

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 13, 2010

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

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Duffy, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Carleton. The following members were absent: Commissioner Skidmore.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Starr noted that **Commissioner Skidmore** was absent.

Opening Comments - Roger Baltz - None

Gordon Burger gave an overview of the meeting agenda and of future budget workshops.

1. Human Services Strategic Focus Area (continued from April 22, 2010)

a. Health Department Budget

Mr. Burger outlined the five-year projections for the Public Health Fund carried over from the previous workshop.

Commissioner Duffy asked for an explanation on the 5% reduction. Mr. Burger responded in detail.

Stephen Mitnick gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Health Department, outlined the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Balanced Scorecard, Mandated/Essential Services, Services Provided, Linkage to County Strategic Goals, and Directional Statements.

Herman Velasco outlined Environmental Health, Core Service, Mandated Functions, Facilities Inspections, Nuisance Complaints, Septic Program, Septic Systems, Septic Repairs, Aerobic Treatment Units (ATUs), State vs. County ATU Inspections, Consumer Advocacy, Education, Cost Efficiencies in Environmental Health, and the County's return on Investment.

Donna Olson outlined Disease Control and Prevention, Core Service, Clinic/Primary Care, Mandated Services, Women, Infant, and Children Nutrition (WIC), Non-mandated Services, Residents Served, Cost

Efficiencies in Clinic/Primary Care, Coordination of Services, County's Return on Investment, Impact of Reduction in Environmental Health Fees on Clinic, and Plans for the Future.

Larry Bebee outlined Budget & Performance, Fiscal Goals, Health Dept. Expenditures, Three Year Revenues and Expenses, CCHD Sources of Revenue FY11, Core Services - Planned Expenditures FY11, County Contributions to Health Department, Environmental Health Program Expenditures FY11, Comparison of County Fees, County Comparisons, Core Service: Disease Control & Prevention, Core Service: Clinic/Primary Care, Clinic/Primary Care Expenditures, Clinic/Primary Care County Comparisons, Revenue Opportunities, the Dental Clinic, the Clinic at Charlotte Behavioral Health Center, and Revenue Opportunities.

Mr. Mitnick summarized the Public Health presentation, and requested BOCC Direction & Assistance.

Commissioner Loftus asked Mr. Mitnick for suggestions on the Health Department getting its fair share. Mr. Mitnick opined that the Board may need to go through a legislative delegation and mentioned having contacted the Department of Health. **Commissioner Loftus** advised **Chairman Starr** that the issue needs to be pursued in the next session.

Commissioner Cummings commented on the Legislature giving the County its fair share and putting the issue on the Legislative priority list.

Commissioner Duffy commented on the multitude of services provided to the community, mentioned the people that benefit who don't pay taxes, commented on nutrition counseling, people paying taxes for services, mentioned factors that drive up the cost of health care, Medicaid dollars, Obama Care, and expressed concerns.

Chairman Starr referenced the pie chart from the PowerPoint presentation, suggested looking for part-time people and volunteers, expressed concerns with the Health Department budget, commented on reductions, spoke in opposition to providing door to door service, spoke in opposition to opening any more facilities, mentioned the Loveland facility, depreciation, supplies, requirements to provide proof of residency, commented on Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 related to ad valorem revenue and reductions in other County budgets; expressed concern on the need to look at efficiencies, asked about the amount of contributions per resident, mentioned the services provided by the Human Services Department, and the Health Department's proposed savings and scenarios.

Commissioner Cummings pointed out that the services provided are an effort at reducing the total cost to the taxpayers, commented on making use of

services where possible, addressing needs in order to not pay additional dollars, mentioned dental providers, and clarified with Mr. Mitnick that authorization is needed for a fee schedule. Mr. Mitnick responded that the Department needed approval for dental fees and commented on setting up a business plan. **Commissioner Cummings** suggested Mr. Mitnick bring a recommended fee schedule to the Board and clarified that when there is a net increase from the use of programs administrative infrastructure is shared to ease the cost to the Board. Mr. Mitnick responded.

Commissioner Cummings commented on partnering with Charlotte County Behavioral Health and clarified that the Health Department does not need funding from the Board. Mr. Mitnick clarified, commented on the Department's work with Charlotte County Behavioral Health, and indicated that the Legislature had approved the positions. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on reducing the cost to the community. Mr. Mitnick commented on one of the areas of impact being Environmental Health, pointed out that the clinic has a fee schedule based on federal poverty guidelines, and summarized individual contributions. **Commissioner Cummings** asked about charges for septic and aerobic treatment units, commented on non-mandated services, and spoke in opposition to subsidizing septic tank permits.

Commissioner Duffy agreed with **Chairman Starr** on the volunteer clinic and commented on the reduction in visits. **Chairman Starr** commented on funding for Charlotte County Behavioral Health, the amount of subsidy, and expressed concerns. **Commissioner Duffy** gave conditions for supporting the Health Department becoming a dental provider.

Commissioner Loftus expressed concern with the dental provider issue, spoke in support of the use of volunteers, and stated he did not want to see any more ad valorem dollars being spent.

Commissioner Cummings commented on ad valorem dollars going to salaries and expressed concerns.

RECESS: 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

2. Water Resources

Mr. Burger gave a Budgetary Overview of the Water Resources Strategic Focus Area and outlined where the money goes, where the money comes from, Historical Trend of Total Expenditures, and FTE Historical Trend.

a. County Maintenance of ATUs

Ms. Kesner outlined the CCU Mission Statement, the Agenda, Residential ATU Maintenance and Inspections, Commercial ATU Maintenance and Inspections,

Current Maintenance and Inspection of ATUs, Alternatives That Would Provide Customer Satisfaction, and Other Aspects of CCU Maintenance and Inspection of ATUs.

Mr. Baltz asked about the feasibility of asking existing staff to take on tasks in addition to their current workload. Ms. Kesner commented on an analysis that was done.

Ms. Kesner outlined the Comparison of Four Year Residential Program Costs.

Commissioner Duffy inquired about the Department of Health permit cost and about omitting the permit fee, to which Ms. Kesner responded. **Chairman Starr** made additional comment related to the permit fee. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed concerns regarding increasing government and commented on maintenance, repair bills, and supplies.

Ms. Kesner commented on the inventory in the warehouse. **Commissioner Loftus** expressed concerns related to parts for ATUs and the \$10 differential. **Chairman Starr** commented on providing services at a minimal cost and mentioned that the State has passed a Statute that all septic tanks have to be inspected.

Commissioner Cummings clarified costs in the budget with Ms. Kesner, asked about differences in rates, and about operational benefits. Ms. Kesner responded in detail.

Ms. Kesner outlined the Comparison of Four Year Commercial Program Costs.

b. Analysis of Water and Wastewater Rates

Ms. Kesner outlined Water and Wastewater Rates, Residential Water & Wastewater Customer Average Bill, and How Average Bill of \$86.12 is Budgeted.

Ms. Kesner fielded Board questions regarding services and charges, consulting services, the percentage of the budget spent on engineering, capital vs. operations, capital outlay transfer, and increase in expenses.

Mr. Baltz inquired about the increase in the cost of water, to which Ms. Kesner responded.

Ms. Kesner outlined the Water & Wastewater Rates Compared to Surrounding Areas - Residential Average Usage of 4,000 Gal./Mo.

Ms. Kesner fielded Board inquiries regarding the aging infrastructure, the increase in rates, ongoing infrastructure improvements, rate stabilization

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reserves, cash reserves, Peace River Water Authority methodology for R&R funding/bonding, and gave an Update on Five Year Projections.

Mr. Burger gave closing comments and asked if there was further Board direction. There was none.

ADJOURNED: 3:56 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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