

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 24, 2010

A Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the Charlotte County Curmudgeon Club was held at the Charlotte County Cultural Center, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners were present: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner Loftus and Commissioner Cummings. Also in attendance was Minutes Supervisor Manley. The following members were absent: Commissioner Skidmore. The meeting was called to order at **6:30 PM.**

Curmudgeon President Dale Watson requested speakers introduce themselves: Robert Halfhill, Public Works Director; Terri Kesner, CCU Interim Director; Major Dan Libby, Charlotte County Sheriff's Department; John Jackson, Director, Parks and Recreation; Paul Stamoulis, Superintendent of Elections; Don McCormick, Council Member, City of Punta Gorda; Howard Kunik, City Manager, City of Punta Gorda; Roger Baltz, County Administrator; **Charlotte County Commissioner Chairman Robert (Bob) Starr; Charlotte County Commissioner Tricia Duffy; Charlotte County Commissioner Richard (Dick) Loftus; Charlotte County Commissioner Adam Cummings;** Gordon Burger, Budget Director; Don Root, Economic Development Director; Aileen Miller, School Board; and Frank Desguin, Charlotte County Property Appraiser, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Robert (Bob) Starr gave an overview of committees, etc. in the county; acknowledged efforts of the Curmudgeon Club; and indicated that the County is moving in the right direction, but that there are issues yet to be worked on, which are being addressed.

Mr. Watson advised that **Commissioner Skidmore** is unable to be present, requested citizens stand, state their names, speak clearly, and keep their comments brief to allow as many as possible an opportunity to speak.

Speakers responded to questions and comments from attendees related to the homeless and mentally ill; efforts to cleanup camps and sites in Charlotte County formed by drifters, hobos, and vagrants; concerns of vagrants in Bayshore Live Oak Park; Frontier Days activities in Bayshore Live Oak Park; revenue stream and expenditures over the next

five years; food issues; sewer expansions, requirements by the state and federal governments, and costs and assessments associated with the expansions; persons responsible for cleaning swales that run along private property; criteria in handling the cutbacks of knowledgeable employees, budget strategies, reduction in staff force, bumping process, and keeping level of service acceptable; local business preference; incentive programs; parking/traffic difficulties at the stadium and consideration of a pedestrian walkway at the stadium; public intoxication, gang and criminal activity in parks and neighborhoods, and lack of legal authority to go upon certain premises; abandoned properties and the need to communicate with the owners of those properties regarding upkeep and ground maintenance, or possible assessments; assistance for the construction/building industry; economic development incentives; concerns of so many young people leaving the county; consolidation of the Building Department and expediting of permits; funds spent on hurricane windows, frisbee park, and decorative street lights; across-the-board pay cuts to save jobs; and volunteers for parks and recreation maintenance.

Commissioner Duffy stated that Growth Management is working on a revitalization of the hospital district and extended an invitation for anyone to attend a meeting scheduled for April 6, 2010, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Cultural Center, and give input for changes to that area.

ADJOURNED: 9:10 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**

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