

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**March 16, 2011**

A Town Hall Meeting was held at the Charlotte County Cultural Center, Port Charlotte, Florida and was hosted by the Charlotte County Curmudgeon Club. The following members of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners were present: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Duffy, and Commissioner Skidmore. Also in attendance were County Administrator Sandrock and Deputy Clerk Lansing. The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Curmudgeon President Dale Watson introduced speakers: **Commissioner Robert Skidmore; Commissioner Chris Constance; Commissioner Tricia Duffy; Commissioner Steven R. Deutsch; Chairman Robert Starr;** Charlotte County Sheriff, Bill Cameron; Property Appraiser, Frank Desguin; Assistant County Administrator, Kelly Shoemaker; County Administrator, Raymond Sandrock; Ken Lovejoy; Punta Gorda Mayor, Harvey Goldberg; Punta Gorda City Manager, Howard Kunik; Supervisor of Elections, Paul Stamoulis; Parks and Recreation Director, John Jackson; Public Works Director, Robert Halfhill; Health Administrator, Keith Keene; Health Department Director of Nursing, Donna Olson; Budget Director, Gordon Burger; CCU Director, Terri Kesner; and School Board Representative, Andrea Messina.

Ken Lovejoy - Mediator

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. Andrea Messina responded to inquiries by an unidentified citizen related to Charlotte County Public Schools newsletter information.

2. Mr. Sandrock, Sheriff Cameron, **Chairman Starr** and **Commissioner Duffy** addressed concerns of an unidentified citizen regarding absentee landlords, referred the citizen to Team Port Charlotte Board Members Susan Swanson and Jim Kelly, and

mentioned April 16<sup>th</sup> is Clean up Day in the Medical Arts District.

3. **Commissioner Skidmore** responded to a citizen's concerns related to Code Compliance.

4. Mr. Sandroock and **Chairman Starr** responded to an inquiry by a citizen related to the availability of SHIP/HUD funds, mentioned Neighborhood Stabilization Grant, the Medical Arts District, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and noted the Final Charrette is being held on March 24, 2011.

5. Ms. Messina responded to concerns from a citizen regarding the Tax Bill for the School Board and ten year projections for student population.

6. Mr. Sandroock, **Commissioner Skidmore**, **Commissioner Constance**, Mr. Keene, and **Commissioner Duffy** responded to inquiries by an unidentified citizen and Mr. Watson regarding sewer/septic systems and water quality. **Chairman Starr** noted the Phosphate Meeting being held on March 25, 2011 at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center.

7. **Commissioner Skidmore** responded to concerns by an unidentified citizen related to the request for federal funds for septic tanks.

8. Sheriff Cameron, **Commissioner Duffy**, and **Commissioner Skidmore** responded to concerns by an unidentified citizen regarding fertilizer use and drinking in County parks.

9. **Commissioner Skidmore** and **Chairman Starr** responded to concerns by an unidentified citizen regarding the Fire Commission in Englewood.

10. **Chairman Starr**, Mr. Keene, and Ms. Kesner responded to inquiries by an unidentified citizen related to Aerobic Septic Tanks, the high cost of septic tank maintenance, and Midway widening.

11. Ms. Messina provided statistics related to the School Board at the request of an unidentified citizen.

12. **Commissioner Skidmore**, **Commissioner Duffy**, and Ms. Messina responded to inquiries by a citizen related to pension policies for elected officials. Mr. Kunik commented on pensions relative to the City of Punta Gorda.

13. An unidentified citizen commented on retirement, the Pension System, fertilizer issues, and offered suggestions.

14. Mr. Kunik responded to an inquiry related to the defined benefit of new employees versus existing employees.

**RECESS: 7:41 PM - 7:55 PM**

15. Mr. Halfhill responded to inquiries by a citizen related to Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) labor rates.

16. Mr. Sandrock responded to concerns by an unidentified citizen related to vacant lots.

17. An unidentified citizen addressed the Commission and City Council relative to a booklet on Sustainable Development, urged the Boards to review the PGTeaparty.org. website, and requested the Boards' position on the subject.

18. An unidentified citizen addressed the Commission, the Sheriff's Department, City Council, and School Board in regard to the direction the County is headed. Mr. Sandrock, **Commissioner Deutsch**, and **Commissioner Duffy** responded in detail.

19. Mr. Sandrock and Mayor Goldberg responded to inquiries from an unidentified citizen related to Murdock Village and the Railroad in Punta Gorda.

20. Ms. Messina, **Chairman Starr**, Mayor Goldberg, and **Commissioner Skidmore** responded to concerns by an unidentified citizen related to contingency plans within the Budget in the event of a crisis.

21. An unidentified citizen expressed gratitude to the Commissioners and especially **Commissioner Duffy** for their support of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and the Medical Art District, described Team Port Charlotte's responsibilities, and defined the meaning of Team: "Together Everyone Achieves More".

22. An unidentified citizen expressed concern with safety issues in her neighborhood and requested a police car visit the area. **Commissioner Duffy** commented on attending a Neighborhood Watch meeting and offered the contact information.

23. An unidentified citizen expressed gratitude for the beautiful landscaping in Punta Gorda and hoped that Port Charlotte would do the same. Mayor Goldberg responded.

24. Ms. Messina responded to an inquiry by an unidentified citizen regarding student achievement.

25. Judge Stamoulis responded to an inquiry by a citizen regarding redistricting.

**ADJOURNED: 9:00 PM**

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**Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Deputy Clerk**

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