

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 15, 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 workshop was called to order at **1:30 PM**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Review Performance Budgets-Growth Management-
Kelly Shoemaker and Ray Sandrock**

Mr. Sandrock explained they will be discussing the Growth Management Department today, mentioned the following format changes will be used from now on, said they have removed the slide that suggested a 15% reduction, indicated they will focus on the department, not the percentage, explained they may recommend more or less than 15%, noted the inclusion of organizational charts that will show staffing levels, advised job descriptions will be attached as back up, and announced they will include further information on the impact of position eliminations to provide a clearer understanding.

a. Comprehensive Planning

Mr. Sandrock read the Growth Management Mission Statement into the record, provided detail related to Core Service # 1, gave FTE information, described nine (9) Results, pointed out the graph depicting the Comprehensive Planning Percent of time by Results and paralleled visual slides.

b. Zoning/Current Planning

Ms. Shoemaker provided detail related to Core Service #2, gave FTE information, described eight (8) Results, pointed out the

graph depicting the Comprehensive Planning Percent of time by Results, and paralleled visual slides.

c. Land Information Services

Mr. Sandrock provided detail related to Core Service #3, gave FTE information, described eight (8) Results, pointed out the graph depicting the Comprehensive Planning Percent of time by Results, and paralleled visual slides.

d. Concurrency

Ms. Shoemaker provided detail related to Core Service #4, gave FTE information, described one (1) Result, pointed out the graph depicting the Comprehensive Planning Percent of time by Results, and paralleled visual slides.

e. Transportation Planning

Ms. Shoemaker provided detail related to Core Service #5, gave FTE information, described one (1) Result, pointed out the graph depicting the Comprehensive Planning Percent of time by Results, and paralleled visual slides.

2. Discussion Points

Mr. Sandrock explained the last section of this workshop is to review decision points related to recommended reductions, revenue opportunities, current year savings, current outsourcing, and pointed out positions on the current organizational chart to show the recommended eliminations and positions to be filled.

Chairman Duffy asked why the expenses are so high on the Concurrency element. Mr. Ruggieri clarified the expense looks higher since it shows one person but noted it consists of salary, benefits, consulting fees, and cost center overhead.

Mr. Sandrock stated Growth Management is primarily driven by personnel expenditures and explained reductions can only be found through position evaluation, noted the reduction recommendations are in priority order, and described each position and its impact to the organization. **Commissioner**

Skidmore asked if Community Planning would continue with the elimination of the Planner II position. Mr. Ruggieri stated there is a Community Planning process that allows any group to come forward, mentioned existing Community Planning Groups that has their own dedicated staff, said this reduction would totally remove support for existing or new groups, clarified the responsibilities of the dedicated Planner, and explained since Community Planning is not State mandated it is being presented as a want not a need. **Commissioner Loftus** opined Growth Management is an essential part of the Community and expressed concern with it being jeopardized. **Chairman Duffy** asked what the Community Plan timeframe is. Mr. Ruggieri said each group works differently, commented some plans can go on for many years, and noted there is no set timeframe. **Chairman Duffy** suggested reducing the department by two Planners will cause a major impact to the Community. Mr. Ruggieri agreed and stated the presentation information is clear. **Commissioner Cummings** asked if doubling the wait time on databases will affect the development process. Mr. Ruggieri said it could, noted there are thirteen (13) different databases, and provided a scenario where it would put the County at risk. **Commissioner Cummings** clarified his understanding of the impact related to the removal of the Assistant Transportation Engineer position. Mr. Ruggieri explained the initial purpose for the position. Ms. Shoemaker clarified the funding source has shifted to Public Works. **Commissioner Cummings** commented Community planning is one of the most important things we can do for the quality of life of our Community and announced the impact of reducing resources in these important areas. **Commissioner Skidmore** agreed, said Community Planning has worked well, pointed out the sense of community pride and ownership, suggested they consider reductions on slide 35, 1 & 2, and opined reducing the planners will expose the County to risk. **Chairman Duffy** asked for clarification of the positions. Mr. Ruggieri explained the recommendations and impacts in detail. **Chairman Duffy** asked if Mr. Ruggieri could find any other reductions within the department. Mr. Ruggieri stated additional reductions would expose the County to risk. **Commissioner Starr** asked if a Specialist could be cross-trained to do Community planning and Comprehensive Plan amendments and questioned other possible scenarios. Mr. Ruggieri responded the Specialist would not be able to provide the same level of service, mentioned the effort involved, and explained his recommendations provided the most

cost effective scenario. **Commissioner Loftus** noted the dedication of past Community Planners, explained the Communities are not familiar with zoning and laws, expressed the importance and the need for Planners, and asked about the updated Development Review Committee (DRC) process. Mr. Ruggieri explained the changes and indicated the process now moves faster.

Mr. Baltz expressed the importance of these level of service discussions, said this detail is what we needed to bring to these budget workshops, advised focusing on our County departments is only one of four ways we are trying to deal with our budget challenge, said the second is to delay and eliminate Capital Projects, explained the third is to utilize our Fiscal Stabilization Fund, indicated the fourth was to receive \$10 Million in reductions from our Constitutional Officers. Mr. Baltz stated he is not convinced we will reach that \$10 Million goal and remarked all recommendations are part of the plan to achieve a \$10 Million reduction on the BOCC side.

Chairman Duffy asked for the amount of reductions to date. Mr. Sandrock advised \$3.7 Million in the General Revenue areas which is where the \$10 Million reduction is being targeted and \$7.7 in other funds such as fire assessments. **Chairman Duffy** said we still need to cut \$6 Million, commented her understanding was that we are ahead of schedule, mentioned we have cut above the recommendations in some areas, and noted the need to revisit some areas. Mr. Sandrock said we are well on our way but explained we are not half way through and remarked that if the constitutional officer target is not met, we will need to address another approach.

COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE MOVED TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS 1 AND 2 OF THE IMPACTS TO POSITION ELIMINATIONS AND RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON THE REMAINING RECOMMENDATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER STARR OPPOSING.

Mr. Ruggieri described revenue opportunities on slide 36 and described Transportation Planner responsibilities in detail. Mr. Sandrock pointed out Current Year Savings and Outsourcing Opportunities. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the East County Sector plan. Mr. Ruggieri responded and explained the

plan in detail. **Commissioner Cummings** and Mr. Ruggieri discussed cluster development, preserved land, the public and private benefits related to infrastructure, and mentioned discouraging development similar to the Ranchette's. **Chairman Duffy** asked for additional detail related to the Ranchette's development. **Commissioner Cummings** said they are unable to fund their infrastructure and explained why.

Mr. Sandrock announced the Budget Workshop on Friday will focus on Human Services and Administration, advised they will move departments forward when they can, noted Wednesday's Budget Workshop will cover Facilities, and explained they are currently awaiting feedback from various departments to provide follow up to the Board next Friday. **Chairman Duffy** questioned if they would receive additional reduction scenarios from Fire/EMS as recently promised. Mr. Sandrock advised they would. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked about Land Development within Growth Management. Mr. Baltz advised they are working on a plan to bring Land Development efficiencies and reductions forward with a shift to Growth Management.

ADJOURNED: 3:38 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**

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