

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**May 5, 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 provided Matt LaPorta's baseball achievements, gave local baseball scores, announced the day's agenda will include follow-up, a discussion related to court functions and United Way allocations for 2009-2010, and stated the reduction update as of April 29, 2009 is \$11,495,493 for General Revenues and \$11,419,428 for Other Funds.

**1. Follow-Up**

Mr. Sandrock and Ms. Shoemaker read the following questions and answers into the record.

Department: Sales Tax and Non-Profits - Original Workshop Date: 3/30/09 • Question: Can we contract with Englewood Fire Station to do training on their site? Answer: Yes we can use the training facility and we don't need a contract. We just have to pay \$150 per day for the Training Tower.

Department: Sales Tax and Non-Profits - Original Workshop Date: 3/30/09 • Question: Are the Arts and Humanities mandated? Answer: No

**Chairman Duffy** questioned whether the County has an assistance agreement with Arts and Humanities. **Commissioner Cummings** stated his understanding is that we maintain a gentleman's agreement to support them since we were one of the entities responsible for their creation. **Commissioner Starr** suggested many organizations requested seed money, opined the intention was not to continue to support the organizations, and suggested the organizations begin to raise their own funds.

Department: Sales Tax and Non-Profits - Original Workshop Date: 3/30/09 • Question: Look into Health Savings Account? Answer: We did explore this option when we went to bid / Very little savings - \$49K (\$17M Premium) / will continue to explore thru future bids.

Department: Sales Tax and Non-Profits - Original Workshop Date: 3/30/09 • Question: Can we index insurance deductibles? Answer: Yes we can; however, we would be increasing co-pays to the same trend as the medical inflation which would be 10%-15% per year.

**Chairman Duffy** asked for clarification. Mr. Sandrock explained further. **Commissioner Loftus** stated it works for other communities. **Commissioner Skidmore** said it would be a change to the way we have done things in the past. **Chairman Duffy** said the employee takes the risk associated with Health Savings and did not understand why it would cost the County more money. Bob Pryor explained the high deductible health plan, said they could go that direction, and explained the requirements. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked about those who do not take our insurance. Mr. Pryor responded in great detail. **Chairman Duffy** opined we need to offer our employees additional options. Maggie Kane noted they would need to renegotiate with the Unions prior to any change in the level of service.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 • Question: Look at outsourcing payroll? Answer: The Clerk will be addressing this question during her budget workshop.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 • Question: What are the regional figures for HR staff to employee ratio? Answer: Charlotte County's ratio is 1:126 and is higher

than other regional counties, cities and hospital. (Detail by Municipality is provided within the backup materials)

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: What is the cost to perform background checks in-house? Answer: The cost in-house is \$79.38 per hour and the cost to outsource is \$56.25 per background check. \* Note: Currently outsourcing.

**Commissioner Skidmore** asked how per hour costs were figures and provided his concerns related to outsourcing. Ms. Kane explained how they figured the in-house costs per hour and addressed his concerns.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: Are there other performance measurement software programs available besides Success Factors? Answer: There are several vendors that provide the performance measurement software programs. Will go thru a competitive bid process (Detail by Subscription Company is provided within the backup materials)

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: What is the Return on Investment with University? Answer: We just began the Employee University and have not yet determined the ROI.

Ms. Shoemaker discussed the program and its development process in great detail.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: Use other new innovative ways to train online. Answer: We use online training where cost effective; e.g. Safety Training, Excel, Accounting, Sexual Harassment, etc.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: Have we examined alternative vendors for educational purposes? Answer: We have decreased our reliance on outside providers in order to reduce the cost of learning and org development: Current cost: \$202 per employee and National avg: \$1,545 per employee.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: Look into the Prescription Card from Coast to Coast?  
Answer: HR is ready to bring forward to BCC for approval Coast-to-Coast Rx discount card program on the May 26th BCC mtg.

Ms. Kane explained this program is for citizens and advised the County will receive \$.50 cents per prescription filled. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked about card distribution. Ms. Carpenter provided additional detail. **Commissioner Loftus** suggested information can be distributed through the utilities bills.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: How many directors/employees make over \$100,000 annually? Answer: 18 staff members - base salary

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: What was the total Fire salary decrease? Answer: The total decrease to the Fire/EMS salaries and wages budget is \$4.5M from FY09 to FY10 Budget.

**Chairman Duffy** asked for further detail related to Fire/EMS salary cuts. Ms. Kane provided clear detail related to Fire/EMS salaries.

Department: Human Resources - Original Workshop Date: 4/07/09 •  
Question: What is the increase in per capita for pay raises for the firefighters? Answer: The cost per capita for FY09 IAFF increases is \$7.71

Department: Fire/EMS question - Original Workshop Date: 4/15/09 •  
• Question: What are the additional cost savings for Fire Rescue from the Union talks. Answer: We are currently waiting for a response from the Union.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Address no duplication of services especially with Veterans Services. Answer: Non-profit and faith based organizations partner with governmental agencies to coordinate services and minimize duplications.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Additional information on what Veterans Office provides. Answer: Assistance with the following claims: • Health care enrollment • Disability compensation, pensions • Combat related special compensation • Survivor Benefits • Provide outreach and home visits to disabled or homebound veterans

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Address utilization of volunteers. Answer: Human Services Dept. uses volunteers: • In the operations of 211 • Senior Services, Veteran Services • Transit, Family Services Center • Social Services and Housing

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Address Sunshine Ride to replace taxi cab rides. Answer: Sunshine Ride has already begun increasing # of rides. Taxi Cabs are still available for evenings, weekend, and holiday rides.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: How many taxi cab rides would we get for \$80,000? Answer: Approximately 3,600 rides. However, the \$80,000 includes stretcher and wheelchair services. Plans are underway to reduce taxi cab rides.

**Commissioner Skidmore** questioned the exact per trip cost to the County. Ms. Carpenter said \$11 is average and noted additional information related to costs and distance.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Where are we getting repairs done on buses? Answer: County Fleet does annual reviews; prepare new vehicles for readiness. Transit also uses a general mechanic shop in Punta Gorda (cost savings)

**Commissioner Loftus** indicated we should partner with the School Board whenever possible.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Can Dial-a-Ride and Sunshine Ride be combined? Are there any prohibitive legislation? Answer: There are no

statutory prohibitions. If we combined the 2 programs it would pose significant accounting and audit concerns.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: How many buildings does Human Services have? Answer: Human Services is located in 9 different locations (buildings)

Mr. Sandrock announced the location of each building.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Can we combine the Sheriff Dispatchers and Transit dispatchers? Answer: Transit dispatchers perform different tasks than police or emergency dispatch. Transit dispatchers oversee routing and trip destination and make sure the passenger gets transported to their destination.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: How much do Transit dispatchers make vs. Sheriff's dispatchers? Answer: Transit dispatchers make between \$13-\$19 per hour and Sheriff Dispatchers make between \$16-\$26 per hour.

Mr. Sandrock advised the Sheriff was not in favor of combining dispatchers. **Commissioner Skidmore** suggested staff work with the School Board to determine whether cost saving could be achieved by combining dispatchers.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Make sure agencies that use the Family Services Center are paying. Answer: The Center collects approximately \$25k from annual leases to other non-profit agencies and approximately \$4k in seasonal rentals.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: Make sure there are signed contracts for all office equipment rentals at the Family Service Center. Answer: This is currently being explored as a revenue source.

Department: Human Services - Original Workshop Date: 4/17/09 •  
Question: What is the Edison State College Contract Trip? Answer: This program is sponsored thru CC Public Schools and Edison State College to form a "Collegiate High School". Approx.

85 students will have transportation needs. \* Note: Transit would get paid to bus kids to college

Department: BCC Controlled - Original Workshop Date: 4/22/09 •  
Question: What are we spending on check orders? Answer: This represents the cost for bank supplies such as deposit slips, coin bags, deposit bags, etc for departmental cash handling services.

Department: BCC Controlled - Original Workshop Date: 4/22/09 •  
Question: What are the TIF dollars for the Punta Gorda CRA earmarked for? Answer: The TIF dollars are obligated to paying off the parking garage.

Department: BCC Controlled - Original Workshop Date: 4/22/09 •  
Question: Can juveniles be housed in the Jail? Answer: Florida statutes prohibit juveniles from being housed in our adult jail. In the expanded jail facility only juveniles adjudicated as adults can be housed.

Department: Facilities Dept. - Original Workshop Date: 4/24/09 •  
Question: How much overtime does Facilities pay? Answer: For FY08 at total of \$52,121 was paid in Overtime.

**Judicial System Departments:**

- The State Court System is the body of government responsible for the administration of justice
- Article V requires the County fund the communication, facility, and information needs of the Courts
- March 26 Roundtable discussion with State Attorney, Public Defender, Judges, and Court Administrator to discuss future funding
- Court Administration provides administrative, legal, financial, management programs, and technology support to courts

- *Pre Trial performs intake interviews to provide demographic and criminal data to the courts*
- *Probation supervision of offenders placed on probation*
- *State Attorney prosecutes and represents the State of Florida in criminal matters*
- *Public Defender provides legal representation of court appointed clients*

***Judicial System - Fine & Forfeiture Fund:***

*Total Adopted Budget FY09 is \$2,856,135*

*Ad valorem funding FY09 is \$1,593,035*

*Judicial System - Fine & Forfeiture Fund Adopted FY09*

*Fine & Fees Revenues \$663,100*

*Beginning Balance \$600,000*

*Ad Valorem \$1,593,035*

*Total Revenues \$2,856,135*

***Judicial System Reductions:***

- *March 26 Department Reductions of \$112,586*
- *Criminal Justice Information System Increase \$14,280*
- *Total Net Reductions \$98,306*

***RECESS: 2:43PM - 3:01 PM***

## 2. Court Functions

Mr. Sandrock discussed the Judicial System Departments, noted they are the State Court System that is the body of the government responsible for the administration of justice, indicated most are mandated through Article 5, mentioned discussions related to funding, described each of the Judicial System Departments and their funding on the power point, and noted the total reduction offered was 6.5%. **Commissioner Loftus** asked if this is everything. Mr. Sandrock advised it is only what is allocated to these areas. **Commissioner Skidmore** talked about impending legislation related to shifting many duties from the Clerk of the Court to the Judicial System. Mr. Sandrock said these budgets will not be affected but could be expanded. **Commissioner Starr** explained the proposed Bill to date.

## 3. United Way - Amount of Allocation

Mr. Sandrock advised the United Way has completed their fund request evaluation for the next fiscal year, noted Cecy Glen will meet with the Commissioners the week of May 20th, said the actual requested amount is \$625,000, noted it is greater than this year's allocated amount of \$537,305, explained why, and provided several options for the Board to consider. **Commissioner Starr** said he would rather get additional detail prior to a decision. **Chairman Duffy** and **Commissioner Skidmore** agreed to wait. **Chairman Duffy** indicated funding has been reduced from \$1.2 Million to \$5 Million, explained many have found other revenue sources and now conduct their own fundraising, and opined it is not fair to cut them off completely. **Commissioner Starr** suggested organizations should seek other ways to generate revenue and opined the County should eventually be out of the charity business. Mr. Sandrock remarked they would bring the item back at a later date and noted they will review Utilities this Friday at 1:30 PM. **Chairman Duffy** commended Mr. Sandrock and his staff for their work on the budget. Mr. Sandrock said it has been a County effort.

**Chairman Duffy** advised the Energy Bill is not dead, suggested the Board and citizens email their representatives and request support, and explained the importance of solar energy. **Commissioner Loftus** agreed, asked the Chair to email the Governor and representatives, and said the most important thing this Board can do is to create jobs. **Commissioner Cummings** indicated he would not be in favor of the Energy Bill if off-shore drilling was included and explained further. **Commissioner Loftus** stated his understanding is that the Bill is not attached to off-shore drilling.

**ADJOURNED: 3:18 PM**

Signature on file in Commission Minutes  
Chairman

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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