

CIP WORKSHOP FY 2004/2005

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 10, 2004

A Capital Improvements Program (CIP) workshop of the Board of County Commissioners was held at the Murdock Administration Complex, Room 229, in Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Vice Chairman Thomas C. D'Aprile and Commissioners Adam Cummings and Mac V. Horton. **(Chairman Matthew D. DeBoer and Commissioner Sara Devos were not present for this workshop.)** Also in attendance were County Administrator Bruce D. Loucks, Deputy County Attorney Brendan Bradley, Chief Deputy Board Services Tommy Q. White and Deputy Clerk Karen S. Mitchell. The meeting was called to order at **2:05 P.M.**

- I. Ad Valorem Summary
- II. Maintaining Zero Millage Increase - Impacts
- III. Sales Tax Projects
- IV. Other New Projects
- V. Scrub Jay Habitat

Ann Navan, County Budget Officer, gave a slide presentation titled 'Charlotte County CIP Workshop' which paralleled the material and detailed the following: Ad Valorem Funded Project Summary, Changes to Balance CIP - No Millage Increase, and Unfunded Ad Valorem Projects - New Requests. **(Discussion ensued regarding the Sheriff's Department need for a special needs facility with figures to be provided to the Board, the need to change the current name of the Myakka City Site park, and updating the candle power lighting at the parks to bring them up to the new national standard.)** Commissioner Cummings said there were more people wanting more services while the government continues to pass down more costs to the counties, recalled last year they decided not to phase in another mill and opined in retrospect that was a mistake. Ms. Navan said this year they will probably remove from the CIP any project that ends up unfunded because it creates a false sense that these projects are really there when they aren't. **Commissioner Horton** agreed and said they needed to stop promising things if they weren't going to fund them. Bruce D. Loucks, County Administrator,

added retaining the unfunded projects only continues to build a liability the County can't meet. **Commissioner D'Aprile** agreed that was the safest way to do it but said he wanted some added back if the July 1, 2004 Property Appraiser numbers make it possible. Ms. Navan noted the proposed CIP was predicated on a 10% increase from the Property Appraiser so she didn't think the July 1, 2004 numbers would make much of an impact. Ms. Navan continued with the slide presentation material which detailed the Sales Tax Projects, said several projects need more sales tax funds and they would like to fund the following out of some of this year's excess - Fire Training Burn Building at \$250,000; Mobile Operations Unit at \$100,000; Englewood Fire Station at \$585,000; and South Charlotte Regional Park at \$150,000. **Commissioner Horton** summarized there would be about \$7 million excess over the six year period, those four projects would use up the excess and asked the status of the funds collected so far. Mr. Loucks said all sales tax funds have been allocated. Thomas F. O'Kane, Jr., P.E., Public Works Director, noted there were also approximately \$5.5 million in unfunded sidewalk projects he would like to add if funding becomes available. **Commissioner Cummings** asked when they would be going to construction on the Cooper Street sidewalk. Mr. O'Kane said it was scheduled for 2005 and the design would include taking it all the way to US 41. Ms. Navan asked for approval to appropriate the extra Sales Tax funds for the four projects she mentioned. **(Board consensus.)** Ms. Navan continued with the slide presentation material which detailed the following: New Projects from other funding sources Included in Proposed CIP, and Scrub-Jay Habitat Mitigation. **Commissioner Cummings** asked how much money was already in place for Scrub-jay habitat mitigation. Ms. Navan responded only \$3.6 million for Tippecanoe. **Commissioner Cummings** asked the minimum amount needed to create the starting pool for mitigation. Mr. Loucks said in the ad valorem funded portion of the CIP there was a project for Environmental Lands Acquisition of .05 mills which generates between \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually for the five years. **Commissioner Horton** noted the right-of-way (ROW) cost for Edgewater was now \$12 million. Mr. O'Kane clarified it included mitigation lands along with the ROW and recalled the mitigation land would be about \$1.95 million but it's twice that now because they only got \$200,000 in grant funding plus about \$2.5 million for the ROW. **Commissioner Horton** opined they were in a crunch regarding the escalating prices for land acquisitions. Mr. Loucks said legally they can start land

acquisition once 60% of the planning was done, they don't have to wait until for the planning to be completed or wait to start construction and his understanding was the policy has been to start land acquisition after 100% of the project planning was done so they need to change that practice to hasten the process. **(Discussion ensued regarding the County-wide HCP and the need to front the money for land acquisitions beyond the County projects.)** **Commissioner Cummings** said internal borrowing was at a maximum and he still supports the Board's earlier direction that they can't afford to do the full HCP right now but that they should proceed with the County Project HCP. Mr. Loucks summarized the County-wide HCP would be the core and those that need mitigation would have to go through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) process. **Commissioner Cummings** noted Deep Creek was one of the most severe areas. **Commissioner Horton** opined whatever we're going to do for the future of Charlotte County with Scrub-jays needs to be done as quickly as possible.

- VI.** **Discussion/Direction - Bonding for Road Projects**
- VII.** **Road Projects - Escalating Land Acquisition Costs**
- VIII.** **Impact Fee Comparisons**

Ms. Navan gave a slide presentation titled 'Public Works - Infrastructure Construction Funding' which paralleled the material and detailed the following: Gas Tax Balances - FY 04/05; FY 04/05 Road Projects; Annual Gas Tax Revenue; Borrowing Needs - 5 Year Plan; Options - Funding Issues; Types of Bonds; Revenue Bond Option, \$40 Million, Local Option Gas Tax - 5 Cents / 20 Years; Bonding Gas Tax - 5 Cents / 20 Years; Debt Service on \$40 Million Bond; Bonds in General - Pros and Cons; \$100 Million - General Obligation Bond Option; Impacts of a \$100 Million General Obligation Bond; Gas Tax - Historical Balances vs. Actual Spending; and Other Considerations. **Commissioner Cummings** said regarding bonding he would be interested in seeing what the current CIP was covering those years versus bonding costs and opined without a good margin it wasn't a good idea because bonding doesn't create new revenue streams. Mr. Loucks responded affirmatively but said it would take a couple weeks.

Commissioner Cummings requested a point of personal privilege regarding the on-again off-again DeSoto pipeline issue, said DeSoto County has decided to negotiate the contract but at the

\$1 million price, one of the Commissioners who voted favorably said \$800,000 not \$1 million which means when the contract goes back to them he's counting on the \$200,000 being there, during the intervening time frame the \$200,000 being contributed by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) was coming from our plant expansion which means it's \$200,000 they're going to have to make-up which he only discovered after the fact and he's not happy about that. **Commissioner Cummings** said Charlotte County's share of that \$200,000 was \$66,000 and opined the benefits outweigh the \$66,000 cost. **Commissioner Horton** asked that they deal with this at the next Board meeting. **Commissioner Cummings** said they need to tell staff to put together a contract. **Commissioner Horton** asked staff to also look at what they'll get for their \$66,000 and have that at the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:35 P.M.

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Matthew D. DeBoer
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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