basis.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS AGREED TO ALLOW COUNTY STAFF TO USE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DISCRETION ON WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CITE THE VIOLATOR ON BOTH LEON COUNTY CODE SECTIONS 10-837(b) and 10-837(c).

Agenda Item 13. DRAFT Leon County Lot Mowing Ordinance

Emma Smith, Assistant to the Director of Growth and Environmental Management, explained to the Board that this Draft Mowing Ordinance went before the Board of County Commissioners on November 18, 2003. In the agenda it was recommended that a Draft Mowing Ordinance be presented to the Code Enforcement Board, as well as, the Growth and Environmental Management Citizens' Users Group to receive input and comments. Once the input and comments are received, there would be a Public Hearing for the citizens to provide comments before the Board takes final action.

The Board Members expressed their individual concerns. Chairman Cook passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Sanders in order to make a motion. Vice Chairman Sanders asked for a motion to be made.

June Vickers stated that she noticed that the City of Tallahassee recommends that the (grass) have a 12-inch height requirement and she thinks the County should concur with that. Also, on Page 2 of Draft Ordinance (Line 17 and 18) where it talks about woody plant life, including weeds, grasses, shrubbery and other pollen-producing vegetation, it seems to her that it should be a different standard between grass, weeds and shrubs. These are her two (2) comments and she thinks they should conform to the City of Tallahassee Ordinance. Emma advised that this ordinance mirrored the City of Tallahassee Ordinance.

Betsy Henderson had similar concerns about the shrubbery and also recommended that the time frame to pay the lien should be increased from 15 days to 30 days.

John Jordan stated that he had a problem in understanding what is reasonable for weeds and grass to be 12 to 18 inches in height.

James McRoy stated that he would have a hard time fining someone for not mowing and also would have a problem with inspectors coming to his property telling him his grass was 14-inches instead of 12-inches. He feels this is a waste of taxpayers' money.

SKIP COOK MADE A MOTION THAT THE CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD NOT ENDORSE THIS LOT MOWING ORDINANCE. JAMES MCROY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED (6-1) WITH BETSY HENDERSON IN OPPOSITION.

James McRoy wanted to state why he seconded the motion. It was because the Code Enforcement Board believes there is no need for an ordinance.

June Vickers wanted to know (before the motion was made) what sort of complaints brought this about.

Ms. Smith stated she does not receive the complaints for the County Commissioners. However, within the Code Compliance Program, it is usually a neighbor(s) who will call and complain about their neighbors' overgrown grass.

NEXT MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2004 MEETING ADJOURNED.

APPROVED BY:

_____
Skip Cook, Chairman

_____
Date Approved by the Board

ATTESTED BY:

_____
Jacqueline Z. Feagin, Board Administrator