

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**December 11, 2009**

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

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Skidmore, Commissioner Duffy, County Administrator Baltz, Minutes Supervisor Manley, County Attorney Knowlton, Mayor Goldberg, Vice Mayor Albers, Council Member McCormick, Council Member Wallace, Council Member Friedman, City Manager Howard Kunik and City Attorney Levin. The following members were absent: Chairman Starr

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

Introductions

I. South County Gateway Project

Jie Chao and Steven Ellis gave an update on the status of the South Gateway Project, commenting on meeting discussions, timelines, areas of key concern, and County staff's responsibilities.

Tom Cavanaugh spoke in support of the plan on behalf of Team Punta Gorda.

II. Interconnect

Administrator Baltz provided a status update of the item, advised there is a meeting scheduled for next week, and they are moving forward to resolve issues.

Council Member Wallace requested further elaboration of the process. Attorney Knowlton explained what the mediation process involves and advised that **Commissioner Skidmore** was appointed to represent Charlotte County in the mediation. Mayor Goldberg commented on the item.

III. Economic Development:

Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park Incentive

Mr. Kunik gave a detailed status update on the economic development of Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park also indicating the idea in our water and sewer enterprise is that instead of a 25% surcharge on water and sewer monthly fees we would charge a 10% surcharge for those undeveloped properties in the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park that develop. Extensive Board and Council discussion ensued regarding: incentive program funding dollars, annexation, other funding sources and bigger incentives, the presence of services and infrastructure, the 15% incentive, not involving the utilities, job priority, having Staff recommendations be placed on the next meeting agenda to get the process started, impact fees, a study funded by Enterprise Charlotte, fund availability, having staffs address the subject of dedicated funding from a general fund, Mr. Root preparing a status report on the various types of incentives available, input for the airport people, small millage rate for economic development, reserve funds for next year, availability of quick access to start up funds, the County's funding position, differentiating ourselves from surrounding counties, looking at dedicated ad valorem tax and creating a list of best options and alternatives for the City and County.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY MR. KUNIK BASED ON PACKET MATERIAL FURNISHED. , SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY**

**MOTION CARRIED 9:0.**

Industrial Development Authority

Don Root gave a report and outline. Extensive Board and Council discussion ensued regarding: Expending funds by 12/2010, City and County firm commitment to economic development funding before October 1st, , staff recommendation of funding possibilities, available opportunities, creating financial incentives, use of reserve funds, IDA committed general fund money, business retention efforts, previous economic development study - broader evaluation. There was **consensus** that the City Manager, County Administrator and their staffs discuss amassing funds in the general fund, create a uniform method to amass funds, or dedication of some portion of the millage.

**Commissioner Skidmore** pointed out that the BOCC has not agreed to a dedicated mill.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Ms. Hiller commented that a viable element to look at is fixed route transportation, access to the businesses.

Jess Canjen commented on the fixed bus route, explaining this is a pilot program, get public involvement for ideas.

Ken Hale suggested more joint meetings to get things done quicker.

Bud Pearce - Buena Vista Home Owners Assoc commented on the importance of the fixed bus route in relation to economic development.

Gloria Heisler - Beach Complex Area - A fixed route would accommodate younger people as well as senior citizens.

Karen Goodheil - Glad Western Ag - commented on community gardens relationship to local economic development.

IV. Update on Babcock Ranch

Seann Smith of Growth Management gave a PowerPoint presentation.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Stevens representing the South Charlotte County Coalition - spoke in support of the fixed route bus system.

Board discussion ensued regarding: support from Punta Gorda citizens for the fixed bus route, previous discussion surmised that mass transit is potentially a liability to economic development, cooperative spirit year and a fixed bus route's effect on dial-a ride system.

**Commissioner Loftus** commented and expressed concern of a fixed bus route system taking revenue from the Dial-A-Ride system, 20% revenue generated from the fare box necessitating an 80% subsidy and its effects on the taxpayers, economic incentives and interest in having a workshop prior to the regular quarterly meeting to get this issue moving. There was **consensus** for Messrs. Baltz, Kunik and Root to meet with staff and compile, consolidate and organize information to bring to the group and,

if possible, calendar a workshop/meeting to present a whole plan in approx. 6 weeks. **Commissioner Cummings** clarified that a fixed route would cost zero additional taxpayer dollars.

COMMISSIONERS' AND COUNCILMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS:

Councilman McCormick commented on fixed bus route.

**Commissioner Duffy** commented in support of a fixed bus route system, but expressed concern with the present plan; and indicated she would like to see Dial-A-Ride be more efficient or a better plan all around. **Commissioner Duffy** asked if City/County partners have been settled. Mayor Goldberg advised our staff would publish the list by the end of the year.

Councilman Goldberg is encouraged with discussion on economic development, believes both the City and County are committed, and agreed now is the time for this opportunity.

**Commissioner Skidmore**, advised the BCC has adopted its legislative priorities and asked if the City had done the same, indicating it would be good to share those lists and work as a team.

ADJOURNED:

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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