

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 11, 2010

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

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner Skidmore, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Carleton. The following members were absent: None

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 A.M.**

Invocation was given by **Chairman Starr**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda:

Change #1: Requested by: Growth Management - L-2. Set a Public Hearing Workshop for May 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to solicit public comment for possible revisions to the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) Zoning Overlay Code.

Change #2: Requested by: Administration - E-1. Move to Regular Agenda, becomes item Z-3.

Deletion #1: Requested by: CCU - Z-1. Discussion and direction regarding bulk water service interconnect between Charlotte County and three (3) private Barrier Island utilities - Bocilla, Knight Island and Little Gasparilla Island Utilities.

Addition #1: Requested by Commission Office - Z-4 - Discussion and possible direction regarding Debris Removal Management.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

Commissioner Skidmore requested on the record that Item Z-4 be deleted from the Agenda at this time.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Proclamations - Chairman Bob Starr

Arts and Humanities Council Artist of the Month, Patricia Anderson Turner, Proclamation for the month of May, 2010.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL ARTIST OF THE MONTH, PATRICIA ANDERSON TURNER, PROCLAMATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2010, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

The Proclamation was accepted by Patricia Anderson Turner.

Charlotte County Travel and Tourism Week Proclamation, the week of May 8, 2010 through May 16, 2010.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE CHARLOTTE COUNTY TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK PROCLAMATION, THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 2010 THROUGH MAY 16, 2010, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

The Proclamation was accepted by Becky Bovell, Director, Tourist Development.

Earl Drayton Farr, Jr. Day Proclamation, May 16, 2010.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE EARL DRAYTON FARR, JR. DAY PROCLAMATION, MAY 16, 2010, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

The Proclamation was accepted by Earl Drayton Farr, Jr.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Hurricane Awareness Days Proclamation, May 12, 2010 through May 22, 2010.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE HURRICANE AWARENESS DAYS PROCLAMATION, MAY 12, 2010 THROUGH MAY 22, 2010, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

The Proclamation was accepted by Wayne Sallade, Director, Emergency Management, who handed out materials to the Board.

National Historic Preservation Month Proclamation, the month of May, 2010.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH PROCLAMATION, THE MONTH OF MAY, 2010, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

The Proclamation was accepted by Linda Coleman Roberts, Charlotte County Historical Center.

National Public Works Week Proclamation, the week of May 16, 2010 through May 22, 2010

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK PROCLAMATION, THE WEEK OF MAY 16, 2010 THROUGH MAY 22, 2010, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

The Proclamation was accepted by Bob Halfhill, Director, Public Works, and Department Managers.

Employee Recognition - County Administrator Roger Baltz

Five Years: Michael Branscome, Public Works; Sean Doherty, Tourism; John Knezevic, Public Works; Selena Lavalley, Utilities; Marc Solomon, Community Services; Kevin Swanguarin, Public Works; **Ten Years:** Sharon Cavanaugh, Human Services; Joseph Mercer, Community Services; **Twenty Years:** Eric Benson, Fire/EMS; Kevin Edwards, Information Technology; Charles Holbrook, Fire/EMS; Joseph Madison, Fire/EMS; Wendy Norman, Fire/EMS; Kim Sternal, Facilities Construction & Maintenance; **Twenty-Five Years:** Richard Standafer, Fire/EMS

Presentations - None

I. CITIZEN INPUT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ross Witschonke and Percy Angelo spoke to Agenda Item Z-2.

Frank Valora spoke to Agenda Item H-2, requested three (3) flagpoles and monuments commemorating Army, Navy, Marine Corp., Air Force, Coast Guard, and POW/MIAs, and requested permission for documents to be signed.

II. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

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

Citizens' Advisory Committee - is seeking a Charlotte County resident to voluntarily serve as a representative of the MPO Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for the following position: South County Representative. The CAC reviews transportation plans and projects that the MPO Board will consider. Your letter or email of interest stating the positions for which you are qualified to represent should be sent to: Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980. Fax: 941-883-3534 Email: office@ccmpo.com.

Manatee Advisory Committee is seeking a total of 9 members to serve on this newly formed committee. 3 members will represent the development community; 3 members will represent local environmental advocacy groups and 3 members will represent the local fishing and boating community. Committee will engage in public outreach and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners to assist in the development of a Manatee Protection Plan.

MPO - Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) - is seeking one individual to voluntarily serve on the LCB Board. The purpose of the LCB is to identify local service needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the Community Transportation Coordination of service to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The position is for a person who is recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action (President), representing the economically disadvantaged in the county. Your letter or email of interest stating the position for which you are qualified to represent should be sent to: Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980. Fax: 941-883-3534, Email: office@ccmpo.com

III. REPORTS RECEIVED AND FILED

Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee meeting Minutes for April 19, 2010.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA EXCEPT AGENDA ITEM F-10, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

A. Finance Division

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

Memorandum #1 - Status of Contingency Reserves - FY 08/09

Memorandum #1A - Status of Contingency Reserves - FY 09/10

Memorandum #2 - Total Disbursements for the Period April 20, 2010 through May 3, 2010 in the amount of \$13,660,252.96.

B. Minutes Division

(1) RECOMMENDED ACTION: BUDGETED ACTION: None

April 13, 2010, 9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

April 15, 2010, 1:30 p.m. Budget Workshop

April 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m. Land Use Meeting

Board of County Commissioners

C. Commission Office - No Items.

D. Administration

Administration - No Items.

Public Information Office - No Items.

E. County Attorney - No Items.

F. Budget and Administrative Services

Budget and Administrative Services

(1) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve a Resolution authorizing the borrowing of an amount not to exceed \$7,015,000 from the Pooled Commercial Paper Loan Program of the Florida Local Government Finance Commission in order to re-finance a loan (A-7-2) previously made to finance various capital improvements within the County. The loan matures on June 1, 2010. This follows the original plan to obtain the favorable short-term financing and renew it for the remaining payoff term of the MSBUs from when the projects were completed. **BUDGETED ACTION:** Principal and interest payments are budgeted in FY 10 in Public Works for previous paving projects (MSBUs) for various locations and CCU for the Rotonda Villas and Springs Project if appropriate.

Resolution 2010-028

Fiscal Services - No Items.

Information Technology - No Items.

Purchasing

(2) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Request termination of Contract #09-258a, Additional Elder Care Support Services, with Arcadia Healthcare. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

(3) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the Sole Source File #10-222, Routematch Software Upgrade, to Routematch Software, Inc. in the amount of \$354,272. This is for an upgrade to an existing software/hardware system for Dial-a-Ride and Sunshine Ride. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

(4) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Change Order #8 to Contract #99-126, Manchester Waterway Lock Removal Ecosystem Management Permitting, with EarthBalance in the amount of \$4,500, for a revised total contract amount of \$609,475, for additional dredging done within specifications and permits. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None - Funding of \$3,735 is supplied from the Manchester Waterway MSBU and \$765 from the Ackerman Waterway MSBU.

(5) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** a) Approve ranking of firms for Request for Proposal #10-167, Annual Financial Audit-Board of County Commissioners: 1st-Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP of Orlando, Florida; 2nd-Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP of Sarasota, Florida; and 3rd-KPMG, LLP of Tampa, Florida; and b) Approve Start of Negotiations; and c) Authorize the Chairman to sign the contract after completion of negotiations to provide professional Annual Financial Audit Services for the Board of County Commissioners as required by Florida Statute 11.45. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

(6) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** a) Approve ranking of firms for Request for Proposal #10-168, Annual Financial Audit-Constitutional Officers: 1st-Ashley, Brown & Company, CPA's of Punta Gorda, Florida; 2nd-Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP of Sarasota, Florida; and 3rd-KPMG, LLP of Tampa, Florida; and b) Approve Start of Negotiations; and c) Authorize the Chairman to sign the contract after completion of negotiations to provide professional Annual Financial Audit Services for the Constitutional Officers as required by Florida Statute 11.45. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

(7) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve deletion of the property inventory items listed on the attached for the month of May, 2010. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

Real Estate Services

(8) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Conduct a public hearing May 25, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to consider adopting a resolution to declare certain real property in Charlotte County be reserved for affordable housing. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

(9) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the Chair of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners to approve the agreement for exchange of the County's interest in two platted lots for the interest in one privately owned platted lot

owned by Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity Inc., located in Charlotte County, Florida. BUDGETED ACTION: None

Resolution 2010-029

(10) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners to grant Embarq Florida Inc., DBA Centurylink a twenty foot by thirty foot (20'x30') wide permanent utility easement for the installation of cabinets for housing fiber optic cables in a certain portion of a Park Strip, Port Charlotte Subdivision located near the intersection of US-41 and Gardner Drive. BUDGETED ACTION: None

Commissioner Loftus commented on the previous day's meeting related to placing the item on the right-of-way at the access road on Gardner Drive and commented on the importance of landscaping the area.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2010-030, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

(11) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the release of a portion of a six-foot (6') wide utility and drainage easement, located in Port Charlotte Subdivision Section Seventy-One, and further authorizing the Senior Division Manager, Real Estate Services Division, to execute the County Deed releasing said portion of said easement. (Owners: Florence H. Bradley, Trust dated June 6, 2005). BUDGETED ACTION: None

Resolution 2010-031

(12) RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the release of a ten-foot (10') wide sanitary sewer easement; and a twenty-foot (20') wide utility, ingress/egress easement; and a thirty-five foot by thirty-five foot (35' X 35') sanitary sewer easement, all located in Sibley's Central Addition to Charlotte Harbor (Owners: Bimmel, L.L.C. , a Florida limited liability company) BUDGETED ACTION: None

Resolution 2010-032

(13) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve, and authorize the Chairman to execute, the attached Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida for construction of a pedestrian bridge over Coral Creek (Cape Haze Pioneer Trail) **BUDGETED ACTION:** None

Agreement 2010-013

G. Building & Construction Services - No Items.

H. Community Services

Parks and Natural Resources

(1) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** a) Approve a Transportation Post Project Maintenance Agreement ("Agreement") with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Expansion, and b) Adopt a Resolution approving said Agreement and authorizing the Chairman to execute said Agreement. **BUDGETED ACTION:** None; budgeted within Parks Maintenance.

Agreement 2010-014 and Resolution 2010-033

(2) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve an agreement with the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 5690 to further improve and maintain a Veteran's Memorial Walkway at North Charlotte Regional Park. **BUDGETED ACTION:** Budgeted within the North Charlotte Regional Park.

Agreement 2010-015

Recreation - No Items.

Libraries and Historical - No Items.

J. Economic Development - No Items.

K. Facilities Construction and Maintenance - No Items.

L. Growth Management

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Final Plat, Developer's Agreement, and Surety Bond for FP-07-05-11 Kings Gate Phase 7B. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

Agreement 2009-020

(2) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: Set a Public Workshop for May 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to solicit public comment for possible revisions to the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) Zoning Overlay Code. BUDGETED ACTION: None*

M. Human Resources - No Items.

N. Human Services

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund application; and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents. BUDGETED ACTION: The State grant for the Transportation Disadvantaged of \$272,743 and the required match of \$30,305 for a total of \$303,048 is included in the Sunshine Ride budget for County fiscal year 2010/2011.*

Grant 2010-014 and Resolution 2010-035

P. Public Safety - No Items.

Q. Public Works

(1) *RECOMMENDED ACTION: a) Approve a Transportation Post Project Maintenance Agreement (Agreement) between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Charlotte County requiring the County to maintain sidewalks on Cochran Blvd. after they have been constructed by FDOT, and b) Approve a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement on behalf of Charlotte County. BUDGETED ACTION: None.*

Agreement 2010-016 and Resolution 2010-034

R. Tourism Development - No Items.

S. Utilities - No Items.

T. **Other Agencies** - No Items.

V. **REGULAR AGENDA**

Z. **Regular Agenda**

(2) *Public Works* - Discussion and direction regarding preliminary design features for the Placida Widening Project.

Dan Quick gave a brief history on the Placida Widening Project, indicated the purpose of the item is for Public Works staff and Giffels-Webster to solicit and receive information and Board direction for six (6) items: for the Consultant to provide a summary of public comments that were received through April 27; receive direction with respect to intersection design; receive direction with respect to street lighting design; receive direction with respect to roadway typical section and pertinent details; receive direction with respect to future re-use facilities; have discussion with the Board with respect to detention pond signs and locations; and introduced consultants hired by staff for the project.

Jonathan Cole gave a PowerPoint presentation per packet material on the Placida Road Design Project, which included an Introduction, the Results of the Public Meeting, Roundabouts vs. Conventional Intersection - Placida Road at Cape Haze Drive, Placida Road at Panama Boulevard/Williamsburg Way, Reclaimed Main, Results of Public Meeting, Standard vs. Decorative Lighting, and Other Concerns - Pond Sites.

Commissioner Skidmore asked about the location of the pond to which Mr. Cole responded.

Mr. Cole discussed Pond Site H and fielded Board inquiries related to increasing the capacity of the ponds, a letter from Giffels-Webster related to using existing retention ponds on golf courses, and outreach for the residents at Fiddlers Green. **Commissioner Duffy** asked about low impact development and design techniques on retention ponds to which Jeff Ruggieri responded.

Dan Quick addressed **Commissioner Duffy's** concerns regarding the project budget, LED lighting, and drainage considerations.

Mr. Cole commented on the slide entitled Direction from BOCC and addressed Board inquiries regarding the addition of sidewalks, golf cart lanes, LED lighting, solar lighting, roundabouts, unsignalized intersections, decorative lighting, the installation of a wastewater pipe, multi-lane roads, and hurricane evacuation.

Discussion ensued between the Board, staff, and the consultants related to multi-lane roads, roundabouts, decorative light poles, and reclaimed water.

At **Commissioner Cummings'** request, Mr. Cole gave his recommendations as follows: recommends 5 lane section through the commercial area; does not recommend 11 foot lanes; recommends 12 foot lanes; does not recommend a roundabout; does not recommend signalization; recommends a conventional unsignalized intersection; recommends the reclaimed water main be installed now; and recommends standard lighting. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the referendum for the project, asked about build-out related to the level of service with concurrency, commented on addressing long-term needs related to the expansion, spoke in support of 4 lane roads, mentioned Burnt Store Road, spoke in support of the recommendations, questioned the reclaimed line with respect to cost of installation to which Ms. Kesner responded, spoke in support of the reclaimed line, commented on decorative lighting, storm water retention ponds with slopes as opposed to fences, sidewalks, bike lanes, and golf cart lanes.

Commissioner Skidmore confirmed that **BOARD CONSENSUS** is for a 4 lane road, asked about the effect on natural vegetation on Placida Road to which Mr. Cole responded in detail, and commented on sidewalks on both sides of the road and costs. Mr. Quick advised of an option to let staff know if the Board wants a sidewalk on only one side of the road and staff will make the decision. **Commissioner Skidmore** expressed concern on preserving natural vegetation and asked for Board direction related to supporting a focus group of community residents to provide input. **Commissioner Cummings** expressed concerns related to not having sidewalks on both sides of the road and commented on build-out needs.

Mr. Quick addressed inquiries from **Commissioner Duffy** regarding the width of a golf cart lane and having a sidewalk on one side and golf cart lane on the other. **Commissioner Duffy** mentioned attending a presentation on golf course communities, suggested having a test site, and commented on gathering more information. There was Board

discussion. **Commissioner Loftus** spoke in support of sidewalks on both sides of the road, mentioned complaints received, mentioned the suicide lane in Sarasota on Bee Ridge, and expressed the importance of looking to the future.

Mr. Baltz summarized the Board's recommendations and clarified the Board's direction on decorative lighting to which Mr. Quick responded 3/4 for decorative lighting. **Commissioner Skidmore** expressed concern in regard to retention ponds and about making sure follow-up is done. **Chairman Starr** commented on citizen's input in support of decorative lighting, mentioned sea turtles, expressed the need for further evaluation, and spoke in support of the assessment except for the decorative lighting. **Commissioner Skidmore** mentioned the workshop with Mr. Cole and commented on public outreach. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on people living close to road expansions.

Mr. Quick clarified with Mr. Cole that decorative lighting will be used. Mr. Cole advised that there would be a second public meeting in September.

(3) County Attorney - Discussion and direction on whether or not to opt out of a class action lawsuit filed in federal court in Monroe County regarding the collection of tourist development taxes from online travel companies. BUDGETED ACTION: The attorneys took this case on a contingency fee basis. If there is a favorable outcome, attorney's fees and costs would be deducted from any recovery.

Attorney Knowlton provided a brief history and update on the lawsuit and advised that a decision needs to be made by May 24 if the Board wants to stay with the County's case or drop out of it; and if the County wants to opt in or opt out of the Federal Court Monroe County lawsuit; commented that there is a July trial date set; recommended that the County stay in the lawsuit that it has filed; commented that five counties in the County's case have opted out of the Federal Court class action suit; stated that the basis for the recommendation is that Charlotte County is one of the counties that started the process; and opined that Charlotte County will have more input and control as the case develops.

COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE MOVED TO APPROVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S RECOMMENDATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA - No Items.

VII. PRESENTATION AGENDA - No Items.

VIII. PUBLIC WORKSHOP AGENDA - No Items

IX. BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA - No Items.

X. CITIZEN INPUT - ANY SUBJECT

Bob Duckworth of Eagle Preserve commented on Pond Site H from the Placida Road Widening presentation and expressed concerns with respect to the South Gate entrance of his community.

Robert Beaulieu of South Gulf Cove expressed concern regarding commercial vehicles in residential areas and gave a handout to the Board.

AA. County Administrator:

Mr. Baltz gave an update on moving forward with the partnership with the Animal Welfare League (AWL), advised that the AWL has asked to bring the matter forward in the future for a vote by the Board, advised that staff is working on feasibility options tied to Winchester Road and looking at the status of the project related to funding options, and stated that the issue will be brought back to the Board for a full briefing and possible reassessment. **Commissioner Skidmore** commented on Cape Haze infrastructure and hurricane preparation, commented on Sarasota County's application for a Transportation and Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant, stated that the issue on Winchester's repayment was West County impact fees, and urged the Board to complete the road.

Commissioner Skidmore thanked the South Gulf Cove residents for coming to the meeting and encouraged citizens to bring photographs.

BB. County Attorney:

Attorney Knowlton advised that the Florida Statute regarding bonds was amended to make it discretionary for the Board to require bonds by Ordinance and in determining the amount; commented that when the

Statute changed the practice continued but that an ordinance was never enacted; stated that if there isn't an ordinance, it is no longer required, advised that she contacted the Risk Manager, Bob Pryor, and discussed the need to continue the practice, to which he said no; stated that bonds will no longer be required, giving a savings of \$10,000; and asked for direction from the Board.
(CONSENSUS TO GO WITH RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY)

CC. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Loftus commented on a pole with missing signage at Englewood Beach and expressed concerns related to safety. Mr. Baltz clarified the location was Englewood Beach.

Commissioner Duffy addressed concerns of the resident in regard to commercial vehicles in residential areas. There was brief discussion. **Commissioner Duffy** commented on the renewable energy initiative taken up by the House and the Senate, expressed concern that it did not pass, and mentioned a conversation with Ken Roberson about a possible special session. **Commissioner Skidmore** indicated that the Governor called a Special Session for May 24-27. **Commissioner Duffy** encouraged citizens to get involved. **Commissioner Loftus** gave additional comment on the item related to the Special Session. **Commissioner Skidmore** advised that the Governor called for a constitutional amendment to ban oil drilling on Florida's coasts. Discussion ensued on making renewable energy part of the oil drilling session.

Chairman Starr commented on water rates and asked for Board direction on the issue. **Commissioner Loftus** stated his understanding was to wait for Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD.) **Commissioner Skidmore** spoke in favor of lowering financial pressures related to water bills. There was Board discussion regarding water/sewer bills and irrigation.

Chairman Starr commented on the brochure distributed by the Peace River/Manasota Water Authority, expressed concern with the cost, mentioned the letter to the editor citing cost, indicated he requested numbers from Mr. Lehman, commented on the contract with Continental Cablevision related to a rate increase, and proposed sending notices to other cable companies to solicit interest. **Commissioner Skidmore** indicated he had written such a letter a few days earlier and expressed concerns with Comcast. **Commissioners Loftus** and **Duffy** gave additional comments on cable companies.

Chairman Starr commented on sending a letter to Comcast's competition. **Commissioner Duffy** inquired about the legality of the Commission sending a letter to other cable companies. Attorney Knowlton stated that it is a non-exclusive contract, indicated her office is working on a letter for the County Administrator's signature this week, and mentioned inviting Comcast to a meeting. **Commissioner Duffy** indicated that she had contacted Comcast for the same reason and pointed out that many people pay for their internet, phone, and cable on one bill.

ADJOURNED 11:45 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**

sfc