

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**DECEMBER 11, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman D'Aprile, Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Loftus. Also in attendance were County Attorney Knowlton, County Administrator Loucks, Chief Deputy White, Executive Assistant Hunter, Minutes Supervisor Nice, and Minutes Secretary Lansing. The following members were absent: None. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

The Invocation was given by Pastor Mark Clark, Grace Bible Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Award Presentations - None

Changes to the Agenda - County Administrator Loucks

Change #1, General Services, Agenda Item L-7, Authorize the County Administrator to approve request of Award of Bid #08-008, Manchester Boat Lock Removal, to Stemic Enterprises, Inc. of Ft. Myers, Fl, in the amount of \$531,343.05 (base bid), and \$91,875.00 (optional bid) for a grand total cost of \$623,218.05.

Change #2, General Services, Agenda Item L-14, Authorize the County Administrator to approve Change Order #5 to Contract #99-126, Manchester Waterway Lock Removal Ecosystem Management Permitting with EarthBalance in the amount of \$23,844.00 for a total revised contract amount of \$499,865.00.

Change #3, VI. 2:00 PM Public Hearing Agenda Item (2) to be held before 2:00 PM Public Hearing Agenda Item (1).

Addition #1, Purchasing, Agenda Item Z-1, Additional information: Guarantee Maximum Price Report.

Addition #2, Community Development, Agenda Item Z-7, Set Two (2) public hearings to discuss the amendments to the sign ordinance, in accordance with Section 125.56, F.S., requesting the first hearing be held on December 18, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, and the second hearing be held on January 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, thereby electing the second hearing to be heard at a time other than after 5:00 p.m., in accordance with Section 125.66, F.S.

Deletion #1, Public Safety, Agenda Item R-2, Delayed until January 8, 2008.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.  
Motion Carried 5:0.**

*Special Recognition*

*Proclamations - Commissioner Tom D'Aprile*

*Arts and Humanities Council Artist of the Month*

**COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL ARTIST OF THE MONTH PROCLAMATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.  
Motion Carried 5:0.**

*Thalia St. Lewis accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Board for continued support.*

*National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day*

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.  
Motion Carried 5:0.**

*Connie Thrasher Executive Director of the Homeless Coalition accepted the Proclamation.*

*For The Love of Kids*

**COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE FOR THE LOVE OF KIDS PROCLAMATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

Randy Spence accepted the Proclamation, invited everyone to attend The Love of Kids Holiday Celebration on December 17, 2007 and presented a plaque to **Chairman D'Aprile**.

*Major Terry Branscome Day*

**COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE MAJOR TERRY BRANSCOME DAY PROCLAMATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

Sheriff Davenport and Mrs. Branscome accepted the Proclamation.

Employee Recognition - **Chairman D'Aprile** and County Administrator Loucks

**5 Years:** Peggy Beidel, Utilities; Debra Biondio, Human Services; Maria Conrado, Human Services; Jennifer Demaio, Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources; Vincent Dowgiallo, Environmental Extension; Debra Fabiszak, Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources; Kirk Kettler, Utilities; Albert Lyons, Environmental Extension; Bekie Murrill, Public Works; Samantha Nichols, Animal Control; April Santos, Environmental Extension; Debra Smith, Utilities; Bryan Eric Tiedge, Facilities Construction & Maintenance; **10 Years:** Donna "Cookie" Scott, Public Works; 25 Years: Robert Lucas, Public Works; **10 Years-Not Attending:** Jon Jensen, Fire/EMS; Abdool Khaleel, Environmental Extension

**I. CITIZEN INPUT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Anna Ramillo asked the Board to reconsider Hurricane Housing Recovery (HHR) funding for two homeless facility projects; outlined their importance and proposed use; advised she applied for Federal grants and 501C3 funding.

Philip Shaw expressed his frustration for not being approved for HHR funding.

Lucy Gardner spoke on behalf of homeless children in Charlotte County and asked the Board to reconsider funding for a restoration project to provide housing and educational programs to help homeless students succeed.

Carol Dunekirchen voiced her support for Agenda Item Z-4; stated she lives in the revitalization area; commented homes were purchased as rentals; opined out of town landlords do not care; advised Police presence is often necessary; requested approval of top four applicants.

Rebecca Steparow asked the Board to reconsider Z-4 on behalf of The Housing Corporation and Restoration Roads Ministry.

Marvin Medintz spoke in support of the BCC; stated he was appalled that staff had not provided the requested A/B list; asked the Board to take control of the program and spend wisely.

Bob Allen spoke on behalf of The Housing Corporation for revitalization of target areas in Charlotte County.

Randy Spence commented on the importance of Z-1 and encouraged Board approval.

Yvonne Anderson asked for Board support of the agreement to help reduce damage caused by iguana's on Boca Grande; stated Boca Grande MSBU Taxing Unit has funds budgeted to cover the costs involved.

Misty Nichols spoke in support of Charlotte County entering into an agreement with the USDA.

Jean Duffy confided she grew up as a homeless teenager; stated the importance of providing transitional housing; urged the Board to approve Restoration Roads Ministry in partnership with the Homeless Coalition.

Nancy McClary spoke in support of the PG Goodman revitalization plan.

Agnes DelCastio voiced her support for HHR revitalization; noted renters are unable to afford one month's rent; stated landlords are losing their homes; asked for assistance.

*Andy Dodd spoke in favor of Item Z-6 and in defense of the Environmental Land Committee.*

**II. COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

*Charlotte County is seeking volunteers to serve on the following Committees:*

*Ackerman Waterway Unit is seeking one regular member and one alternate member to serve on the Ackerman Waterway Unit Advisory Committee. Members must be residents of the unit.*

*Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - is seeking one member as the Building Industry Representative; term ends March 2009.*

*Boca Grande Street and Drainage Advisory Committee - is seeking one volunteer who is a landowner and resides within the boundaries of the Unit to serve as the alternate member on the committee. The term is for two years.*

*Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals is seeking one member to serve as the alternate on this Board - must be a member of the construction industry holding a current license. Term expires in April 2009.*

*Gardens of Gulf Cove Street and Drainage Advisory Committee - is seeking four regular members and one alternate member who are landowners and reside within the boundaries of the Unit. The terms for the regular members shall be pulled by lot numbers during the first scheduled meeting of the committee. The term for the alternate member is two-years.*

*Gulf Cove Waterway Advisory Committee - is seeking one volunteer who is a landowner and resides within the boundaries of the Unit to serve as an alternate member on the committee. The term will expire on July 25, 2008.*

Lemon Bay Street and Drainage Advisory Committee - is seeking one volunteer to serve as a regular member, and one volunteer to serve as an alternate member for a two year term. The term for the regular member shall be pulled by lot number during the first scheduled meeting of the committee. Volunteers must be landowners and reside within the boundaries of the Unit.

Rotonda West Street and Drainage Advisory Committee - is seeking one volunteer who is a landowner and resides within the boundaries of the Unit to complete a vacated term that will expire on February 13, 2008.

South Gulf Cove Community Plan Advisory Committee - is seeking two volunteers who are landowners and reside within the boundaries of the Unit, a) one volunteer whose term shall be for three-years, and b) one volunteer whose term shall expire on July 24, 2010.

Town Estates Street & Drainage Unit Advisory Board - is seeking one volunteer. This is a three (3) year term, effective immediately and it expires on January 23, 2010.

### III. REPORTS RECEIVED AND FILED

Minutes for Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee meeting for November 16, 2007

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE IV. CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.  
Motion Carried 5:0.**

Clerk of the Circuit Court

#### A. Finance Division

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Clerk's Finance Memoranda.  
BUDGETED ACTION: None

#### B. Minutes Division - No Items

*Board of County Commissioners*

*C. Commission Office*

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Reappoint Mr. Michael Fischer as a regular member to the Grove City Street and Drainage Advisory Committee. Mr. Fischer's term expires on December 14, 2007, and he has requested reappointment. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

(2) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Reappoint to the Marine Advisory Committee the following: Bob DiMuzio as Member-at-Large, Raymond Rose representing the Peace River Squadron, Richard Johnson representing the Pirate Harbor Yacht Club and Anthony Tonz representing the South Gulf Cove Yacht Club for a three year term. Term expiration is December 31, 2010. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

(3) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the appointments to the Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway Unit Advisory Committee: Stanley Bliss, Richard Cochran, Jack Fawsett, Richard Hopkins, Renee Larson and Bill Mango. Terms for appointment and an alternate will be drawn at the first meeting. All appointees meet the criteria for appointment to this Committee and their resumes are attached for review. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

*D. Administration*

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve cancellation of the December 25, 2007 Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

(2) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve cancellation of the January 1, 2008 Board of County Commissioners Roundtable Meeting. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

(3) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Set a Board Workshop for January 8, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., to receive a presentation and update from Herbert Marlowe, Jr., regarding the County Operational Review. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

E. County Attorney

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Set an Executive Session at 11:00 a.m., December 11, 2007 or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the County Attorney's Conference Room, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Suncoast Professional Firefighters and Paramedics, Local 2546 of the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. BUDGETED ACTION: None

(2) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Postpone the public hearing previously set for December 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. to consider an Ordinance amending County Code Chapter 3-8, Article II, concerning Standards for Water and Sewer Utilities and instead hold that public hearing on December 18, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. (or as soon thereafter as it may be heard.) BUDGETED ACTION: None

F. Budget Office - No Items

G. Growth Management

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the DRC-PD-80-4KK (MM) Major Modification Resolution permitting Port Charlotte MMR, L.L.C. to construct Port Charlotte Retail Center located at 925 Kings Highway. BUDGETED ACTION: None

Resolution 2007-189

H. Economic Development - No Items

J. Environmental Services - No Items

K. Facilities Construction and Maintenance

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve Budget Transfer 08-003 in the amount of \$669,250 for mitigation of the windows of the Administration Building, which is funded through a Federal Grant (requires a 25% local match) and b) Approve CIP Amendment 08-C03 in the amount of \$1,947,520. BUDGETED ACTION: a) Approve CIP Amendment 08-C03 in the amount of \$1,947,520 and b) Approve Budget Transfer 08-003 in the amount of \$669,250.

(2) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** a) Request The Board of County Commissioners to approve Renovations to First and Second floors of the 5-story Administration Building located at Murdock Circle; b) Approve CIP Amendment 08-C04 in the amount of \$1,925,628; c) Approve Budget Amendment 08-A05 in the amount of \$2,249,466; and d) Approve Budget Amendment 08-A04 in the amount of \$1,925,968. **BUDGETED ACTION:** Approve Budget Amendment 08-A04 in the amount of \$1,925,968, approve Budget Amendment 08-A05 in the amount of \$2,249,466, and approve CIP Amendment 08-C04 in the amount of \$1,925,968.

L. General Services

(1) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Change Order #7, Contract 06-021, Grounds Maintenance - Annual to Amera-Tech, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL for the amount of \$3,300 to add additional Grounds Maintenance services for the Environmental Services Campus. **BUDGETED ACTION:** Budgeted in Various Accounts.

(2) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve second phase to Work Order #39, File #06-148, East Port Water Reclamation Facility Expansion, to Contract #05-042, with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. in the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,200,000 for a total contract amount of \$2,746,862. **BUDGETED ACTION:** Budgeted amount \$2,300,000 in CIP c350302 East Port Plant Expansion

(3) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Change Order #5 to Contract #07-083, Lewis Creek Maintenance Dredge, in the amount of \$270,655 for a revised total cost of \$601,336.16. **BUDGETED ACTION:** FY08 budget available for this change order is \$380,000 in the Buena Vista Waterway Maintenance MSBU.

(4) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Change Order #4, Contract 07-090, South County Grounds Maintenance - Annual to Amera-Tech, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL. For the amount of \$1,215 to add Grounds Maintenance services for the Animal Services Area at the Zemel Landfill location. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

(5) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Change Order #1 to Contract #07-413, Placida Boat Ramp Renovation to Charlotte County Seawalls, Inc. for the cost of \$30,145.92 to replace two (2) existing docks due to unforeseen deterioration, for a revised contract amount of

\$151,895.92. *BUDGETED ACTION:* The funds will be taken from the CIP Work Program - Fishing pier and boardwalk replacement.

(6) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Approve Award File #07-438, Work Order #71, Contract #05-042, Wastewater Force Mains - Deep Creek, to Stantec Consulting Services in the amount of \$224,290. *BUDGETED ACTION:* Budgeted amount \$250,000 in CIP c350602 Wastewater Force mains.

(7) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Authorize the County Administrator to approve request of Award of Bid #08-008, Manchester Boat Lock Removal, to Stemic Enterprises, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL in the amount of \$531,343.05 (base bid) and \$91,875.00 (optional bid) for a grand total cost of \$623,218.05. *BUDGETED ACTION:* Initial funding will be supplied from gas taxes to be reimbursed by the Manchester Waterway MSBU upon completion of the project.

(8) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* a) Approve ranking of firms for Request for Proposal #08-015, Design-Potable Water Main Extension: 1st-WilsonMiller, Inc.; 2nd-DMK Associates; and 3rd-Johnson Engineering; b) Approve start of negotiations; and c) Authorize the Chairman to sign the contract after completion of negotiations providing the fee does not exceed \$1,045,000. *BUDGETED ACTION:* Budgeted amount \$1,075,000 in c339702 Water Distribution Piping.

(9) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* a) Approve Bid #08-030, Infrastructure Services-Installation, Maintenance and Repair, with the lowest responsive, responsible firm, Black Box Network Services for the term January 1, 2008 up to and including December 31, 2008 with option to renew for two additional one-year terms and b) Authorize County Administrator to approve annual renewals. *BUDGETED ACTION:* None

(10) *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* a) Approve award of Bid #08-033, Collection Agency Services, to Creditech, Inc. of Delray Beach, FL, for the term of January 1, 2008 through and including December 31, 2008, with option to renew for two additional one-year terms at the same prices, terms, and conditions and b) Authorize the County Administrator to approve the annual renewals. *BUDGETED ACTION:* None

(11) *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: a) Approve award Bid #08-043, Cleaning Services-Charlotte County Facilities, to JMC Services, Inc. for the term January 1, 2008 up to and including September 30, 2008, with option to renew for two additional one-year terms at the same prices, terms and conditions and b) Authorize County Administrator to approve annual renewals. *BUDGETED ACTION*: None

(12) *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: a) Approve award File #08-069, Baker Act Transports, to Ambitrans Medical Transport of Port Charlotte, FL, at the unit costs listed below for the period of January 1, 2008 through and including December 31, 2008 and b) Authorize the County Administrator to approve an increase in the unit rate for fuel, if necessary, as indicated below. *BUDGETED ACTION*: Budget for FY07/08 is \$45,000.

(13) *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: a) Approve Amendment to Contract #98-207, Bayshore Linear Park Site Plan, with Stantec Consulting Services in the amount of \$19,820; b) Approve Amendment to revise the GMP under Contract #03-547, Construction Management Bayshore Linear Park, with Mathews/Taylor Construction, LLC in the amounts of \$365,589 for Site Lighting and \$76,827 for Roadway Lighting for a total of \$442,416; c) Approve CIP Amendment 08-C02; and d) Approve Budget Transfer #08-005 and CIP Amendment 08-C05, which increase the Bayshore Road Street Lights Project by 30,000 to cover the extra cost of street lights from Pionion Road to US41. *BUDGETED ACTION*: Approve CIP Budget Amendment 08-C02 in the amount of \$380,000 and Budget Transfer #08-005 and CIP Amendment 08-C05.

(14) *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: Authorize the County Administrator to approve Change Order #5 to Contract #99-126, Manchester Waterway Lock Removal Ecosystem Management Permitting with EarthBalance in the amount of \$89,394 for a total revised contract amount of \$565,415. *BUDGETED ACTION*: Funding for this change order is available in the Transportation Trust Fund.

(15) *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: a) Approve ranking of Developers (listed below) for Request for Proposal #07-460, Developers-Affordable Housing Initiative, for development of four (4) properties and b) Approve start of Negotiations. *BUDGETED ACTION*: None

(16) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve and award Bid #08-002, Emergency Services for Dewatering of Domestic Wastewater Residuals to the sole responsive, responsible bidder: Synagro South, LLC of Tomball, TX, at the unit cost of \$.038 per gallon. BUDGETED ACTION: Budget available in the amount of \$487,955 from the Emergency Sludge Removal Account.

(17) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the "Piggyback" of file #08-026, Ambulance Replacements, to purchase two (2) Ambulance Units, from American LaFrance, LLC, of Sanford, FL ("Piggyback" off the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, Florida Sheriff's Association, and Florida Association of Counties Contract #07-07-0828) for a total cost of \$368,519.04, to purchase Emergency Medical Units. BUDGETED ACTION: FY07/08 budget is \$378,000. Funding is provided in the Capital Projects Fund.

(18) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve deletion of the property inventory items listed on the attached for the month of December, 2007. BUDGETED ACTION: None

M. Human Resources - No Items

N. Human Services

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the annual Section 5310 transportation grant and resolution for FY 08/09 funding to purchase two replacement 18 passenger lift busses for Sunshine Ride and authorize the Chairman to sign the requisite documents. BUDGETED ACTION: Revenue: State Grants - Transit 0001.645301.334.491.0000 \$16,503.80 - Expense: Contract Service - Transit 0001.645301.564.34.0049 \$16,503.80.

Grant 2007-045 and Resolution 2007-194

(2) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the annual Section 5311 transit grant and resolution for FY 08/09 funding to provide group trips provided for Charlotte County residents who live outside the urbanized area; and authorize the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the necessary documents. BUDGETED ACTION: Revenue: State Grants - Transit 0001.645303.334.491.0000 \$40,000 Expense: Contract Services - Transit 0001.645303.564.34.0001 \$40,000.

Grant 2007-046 and Resolution 2007-195

P. Information Technology - No Items

Q. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources - No Items

R. Public Safety

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve EMS County Grant which is to be used to improve and expand the County's pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System application and resolution in the amount of \$40,576. BUDGETED ACTION: No budget required at this time.

Grant 2007-047 and Resolution 2007-190

S. Public Works

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Set a Public Hearing for January 8, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to adopt an ordinance related to the Charlotte County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). BUDGETED ACTION: Expenses for compliance with NPDES requirements will be charged to the Mid, West, and South County Stormwater MSBU's as required.

(2) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve, and authorize the Chairman to execute, an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the removal of iguanas from Boca Grande. BUDGETED ACTION: The FY08 budget contains funding for this agreement in the Boca Grande Streets and Drainage fund.

Agreement 2007-075

T. Real Estate Services

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the attached Resolution approving the release of a portion of a recorded twenty-foot (20') wide canal maintenance easement located in Port Charlotte Subdivision, Section Forty, and further authorizing the Director of Real Estate Services to execute the County Deed releasing said portion of said easement. (Owners: George A. Lugg, Jr. and Catherine F. Lugg) BUDGETED ACTION: None

Resolution 2007-191

(2) *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: Authorize the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute a perpetual stormwater easement for the School Board of Charlotte County's property along Carmalita Street and Education Avenue. *BUDGETED ACTION*: None

Resolution 2007-192

V. *Tourism Development - No Items*

W. *Utilities - No Items*

X. *Building & Construction Services - No Items*

Y. *Other Agencies - No Items*

VI. *PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA - 10:00 A.M.*

(1) *Redevelopment*: *RECOMMENDED ACTION*: Conduct a public hearing to consider adopting an ordinance to remove specific parcels from the Greater Port Charlotte Street and Drainage Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU).

Debra Forester summarized the proposed ordinance.

Grace Anmodio asked if the specific parcels would be returned to Murdock Village after completion. Administrator Loucks advised they would not be returned and explained a MSBU will be created just for Murdock Village.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

*Commissioner Loftus* requested the streets be closed off and vacated immediately and advised illegal dumping is costing tax payers money. Attorney Knowlton advised the streets could be temporarily vacated, but to permanently vacate, the street vacation process will be done along with the plat vacation.

**COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2007-086, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

(2) Redevelopment: *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Conduct a public hearing to consider adopting an ordinance to create the Murdock Village Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU).

Debra Forester summarized the proposed ordinance.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2007-087, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

(3) Redevelopment: *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Conduct the public hearing to consider adopting an ordinance to amend the territory of the Northwest Port Charlotte Street and Drainage Unit by removing those properties which are located within the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area.

Debra Forester summarized the proposed ordinance.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING., SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2007-088, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

(4) Public Safety: *RECOMMENDED ACTION:* Conduct a public hearing to discuss amendment of Animal Control ordinance to allow fee changes by resolution.

Brian Johnson requested approval of proposed amendment to Animal Control Ordinance to allow a fee schedule increase by resolution.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2007-089, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.  
Motion Carried 5:0.

RECESS - 10:10 AM - 10:20 AM

VII. PRESENTATION AGENDA - No Items

VIII. PUBLIC WORKSHOP AGENDA - No Items

IX. BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA - No Items

Z. Regular Agenda

(1) Purchasing: RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Contract #04-308F Design/Build Fire Stations with Mathews-Taylor Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$1,419,400 to construct Fire Station #11; b) Authorize the Chairman to sign the Amendment to Contract #04-308F for the GMP; and c) Approve CIP Amendment 08-C06 in the amount of \$1,671,000. Additional information: Guarantee Maximum Price Report.

Kim Corbett provided an outline of Z-1 and advised the Board of a visual presentation to follow.

Andrew Baker gave a brief overview of Fire Station damages, renovations and started the visual presentation.

Mr. Baker gave credit to the Chief for his prototype idea that allowed the Fire Stations to be completed so quickly.

Chairman D'Aprile personally noted his appreciation to Fire Officials and Mathews-Taylor for a job well done.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE (GMP) FOR CONTRACT #04-308F; THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT #04-308F FOR THE GMP AND APPROVE CIP AMENDMENT 08-C06, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.  
Motion Carried 5:0.

(2) Commission Office: RECOMMENDED ACTION: Select a representative to serve on the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency for a four-year term.

Chairman D'Aprile asks the Commissioners to hand down their ballots to him and then provided them to Mr. Loucks.

Mr. Loucks announced the results were 4 votes for Jane Sturges and 1 vote for Stan Munson.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE JANE STURGES TO SERVE ON THE PUNTA GORDA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.  
Motion Carried 5:0.

(3) Commission Office: RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion and decision on Commissioner Committee Assignments

After Board discussions, motions and votes the following 2008 Board Committee Assignments were filled as follows:

**Monthly Committees:**

PR/MRWSA (Water Supply Auth.)  
3/2 Commissioner Loftus  
5/0 ALT. Commissioner Moore

Charlotte Harbor CRAAC  
5/0 Commissioner Loftus

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board  
5/0 Chairman D'Aprile

SWFRPC (Regional Planning)  
5/0 Commissioner Cummings  
5/0 Commissioner Moore  
5/0 ALT. Commissioner Duffy

Affordable Housing  
5/0 Commissioner Duffy  
5/0 ALT. Chairman D'Aprile

ANRAC (Agricultural/Natural Res.)  
5/0 Commissioner Loftus

*Arts & Humanities Council*  
*5/0 Commissioner Moore*

*Beaches and Shores Advisory Council*  
*5/0 Chairman D'Aprile*

*Children's Services Council*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

*Council on Aging*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

*Enterprise Charlotte*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee*  
*5/0 Commissioner Cummings*

*Marine Advisory Committee*  
*5/0 Chairman D'Aprile*

*Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Agency*  
*Advisory Committee*  
*5/0 Chairman D'Aprile*

*Charlotte Local Education Foundation*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

***Bi-Monthly Committees:***

*Public Safety Coord. Council*  
*5/0 Chairman D'Aprile*

*SWFL Juvenile Justice Council*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

*Southwest Florida Resource Conservation*  
*& Development Council (RC&D)*  
*5/0 No Appointment*

*SW Regional Health Planning Council of SW FL*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

**Quarterly Committees:**

*CHEC (Charlotte Harbor Env. Ctr.)*  
*5/0 Commissioner Loftus*

*Community Area Advisory Board*  
*5/0 Commissioner Moore*

*Indigent Health Care Adv. Bd.*  
*5/0 Commissioner Moore*

*Metropolitan Planning Org. (MPO)*  
*5/0 Chairman D'Aprile*  
*5/0 Commissioner Moore*  
*5/0 Commissioner Loftus*  
*5/0 ALT. Commissioner Duffy*

*National Estuary Program (NEP)*  
*5/0 Commissioner Cummings*

*Peace River Basin Management Adv.*  
*5/0 Commissioner Loftus*

*Tourist Development Council*  
*5/0 Commissioner Duffy*

*W. Coast Inland Nav. (WCIND)*  
*5/0 Commissioner Moore*  
*5/0 ALT. Commissioner Cummings*

**As Needed:**

*Finance Committee*  
*5/0 Chairman D'Aprile*  
*5/0 Commissioner Moore*

*Water Alliance w/PR/MRWSA*  
*5/0 Commissioner Loftus*  
*5/0 Alt. Commissioner Moore*

*SW FL Water Mgmt. Dist.*  
*5/0 Commissioner Loftus*

Value Adjustment Board  
5/0 Chairman D'Aprile  
5/0 Commissioner Cummings  
5/0 Commissioner Moore  
5/0 Alt. Commissioner Loftus

Coop. Extension Adv. Council  
5/0 Commissioner Loftus

(4) Human Services: RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve recommendation of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to provide HHR funds to the top four ranked applicants: The Housing Corporation, \$1,650,000 for lease/option opportunities in revitalization area; The Housing Corporation, \$920,000 for CLT homes in revitalization area; Goodwill Industries, \$236,405 for rehabilitation of Williams Place Apartments; Habitat for Humanity, \$2,100,000 to construct 30 homes in revitalization area and b) Authorize the Chair to sign, after review by the County Attorney's office, the contracts to recipients.

Lorraine Helber summarized the applicants to be considered for HHR funds and advised the available \$4,992,000.00 must be recommitted by June 30, 2009.

**Commissioner Moore** asked the turn around time if a new plan is submitted. Ms. Helber advised 35 to 45 days, if approved; unapproved revisions would be brought back to the Board in January.

Ms. Helber described the ten applicants in detail, explained the selection process, rankings and score sheet.

**Commissioner Loftus** questioned the funding request for Marion Manor Incorporated. Ms. Helber responded she was informed Marion Manor had received State funds and had withdrawn their proposal. Sister Cathy Buster clarified receipt of over three million in funding and mentioned the need for additional funds to complete the project. **Chairman D'Aprile** confirmed the amount still needed.

Sister Cathy voiced her concerns on how the public notice was issued; wondered who provided the scoring; questioned how the ranking was decided and indicated there may have been a violation of the Sunshine Law.

Commissioner Loftus stated he was unhappy with the purchase price of the property; believed the project was important to help support county youth; stated the homeless children are in need; agreed the area needs revitalization; discussed the housing market and it's effect on rentals.

Commissioner Cummings had ranking concerns; reviewed the scores; removed the outliers; and found no significant change.

Commissioner Cummings opined if Grant rules allowed, the funds should be used to build land inventory for the future; voiced concerns for increasing housing stock in the existing market; mentioned carrying costs; noted the need for revitalization.

Commissioner Cummings commented that most of the projects are worthy; noted his interest in Restoration Roads Ministry Youth Facility; shared his personal history growing up in foster care; supported funding for Numbers 1, 3 and 4; noted Number 2 would build on vacant land needed for the future and suggested replacing it with Restoration Roads Ministry, Number 7, a project in the revitalization area that could make a difference for the long term and give back to the community.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE A RE-RANKING TO REPLACE #2 HOUSING CORPORATION PROJECT WITH #7 RESTORATION ROADS MINISTRY AND TO ALSO APPROVE #1, #3 AND #4, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.

Motion Carried 5:0.

Commissioner Duffy supported Commissioner Cummings on revitalization; stated home ownership is more beneficial than renting and agreed to the need for a homeless youth shelter.

Commissioner Loftus asked if the additional funding needed for Marion Manor Inc. could be worked into the plan.

**Chairman D'Aprile** asked Sister Cathy to confirm the funding still needed to complete her project was \$592,000.00; expressed the importance of each project and stated he could not believe the number of homeless students; agreed with Commissioner Cummings on the re-ranking

The Board discussed the amount of funding available and Ms. Helber confirmed.

**Commissioner Loftus** questioned if building costs could be reduced. Ms. Ramillo introduced property owner Michele Rumrick who stated property was purchased distressed after the hurricane, noted a \$480,000.00 outstanding loan and indicated zoning is Office, Medical, Institutional (OMI).

Ms. Ramillo stated the purchase price would be \$555,000 and provided an overview of the renovations needed.

**Commissioner Duffy** confirmed the balance for renovations would be \$335,000 and wondered if the work could be done for less money.

**Commissioner Moore** expressed concern that constructive criticism was received for the way some decisions were made and suggested the Board be more informative and clear in the future. **Commissioner Loftus** agreed the Board should address how information is released to the public. **Commissioner Duffy** opined in the future the Hurricane Housing Recovery (HHR) process would be more informative if done by Request for Proposal (RFP).

**Commissioner Cummings** expressed his concerns for the Sunshine Law questions asked; stated the bid process is driven by state law and grant requirements; was pleased with staff's job.

**Chairman D'Aprile** was grateful for the 19 million he helped raise for these projects; mentioned there never is enough funds for the projects in need; advised there was \$15,000.00 in uncommitted funds remaining.

(5) Human Services: RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve revision to the Hurricane Housing Recovery (HHR) plan to add a strategy for Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention; and b) Approve and add appropriate contingency strategy or revision to the HHR plan, as needed, to implement the programs approved for use of the \$4,992,000 unspent HHR funds and c) Authorize chair to execute Resolution and staff to forward Resolution and revision to the State for final approval.

Ms. Helber provided the Board with an overview of the attachment outlining the revisions necessary to implement the projects just approved.

Ms. Helber asked the Board to approve Foreclosure Strategy Revision, Contingency Revision A, Contingency Revision C and forward them to the State.

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AS READ INTO THE RECORD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ADOPTING HHR PLAN AND REVISIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMS FUNDED DECEMBER 11, 2007, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.**

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

RECESS 11:50 AM -12:00

(6) Environmental and Extension Services: RECOMMENDED ACTION: Natural Resources Division is providing the Board of County Commissioner the Environmental Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee's (ESLOC) list of properties. Seeking direction from the Board to begin negotiations of identified properties.

Andy Stevens presented a list of ESLOC parcels approved by the Oversight Committee; mentioned appraisals were complete and ready for negotiations; stated if negotiations were successful they would bring back management costs for each site.

**Commissioner Loftus** expressed his strong dissatisfaction in not receiving the requested A/B list from the Advisory Board; announced he would not vote; stated administrators should provide elected officials with requested information.

Mr. Stevens indicated Committee members chose not to create an A/B list at this time; explained the Committee felt strongly that negotiations should begin since parcel appraisals were completed; advised an A/B list process was approved for future nominations.

**Commissioner Loftus** responded that the Committee is to follow the instructions of the Board or be dismissed.

**Commissioner Moore** disagreed with **Commissioner Loftus**; stated staff did well; was not defiant; and had no problem with an A/B list. **Commissioner Moore** opined the Committee considered this portion of the work complete and would provide a future A/B properties list.

**Commissioner Loftus** mentioned when the Board originally voted, all maintenance and operation costs were included; stated a County Attorney ruling has since indicated maintenance costs were not to be included; opined it is the Board's responsibility to be aware of costs prior to selection; asked where the funding was coming from; pointed out first year maintenance for Scrub Jay mitigation off Flamingo Blvd. is almost a half a million dollars (\$500,000.)

Mr. Stevens advised the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project would cover road removal and fencing costs for the mitigation area and if negotiations were successful, staff would bring back estimated management costs and contracted price for approved each site.

Mr. Loucks explained the Board was not being asked to purchase property now; stated the current request is to allow parcel negotiations only; advised the parcels would return for Board approval on a parcel to parcel basis; opined funding would probably come from the CIP.

**Commissioner Loftus** opined the Board needs an idea of costs prior to negotiation.

**Commissioner Cummings** explained each applicant was initially required to provide a work plan; mentioned each parcel had been scored and met minimum qualifications; summarized the Ordinance that created this Committee; opined the Committee had done everything asked of them by the Board; detailed why the Committee brought these parcels forward.

**Commissioner Duffy** opined there were different interpretations of what occurred with the A/B list. **Commissioner Loftus** again stated he never received it. **Commissioner Cummings** again explained the A/B list will be provided for the next group of properties.

**Chairman D'Aprile** confirmed the work for these seven appraisal properties was complete; recognized the request to evaluate them for negotiation and pricing only; established purchase would be approved afterward; understood the frustration of Board members.

**Commissioner Moore** opined the list received is an A list; stated he saw no Committee defiance. **Commissioner Loftus** again asked for the B list. Mr. Stevens affirmed there was no B list at this time.

**Chairman D'Aprile** indicated the need to move forward; asked if the 20 year taxpayer approved program was time sensitive; asked Mr. Stevens to provide a true A/B list in the future.

Mr. Stevens advised time was at the Board's discretion; stated the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee (ESLOC) felt strongly that the A list provided met the criteria set forth in the Ordinance; agreed to comply with the A/B list request.

**Commissioner Duffy** recommended not moving forward at this time and suggested a future workshop to further discuss negotiations. **Commissioner Loftus** agreed.

**Commissioner Moore** recognized staff's hard work, opined to set clear rules and move forward with negotiations. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed the need for additional information first. **Commissioner Duffy** again mentioned the need for a workshop.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF TO BEGIN A LIST NEGOTIATIONS. SCHEDULE AN INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP WITH ESLOC TO DISCUSS FURTHER., SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.  
Motion Carried 4:1. Commissioner Loftus opposing.

(7) Set Two (2) public hearings to discuss the amendments to the sign ordinance, in accordance with Section 125.56, F.S., requesting the first hearing be held on December 18, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, and the second hearing be held on January 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, thereby electing the second hearing to be heard at a time other than after 5:00 p.m., in accordance with Section 125.66, F.S.

Mr. Loucks summarized Z-7 requesting approval of two Public Hearings to Amend the Sign Ordinance.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO SET TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DISCUSS THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.  
Motion Carried 5:0.

Chief Deputy White provided a brief investment update and explained the SBA Investment Pool liquidity issues.

Mr. White confirmed no liquidity problems at the local level; opined the investment plan is very diversified and had less than ½ of 1% invested in SBA frozen securities; voiced his hopes to recover the money overtime; responded to Board questions.

RECESS: 12:35 - 2:00 PM

Assistant County Attorney Browne replaced County Attorney Knowlton for this portion of the meeting.

X. CITIZEN INPUT - ANY SUBJECT

Tom Vett spoke against the Edgewater North Waterway Unit dredging issue; stated expensive dredging is not wanted; requested the Board get involved and stop Public Works from moving forward immediately.

Al Cheatham commented on ESLOC recommendations mentioned earlier; described Committee steps taken since the beginning of the Ordinance; summarized the Committee's view to move forward; advised an A/B list was created at their last meeting.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA - 2:00 P.M.

(1) Growth Management: RECOMMENDED ACTION: Conduct the second public hearing to discuss a proposed Ordinance to amend the Zoning Code to establish a new zoning district titled "Excavation and Mining (EM)", in accordance with Section 125.66 FS.

Nichole Dozier provided an overview of proposed changes to the Ordinance to amend the Zoning Code.

**Commissioner Duffy** stated the original motive behind a new zoning classification for mining was to help citizens on Washington Loop Road and opined there might be a better way.

Al Cheatham mentioned the Advisory Committee had not received proposed zoning language for review; stated he was denied a second Public Hearing postponement last week; asked if the Board planned on their involvement.

Michael Haymans spoke against the proposed Ordinance; commented he helped create the Agricultural Natural Resources Advisory Committee; opined the Board's need for better communications, committee advise and industry recommendations; stated effected property owners must be notified by mail; requested the Board slow down and fix existing problems.

Steven Brown spoke in favor or the Ordinance and urged the Board to move forward.

Emery Smith stated the importance of an excavation manager to oversee applicant criteria.

Robert Vaughn reminded the Board that Washington Loop residents initially requested a moratorium on area mining to allow further study; agreed with **Commissioner Duffy**; stated the need to fix the problem.

Lawrence Martin expressed his concern for the adverse effects of mining in the Washington Loop area and for the general community.

Sue Resky spoke in support of the new zoning category for Group Three Excavations, recommended a language change and suggested the need for a Special Land Use category for mining.

Attorney Bernsson reported a typo in the existing Zoning Code change title; suggested advising the opposed that this is only another step in the process; informed there will be additional excavation hearings prior to permitting; discussed density language; stated areas other than Washington Loop are considered.

Andrea Story expressed her concern that mining is considered an agricultural activity; noted the negative effects on quality of life; suggested density units for dirt mines; opined the need for excavation language changes; read a portion of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

**COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY.  
Motion Carried 5:0.**

**Commissioner Cummings** recalled when the last Mining Ordinance changes were adopted, **Chairman D'Aprile** and **Commissioner Moore** both commented they wished they could have done more as Sarasota had done; stated he later wanted to add his third vote; opined the need for underlying land use; believed this was a continuance from that adoption.

**Commissioner Moore** expressed his concern for Washington Loop residents; voiced his frustration in being unable to help them now; commented on help for future areas; requested options from staff.

Barbara Jeffries presented a list of active mines and pending applications; explained mine classes and sizes; described Charlotte County mines by area on map; outlined pricing for experts; urged the Board to demand a higher level of data for the future.

**Chairman D'Aprile** questioned the number of mines on Washington Loop. Ms. Jeffries responded.

**Commissioner Moore** asked Ms. Jeffries' opinion on the mining needs of the County. Ms. Jeffries expressed the need for quality mines, better communications and wanted what is best for Charlotte County.

**Commissioner Duffy** expressed the need for mining in appropriate Charlotte County locations and suggested inserting language in the existing Ordinance which would prohibit mining in certain areas.

Derek Rooney explained the Code is not the appropriate place to insert specific detail language; opined the zoning district would be more suitable; advised existing code language states it will not adversely impact neighboring uses, etc.

**Commissioner Cummings** spoke in favor of granting the resources necessary for staff to effectively review pending and future applications; addressed the importance of land use and zoning; asked if a new zoning category would require a corresponding land use category.

Mr. Rooney indicated a Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designation for excavation activities should be submitted to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in April, commented adoption could be as early as September and advised methodologies are in the works to determine how many mines and what materials will be needed. **Commissioner Cummings** opined these are important steps to better manage this issue.

**Commissioner Loftus** commented that current mining affects mostly agricultural land; stated no action should be taken until after the Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ANRAC) reviewed the issue; voiced concerns for the volume of mining on Washington Loop; mentioned maximum density.

**Commissioner Moore** requested research costs. Ms. Jeffries provided her assumption of the time involved, expenses and explained the steps involved.

Mr. Rooney provided the Board with minor changes to the Zoning Code based on Attorney Bernsson's testimony.

Chairman D'Aprile stated he had no objection to mining, expressed opposition to 95 mines in Charlotte County; confirmed the number of Class III mines were 18 active and 26 pending; expressed regret for allowing permitting without better evaluation, education and communication; discussed future permitting requirements.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW ZONING DISTRICT TITLED "EXCAVATION AND MINING (EM)", WITH AMENDMENTS READ INTO THE RECORD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.

Commissioner Duffy opined this ordinance is not the answer and is unable to support it at this time. Commissioner Loftus also spoke against approval now and wanted to see it go before ANRAC first.

Motion Carried 3:2. Commissioner's Duffy and Loftus opposing.

Commissioner Moore suggested staff immediately forward the Ordinance to ANRAC for review. Chairman D'Aprile opined this motion is the first step and noted changes and deletions could be made later. Ms. Jeffries advised she would present a copy to ANRAC at their next meeting.

(2) Growth Management: RECOMMENDED ACTION: Conduct the second public hearing to discuss a proposed Ordinance to amend the Excavation Code to require new Group III Excavations to obtain a zoning classification of "Excavation and Mining (EM)", in accordance with Section 125.66 FS.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.

Motion Carried 5:0.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXCAVATION CODE TO REQUIRE NEW GROUP III EXCAVATIONS TO OBTAIN A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF "EXCAVATION AND MINING (EM)", IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 125.66 FS. , SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.

**Motion Carried 5:0.**

AA. County Administrator:

Mr. Loucks furnished the Board with a copy of a worksheet handed out at the Water Authority Board Meeting held on September 5, 2007 and proceeded to provide an overview.

Mr. Loucks commented on the January 29, 2007 election of the proposed Constitutional Amendment; asked for the Board's position; suggested the Board follow the Florida Association of County's lead (FAC); provided a detailed overview; discussed the impact to residents and the county; looked forward to the Board's direction.

**Chairman D'Aprile** stated if approved, the additional Homestead Exemption would cost Charlotte County six to eight million dollars per year; opined it might be a burden to the county; supported tax decreases for residents, but will discuss with Budget Director before making a decision.

Mr. Loucks explained that six to eight million dollars per year represented 10% of half of all property taxes collected from all sources.

**Commissioner Cummings** agreed to support FAC recommendations and opined over the long term, the law of unintended consequences may cause people expecting a tax decrease to see tax increases in the future.

Mr. Loucks expressed his commitment to provide the community with the information they need to make informed decisions. **Commissioner Loftus** opined the Board's obligation to decrease taxes whenever possible, mentioned the five year tax reduction plan and asked Mr. Loucks to release cumulative effects information.

**Commissioner Moore** expressed the importance of communications among staff and opined the Board's duty to educate the community.

**Commissioner Duffy** spoke in favor of portability; commented the Homestead increase may not help the people who need it; advised

she will continue to support tax cuts; stated she will support the FAC position.

**Commissioner Cummings** again voiced his support of FAC's position, expressed concern for the law of unintended consequences and portability.

BB. County Attorney: None

CC. Commissioner Comments:

**Commissioner Cummings** mentioned his discontent with the Water Authority update; advised the project cost had increased significantly since Bond; opined the importance of an Executive Director and policy change at the Water Authority; advised to keep the pressure on to move forward and protect the rate payers.

**Commissioner Moore** opined **Commissioner Loftus** should be able to work with the Water Authority to quickly reach the goals. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed his thanks.

**Chairman D'Aprile** asked if the additional money charged for over the limit water use could be applied to the utility debt. Mr. Loucks explained the money already goes into the Utilities Fund and is used to pay all of their expenses including the debt.

ADJOURNED: 3:40 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

JPL