

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 11, 2011

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

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Duffy, County Administrator Sandrock, County Attorney Knowlton, Deputy Clerk Lansing, Mayor Harvey Goldberg, Vice Mayor William F. Albers, Councilmember Rachel Keesling, Councilmember Larry Friedman, Councilmember Charles Wallace, City Manager Howard Kunik, City Attorney David Levin, and City Clerk Sue Foster. The following members were absent: Commissioner Skidmore. The meeting was called to order at **9:00 AM**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

I. Tourism Bureau Presentation (County)

Lorah Steiner gave a brief presentation related to how she will pursue Tourism in Charlotte County in the future and responded to group inquiries.

Commissioner Duffy offered to join Ms. Steiner in a meeting with the business owners along the U.S. 41 Corridor. Mayor Goldberg said the Event and Conference Center is an asset to Charlotte County. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted the importance of having a good welcome site. **Chairman Starr** commented on the Medical Arts District and mentioned the Sports Authority and Murdock Village. Vice Mayor Albers gave detail related to promoting tourism. **Commissioner Constance** commended the new signs in Punta Gorda.

II. Sheriff MSTU (City)

Gordon Burger gave an update on the Public Safety MSTU and paralleled visual slides related to Distribution of Ad Valorem, How Tax Dollars are Spent, Funding for the Sheriff's Budget, and the Sheriff's Public Safety Fund.

Chairman Starr commented on the high cost of Law Enforcement, noted the importance of transparency, and provided detail related to the net budget and millage rates. **Commissioner Duffy** spoke in support of the MSTU and pointed out the need for a

distinction between Law Enforcement and Corrections. Mayor Goldberg spoke in support of the MSTU.

III. Burnt Store/Jones Loop Road/US 41 Intersection & Railroad Crossing Improvements (City)

Dan Quick gave a brief update and responded to questions. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on the importance of moving the project forward, pointed out the support of community groups, spoke in opposition to the widening of Placida Road, and expressed the importance of the Railroad improvements and widening River Road. Mayor Goldberg, Councilmember Keesling, and **Commissioner Constance** spoke in support. **Chairman Starr** expressed concerns related to the Railroad, mentioned incomplete information prior to this point, and commented on Placida Road. Councilmember Friedman gave additional detail related to the Railroad and thanked the Commission in advance for moving the project forward. **Commissioner Duffy** expressed satisfaction with the project being moved forward and mentioned safety issues. Mayor Goldberg commented on the costs of the intersection.

An unidentified member of the South Charlotte County Coalition thanked the County for moving the Railroad Project forward.

Nancy Prafke of Team Punta Gorda requested support of a premier bicycle and pedestrian friendly community and gave additional detail related to bicycle programs.

Commissioner Duffy suggested a joint ceremony with the City in observance of the upcoming Ten Year Anniversary of September 11th. **Chairman Starr** gave detail related to an intermodal.

ADJOURNED: 10:22 AM

Chairman

ATTEST:

**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

JL