

**August 21, 2007**

I'd Like To Call The Meeting To Order .

My Goodness What A Quick Response .

That's Terrific .

Goes To Show What The Power Of The Gavel Can Do .

I'm Pleased To Open The Meeting This Morning .

We Will Start With An Invocation By Pastor Doug Walberg Followed By The Pledge Of Allegiance And Then Senator Bill Nelson Will Talk To Us A Little About Everglades .

Let's Start With The Invocation, Pastor .

Please Rise .

Gracious Lord God, Heavenly Father, As We Pause For A Moment And Reflect On Our Faith And Many Blessings, May You Guide Us By The Holy Spirit This Morning, We Thank You For The Many Things That Have Taken Place, That We Haven't Thought Of Yet, Cool Place To Wake Up, Something To Eat And Wear, A Way To Get Here .

We Thank You For Those Blessings We Don't Think About .

We Thank You For The Bright Blue Sky And Not A Cloud In It This Morning And The Great Paradise Which We Live .

Be With Our Troops Overseas, Keep Them Safe, Bring Them Home Safely .

Keep Those Being Buffeted By Hurricane Dean As We All Know What Hurricanes Are Like, May Loss Of Possessions Be Small, May Loss Of Life And Limb Be Minimal .

Let There Be Gentle Rains And Soft Winds On This World You Have Blessed Us With .

Bless Us During This Meeting .

May We Have Open Minds To Each Other And Their Thoughts .

May Your Holy Spirit Hover Over Us That We Would Do What You Would Have Us To Do As Your People, Guided By Your Love .

Thank You Lord For This Opportunity .

In The Name Of The Blessed King Christ We Pray, Amen .

I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag, Of The United States Of America And To The Republic, For Which It Stands, One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty And Justice For All .

Thank You And Thank You Pastor Walberg .

I'm Very Pleased To Begin With The Next Item On The Agenda Which Will Be A Presentation By Senator Bill Nelson .

We're Not Often Honored When National Legislators Can Pay Us A Visit But It Truly Is A Thrill For Us .

I Know That Those Of You On Television Not Here In Person And Others, How Pleased We Are To Hear Senator Nelson .

Senator Nelson Has A Distinguished Career .

More Dog Gone Honorary Degrees Than One Can Possibly Imagine, I Only Have Two Hands But The Degrees Go On And On And On .

He Served In The Military Service, He Has Served In Congress, He Has Served At The State Level And At The Federal Level, He Is A 5th Generation Floridian For Those Of You Who Don't Know .

He Has Been Here Quite A While, He Is On A Number Of Committees As Senator, Armed Services Committee .

Budget Committee, Commerce Committee, Foreign Relations, Intelligence Committee And The Aging Committee .

He Has Had A Number Of Positions At The State Level As Well .

Well Rounded Individual .

And Who Has Really Become The Principle Main Stay Or Main Focus, The Man We Need To Continue To Do That, That Is Watch What's Happening With Everglades Restoration .

Senator Nelson It's A Great Pleasure To Introduce You, Thank You .

[Applause]

Thank You, Mr. Chairman .

I Want To Return The Compliments .

It's Interesting That My Relationship With This County Commission Is Probably As

Personally Close To This County Commission Of Lee County Than Any Of My Relationships With Anyone .

And That's Simply Because I've Had The Occasion To Work With You All Personally .

Commissioner Bigelow, I Haven't Gotten To Know You Yet But With Commissioner Judah And The Chairman, I've Known Frank Mann Forever .

Tammy Hall, The Same Thing .

And So I'm Glad To Come And Bring You This Report .

Yesterday I Was Over On The Dike At Lake Okeechobee Inspecting That With Our Colonel In The Army Corps Of Engineers .

And Today I'm Continuing All These Town Hall Meetings That I Do Throughout Florida During The Breaks That We Get To Get Out Of Washington .

And I Wanted To Report To You On A Number Of Things .

First Of All, Particularly Commissioner Judah And Particularly Commissioner Janes, You All Were So Instrumental In Helping Supply Information To Me About The Babcock Ranch .

So That We Could Go Ahead And Get Some Federal Assistance In Order To Do The Completion Of What You All Wanted To Do Which Was The Preservation Of That Significant 75,000 Acres That Is Significant Environmentally To This Part Of Florida .

What I Don't Understand, And This Is Something That We Will Have To Take Up Is The Fact That The Grant That Was Given From The Federal Government To The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection For Some Technical Reason, The State Of Florida Is Rejecting The Grant .

So Whatever That Is, We've Got To Get To The Bottom Of It Because We Don't Want Any Kind Of Impediment .

And I Wish That You All, Since You Are Primarily The Sponsors, You And Charlotte County The Sponsors Of This Project Would Get In There And Find Out What It Is If There's Some Technical Reason If We Have A Change At The Federal Level Let Me Know And We Will Get That Done .

I Understand You Have Been Having A Brouhaha Here About Interstate 75 .

And I Just Want To Say That As Always, As I Have For 35 Years In Elected Public Office That I Take My Direction From The Local Governments .

And Years Ago You All Came To Me And Said The Widening From Interstate 75, Particularly Between Naples And Fort Myers Was Absolutely Critical Because You Were Tired Of Being In A Parking Lot During The Early Morning And The Late Afternoon Rush Hours .

And I Have Been In That Parking Lot And Nobody Likes That Parking Lot Particularly When You Are In A Rush To Get To The Airport .

And So The Whole Florida Delegation Came Together And This Is About A Couple Of Years Ago .

We Were Able To Get Into The Highway Bill .

The Authorization For The Widening Of Those Sections Of Interstate 75 .

And That Figure, I Don't Have It Specifically Memorized But It Was Somewhere In The Range Of \$75-\$80 Million To Start The Planning For The Project .

And Then, It's My Understanding That Once This Thing Went To The Conference Committee Came Back, The House Version And The Senate Version Were Married Together So They Were Identical .

And Then It Comes Back To Each Chamber To Be Voted On .

And The Senate Voted For It .

The House Voted For It, Overwhelmingly .

And Then It Goes To The President For Signature .

Now It's My Understanding There's A Federal Investigation Right Now .

Over What Happened .

And Of Course I'm Not Going To Speak For What's Happened Because I Don't Know What Happened, But You Know What Has Been Written In The Newspaper About What Happened .

But By The Time It Got To The Desk Of The President For Signature There Was A Portion There That Had To Do With Something Other Than Just The Widening .

Of Interstate 75 .

Well, I Know What I Worked On .

I Know What Other Members Of The Delegation Worked On, I Know What I Voted On .

And I Know What You All Insisted On .

And That Was The Legislative Intent .

So If There Was Some Changing Of The Language Of That Conference Report Between The Time That We Voted On It And The Time That It Went To The President, Then We Await The Report Of This Investigation .

In The Meantime, There Is A Technical Corrections Bill .

Now, I Am Trying To Figure Out As We Speak What Is The Parliamentary Procedure That I Can Use Because This Technical Corrections Is Already Out Of The Committee .

And They Are Trying To, What Is Called Hotline The Bill .

Hotline Means It Would Come Up Basically Without Any Objection On The Procedure In The Senate Known As Unanimous Consent .

Well, We've Got To Insert Ourselves In That Process In Order To Get An Additional Item In The Technical Corrections Bill, Which Would Straighten Out The Original Intent Of The Highway Bill, Pursuant To Interstate 75 Here .

Also, The Members Of This Commission Have Been So Vigorous In Their Advocacy For The Environment And Particularly With Regard To Everglades Restoration .

I Am Happy To Report To You Good News, But There Is A Bump Along The Road Of This Good News And That Is That Finally We Have Gotten What Is Called The Water Resources Development Act Out Of The Committee And Of The \$6 Billion Nationwide For Ecosystem Restoration \$2 Billion Of That \$6 Billion Is For Everglades Restoration .

And More Than That, I've Got The Chairman Of That Committee, Senator Boxer Of California Coming As My Personal Guest In The First Week In September .

For A Personal Inspection Of The Everglades .

And I Have Told Her That Whenever You See The Everglades You Are Going To See Things You Never Thought You Were Going To See .

You Are Going To See Alligators And How To Hold An Alligator's Mouth Closed With Your Own Fingers .

And All Those Other Little Goodies Us Natives Have Seen Up Close But That Senators From California Have Never Seen .

I Want Her To See How This Thing Is Endangered .

How This River Of Grass Is So Critical, Not Only To The Environment Of Florida But It's Critical To The Environment Of Planet Earth .

And I Want Her To Understand How Over A Half Century Ago, Indeed More Than That, Back To The Hurricane In The 20's And 30's When Thousands Of People Were Killed, Drowned Out There In Lake Okeechobee As A Result Of A Big Hurricane, The Emphasis Was Flood Control, Get The Water Out, Get It To Tide Water And How That Completely Reversed The Intent Of Mother Nature .

Where Those Waters Start South Of Orlando In Shengle Creek Proceed South Through The

Casemi River Into The Lake And Then Mother Nature Had It, That Lake Was A Lot Bigger Than It Is Now Under Mother Nature .

And Almost Like A Sheet Flowed To The South And Southwest As It Came Out Into Florida Bay And Into The Gulf .

So, We Have This Under Way And We've Got Support .

Now Here Is The Bump In The Road .

The Project, The Overall Water Resources Development Act, Which Is The Authorization Bill For Every Water Project Into Our Country, So It's Huge, It Has More Money In It Than The President Wants .

And The President Is Threatening A Veto .

I Can Tell You That I Will Vote If The President Vetos It .

I Will Vote To Override The Veto And Significantly My Colleague Senator Martinez With Whom I Have A Very Good And Personal Relationship Has Announced Publicly That He Too Will Vote To Override On The Veto .

Whether Or Not We Have Enough To Get A Two Thirds Vote To Override, That's 67 Votes, That's Pretty Hard .

But That's The Little Bump In The Road That We Will Have To Encounter .

And Then It's Incumbent Upon Us Each Year To Keep This Everglades Project Going .

With Not Only The Periodic Authorizations For These Projects And The Two Big One's In There Are The Pick Kuhn Strand And Indian River Lagoon .

But To Keep The Appropriations Going Every Year, Then To Flush Out Through The Funding, The Various Projects That Have Been Authorized .

Commissioner Judah, To The Point You Have Raised Over And Over About The Pollution In The Caloosahatchee As A Result Of The Discharge Of Waters .

Right Now We're Not Having That Problem Because The Lake Is So Low .

It Is, By The Way, At Historic Lows .

Part Of That Was, A Year Ago In Anticipation Of An Active Hurricane Season, They Lowered The Lake .

Well It Didn't Happen Last Year And Then We Hit This Drought .

So That's Why You've Got The Lake At Historic Lows .

Nevertheless, Part Of These Projects Are To Do Exactly What You Are Concerned About .

And That Is Two Things .

The Excessive Water Being Dumped To Tide Water, To Relieve Lake Okeechobee And The Pressure On The Dike .

To The East, Through The St. Lucie Estuary To The West Through The Caloosahatchee And The Second Thing You Are Concerned About Is Because Of The Pollution In That Lake, The Discharge Of Those Waters Which Leads To The Algae Bloom Which Leads To The Problem That You Have Had Here And Over Onto The Barrier Islands .

Right Across From Where The Caloosahatchee Comes Out .

And So A Large Part Of The Idea Of This Whole Everglades Restoration Is The Cleaning Up Of The Water As It Comes South From Shingle Creek Into The Casemi .

The Holding And Filtering Ponds To The North Of The Lake So That The Water That Is Coming Into The Lake Is Cleaner .

Yesterday I Flew Over The Casemi River .

Mother Nature Had Those Meandering Oxbows And Sometimes Multiple Streams Coming Off The Oxbows .

Those Are Being Restored .

Where They Have Filled In The Ditch That Water And Those Oxbows And The Natural Filtering Mechanism Of The Casemi River Is Starting To Take Hold .

And So What We Want To Do Is Complete The Remaining 50% .

As We Were Flying Over It Yesterday, I Told Them One Of The Things They Needed To Do Is To Get Frank, Our Old Colleague, Bob Graham Who As Governor Years Ago, That Was One Of The Projects He Wanted To Start Was The Restoration Of The Casemi River And Then Hopefully Commissioner, What That's Going To Do Is Start Cleaning That Water .

So That You Don't Have The Problems That The Caloosahatchee And The St. Lucie Have Had In The Past .

I Will Never Forget 2-3 Years Ago I Went Out On The St. Lucie At Stewart .

It Was Phosphorescent Green .

I Grew Up On The Indian River As A Child .

What I Saw On That River, Bill Hammond Grew Up On That River .

We Went To Junior High And High School Together .

I Won't Tell Them Any Stories .

And I Just Shook My Head In Amazement .

It Was A Dead River .

There Weren't Any Porpoises Rolling .

There Wasn't Mr. Off Spray Diving .

There Wasn't Mr. Eagle Sitting Waiting To Catch His Meal, It Was A Dead River Because Of The Algae Bloom Sucked Out All Of That Oxygen And There Wasn't Life .

That A Brackish River Like That Ought To Experience .

This Is Important .

This Is Big Time Stuff .

That We've Got To Do .

I Just Thank You For The Privilege That You Have Given Me .

Of Representing Our State And Our Country At This Particular Time In Our History .

I've Shared With You The Local Stuff .

My Biggest Concentration Is On National Security Matters .

I'm The Only Senator On All Three Committees, Intelligence, Armed Services And Foreign Relations So I'm Right In The Middle Of That, Just Getting Ready Next Week To Go On An Intelligence Mission To Southeast Asia .

I Bring You This Report And I Thank You Again For Your Public Service .

This Is How Local Government Ought To Be, Folks Like You, Mr. Chairman That Are So Involved As You Are In Making Things Happen And You Were A Significant One In Making It Happen With Regard To The Babcock Ranch .

Thank You Very Much .

Thank You .

We Got Stacy To Come To Washington .

Diana Mcgee Is Now Running The Fort Myers Office .

Senator, If I May, Give Us A Few Minutes .

I Thank You From The Bottom Of Our Heart .

Thank You For Taking The Time To Be Here This Morning .

You Are Certainly Well Stated In Recognizing Stacy And Diana, They Have Been Wonderful In Working With A Number Of Community Grassroots Groups For Years, Whether The Rivers Coalition Or Pure, Any Number Of Groups That Truly Are Trying Their Level Best To Balance Out The Importance Of Providing Proper Stewardship With Our Resources But Obviously Senator Nelson You Have Such A Phenomenal Track Record, It's Deeply Ingrained In Your Soul, The Depth Which You Understand Your Subject Matter Such As Everglades Restoration, National Security .

You Are A National Treasure And We Are Deeply Grateful Having You As Our Senator .

If The Number Of Votes Are In Excess Of 67 Than The Likelihood Is The Consistency Of A Senator Would Vote, Having Voted For The Bill Would Continue To Support Despite The Veto By The President .

But, You Know Things Happen .

And You Could Have Arm Twisting And So Forth .

The President Could Have An Objection That Was Suddenly Appealing To Some Of Those Senators That Had Voted For It .

I Don't Know .

But Most Senators Have Something In That Water Bill For Their States .

And So It Makes It All The More Likely That They Would Stick With Their Original Vote When It Would Come Back For An Override .

Will You All Be Taking That Up In The Month Of September?  
It's My Hope We Will Pass Word This Coming Month .

And The Differences Between The House Pass Bill And Senate Passed Bill Will Be Reconciled .

A Conference Report Would Be Written, That Would Go Back To Each Chamber For Passage Again And That Conference Report Would Go To The President For Signature .

Senator, Thank You For That Clarification .

With Regards To The Tour You Took Of The Herbert Hoover Dike And Core Of Engineers Coming Up With A Schedule To Lower The Lake Level And Reduce Storage, The Major Concern With Regards To The Continued Deterioration .

I Know You Asked For A Written Analysis Using The Methodology Providing A Flow Way To

The South Versus The Extremely Costly Contingency Plan South Florida Water District .

Have You Received A Written Response As The Feasibility Of The Flow Way To The South?  
I Have Not .

And I Am Awaiting That .

In The Meantime One Of The Things That The South Florida Water Management District Is  
Doing Is Planning An Additional Storage Area Of Some 12,000 Acres .

Somewhere In The Area Of Labelle So That There Would Be Additional Pressure Taken Off  
Having To Dump Water To Tide Water .

Specifically With Regard To Your Question The Core Has Not Responded .

What Will It Take The Core To Respond, A U.S. Senator?  
Hold Up Their Budget .

Okay .

I Appreciate The Indulgence Of The Board .

After Our Drilling, You Stepped Up With Senator Martinez And Came Up With A Bill To  
Protect Our Ghost Line .

Coastline .

We Are Being Requested By A State Senator To Come Up With A 200 Mile Ban, That's  
Great, I Thought Your Jurisdiction Already Addressed That Issue .

It Has .

For The First Time In History We Have It Etched Into Law Now As A Result Of The  
Agreement That We Worked Out Two Years Ago .

Which Keeps Oil Drilling Off Florida, Basically From Naples In Excess Of 300 Miles From  
Clear Water At Tampa Bay .

It's Approximately 240 Miles Off Of That .

It Is Off Panama City Or Fort Walton 125 Miles And It's Off That, Off Pensacola The Same .

However There Are Oil Rigs Within 30 Miles Of The Florida Line That Are Already Off  
Alabama In The Mouth Of Mobile Bay .

So We Got This Etched Into Law .

Now The Way We Were Able To Do That At The End Of The Day, Since The Oil Industry  
Never Gives Up Is We Finally Got The Department Of Defense To Step Up And Say, In

Writing, That You Can't Put Oil Rigs Down On The Surface Of The Water .

Which Is Our Largest Testing And Training Area For The United States Military In The World .

And That Is Virtually Most Of The Waters Of The Gulf Of Mexico Off Of The State Of Florida .

When You Think About It, You Will Realize Why We Didn't Lose One Base In The Round Of Base Closures And Why In The Realignment In The Base Closures That All Of The New F-22 Pilot Training And This Is An Aircraft That Does Dog Fights At 1.5 Mock Why All Of That Is At Tindle Air Force Base Presently .

At Panama City .

And Why The New F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Still Being Developed, All Pilot Training For All Services Will Be At Eglen .

Same Thing .

They Have The Area There That Is Unencumbered .

And In Addition, The Testing Wing At Eglen, We Are Testing Some Of Our Most Sophisticated Weapon Systems We Have To Have Plenty Of Distance In Order To Test With Live Ordinates .

Well Obviously It's Incompatible Which Is What The D.O.D. Said To Have Oil Rigs Down There .

So Because Of That, Because Of The Threat To The Environment Of Florida, Because Of The Threat To A \$60 Billion A Year Tourism Industry That Depends On Pristine Beaches, Combination Of All Those Things We Finally Won At The End Of The Day To Etch Into Law For The First Time This Is The Line .

I Said The Oil Industry Doesn't Give Up .

Sure Enough, We Got That Done Last Year, It's In Law .

They Are Coming Back This Year And Just Put In An Appropriations Bill That Came In Out Of The Appropriations Committee .

That There's Going To Be A Study Or Testing, Seismic Testing .

All The Way Up To Within 45 Miles Of The Coast Of Florida .

Well I Can Tell You That Bill Will Never See The Light Of Day .

Unless The Chairman Of That Committee And The Ranking Member Of That Committee Who Have Promised Me Personally They Will Take That Out, If They Don't Fulfill That Personal Statement To Me, And I Take A Man At His Word That They Will, But If Something Happens

That They Don't That Bill Will Not Go Anywhere .

And The Good Thing About The Senate Is One Senator Can Sure Jam Up The Gears .

Senator, Just One Last Point .

I Just Want To Make Sure You Get A Particular Name Of A Tree On Your Radar Screen .

We Will Receive A Presentation After You Leave This Morning From A Gentleman .

It's A Wonderful Feed Stock For Oil That Could Be Used For Conversion To Bio Diesel .

This Tree Grows In Marginal Soil, Low Water Requirements .

It's Really The Answer Long Term To Renewable Energy, Tracopa Kirkus .

You Don't Have To Use Sugar Cane Or Any Other Crop You Can Use It, It Didn't Require A Lot Of Water Or Productive Land .

This Is The Kind Of Exciting Yankee Ingenuity America Ought To Be Able To Come Forth .

You Hit Another One Of My Favorite Subjects .

Which Is Why Aren't We Energy Independent, Why Are We In The Condition That 60% Of Our Daily Consumption Is Coming From Foreign Shores, Persian Gulf, Venezuela And Nigeria, All Very Unstable Parts Of The World .

America Has Got To Wake Up .

And Hopefully We Are Beginning To .

Things Like You Just Described Commissioner Judah, It's Typical .

America Will Lie Back And Then With Our Backs Against The Wall She Will Finally Get Up And Get The Job Done, I Hope We Are Past That Point Now .

Thank You All .

Thank You Very Much, Senator, Appreciate It .

Any Time The Senator Wants To Come Here, He Is Welcome, To Be Sure .

Don't You Have More Things On Your List?

I Apologize .

Sorry You Didn't Have An Opportunity To Ask Questions, I'm Sorry .

That's The Way Things Go Many Times, I Appreciate Your Patience And My Colleagues For Hanging In There .

We Will Proceed With The Ceremonial Presentations .

I Believe I Have One That I Know Of .

Is Tom Here?

Come On Up To The Podium If You Will .

This Is A Presentation, I'm Very Pleased To Be Able To Make Today .

We Often Take For Granted The Fact That Our Mail Will Be Delivered And All This Thing, The U.S. Postal Service, That's Because We Have Such Dedicated Postal Employees .

Sometimes, In Fact Many Times Our Postal Employees Go Beyond What It Is They Normally Do .

And Sometimes They Render A Service Which You Just Can't Get, You Cannot Buy .

They Are Good Citizens, Good Neighbors And They Are Helping Out .

Such As The Resolution That I'm Going To Read Today .

Whereas The Freedom To Read Is Among Our Greatest Sources Of Life Long Learning And Enrichment .

And Whereas Lee County's Talking Books Library Serves More Than 1,200 Residents Who's Low Vision, Blindness Or Physical Disability Doesn't Allow Them To Read A Printed Page And Whereas Lee County's Talking Books Library Relies On Postal Service Letter Carriers To Deliver Audio Books, Players, Descriptive Videos And Braille To These Patrons And Whereas Often Provide Exceptional Service To Talking Books Library Patrons Such As Setting Up Talking Book Players And Reading The Titles Of The Audio Books .

And Whereas Postal Service Letter Carrier Tom Cannon Further Assist Patrons By Hand Delivering Talking Books And Preparing Them For Return .

Therefore Be It Resolved The County Commissioners Of Lee County Florida Proclaims Tom Cannon As Lee County Postal Letter Carrier Of The Year, Duly Executed This 21st Day Of August .

It's A Great Pleasure For Me To Present This To You .

I Just Want To Thank My Friends And Family For Being Here, Every Letter Carrier I Know Would Have Done The Same Thing I'm Being Recognized For, But Thanks To Nice Customers Like Pat Who Put Me In For This, I'm Trying To Be A Good Example For My Sunday School Class .

Thank You Very Much .

It's My Pleasure To Invite Roy Beckford, Martha And Mr. Paul Dalton Who Is The Owner Of

My Dream Fuel .

Mr. Dalton Has A Presentation To Make To This Board, We Will Hear From Roy Initially .

I Touched On It Briefly With Bill Nelson About This Tree As A Feed Source For Bio Diesel Production .

I Thank You .

I Think It Will Be Quite Interesting .

Thank You, Commissioner Judah You Did Such A Wonderful Job Plugging .

With The Help Of Various Collaborators And Interest Groups, Believe Bringing Sustainable Biofuel To Our Country .

Over The Last Year And A Half We Have Identified This Tree To Produce Bio Diesel, Sustainable Alternative .

Like Ethanol Is The Alternative Of Gasoline .

The Discovery And Subsequent Exploitation Of Petroleum Diesel Turned The Attention Away From Vegetable Crops .

The Use Of Vegetable Oils For Engines May Seem Insignificant Today, This Is From 1912 But Course Of Time As Important As Petroleum And Coal Are Products Of The Present .

The Word Spreading Information Caught The Attention Of The Company Dream Fuels, Ceo Mr. Paul Dalton And Operations Manager Mark Dalton Are Here Today .

They Are Here Today To Make A Gift To Us To Establish A First Demonstration Plot In The State Of Florida .

We Are Happy To Announce This Gift Is Being Matched, Or Already Matched By The Offering Of Land By The Parks And Recreation Department Which We Will Establish The Demonstration Plot, Which We Will Launch This Coming Thursday .

Thanks Commissioners For Continuing To Facilitate Progress In The Right Direction .

When The Next Generation Inherit Our Legacy .

I Introduce Mr. Paul Dalton, Ceo Of Dream Fields .

As Far As We Know This Is The First Time In The Literature Out There On Various Sources Of Feed Stock That It Was Name D By A County Or Any Other Official Of The United States .

As Senator Nelson Said Foreign Countries Are Way Ahead Of The United States .

They Have Been Using This Tree As A Source Of Production Of Bio Diesel .

This Tree Produces 750 Gallons Per Acre .

It Really Needs To Come To The Attention Of Ranchers And Citrus Growers And Farmers That They Can Use This Tree To Help The United States Gain It's Independence Back .

That's The Primary Reason I Went To India To Acquire The Rights To This Technology, But For The Fact Mr. Beckford Had Written This Article Last Year I Would Be In Costa Rica, The Philippines, Thailand .

And India .

We Wouldn't Be Here .

Because The United States Is Extremely Slow As The Senator Suggested In Coming About And Looking At Technology That Is Considered, For Lack Of A Better Word, Foreign And Yet It's Been In Florida Much Longer Than Citrus .

It's Truly A Tree That Is Florida's Own .

There's No Reason That Florida Instead Of The Soy Bean Belt Shouldn't Be The Leader, If Not The United States, Then The World In Alternative Energy Production .

After The 5th Year You Are Talking About Returning 200% Of The Initial Investment Every Year For 45 Years .

Unlike Soy Beans Or Corn That Has To Be Grown Every Year, This Is A Tree That Lasts 45-50 Years, Uses Very Little Water .

In Fact, With The Soil Condition We Actually Don't Irrigate It At All .

It Doesn't Need To Be Irrigated In Florida, There's Plenty Of Natural Rain .

It Produces 20 Times The Volume .

And It Doesn't Compete With Food .

Because It's A Non-Agricultural Crop .

I Thank You So Much For Your Attention To This, We Were Happy To Donate The Trees To The County To Have Increased Public Awareness And Again I Want To Thank Martha And Roy For Their Great Work And Commissioner Judah, Thank You For The Plug With The Senator .

Just To Make The Connection, Mr. Chairman, Quickly With Paul, You Are Talking About The Seeds And Oil In Those Seeds That's The Feed Stock .

This Is A Kilo Or 2.5 Pounds .

It Takes About 10 Of These Bags To Make A Gallon Of Oil Or Bio Diesel .

But We Can Produce 750 Gallons An Acre Versus 50 .

That's Just A Difference That Should Not Be Ignored .

We Will Proceed Now With The Recognition Of Employees .

Thank You Mr. Chairman, If You Will Join Us On The Floor To Recognize Employees For Their Length Of Service To Lee County .

Good Morning, Dina Lewis .

We Are Here Today To Present Eligible Employees For Length Of Service Awards For The Second Quarter Of 2007 .

It Represents Collectively 800 Years Of Service To Lee County .

For Those Employees Present, As I Call Out Your Name, Come Forward, Accept Your Pin And Greet The Board And Members Of County Administration .

And Then If You Will Remain Off To The Side We Can Have A Group Photo At The End .

I Would Like To Begin With Those Employees Who Have Completed Five Years Of Service To Lee County .

Timothy Cameron, Dcd Environmental Services .

Mary Duane, Dcd Development Services .

Adalberto Santana .

Dcd Operations .

Jeremy Norvell, D.O.T. Operations .

Joseph Kozacko, D.O.T. Operations .

Deborah Carpenter, Dcd Administration Support .

Patrick Stott, Facilities Management .

Peter Rimmer, Facilities Management .

Robert Lemieux, Fleet Management .

James Palopoli, Human Resources .

Silvia Rodriguez, Internal Services .

David Helmick, Solid Waste .

Maria Brady, Utilities .

With 10 Years Of Service To Lee County, John Fredyma, County Attorney .

Allen Soto, D.C.D. Development Services .

Kimlyn Toyloy D.O.T. Tolls .

Mary Helm, Library .

Patricia Carter, Library .

Carla Lloyd, Parks And Recreation .

Ella Campbell, Parks And Recreation .

Dolores Foley, Transit .

Earl Marinell, Transit .

Frazier Pope Jr, Transit .

John Doyle, Transit .

John Braband, Transit .

Ronald Treacy, Transit .

Recognizing 15 Years Of Service To Lee County, Martin Penney, Library .

Nina Lithgow, Library .

Sandra Normandin, Solid Waste .

With 20 Years Of Service To Lee County, Carolyn Delgiacco, County Attorney .

Gregory Hagen, County Attorney .

Barbara Cooke, D.C.D. Development Services .

Calvin Moss D.C.D. Development Services .

Rebecca Penfield, D.C.D. Development Services .

Gloria Sajgo, D.C.D. Planning .

Michael Pavese, Internal Services .

Mack Young, Parks And Recreation .

Robert Harrell, Transit .

With 25 Years Of Service To Lee County, Gregory Carr, D.O.T. Operations .

Congratulations To All Of The Employees And Thank You For Your Service .

Okay, We Can Proceed With Our Agenda, The Next Item Is The Recap Sheet .

On The Recap Sheet There Are Several Items .

One On The Consent Agenda, Defer Item 4a For A Week .

Item 4b, Let's See, What Do They Want?  
They Want To Revise The Money Wage .

4c, To Remove That Item From Construction And Design, Want To Move That To Utilities .

I Have No Problem With That .

4d On The Consent Agenda There's A Language Revision And On Administrative Item 13 A,  
Change Contract Number From 0000 To 2404 .

Can I Have A Motion?

I Just Want To Ask, Because You Are Taking The One Item That Will Be Deferred One  
Week, Any Reason We Need To Defer It?  
We Have A Funding Issue, Taking It From The Correct Pot Of Money .

But It Is Expected To Come Back Next Week?  
Next Week Or Sooner .

It May Have To Go Before The T.D.C .

For One Week Was The Motion .

Is To Defer, For Only One Week .

That's Correct .

We Could -- Depending On Our Discussions Next Week It May Be Delayed A Couple More  
Weeks, It's A Timing Issue Whether We Need To Take It To The Tourist Development  
Council .

We Will Delay It One Week, If It Looks Like It Will Take Longer, The Next Meeting Defer It  
Longer .

Comment?  
Sure .

4d Is Very Similar .

Proposing To Take That From General Fund Which Isn't Too Much Unlike Capitol Improvement Fund .

One Is Lights And One Is Seating .

Could We Do That?  
Well, We Will Find Out .

Commissioners, I Believe 4d Is More Of A Liability Issue, That's Why We Kept It In .

Those Seats Are Actually Breaking .

The Motion Is To Approve The Change In The Recap Sheet .

It's Been Moved By Commissioner Mann, Second By Commissioner Judah .

Discussion?  
All In Favor, Say Aye, Opposed?  
The Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted .

Now We Are Coming To The Public Comment Period .

The Opportunity That The Public Has To Comment On Items That Are On The Agenda And I Have Three Cards, Dr. Jim Brower .

He Was Here .

He Probably Had To Go To Work .

Good Morning, Mr. Broward Had To Leave .

He Asked Me If I Would To Get Up And Advise The Board They Are In Support Of The Renewal For The School Impact Fee Study .

And That He Was Unfortunately Called To Another Meeting And Had To Go .

Okay, Thank You .

Pete?  
I'm With Auto Bon .

What A Civics Lesson We Had This Morning .

Absolutely Marvelous To Have The Accolades From A State Senator .

And Then To See All Of The People Who Make It Happen Get Recognized As Well .

Marvelous, I Would Like To Speak In Support Of The Rezoning Of A Couple Parcels Of Property Owned By Auto Bon Of Florida Incorporated In The Calusa Creeks Park .

It's A Marvelous Asset, We Are Looking Forward To Join With The County Anyway We Can To Provide Greater Public Access To Our Lands And Waters .

It's Fundamental To Our Mission And Fundamental To The Purpose Of Good Government To Allow The Public To Use Those Resources Which They Have Provided .

So I Would Hope You Would Endorse That Operation To Change The Zoning On These Parcels Of Auto Bon Property To Include Them As Part Of The Park For Management Purposes .

Thank You Very Much .

Frank?

Good Morning Commissioners .

I'm Here Today Due To Frustration, Unfortunately .

The Reason I'm Frustrated, I Have 17 Years That I've Been Working On South Park, It Hasn't Been Completed To This Day .

When We Started This Program In '88 Ms. Haas Was Assistant Administrator, Lavender And Yar Borrow Played A Strong Part .

We Put Hundreds Of Hours Into That Park .

The Money We Didn't Have It, We Thought We Did .

So Phase 1, 1a, 2 And 3 .

Only One Was Completed And We Know That Park Today As Veterans Park .

Of Course You Add Many Things To It Over Time .

Three Years Ago I Was Approach Today Go On Lehigh Acres Community Planning Board And My Field Of Expertise Is Parks, Rec, Schools And Children, What I Did Almost 40 Years In Lehigh, The Part That's Bothering Me Right Now, The Frustration Of The Past 17 Years, Not Accomplishing All The Goals I Was Hoping To And I Have So Much Documentation That The County Spent So Much Money .

Employees Hours Into This Program Which Never Happened .

It Wasn't The Fault Of The County, It Was Just The Way The Times Were .

I Stood Out Of The Picture Because That Was The Call From Professionals .

Three Weeks Ago I Called Mr. Pruett At East Coast And Left A Message For Him To Call Me Back Prior To The Meeting We Had Last Thursday .

Didn't Receive A Response Back .

I Called Again, I Talked To The Girl, I Said Please Hand Deliver The Message So I Know He Receives The Message, To This Day I Never Heard From Mr. Pruett .

I Heard From Mrs. Laguardia .

She Helped Me Set Up That Appointment About Two Weeks Ago For Last Thursday .

As A Board Of Director My Meetings Are All On Thursday, So Put Me In A Tough Position .

So I Worked It To Make It Happen .

I Arrived There About 5:15 When We Had The Meeting .

Mr. Mud Approached And Said They Were On Their Way, Super .

According To The Clock On The Wall They Arrived Quarter To 6:00 At Night .

Meantime We Had 40-50 People In Attendance Coming In And We Wound Up With 175 From What I Heard .

Anyway, They Came In And They Started Setting Up Their Slides And So Forth .

I Stood Patiently There, Talking To Ms. Laguardia .

What Happened, They Never Approached Me To Introduce Themselves .

When I Looked At The Clock It Was Five Minutes After 6:00, I Have Documentation The County Supplied Us, I Can't Even Get Five Minutes With Them .

We Never Met .

The Part, I Got To Settle Down On This, The Part That Really Bothered Me, My Committee, One Of The Committee People Addressed Mr. Pruett And Vargas And Say Why Didn't You Meet With Frank La Rosa .

This Is A Quote, Oh Was It Today .

I'm Sorry My Time Is Very Valuable, So Is My Family And The Hospital Board I Sit On, I Represent The People .

For Things Like That To Happen, I Don't Feel Comfortable With An East Coast Firm .

I Let My People Down .

My Committee, I Felt I'm Disappointing Them And The People Of Lehigh Because I Accomplished Nothing, Here 17 Years Later, I'm Still Not Gaining Any Ground, I'm Here Asking Whatever It Will Take To Make It Happen, If We Implement From The People Of Lehigh Into This Plan, How Do We Do That?  
If We Can't Put It Into The Plan .

I'm Trying But Just Not Succeeding, That's Why I'm Here, Gentlemen .

Okay, Thank You Very Much .

That's All The Cards I Have .

This Is The Public Comment Period .

Anyone Else Wish To Speak To Any Item On The Agenda?  
Okay, I Will Close The Public Comment Period And We Will Proceed With The Consent Agenda .

Items To Be Pulled, Commissioner Mann?  
Mr. Chairman I Have One, 13 C .

Okay .

Commissioner Judah?  
Mr. Chairman, 3d, E, F, G, H, I .

Commissioner Bigelow?  
Just One, 4d .

Okay .

I Need A Motion To Approve The Balance .

Discussion?  
All Those In Favor Signify By Saying Aye .

Opposed?  
The Motion Is Adopted .

Item 13 C Commissioner Mann .

Mr. Chairman, This Is Not A Major Issue .

But I Keep Learning Things, My Concern Here Is The Difference Between A Controlled Access Road And A Limited Access Road And Commissioner Judah, Maybe You Can Even Help Me On This Because You Are Familiar With This Project Forever .

Seems Like We Have A History In The County Started With Limited Access Roads And They Get Filled With Exits And Entrances .

They Gave Me A Briefing On This The Other Day And I'm Just Hoping The Road They Are Talking About With Controlled Access Still Has A Limited Nature About It .

Scott Gilbertson D.O.T. For The Record .

In My Idea, The Difference Between Controlled Access And Limited, Controlled Is Creation By The County Ordinances And Policies, If You Will .

Both Of Them Require A Super Majority Vote By The Board To Establish Them .

And To Modify Them In The Future .

Controlled Access, However Has At Great Intersections With Median Openings .

More Conflicts, If You Will, With The Through Traffic, Limited Access .

We Have One In The County, Veterans Parkway .

And The Access To Those Are More So By Interchanges, Rather Than Direct At Grade Intersections .

Median Openings That Are Present .

We Plan To Eventually Replace Them With Urban Interchanges In The Future .

Degree Of Access Is Greater .

Scott, Very Succinctly I Would Like You To Tell Me The Difference Between Controlled Access And Limited Access .

Can You Do That In Just Say A Couple Of Sentences?

He Was .

He Was, But It Was Going On Paragraph Into Paragraph .

I Wasn't Getting It Either .

Provisions In Florida Statute, Limited Access In My Definition Is A Higher Degree Of Access Control, Access To The Facility Would Be By Interchanges By Or Right Turn Movements .

The Open Medians Would Eventually Be Replaced By Either Closing The Medians Or Interchanges Or Some Other Type Of Treatment To Reduce The Number Of Conflicts With The Through Movements Of Traffic .

Does It Necessarily Include Traffic Lights?

Controlled Access Would Include Traffic Signals .

Limited Any Signals Would Be Replaced By Some Other Means Of Traffic Control .

My Question, I Guess, The Fact It's A Blue Sheet Item, I Just Want You To State For The Record In Your Professional Judgment, The Best Access Available To Us On This Project Would Be Defined Control And Not The More Strict Limited Access .

That's Correct .

The Demands Of That Road Way .

And The Needs For The In And Out .

All Right, I'll Move The Item .

There's A Motion To Approve 13 C, Is There A Second?  
Second By Commissioner Judah .

Discussion?

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted .

Thank You Commissioner Mann .

Commissioner Judah, 3d .

These Are All Extensions Of D.R.I.'S .

I Have No Problem Going Forward With Them .

At Such Time When These Develop Out They Will Have To Comply With The D.L.C. And Comp Plan Changes .

Right .

There's A Batch Of These On The Agenda Because The State Is Allowing A Three Year Extension For All D.R.I.'S Under Active Pursuit, All Of These Are Actively Pursuing And Finishing Up .

Yeah, They Have To Comply With The L.D.C. In The Comp Plan .

To The Extent They Are Not Vested By D.R.I. Development Orders .

I Didn't See That Language In Here .

The Resolution Is Just Extended Three Years .

I'm Not Interested In Extending It If They Aren't Interested In Complying .

They Have To Extend Because The State Law Allows It .

These Are Just Resolutions That Put That Into Writing .

Commissioners, All These Resolutions Really Do Is Confirm What The Legislature Has Already Done .

The Legislature By Law Extended These D.R.I.'S For Three Years .

The Date, Termination, By Three Years, We Don't Have Any Choice In That Matter, The Only Thing Is Confirming For The Record So People Know Which Were Extended .

The Ones Not Extended Were Not Under Active Construction For A Period Of Time .

All We Are Doing Is Confirming That But It Doesn't Change Development Order Or Our Codes .

They Still Have To Do Everything They Did Before .

I Didn't Know If They Are Vested Under Prior Regulations In The County .

If They Are, They Remain Vested, If Not They Don't Gain Anything New From This .

Holy Toledo, Shouldn't There Be Some Consistency .

At Least Consistent With The Regulations In Effect At The Time?

Our Opinion Is They Have To Be Consistent With Their Regulations Just As They Would Have Been If They Hadn't Gotten This Extension, It Changes Nothing As To Their Requirements For Following Our Regulations .

All Right, Thank You .

Move All The Items .

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Items 3d, E, F, G, H And I .

Second By Commissioner Mann .

Discussion?

All Those In Favor?

Signify By Saying Aye .

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, Motion Is Adopted .

Item 4d .

Commissioner Bigelow .

Thank You, Mr. Chairman .

I Would Like To Pick Up On A Recap Discussion Where County Assistant Attorney Was Suggesting 4a Would Be Deferred Because They Will Look At Funding Alternatives For The Lighting Of Hammond Stadium .

I Guess I Would Like To Say For The Public At Large We Are Discussing Under This Item Replacing Seating At Hammond Stadium But Earlier In The Meeting We Deferred Lighting .

There's A Difference Between Lighting And Seating .

Yes, Sir But The Difference In Funding Is What I Would Like To Pick Up .

I See The Funding Question Much The Same .

That Is This Stadium Was Built With T.D.C. Money, With Bed Tax Money And It Seems To Me That The Maintenance Upkeep And Any Infrastructure Improvements, Replacements Such As The Seating Should Also Come From T.D.C. Money, Unless Don, I Don't Know If There's Been A Policy Shift That The Stadium Which Was Built With Bed Tax Money Is Now Not Being Continually Funded That Way .

There's Not A Policy Issue At The Time .

The Only Issue Is The One That Come From T.D.C., We Want To Make Sure That The District Recommend, The T.D.C. Commission Had An Opportunity To Review That Before Coming Before The Board .

And That Was The Difference On That One .

This One Historically And Pete, Help Me Out Or Jay, Historically It Depends On What Is Happening Out There But We Funded Many Of The Improvements Out Of The Stadium Or The Maintenance Out Of The General Fund .

And That What's Being Suggested On This Particular Issue, There's No Change In Policy, That's Been The Policy For Many Years .

Okay, So You Want Us To Spend \$400,000 Out Of General Fund For The Seating Replacement, But If I Understand Correctly You Are Saying This Is A Shift In Policy Because We Are Not Going To Use T.D.C. Bed Tax Money?

Is That Correct?

I Don't Think We Are Talking About It .

We Are Asking For The Upgrade Because We Know The General Fund Dollars Are Harder To Come By .

And With The Shrinking Of General Fund Dollars We Are Suggesting On The Lighting That More Appropriately Because The Major Leg Requirement For The Lighting Comes From The

Requirement, We Are Suggesting With Tax Dollars Rather Than General Fund, That's The Issue We Are Taking To The T.D.C. To Get Them To Concur With And We Will Bring It Back To The Board .

I'm Not Particularly Comfortable Funding The Seats At Hammond Stadium With General Fund Money But Not Opposed To Doing It In The Short Run As Long As We Understand We Will Need To Replace The General Fund With Bed Tax Funds .

Would That Make Sense To You?  
That Would Certainly Be A Policy Issue For The Board .

I Would Have To Ask The County Attorney But It Would Probably Be Appropriate .

Usually I Determine If It Could Be Used For This Expenditure, If Not They Will Have To Come From Another Funding Source .

I Have No Idea, I Haven't Reviewed The Request, Also I Have To Look At The Attorney General Opinion To See If It's A Consistent Way Of Using These Dollars .

I Can't Tell You On The Spot .

If You Want To Defer It For A Week You Can Do That .

Could We Do That, Mr. Chairman?  
Defer This A Week?  
Let's See If There's A Motion .

I Would Like To Defer It .

I Will Second For Purposes Of Discussion .

If It's Deemed Eligible For Tourism Funding Than To Reimburse The General Fund, I Support What You Are Suggesting It Should Come From Tourism Development Fund, Not General Fund If It's Eligible .

That's What I'm Hoping, We Will Know More Of In A Week .

But I Think Instead Of Deferring It Because Of The Public Safety Concern, I Think We Can Go Forward And Still Achieve What You Are Trying To Accomplish .

Maybe The Motion Would Be To Go Forward, To Reimburse The General Fund If Deemed Eligible .

I'm Amenable To That A An Alternative To My Motion, However Is There Some Event Coming Up We Need To Rush?  
We Just Have A Sort Of A Liability Situation With The Age Of The Seats .

The Seats Are Also A Long Lead Item For Us To Get And Have Installed By The Time The Twins Get Here .

We Want To Make Sure We Have Adequate Time, There Are About 3500 Seats To Change Out, Which Will Take Time, But Mostly The Lead Time To Get The Seats Here .

I Would Submit, In Where From 35-40 Events That Are Community Events That Take Part In The Stadium Other Than Baseball .

We Do Fundraisers And A Number Of Things .

So Liability Is One Of Our Major Concerns .

So Whatever Funding Source You Want To Direct Us Into We Will Certainly Do That .

Yeah, I'm Not Looking To Go Out There And Check The Condition Of These Seats, I'm Just Interested In Trying To Work Out This Funding Policy Issue .

Well, I Submit What We Need To Do Is Probably Revise Your Motion, The Seconder Needs To Withdraw His Second And The Primary Maker Of The Motion Needs To Withdraw And Then Provide One That Will Meet What It Is Everyone Wants To Do .

I Will Withdraw The Second .

Withdraw The Second .

And Move We Defer The Final Decision On The Funding .

So Your Motion Now Is To Defer .

Defer The Final Outcome Of The Funding Source For Another Day .

I'm Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I Thought Where You Were Headed Is Let's Approve The Item With The Provision That If It Is Possible To Fund This Through T.D.C. Then That's Where The Dollars Would Ultimately Come From .

What Do You Want To Do, Andrea, Knowing What We Want To Do .

It's Not Up To Me .

From A Legal Perspective Do We Want To Move This Item And Put Off The Funding Aspect? The Motion I Understood To Be You Would Move The Item And If The Funding Could Come From T.D.C. That's Where The Funding Would Come From .

Okay .

So We Will Move The Item With The Caveat That The Funding Issue Will Have To Come Back Before Us .

No .

T.D.C. If It Can Be .

That Was A Question .

I Don't Care To Move The Item And Pay For It With General Fund Money .

We Could Be .

Commissioner More Likely Than Not It Can Be Funded Out Of Tourist Development Tax Dollars, I Just Don't Want To Say 100% .

Then We Have To Recognize This Is Something We Want To Proceed With And Get Moving On .

I Don't Want To Pay It With General Fund Money .

Then We Will Frame The Motion, I Suggest You May Not Want To Vote For .

Move The Item, Provided That If It Is Legally Possible, The Dollars Are T.D.C. Dollars Used For This Item .

If They Are Not Available To Us, Again The General Fund Will Cover This Expense .

Second .

It's Been Seconded By Commissioner Judah .

Further Discussion?

All Those In Favor Of The Motion Signify By Saying Aye .

Opposed?

And The Motion Is Adopted, Three With Commissioner Bigelow In The Negative .

Very Good .

Mr. Chair, Before We Move Onto The Administrative Can I Make A Comment?  
We Have A Presentation By Our Lehigh Consultants .

That Is Going To Come After The Conclusion Of The Administrative Agenda .

Recognizing That's Coming Forward, Might We Consider Since There Are Other Residents, That We Allow Public Input During That Discussion, So That We Can Talk About Some Of Mr. La Rosa's Concerns And Hear From Any Other Members Of The Public, It's An Exceedingly Important Issue I Think We Might Want To Consider .

I Don't Want To Argue With Your Determination That It's Exceedingly Important, But We Have Given Number One The Opportunity For The Public Comment On The Consent And Administrative Agenda Earlier, Second We Are Moving To The Administrative Agenda Subject To Our Discussion And Debate, But We Don't Usually Have Public Comment On

Those Items .

Yeah, It's A Simple Request We Accommodate The Public If They Are Here, After Hearing From W.R.T. If They Are So Inclined To Make Comment, I Would Like To Know They Would Be Able To Do So .

It's Not A Debate .

We Have Given The Public An Opportunity .

Wallace Roberts And Todd Will Make A Presentation, At Which Point During The Discussion Is When We Talk About Things But We Don't Have Public Comment During That Period .

We Could, If We So Chose .

If You Got Two Other Votes, You Can Do Anything .

I Would Appeal To The Board If We Might Consider Allowing Public Input After W.R.T. Has Made Their Presentation .

After W.R.T .

I Have No Problem With That .

Would There Be A Second To That?

Well If You Have No Problem With That, You Would Be Second .

I Don't Second As A Chair .

You Could .

I Could If I Pass The Gavel, But I'm Under No Inclination To Pass The Gavel .

No Second .

We Will Proceed With The Administrative Agenda .

It's Not For Want To Receive And Take Public Input It's Just We Have A Procedure In Place .

Well That's The Point .

If We Are Going To Be Able To Flush This Out With More Depth Prior To Approval As A Plan .

So Anyway, Let's Proceed With The Administrative Agenda, Item 13 A .

Move The Item .

Motion To Approve, Is There A Second?  
Move And Second .

Discussion .

I Would Like To Call Up Some People From D.O.T. For Discussion On This, Because We Never Really Have Taken A Position On A, Whether We Want A Fishing Pier And Where It Should Be .

This Doesn't Mean We Will Get Involved In The Details Of Designing The Fishing Pier But Rather To Authorize The Staff To Give Them Direction Where We Ought To Go On This Issue .

Good Morning, Chairman, Commissioners .

That's Really The Purpose Of Bringing This Item Forward At This Point In Time Is Just To Get The Desire Of The County Commission, Whether We Should Or Should Not Move Forward With This Particular Item .

Where We Are Currently At, We Have Looked At A Couple Of Different Options And We Have Set Up This Particular Item Such That We Can Move Forward With U.R.S. Doing The Design On A Fishing Pier Which Would Include Leaving Part Of The Existing Bridge In Place And Converting That To The Fishing Pier .

The Original Public Involvement Done Back A Number Of Years Ago With That Time Was Not Interest To Have A Fishing Pier There, However This Has Surfaced In The Couple Of Years Would Require Us To Make Modifications With The Permit And Coming Up With The Design .

I Think The First Question, Is There Interest In Moving Forward And Leaving A Portion Of The Bridge To Act As A Fishing Pier .

Let Me Just Say As The Commissioner From That District, There's Been A Lot Of Discussion On That And The Public Out There As Well As Everywhere Has Been Strongly In Favor Of Having A Fishing Pier, So I Would Hope We Would Simply Say Go Ahead And Drop A Design And See What You Can Come Up With, Has To Be Reasonable In Cost, But See What You Can Come Up With .

Mr. Chairman?

Unlike Matt Le Che, You Are Planning To Retain A Part Of The Old Bridge, Or Construct A New One?

We Started Out, The Original Request Was Coming From People Who Simply Wanted Us To Save A Portion Of The Bridge, Partially For Nostalgia And Use For A Fishing Pier, Much Of What's Done In The Island In The Keys .

But The Bridge Is In Such Shape That The Critical Items Are The Beams That Support The Bridge Deck, So We Will Only Use The Piles And Pile Caps, Remove The Driving Surface And Come Back With Some New Pieces Of Flat Concrete Slab .

You Would Have Virtually A Newdeck, Easy To Attach A Handrail To, Looking At Providing Shade Structures On The Facility .

With The New Bridge They Go Down 60-65 Feet, I Understand These Only Go Down To Where There's A Floating Type Of Thing, Is That Good Enough?  
For The Loads The Bridge Would Be Experiencing, Yes It Is .

The Existing Bridge Was Originally Founded On A Hard Layer Of Material .

It Varies, 15, 20, 40 Feet Below The Bottom Of The Bay .

That's Where The Piles Sit On, The New Bridge The Piles Penetrate Through That Layer Down To A Firmer Layer Further Down Below So Piles On A New Bridge Are 130, 150 Feet In Length, So They Are Considerably Longer But Again You Are Talking About The Difference Between Pedestrians On A Bridge Versus Tractor Trailer Trucks Fully Loaded .

The Piles And Caps Are In Adequate Shape, Yes They Could Be Saved And They Would Be Capable Of Carrying The Load .

I Just Don't Want To In 5-10 Years Have To Rip The Bridge Or Fishing Pier Apart Because It's Unsafe And We Have To Drive Pilings Down, I Want To Do The Job Right Now And Get It Over For Long After I'm Gone T For 50 Years .

We Totally Agree .

We Haven't Done The Design Yet, We Have To Verify .

When Our Preliminary Looks At It We Could Save Without Any Problem .

I Have No Objection, I Think We Need A Fishing Pier There .

Yes, Jim?

Commissioners There's A Funding Issue Here Perhaps John Yarborrow Could Speak To .

These Funds Cannot Come From The Bridge Debt .

So We Were Looking At The T.D.C. For This As Well .

And I Believe John Yarborrow Was At The T.D.C. Meeting And This Project Would Come From There I Believe They Had A Payment Schedule .

John Yarborrow, Parks And Recks .

I Would Like To Allow Tim .

This Project Came Before The T.D.C. Before Their Regular Beach And Shore Line Process, For Funds In Fy '08 Both The Design And Construction .

Based On The Number Of Requests And The Funds Available The Actual Construction Of The Fishing Pier Was Not Funded By The T.D.C. But The Design Work Was .

At That Time, I Think It Was Barb That Made The Presentation, Barbara Manzo Said Please We Would Love To Have Your Support On This Project Could We Have The Design Funds And T.D.C. Said Yes, Let's Allocate \$200,000 For Design .

About A Month And A Half Later Barb Came Back And Said Instead Of Having Those Funds In Fy '08 Could We Have Those Funds Out Of Reserves Now, That's What You Have Before You Is The Transfer From Beach And Shore Line Reserves For The Design And Current Fiscal Year And T.D.C. Said Yes To That .

Terms Of The Construction Funding, The T.D.C. Was Supportive But Recognized There Were Not Enough Funds In Place To Fund That Project .

So Barb Said Would We Be Able To Come Back And The T.D.C. Said Of Course, In The Future .

But No Payment Schedule Or Anything Else Was Worked Out At That Time .

I Think Tammy Is Accurate .

The Discussion I Had With D.T., If You Remember Him Before He Left .

I Remember Him Vaguely, And Tam Was The T.D.C. He Felt Would Fully Support The Project .

However, They Didn't Feel They Had The Cash On Hand Right Away .

And He Was Talking About Taking It Out Of General Fund Or Where Ever And Then Paying It Back With T.D.C. Funds .

I Was Going To Say That Would Be The Appropriate Approach To Make .

We Could Make Sure This Gets Done In Concert With The Causeway Project And Provide A Wonderful Amenity For The Public .

Mr. Chairman, I Too Agree That This Is Appropriate For T.D.C.-Type Funding .

I Don't Have A Problem With Fronting This Cost As We Move Forward, As Long As Ultimately It's Paid Back, I Hope Within Two Or Three Years In The Funding Process, If That's What's Contemplated Here, I Don't Mind Going Forward .

Commissioner Bigelow?  
Discussion, I Guess .

Sure .

Yeah, I'm Particularly Troubled With This Idea That We Are Going To Spend Cash Money

For This Project Rather Than Borrow It And Payback With T.D.C. Money \$1.5 Million I Guess Is The Estimate Of Cost To Construct .

I Just Got My Trim Notice Like You All Did, I Think I Would Much Rather See Us Spend Reserves So We Might Be Able To Reduce The Tax Burden On The Residents And I Think This Is Just A Prime Example Of Where We Are Making Some Spending Decisions In My Estimation Are Not Prudent .

So I Would Not Like To Commit Cash On Hand For This Project .

I Would Support It If We Were To Borrow And Then Repay With T.D.C. Money .

In A Way They Are, They Are Spending The Cash Front End And Repaying It Back And That Is Generally Cheaper To Do It That Way Than It Is To Finance The Thing .

I Believe In Pay As You Go .

Where Ever It's Possible To Do .

I Think That's Conservative Of The Economic Way To Proceed .

And This, I Think Ratifies, At Least My Feeling On That Area We Are Getting The Project Going, Fronting Them The Dollars, It's Going To Be Repaid Back Into The General Fund Maybe As Early As Next Year When The T.D.C. Money Starts Rolling In Again .

I Would Much Rather Give The Money Back To The Public, Currently, Presently, Immediately .

I Would Rather Give This Money Back To Our Tax Payers Immediately In The Form Of Tax Cuts, We Can Do That .

That's A Simple Decision .

We Give It Back Or Spend It This Way .

I Don't Support This .

You Are Perfectly Entitled To Your Opinion .

I Just Have To Say It Sounds Odd To Give Money, And Take It Back .

Pay As You Go Is Far Cheaper Than Borrowing Money .

Far Cheaper .

You Aren't Paying Interest, Right?  
By Not Paying Interest, It's Cheaper .

We Have The Cash Reserves To Do It .

We Can Front It And Get Paid Back, That's Cheaper And To Me Is Fundamentally More With What I Would Presume Would Be Your Line Of Thinking Than To Borrow Money And Always Pay Interest .

I Don't Like Interest Payments, That Adds Significantly To The Cost .

Which Is Why I Want To Proceed This Way, I Think It Makes Better Sense, Management And Financial Sense To Do It That Way .

I Would Disagree .

That's Fine .

I Need Not Tell You What's Happening To Our Real Estate Market And Our Construction Industry .

I Think To The Greatest Extent That We Possibly Can We Owe It To Our Tax Payers To Give Back As Much As We Can In Order To Help This Economy Because It Is On Its Knees .

Mr. Chairman?

I Will Say Once Again To Not Have To Pay Interest Is In Fact Helping Putting Money, Keeping Money In The Tax Payers Pocket .

He Is Not Paying Interest On Something He Doesn't Have To Pay Interest On .

That To Me Makes Imminent Sense .

All We Are Approving Today Is The Design .

And The Money Is Already Available Through T.D.C. In One Transfer From Another Left Over Pot .

So We Aren't Approving The Construction And The Blue Sheet Says Clearly The Final Construction Approval Will Be Back In Front Of Us .

So That's All We Are Doing Today .

The Design .

We Will Still Have This Debate At Commissioner Bigelow --

That's Very Good, I Appreciate You Making That, That's In Fact What We Need To Do Today .

But I Was Hoping To Give The Staff Some Idea As We Hope To Implement What It Is Planning Is Doing And That's Why I Was Moving A Little Further Along .

From A Timing Standpoint, We Need To Move Forward As Quickly As Possible So We Don't Create More Time Extension Of The Restoration Work And The Causeway Boat Ramp,

Fishing Pier Area .

I Would Like To Get This Done As Soon As We Possibly Can, Does That Mean You Will Come Back In The Next Couple Weeks With The Suggestion We Use The General Fund To Construct The Pier?

Without Understanding There Will Be A Reimbursement Within The Next 2-3 Years?  
That's What I'm Very Opposed To .

It's Really Up To The Board .

I'm Not Sure We Need To Do That In The Next Couple Of Weeks .

We Are Winding Down On The Project, Pete, Why Extend It?  
Let's Get This Thing Done .

I Would Like To Get It Done .

What Is The Design Time Required Here?  
It's Not Going To Be Right Back In Our Laps .

For The Record, Paul Winguard Again .

It's Something Like 220 Days Or 210 Days .

We Are Going To Shorten That Considerably, Once We Get A Feel That's The Direction We Want To Go .

You Are Absolutely Right, What's Being Approved Today Is For The Design Contract .

Our Goal Is To Have Enough Information You Can Get The Slab Design Done, Maybe Not Have All The Design Done For The Project But To Get The Slab Design Done, Get Them Ordered And Set Somewhere Near The End Of The Year While We Are Still Out There Working, That's What Our Goal Is .

Commissioner, Was That A Motion You Made?  
I Think We Can Still Deal With The Construction .

It Looks Like Six Months .

That's Why I Was Wondering .

Blue Sheet Like It Was Today .

So You Move Approval .

Yes .

Second .

Discussion .

For Clarification, Is The Motion A Policy Directive Toward Staff To Front This Project With Cash?

No .

With The Blue Sheet Like It Is .

Go Ahead With The Study .

Tdc Money .

Which We Already Have .

We Will Decide A Later Time And Place Whether We Are Borrowing Or Doing Cash Up Front .

Appreciate That .

Further Discussion?

All Though In Favor Signify By Saying Aye?

Opposed?

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted .

15 A .

Motion To Approve?

So Moved .

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve 15 A, Second By Commissioner Mann .

Discussion?

All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye .

The Motion Is Adopted .

Now I Believe That Concludes The Administrative Agenda .

Am I Right On That?

Can We Have A Two Minute Break If Possible Before The Presentation?

The Next Issue We Are Going To Call On Is W.R.T.'S Presentation And We Will Take A 5-10 Minute Break .

I Would Like To Stretch It To Three .

We Are Now About To Hear A Presentation, By W.R.T .

Wallace, Roberts And Todd About Lehigh .

Proceed .

Hello Commissioners, Jim Mudd, I Would Like To Introduce, John And Sylvia From Wallace Roberts And Todd .

They Will Update You On The Status Of The Lehigh Acres Plan .

This Presentation Will Satisfy A Requirement For A Contract Between The County And W.R.T .

I Would Like To Point Out They Were Here Thursday For A Meeting In Lehigh Acres At Faith Lutheran Commission .

Commissioner -- Church .

Commissioner Mann Was In Attendance .

They Entertained Questions And Comments After That .

I Will Turn This Over To W.R.T .

Following This Presentation I Would Like To Discuss With You A Possible Extension Of The Moratorium On Zoning And Privately Initiated Plan Amendments .

Thank, Jim .

My Name Is John Fernsler .

We Are Just Beyond The Halfway Point In Preparing The Lehigh Plan .

We Think It's Timely We Review With You, The Studies And Public Input We Received And Then Talk About Where We Are Headed, The Strategic Directions Around Which We Will Frame The Lehigh Plan .

Talk About The Planning Process First Of All .

We Are Largely Complete With The First Three Phases Of Our Work, Phase Number One Was A Reality Check, What Can We And What Can't We Accomplish In Lehigh?  
What Targets Should We Set?  
What Is A Measure Of Success .

The Second Was Getting Public Input In Identifying Areas Of Community Consensus For What Lehigh Acres Wants To Be When It Grows Up .

They Use That To Write A Vision Statement, That Represents The Destination, If The Plan Is A Road Map Then Step One Is To Put Our Finger On The Destination .

The Third Step Was A Reality Check, What Is Really Happening In Lehigh With

Development Trends, Community Satisfaction With The Existing Conditions .

We Are Now Entering The Development Of Concepts And Scenarios And The Last Thing I Will Do Today Before We Talk About Next Steps Is Review With You The Eight Strategic Directions We Believe We Ought To Frame The Plan With .

And The Final Phase Is To Write The Plan Document .

I'm Going To Have Sylvia Vargas Our Project Director Review With You The Studies That Have Been Done To Date And I Will Follow-Up With Strategic Directions In A Moment .

Good Morning .

As He Pointed Out We Have Been Working Simultaneously On Three Phases Of The Project .

One Was To Review The Current Conditions And The History Of Lehigh Acres To Understand What Parameters We Have To Work With On This Project .

One Of The Most Important Components Of This Analysis Was To Look At The Legal Issues Involved In Particularly Vested Rights .

There Have Been Over The Years Three Stipulated Agreements The County Has Entered Into With The Original Developer Of Lehigh, Their Successors And Some Governmental Actions Including The Adoption Of The Lee Plan, Originally 1984 .

That Created Some Subsequent Action On The Part Of The Developer And Then In 1990 The Adoption Of An Updated Lee County Plan .

I'm Not Going To Go Into Detail Into Each One Of These Agreements, But The Conclusion Of Our Analysis Was The Combination Of The Impacts Of These Various Agreements And Governmental Actions Has Created Six Groupings Of Lands In Lehigh Acres That Are Represented In This Map .

Some Of Them Are Affected By Conditions In One Or More Of The Agreements .

But Essentially The Areas That Are In White On The Map Represent The Lands In Lehigh Acres At This Point In Time Are Not Impacted By Any Of The Agreements .

The Rest Of Them For The Most Part Appear To Be Vested Either For Planning, Density, Transportation, However It Needs To Be Pointed Out That All The Lands In Lehigh Acres Are Subject To All The Applicable Regulations In Effect In Lehigh County .

At The Same Time That We Were Preparing Our Analysis Of Existing Conditions We Were Looking At The Land Development Pattern .

The Natural Features .

As John Mentioned We Are Working On The Community Input Phase To Create A Vision Statement .

We Have About 140 To Consider Five Questions And Provide --  
Out Of The Input That We Received, We Tabulated It Very Carefully To Get A Sense Of  
Consensus Area Among The People That Participated And We Translated Those Into A  
Vision Statement That Basically Is A Reflection Of The Citizens Of Values And Aspirations  
For The Future .

As John Said Basically The Destination For Our Plan .

And I Was Just Going To Switch Now To The Vision That We Have Come Up With In Our  
Attempt To Translate Those Ideas That Were Expressed At These Meetings And The Vision  
For 30 Years Into The Future Is That Lehigh Acres Would Be A Sustainable Future Of  
Choice, One That Is Safe, Affordable, Attractive .

Under This Umbrella Vision There Are Five Major Themes That We Identified As The Areas  
Of Consensus And Priority Coming Out Of The Community Input And They Have To Do With  
Managing Growth .

Balancing The Land Use Mix .

Addressing, Enhancing Community Character, Protection, Restoration Of The Natural  
Resources In Lehigh Acres .

Creating A Transportation Network That Is Efficient, Connected, Provides Alternative To The  
Vehicle And The Provision Of Full Array Of Public Services .

It's A Very Ambitious Agenda .

To Begin To Strategize As To How To Get There, I Will Turn It Over To John .

We Have Set Out 8 Strategic Directions .

The First Is The Low-Hanging Fruit To Rectify What We Believe Are Some Deficiencies In  
Zoning And Development Standards To Raise The Bar Of Expectations For Development  
Quality And Functionality .

Improving Highway Corridor Development, Promoting Access Management, Improving The  
Quality Of Commercial Building Standards, Reinforcing A Downtown Identity In Lehigh,  
Promoting Intensification And Revitalization And Dealing With The Social Problems And  
Crime Problems Associated .

The Second Strategic Direction Is To Stage And Manage Growth .

The Incredible Signs Of Lehigh, Even With The Rapid Growth, It Will Be Decades Before It  
Approaches Build Out And Before We Have The Critical Mass Of Tax Payers To Afford To Pay  
For The Full Array Of Services And Facilities .

So For That Reason It Makes Sense To Concentrate Growth In Areas Where We Have The  
Ability To Support It .

The Three Tiers Are As Follows, Tier Number One, That Core Area Of Lehigh Virtually Built Out Where We Have A Full Array, We Are Beginning To Show Signs Of Obsolescence .

The Out Lying Area, Partially Developed Now .

And The Area That Will Probably Be Experiencing The Most Rapid Growth In The Agenda There Is To Accelerate Basic Infrastructure, Tier Number Three Likely Will Remain For The Foreseeable Future, Sparsely Developed .

It Is Unserved, Very Difficult To Get Police And Fire Service .

Until And Unless We Have The Means To Pay For The Array Of Public Services Which The Community Needs .

Here We See The Diagram Of The Three Tier Areas .

We Need To Fix The Road Network .

Coordinate This Plan With The Plan Currently Being Prepared With The District .

We Need Very Large Scale Acquisition Of Lands In Lehigh Acres For The Purpose Of Stormwater Management And Conservation .

So The Lehigh Plan Ought To Be Working Hand In Glove With Those Folks To Determine How And Where Do We Incorporate These Planned Stormwater Improvements? The Next And Related Issue Is At Some Point With The Proliferation Of Septic Tanks And Private Wells We May Have A Threat To Public Health .

We Don't Know When, We Don't Have The Factual Data But We Need To Get That Information, We Need To Begin, In Coordination With The Water Control District Is Research The Point At Which We May Have Reached A Tipping Point When It Comes To Concentration Of Septic Systems And Wells And That Map On The Top Right Is Just One Of Those Black Dots Represents An Existing Septic Tank .

Next Strategic Direction .

Lehigh Was Never Laid Out As A Sustainable Community .

School Sites Were Scarce, Didn't Have Enough Land Reserve .

Consequently Many People Have To Spend Extraordinary Amounts Of Time Traveling Outside Lehigh To Meet Their Basic Needs So We Need To Very Selectively Target, Identify, For Acquisition And Assembly Of Land And Make That Available For Commercial And Other Non-Residential Development To Serve The People Of Lehigh Acres .

The Next Initiative Is To Figure Out A Way To Pay For It .

The Cost To Fix Lehigh Acres With Public Services And Facilities Will Be Extraordinarily

Large .

It's Unreasonable To Expect The Tax Payers Of Lee County To Pay For That, To Subsidize, Therefore We Think The Most Reasonable Approach Is To Create A Self Funding Mechanism, Taxing Unit To Begin To Pay For The Missing Infrastructure In Public Services .

And Then Finally In Conjunction With The Initiative I Described With The East County Water Control District, We Need To Look At Targeting Large Scale Acquisitions And Use The Initiative To Create Stormwater Improvements, Use That To Create Amenities And Value To Enhance The Liveability And Quality Of Life Of Lehigh Acres .

That Summarizes Where We Believe We Are Headed .

I Will Have Sylvia Talk To Us About Our Next Steps .

Very Quickly As John Pointed Out About The Midpoint In Our Process, Once We Receive Direction From The County To Proceed To The Next Stage Because The First And Third Phases Were Actually Sort Of Our Reality Check .

Well, We Are There, Once We Receive Direction To Proceed Onto The Next Phases, We Are Envisioning The Next Three Or Four Months To Be Allocated For The Preparation Of What Essentially Is The Draft Concepts .

For The Plan .

That Includes Establishing Parameters For Growth, What Will Be The Population We Will Serve .

What Are Their Needs In Terms Of Commercial Uses, Residential Uses For Higher Density, Lower Density, Public Facilities, Libraries, Parks, Et Cetera .

The Land Use And Development Concepts And Implementation Concepts, In December Once These Concepts Are Completed We Will Have A Workshop With The Community .

Workshop Before You, Hopefully .

And Refine The Concept During The Last Weeks Of December, Beginning Of January With The Public Input And Staff And D.O.T.'S Input We Will Receive, There Will Be A Set Of Presentations On The Preferred Concept In February .

After That We Will Begin Preparing The Draft Report Which Will Be Subject To Review Over The Next Two Months, Continue Refinement Until We Go To Adoption .

This Time Line Is Not Set In Stone .

It Assumes That Everything Will Go Smoothly From Here On Out In Terms Of Scheduling Dates For Meetings, Review Times And So On .

We Will Review The Schedule With The Planning Department As Well .

This Concludes Our Presentation .

Commissioner Judah?

Jim, Maybe You Could Answer One Of Our Issues I Appreciate You Pointing Out That Definitely Needs To Be Fast Tracked .

Septic Tanks Tells It All .

Perhaps You Could Comment On The Board Direction Given To Staff .

Moving Forward With Regional Sewer And Water .

We Intend To Bring A Presentation On September 10th To Discuss All That .

It's An Information Presentation That Will Go Through The Septic Tank Issue, The Well Issue And Fgoa's Financial Situation On The Financial Condition Of The System .

And Various Potential Expansions That Could And What They Might Cost .

And I'm Assuming That After That Presentation That Would Spark Some Debate And You All Would Revisit The Issue .

And W.R.T .

Do You Have Any Suggestions On Tracks Of Land To Recommend To Conservation 2020 .

We Will Develop In Coordination With The People Doing The Study .

You Are Well Aware Of Mr. Frank Derosa .

Tremendous Resource And Amount Of Knowledge With Respect To How Best To Assist And The Vision For Lehigh Acres, Hopefully You Will Be In Touch With Him Soon .

I Just Spoke To Mr. La Rosa Outside, It Was Unfortunate We Didn't Get Speak That Day .

But We Have Talked On The Phone .

And He Explained To Me That He Has A Large Volume Of Information That We Are Going To Be Using And Try To Set Up A Meeting To Go Over That .

Very Good, Thank You Very Much .

Thank You Mr. Chairman .

Can You Back That Up Always, Almost All The Way To The Front?  
Where You First Started .

Talking About The Things Set In Stone We Have To Deal With .

What Was Your Term For That, Vested?  
Vested .

There Was A Term You Used As Maybe One More Slide Forward .

One Was Transportation Concurrency .

I Don't Understand What Transportation Concurrency Vesting Means .

What Happened Under, When The County Updated The 1984 Comprehensive Plan In 1992  
Meet The New Requirements Of Florida Growth Management .

One Of The Requirements That Was Introduced Was The Concurrency Requirement Which,  
In Transportation Meant There Had To Be A Certain Capacity Of Road Way Capacity For  
Development To Be Allowed To Proceed .

The Developer Of Lehigh Acres Sought Notification Of That New Requirement Trying To  
Argue They Were Vested, Exempted From Meeting It Because They Already Received, They  
Had Entered Into Some Of These Other Agreements .

There Was Some Litigation That Went On And Another Stipulated Agreement Entered Into  
1992, I Believe It Was, That Identified Specifically Lands In Lehigh Acres That Were, In  
Fact, Considered Vested For Concurrency .

Not All Of Lehigh Acres Is Exempt But There Are Some Significant Areas That Are Not .

Are You Telling Us This Is An Additional Handicap As We Move Forward And Try To Work In  
Lehigh?

That Today's Standards Would Call For More Than What It Is In Fact The Case .

There Are Some Ways To Get Around .

The County And D.O.T. Has A Lot Of Projects That They Are Undertaking In And Around  
Lehigh To Improve The Road Way Capacity And Connectivity .

Even Though Private Development May Not Be Required To Meet Those Requirements, The  
Capacity Is Going To Be Increased With Those Projects And Others On The Books .

I'm Not A Lawyer, I'm Probably Not Qualified To Discuss Some Of The Vesting Issues .

We Do Have Lawyers On Our Team That Are Conducting This Analysis And Are Working  
With The County Attorney To Ensure We Are Aware Of The Issues .

What I'm Fearing Here Is Where We Might Be Able To Slow Down Some Of The Growth  
Because The Roads Aren't Ready Under The Rules We Work Today You Are Telling Me  
Those Restrictions Are Not Going To Be Available To Us .

It Is Possible --

We Will Have To Work Within The Existing Infrastructure Of Roads .

There Is The Concurrency Vesting Basically Applied For The Single Family Lots Because They Were Platted So Long Ago .

But If A New Development Comes In, A New Subdivision Or Something They Do Have To Comply .

Okay, Where Would That Be?  
There Are A Few But There's Not Much .

We Don't Have Much To Work With .

The Person That Negotiated This Agreement For Lehigh Corporate Is Now The Head Of The State D.C.A., By The Way .

Just An Interesting Fact For You .

A Throw-Away Line There .

Okay .

I Guess What I'm Pointing Out Is We Have Our Work Cut Out For Us In Lehigh And Careful Planning Is Mandatory Right Now .

And You're Not Prepared To Say, Answer Commissioner Judah's Question About Where You Are Going To Put These Large Commercial Blocks But You Are Working On Those Too?  
Yes .

Is It Suffice To Say We Will Have To Consider Ways To Purchase Large Blocks Somehow? The Government Itself Will Have To Be Involved In That In Order To Provide Ultimately The Mix Of Commercial, Residential And Industrial That Will Be Required For What, 300,000 People In Build Out?  
That's Correct .

It Depends On Our Expectations For The Degree Of Sustainability We Aim To Achieve .

Part Of Your Next Steps You Will Try To Identify Some Of These .

We Will Identify Opportunities, Several Areas Remain Unsub Divided .

But To Assemble Large Sites One Lot At A Time Is Probably Impractical .

Let Me Just Say This, I Don't Have It, I Don't Want To Drag This Out A Lot Further Because We Can't Do A Whole Lot Here Today Except Accept And Say Thank You .

I Want To Say Thank You To Mr. Derosa Who Have Worked Tirelessly .

Keep It Up .

Further Questions, Comments?

Yes, Jim?

Are You Done With Questions For The Consultant?

Commissioner Bigelow?

That Last Comment You Made Really Stuck With Me .

It Sounds Like You Are Saying You Want To Know How Much Work, How Much Difficulty We Want You To Take On .

Assembling Parcels Is Very, Very Difficult Work .

And That, In My Estimation Is The Trick To Getting This Right .

We Are Cautious On The Issue Of Redevelopment, Because We Know You Have Been Down The C.R.A. Path And For Whatever Reason You Did Not Pursue That .

I Think If We Were Going To Take Seriously This Idea We Would Have To Have Something Like A C.R.A. To Accomplish That .

Whether Or Not There's The Will In The County To Go Down That Path Again, We Will Need Some Direction .

And We Might Even Have To Condemn Parcels .

We Might Have To Come In With Our Governmental Might, Supreme Court Says It's Okay, State Legislature Says It's Not .

But What's The Case -- Kilo .

We Might Have To Do That Kind Of Hard Work .

If You Have The Stomach For It .

Private Property Interests Off Big Time .

Can I Ask You To Tell Us If You Are Looking For That Kind Of Big, Bold Effort?

Whether Or Not We Want You To Make That Kind Of Big Bold Effort?

That's Exactly The Input We Need, We Need To Get Some Confirmation That We Are Head Down The Right Set Of Paths, The Eight Strategic Directions .

If One Or More Is Not Where You Want To Go We Will Need To Hear That Direction .

I Tell You, Members Of The Board .

15 Minutes Just Doesn't Even Begin To Do What We Need To Be Doing As A Body To Try To Set The Direction Of This Monumental Effort That We Have To Get Going .

I Even Fear To Start Because I Don't Know If I Will Be Gavelled Down, Mr. Chairman, But I

Would Like Us To Convene As A Full Board With These Fine Folks With The Members Of The Public And I Think We Need To Put A Full Day Into The Discussion Of This Process .

I'm Certainly Ready To Decide If A Moratorium Needs To Be Extended .

That's An Easy Decision, It's Not Just Maybe, It's Hell Yes .

We've Got To Give Ourselves Time To Get This Understood And A Plan Developed And The Might Behind It .

I Want To Make Two Points .

That Is, If We Don't Get This Right What We've Agreed To Lately To Send The Southwest Florida Expressway Authority Off To Just Flow Out I-75 And Toll It, Toll It .

We Will Probably Have To Double Deck, I-75 .

This Place Has To Become A City .

Not That I'm Encouraging It To Incorporate Because I'm Not .

But We Have Too Long Ignored Them .

We Have Left Them Out There To Become What They Have Become And People Tell Me They Feel That Lee County Is Ghetto .

We Have Got To Accept That This Is A Lot Of Hard Work .

And Be Committed To The Long Hard Path Ahead Of Us .

I Would Also Like To Suggest Mr. Chairman, It's This Process We Are Engaged In With W.R.T. And Citizens I Would Like Us To Engage In For The South-Eastern D.R.G.R. Area, Where We Set Down A Moratorium So We Have Time Which We Can Plan That Area Of The County .

I'm Just Throwing That In So The Point That I Failed To Make When We Met On That Issue, Hopefully I Can Make And Say This Is What We Need To Do Now For The South-Eastern D.R.G.R. Area, Because Look How Much More Difficult It Is When We Wait And Wait And Let It Develop However It Will Develop .

Let's Put A County Manager Office Out In Lehigh .

Let's Not Keep Going Down This Path Where They Have To Come To Us, Ask For More Police, Ask For Us To Give Them Attention .

Ask For Us To Do This .

I Would Like To Form A Pseudo City Government Out There, So We Go To Them, So They Have Less Road To Travel To Plead Their Hardships, Because I Tell You, They Have

Tremendous Hardships And I'm Very Concerned For This Area Of The County As We All Are, I'm Just Expressing It From This Perspective .

We've Got To Get This Right And Get It Going From This Direction, I Believe Our Consultants Are Intermating They Would Like The Latitude To Pursue .

I Would Like To Be Able To Say To Them, The Moratorium Is A Hell Yes And Do What You Have To Do And Bring Us The Hard Decisions To Make .

Because My God, I'm Willing To Make Them And Stand Behind It Because These People Deserve It .

Further Discussion?

Mr. Chairman, As A District Commissioner, I Think I'm Understanding .

What They Need, The Go-Ahead From Us To Go To The Next Stages, They Outlined .

We Don't Have That Information And We Haven't Had That Dialogue But This Is Scheduled To Take Between Now And December, Of '08 .

The End Of October '08 Before Anything Is Adopted .

So We Will Have Input And Opportunity Many Times To Contribute To This And Hear What's Going On .

I've Begun Attending, I'm At These Meetings Myself, I Hear What The Public Is Saying, We Need To Say Continue The Good Work You Are Doing And Yeah I'm Certainly Supportive Of The Moratorium Extension .

What Are They Asking, A Couple Years, Are We At A Point?  
That's Part Of Our Blue Sheet .

December '08 .

December 31st .

Yes, Sir, We Are Recommending December '08 .

And That's A Moratorium On Rezoning From Non-Residential Property To Residential Property With The Exception Of Mixed Use Plan Development And Also A Moratorium On Privately Initiated Plan Amendments .

Commissioners, If I Could Add One Thing We Would Come Back With The Moratorium, That Has To Be Advertised .

Prepare It And Let Us Look At The Resolution .

I Move We Direct Them To Do That .

We Have Had A Few Problems With The Way We've Got It, Partial Moratorium, We Have Had Some Cases Come In So We Want To Look At That Language, If You Seigo Ahead We Will Start Preparing That .

That's My Motion .

Second .

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted .

Mr. Chairman?

Yes Commissioner Judah .

We Will See Where The Rubber Hits The Road On September 10th Is When We Will Have The Presentation And We Will Find Out How Firmly Committed This Board Is In Understanding Importance Of Making Really Tough Decisions Such As Purchase And Buy Out .

There Won't Be Any Commercial Development In Areas We Would Like To See It Happen Without Central Sewer And It May Involve, Certainly Will Involve An Assessment Of Those Individuals On Septic Tanks And We Will Truly Find Out How Strong Our Commitment Is On This Board To Address Some Issues In Lehigh Acres That Can Be Responsibly Overcome With Foresight And With Courage, So I Look Forward To Our September 10th Discussion On How It Can Best Go Forward And Provide The Kind Of Infrastructure Lehigh Acres Deserves .

I Guess Just To Hitch Onto That, Mr. Chairman, I Tell You I Don't Think We Can Expect That This Area Of The County Has To Carry The Financial Burden By Itself .

I Just Want To Put That Out There, Food For Thought We've Got To Chew On .

To The Extent This County Goes Well, The Effect That Has On The Rest Of The County Is A Benefit To Us All .

So If We Can Accept That We Have To Bring To Bear, You Know, Outside Forces And Funds To This Area Of The County, I Believe I Would Be Prepared To Do That .

And Accept This Is Old Planning Technology That Is Haunting Us Today That We've Got To Bring Forward To The 21st Century .

It Costs Big Money Because We Ignored It Far Too Long .

Let Me Ask W.R.T. People, Is That What You Are Envisioning We Would Do Today?

Yes, That's Exactly The Sort Of Discussion We Were Hoping We Would Hear .

I Think The Decision To Have The Other Tax Payers In Lee County Help Pay For This Is A Very Big Decision You Folks Make .

We Are Reluctant To Tell You The Numbers To Fix Lehigh, It Would Be Astounding And You Won't Have That Money .

But That Points Up The Need To Shrink Lehigh Acres For The Foreseeable Future Into A Shape And Area You Can Possibly Afford More To Provide The Basic Services .

Right, It's Not About Fixing It Today And Throwing Down The Checkbook, It's About Establishing A Road Map To A Destination .

Setting The Destiny Of Lehigh And Taking Control Of It .

One Of The Things That Impressed Me, In Their Planning Process They Were Talking About You Would Never Come In And Plan A Lehigh Acres Today The Way It Is .

This Huge Red, Hundreds Of Miles No Developer Could Afford To Fund It .

So What We've Got Now Is This Strange Evolution Of What Is There To Date .

But One Other Suggestion In Planning Is They Mention Tiers .

To Begin, There's So Much Out There .

There's A Process, Which Pleased Me, Those Are The Kind Of Things You Will Have To Deal With Before You Can Begin To Get Your Arms Around It, I Was Impressed With The Steps Taken So Far, That's Why I'm Happy To Have Them Charge On And Help Us With These Very Tough Issues .

Imagine A City Larger Than The City Of Miami, Mostly Developed On Septic Tanks .

And Waterways .

That's Right, That's Profound .

We Have Taken It A Step Further .

I Welcome That Coming Forward .

It Will Be Difficult .

I Think We Need To Workshop This Issue Again .

Let The Residents Of Lehigh Know The Date And Time Certain .

And Let's Hold Something In The Near Future So We Can, See I Was Trying To Be Sure We Could Hear From The Public .

I Feel Like There's Disengagement, Not Engagement With Lehigh, I Want To Try To Open That Up A Little More .

One Other Thought I Had, I'm Following Up My Earlier Suggestion Is How Can We Go To Lehigh .

How Can We As A Lee County Government, We Are Their Council, I Would Like Us To Think About That .

Because I Think That Would Go A Long Way To Dealing With A Lot Of The Insurgency That's Out There .

This Call For Incorporation .

If We Don't Respond The Volume Will Get Louder And Louder .

Mr. Chair, We Are Reaching Out .

This Board Has Allocated Significant Resources To Be Able To Ensure It's A Lehigh Acres Community That Drives This Process And Not This Board, Yes We Need To Listen And We Need To Hear The Concerns, The Issues From The Bottom Up, From The Community Itself And Then We Need To Be Responsive And Held Accountable .

But We Are Staying In Touch, We Are The Life Line, And That's Why We Ended Up Hiring The Consultant To Speak Out And We Need To Listen And To Hear And To Respond .

It's Not To Say This Isn't The Right Thing To Be Doing .

It's Just That We Need To Be Stepping It Up .

Let Me Give You An Example .

We Cut The Ribbon On It And These People Don't Know When We Are Going To Landscape It .

I Still Don't Know, And We Will See The Blue Sheet To Do It .

The Fact That It's Not Part Of That Road Way Improvement Is Just An Example Of How They Sit Out There And Are Forgotten .

I Really Am Trying To Big This Board To Make This A Bigger Issue On Our Plate .

Much Bigger Issue .

It's Not To Say That We Haven't Done Some .

I Really Would Encourage Us To Really Push This A Lot Harder .

So That's What I'm Throwing Outright Here .

It's Food Forethought .

For?  
It's For Forethought .

Could We Give Them A City Manager Of Sorts?  
Could We Be More Accommodating .

I Think We Have Gone With This Issue As Far As We Can Go Today .

I'm Wondering Will You Be Making Another Presentation Between Now And September 10th?  
We Did Not Have That In Our Current Schedule .

I'm Just Curious .

We Will Have To Work With Jim And See How It Goes .

Like I Said This Schedule We Presented Today Is Not Set In Stone At This Point .

I Think We Need To Have A Lot More Discussion On This .

And Certainly I Too Believe We Need To Involve The Community To A Greater Extent .

To The Maximum Extent Possible, It's A Huge, Huge Issue .

When You Start Talking About Sewer Services Or Water, Those Things You Are Talking About Billions .

And How Do You Go About Doing This?

I Don't Know, But I Have A Real Problem In Asking People To Live In Cape Coral Who Live On Pine Island And Boca Grande To Help Pay For Sewer And Water For Lehigh .

Admittedly These Are Questions We Will Have To Ask And Answer But First Of All We Won't Be Able To Do It Today .

But It Gives You The Dimension .

The Size Of The Problem We Have To Address And We Need More Discussion But We Aren't Prepared To Go Further Down That Road Today Other Than To Say We Are Aware Of It And Need To Keep Working On It .

Any Further Discussion?

If That's It, Thank You Very Much .

Appreciate It .

And We Will Proceed With Our 9:30 Public Hearing .

I Believe, John There Were Four, Right?

Good Morning, John Fredyma .

Assistant County Attorney .

I Have Four Public Hearing Items, Petitions To Vacate, I've Examined The Affidavits For Publication And Find They Are Legally Sufficient, I Will Give Them To Your Board's Clerk .

This Is From Your 9:30 A.M. Agenda, Public Hearings .

This Is Agenda Item 1 .

Case Vac 2007-00020 .

To Vacate A Series Of Drainage And Public Utility Easements On 10 Lots Located At 3020 Lee Boulevard In Lehigh Acres .

Move The Item .

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Item 1 On The Agenda .

Vac 2007-00020 .

Second By Commissioner Mann .

This Is A Public Hearing, Would Anyone From The Public Like To Speak On This Issue? Being None We Will Close The Public Hearing, Back To The Board .

Motion To Approve For Discussion, All In Favor?  
Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Approved .

Agenda Item 2, Vac 2007-00012 To Vacate Two 12-Foot Wide Public Utility Easements 3509 And 3511 Lee Boulevard Again In Lehigh Acres .

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Item 2, Case Vac 2007-00012 .

Seconded By Commissioner Mann .

Discussion?  
Anyone Here From The Public Wish To Speak On This Issue?  
Any Members From The Public .

Being None, I Will Close The Public Hearing, Goes Back To The Board, Motion To Approve,  
Second By Commissioner Mann, Discussion?  
All In Favor?  
Ayes Have It, So Adopted .

Agenda Item 3 Is Case Vac 2007-00021 To Vacate A Series Of Public Utility Easements Located 722, 724, 726 And 728 Gunnery Road South In Lehigh Acres .

Move The Item .

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Item 3 On The Agenda, Vacation Case Vac 2007-00021 .

Seconded By Commissioner Mann .

Discussion?

This Is A Public Hearing, Any Members Of The Public Wish To Speak?

Being None, I Will Close The Public Hearing And Back To The Board, There's A Motion To Approve, It's Been Seconded .

Discussion, All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye .

Ayes Have It, So Adopted .

Item 4, Case Vac 2007-00022 .

To Vacate A Series Of Public Utility Easements, 742, 744, 746, And 748 Gunnery Road South .

In Lehigh Acres .

Second .

There's A Motion By Commissioner Judah .

Sorry By Commissioner Mann To Approve, Second By Commissioner Judah .

Discussion?

Public Hearing, Any Members Of The Public Wish To Speak On This Issue?

Seeing None We Will Close The Public Hearing Portion, Motion To Approve And It's Been Seconded, All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye .

Opposed .

The Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted .

That Concludes Our Public Hearing Agenda, I Believe .

Thank You, John .

We Are Ready To Proceed With Walk-Ons And Carry-Overs .

We Do Not Have Any Walk-Ons And I Don't Believe We Have Any Carry-Overs So That Concludes That Portion Of The Agenda .

We Will Now Take Commissioner Items .

Commissioner Mann?  
None .

Commissioner Judah?  
Just A Couple .

You Know Governor Forsythe Signed Three Executive Orders Basically Setting Standards, Benchmarks For Utilities And The State Of Florida To Address Promoting And Utilizing Renewable Energy Sources, Those Benchmarks Are Applied To The Utilities In Addition To The State Of Florida, Such As Using A Percentage Of The Energy That's Produced For The State To Be Renewable Energy .

What I Would Like To Ask, There's Many Ways We Can Accomplish Meeting The Kind Of Effort And Intent .

I Want To Ask This Board If We Can Direct Administration To Come Back With Some Kind Of Renewable Portfolio Standard Which We Can Set The Benchmark And Actually Meet These Measurable Goals .

It May Be 25% Renewable Energy By 2012 And We Can Do It In A Variety Of Ways .

I Don't Think We Need To Get So Specific As To How We Will Meet These Goals .

We Know We Can, The Technology Is There, It's Just We Will .

So If Administration Can Come Back To This Board Within A Reasonable Time Frame, Such As Within Two Weeks And Give Us A Head's Up On The Measurable Goals, Objectives Of Renewable Energy, Portfolio We Can Get Our Hands Around, Agree From A Long Term Strategy Planning Standpoint We Can Achieve .

Are You Talking About For The County Itself?

Yes, With The Building Design, Bio Diesel, Biofuels, Waste Energy, We Are Already Ahead Of The Game, We Already Generate Power For 30,000 Homes, The Chillers Being Built .

Believe Me We Can Do It, It's Just A Matter Of Setting The Benchmarks, No Matter Who Sits Up Here They Will Be Committed To Those Goals .

Staff Will Get Back To Us And Let Us Know What They Are Proposing Is Reasonable And Doable .

Let Me Ask You This, Commissioner, Do You Believe This Might Be Better Moving To An M.M.P. Agenda To Talk About?

Sure .

Commissioners, October Might Be Good, Because September Is Filling In .

But We Have In Our Goals And Objectives, An Objective That Deals With Energy Savings, Energy Efficiency And This Is Something That Could Be Rolled Into That Objective .

I Was Measurable Goals And Objectives .

I Think Your Idea Is A Good One, M.M.P. In October .

No Objection So Ordered .

I Don't Think We Need A Motion, We Will Just Include It On The Agenda, If There's Consensus To Move It To The M.M.P. Agenda .

I Think I'm Understanding .

What We Are Doing Today Because We Talked About This 4-5 Weeks Ago And Mr. Lavender Told Us There Are A Number Of Things We Are Doing, If You Could Restate And Are We Evolving Into Some Others And Let Us Know About That, Would Like To But We Haven't Funded Yet, If You Could Structure The Meeting That Way, That Would Be Easier For Me .

That Would Be At The M.M.P. Meeting Is What You Are Saying .

Right .

I Guess I Just Want To Chime In And Say There's A Lot Of Wonderful Ideas Out There, How To Be Green .

And I Am Intrigued By Them All .

What I Am Concerned About Especially With The Decision Of This Board To Move Ahead With The Production And Bio Diesel Is That Because Something Is Good Doesn't Necessarily Mean We Need To Be In The Business Of Providing That Something Good .

We Can Partner With Folks In Ways, With Private Interests That We Can Give Them Something They Don't Currently Have Such As A Market, We Could Provide A Market For Bio Diesel Fuel As An Example And Not Have To Produce It As Well .

So I Get A Little Concerned That When We Talk About These Big Ideas That We Think We Will Just Rush Out And Fund Them And, Or Give The Business Of Doing Something A Government May Not Be Well Suited To Do .

Let Me Just Provide Some --  
I Get A Little Concerned With How Far Out .

Comfort For You .

In Some Areas Commissioner Bigelow I Would Agree With You, That's When Staff Will Have An Opportunity To Show How We Can In Fact Be The N.U.'S Or Generate The Market .

Those Are Opportunities That Are Out There .

And I Would Welcome That Being Part Of The Discussion .

Well I Think That's Kind Of The Direction, Some Of The Substance We Will Be Talking About At The M.M.P. Meeting Is That Issue Because There Are Some Basic Questions, You Know We Need To Answer .

Mr. Chairman .

Such As To What Extent And What's Our Role Going To Play .

Another Issue If I Could?  
Are We All Done With The Other .

Bring It Back To October .

What You See There Are Reflector Tapes Of Communication Towers .

This Board Was Wise In Approving The Changes To The Land Development Code Recently That Require The Reflecting Tape On New Towers But We Have A Lot Of Towers Out There .

This Is A Real Life Saver .

What I Want To Ask This Board, Would You Consider Directing Staff To Make The Necessary Changes And Hopefully Legally We Can Do This That These Reflecting Tapes Are Placed On All Existing Towers To Provide For Enhanced Safety .

Urban Lighting Reflected Off It .

That's Correct .

I See .

Lighting From A Chopper Or Aircraft That Reflects Off It .

First Blush Would Be To A Grow To Something Like That, I Wondered How A Little Red Light Blinking At The Top Of The Structure With All The Clutter Does Alert Pilots To The Fact There's A Hazard .

Maybe A Little Bit Better Extensive Lighting, Reflective Tape Could Do It .

It's Not A Bad Idea .

But We Need To Look At It A Little Bit, See What Everybody Thinks, Legal Problems Passage, May Or May Not Be Any Issue .

We Could Have Staff Get Back To Us And Legal Staff Whether This Is Legal .

Let's Look At The Cost Ramifications Here .

You Are Talking About Every Tower In Lee County?

Absolutely .

That's Substantial .

About 200 .

Just A Matter Of Requiring .

Shelf Life Of 10 Years .

50 Feet .

I'm Open To An Additional Discussion On This .

That's What We Are Hoping, Have Our Staff Take A Look At Give Some Options, I Take It Pete And Holly Are Interested And Noted Our Interest .

As Well As Bill Hammond And Clarified It To The County Manager, That's Good Further Discussion?

One Last Point, I Applaud Senator Bennett, That We Adopt Resolutions Off Shore Drilling Within 200 Feet .

What I Was Going To Suggest It Be No Less Than 200 Feet .

Miles .

That It Could Be Greater Than 250 Miles .

That Was The Only Change I Was Going To Make, Adopt A Resolution .

I Have No Problem With That .

I'd Go With What He's Got .

It Could Be Greater .

No Less Than 250 Miles .

I Don't Want To Tell You What To Do Or Not To Do, I Would Be Supportive, Yes, Me Too, Amen, Go Forward .

The Only Reason I Say That, Senator Nelson Was Talking About How The Nation Has Greater Than 250 Miles In Some Areas Along The Coastline .

Unless They Didn't Have A Choice .

I Was Going To Suggest This Not Be Any Less Than 250 Miles .

I Think The Problem That Senator Nelson Made, If You Go Too Far You Go Into Another

State 'Territorial Waters .

I Don't Know To What Extent That Impact Has But We Don't Want To Be Telling Alabama .

If We Can Support The Resolution With The Understanding We Change It To No Less Than 250 Miles?

Okay With Me .

So Moved .

Second .

Second By Commissioner Mann .

Discussion?

Objection?

The Motion Is Approved .

Thank You .

That's It?

Yes, Sir .

Commissioner Bigelow .

Thank You, I Got My Trim Notice, I've Asked The County Manager If He Would Consider Asking His Department Heads To Proffer A 0% Increase In Budget Over Last Year .

I Haven't Heard Back .

Also Asked If We Might Not Be Looking At Some Cutbacks, Some Ideas For Cutbacks And Maybe Offer A Couple Budget Alternatives Which Are Below Zero Percent .

Below Zero Percent?

Thought Maybe We Could Have A Little Discussion About Possible Directive In That Regard .

Anyone Interested .

Would You Want To Save Money Pay As You Go Rather Than Finance Everything .

Might Spend Some Reserves Rather Than Tax Folks .

Let Me Make Sure I Understand .

You Are Suggesting Spending At The Exact Same Level As Last Year?

Right .

I Was Going To Suggest The County Manager Show Us A Budget That Is At 0% Increase

Over Last Year .

And Also Go A Couple Steps Further And Show Us What A Cut Back Would Look Like .

Commissioner Mann We May Want To Do That But My Feeling Right Now Is To Give Add Much Flexibility .

I Don't Like To Lock Them Into Any Particular Position At This Point, I Think That's Irresponsible Government .

We Started At 8.25 .

They Came In Around 6 And Now We Are Talking Two .

I Would Like To Look At Zero And Maybe Negative Two And Negative 6 .

Jew You Will Have That Opportunity At Budget Hearing .

But Without Them First Doing The Work, That's 30-Year-Old Way Of Budgeting .

I Appreciate Mr. Bigelow Bringing It Up Today .

I Don't Want You To Think I Was Ignoring You, I Wanted To Bring It Up Today .

As I Understood The Direction From The Board Was To Try To Live Within Our Means Without Cutting Back Any Services We Provided Considerably .

I Didn't Want To Come In With A Budget, This Board Didn't Buy Into, If We Come Up With A Budget, 6% Last Year We Are Talking About Laying Off Lots Of People, Not Talking About 10-15 People, We Start Talking About 0% And When We Start Laying Off People We Get Into Programs And What Programs We Impacted .

I Don't Want To Start That At The County Manager Level .

If The Board Wants That You All Need To Give Me Some Direction As To What Programs You Don't Want That We Currently Have And We Will Fine Tune It And Make The Appropriate Adjustments .

I Don't Want To Prejudge And Come Up With Something That Will Upset A Lot Of Good People Working For The County, That's A Very Tumultuous Environment For The County Employees To Be In, I Wouldn't Recommend Doing That .

A Few Minutes We Talked About The Need, We Cut Back To Where Commissioner Bigelow Is Suggesting, How Will We Come Up With Code Enforcement Officers, Lee Tranl, The Six New Sheriff's Deputies, The List Goes On And On .

I Think, And You Know, I've Said Enough .

It's A Very Delicate Situation We Have In Lee County, Providing The Service Level We Do,

The Consistency We Have With The Employees We Have .

I Think If This Board Can Adopt A Budget, 2.5% Above Last Years I Think You Have Done A Phenomenal Job .

I'm A Tax Payer Too, I Suspect I Pay As Much As Other People, If Not More .

We Can Cut The Budget, Name A Figure .

If It's So Small With The Impact To The Tax Payer You Wouldn't Believe It .

I Would Welcome That, If You Cut The Budget \$10 Million What Would Be The Impact To The Average Tax Payer In Lee County?

I Think That Would Be Much More Beneficial To Helping You See What The Impact Is, If We Save Two Cents Here And Lose A Good Project There .

I'm Talking About That Too, If We Made Reductions, Say Whatever The Number Is, If You Reduced It, The Average Tax Payer Would Get Back So Fall Some Return, We Saw With The State The Panacea They Were Going To Reduce Their Taxes Like A Rock .

I Got My Trim Notice Too .

That's The Closest Thing I've Ever Seen To A Piece Of Sand In My Life, That Trying To Pass As A Rock Because My Taxes Didn't Go Down .

I Think You Have To Be Very Careful When We Raise Expectations Out There .

We Have To At First See What It Looks Like Before We Consider It .

If You Aren't Offering A 0% Increase Over Last Year, Then How Can We Consider It .

When Can We Consider A Cut Back?

I Saved \$11.54 And I'm Thinking Wow .

I'm Not Really Concerned Frankly About The People Who Make The Kind Of Money I Make Or You Make .

I'm Thinking About The People Who Are Thinking About Leaving This County, This State .

I'm Worried About The Folks That Are Not Able To Keep A Job Because Of What's Happening In The Construction Industry .

We've Seen These Tax Bills Just Explode And They Get This And They Think For All The News That We Are Reading About, This Is Nothing .

It Happened With Property Insurance As Well .

It Was A Whole Lot Of Talk And A Little Bit Of Action And I Think We've Got To Recognize That If We Don't Cut Back We Are Really Our Own Worst Enemy .

Mr. Chair?  
We Are Cutting Back .

That What The County Manager Is Telling Us .

Also The Disproportion Amount Of The Tax Bill Is Attributed To Other Agencies Other Than Lee County Government, We Are 28% Of The Total Tax Bill .

Well, That \$11.54 Savings On My Tax Bill Was Just My County Portion .

I'm Sorry, City Of Fort Myers, I Can't Do Anything A Public Official Other Than That, Ask Them To Cut It Back .

Mr. Chairman .

I Don't Think There's Anybody On This Board Who Had A Made Himself Less Popular With Our Budget Folks That I Have, They Flinch When They See Me Coming .

If You Back Up Two Budget Years, I Can Tell You That My Personal Property Taxes In Lee County Increased R50% .

50% Increase .

It's Huge, Even With Save Our Homes .

There's Nobody In Lee County More Sensitive To Taxes And Spending Than I Have, They Have Responded, Not As Much As I Think They Can And I Think More Will Be Done, We Set The Trim Lower And Lower .

It Will Be More Austere Than We Have Seen In A Long Time .

I Have To Echo What Commissioner Judah Said, We Just Saw In The Paper Last Week, I Couldn't Believe It, Another 30,000 People .

I Don't Know Where They Came Up With That Number But That's Extraordinary, You Can't Bring Another \$30,000 On Top Of The \$25,000 Before And \$30,000 The Year Before That .

You Just, A Zero Recurring Budget Just Frankly, I Think We Would Be Wasting Their Time And Ours For Us To Contemplate .

You Can't Add 40,000-50,000 People, And Do It With The Same .

Nobody Is More Sincere In Their Concern For The Tax Payer, That 50% Increase I'm Getting Exactly The Same Service I Got Two Years Ago And I'm Paying 50% More For It .

So Yeah, I'm Thinking About It .

I'm Acutely And Keenly Aware, That's Why We Keep Having These Meetings With Staff .

Okay, I Did Receive A Letter From Michael Rezner Chairman Of The Citizens, What He Wanted To Be Placed On The Agenda Is A Non-Binding Ballot For Lehigh .

And I Learned That The Supervisor Of Elections Doesn't Really Need That Authorization Until October And Because We Originally Thought It Was September It Was Required .

So What I'm Going To Be Doing, I Brought This Up As A Commissioner Item But I'm Requesting Direction From The Board On Sending The Issue To County Administration, County Attorney's Office To Coordinate And Blue Sheet That .

This Was A Request For A Straw Ballot Only, Not Incorporation .

Do You Like The Idea Or Not Like The Idea .

And That's It .

We Were Hoping To Have County Administration To Provide Some Recommendation To The Board And Schedule It For A Public Hearing When A Full Board Is Present .

I Have No Problem In Moving In That Direction And Hearing From The Folks And We Need To Begin This Process Today .

I Have A Bit Of A Dilemma When A Citizen's Group Asks Us To Do Something .

I Have No Problem, Otherwise I Would Be Accused Of Not Letting Anything Happen, If This Is What They Want, Let Them Have It .

I've Heard About This A Great Deal And I've Carefully Not Taken Sides But This Issue Hasn't Been Voted On In Many Years .

There's Enough Interest In It, I Think It Would Be Fair To Put It At Least Allow The Citizens To Express Themselves On It At This Point, So I'm Okay .

That's All I Had, Maybe We Can Talk About Doing That When We Get A Full Board .

Okay?

Interesting Aspect Of This, If You Put It On The January Ballot, The Other Issue, More Popular State-Wide Issue On The State Wide Ballot Wrestle With The Super Exemption Or Continuation Of Save Our Homes You Got To Know Which Direction Financially You Are Going Down In Order To Understand Whether Or Not Incorporation Is Financially Feasible To That Area .

I Don't Know, It's Kind Of Like Maybe It's Putting The Cart Before The Horse .

Well But This Gives The People The Idea To Decide Whether Or Not They Think It's Worthwhile Or Not .

See How It Goes From There, There's Been So Much Discussion Over The Years Everyone Claims They Are The Ones That Represent The Public Opinion And I Think If There's Ten People Out There, There's Ten Different Ideas On What The Public Wants, We Need Eventually To Begin Narrowing This Down To A Rational Recommendation That Could Be Made To Us .

Okay?

Committee Appointments Commissioner Mann?

Miguel Caro To The Lehigh Acres Street Lighting Department .

Ron Hamel On The Smart Growth Committee, Reappointment, Margaret Fineberg On Smart Growth Committee Also .

Those Three .

Okay, Discussion?

All Those In Favor Signify By Saying Aye?

Ayes Have It, So Ordered .

Smart Growth, Nate And Damon, And Affair Advisory Board, Veronica .

Discussion?

All In Favor?

Opposed .

So Ordered .

Commissioner Bigelow?

None .

And I Have None .

Okay .

Can I Ask Clarification, Back Up .

Should We Also Consider Estero's Request To --

I Haven't Received A Request From Them Yet .

But I Imagine When It Comes Up We Should Consider It, But It Hasn't Come Yet .

What's The Final Date On That?

They Wanted To Do It, I Think The 29th .

There's A Time We Wouldn't Be Able To Get This On The Ballot?

October .

October 1?

October 1 .

There's A Good Portion Of The Estero Community Not Interested In Incorporating, In Fact They Support Staying Unincorporated But The Thing Is The Two Mile Buffer .

It Didn't Work Out Too Well With Bonita Springs Council Last Week .

I Understand .

County Manager Items?

Nothing .

Okay .

County Attorney Items?

Nothing .

Okay, Being No Further Business We Stand Adjourned .