

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 30, 2009

A meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Members present were: Chairman Duffy, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Skidmore, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Lansing. The following members were absent: None

The meeting was called to order at **1:30 PM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Baltz welcomed Mr. Robert Halfhill to the County as the new Public Works Director and noted he will be meeting with each Commissioner sometime this week.

Ray Sandrock advised the Board of recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) news, advised they validated and closed out another debris project worksheet this morning, said FEMA and the County team has secured \$3½ Million in debris worksheets in the last week, and commented there are only two more debris project worksheets left. **Chairman Duffy** asked if we were being reimbursed for private property debris removal. Mr. Sandrock explained the issue related to private property, gave a timeline of events, mentioned the County would never be reimbursed 100%, and explained plans for the funds. **Commissioner Loftus** asked if we were reimbursed for tree stump removal. Mr. Sandrock advised FEMA has stood firm that they will not reimburse counties for tree stump removal. **Chairman Duffy** said the Civil Air Patrol asked if they would receive additional reimbursement for their private property at the airport. **Commissioner Skidmore** provided additional information related to the claim and suggested they should address the issue with the local Airport Authority. **Commissioner Cummings** asked for the worksheet timeline. Mr. Sandrock advised there are two debris related worksheets left, commented they would next move to the building and permanent structures in the County, and indicated a timeframe of about a year and a half on the close out process and several years for audit completion. **Commissioner Cummings** said there has recently been an increase in the rate of review of our paperwork, said it

falls on the heels of the trip to Washington DC, wondered if FEMA received additional staff, and suggested we send thank you letters to FEMA and our congressional delegation since they are stretched and have come through for the County. Mr. Sandrock agreed.

1. Review Budget Processes and Methodologies - Kelly Shoemaker and Ray Sandrock

Mr. Sandrock said today will be a discussion of specific topics that will require very few decision points, explained they will get back to department reviews on Monday, April 7, 2009, noted the backup paperwork will be on-line by this Friday, and apologized for the delay. Mr. Sandrock advised through the Performance Based Budgeting they have identified reductions of \$3,478,980 in General Revenues and \$7,520,215 in other funds, and commented that the general revenue reduction target is \$10,000,000.

a. Central and Indirect Allocations Methodology

Mr. Sandrock discussed the purpose for the allocations, provided the list of Central and Indirect Departments, explained how the amount is allocated, provided examples which included the Clerk of the Court, Commission Office, Budget Division, and the Administration Buildings, and paralleled visual slides and packet information. **Commissioner Starr** asked if the Clerk's function is statutory and Mr. Sandrock answered affirmatively.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE WITH METHODOLOGY RELATED TO CENTRAL AND INDIRECT ALLOCATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE
MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

Mr. Sandrock commented that they are projecting a 12% reduction for next year and advised Performance Based Budgeting decisions will impact future allocations.

b. Sales Tax Extension - 2002 Update

Kelly Shoemaker summarized the 2002 Sales Tax Extension plan, discussed the timeline, provided detail related to actual and excess money collected, noted six examples of the 29 associated projects, and pointed out a revenue and expenditure graph.

Commissioner Starr asked if the excess revenue was required to be put back into the sales tax projects. Ms. Shoemaker said the money had to be used for sales tax projects. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked for detail related to the Winchester Corridor. Mr. Sandrock responded. **Chairman Duffy** said she is receiving feedback that citizens are questioning whether we need to expand the Winchester Corridor. **Commissioner Skidmore** said they will be sure this road is warranted prior to moving forward, expressed the need for a safe evacuation route, and noted River Road widening would provide for a full flow of traffic. Mr. Ruggieri and Mr. Quick provided additional information related to the subject and explained the primary reason for Winchester Corridor widening is for evacuation.

Commissioner Cummings asked if any traffic load projections were run for build out. Mr. Quick said they had not done a detailed review with respect to the Winchester traffic volume. **Commissioner Cummings** asked if it would help with future concurrency. Mr. Quick opined it could help. **Commissioner Cummings** said some of the sales tax projects specifically said there were not enough funds to complete the projects. Mr. Quick said the assumption was to borrow funds to complete the project. Ms. Shoemaker advised they had always anticipated that \$12.3 Million would be spent on Winchester and noted Board approval in August of 2002. Mr. Sandrock advised half was spend already. Ms. Shoemaker stated it is not in conflict with the referendum. **Commissioner Cummings** agreed; said the issue is not a legal one, but an ethical one; commented he has not seen evidence that all of West County agrees; and noted the greater good is to retain the right-of-way now. **Commissioner Starr** said we already spent \$6 Million, expressed concern with moving forward before Sarasota completes River Road, and mentioned unhappy residents who claim they will lose money during the right-of-way acquisition. **Commissioner Loftus** opined we are ethically obligated to move forward with the acquisitions; remarked the taxpayers voted to tax themselves; said the money is already allocated; opined the corridor will be very important in the future; expressed concern with future concurrency; and indicated they should move forward with the acquisitions. Ms. Shoemaker discussed major projects that are not complete.

Mr. Baltz said if the Commissioners were prepared, it would be helpful to receive direction related to the Winchester Corridor South Phase 3. **Commissioner Skidmore** said he is not ready to make a decision, expressed concern with going against the wishes

of the taxpayers, and noted the importance of replacing the project with another if they should decide not to proceed. **Commissioner Starr** concurred. **Commissioner Cummings** stated they should proceed with the right-of-way acquisition now and retain it until the time comes to proceed with the widening. **Chairman Duffy** agreed they should purchase the right-of-way at this time. **Commissioner Loftus** agreed they should use the sales tax money to move forward with the right-of-way acquisition. **Commissioner Skidmore** agreed and recommended they move ahead cautiously.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO PROCEED WITH RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION FOR WINCHESTER CORRIDOR SOUTH PHASE 3 USING SALES TAX MONEY AND RETAIN THE CORRIDOR FOR FUTURE EXPANSION, SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN DUFFY

Commissioner Cummings opined he is in favor of proceeding with the acquisition and no other activity at this time. **Commissioner Skidmore** agreed they need to acquire the Right-of-Way. **Commissioner Starr** opined if we are putting the construction on hold then we should not proceed with the acquisition and move on to another project that is more germane at this time. Mr. Sandrock stated costs and discussed future impact fee collections. **Commissioner Skidmore** noted for the record that sales tax dollars must be used on infrastructure. **Chairman Duffy** asked for the balance to be financed by impact fees and noted the importance of public input. Mr. Sandrock responded \$27 Million. **Commissioner Loftus** clarified the motion.

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER STARR OPPOSING.

c. Outstanding Issues

Ms. Shoemaker explained staff is looking for direction associated with the Fire/Burn Building and mentioned options and associated costs. **Commissioner Loftus** said they should work on a regional basis and suggested they use the new Englewood Fire District Burn Building. **Chairman Duffy** advised Englewood has confirmed we can use their building. **Commissioner Skidmore** noted this is a good partnership. **Commissioner Starr** asked why we need another building and questioned the costs involved. Ms. Shoemaker explained the land the building is on was given to Edison Community College. **Commissioner Starr** asked if we can get it back. Ms. Shoemaker commented that we could not get the property back, said Englewood charges \$12.50 per hour for the

burn building, and noted we plan to negotiate costs since Englewood rents one of our fire stations. **Commissioner Cummings** asked if our plan was to waive \$15,400 a year for the use of the fire station and use the burn building for free. Ms. Shoemaker explained their staff has not finalized the agreement. **Commissioner Cummings** expressed concern with shifting funding from a Capital Fund to an Operating Fund. Ms. Shoemaker responded. **Commissioner Starr** opined the training may only be twice a year at the fire tower, said most of the training is done on a computer, and opined the cost may not be that high.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE FINAL REVENUES AND INTEREST EARNINGS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE
MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

Chairman Duffy asked for clarification related to the Fire/Burn Building figures under Excess Collections and under Major Projects Not Final. Ms. Shoemaker explained in detail.

d. Self Insurance Methodology

Mr. Sandrock explained the purpose of the Self Insurance fund; noted it is similar to Central and Indirect Allocations; said health insurance is not included; explained Property and Flood Insurance Premiums, Workers Compensation, General Liability Premiums, and Self Insurance Claims; and paralleled visual slides and packet information. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked what divisions the Worker Compensation plan covers. Mr. Sandrock advised it covers all BOCC employees, Fire/EMS Union, and the Constitutional Officers including the Sheriff Department. **Commissioner Starr** noted we insure the Sheriff Department buildings, questioned if we also cover the School Board buildings, and asked how many there were. Mr. Sandrock advised the School Board covers their own buildings and **Chairman Duffy** announced there were 22 schools. Mr. Sandrock mentioned the Airport Authority is no longer layered in. **Commissioner Starr** asked if the deductibles are in line and if there is a formula used to assure the best pricing. Mr. Sandrock answered affirmatively and asked Bob Pryor to provide detail. Mr. Pryor explained the bid process, stated Florida League of Cities, Inc. came in with the best price, and mentioned they gave us a members only dividend which reduced our premiums by \$75,000. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked if we bid on all insurances separately. Mr. Pryor explained the process and said the

pricing is based on total package pricing. **Chairman Duffy** asked if we offer Health Savings Accounts as a benefit. Mr. Pryor said that program is a technique used to help fund deductibles, explained the method, and advised past Boards were not in favor of the program. **Commissioner Skidmore** commented that the best thing we can do for our employees is to provide a sound healthcare plan. **Chairman Duffy** agreed and suggested they look into the program as an option. **Commissioner Loftus** agreed. **Commissioner Starr** described Flexible Healthcare Savings Accounts, said they are pre-tax, and noted if you do not use it, you lose it. **Chairman Duffy** confirmed we already offer that program and explained the difference between the two programs.

e. Non-Profit Grants

Ms. Shoemaker provided a summary of how this process was handled last year, paralleled the summary with visual slides, said Cecy Glenn of the United Way is available to answer any questions, noted \$537,305 was allocated for FY08/09, remarked a 15% reduction would be in line with performance based budgeting, advised that allocation would be \$456,709, and requested Board comments related to Human Services non-profit grant award for 2009/2010. **Commissioner Skidmore** questioned whether staff was requesting discussion or a decision. Ms. Shoemaker advised either at this time, noted they are in the middle of the process, said they are currently gathering applications, and explained they would be coming back with award listing detail. **Commissioner Skidmore** said he is not prepared to make a funding amount decision today and invited Ms. Glenn to speak. Ms. Glenn offered to provide detail related to the United Way, announced in January, 2008, the Board voted unanimously to have the United Way Community Impact Process compile the Health and Human Service funding recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), mentioned application availability, described eligibility requirements, noted new IRS regulations, commented on the use of volunteers, talked about programs and funding recommendations, and indicated the addition of the Homeless Coalition Shelter and Free Health Clinic.

Chairman Duffy asked for a list of some of the organizations that receive Board funding. Ms. Glenn mentioned several organizations and explained what services each provide. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed thanks to Ms. Glenn and all United Way volunteers. There was some discussion related to start up funding for the Homeless Coalition. **Chairman Duffy** suggested

the United Way work with the same number as last year to allow flexibility and explained it may still be reduced by 15%. Ms. Glenn said they did that last year and advised she will return with the recommendations. **Commissioner Starr** repeated the possibility of a 15% reduction, expressed confusion with distribution of the funds among the organizations, announced a portion of the revenue stream has dried up, asked about fundraising, and stated he would like to review the information further. Ms. Glenn advised some organizations are experiencing a 50% decline in donations and stated the need has increased. **Chairman Duffy** commented that if several of these organizations did not provide services, the County would need to provide them. **Commissioner Starr** advised the County provides additional public services and contributes to many other agencies countywide as well. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the increased demand on these organizations, pointed out the increased demand is affecting our County services as well, and opined it will cost us more money later if we do not provide funding now. Mr. Sandrock advised the next workshop will address Human Resources at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Mr. Baltz summarized the conversation; said the United Way will continue to play their role as they have for the County in the past; remarked they have received over \$970,000 worth of requests so far; mentioned the funding is all discretionary and ad valorem; and asked if the Board has any direction for them at this time. **Chairman Duffy** confirmed the consensus is no Board direction at this time and suggested the United Way come back with their recommendations. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked for the number of groups we provided start up funds to years ago who continue to receive our funding, inquired if we can identify duplication of services, and questioned if the review process determines the individual fundraising and sustainability for each organization. **Chairman Duffy** strongly cautioned **Commissioner Skidmore**, said the Board was responsible for funding decisions in the past, explained the amount of time, stress, and work involved, and commended the United Way for professionally stepping in. **Commissioner Skidmore** said he is not interested in micro-managing, explained his only direction today would be for the United Way to take the number from last year and consider a minimum reduction of 15%, and clarified his request for someone in their organization to research duplication of services. **Chairman Duffy** apologized for the misunderstanding. **Commissioner Loftus** agreed with **Commissioner Skidmore**, opined there is duplication of services and

organizations that continue to receive funding when the County was to only provide seed money, and pointed out direction has been given. **Commissioner Cummings** said duplication of service only occurs when the supply exceeds the demand; noted the demand has been established; opined the United Way would not have records related to seed money organizations, but recalled two organizations that started off with seed money; said with the legislative cap as it is, there will not be money to fund any organizations in the future, and suggested because of the way the cap is set up, maintaining the millage rate rather than just cutting taxes will speed up the day when we are unable to fund these organizations.

Chairman Duffy asked Mr. Baltz if their direction was sufficient and indicated she is in support of the 15% reduction. Mr. Baltz answered affirmatively. **Commissioner Cummings** advised he is opposed to this reduction as he has been with the majority of departmental cuts so far.

ADJOURNED: 3:25 PM

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Chairman

ATTEST:

**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk

j1