

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 29, 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.

Review Performance Budgets - Kelly Shoemaker and Ray Sandrock

Mr. Sandrock gave Red Socks and Rays game scores, announced this workshop would cover Public Works and Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Control items, and paralleled visual slides throughout the meeting.

a. Public Works

Mr. Sandrock read the Public Works Mission Statement and its 5 Core Services into the record. Mr. Sandrock described Core Service #1; provided its Linkage to Strategic Goal; gave its FTE, revenue sources, and budget; provided five Results; and pointed out its Time Allocation graph. Ms. Shoemaker described Core Service #2 provided its Linkage to Strategic Goal; gave its FTE, revenue sources, and budget; provided two Results; and pointed out its Time Allocation graph. Ms. Shoemaker described Core Service #3; provided its Linkage to Strategic Goal; gave its FTE, revenue sources, and budget; provided two Results; and pointed out its Time Allocation graph. Mr. Sandrock described Core Service #4; provided its Linkage to Strategic Goal; gave its FTE, revenue sources, and budget; provided six Results; and pointed out its Time Allocation graph. Ms. Shoemaker described Core Service #5; provided its Linkage to Strategic Goal; gave its FTE, revenue sources, and budget; provided seven Results; and pointed out its Time Allocation graph. Mr. Sandrock pointed

out the organizational chart and said it reflects reductions approved yesterday.

Mr. Sandrock explained each of the following 30 items listed under the Recommended Reduction Scenario, announced each proposed reduction amount, and said #16 through #20 are positions that have been eliminated.

- #1 ~~Reduce road & bridge paving to \$500,000~~ ~~\$1,000,000~~
- #2 Road maintenance management assessment \$35,000
- #3 Cemetery wall repair \$25,000
- #4 Maintenance computer software \$100,000
- #5 Contract service bridge repair \$50,000
- #6 Fuel \$105,000
- #7 Travel \$6,000
- #8 Other current charges \$9,000
- #9 Operating supplies general \$60,000
- #10 Education \$5,000
- #11 Landfill fees \$5,000
- #12 Computer Software \$20,000
- #13 Road & bridge materials \$140,000
- #14 Reduce Public Works services to cemeteries \$1,000
- #15 Reduce Public Works services to gas tax \$731,375
- #16 Eliminate 1 Signing & Marking Tech I position \$65,431

Commissioner Loftus asked for the number of personnel under signage, said he has a problem with excess signs, indicated a need for sign reductions, and explained further. Mr. Sandrock advised there are eight (8) positions. Mr. Halfhill said they will review compliance and reduce if possible. **Commissioner Cummings** asked for the revenue sources for the Transportation Trust Fund. Mr. Sandrock provided a variety of revenue sources and explained the lighting fund is ad valorem. **Commissioner Cummings** clarified the revenue sources can only be used for transportation projects, asked what the \$2.8 Million in the Transportation Trust Fund will be used for, wondered if it would be put into a Reserve Fund, read related impacts into the record, and opined this would not be good for the Community. Mr. Sandrock discussed the impacts further. **Commissioner Cummings** opined certain projects will be more cost effective in the current market and suggested we should assume the list of impacts provided by staff will happen since the words "will impact" is used to describe the level of service reductions.

Commissioner Starr provided his opinion related to the budget, service levels, and reducing taxes. **Chairman Duffy** said they cut the budget for the last two (2) years and are still in business and providing services to the Community. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on how past Board decisions have affected this budget and how it will affect future budgets. **Commissioner Loftus** said it is up to this Board to take the fluff out of the budget, mentioned these are difficult times, and said they are obligated to provide the necessary needs, not the wants. **Commissioner Skidmore** commented that all but **Commissioner Cummings** have agreed to reductions throughout the organization and discussed efficiencies and impacts. **Commissioner Cummings** noted the Commissioners did not cut their own department again this year based on the impact of past reductions, suggested impacts are also affecting all other departments, said quality of service will drop, and commented this Board will then opine staff is not qualified. **Commissioner Skidmore** suggested we will find efficiencies to resolve the problem later. Mr. Halfhill commented on how the impacts were reached and said the jobs themselves will take the same amount of time, but the response time will be delayed. **Commissioner Loftus** mentioned efficiencies will be improved in the future and noted the importance of thinking outside of the box.

#17 Eliminate 1 Equipment Operator II position	\$59,473
#18 Eliminate 2 Maintenance Worker I positions	\$81,876
#19 Eliminate 1 PT Project	\$100,000
#22 Repair & maintenance of vehicles	\$80,000
#23 Contribution for new construction	\$30,000
#24 Lawn maintenance	\$4,465
#25 Repairs building	\$4,000
#26 Repairs equipment	\$1,000
#27 Tools & small implements	\$1,000
#28 Operating supplies - general	\$6,096
#29 Telephone & radios	\$1,000
#30 Signal timing software	\$2,500
TOTAL RECOMMENDED REDUCTION	\$2,926,776-Overall Savings 14.48%

Mr. Sandrock remarked that the initial question is whether we should keep the \$1 Million in the reduction scenario. **Commissioner Skidmore** discussed the level of service reduction scenarios and questioned the impacts related to eliminating the professional survey position. Dan Quick provided the true

impacts. Ms. Shoemaker added history related to past cuts. **Commissioner Skidmore** advised we currently contract outside surveyors. Mr. Quick described the process by component, said we are required by Statute to maintain one professional survey position, and reiterated there will be an impact. **Commissioner Skidmore** said they could keep the one surveyor required by Statute and save money by contracting out all others. Mr. Quick said that surveyor's workload would increase by 25% to 50%. Mr. Halfhill said they did outsource much of the surveyor work, but noted that did not reduce the workload. **Commissioner Starr** asked what would be done with the balance of money collected for roads and bridge paving. Mr. Sandrock said this is only one segment of the paving and discussed further. **Commissioner Starr** said he is in favor of keeping the million for paving and look to eliminate other line items to achieve the reduction. **Commissioner Cummings** asked if outsourcing surveying would save money and if we have been fully maintaining our roads. Mr. Sandrock stated the study done last year bent toward outsourcing. Mr. Halfhill responded there is always room for improvement and asked Alan Holbach to discuss road maintenance. Mr. Holbach mentioned reductions in staff and fuel costs, noted improvements made over the years, advised the work is done by priority, and said they can provide impact predictions. **Commissioner Cummings** asked if less work will be accomplished if the average response time is reduced by 25%. Mr. Holbach said although they try and work smarter, it is a factor of time, and opined less work would be done. **Commissioner Cummings** said there is a lot of infrastructure in town that we are not servicing, said we are delaying work that needs to be done now when the costs are lower, and suggested efficiencies and relieving some of the MSBU work. Mr. Holbach mentioned the drought has prolonged road deterioration and suggested more work will be necessary once we get back into a regular rainy season. **Chairman Duffy** welcomed Mr. Halfhill as the new Public Works Director and asked if he opined the recommendations were reasonable. Mr. Halfhill said he did not agree with the first item, noted his suggestion to strikethrough, said they are looking from top to bottom, and explained they can live with the recommendations. **Commissioner Loftus** asked for clarification of the total gas tax reduction percentage over the last quarter. Mr. Sandrock stated the gas taxes have been holding to our budget and represent a 22% reduction over the last year. **Commissioner Skidmore** received clarification of #15 on Slide 32.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED REDUCTION OF \$1,926,776 WHICH REPRESENTS THE REDUCTION OF \$1 MILLION FOR PAVING (ITEM #1), SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN DUFFY

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS OPPOSING.

Ms. Shoemaker explained the remaining Revenue Opportunities, mentioned Current Year Savings, and discussed Current and Future Outsourcing Opportunities. **Commissioner Skidmore** noted Mr. Halfhill's background in fleet maintenance and said he looks forward to the implementation of future cost saving opportunities. **Chairman Duffy** received clarification of the difference between beautification mowing and right of way mowing.

RECESS: 2:53 PM - 3:07 PM

b. Non Profits (Non Human Services) Decision Points

Mr. Sandrock announced the next topic is Non Profits (Non Human Services), remarked on the conversation last week related to four (4) BCC Controlled organizations, and noted they now have the fund request amounts available for final Board approval. Ms. Shoemaker described the Charlotte Community Foundation and said they are requesting \$30,000. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed disappointment that they are requesting more than last year and suggested they figure on 15% less than the amount received last year. **Commissioner Starr** asked for additional detail related to the foundation and questioned if they receive other funding. Ms. Shoemaker described their responsibilities. Mr. Sandrock provided their 2007 sponsorship and contribution income. **Chairman Duffy** asked if they are closely related to United Way and wondered if there is a duplication of service. **Commissioner Skidmore** said their website shows they are a resource network for the other non-profits and opined they handle more administrative work than the United Way. **Commissioner Starr** said he may not be in favor of supplementing them. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked what backup information is required from the non profits. **Chairman Duffy** asked if these four filled out applications. Mr. Sandrock answered affirmatively. **Commissioner Skidmore** suggested they table these until the Board receives additional detail. **Commissioner Starr** expressed opposition to

supplementing these organizations, mentioned many citizens are also against this type of funding, said the organizations should seek other funding sources, and opined it should not be the County's responsibility. **Commissioner Skidmore** mentioned some communities that are looking at two (2) year funding. **Chairman Duffy** noted the County must continue to fund certain organizations and opined it is not fair to cut off everyone at once. **Commissioner Cummings** said this is not about the County making a charitable contribution, noted this is a Board Discretionary Fund, discussed the process, and explained it is less expensive to make one donation to the United Way and avoid the Sunshine Law. **Chairman Duffy** suggested they table Charlotte Community Foundation and decide on the other three today.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO FUND THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL AND MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM AT 15% LESS THAN WHAT WAS FUNDED LAST YEAR AND FUND THE CHARLOTTE HARBOR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER AT THE SAME AMOUNT FUNDED LAST YEAR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS

Commissioner Loftus questioned if they had already voted on Charlotte Harbor Environmental Foundation. Mr. Sandrock agreed they may have. **Chairman Duffy** opined Charlotte Harbor Environmental can help save the County money and mentioned they receive a matching grant. **Commissioner Skidmore** commended the organizations but said they all increased their donation requests and indicated he still needs to review the backup information. **Commissioner Cummings** voiced his support.

MOTION CARRIED 3:2. Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Skidmore OPPOSING.

Commissioner Starr questioned if they are bringing Charlotte Community Foundation back and asked when they would hear from the United Way. Mr. Sandrock answered. Mr. Baltz said he could arrange for foundation representatives to answer additional questions if needed. **Commissioner Loftus** said backup detail would be enough. **Chairman Duffy** said the United Way has already provided their evaluated information. Attorney Knowlton described the United Way process, said the Board is to decide on the dollar amount, and explained the United Way will then distribute the funds. **Commissioner Loftus** confirmed the United

Way completes a thorough evaluation and noted the County receives a quarterly accounting of expenditures.

Commissioner Cummings asked Mr. Sandrock to confirm figures related to the BCC budget, revenues, expenses, recurring expenses, and reductions. Mr. Sandrock confirmed recurring revenues are set at \$21 Million and recurring expenses are set at \$43 Million.

Commissioner Skidmore discussed a House Bill that could shift the burden of home foreclosure clean up from banks to County Government, suggested the Chair write a letter with the help of Mr. Sandrock, and asked all Commissioners to call their local delegation to express their opposition. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed concern with proposed Senate Bill 216 and read it into the record. **Chairman Duffy** asked for the status of the Solar Plant Bill. **Commissioner Starr** explained his understanding to date. **Chairman Duffy** furnished additional information related to the proposed Bills and conducted further Board discussion.

Mr. Sandrock said the Reduction Update as of April 27, 2009 is \$11,461,093 from General Revenues and \$7,913,918 from Other Funds. Mr. Sandrock advised they will answer follow-up questions from past workshops, bring Charlotte Community Foundation back, and provide Court Administration reduction suggestions on Tuesday, and said Utilities will be covered on Friday.

ADJOURNED: 4:53 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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