

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**September 11, 2009**

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

Members present were: Chairman Duffy, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Skidmore, Commissioner Starr, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, Deputy Clerk Manley, Mayor Friedman, Vice Mayor Goldberg, Council Member McCormick, Council Member Albers, Council Member Wallace, City Manager Howard Kunik, City Attorney Levin. The following members were absent: None

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 AM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

I. DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Don Root gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Local Partners per the packet material and commented on renewable energy and pharmaceutical programs. Discussion and comments then ensued with regard to: partially owned City or County parcels & utilities; the signed Intermodal Agreement which is part of the Transportation and Investment Generating Economic Recovery ("TIGER") grant, the unsigned PrimeAmerica agreement; utility incentives, policies and economic development funding of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County Utilities; acreage by the Airport regarding utilities; sewers for Riverside Drive; the receipt of reciprocal letters of support, and the County's addition of incentives; rates; rates for developers and international opportunities; large water users and SWFWMD regulations; the upcoming Green Future Expo and Energy Option Conference and a business retention program. barriers to potential businesses; the County's interest when seeking additional businesses; and a City link to the Charlotte County website.

II. AQUI ESTA ROADWAY PROJECT UPDATE.

Bob Halfhill provided an update which paralleled the packet material. Discussion ensued regarding the project schedule, budget and goals; a customer complaint; and EMS service.

III. DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

Mayor Friedman commented on communications with citizenry. **Chairman Duffy** commented regarding Comcast, internet access for Commission meetings, and emails received from citizens. Board discussion ensued.

Mayor Friedman made comment regarding a County and City broadcast station. **Commissioner Starr** commented on the need for two-way communication and having a kitchen cabinet group to get information out to homeowner associations.

**Commissioner Cummings** commented on the use of Channel 20 on the website, on the various tools available, government days, and downtown festivals. Mr. Baltz indicated some people have no access to CCTV. **Commissioner Cummings** responded with additional comments. **Commissioner Loftus** commended Messrs. Kunik and Baltz' newspaper articles.

**Chairman Duffy** commented on reaching out to Punta Gorda citizens via a community event. Mayor Friedman mentioned creation of a summary medium for update purposes, suggested Mr. Baltz and City Manager Kunik discuss the issue further and advise the Board. Vice Mayor Goldberg agreed.

**Commissioner Loftus** commented on the severe cuts in the Public Relations Department and lack of money in the County. Councilmember Wallace and **Chairman Duffy** agreed.

Ray Rose stated that Charlotte County does not have its own voice and indicated we need a way to reach people in surrounding communities in order to get them into Charlotte County; and opined Charlotte County as a base for a television station would be great.

An unidentified citizen commented in favor of CCTV and made suggestions of items that could be place for viewing. Mr. Baltz responded to CCTV programming, and commented on contract re-negotiations currently in progress.

Kelly Shoemaker responded in detail to Board inquiry regarding CCTV programming. **Chairman Duffy** mentioned the possible use of Emergency Operations Center studio and the Comcast Studio in Sarasota.

Steven Deutch commented on the need to prioritize the creation of jobs and economic development.

IV. HIGHWAY 41 OVERLAY UPDATE.

**Commissioner Loftus** commented on the joint meeting discussion on the US 41 overlay from the City line to Fort Myers and stressed the need for further discussion.

Jeff Ruggieri commented on annexation, establishing a South County gateway project, establishing a communication plan, group meetings, and community feedback.

**Commissioner Cummings** commented regarding consistent standards and annexation. Vice Mayor Goldberg commented on the overlay for attracting economic development, and on Charlotte Park annexation. **Commissioner Cummings** commented further on Charlotte Park.

Mr. Root commented on the importance of the appearances of Charlotte County and Punta Gorda entrances.

Councilmember McCormick and **Chairman Duffy** spoke in favor of working on the overlay district.

Mayor Friedman commented on consistency, annexation and the Overlay District. **Commissioner Skidmore** commented on project costs. Mayor Friedman suggested building a book of ordinances. Vice Mayor Goldberg commented on the competition between Charlotte County and surrounding counties to bring in residents, buyers, and developers.

**Commissioner Loftus** stressed the importance of consistency in our programs and architectural standards.

**Commissioner Cummings** commented on the project, the geographical assets of Punta Gorda, and design standards. **Commissioner Loftus** commented on the reconstruction efforts since Hurricane Charlie.

Councilmember Wallace and Mayor Friedman commented on moving forward as quickly as possible.

Vice Mayor Goldberg commented on the area being used as a model for other areas and on the potential opportunities for other communities to incorporate. Mr. Baltz commented on Smart Charlotte 2050 and asked Jeff Ruggieri about input from outlying landowners regarding change of requirements on peoples' properties. Mr. Ruggieri responded in detail.

Mr. Baltz, **Commissioner Loftus** and Councilmember Albers agreed on the overlay project moving forward. **Commissioner Skidmore** spoke in favor and made further comments. Mayor Friedman stressed focus on the main thoroughfares.

Nancy Craftness of Team Punta Gorda commented on Citizens' Masterplan and enhancement of the gateways.

Councilmember Wallace opined staffs and administrators should be encouraged to include Chambers in their discussions. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on design standards.

Vice Mayor Goldberg indicated the Wednesday inserts placed in the Charlotte Sun are excellent productions but do a disservice to the entire Charlotte County community by being segmented into various editions. Councilmember McCormick commented on drywall problems.

**ADJOURNED: 11:10 AM**

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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