

March 9, 2010

That We Neglect The Horn In Each Of Our Neighbors.

As Members Of The Board Of County Commissioners Turn To Their Work, We Ask You To Bless Them And All Those Who Serve The Public.

Grant Them The Imagination To Have Foresight And The Wisdom To Be Flexible And Give Them Perspective That Fosters Cooperation While Respecting Differencing.

Amen.

Chairwoman Hall: Is Meagan Fazik Here? Good Morning.

How Are You? And Ann.

Boy, You're Going To Have To Say That Last Name For Me.

It's A Long One.

Girl Scouts Is Such A Great Organization, And We Have The Honor To Talk About The Importance Of Girl Scouts To Our Young Girls And Young Women's Lives.

On Behalf Of The Board, I Would Like To Read This Resolution To You.

Whereas, March 12th Marks The 98th Anniversary Of The Girl Scouts Of The U.S.A. Bounded In 1912 By Juliet Gordon Rowe In Savannah, Georgia, And With Its Long And Distinguished History Girl Scouting Has Inspired More Than 50 Million Girls And Women To Strive For The Highest Ideals Of Courage, Confidence, And Character, And Whereas, Through Girl Scouts Girls Grow Strong, Gain Self-Confidence, Develop Leadership Skills, And Learn The Life-Long Lessons Of Contributing Back To Their Communities And, Whereas, Girl Scouting Helps Girls Achieve Their Potential By Increasing Awareness Of Opportunities Existent In The Field Of Math, Science, Sports, Technology, And Other Professional Pursuits.

And, Whereas, The Girl Scouts Of Gulf Coast Council Was Formed In 1957 And Has Capably Delivered The Optimum Girl Scout Experience To Young Women And Adults In 10 Counties Across Southwest Florida, And Whereas, More Than 3.8 Million Girl Scouts Nationwide, Including 11,200 Girls And 3,400 Adult Volunteers Serve Through The Girl Scouts Of Gulf Coast, If Florida.

Please Join Us In Celebrating And Rejoicing In This Great American Tradition.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved The Board Of County Commissioners Of Lee County, Florida, That We Do Hereby Designate March As Girl Scout Anniversary Month And Express The Appreciation Of Our Citizens To The Southwest Florida Council And The Girl Scouts Of The U.S.A. For Their Interest In The Dedication To America's Youth.

It Was Dually Signed This Day By Myself, The Chairman Of Board Of County Commissioners.

If I Could Present This To You, And We Would Like To Take A Photograph And Then Hear From You.

This Is A Lucky Day.

Oh, My Goodness.

Thank You.

Who Got The Samoas? I Want To Know Why I Got The Lemon.

They're Good, Ok? Chairwoman Hall: We'll Take A Picture.

One, Two, Three.

One More.

Chairwoman Hall: If We Could Hear A Few Words.

Comm. Bigelow: What Did You Get, Frank? Comm. Mann: I'm Looking For The Samoas.

Comm. Bigelow: They're Not Up Here.

We Want To Thank You For This Resolution Today.

Our Board Member Could Not Be Here, But With Me Is One Of My Colleagues, Amanda Jacobs, And One Of Our Volunteers, Renee Armstrong, Who Also Work Here With The County, So We Thank Her For Introducing Us To This Opportunity To Bring Girl Scouts Awareness To Our Community Leaders.

Certainly If There Are Any Questions About Girl Scouting That We Can Ever Answer Or We Would Like To See Some Of Our Girls In Action, And We Invite You To Visit Us.

The Girls Are Doing Service Projects.

We Have Some Work Days At Camp That We've Just Finished Recently, And Over 500 Community Volunteers Came Out To Support Us In Those Work Days.

We Know That Girl Scouting Is Certainly Thriving And Strong In Our Community Today As It Was Almost 100 Years Ago.

So Thank You So Much For Everything And Your Support Of Our Mission And What We Are Doing In Our Communities And Of The Young Women Who Are Leaders Of Today As Well As Tomorrow.

Thank You.

Chairwoman Hall: I Had The Privilege Of Being A Brownie And Girl Scout.

That's A Wonderful Organization.

Next We'll Go To The Recap, And We Have Item C-6-B.

We Deferred This Item For One Week To Allow For Additional Review.

6-B.

See 6-B.

Consent Item 6-B.

I Have A Motion By Commissioner Judah.

I Have A Second By Commissioner Mann.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously, And Then We Have Two Walk-On Items And Two Carry-Over Items.

Next We'll Go On To Public Comment On The Consent Administrative Walk-On Or Carry-Over Item, And The Only Cards I Have Is Christian Meister.

How Are You? Oh, At The Public.

I'm Sorry.

Ok.

I'm Sorry.

Not On The Consent Agenda Item.

I'll Wait Until The End.

Having Said That Then, I Have No One Else -- Is There Anyone Else From The Audience Who Would Like To Speak On The Consent Administrative Carry-Over Or Walk-On Item? Seeing No One, I'll Close Public Comments And Go Back To The Board On Consent Items.

Commissioner Bigelow.

Comm. Bigelow: I Have None.

Comm. Judah: None, Madam Cherry.

Comm. Mann: I Was Going To Pull 6-B, But That Was The One We Just -- Chairwoman Hall: I Have None.

Correct.

Comm. Judah: Move The Entire Consent Agenda? Chairwoman Hall: I Have A Motion By Commissioner Judah And A Second By Commissioner Mann.

Is There Further Discussion? All Those In Favor.

Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Next We'll Go On To The Administrative Item, And We'll Start With 8-A.

This Is For Recycling Of Solid Waste.

Have I A Motion By Commissioner Judah And A Second By Commissioner Mann.

Is There Further Discussion? Comm. Bigelow: I Do Want To Give Lindsey An Opportunity.

This Is Remarkable In Terms Of How Lee County Has Been Able To Provide A Very Stable The Rate Structure, And With The Bid That Came In, Again, We Are Able To Be Consistent With The Rate Structure On Behalf Of The Pairs Of Lee County, And So, Lindsey, If You Wouldn't Mind, Madam Chair, To Just Kind Of -- Chairwoman Hall: By All Means.

Lindsey, Please.

Comm. Bigelow: Summarize What Was Accomplished.

Good Morning.

Commissioners, Madam Chair.

For The Record My Name Is Lindsey Sampson, Celebrates Division.

The Celebration Division Was Very Please And Is Very Pleased By The Response Of The Proposers In This Procurement Process.

Virtually All Of The Residential Rates Will Remain The Same As They Are Or Will Be Slightly Reduced, And The Commercial Rates That We're Recommending Range In The Five Franchise Areas Anywhere From A Minus 2% To A Plus 6%.

We Had Seven Companies Proposing For This Work, And It Was A Very Strong Interest, And They Were Very Competitive.

Our Recommendation For Two Areas, Areas One And Two, Does Include The Requirement For The County To Purchase 65 Gallon Recycling Containers For The Residential Properties In Those Two Areas, And That Will Come Back To The Board Within A Few Months After We Complete The Procurement Process Of Those Containers.

And That Will Be Approximately \$1.2 Million, \$1.3 Million Expenditure.

However, Within The Agreements, The Contractor, In This Case Viola, Will Reimburse The County Approximately \$700,000 For Those Containers.

So That Is Included In The Motion That Has Been Presented To You.

If You Should Elect To Go With The Base Scenario, Scenario For Those Two Areas, The Collection Fees Would Still Be Virtually The Same, Virtually Unchanged.

We're Recommending The Larger Recycling Containers Because We Believe That We Will Receive More Material In Those Areas As Well As Those Areas That Will Provide A Very Good Comparison To See How That Collection Program Compares To Other Areas Of The County.

Comm. Mann: Question.

Chairwoman Hall: Yes, Commissioner Man.

Comm. Mann: What Do Those Look Like? Not The Standard Blue Buckets That Everybody Has? No, They Look Like -- A Stand-Up Cart With Two Wheels.

Comm. Mann: Will They Be Picked Up By A Machine? That Is Up To The Hauling Company.

That Is Very Likely.

They Can Decide If They Want To Use An Automated System Or Semi-Automated System Or Manual System.

Comm. Mann: I'm Thinking About The Customer And What Changes This May -- Couldn't Be A Major Change.

They Would Put Their Bucket Where Their Blue Bucket Is.

That Wouldn't Change? Correct.

Comm. Mann: Let Me Ask You -- I'm Very Pleased, As Commissioner Judah Pointed Out, That We're Maintaining Our Level Rates, Or A Slight Reduction In A Time When Gasoline Prices Doing Like That.

How Does The Customer -- The Company Factor In Gasoline, And How Long Are We Protected? I'm Hearing This Morning That Gas Rates Are Expected To Go To \$3.

That Would Be In Their Contract, I Would Think.

The Contracts Allow For An Adjustment Of The Rates On An Annual Basis, And It's What Happens When -- In The Summertime We Normally Bring To You The Solid Waste Assessments And Include A Recommendation.

It Is Up To The Board To Decide On A Year-By-Year Basis.

The Adjustment In The Contract Is Structured On 88% Approximately As A Consumer Price Index Adjustment And 12% Of The Adjustment Is Based On A Fuel Index.

Comm. Mann: So This Is -- It's A How Many Year Contract? Five Years.

Comm. Mann: Five.

But It Can Be Annually Adjusted For Price Because Of Fuel? 12.5% Of The Adjustment Is Based On Fuel.

87.5% Is Based On A Broad Consumer Price Index Adjustment.

Comm. Mann: For Now And When We Adopt This, It Can Be Safely Said That The Rates Are Going To Remain The Same Or Slightly Less Across The Board For All Of Our Customers? Is That True? Through Fiscal Year 2011.

Comm. Mann: Thank You Very Much.

Chairwoman Hall: Any Other Questions? Comm. Judah: The Media Will Not Cover This Because This Is Incredibly Good News, But This Is Just Unprecedented For A Community Where Throughout The Country We Have Increasing Utility Rates, Energy Costs, And Here We're Still Able To Stabilize The Garbage Rates To Our Community.

I Want To Thank Waste Pro.

Also, Viola And The New Kid On The Block, Choice Environmental.

Wish Them Well, And Thank You For Their Good Service To Our Community.

Chairwoman Hall: Yes, Commissioner Bigelow.

Comm. Bigelow: In Lehigh Currently It's \$144 A Year Per Customer.

You're Suggesting Or Recommending \$132, Let's Call It \$133.

That's The Base Price Scenario, Correct? Correct.

Comm. Bigelow: And You Had Suggested That We Could Realize A Price Reduction To \$142, Call It, For Alternate Price Scenario.

Can You Explain The Difference Between What You Are Recommending And That Alternate Price Scenario Per Year Which Would Still Be A Reduction? Yes, Sir.

In Area Four, Which Is The Lehigh Acres, Alba Area, Extends North Of The River The Current Rate Is About \$144.

Now, This Is Just For Collection.

Not Disposal Charges, But Collection Rates \$144 Per Year.

The Base Price Scenario Continuing Same Operations As We Currently Have With The New Contractor Is \$132 A Year.

If, As We're Recommending In Area One And Two, We Would Go With The Alternate One Scenario, Then The Collection Fee, Or Cost For Area Four Would Go Up To \$142 A Year.

It Would Still Be Less Than They're Currently Paying By \$2 A Year.

Under That Scenario We Would Use The 65 Gallon Recycling Containers In That Area.

The County Would Have To Purchase Those Containers.

We're Estimating At About \$1.6 Million.

The Contractor Would Reimburse The County During The First Two Years Approximately \$900,000.

50%.

So There Is Certainly A Potential To Consider That Scenario With Basically No Change To The Price For That Area.

Comm. Bigelow: It Would Still Be A Reduction.

Slight Reduction, Yes, Sir.

Chairwoman Hall: Uh-Huh.

Comm. Bigelow: I Think There's Some Merit To That.

Would You Tell Us Why You Were Recommending It For Areas One And Two But Not Four In This Case? Well, The Only Reason -- And We're -- We Believe That The Containers Do Have Merit.

The Reason We Didn't Recommend It Under This Scenario -- Or, Rather, For Area Four Is Simply Because In Areas One And Two There's Virtually No Difference, In Fact, To Purchase The Containers.

The Residents Actually See A Reduction Over The Base Pricing Scheme.

Comm. Bigelow: Right, Right.

Not Only A Reduction From The Current, But Even A Reduction From The Base, And That Is Why We Recommended For Area One And Two.

We Certainly Have No Problem With That Consideration For -- And Particularly For Area Four.

I Don't Think I Would Recommend It For Area Three And Five, But For Area Four, I Think It Has Merit.

It Will Slightly Reduce From The Current Rate, But It's Not As Cheap As You Can Get It.

Chairwoman Hall: Uh-Huh.

That Is The Service.

It's Not As Cheap As You Can Get The General Service.

Comm. Bigelow: Right.

It's Just A Matter Of Providing The Containers At 50%.

Right.

So -- We're Estimating 50%.

It's A Firm \$2 Is What We Will Be Reimbursed By The Collection.

It's A Consideration, Again, I Think -- If This Was Three Years Ago, I Would Probably Strongly Recommend It , Given The Current Situation You're Deciding Between A \$12 Reduction In The Current Cost In That Area Or \$2 Reduction For Those Individual Properties.

Comm. Bigelow: Well, I Guess Every Little Bit Can Help.

Chairwoman Hall: Any Other Questions.

All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Next We'll Move On To Administrative Items.

Number 14-A.

I Have A Motion By Commissioner Mann.

I Have A Second By Commissioner Judah.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Next We'll Move On To Our 9:30 Public Hearing.

Good Morning.

Assistant County Attorney.

I Have Reviewed The Notice For This Hearing, And We Have Not Followed Through On All The Notice Procedures, So We're Going To Have To Go Ahead And Pull This And Bring It Back To You At A Later Date.

The Applicant Was Going To Request A Continuance Anyhow, So -- Comm. Mann: That Require A Motion? No, It Does Not.

Chairwoman Hall: We Do Not Have A 9:30 Public Hearing.

Next We'll Move To Walk-Ones.

Walk-On Item Number One, Authorize County Ranch Pursuing An Additional 20 Acres Surrounded By The Acres Approved.

Good Morning, Karen.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

For The Record, Karen Mcguire, Division Of County Lands.

Commissioners, This Morning It Has Been Relayed To Us By The Property Owners That They Would Be Willing To Donate To The County The 20 Acres, And This Would Be To The First Option Purchase That We Would Be Making On The Large Track Of Land That They Also Own, So I Would Request If The Board Goes Forward With This Today, That We Could Amend The Board's Recommendation To Authorize Staff To Handle The Donation And Follow Through On The Necessary Documentation To Finalize That Donation As A Part Of The First Option.

Chairwoman Hall: It Sounds Like It Falls Into The State Road 82 Widening And Some Dollars Coming Back, So It's Very Generous, And Those Are The Kinds Of Donations We Love To Have.

Especially On D.O.T. Right Of Way.

I Have A Motion By Commissioner Judah And A Second By Commissioner Janes.

Commissioner Judah.

Comm. Judah: Let Me Extend My Personal Heart-Felt Appreciation.

It Is Important That We Have This Land In Florida Given The Investment North Of 82 And The Widening Of 8 It And Being Able To Connect With The Rest Of Six Mile.

That Land North Of 82 Actually Is Connected A Power Line Easement That Goes Across The River, And There's A Tremendous Corridor, And It Really Would Have Been A Tremendous Mistake On Our Part If We Didn't Move Forward With That Corridor, And It Would Have Been Accomplished Not Without The Generosity Of The Hooders In Donating.

That's Extremely Good News To Hear That This Morning, Karen.

I Thank You For Your Good Work And Your Staff, But This Is A Tremendous Gift To This County And To Our Community, And The Mission That We Have Embarked On To Protect Critical Wildlife Habitat And Protect Our Wildlife.

With That I'm Hopeful Now That -- With The Funding That It Will Be Part Of This Package Deal That Comes From The Funding Anyway For The Culverts And Fencing And The Donation Of Land We Can Accomplish Our Objective.

Thank You So Much.

Chairwoman Hall: Further Discussion? Commissioner Mann.

Comm. Mann: How Much Is That Wildlife Crossing? That's Just A Two Square Culverts?
Comm. Judah: I Think 4 X 8.

Chairwoman Hall: That Is Correct.

Comm. Mann: And You Were Saying It's Covered -- The Cost Is Already -- Comm. Judah: As I Understand It, Commissioner Mann, There Was \$5 Million We Had Provided For That Project.

The State Returned That Money To The County.

We're Working On The Expenditure Of Those Dollars For Projects.

This Is Money That Actually Was Previously Allocated To 82, And That's Where The Money Comes From.

Comm. Mann: We're Generally Partnered With The City And The State In That Whole Project Out There, And This Will Just Be -- Chairwoman Hall: Part Of It.

Comm. Mann: There's Going To Have To Be A Culvert There Anyway, And We're Just Going To Make Certain It's Big Enough For Wildlife, The Little Critters To Get Out? There's Two 10 X 6 Box Culvert That Is Were In The 82 Plans.

We're Adding -- They're Wet, So We're Adding An 8 X 4 Box Culvert About 100 Feet Away From Those Two That's Higher So That It Would Be Dry.

Nine To 10 Months Of The Year Is The D.O.T.'S Estimate.

The Cost For The Culvert And The Fencing Is Somewhere Between \$400,000 And \$500,000 In Total.

The Funds Will Come From The \$5 Million We've Given To The City To Participate In That Project As The County's Share.

We're Going To Get Most Of That Back Except A Couple Of Issues We're Actually Swapping Who Is Building The Signal, So A Few Minor Construction Things Going On, But The Cost Is Coming Out Of That \$5 Million.

We're Going To Get Most Of It Back.

We'll Leave The City Holding Roughly \$2 Million.

\$1 Million For Various Construction Changes Including If Fence And Culverts, And \$1 Million For Construction Contingencies In Case There's Further Costs.

Comm. Mann: Does The City Have The \$5 Million Available To Give Us Back? They Do.

We Met We W Them.

Chairwoman Hall: They Told Us In Advance Of The Project.

Ok.

Any Further Discussion? Yes, Commissioner Bigelow.

Comm. Bigelow: None.

Chairwoman Hall: Don, Come Back, Please.

Commissioner Bigelow.

Comm. Bigelow: Don, Here In The Graphic That -- I Keep Forgetting Her New Name, Ms. McGuire, Provided Us.

I Guess There's A Road That Will Now -- You See That Here? The Old Alignment For Buckingham Road? Comm. Bigelow: I Guess It Will Be Proposed To Be Closed.

That's Being Obliterated Right.

Removed.

Construction.

Right.

Comm. Bigelow: And Then I Guess, Karen, If You Could Maybe Help Me Out.

The -- That Portion In Yellow, The Old Buckingham Road That Don Talked About, Was That Acquired In The First Parcel? No, Commissioner.

That Is Actually Option Three, And Determined On Whether Or Not We Are In Need Of That Parcel For The Crossing In Lieu Of Receiving This 20 Acres That Parcel Probably Is Not Going To Be Necessary To Be Purchased.

Comm. Bigelow: For The Crossing, But It Is Part Of The Three -- It Is A Part Of The Three Purchase Buy-Down, But It Was Identified As A Parcel That May Not Be Acquired Should It Not Be Necessary.

It Was One Of Those Parcels Based On Whether Or Not We Were Able To Do This Crossing Here.

Comm. Bigelow: Ok.

So It Is Probably Not Going To Be Necessary To Acquire.

Comm. Bigelow: Got You.

All Right.

Comm. Mann: Madam Chair.

Commissioner Mann.

Comm. Mann: You Said This Donation Is From The Same Owners Of The Parcel We Bought Last Week? That Is Correct.

Comm. Mann: I Think That's Important To Point Out, Again, Because A Lot Seemed To Be Developing About The Price We Paid.

They're Now Donating.

It Was \$30,000 An Acre.

That's A Lot Of Money.

I Think That's No Small Gesture On Their Part To Try To Take Some Of The Sting Out Of The News That Accompanied That Purchase Last Week.

That's Why I Wanted To Mention It One More Time.

Thank You.

Chairwoman Hall: Ok.

All Those In Favor? Opposed? The Motion Carries Unanimously.

Next We'll Go On To Walk-On Item Number Two.

This Is The Mount Lachey Grid Replacement.

Good Morning, Scott.

Good Morning, Commissioners.

Scott From The D.O.T.

This Is Sort Of A Culmination Of A Trial We Tried Earlier Last Year, I Guess It Was.

We Had Some Interest From Contractors Due To The Downturn In The Economy To Put Metal Shade Out For Bid With Some Type Of Financing Option To It.

They Were Interested.

We Did Bid That As A Bid Build Alternative To Get A Base Bid In There, And Then We Put In A Number Of Financing Options And Asked The Contractors To Bid On Those Also.

We Did Receive A Number Of Bids.

The Low Base Bid Was In The Neighborhood Of A Little Over \$17 Million, And The Low Financing Option Was Somewhat Over \$22 Million, And Looking At The Term Of That Financing It Worked Out To Be About 6.25%, 6.5% Interest.

We Thought The County Auto Could Do Better On Their Own Efforts Than Through The Contractor.

Since Then We've Been Trying A Number Of Options To Get Financing, But, Again, The Financial Markets Out There We Still Haven't Been Able To Get The Commercial Paper.

The Stimulus Money Is Somewhat Questionable, And Now We're Looking At Just Individual Bank Loans And The Feasibility Of That.

We Can Pursue That Option, And I Hate To Put Any Numbers On It, But Probably Somewhere In The Between 2% To 3% Once You Figure All The Contingencies In There.

Still Well Below Half Of What The Contractor Financing Opg Is.

Again, The Contractor Bids Were Good For 120 Days, Which Ends Tomorrow.

We've Asked The Contractor If They Will Extend The Bid.

They've Indicated A Willingness To Do So, But They're Checking With All Their Suppliers And Subcontractors Right Now To See If That's Feasible For Them.

That's About Where We're Standing Right Now.

We're Asking For A Conditional Award As Long As We Can Get A Positive Feedback On Those Two Big Ifs.

Namely The Extension Of The Bid By The Contractor, And Some Financing That's Suitable To The Board Of County Commissioners.

Chairwoman Hall: I Have A Motion By Commissioner Judah.

Do I Have A Second? I Have A Second By Commissioner Mann.

Other Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Next We'll Move On To Carry-Over Item Number One, And This Is Regarding The Department's April 2nd And Thursday, September 9th.

Karen, I Want To Thank You For Your Memo.

Does The Board Want To Go Over Karen's Memo? Do I Have A Second.

I Have A Second By Commissioner Janes.

A Motion By Commissioner Judah.

Second By Commissioner Janes.

Another Discussion.

My Voice This Morning.

Comm. Bigelow: If I Could Ask You, There's A Provision In Here That The County Employees -- And There's So Many Here That Volunteer Their Time, Whether It's Late At Night Or On The Weekends.

It's Not Just -- It Never Has Been A 9:00 To 5:00 Job For Most All Of Our County Employees, And What I Want To Make Sure -- I Remember Reading Here A Week Ago Where It Looked Like They Would Be Penalized If They Got On The E-Mail After Hours In The Evening On The Day That They Were Not To Work, On The Day They Were Closed Down.

They Were Penalized If They Were To Use The E-Mail To Maybe Try To Clean Up Some Additional Work That They Had To Do, And I Just Want To Make Sure That They Don't End Up Volunteering Their Time Beyond That 9:00 To 5:00 To Get Some Work Done That They Get Penalized Because Of That.

That Was -- Good Morning, Commissioners.

That Was If It Was A Furlough Day, And I Believe That Is Because Of Federal Law That We Had To Make That Statement In There.

Comm. Bigelow: So That's Not The Case Anymore? Ok, Good.

Chairwoman Hall: I Have A Motion By Commissioner Judah.

A Second By Commissioner Janes.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Last Carry-Over Item Is Administrative Guidelines By County Policy Employee And Customer Parking In Downtown.

Per The County. Chairwoman Hall: Have I A Motion By Commissioner Judah.

I Have A Second By Commissioner Mann.

Charlie, Did You Have A Comment For Some Reason? I Did.

If It's Appropriate.

Chairwoman Hall: Well, Let Me Go Back To My Board For Discussion Because We Normally Don't Take Public Comment On Items On Our Agenda Other Than At The Beginning Of The Meeting.

We Always Try To Accommodate The Clerk Of The Court, So If You Just Give Me A Moment To Go To My Board For Discussion, And Then I'll Call You Back Up.

Is There Any Discussion From The Board? All Right.

Charlie -- Or -- Commissioners, I Do Want To Make A Clarification, Though, That Those That Are Paying The Premium \$30 Now Will Continue To Pay That.

This Is Just For The New Garage.

They Will Begin At The \$15 And \$5 For The Uncovered.

Chairwoman Hall: I Have A Question Under Discussion.

On The Options That You Gave The Courts And Everyone Else, I Want To Make Sure That There's Parody And That Everyone Is Paying The Same.

I Don't Want You To Charge Someone Else Half That For Premium Covered Parking.

If We're Going To -- What's Good Is Good For Everyone, And Our Employees Should Not Be Treated Differently No, Matter Where They Are, And I Guess When I Look At Stat-- Statute Orally That This Is An Issue For Us, And I Think That Everyone Needs To Be Treated Equal And Fairly.

Comm. Bigelow: Absolutely.

Chairwoman Hall: For Me It Was Confusing As To How Do I Do The Comparisons So That I Know Everyone Is.

Can You Telling Me That Everyone Is Paying The Same Now Based On Our Charges That We Have In The Parking Garages For Employees In Downtown And Our Surface Lot Parking Charges So Everyone Is Compared To What We Are Doing Now With This? We Can Make -- If The Board Desires, We Can Have Everyone Paying The \$15 That Are In The Premium Spots, Reserved Spots.

Then \$10 For The Uncovered.

Chairwoman Hall: Why Wouldn't Everyone Pay What We've Been Paying Traditionally? Who Is Going To Answer That One? Commissioner, We Have Some Folks That Pay \$30 Right Now Because They're In A Very, Very Close Lot.

Chairwoman Hall: Right.

And We Would Not Recommend That We Cut That Down To \$15.

I Think What Karen Is Saying For Uncovered It Would Be \$5, And For Covered It Would Be \$15.

For The Downtown Campus That Would All Be Equal Basically, Other Than If You Are Paying \$30 Now, You Are In A Close Lot, And We're Not Going To Give You A Break, I Guess, Or Go Backwards.

Chairwoman Hall: When I Look At The Lot And The Proximity To The Lots To The Justice Center It's Uncovered That's There, You Are Saying That Those Employees Will Pay \$15 Versus The People That Are In Our Lot Over Here At The Administrative Building Are Paying \$30? We Have People In That Lot That Are Paying \$30.

I Mean, I Don't Mind Paying \$30 Because I'm Right Up Front At The Front Door.

I Don't Have A Problem With That, But You Have Other Employees In The Lot At The Wachovia Building That Are Paying \$30.

That Would Reduce.

Chairwoman Hall: I Just Want To Make Sure Everyone Is Fair.

I Guess My Question Is Why Do I Reduce When I've Been Collecting At \$30 To Offset My Expenses So That People Over Here Can Pay Less When Everyone Has Been Paying \$30? Because We're Spreading It Out To More People.

Chairwoman Hall: Ok.

And I Just Want To Make Sure That We're Not -- We Have Always Taken The Position That We Try To Cover These Costs And Provide The Parking, So If You Are Telling Me That That's What We're Doing And Everyone Will Be Equal, I'm Ok With That.

I Don't Want To See Someone In An Uncovered Lot Over Here Paying \$30 And Someone On

A Covered Lot Over There That Has The Same Proximity Paying \$15 Is What I'm Saying.
Everything Will Be Adjusted Down.

Chairwoman Hall: Ok.

We're Still Good With Our Expenses And Our Costs And Our Debt Service And All Of That?
Yeah.

Chairwoman Hall: Ok.

I Just Want To Make Sure.

Comm. Bigelow: To Be Perfectly Clear, Folks In Administration East Parking Lot Will Pay
\$15 Now? Chairwoman Hall: Yes, That's -- Comm. Bigelow: Ok.

I Just Want To Be Sure.

You Passed That Option, We'll Adjust Everything According To What You Vote.

Chairwoman Hall: I'm Not Trying To Look At The Options.

It Was The Recommendation Of The County Manager.

I'm Bringing This Forward In That I Want To Make Sure That Everyone Is Prepared.

The Motion Maker And The Secunder Will Make Sure That That Is Covered In A Motion That
Would Give The County Manager The Flexibility To Make Sure Everyone Is There.

Up Or Down.

I Don't Really Think It Matters To Me.

I Just Want Us To Have The Same Outcome At The End.

Yes.

Certainly You Want To Chief Equity Here.

Let Me Make Sure.

You Pointed Out, And I'm Sure -- We All Have Been Paying \$30, But We Have The Proximity
That Is Of Value.

We Would Still Pay \$30? Chairwoman Hall: Yes, Because We're Right Up At The Front Door.

Comm. Bigelow: But You're Providing For Parody Throughout The Rest Of The Parking?
Reserve Covered And Reserve Uncovered.

Chairwoman Hall: And That Includes All The Parking Garages That We're In, So We Have Reserved Or Unreserved Covered In The City Of Fort Myers Parking Garages They Will Be Paying The Same Amount As People In Our Parking Garage.

Is That Correct? That's What We Would Like To Do, Yeah.

Chairwoman Hall: I'm Not Asking You To Agree With Me.

It Needs To Be -- I Want To Make Sure That We're Not Undermining Our Contracts With Our Parking.

I Know We Own Those Spaces, But I Want To Just Make Sure If You Have Lease Space That Is We're Not Undermining Those Lease Spaces.

This Was Extremely A Complex Issue, And I Can't Tell You How Many Meetings We Had On This, So I Turn To Rich To Say Is That Correct Because I Just Want To Make Sure.

Chairwoman Hall: Yep.

No, No.

Just For Clarification, The Only Disparity We Have Is We Remain A Few Dollars Below What The City Charges In Their Garages So Their Customers Will Come To Us First And Our Places Will Always Be Full.

That's The Only Disparity.

What We Are Shooting For Is What You Are Saying.

Chairwoman Hall: That's The Motion And That's The Seconder.

Got It.

Any Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Oh, I'm Sorry.

Before I Call For The Question, The Clerk Of The Court Wanted To Make A Statement Or A Comment.

Well, I Just Like To Point Out A Few Things.

First Of All, I Don't Think There's Anyone In County Government That Doesn't Understand It Costs Us To Maintain Parking.

I Think We All Understand That It Would Cost Us To Maintain In Security, But I Also Think You Ought To Understand That We're The Only Entity Downtown That We Have Been Able To Find That's Going To Be Charging Their Employees Parking.

There Are Lots Of People That Do Voluntarily Park In The Garages.

Some Of Them Use The Paid Parking Spots That We Have Available.

I've Been Paying For Parking For 10, 15 Years, And I'm Happy To Pay.

I Personally Have No Problem Paying For Parking.

I Do Have A Problem With Our Employees At This Time Paying.

I Think The \$99,000 That's Going To Come Out Of General Fund When You Look At The Total Amount Of Money That We Have Expended Over The Entire Year And What We Will Expend Next Year Is Minimal.

I Think The Goodwill That You Could Do All The Employees That Work For The County, Not Just The County, But The Board -- Not Just The Board Employees, But Also The Constitutional Officers, Would Be Tremendous.

If You Could Give Those People And Keep The Parking The Way It Is And Let People That Have Been Free, Free.

I Think If We Can All Get Raises Next Year, Which I Think Is -- I Don't Think It's Going To Get That Cold In The State Of Florida Any Time Soon, But I Think It Will Maybe Over A Five-Year Period We'll Find That We Would Be More Than Willing To Participate In Paying, But I Think The Time To Charge People Extra In This Kind Of A Condition That Is Wrong.

If We're Going To Do That, Then Everybody That Works For The County That Parks On Any County Property Should Pay The Same Amount As People That Park Downtown.

That's My Thought, And, You Know, I Understand It's A Difficult Question.

There Are Two Things In Our Office That I Hate To Discuss.

One Is Clothing, And The Other Is Parking.

There Are No Easy Answers.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You, Charlie.

Thank You.

Chairwoman Hall: I'm Not Taking Public Comment On This Item.

I Apologize Because That's Why Public Comment Is At The Beginning Of The Meeting On This Consent On The Administrative Walk-On And Carry-Over.

The Public Comment Is Closed At This Time.

Under Matters Of Concerns Of Citizens, I'm Happy To Take Them.

I Took Out An Order For The Clerk, But Quite Honestly, That Was A Statement That Should Have Been Made Under Public Comment, And I'm Not Going To Adjust Our Meetings.

I Try To Treat Everyone Fairly And Equitably, No Matter Who They Are, And We Do Have A Process And A Program.

There Is A Motion On The Floor.

There Is A Second.

You Should Further Discussion? Comm. Bigelow: I In No Way Wish To Undermine The Protocol.

It Appears That Cathy Fits-George With The Public Defenders Office Is Here.

That Would Be The Only Point That I Was Trying To Make.

Chairwoman Hall: Well, Commissioner Judah, I Understand That, And I Understand That It Was Very Difficult For Me.

I Thought That The Clerk Actually Had Something -- Not A Public Statement To Make, But Something To Add That Was Relative To Our Decision.

I Recognize That This Is Not Easy, And I Recognize The Clerk Doesn't Want To -- That People Don't Want To Pay For Parking.

Since You Put Me In That Position, Why Not Just Come On Up, But I'm Going On To Ask, Again That, We Have Public Comment At The Beginning No Matter Who You Are In Our Community, And I Want To Treat All Of Our Citizens Equally Whether They're Constitutional Officers, Employees That Work For The County, The Sheriff.

We Try To Accommodate Everyone Fair And Equitably, So At Commissioner Judah's Request, Three Minutes.

Please Make It Short.

We Always Have Opportunity To Meet With You Before These Meetings, And So Does The County Manager.

Ms. Smith Had Sent A Letter Setting Forth Our Options.

We Also As A State Office Are Faced With Severe Budget Cuts And We Are In A Position Going Into Our Fifth Year With No Raises.

And While We Recognize That You Wish This To Be Fair, It Is, In Fact, Not Fair.

We Have A Situation Where We Represent Five Counties.

This Is The Only Place Where We Are Being Charged For Parking, Which Essentially Reduces The Salaries Of Each Of Our Employees That Work In The Downtown Office.

Other County Employees, In Fact, Are Not Being Charged.

Only Downtown Employees.

We Understand That There Are Certainly Restrictions With Regard To Parking.

However, To Put That Burden On The Employees At This Time Facing The Difficult Economic Situations, Lack Of Raises , And What Not, We Feel It's Quite Unfair.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You Very Much For Sharing Those Comments With Us.

I'll Come Back To The Board Now, Again.

Comm. Bigelow: Thank You For Your Indulgence.

I Respect What You Are Trying To Accomplish Here That Everyone Is Treated Fairly.

I Did Want To Also Comment That, You Know, We Are Trying To Treat Everybody Fairly, And I Think That's The Very Reason Why We Need To Impose The Parking Costs, And I Think County Management Has Done Very Well In Trying To Work With The Constitutional Officers.

It's A \$99,000 Savings From General Fund Revenue, And, You Know, It's Easy For Somebody To Isolate What We're Trying To Provide For Cost Savings, Whether It's \$100,000 Here And \$1.5 Million There Or \$4 Million In Another Incident, But It All Adds Up, And I Think The Important Message Here Is That We're All In This Together, And So I Couldn't Agree More That This Is An Equitable Approach To Try To Provide The Park And Treat Everybody Fairly.

Chairwoman Hall: Further Discussion From Board Members? We Have A Motion.

A Second.

All Those In Favor? Opposed? The Motion Carries Unanimously.

Next We'll Move On To Commissioner Items.

Commissioner Bigelow.

Commissioner Judah.

Commissioner Janes.

Commissioner Mann.

Comm. Mann: Madam Chair, Just Reflecting On What You Just Suffered Through Here.

I Want To Tell You That I Would Support You In Sticking To Our Rules About Making Folks Talk When The Opportunity Is On The Agenda.

We Have Often Allowed The Honorable Clerk To Come Down And Visit Us, But We Have Also Sent Home Elected County Officials And City Officials, And That's Not Fair, So The Rule Needs To Apply To Everybody, And I Appreciate The Difficulty You Had Yourself In There, And I Just Want To Encourage You To Stick To The Rules.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You Very Much.

I Appreciate That Support.

I Have No Commissioner Items.

Committee Appointments.

Commissioner Bigelow.

Comm. Bigelow: I Have Two.

I Have A New Appointment Of Nick Vinvin To The North Shore District And A New Appointment Of Pamela Geiger To The Whistler Creek Street Lighting Unit.

Chairwoman Hall: I Have A Motion By Commissioner Bigelow.

A Second By Commissioner Judah.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? The Motion Carries Unanimously.

Commissioner Judah.

Comm. Judah: Yes, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Hall: I Have A Motion By Commissioner Judah.

I Have A Second By Commissioner Bigelow.

Do You Second That? Comm. Bigelow: I Thought We -- What's Become Of The Black Affairs Advisory Board? Chairwoman Hall: Under Discussion? I Think That's Something That They're Working On Under Strategic Planning.

That Hasn't Changed At This Point.

Comm. Bigelow: Yeah, I Mean -- Chairwoman Hall: Great.

Comm. Bigelow: Second.

Chairwoman Hall: Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries

Unanimously.

Commissioner Janes? Comm. Janes: These Are Community Appointments You Are Talking About Now? Chairwoman Hall: Yes.

Comm. Janes: I Would Like To Appoint Richard Ryan To The -- Three.

Chairwoman Hall: Do I Have A Second? I Have A Motion By Commissioner Janes And A Second By Commissioner Mann.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor.

Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Commissioner Mann. Comm. Mann: Joanne Ellis To The Lehigh Acres Streetlight Advisory.

Chairwoman Hall: Have I A Motion By Commissioner Mann, A Second By Commissioner Janes.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? Motion Carries Unanimously.

Commissioner Janes, Did You Have A Commissioner Item? Did You Have A Commissioner Item? Comm. Janes: No, I Just Wanted To Say, If I Could, Madam Chair, That I Really Wanted To Commend The Administration, Human Resources, And Members Of The Cdc Council Who Participated In The Recent Selection Of The Director And Extend Congratulations To Everyone.

I Heard From A Lot Of People.

I Apologize.

The Fact Is, Also, That The Transparency Of The Process Is To Be Commended, And I Think I Give Kudos To All Those That We Got In The Process.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You Very Much.

Next To County Manager Items.

Karen? No, Thank You.

Chairwoman Hall: We Do Have One, Because I Front Of It.

With The Swim Center.

Do You Want To Ask -- Do You Want -- Why Don't You Do That Under County Manager? This Is A Carry-Over From Last Week.

Yes, Good Morning, Commissioners.

The -- Away We Would Be Asking Is The Swim Team Has Contacted Us And Wants Us To Discuss With Them Some Options, So We Are Asking The Board If We Can Move Forward With Doing That.

Chairwoman Hall: Cape Coral Has Put Off The Decision Until Approximately April 26.

I Have Spoken With The City Manager And With The Mayor And Told Them That In No Way Would We Be Undermining, But We Felt Due To Timing, It Would Be Important We Work On Parallel Paths, And That Way We Can Do Some Due Diligence And Prepare And Look At Options Of What We Have, So If The Board Supports, I Would Ask That We Give Staff The Opportunity To Do That.

Comm. Bigelow: The Intent -- Chairwoman Hall: Is That A Motion, Commissioner Judah? A Second By Commissioner Janes.

Discussion.

Yes, Commissioner Mann.

Comm. Mann: Madam Chair, I Just Want To Be Very Clear On The Record That I Have Read Reports Of The Cost Of This Total Project, And I Know How Expensive Pools Are, And They're Even More Expensive To Maintain.

By My Going Along With This Discussion Does Not In Any Way Indicate That I Will Be Supportive Of This Project Later On.

There's A Whole Lot We Need To Know About The Financing Here.

This Is A Very Expensive Project.

There Is One Olympic Pool That I Can Drive You To On To Leon Street In Fort Myers That Is Filled With Dirt Today Because The Builders And The Operators Could Not Afford To Run The Thing, So I'm Going To Be Very Sceptical As We Move Forward Here.

Chairwoman Hall: Comments Are Well Appreciated And Noted, Commissioner Mann, And, Again, I Think Giving The Staff To Do Our Due Diligence, Every Site Will Have Its Uniqueness In Cape Coral As Well.

Chairwoman Hall: Go Ahead.

I Didn't Know Commissioner Bigelow Had Jumped In Ahead Of You.

Comm. Bigelow: I Didn't Know The City Filled That Pool In.

Chairwoman Hall: Commissioner Judah.

Apologize.

Comm. Judah: Let Me Thank You, First Of All, For Coordinating With Cape Coral, Mayor,

Council, City Manager, To Make It Abundantly Clear That We've Always Been Behind The Effort To Assist Cape Coral In Every Way, Bought If It Appears That They're Not Going To Be Able To Work Out These Appropriate Partnerships, That We Don't Give Up The Opportunity To Bring A World Class Facility To Lee County.

With Going Forward, Gin The Direction To County Management Is Well Understood, You Have Made It Abundantly Clear, That It Preserves The Options Available To Lee County.

Chairwoman Hall: I See Terry Hall Here With The City Of Cape Coral.

Terry, Thank You So Much For Always Attending Our Meetings, And We Hope That There Can Be Something Resolved In The Cape.

We Applaud The Cape For Their Efforts And Their Hard Work.

I Knew You Guys Had A Long Meeting Last Night With A Lot Of People Commenting.

Our Support Is Still There.

We Want To Make Sure The Facility, If Possible, Stays Here In Lee County.

All Those In Favor? I'm Sorry.

Commissioner Bigelow.

Comm. Bigelow: Not Long Before I Got On The Board, Didn't The County Fund Or Subsidize The Cape Coral -- Chairwoman Hall: No, Many Years Ago, Almost 12 Years Ago, The Pool.

What Weave Been Talking About I Think 12 Or 10 Years Ago What We've Been Talking About The Last Couple Of Years Is Them Purchasing That Pool From Us And Then Incorporating These Dollars Into This Project Because Of The Conflict That We've Had With Scheduling Our Swim Teams Against Fgcu's Competitive Swim Team.

Their Campus Has Grown So Much Faster Than They Anticipated That There's Difficulty Scheduling.

We've Been In The Last Two Years Talking With Them About That Exit Strategy From Us.

Comm. Bigelow: So Time Flies.

1998 That We Did Front The Money.

Chairwoman Hall: Yeah, It Was Impact.

Park Impact Fees Fund Thad Pool.

Comm. Bigelow: It Sounds Like This Is Going To Be Pursuant With The Fgcu's Refund Of That Money Coming Into Fruition? Chairwoman Hall: Yes.

That's Part Of Our Conflict With Fgcu As Well.

Our County Attorney Has Been Working With Them.

I Have Been Talking With Them, And We Seem To Be Amenable And Everything Seems To Be Going Well.

Comm. Bigelow: Was There A Due Date On That Loan? Chairwoman Hall: It Wasn't A Loan. It Was A Grant.

In The Instance That The County Would No Longer Remain A Public Pool, They Would Reimburse The County Their Impact Fees, And That's What They're Attempting To Do Now Is Just Make It A Campus Pool.

Not To Say They Wouldn't Use It, But They Want To Primarily Have It A Closed Pool For Their Competitive Meets And Things Like That.

Comm. Bigelow: Just Out Of Curiosity, How Much Money Are We Talking About? Chairwoman Hall: \$4 Million To \$4.5 Million.

That's What We Put In.

Further Discussion? Comm. Bigelow: And Just So I Can Understand, I -- Because It Sounds Like It's Pretty Wide Open.

The County Is Going To Be Looking At This U.S. Swim Operation In A Location For Them, Right? Chairwoman Hall: Yes.

Comm. Bigelow: Can Anybody Give Me Any Details On -- Chairwoman Hall: Why Don't I Let Karen -- Commissioner, That's What We Would Need To Do Is Really Sit Down And Do A Due Diligence Because We Haven't Gone Through Any Numbers With Them, And Very Brief, Brief Discussion, But We Really Haven't Had Any-- We Have To Do The Due Diligence.

Comm. Bigelow: I Am Imagine It Would Include The Red Sox, The City Of Palms Park.

It Would Probably Include Potentially The Fountains Property.

That Was A Site That Was -- Chairwoman Hall: The Fountain Property Is Owned Privately, So I Don't Know If They're Prepared To -- Comm. Bigelow: Previously It Was Looking To Be Donated, That Land -- Chairwoman Hall: Well, It Was Donated As Part Of Their Amendments And Their Zoning And Put On Hold.

That's Why They Are Relocated And That's Why We Put Them To The Cape.

That Site Was No Longer Available.

That Doesn't Mean They Couldn't Come Back Into Play And Certainly If They Wanted To Offer It Again, They Could, But I Would Think That Since They Have Been To This Point, It's

Probably Still Not Available.

Comm. Bigelow: Ok.

Well, So Maybe This Will Get The Word Out That We're Looking For Land To Be Donated For This Operation.

Chairwoman Hall: I Agree.

Comm. Bigelow: And Money.

Chairwoman Hall: Yeah.

Further Discussion? All Those In Favor? Opposed? The Motion Carries Unanimously.

Thank You, Karen.

County Attorney Items? Nothing This Morning.

Thank You.

Chairwoman Hall: Since We Are Not Having A 5:00 Public Hearing This Morning, I Do Have A Public Presentation And Matters Of Concern By Citizens.

Kristen Meisner Come Forward And State Your Name, And We Allow You Three Minutes, And When The Yellow Button Turns Yellow, That Means You Have One Minute.

At Red We Ask You To Wrap Up.

Good Morning.

Great, Wonderful.

For The Record My Name Is Christian Meister, Leet County Sheriff Candidate.

I Have A Presentation Here.

There Was A News Story On Npr, National Public Radio.

I Brought Some Items Here With Me.

I Given Those Copies Later, But I Don't Want You To Get Sidetracked.

Honorable Commissioners, I Don't Believe That In Lee County We Have A Program That Effectively Deals With People Who Are In Jail On A Minor Offense Like, For Example, A Suspended Driver's License.

Now, A Lot Of These Folks Go To Jail, And They Sit There For Three Months.

They Cannot Afford To Pay A Bonds Bail Man His Fee, Her Fee, And So They Sit There Until The Day Of Trial.

In States -- In Our United States These Programs Are Very, Very Successful Saving Taxpayers A Lot Of Money.

I'll Go With Some Of The Highlights Of This.

There Was A Story On Npr, Like I Said.

This Is From Broward County.

How We Monitor These People Will Be Through Ankle Bracelets Or Gps Devices.

Again, These Are Petty Offenses.

In Broward County These Programs Cost \$7 A Day As Opposed To \$115 A Day.

Putting People In Jail, Having Them Sit There Is The Single Most Single Largest Expense In The County, And, For Example, In The Broward County The Sheriff Was Able To Actually Close Off A Large Number Of Sections Saving The County \$20 Million Per Year.

That's A Huge Amount Of Money.

Ok? We Can Save It Here Too In Lee County.

According To The Public Records, According To The Story On Npr, These People Are Still Showing Up In Jail -- I Mean, At The Courthouse.

You Know, This Is For The People Who Commit Minor Crimes.

Petty Offenses.

They're Going To Show Up.

They're Not Going To Run To Another Country Or Something Like That, Ok? How It Works Specifically, You Know, You Can Be On Page Five, And Now, Again, This Program Does Cost Money, But They Save Millions Of Dollars.

It's For The People Who Commit Minor Crimes.

I Already Said That Three Times.

They Cannot Afford Bail, So A Lot Of These People Cannot Afford The Bail.

This Is Really A Disgrace In Our System, Ok, For A Driver's License, No, I Don't Think That's Right.

Ok? I Think We Need To Make Some Changes In This, And I Just Thought I Would Come

Here Today To Bring It Up To You And I Would Like To, You Know, Open This Up For Discussion Today, Later, And Get Some Feedback.

You All Are Doing A Great Job.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You Very Much.

We Will Enjoy Reading Your Copies.

Thank You.

Next I Have Mr. Joel Wittini.

I'm Having A Hard Time Saying Your Name.

I Apologize.

Lintini.

I Was Close.

Good Morning.

You Known Me For Seven Years.

Commissioners, I'm Here About The Swimming Flex Complex In The Cape.

This Is Something That Is Definitely Needed.

I Don't Know How Much You Know About This, But This Is Also The Complex.

We Have A Handicap Down Here That Have To Travel As Far As Tampa For Their Therapy.

This Complex Is Also For Them.

You Know, This Is A Very Important Thing.

You Don't Have The Outpour Of People Here Like We Had Last Night At The Meeting.

There Are A Lot Of Young Ladies And Gentlemen From Elementary To High School That Really Want This.

They Have No Place To Go.

This Is Needed.

You Know, This Is Not Something That Just Could Be Washed Away And Forgotten.

You Know, Also, I Am Really Sick And Tired Of Hearing, Oh, We Can't Have Casinos There

Because It's Not Indian Land, Reservation.

This Has Got To Stop.

You Know, All Due Respect To American Indians, Last I Remember We Won, And This Has -
- You Have To Find Some Way To Have The People's Vote To Have This Changed.

Change This Immediately.

Where Slots Could Be Put In Just In This Area.

You Know How Many Hotels You Have, Motions Straight And Down 41 And In North Fort
Myers.

That's A Lot Of Lost Revenue.

We Need Every Cent We Can Get, And Even When You Build A Complex Or Anything, Right
Now Everything Is At Its Cheapest Because There's Nobody Building Anything.

We Can't Afford To Let This Go By.

If The Cape Cannot Afford This And They Go Under On This, You Better Not Let This Leave
This County.

This Will Crush The County.

It Cannot Go To Charlotte.

It Cannot Go To Collier.

This Is Needed Here.

It's Too Important.

If This Is Put In This Area, You Know, Already You Have Hotels.

You Know, So You Are One Step Ahead.

I Even Brought Up The Fact That The Art Club Is Not Used -- Yacht Club Is Not Used Every
Day To Let These Students, Young Ladies And Gentlemen That Are Swim Teams To Use
Them.

Don't Charge Them.

They Need Someplace To Go To Practice.

How Did This Start? There Are No Pools In The Schools Down Here, Which Is Ridiculous.

This Is Florida.

Ok, You Don't Control That.

That's The School Board.

I Have Been After Them For That.

If There Were The Pools, That Would Be Another Thing.

One More Last Thing.

A Lot Of People In The Cape, Including Myself, You Know, I'm Not Saying You're Not Doing Your Job.

I Voted For You.

A Couple Of You Know Me Very Well.

I Backed You Since I Have Been Here.

We At The Cape Feel Like We're Not Being Represented Good Enough Here.

You Know, We Would Like Somebody, One Person, To Represent The Whole Cape.

Even If It's One Of You.

We Need That.

One Person Just For The Cape.

Try To Make That Happen.

You Know, We Fight For The Cape.

We Try To Get Money For The Cape.

We Give You Our Ideas.

We Vote For You.

When Is The Last Time You Were In The Cape To A Republican Club Meeting, A Democratic Club Meeting? Remember, Once You Get Elected, You're Really Not Republican Or Democrat.

You're Really Not.

You're For The People Or Against The People.

We Would Like To See You There Also Saying Hellos, How Are You? And Everything Else.

Thank You.

Chairwoman Hall: Ok.

Is There Anyone Else Who Would Like To -- Kevin, Did You File Out A Card? If You Would, I Would Appreciate Before You Leave.

Great.

Thank You.

Madam Chair, I'm Kevin Shay, Chairman Of The Lee County Lower Taxes For Now.

Further Information Is Available On Our Website At [Lowertaxesfornowforlee@Wordpress .Com](mailto:Lowertaxesfornowforlee@Wordpress.Com).

Commissioners, Distinguished Council, Honorable Manager, Ladies And Gentlemen.

Multiple Recent Surveys Of Public Opinion Have Indicated A Major Loss Of Public Faith And Confidence In Their Government.

Recently You Entered Into A Contract To Purchase Over 1,000 Acres Of Land For The 2020 Program At Approximately \$30,000 Per Acre.

Experienced Real Estate Professionals In This Community Have Expressed A Strong Opinion That You Have Grossly Overpaid For This Land.

Some Have Stated That The Property Is Not Worth More Than \$5,000 Per Acre.

The Property Appraiser's Office Appraised The Property At \$40 Million As Of January 1, 2008.

Mr. Wilkinson Said The 2009 Numbers Accurately Reflect How Much The Property Fell In Value.

Vacant Land Has Continued Decrease In Value In 2009.

What Is The Big Rush To Perfect Purchase This Property? In A Few Months We Will Have The New Assessment Values For January 1, 2010.

This Property Is Not Going To Disappear Any Time Soon.

This Contract Should Be Cancelled.

Any Determination Of Value Should Be Made Within 30 Days Of The Agreed Sale Date.

Let's Cut Through The Nonsense Of The Public Relations Campaign By The Bureaucrats For Self-Justification.

A Savvy Businessperson Would Have Taken The Initiative Of Talking With Knowledgeable Real Estate Professionals And Come To The Conclusion That The Purchase Price Was A Ridiculous Amount Of Money For This Property.

All Too Often People In Government Are Too Isolated From The Real World Of Business And Do Not Know How To Think, Analyze, And Negotiate An Economically Feasible Deal.

You Are Purchasing This Property As Vacant Land For The Purchase Of Maintaining It As Vacant Land.

It Is An Episode Which Raises Serious Public Policy Issue.

Over The Last 10 Years Have You Removed By One Means Or Another More Than 100 Square Miles Of Lee County Land From The Tax Rolls.

You Should Cancel This And All Over 2020 Purchases And Stop Removing More And More Land That Is Paying Much Needed Taxes In These Difficult Times.

You Are Creating A Situation Where The Remaining Land Must Bear An Ever Increasing Tax Roll To Compensate For The Loss Of Revenue From Nontaxable Land.

When Will You Stop? When Is Enough Enough? More Than One-Third Of The Land In The Gulf Coast Counties Will Soon Be In Public Ownership Or Severely Restricted By Conservation Easements.

Saracoma County And Charlotte Will Be Up 40%.

Will You Be Happy With 40% Or 50% Of Lee County Land In Public Ownership Or Nontax Status? Chairwoman Hall: Wrap Up, Kevin.

Ok.

A Straw Vote Of The Citizens Of This County Indicated A Desire To Purchase 2020 Land.

You Have Taken This One Time Straw Vote As A Perpetual Grant Of Taxing Authority Without Formal Approval Of The Voters.

You Have Abused Your Authority.

The Voters Of This County Should Have An Opportunity To Vote In This Year's General Election On Whether This Program Should Continue And At What Tax Rate.

There Needs To Be A Full Public Discussion And Debate.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You, Kevin.

If You Do Not Place This Issue On The Ballot, We Have Clear And Convincing Evidence Of Your Contempt And Disdain For The Voice Of The People At The Ballot Box.

Maybe It Is Time For The People To Rise Up And Revolt And Vote Every Incumbent Out Of Office In The Next Election.

Chairwoman Hall: Thank You, Kevin.

I Appreciate Your Comments This Morning.

Thank You Research Very Much.

Chairwoman Hall: Is There Anyone Else That Would Like To Address The Board Of County Commissioners With Any Concern They Might Have.

Seeing None, I'll Close Public Comment, And The Meeting Is Adjourned, And You All Have A Great Week.

Thank You.