

**August 28, 2007**

Welcome To The Lee County Board Of Commissioners Meeting For Tuesday August 28th.  
We Will Start With The Pledge Of Allegiance.

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 Much Councilor.

Flood Of Papers Here Today.

We Will Refer To The Recap Sheet.

That's What I'm Looking For Frantically.

Ah, Yes.

On The Recap Sheet We Have One Item We Had As A Walk-On Carry-Over But We Will  
Request It Be Deferred Until September 11th To Allow For A Presentation At The T.D.C.  
Meeting On The 7th.

So I Would Like To Have A Motion For That.

Mr. Chair?

Yes, Commissioner?

I'll Second It Reluctantly.

We Have A Deadline Here.

This Had A To Do With The Lighting At The Lee County Sports Come -- Complex, We  
Need To Get This In Place Before Spring Training, I Know It Takes An Arm And Leg For The  
Lighting Company To Get These Lights In Place, Are We Still Going To Have Enough Time?  
We Stated If It Qualifies That's Where The Money Ought To Come From.

Time Wise We Should Be Fine For Spring Training.

The Only Dilemma Is We Will Be Working When They Are Having Another Event There.

We Were Trying To Avoid Having A Contractor.

Can't We Approve It Today Subject To -- If It Qualifies For T.D.C. Funds, It's Not Being  
Disrespectful, It's Recognition This Is Where It Should Come From.

It's A Public Safety Issue.

It's Your Call We Can Work It Either Way.

I'm Sorry Mr. Chairman, Not Trying To Be Disrespectful.

If That's Okay With You.

That's Okay With Me.

We Will Bring It To Carry-Over.

There's A Motion Not To Defer It.

Is There A Second.

I'd Just Withdraw The Motion.

Consent Item 11 B Will Be Introduced At A Later Date.

Move The Item, Mr. Chairman.

There's A Motion To Approve To Defer Indefinitely.

All In Favor.

So Ordered.

The Others Are Walk-On, Carry-Over Which We Will Considerate The Appropriate Time On The Agenda.

Now We Will Ask For Public Comment On The Consent And Administrative Agenda.

This Is An Opportunity Where The Public Has The Ability To Communicate On Items That Are On The Agenda.

Before You Go Further, On C9a You Have A Revision.

If The Board Would Approve That, Please.

Okay, I'm Sorry.

Okay, All Right.

We Will Go Back To Consent Item 9a.

Motion To Approve.

Second By Commissioner Mann.

Discussion?  
All In Favor?  
Ayes Have It.

Motion Is Adopted.

This Is The Opportunity For Members Of The Public To Comment On Items On The Agenda.

If You Want To Comment On An Item That's Not On The Agenda The Appropriate Time To Do That Is At The 5:00 Meeting This Evening.

Otherwise We Are Limited Only To Agenda Items.

I Hope Those Ground Rules Are Clear.

We Are Going To Start Out With Peter.

Good Morning Commissioners.

For The Record My Name Is Pete Quashus.

I Wanted To Speak About The Recycling I Understand Will Come Up At 5:00.

There Are Several Important Items On The Agenda, One Is Moving Forward With Our Bio Diesel Operation.

It Was Marvelous To Go To That Ground Breaking At Buckingham And Actually See The First Plantation In The United States Being Planted, Hopefully This Will Be An Important Contribution To The Biofuels And Renewable Energy Sources For Lee County And I Applaud This Commission In Taking A Leadership Role In Doing That.

And Parks And Recreation, They Are Part Of This Bio Diesel Operation As Well.

They Provided The Land.

Any Time We Can Partner With Water Management Or Private Industry Or Anyone Else Who Is Interested To Make Better Access To Our Parks And Recreation, That's A Win/Win.

And I'm Pleased To See A Number Of Items That Both Add Real Estate And Money To Making Our Parks And Recreation More Friendly Places.

Thanks, Peter.

I Understand There's A Birthday Cake Coming Up In The Near Future.

I Think That's To Commissioner Mann.

Not A Chance.

I'll Call On Robert Anderson.

Robert?

Good Morning Commissioners.

I Was Also Very Pleased With The Bio Diesel Thing In Buckingham, I Was There Taking Pictures.

Very Pleased We Are Planting Those Plants.

But My Concern, Where You Are Going To Put The Bio Diesel Plant.

We've Already Had Issues With The Dump.

I Know You Will Use A Piece Of Property In That Vicinity For The Bio Diesel.

My Concerns Are Environmental.

My Concerns Are Residents.

I Understand You Own A Piece Of Property With Waste Management But Maybe We Need To Move This To Hendry County Where There's No Residents.

Or Putting It Someplace Where This Is An Industrial Use.

I Understand It's By A Dump.

I Understand The Dump Will Close.

But There Will Still Be Odors.

Yes, You Are Shaking Your Head No.

My Research Says There Still Will Be Odors.

This Is Industrial Use Near Major, Major Housing.

I Have Some Concerns About That.

I'm Sure Residents Will Have Concerns About That.

They Are Just Concerns.

I'm Not Trying To Put A Wrench In The Bucket Just Making Sure All The T's Are Crossed And I's Are Dotted.

That's All I Can Ask.

I Appreciate That.

Thank You, Robert.

Margaret Feinberg.

For The Record Margaret Feinberg.

Stony Brook At Gateway, I've Been Doing Research On The Economics Of This.

I Think The Commission Needs To Be Concerned About This.

There's A Lot Of Reasons Why The Bio Diesel Refinery Is Not Going To Be Economically Sustainable.

I've Got Articles Here.

This One, It's Quite An Up Hill Battle To Make Bio Diesel Out Of Grease, I Can't Make It Work Financially.

The Farmer's Union In Minnesota Said The Farmer's Cooperative Last Year Produced Three Million Gallons From Oil Of Soy Beans And Other Plants And Left Over From Poultry Operations.

He Said The Fact The Federal Subsidy Is Double The Payment For Bio Diesel Made From Waste Oil Is A Big Setback To The Profit Recycling From Fryers.

We've Never Been Sure We Can Make It Work Economically.

Griffin Industries Quit Using Waste Cooking Oil To Create Bio Diesel Oil Because They Can't Make It Economically Feasible And Can't Make It Same Quality Or Grade From Batch To Batch.

They Continued Having Problems Having To Replace Engines, Filters And Upkeep And Maintenance Of The Vehicles They Were Trying To Use This Bio Diesel In Didn't Make It Worthwhile To Continue Those Operations.

So I Really Think You Need To Reconsider This And Make Sure You Are Walking Down The Right Path.

That \$1.6 Million Could Go A Lot Farther In Trying To Rebuild Some Of The Roads That Need To Be Rebuilt At A Time When Lee County Needs To Be Tightening It's Belt, I Don't Think This Is The Time You Need To Go Into This Until You Can Prove It Will Really Be Economically Feasible And Not A Green Elephant We Have To Keep Paying For.

Thanks.

Is It Paul Fish?

For The Record My Name Is Paul Fish.

I Live In Pelican Preserve.

I'm Here To Speak About The Bio Diesel.

I Have A Degree In Transportation And Public Utilities.

Recently Said The Science Was Well Understood But The Economics Were Uncertain.

I Couldn't Agree More And I Submit That A Situation Where The Economics Are So Uncertain Is Not A Proper Place For The Government To Enter The Business World.

Example Of Public Transit System Is A Good Model For Government To Be In Business.

Economics Are Well Understood, The Demand For Service Is So Elastic, There's A Cap In Ridership At Any Price, Even Free.

There's A Need To Move People To Shopping, Jobs And Leisure Activities, It Makes Sense For The Government To Provide This Service.

In The Current Situation Please Consider The Following, Bio Diesel Is Competing With Many Other Forms Of Energy, Mainly Wind, And Solar.

We See Fp And L Investing In Wind.

Price Of Our Food Is Climbing Because Of The Large Investment In Ethanol.

The Price Of Traditional Forms Of Energy Is So Volatile That Something As Marginal As Bio Diesel Could Move Back And Forth Several Times In The Course Of A Single Year.

This Particular Plant Will Be So Small.

By The Time We Really Know What We Were Doing The Supply Of Gas Would Be Exhaustive, There Are Companies Willing And Able To Convert Waste Oil And Would Put In Competition With A Sunday Enterprise.

At One Point There Was Consideration To Convert This Gas To Electricity.

In That Case An Existing Customer Would Have To Take The Product.

No One Has To Worry About What To Do With The Infrastructure Built.

This Is A Very Risky Undertaking.

And I For One Do Not Really Want My Tax Money To Be Used For What Seems To Be Venture Capitalism, I Believe It's Economically Unsound.

Socially Risky Because It Involves Dangerous Materials In Residential Areas And It

Competes With Private Enterprise.

Thank You.

Thank You Very Much.

Those Are All The Cards I Have, Anyone Else Wish To Speak?

Any Matter On The Agenda?

Okay There Being None I Will Close The Public Comment Period, We Will Move To The Consent.

Items To Be Pulled

Commissioner Mann?

I Have None.

Commissioner Judah?

4a.

And 10 B And C.

Commissioner Bigelow?

9a And 17 A.

Is That It?

I Need A Motion On The Balance.

Moved By Commissioner Mann To Approve The Balance, Seconded By Commissioner Judah.

Second?

All In Favor?

Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted.

Commissioner Judah, Item 4a?

Mr. Chairman, I Just Wanted To Move The Item And Just Compliment Our Administrative Staff For Putting Together This Comprehensive Road Map.

This Will Be A Tremendous Cost Energy Savings And I Appreciate Staff's Involvement.

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Item 4a.

Is There A Second?

Second By Commissioner Mann?

Is There A Second?

All In Favor?

Ayes Have It, Motion Adopted.

10 B, Commissioner Judah.

Want To Move Item 10 B.

Thank The South Florida Water Management District.

Six Mile Cypress Slough.

Second By Commissioner Judah.

Discussion?

All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye?

The Aye's Have It.

Motion Adopted.

Move Item 10 C.

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve 10 C.

Is There A Second?

Yes.

Discussion.

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Motion Is Adopted.

Item 9a Commissioner Bigelow?

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

This Is For The Bio Diesel Concur With The Ranking Of Consultants By Competitive Negotiations Committee And I Think According To Our Recap, Two Firms, Right? I See The Ranking Committee Is Listed Here.

But One Of The Problems I Have With This, When I First Read Through Our Agenda Packet I Saw This Language Was Missing.

Lindsay, Could I Ask You.

Could You Describe The Timing Of This?

It's Like Two Weeks Ago Or A Week Ago We Were Moving Ahead.

Or We Had Agreed To Accept The Fdp Grant If We Offered 1.56 Million, Correct? And Then We Quickly Put Together An R.F.P. I Guess In That Period Of Time, It Seemed Like A Lot Must Have Happened In The Period Of Time Where We Said Just Move Ahead With The Grant And Today.

I'm Kind Of Struck As To The Haste, The Urgency.

If You Could Please Describe For Me General Time Line Period How Has This Been Occurring Because I'm A Little Concerned With The Pace.

Commissioners, For The Record, Lindsay Samson, Solid Waste Department.

The Request For Letters Of Interest On This Project Was Issued In July In Preparation For The Project.

There's Obviously No Commitment For The County To Even Go Forward With Ranking Or Selecting Engineers.

The Actual Presentation Portion Of The Competitive Negotiations Process Was Scheduled For Last Thursday When The Two Submitting Engineering Companies Came And Provided Their Information To The Committee.

We Saw During The Period In July No Reason Not To Start That Process Since It Involves No Commitment From The County.

Okay, So Last Thursday Was Presentations Before The Committee?  
Correct.

So There's Obviously Some Need Or Some Wish To Move This Along Pretty Quickly.

If You Are Only Holding The Committee Last Thursday And We Are Now Seeing This Less Than A Week Later, What Can Explain The Urgency?

It's Not Uncommon And I've Done It On Several Occasions To Go Forth With A Blue Sheet Which Typically Takes Two To Two And A Half Weeks Advance Submittal For A Board Agenda Item.

In This Case We Knew Who Was Submitting Letters Of Interest.

And We Felt We Could Confidently Come To A Conclusion As To The Ranking Before The Scheduled Item.

So Two And A Half Weeks Ago You Offered This Blue Sheet To Get It Into The Blue Sheet System.

So This Was A Place Holder.

So When I Read It And Noticed There Are Companies That Offered Letters Of Interest In July, Those Names Were Missing As Well As The Actual Ranking.

Again, Can You Please Help Me With --  
The Ranking Wasn't Performed Until Thursday.

That's Why It Was Not Included On The Blue Sheet And It Was Included On The Recap Sheet.

Okay.

25 Words Or Less, Why The Rush?

I Would Not Say It's A Rush.

I Have Often Expedited Projects.

I See No Reason To Delay Projects When You Can Go Forward.

This Is A Step-By-Step Process As We Know.

The Ranking Is Simply That, Whether The Board Concurs.

From This Point We Further Develop A Scope Of Services For The Number One Ranked Firm.

And Then Enter Into Negotiations To See If We Can Come To A Staff Conclusion That An Agreement Is Put Together In An Acceptable Form, In Which Case We Would Bring It Back To The Board Once That's Done.

It's A Step-By-Step Process.

All In All, From The Time Of Initiating Competitive Negotiating Process, It's Typical That Process Takes In The Neighborhood Of Three Months.

Okay.

I Won't Be Moving The Item.

Move The Item, Mr. Chairman.

Motion By Commissioner Judah.

Second.

Second By Commissioner Mann.

Lindsay, Don't Go Away.

I'm Just Looking At My Blue Sheet.

I Don't See The Two Firms.

And I Don't Know The Ranking.

Am I Blind?

You Are Correct, Commissioner.

I Agree That I Could Have Included The Two That Provided, However We Wouldn't Have Been Able To Develop A Ranking.

It Was Sent Thursday Afternoon Or Friday.

And Then It Was Issued.

It Was Issued On The Recap Sheet.

Thank You.

I'm Still Learning About Recaps.

Tell Me The Two Companies.

H.D.R. Incorporated And U.R.S.

Are They From Around Here?  
Tell Me A Little Something About Them.

They Are Both National Engineering Companies With A Large Number Of Offices Spread Throughout The Country.

U.R.S. Has Been Noted As Being Within The Top Ten Of The Engineering News Record Level, As Large Engineering Companies.

I'm Not Sure Where H.D.R. Stands In That Listing But They Are A Large Engineering Company With Over 3,000 Employees.

We Have Engaged The Services Of H.D.R. In The Solid Waste Department.

The County Has Engaged Services Of U.R.S. Particularly In The D.O.T. Department And I Think Some Other Areas.

So You Are Familiar With These Companies And Have Dealt With Them In The Past?  
I've Dealt With H.D.R. And The County Has Dealt With Both Companies.

Thank You.

Back To You.

Good Question By Commissioner Mann, We Want To Make Sure We Are Going Forward With A Specific Vendor Or Company That Is Thought By The Selection Committee To Be The Appropriate Choice.

I Just Want To Put On The Record, I Think The World Of Robert Anderson.

I Take The Time For Him To Come Before This Board On A Regular Basis.

He Wants To Make Sure Our Decisions Are Prudent.

In This Particular Instance I Initially Had Concerns About The Odor Problems So I Personally Visited One Such Bio Diesel Facility And Have Done My Research.

There Is No Odor From A Bio Diesel Facility.

In Fact There Is Very -- In Fact The Noise Level Is Such You Can't Even Hear It Out Of A Closed Operation That This Will Be Under, About Maybe A Quarter The Eyes Of This Commission Chambers.

There Will Be No Odor Problems Or Noise Problems To Any Of The Residents In The Surrounding Area.

There's One Area Of Concern, This Could Be Addressed Through The Processing Of The Feedstock, The Grease Or Oil Before It Gets To The Facility.

A Lot Of It Is Water And It Could Be Decanted Or Removed Before The Actual Product Is Transported To The Bio Diesel Facility, That Will Substantially Reduce The Number Of Trucks That Would Otherwise Be Going To And Fro Initially At The Gulf Coast Landfill.

Evidently The Long Term Recognition I Believe And This Board Has Talked About It And Lindsay Has Indicated The Program As It Expands And Provides Greater Amount Of Gallonage Of Bio Diesel Would Be Installed But At This Point In Time We Have An Opportunity To Use A Compatible Use.

The Bio Diesel Facility And Extracting And Using Methane Gas Which Is Much More Deleterious.

The Materials, Generators And Turbines Are Such That They Could Handle The Methane Gas.

That's One Thing I Want To Make Sure Is Properly Addressed So We Don't Have To Go Back In A Year Or Two From Now And Replace.

That Should Be A Condition In The Contract But I'm Very Comfortable Going Forward.

School Board Has 700 Busses, Commissioner Bigelow Brought To Light The Need To Debate Whether We Should Do It Or Do It In-House.

We Can Control The Cost By Having It In-House.

The School Board, Lee County, Community, Tax Payers Have Significant Benefits Out Of Being Able To Provide For An Alternative Fuel To Petroleum Diesel Or Fossil Fuels By Going This Bio Diesel Route Which Should Be Substantial Savings To The Tax Payers Particularly In The Area Of Transportation, But What I Would Submit Mr. Chairman Is We Need To Go Forward, I Believe And Have Full Confidence Of What Lindsay Is Trying To Accomplish, Go Forward Carefully, Prudently, Methodically So We Have A System That Will In Fact Succeed, Starting With The Waste Vegetable Oil, Eventually We Can Expand To Grease From The

Grease Traps And Oil From Petropa.

Passing On The Message From Governor Charlie Crist, We Are Headed In The Right Direction In Terms Of Providing For Renewable Energy Alternatives To Fossil Fuels.

So I Would Submit We Are In The Leading Edge, We Will Take Care Of Our Community.

With Regards To Potential Impacts I Believe There Will Be None And We Can Move Forward Confidently.

Having Said That I Appreciate The Opportunity To Comment.

Quick Comment.

Commissioner Judah You Know I'm A Doubter On This Project And It Passed I Believe On A 3-2 Vote.

Nonetheless I Will Support With This Ranking And Moving Forward.

I Just Want The Whole World On Record.

I've Had A Conversation With Mr. Samson And I Just Told Him I Will Be Monitoring This, This Program Very Closely Because I'm Frankly Concerned About The Economics Of It.

At Some Point If The Economics Don't Begin To Prove Themselves I Won't Be Beyond Making The Motion To Pull The Plug Even Though We Have Some Investment In The Project.

I'm Just A Little Leery Of It.

The Concept Is Beautiful, It's Bold.

I'm Not Going To Try To Delay This Project Until We Have Three Votes Back Again.

I'm Comfortable Going Back.

I Will Be Watching It Closely.

If I Could, I Really Do Respect What You Are Saying.

In Fact I Think We Should Insist On A Business Plan That Is To Be Provided To This Board As We Go Forward.

I'm Fully Confident, Because There Are So Many Examples Throughout The Country.

Probably One Of The Fastest Growing Segments, Production Of Bio Diesel.

Seattle Washington.

Danton Texas, A Number Of Communities Doing Extremely Well Economically Because Of Their Decision To Go Bio Diesel.

But I Agree We Should Have That Business Plan.

I'll Tell You This, The Other Alternatives, Switch Grass, Sugar Cane, Soy Bean, The Reason They Aren't Economical Is The Amount Of Water And Transportation.

Here We Have A Local Feed Stock And Facility And Using Something That Grows On Marginal Land, Or Little Water Or Waste Grease From Restaurants.

For Me It's A Win/Win Situation.

I've Already Planted My Petrofa Plant.

Any Further Discussion?

Yes.

Thank You.

I'm Another Doubting Thomas In This Venture Capitalism Project That Mr. Fish I Think So Appropriately Labelled.

I Think The Process Here Is Really Troubling.

It Looks Like This Is On A Fast Track.

I'm Seeing At Least One Of The Same Faces I Saw When The Decision To Expand Waste Management's Contract At The Landfill Was The Issue.

It Looks Like We Are Probably Just Beginning To See The First Of The Neighbors Concerns Coming Forward Publicly And I Think Unless We Were To Slow This Down, Provide More Opportunity For The Public To Become Engaged In This And Quite Honestly I'm Really Troubled That We Aren't Doing This A Little More Carefully, We Have To Do Due Diligence To The Down Side Of This Project And I'm Afraid We Are Setting Those Efforts Aside.

For Some Reason It Isn't Quite Clear To Me.

All I Can Put My Finger On This Is On A Fast Track For Some Reason.

I Will Say That The Carcass Plant Idea As A Way To Supplement Our Production Of Bio Diesel May Very Well Be A Good Idea But Let's Remember That Malaluka Was Once A Very Good Idea.

Such A Good Idea At The Time They Sprinkled The Seeds By Plane In Order To Use That Plant, At That Time To Dry Up Wetlands And Create Usable Land.

We Have To Be Very Careful If We Are Going To Endorse, Subsidize The Introduction Of An Exotic Into Our Environment We've Got To Be Very, Very Careful About This Proposition.

I Think We Need More Time.

Further Discussion?

Mr. Chairman, Just For Clarification, It's Clear On The Record That The Plant Has Been Deemed Non-Invasive By Florida Fish And Wildlife.

That Information Is Out There For Commissioner Bigelow.

The Only Problem Is Lack Of Political Will To Do The Right Thing.

Question Arises On Its Adoption, All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Motion Is Adopted By 3-1 With Commissioner Bigelow In The Negative.

We Will Proceed With Item 17 A On The Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Bigelow?

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

This Again, I'll Move The Item.

This Is Fyi Item But I Do Want To Make Some Comment.

Second.

This Is County Clerk Charlie Green's Quarterly Presentation Before The Board To Let Us Know Where We Are, I Guess Financially, A Snap Shot If You Will.

I Would Like To Take Your Attention To Page 2 Of The Back Up.

There Are Bar Charts.

Under The Column Titled Fy '07.

You Will See In July We Netted, Call It \$7 Million In Interest.

Year To Date We Have Amassed \$68 Million In Interest.

This Is \$68 Million That We Have Acquired Because We Have Set Aside \$1.4 Billion Of The Tax Payers Money.

That's Demonstrated On Page 4.

Total Year To Date County Investments.

Between 1997 And Today We Have Increased Our Cash On Hand By 300%.

Our Population Has Only Increased By 50%.

I Could State It A Different Way And Say Ten Years Ago Our Population Was About 400,000, Today It's About 613,000-614,000.

Used To Be We Had Roughly \$700-\$800 For Every Man, Woman And Child Set Aside In Cash.

Today We Have For Every Man, Woman And Child \$2,256 In Cash On Hand In Bank Of America Accounts.

That's How It Is We Are Able To Amass Interest Year To Date To The Tune Of \$68 Million.

I'm Trying To Make A Point Here That I've Made Before.

I Think It's The Wrong Time To Be Hording Such Cash.

Because That's Money We Are Taking Out Of Our Local Economy.

Construction Industry Is On Their Knees, Real Estate Industry, I Don't Think I Need To Tell You.

Down In Estero.

They Are Quite Honestly Shocked By These Figures.

I Think It Would Be Prudent For This Board To Reconsider Whether Or Not We Don't Want To Direct The County Manager To Offer Some Plan, To Offer Our Tax Payers A Tax Cut.

Because What We Have Done Is Just Recommitted To The Last Week, I Guess Under Commissioner Items, We Recommitted To Taking In What We Took In Last Year Without Any Recognition This Is Probably Over The Past Ten Years The Best Time.

Because It's The Worst Of The Times, If You Will.

In Those Past Ten Years For Our Economy.

And I Think We Need To Be Thinking Very Seriously About Tax Cuts.

That's Just An Informational Item.

I Want The Opportunity To Discuss.

Discussion?

Just That The Premise Is Flawed And We Will Have A Chance To Air It Out In September.

Any Further Comments?

If Commissioner Judah Thinks It's Flaws, The Figures Come From Green.

It's How You Are Interpreting The Numbers.

There's Already Been A Motion To Approve.

I Move The Item.

Second By Commissioner Judah.

Further Discussion?

All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye.

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, Motion Adopted.

It Was Passed 4-0.

I Moved It.

I Said I Wanted To The Opportunity To Discuss It.

What Would I Do Vote Against An F.Y.I. Item?

It Doesn't Require Action.

We Have To Formally Accept It.

That Takes A Board Action.

It's On Here For A Reason.

Wouldn't Be Appropriate To Put It On Administrative Agenda.

But Let's Look At The Administrative Agenda, I Don't Believe We Have Anything, Do We?  
Pretty Quick.

We Will Close That, Move Onto The Public Hearing Portion.

And We Have Several 9:30 Public Hearing, We've Got Four Items.

Good Morning Commissioners, John Fredyma Assistant County Attorney, I Have Four  
Petitions To Vacate.

I've Examined All Four Affidavits Of Publication And Find They Are All Legally Sufficient To  
Go Forward, I Will Present Those Affidavits To The Board's Clerk At This Time.

Beginning With 9:30 A.M. Agenda Item Number One On Your Public Hearings Case Vac  
2007-00024.

Located 10600 And 10620 Chevrolet Way In Estero.

Move The Item.

This Is A Public Hearing.

Public Comment?

Anyone Wish To Comment On This Item?

I Will Close The Public Hearing.

Motion To Adopt.

Discussion?

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Motion Is Adopted.

Item 2?

Case Vac 2007-00028.

This Is To Vacate Six 12-Foot Wide Public Utility Easements Located 830, 836 And 838 Meadow Road In Lehigh Acres.

Move The Item.

Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Item Number Two, Vac 2007-00028.

Is There A Second?

Second By Commissioner Mann.

This Is A Public Hearing, Are There Any Members Of The Public Who Wish To Speak On This Matter?

Seeing None I'll Close The Public Hearing, Back To The Board For Decision, There's A Motion To Approve, Seconded.

Is There Further Discussion?

All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye.

Ayes Have It, Motion Is Adopted.

Vac 2007-00027 To Vacate A Series Of 12 Foot Wide 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108 And 1110 Gunnery Road South In Lehigh Acres.

Move The Item.

Motion By Commissioner Mann To Approve Item 3, Vac 2007-00027.

I Guess That's All I Need, Case Number.

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

Any Members Of The Public Wish To Speak?

Seeing None I'll Close The Public Hearing, Back To The Board.

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, Motion Is Adopted.

Item 4.

Fourth Request Is Vac 2007-00029 To Vacate Two 12-Foot Wide Utility Easements 1505, 1507 And 1509 Gretchen Avenue South In Lehigh Acres.

Move The Item.

Motion By Commissioner Mann To Approve.

Seconded By Commissioner Judah.

Is There Discussion?

This Is A Public Hearing.

Is There Any Member Of The Public Who Wishes To Comment On This?

Seeing None, I Will Close The Public Hearing, Move It Back To The Board For Discussion.

Further Discussion?

All Those In Favor Signify By Saying Aye?

Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted.

That Concludes The Public Hearing Agenda, I Believe.

Thank You, Commissioners.

Thank You.

We Will Now Proceed With The Walk-Ons And Carry-Overs.

I Have One Walk-On Item, I Believe.

The Purpose Of This Walk-On Is To Set A Public Hearing.

Carry-Over Item One?

That's Been Deferred.

Oh I'm Sorry.

I Apologize.

You Are Quite Right.

We Will Take Carry-Over One Which Has To Do With Lighting At Hammond Stadium.

Move The Item, Subject To The Funding Deemed Eligible From The Tourism Development Council For The Payment Of The Lighting.

That Was The Addition That I Wanted Too, As Well.

Motion Has Been Made To Approve, Subject To Approval --  
It Would Come From T.D.C.

And Again With No Disrespect To The T.D.C. It's A Recognition We Need To Move Forward, I Think We Had A Full Discussion We Don't Want To Pull Money From The General Fund, If It's Deemed Eligible, That's Where It Should Come From And The Lighting Needs To Be Put In Place, We Don't Want To Create Problems With The Roy Hobbes Baseball Tournament And Lighting In Place For The Spring Training When The Twins Return.

(Inaudible)  
That Gives Us An Opportunity To Talk.

And Her First Time.

I Bet She Is Sitting On Pins And Needles.

Come On Down.

Let's Vote Against It.

That Would Make Her Nervous.

Good Morning.

Good Morning.

I'm Sue Young With The Visitor And Convention Bureau, The Only Thing Is We Wanted To Defer It Just To Get It To The T.D.C. And Really Just Get Their Weigh-In On It.

That Was The Big Issue.

I Think We Accomplished That By Approving It Today Subject To Your Approval By T.D.C. Using T.D.C. Funds.

But It Just Allows Staff To Begin Processing So We Could Move Quickly, If And When You Agree Or The T.D.C. Agrees To Go Ahead With The Funding.

Mr. Chairman, If I Could Just Get A Clarification, Out Of All Due Respect, If The Funding Qualifies That's Where It Will Come From, Yes.

And If Not?

If Not We Will Have To Revisit The Issue.

It Will Be Brought Back?

I'm Looking Generally At The Table There.

Uh-Huh.

Please Convey The T.D.C. Members It's Not Out Of Disrespect, I Don't Think T.D.C. Would Want To Disrupt The Roy Hobbes Tournament.

We Bring A Lot Of People In Beds Those Two Weeks.

I Don't Think They Would Want Any Problems, With The Lighting Going In And Not Wanting To Compound The Timing With Roy Hobbes It Would Seem To Make Sense If The Money Is Eligible From T.D.C. That's Where It Needs To Come From.

I'm Sure They Recognize Too.

It's Your Guys' Call.

Can I Ask How We Are Going To Pay For The Seats?

Did We Ever Resolve That?

Thank You.

It Is Eligible For T.D.C. Funding.

So That's How It Will Be Paid, I Guess That Too Will Be Brought Before The T.D.C.

Is There Any Acknowledgment Of That?

I Think, Commissioner Judah Is Right On With This.

This Is A Business Decision.

You Certainly Respect Your T.D.C. Board, That's The Reason They Are There To Give You Input And Give You Advice But Sometimes Timing Is Such That You Can't Go Through The Formal Protocol So I Think Commissioner Judah Found A Way To Include Them And Still Get The Job Done.

I'm Just Kind Of Concerned With How It Is We Seem To Find Ourselves With Our Back Up Against The Wall To Have To Quickly Move On This, The Lighting Condition And Seating Condition Should Have Been Known Some Time Ago.

I Think That Bears Stating That We Could Have Addressed This In A Time Manner That Would Have Allowed Us More Latitude To Do This In The Proper Order Of Events.

This Is The Proper Order.

The Only Window We Have At The Sports Complex Given The Tournaments And Miracle Schedule, When The Miracle Season Ends We Get In There Between That Time, Basically

Now Until The Twins Arrive In January, February.

So We Typically Do All Our Stadium Maintenance, Main Disruptive Activities During That Activity, That's The Only Time.

I'm Not Talking About The Timing Of The Installation, I'm Talking About The Timing Of The Authorization.

Where Are We Pulling The Money From Debate.

That's What Seems To Be Troubling About This.

That's My Point.

Commissioner Bigelow?

Commissioner Judah You Can Help Me, There's A Striking Similarity.

About The Process Here.

I Just Couldn't Pass Up The Opportunity.

I Would Like To Also Say That This Is, There Is No Disrespect To The T.D.C.

We Are Certainly Hoping They Will See Their Way Clear To Agree, I Hope With Council This Is Eligible For Funding In That Direction And They Sense The Mood Of The Board That's The Direction We Want To Go.

But If We Need To Do Anything, Commissioner Judah, To Cover Ourselves And I'd Be Interested I Hope Under Commissioner Items If You Have Comments Under The M.P.O. Action.

First Of All, This Was Advertised.

That's A Huge Difference.

There Were No Similarities To The M.P.O. Decision.

There Were Some Similarities, There's No Escaping.

I Will Rule We Stay On The Subject.

You Make Valid Points.

We Will Stay On The Subject.

Mr. Chairman, Out Of Abundance Of Precaution Can We Hear From Legal Counsel Are We Following Proper Procedure?

Is Anybody Questioning It?

Well Yeah If County Attorney Is Questioning It.

It's Not Illegal.

That's Good To Know.

But Are We Following Proper Procedure?

Not Necessarily.

That's An Important Point, If We Aren't I'll Be The First To Withdraw My Motion.

What Would You Suggest As An Alternative.

The Action We Took Before Was To Make Sure It Was Eligible For T.D.C. Funding.

It Is, That Was The Legal Opinion, Usually How The Process Works, It Goes To The T.D.C., The T.D.C. Makes The Recommendation And Then It Comes To The Board, This Time It's Just Going The Other Way.

I Will Withdraw My Motion Because Procedurally We Have To Be In Line, It's Unfortunate The Timing Will Have To Be Sacrifice, I Will Stay Consistent And Within Procedure.

Do We Have A Blue Sheet On This?

Yes.

It's A Carry-Over.

John Yarbrough, Parks And Recreation, The Reason This Is Out Of Order It Was Funded In The Normal Process Using Ad Valorem Dollars, This Has Been In The Budget For Several Years.

This Isn't A Last Second Deal.

Because Of The Tax Issues And Reprioritizing And Having To Reduce Ad Valorem Dollars That's Why We Are Going To The T.D.C.

But This Isn't A Last-Second Project.

It's Been In The Capital Budget For Several Years.

I Will Withdraw My Motion, Mr. Chairman.

The Motion Has Been Withdrawn.

So There Is No Motion.

Procedurally, When Does The T.D.C. Meet?

September 7th.

Okay September 7th.

So We Can Put It On Our Agenda On The 11th.

Does That Create A Problem With Roy Hobbes?  
We Will Work Through It.

We Will Have To.

I Guess Just Being The Newbie Here, This Decision J.Y. You Are Saying, To Fund The Replacement Of The Lights And The Seating Was Made In Last Year's Budget Approvals.

That Time It Would Be Taken From General Fund Only When It Came To Us For Final Authorization That It Was Caught In That Way And The Policy Redirected?  
Yes.

So We Made A Policy Decision In The Budget Cycle.

Okay, Well How Many More Are Out There Like This Traditionally The Policy Is We Will Fund Such A Maintenance Issue.

Facility Replacement.

For The T.D.C. And Stadium-Related I Would Imagine That Our Direction Is That Most, If Not All Of The Stadium Costs Will Be Paid For By Stadium, By The T.D.C.

Bed Tax.

Right.

In The Past I Would Say A Majority Has Been Paid By The Bed Tax But Not All Of.

I Think One Of The Important Things, It Will Be Paid For By The T.D.C.

That's Not Correct.

It's Being Paid For By Bed Tax And The Board Of County Commissioners Is The Disperser, The T.D.C. Makes Recommendations To The Board Of County Commissioners.

I Don't Think It's Appropriate To Say It's Being Paid For By T.D.C.

That's Not Quite Accurate.

So We Are Back Saying This Matter Will Come Before Us At The September 11th Meeting Of The Board.

Do We Need To Have A Motion?  
So Moved.

Motion To Bring It Back.

Discussion?

Thank You For The Discussion.

Making Sure We Are All Consistent.

Further Discussion?

All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye?

Opposed.

Ayes Have It The Motion Is Adopted.

Now We Will Take Walk-On Item Number One.

The Purpose Of This Walk-On Is To Allow For Publication For Public Hearing On The Elimination Of Transit Service.

Move The Item To Set It To Public Hearing.

Okay, There's A Motion By Commissioner Judah To Approve Walk-On Item Number One.

And Approved By Commissioner Mann, Is There Further Discussion?

That's For September 11th?

That Would Be When The Hearing Is Too?

Steve Myers Transit.

Yes It Will Be September 11th.

5:00.

5:05, Not Sure.

Okay.

Any Further Discussion.

All Those In Favor, Signify By Saying Aye.

Opposed.

Ayes Have It, So Ordered.

That's A Tough One.

Now Where Are We?

I Think We Are Back Down Now, If I Can Find A Place On The Agenda To Commissioner Items.

Commissioner Mann?

Mr. Chairman, I Just Could Not Complete This Day Truly And I Don't Mean To Say This To Embarrass You Or -- I Know It's Hard To Embarrass You, But For The Folks Watching, The Folks Today, This Very Hard Working Chairman Has Earned His Birthday And I Want To Say Have The Happiest Of Birthdays.

I Think In The Spirit That Was Offered We Should Also Indicate That Tomorrow Is Commissioner Mann's Birthday.

That's What He Was Hoping To Get.

Oh Yeah.

We're Twins, Same Age And All.

Shall We Wait For Commissioner Hall To Return Before We Sing Happy Birthday?  
Yes, Please Do.

That Would Be Wonderful.

All Right.

That's Your Commissioner Item.

I'm Yielding To Commissioner Judah And I Would Welcome His Comments On The M.P.O. Issue.

Let's See What Commissioner Judah Has To Say.

With Regards To The Recent Action By The M.P.O.

There's No Question That Because Of The Communication From Florida Department Of Transportation, Our Own Legal Staff And The M.P.O. We're Going To Need To Hold A Special Session In September In Order To Salvage And Protect The State Five-Year Work Program For The County, Regional Planning Council Is In The Process Of Scheduling A Special Session In September.

At That Point In Time We Will Have To Rescind The Action.

Although I Imagine It's Probably Null And Void And No Effect Because It Was Done Illegally To Begin With But We Will Have To Restate What We Are Trying To Accomplish, I Think Everyone Is On Board In Terms Of Prioritizing I-75 Corridor, It's Just The Way We Need To Accomplish That.

Thank You.

Thank You.

So If I Understand Correctly Any Action Taken On That Particular Issue That Day Would Have Been Illegal, Right?

We Redirected It Toward Bonita Beach Road Intersection?

Other Than The Presentation Scheduled By The Consultant Hired By F-Dot To Talk About The I.J.R.

So Taking An Unadvertised Action.

Good Morning, I Will Be Providing The Board A Memo Summarizing The Action Taken At The Last Meeting And The Ramifications From That Action In Regard To Non-Compliance With State And Federal Mandates.

I Would Hope The Second Half Of The Memo Would Include The Steps We Have To Take.

That's An Addition To That, There Will Be Recommendations To Reach Compliance At The Next Session, If It's A Special Meeting Or Regular Meeting.

In All Fairness To Jed We Should Say For Those Listening In And Are Here, He Did Warn Us.

He Was Doing His Job, We Went Ahead Anyway.

We Will Have An Opportunity To Correct That Action In September.

Speaking Of Special Sessions Our Loving And Caring Legislature Is Meeting In Special Session In September.

One Of The Issues They Are Looking At, One Reason I Bring It Up, Increasing The Amount Of Local Participation For Medicaid Costs Which Local Governments Shouldn't Have To Participate In At All Because It's A State And Federal Program, However We Provide \$55 To Patients Under The Cost-Share And They Are Talking About Increasing To \$189.

About A \$1.3 Million Impact To Human Services And Karen Haas Has For Some Time Now Has Attempted To Suggest Instead Of Paying That Money Out Of Our Share To The State, That What We Ought To Do Is Redirect That Money Locally For Support Services To Keep People Out Of Having To Be Involved In Nursing Homes Receiving Medicaid Payments, That's Really A Pro-Active Approach And What I Was Going To Ask This Board If We Can Direct Karen To Craft A Letter For Your Signature On This Board's Behalf Prior To Session That In Fact They Seriously Consider Whatever Amount They Apply To Lee County And All Local Communities That The Opportunity To Redirect Money To The Support Programs To Offset And Reduce The Cost To The Medicaid Program Would Be Appropriate.

Absolutely, I Couldn't Agree With You More.

No Objection We Will Do That Sir.

I'll Consider This Person Who Runs The Program Has The Patent For Converting The Nasty Grease From Grease Traps To Bio Diesel.

Program In The Bronx In New York In Which We Have 196 Bed Facility.

I Know There Was A Report Recently Presented To The Human Services Council About The Chronically Homeless, It Costs Far More To Have To, As You Indicated Mr. Chairman And Our Discussions At The Board, When We Have Chronic Homeless Going To Emergency Rooms, Hospital Costs, Ambulance Service.

The List Goes On.

This Report Showed An Average Cost Per Year For 12 Individuals They Tracked.

We Need To Reduce The Cost For Tax Payers.

The Program Up In New York Was Interesting In That It Was Actually A Program For Men, 196-Bed, Three-Storey Building Which Each Of The Individuals Was Screened For Drugs On A Daily Basis, If They Were Drug-Free They Were Placed In A Work Program And All Started By An Individual Who Spent A Lot Of Time Helping The Homeless And Realized If They Were Given An Opportunity They Wanted To Work.

They Provided And Restored This Building, This 3-Storey Building To Provide For Housing.

Then The People Involved In The Program Had A Chance To Learn Occupational Skills.

They Actually Provide The Labor To Collect The Grease From The Restaurants.

Which Then Used That Grease To Convert To Bio Diesel.

Perhaps We Could Direct Staff To Coordinate, With The Various Human Service Agencies, Commissioner Mann Is Familiar, Which We Could Perhaps Try To Emulate And Maybe Karen Haas Could Get The Videotapes, Communicate With This Fund To See How We Might Be Able To Move Forward With A Proactive Program, On Any Given Day We Are Looking At About 2300-2600 Homeless In Our Community.

I Think This Is A Wonderful Approach To Reduce Health Care Costs And Provide An Opportunity For People To Get Back On Track And Function As A Productive Citizen Of Our Community.

No Problem With This.

The Board Agreed --

Can I Back Up?

Not Sure What I Nodded.

Just To Give Direction.

The Collection Of Vegetable Oil.

That Was Just Part Of A Work Program, They Do A Number Of Different Programs There.

But You Are Talking About A More Comprehensive Homeless, Housing -- Okay.

I'm Supportive Of That.

That Was Just An Off Shoot, One Work Program They Have Some Of The People Involved In.

Well You Brought Up Bio Diesel So I Guess I Need To Say This, Lindsay Has Shared With Us How The Success Of This Bio Diesel Program Really Depends On The Amount Feed Stock, That's The Oil That We Can Obtain From Our Local Economy.

I Still Don't Know Who We Are In Competition Against And How Much We Will Be Vying For, If We Are Getting Any I Think We Need To Look At That, We Need To Be Looking At That With A Sharper Pencil Before We Make These Decisions To Take An Engineer.

On The Issue Regarding The Homeless, These Men Who Are Involved In This Program Actually Get Paid A Little More Than Minimum Wage And They Sell This Waste Vegetable Oil And Grease To North American Biofuel, A Private Company.

The Dough Fund Then Doubles The Amount They Are Able To Save Over The Course Of 9-10 Months From The Time They Graduate From The Dough Fund Program So They Have Enough Money To Pay A Down Payment For An Apartment Or Condo.

Enough Money To Buy Groceries.

It's A Highly Successful Program It's Been Going On For 20 Years.

I'm Bought Into That, It Costs Much Less To Do It Up Front But I Think It Makes Economic Sense.

I Did Want To Ask Mr. Chairman On The Water-Related Issues, As We Know The South Florida Water Management District Voted Not To Seek D.E.P. Permits To Back Pump Into Lake Okeechobee A Historic Landmark Decision On Their Part, The Same Board Appealed U.S. District Judge's Decision They Be Held In Compliance With The Clean Water Act In Order To Continue Back Pumping And What I Would Ask, I Thought I Had Asked, I Guess We Haven't, This Board Needs To Send A Letter Suggesting To The South Florida Water Management District Why Are They Using Public Tax Payer Dollars That Continues To Create Problems With Estuaries And Coastal Rivers And Back Bays.

So What I Wanted To Ask This Board, One We Need To Make Sure We Send A Formal Letter And Get A Written Response Back Why They Are Appealing The U.S. Judge's Decision On Back Pumping.

The Other Is We Need To Hire, I Will Subject --Suggest We Hire, I Don't Know If We Can Do This, There Are A Number Of Ways The Agriculture Industry, Sugar Industry Is Getting Around The Back Pumping Issue.

The Conservancy District, Southwest Lake Okeechobee Is Outside The E.A.A. Mr. Chairman But Still Discharges Into Lake.

There's A Rule Making Process That Will Take Place That Would Kind Of Ratchet Down On How The Agriculture Industry Around The Lake Outside The E.A.A. Will Have To Comply With Best Management Practices When They Are Receiving From The South Florida Water Management District.

What I Would Ask, I Know David Owen Has Been Monitoring The Applications But I Understand Now That The Whole Process Has Been Put On Hold For About 18 Months Before The District Will Reissue These Water Use Permits, Meantime We Still Have These Agriculture Users Such As The Sugar Industry Continuing To Discharge And Not Comply With Appropriate Best Management Practices But They Are Discharging In Other Water Bodies That Eventually Connect To Lake Okeechobee On Backflows.

So We Need To Augment Our Efforts With John With A Hydrologist.

I Would Ask We Secure A Hydro Geologist Who Could Work Hand In Hand To Help Us With This Rule Making Process And Solidifying Our Position On The Requirement Of The District To Ensure The Best Management Practices Do In Fact Take Effect With These Surrounding Agriculture Lands.

I Agree With You, 100%.

I Appreciate That.

If We Could Take Steps To Have Administration To Bring On Board.

Do We Need To Blue Sheet That, I Suppose We Do.

Can't The County Attorney Or County Manager Hire?  
They Can, I Don't Know What They Are Looking At.

As A Consultant, I Apologize.

Not In-House But As A Consultant.

We Need To Know The Costs Because We Generally Don't Make Funding Conditions At This Point In The Agenda.

I Don't Know We Need To Make A Decision.

We Can Give Direction.

Certainly, That's What I'm Hoping To Look At.

And Staff's Recommendation Back To This Board.

That Will Be Coming Up Pretty Soon.

One Last Thing, The Farm Bill.

That's The Achilles Heel, The Reason The Sugar Has Been Able To Kill Is Because Of The Federal Subsidies, The Tariffs, Insidious Loan Program With United States Department Of Agriculture, Whether They Prop Up The High Price Of Domestic Sugar, That Farm Bill Is Going Through Congress Right Now.

The House Has Increased The Subsidies To The Sugar Industry And Agriculture.

It Will Go To The Senate.

What I Would Hope Is This Board Would Send A Message Or Send A Letter To Our Senate Congressional Delegates, Senator Nelson And Martinez To Give Serious Consideration To Reducing Or Eliminating The Subsidies That Are At This Time Being Extended Under The Farm Bill For Use By End Users That Are Actually Destroying Our Environment And Our Resources.

I Think There Needs To Be A Serious Look At How Could The Government Be Spending 10.5 To \$16 Billion On Trying To Restore The Everglades And On The Other Hand Providing Billions In Subsidy To Restore The Everglades, There's An Inconsistency, I Would Be Happy To Try To Draft A Letter For Signature And It Will Have To Go To The Board For Approval To Request Of Our Congressional Delegation To Seriously Look At Way To Reduce The Farm Subsidies In The Farm Bill Which Would Go A Long Ways Toward Reducing The Concerns We Are Having To Experience With Regards To Degradation Because Of Sugar Involvement In The Region Of South Florida Between The Lake And The Everglades.

Okay.

There's No Decision To Be Made Here, Is There?  
Draft A Letter For Me To Look At, We Will Circulate It Before It Goes Out.

We Will All Have A Chance To Look At It.

We Will Have The Opportunity To Vote As A Board After Seeing It.

There's No Public Comment At This Point.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

Thank You.

We Had The Opportunity For Public Comment Earlier On In The Agenda.

That's Generally What We Do.

I Don't Know What Will Be Brought Up Under Commissioner Items But Public Comment Has Been Closed.

It's The Board's Prerogative To Waive That, It's Rare We Have A Member Of The Public Who Wants To Come Forward To Speak, I Would Support Mr. Shay's Request If It Were Up

To Me.

Is That How All The Commissioners Feel?

It's Not That I Don't Wish To Receive Comments From Mr. Shay But You Need Integrity In The Process.

We Don't Advertise These Items.

We Just Bring Them Up Because They Are Mostly Just In Our Head.

Then We Present Them, And We Are Here Doing The Public's Business In Front Of The Public, If There Are Members Of The Public Present.

Well It's Never Stopped Public Opinion From A Rising, If Comments Are Made During The Commissioner Item Period And It Causes A Good Deal Of Heat, You Hear About It.

So I Don't Think You Have To Worry About This Going By Without Any Action, It Will Be Brought Up.

Commissioner Judah?

Thank You.

Commissioner Bigelow?

I Have None.

You Have None?

Zippo.

Okay, I Just Have A Couple Points I Want To Make.

First Of All I'm Pleased To Regard This As An Announcement That We Will Be Cancelling The 5:00 P.M. Public Hearing On October 9th To Allow The Taxation And Reform Budget Commission To Utilize Our Chambers For Their Public Meeting Which Goes From 4-7 P.M.

That Will Give You Adequate Time To Do Any Rescheduling You Have To Do, But They Apparently Wanted To Utilize Our Chambers For Discussion Purposes.

If We Can Acknowledge That, Be Happy To.

October 9th 5:00 P.M.

Okay.

A Couple Of Other Quick Items.

Number One, I Had Mentioned Before And I Will Mention Again Until It Happens, Some Of Us Worked Real Hard With Association Of Counties And Mental Health And Committees Throughout The State On Creating An Application Available Through The National Association Of Counties But Available For Criminal Justice Mental Health And Substance

Abuse Reinvestment Grant, Apply For Up To \$100,000 For A Planning Grant Or Up To A Million For Operational Grant.

And I Just Want To Indicate That I've Asked Karen And Her Staff, As Well As Other People The Public Safety Coordinating Council To Take A Look To See If We Might Not Be Able To Develop An R.F.A. Request For Applications On This Matching Grant.

It's 100% Matching, For Every Dollar You Invest They Invest Up To \$1 Million.

So Moved.

I Don't Know If We Need To Do It, I Want To Serve As Notification We Will Be Getting One.

And Hopefully We Are Sort Of Working Through Our County Who Ought To Apply.

Commissioner, Court Administration Is Taking The Lead On Doing That Grant.

What They Are Trying To Do Is Use A Match.

We Have Increased Funding For Diversion Programs, Significantly In The Last Couple Years And Will Try To Use Some Of That Funding To Match That Grant.

Excellent.

Because You Can Use Any Kind Of -- Variety Of Tools To Match That, So It's A Very Good Grant, I'm Trying To Get Us Going On Board To Take Advantage Of That Grant Process.

Since I'm On The Committee I Have To Abstain But You Understand I Have An Undying Interest That We Proceed On That.

The Other One Is Kind Of Interesting Too.

The Human Services Council Is Recommending To Us That We Don't Consider Any New Requests For Capital Funding From Community Agencies.

That The Human Services Council Will Take That Entire Issue Up After The 208 Legislative Session.

There's Two Programs Of Course We Would Like To Exclude From This, That Would Be Family Health Centers And Southwest Florida Addiction, Which Are Two Projects We Are Currently Looking At But What We Are Very Much Concerned About Are The Budget Cuts Is Any Available Resources Be Targeted And Priority Given To Core Health And Human Service Community Needs Rather Than Increasing The Quality, Because What They Are Proposing In Some Cases Is While We May Be Cutting Back The Core Services In Some Area Because We Don't Have The Money We Are Getting Applications That Want To Increase The Level Of Services To Projects They Already Have, It Just Seems To The Human Services Council It's A Little Unfair When We Have So Many Unmet Needs That We Ought To Try To Concentrate Our Efforts In That Regard, So You Will Be Hearing More About That As Time Goes On But That's Kind Of The Direction They Will Be Going.

I Think It Makes Sense, We Will Concentrate On That, To What Extend We Have Money And Funds Available But The Human Services Council Willing To Bite That Bullet.

That May Conflict Though With The Potential To Secure A Building For Residency For Homeless.

Well, I Don't Know, We Will Have To See.

That's The Direction They Would Like To Go, We Will Start Getting Requests From Agencies That Want To Increase Their Funding To Add To The Core Level Of Services We Are Already Supporting.

It's Inequitable To Increase Level Of Service When There Are So Many Who Don't Even Have The Basic Level Of Service.

Anyway Human Service Council Is Looking At It And Will Be Making Recommendations And Will Take A Look At The Whole Thing.

Are They Also Considering Reconvening A Blue Ribbon Committee?  
They Will Be Looking At It.

I Don't Know If I Would Term It A Blue Ribbon.

Shortly After I Got Here We Had An Issue And I Didn't Know Much At That Time But There Was A Blue Ribbon Committee.

I Look At Commissioner Judah, Maybe He Understands Better What Charges Were Given To The Blue Ribbon Committee.

To Look At How The Inequities Could Be Addressed Whereas Some Folks Couldn't Put Forward The Funds To Go Through An Exhaustive Audit And Those That Do Go Through The Expense Of An Audit Find They Are Left Withholding The Bag Because They Didn't Get Any Funding.

The Issue Is A Little More Deeper Than That, Because We Have To Look At How They Apply Best Management Practices, What Type Of Measurable Results Do They Have Because They Compete For Not A Heck Of A Lot Of Money And We Need To Make Certain When Money Is Granted Or Given To These Agencies We Can See Results And Ultimately, That's Just Me Personally I Would Like To See Any Funding Application That We Award That There's Some Indication In There What They Will Be Doing To Try To Become Self Sufficient In Raising Money.

We Don't Want These Agencies As Worthy As They Are To Take A Look As An Entitlement.

I Don't Think They Should Become Dependent But Some Organizations That Can't Go Through That Initial Hurdle.

They Shouldn't Be Able To Have The Idea That They Are Entitled Automatically For

Funding.

Once They Get It, They Are Not Entitled From Then Onto Get It.

When The Funds Are Too Scarce And The Demands Too Much To Permit That To Go On.

I Would Be Interested To Know If They Will Put Together Their Review Committee.

Sure, We Will Keep You Up-To-Date, Human Services Council Will Do That.

I Think That's All The Commissioner Items I Had.

Tonight We Just Have Two Public Hearings, One At 5:00, One Is Certification Of The Assessment Msbu, The Second Is Mandatory Business Recycling Ordinance We Will Consider That For The First Time This Evening.

Other Than That Let's Go With Committee Appointments.

Commissioner Mann?

I Have Several, Ab Cook To Construction Licensing Board, James Louns To The Construction Licensing Board, Terry Carbonel To The Construction Licensing Board.

I've Got Two More.

Sherry Burns To The Black Affairs Committee And Elizabeth Paul To The Smart Growth Committee.

That's My Motion.

Second By Commissioner Judah.

Discussion?

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, So Ordered.

Commissioner Judah?

None.

Commissioner Bigelow?

I Have One.

Richard Illback To The Land Development Code Committee Representing District One In Place Of Harold Brunner, I Guess.

Moved And Seconded.

All In Favor?

Opposed?

The Ayes Have It, The Motion Is Adopted.

County Manager Items?

Nothing.

County Attorney.

Do You Wish Any Dialogue On The Sermon You Delivered This Morning?

You Did Very Well.

If There's No Further Business We Will Stand Recessed Until This Evening At 5:00.

### 5:00 PM Public Hearings

We Are At The 5:00 Session, We Have Two Items On The Agenda, Both Public Hearings.

We Will Take Action.

Then By Public Comment Which The Public Is Invited To Talk About Anything They Wish To Talk About.

Let's Start With The First Item On The Agenda.

Good Evening Mr. Chairman, Members Of The Board.

Scott, Assistant County Attorney.

We Are Here For Item Number One, Special Assessment Roll For 25 Benefit Units For Collection By The Lee County Tax Collector For Fiscal Year 2007.

The Units That Are Part Of This Certification, There's 25 Units I Will Read Into The Record.

And The First Nine Are Operation And Maintenance Units, First Cherry Blossom, Improvement, Country Estates Streetlighting, Country Light, Golden Lake Heights, Pine Lake, Sheltering Pines Mobile Home Village, Drew Barry Lane.

Anchorage Way Msbu.

University Overlay Landscape O & N.

Capital Are Msbu, Pine Crest River View Road, Msbu, Diplomat Parkway, South Pebble Broken Arrow, Msbu, Rainbow Farms, Iona Shores, Worely.

Country Triple Crown, Cottage Point, Charlie Road, University Overlay Landscaping Capital, Northeast Hurricane Bay, Palm Frohn, And Brier Crest Sewer Msbu.

I've Examined The Affidavit Of Publication And Notice Of Intent Published In The News Press August 7th And 14th, I Find It Legally Sufficient As To Form And Content To Conduct The Public Hearing.

You Can Entertain One Motion To Adopt All 25 Units.

If The Board So Chooses.

All Right, Would There Be One Motion?

Are We Going To Take Public Input?

Any Members Of The Public Like To Speak On That Subject?

Come On Down.

For The Record I'm Kevin Shay, I Reside In Lehigh Acres, I'm Speaking On My Own Behalf Of The Interest I've Shown In Various Government Operations.

Upon Receiving Certain Budget Worksheet Documents Also Collaterally Associated With The Issues Being Presented In This Public Hearing, I Wish To Raise Certain Issues Concerning These Msbtu Units Specifically Five Of Them.

This Dew Berry Special Improvement Unit.

I Note Upon Review The Cash Carry Over Is Projected To Be \$37,000 With Actual Expenses Of \$9,417.

I Realize That You Are The Governing Authority And Maybe There Is Some Justification For These Kind Of Cash Balances, However After My Investigation Of The Lehigh Acres Streetlighting District, I'm Finding No Sufficient Basis For The Extraordinary Cash Accumulations Within That Streetlighting District.

Again, I've Not Been Able To Conduct An In-Depth Investigation Of These Units As I Have Only Furnished These Late Friday Afternoon At 4:30.

And Your Website, Enunciating This Was All Down During The Week End.

Lee County Website For Your Agenda And Supporting Documents Was Not Available So I Haven't Been Able To Conduct The Analytical In-Depth Study I Wish I Could Have Been Able To Do.

Now I Move Onto The Streetlighting Unit.

It's An Issue I Raised.

Again It's Not A Question Of Irregularity But Good Governance And Inquiry In What's Going On.

Total Revenue Is Probably \$7,000 But What I Notice Is The Expenditure Level Of About \$4,000, Administrative Expenses Are About \$2200.

So What You Have Is An Expense Level Somewhat Higher Than Half Of What You Are Expending For, I'm Just Asking You To Take A Greater Look At These Type Of Things.

Maybe Some New Thinking, Some New Ideas, Thinking Out Of The Box.

A New Way To Provide Government Services When You Have Your Administrative Expenses Over 50% Of Your Base Cost In A Particular Unit.

It Sounds, From A Managerial Administrative Standpoint Questionable.

I Move Onto The Next One, Which Is, I Believe, It's N.E. Hurricane Bay.

We See A Structural Unit That Has A Cash Carry-Over Of \$174,000 Projected With Actual Expenses On An Improvement Construction Of \$44,000.

I Realize There's Maybe A Reason For This Future Capital Outlay Of Almost \$200,000.

But You Are The Governing Authority And I've Not Been Able To Find Anything In Your Records Saying You Have Reviewed Or Authorized Special Capital Improvements And This Raises Further Serious Questions Because You Are The Governing Authority, What Over Site Actions Do You Have For Reviewing The Capital Outlay Structures For This District Or Do These Unelected Committees Simply Spend Tax Dollars With Nominal Rubber Stamp Approval?

Sheltering Pines Improvement District, Likewise.

The Assessment Is Going From \$37.57 To \$101.23.

Again Significant Cash Over Reserve Funds And So Forth.

Again, It's A Matter Of Inquiry.

Maybe They Are Justified, I Just Don't Know.

And The Final One Is This University Overlay O & M.

Again The Cash Overlays Are Going To Be Almost \$200,000 But What I Find As A Cross Analyst As A Person Who Does Cross Audit Analysis You Have Reserve Cash Flow Of \$100,000, If That's Divided By Two That Renders \$50,000 Times 12 Months Comes Up To \$600,000 Projected Cash Flow Necessity Because Of Your Cash Flow Reserves, The Two Month Extension In The New Fiscal Year, This Total Budget Is \$336,000 According To This.

So Why This Strange Cash Flow Reserve Calculation Which Is Normally Taken For Two Months Of The Four Fiscal Year To Cover The Non-Payment Of Property Taxes Until The November Cycle Begins.

Again, These Are Just Questions That I Raise.

Then You Have A Management Operational Fee That Went From A Project Management, Which Was \$5,000 And Now In This New Fiscal Year Projected To Be \$50,000.

When I See Management Fee Of \$5,000 And Then This Next Year \$50,000, It Just Strikes Me.

I Need You To Kind Of Summarize Your Remarks.

What I Would Ask You To Do Is Take A Further And Closer Look, I Real Lie This Realize This Is Only A Several Million Dollar Section Of Your Budget But Every Cent Counts And I Look Forward To Your Further Deliberations In September On Your Budget Matters.

Mr. Chairman, Members Of The Committee, Distinguished Counsel And Others.

Thank You, Kevin.

Anyone Else Wish To Speak On That?

Libby?

Commissioners, Libby Walker, Public Resources.

I Would Like To Respond To The Comments That Mr. Shay Had.

The Five Units He Spoke About, Four Of Them Have Advisory Committees And Have Voted As Their Committees To Assess Themselves At Higher Rates To Put Moneys Away To Handle The Dredging They Need To Do For Their One Mile Channel To Resurface Their Road Which They Are Responsible For, For Doing, Two Of Them Are Road Projects.

So Four Of These Five Units Have Committees Who Vote To Assess Themselves.

Put The Money Away So When They Have To Rebuild A Road, Do That Dredge, That Money Is There, They Don't Have To Go Out And Borrow The Money.

At That Time The Projects Will Be Significant Enough We Will Be Following County Policy Going Out And Bidding The Project To Contracts And Coming To The Board For The Contract For Approval.

All These Assessments Were Approved By The Board At The End Of June And Resolutions To Assess, The Board Did Review These.

The One Last Unit, Golden Lakes Heights Which Is Not Unusual For A Number Of Small Units, Their Administrative Charges Are A Large Percentage Of Their Budget.

We Build Those Based On What It Costs To Do Their Budgets To Pay Their Bills Each Month, To Pay Finance, To Pay Our Indirect Costs For Services Of County Administration, County Services, The Board, County Attorney's Office, All That Goes Into The Fees We Charge These Units.

It's Not A Percent Of Their Budget.

It's Actual Expenses To Process And Do Their Budgets.

So In Some Cases If A Unit Only Has A Few Streetlights It Doesn't Matter In Its One Or 3,000, Finance Still Has To Open The Purchase Order And Process Each Month To Pay For That.

So That In A Nutshell Is In Response To What Mr. Shay Spoke About, He Is Right He Doesn't Have The Detail We Have, He Hasn't Been To The Advisory Committee Meetings With Us, With The Property Owners Asking What They Want And We Did Bring This To The Board In June, A Resolution To Assess.

I'm Available For Any Other Detailed Questions You May Have.

I Appreciate Mr. Shay Posing The Questions And Expressing The Concerns But I Think Libby Has Adequately Addressed Those Issues Particularly In Light Of The Four Msbu's That Have The Advisory Committees Already Approved The Funding And Reasons For It And Recognizing The Smaller.

So Move The Item.

Okay, Is There A Second?  
I'll Second It.

But I Want To Talk About It A Little Bit More.

Certainly.

Let's Find Out If There's Anymore Public Comment.

There's A Motion That's Been Seconded To Adopt And Certify The Resolution.

Any Other Members Of The Public Wish To Speak On This Subject?  
Okay, No Members Of The Public, I Will Close The Public Comment.

Discussion?  
Ms. Walker.

I Heard Your Explanation, I Think I Understand The Mathematics, The Golden Lake Heights Streetlighting District.

Seems There Ought To Be A Better Way To Do This.

Or Shut Them Down For A Couple Years Or Something.

Reignite Them Again.

You Got A \$4,000 Annual Budget.

\$2,000 Annual Costs, It Just Doesn't Make Sense.

It's Just A Little Bit Per Tax Payer, Perhaps.

But Help Me A Little More To Appreciate There's Nothing Else We Can Do.

Commissioner I Have In The Past Several Years, I've Been In This Position For Ten Years, No Less The Last Four Or Five Years I Have Gone To Finance To Look At Perhaps Consolidating Some Units.

We're Not Allowed To Do That, I Looked At Various Ways To Cut The Costs.

M.S.T.B.U. Needs To Pay The Indirect Costs Of Services For The Different Entities Or Departments That Help Us.

Because Mstbu Needs To Pay For These Services Not The Property Owners Not Involved In A Unit.

So These Charges Come Back To The Property Owners That Are Actually Using This Service.

I Would Love To Say Golden Lake Heights, If There Were A Way You Could Do The Streetlighting District On Your Own Without Involving The County They Don't Have A Homeowner's Association.

If They Could Do It I'm Probably Inviting Budget Services Into My Office Right Now.

But If They Could Do It, I Would Almost Guaranty They Would Not Be Able To Administer The Streetlighting District For The Amount Of Money They Are Doing It For.

Total Budget Is What?

Annual Budget?

I'm Sorry, I Don't Have Their Actual Budget In Front Of Me.

We're Assessing Each Property Owner \$29.30.

I'm Thinking There's Approximately 103 Parcels In There.

I Don't Have The Exact Number With Me.

I Guess This Number Is \$4,000 -- Somewhere Close.

I'm Showing 133 Units With A Total Budget Of \$7360, Including The Carry-Over.

We Will Be Collecting From The Property Owners \$3300, Approximately, This Year.

Their Administrative Charge Is \$1 750.

So Out Of A \$7300.

Got \$7300 In The Bank I Thought I Heard You Say And Would Be Assessed \$3300.

It's Just Under \$3400.

It Appears To Be There May Be A Carry-Over Of \$3900.

So There's A Little Cash Carried Over But Of The Taxes They Are Paying This Year, 50% Of Them Will Go To Administrative --  
Approximately, Yes.

I Don't Know.

I Just Wish There Was Some Way We Could Explore That Further.

It Just Seems When Government Administration Is 50% There Something Bad Wrong.

They Could Always Go Out On Their Own.

I Understand That.

I'm Saying We Should Be Exploring Things, Pardon The Interruption.

This Should Be Explored.

I Think Mr. Shay Makes A Valid Point.

I Don't Know What We Could Do About It To Date But It's Something That Ms. Walker, I Hope Your Shop Will Continue To Explore And Maybe Come Back With Recommendations That We Might Consider Another Way Of Approaching This.

Again 50% Administrative Cost Of Any Government Service Is Just Absurd, No Matter How Small, It's Just Nuts.

I Have Seconded The Motion, I Don't Know What Remedy We Have Today So With Those Comments I'm Prepared To Go Forward Mr. Chairman.

I Appreciate What Commissioner Mann Is Saying, This Isn't A Mandatory Requirement.

I Understand.

Thank You Very Much.

But You Are Absolutely Right, If Libby Could Continue To Explore Way To Bring Down The Costs Of Administrative Costs.

Okay, Further Discussion?

Motion And It's Been Seconded To Approve And Adopt And Certify For The Msbu '.

Further Discussion?

All In Favor Signify By Saying Aye, Opposed?

The Ayes Have It.

Motion Is Adopted.

Item Number 2.

Scott Cue Bert Assistant County Attorney, We Are Here To Consider Adoption Of A Business Recycling Ordinance.

I've Examined The Publication And Notice Of Intent Published August 7th And 14th, I Find It Legally Sufficient As To Form And Content And Enter It Into The Record And Deem This Public Hearing Valid.

Okay.

Lindsay?  
Good Afternoon Commissioners.

Thank You.

For The Record My Name Is Lindsay Samson, The Director Of The Solid Waste Division.

Gentlemen, You Have Before You Today A Proposed Ordinance Relating To The Mandatory Recycling For Commercial Entities.

This Would Include Businesses, Institutions, Multi-Family Properties And Construction Demolition Properties.

This Ordinance Though Titled Mandatory Recycling Ordinance For Businesses Does Not, In Fact, Mandate The Requirement For Recycling.

It Provides A Choice To Businesses.

And With The Exception Of Multi-Family Units It Provides A Choice Of Instituting A Recycling Program Within The Business Or Paying A Fee To The County Which Could Be Utilized For Future Recycling And/Or Solid Waste Disposal Activities As The County Grows.

Any Of The Property Managers Or Property Owners Could Elect.

They Could Choose Whether Or Not It's In Their Benefit To Pay A Fee Or To Provide An On Site Recycling Program.

I Want To Emphasize That A Measurement Is Not Going To Be Made Whether A Business Recycles Effectively And Properly But Whether They Have A Program Instituted That Provides The Benefit And The Opportunity For Recycling.

Now A Couple Of Weeks Ago I Presented Information Regarding The Future Of Solid Waste In Lee County.

Our Status At The Lee Hendry Landfill, Status At The Waste Energy Facility, Particularly The Expansion Project And In That Presentation I Think We Made Note That By Approximately 2024 Lee County Will Likely Need Another Property For The Purposes Of Disposal Activities.

And We All Know That The Required Advanced Time For Planning, Permitting And Citing A

Facility Can Take In The Neighborhood Of Ten Plus Years.

So It Will Not Be Too Many Years Before We Need To Consider The Future Site Possibilities For Disposal And/Or Recycling Facilities.

Now, I Have Provided To The Board A Summary Memo Of The Ordinance As Well As A Bullet Point List That Really Explains The Purpose Of The Ordinance And Why We Are Presenting This To The Board.

Of Course There Is History Regarding Past Management And Planning Meeting Discussions.

A Board Scheduled Item Related To The Scheduling Of This Public Hearing As Well As The Recent Management, Planning Item That Discusses The Future Of Solid Waste, Additionally The Solid Waste Division Has Met With Regulatory Over Site Committee And Presented This Ordinance For Their Review.

The Results Of That Review I Included In The Memo To You.

And We Can Refer To That, Discuss That Later On If Necessary.

However The Real Reason I Want To Speak Just A Little Bit Longer Here Briefly Is The County Has Done An Unbelievable, And In Fact I Would Say Excellent Job At Placing Facilities For Recycling And For Disposal During The Past 15 Years.

We Have Set A Foundation For The Future Growth Of This County And The Existing Facilities Will Certainly Serve For Future Growth In Their Possibilities Of Expansion And As Setting An Example Of What We Will Be Looking At In The Future.

However, From An Economic Standpoint, The Costs Of These Facilities Both In Actual Concrete And Steel, As Well As Even Permitting Efforts And In Efforts To Get A Buy-In From The Public And The Local Neighboring Communities Is Going To Continue To Escalate. Let Alone The Cost Of Property Itself.

So, What Can We Do To Somehow Mitigate Those Future Costs?

The Idea Here Is That To The Extent Possible, The More We Can Recycle Now And As We Go Forward, Then The More These Future Costs Are Either Reduced Or Certainly Deferred.

And I Think That Is An Important Part Here.

Just A Very General Comparison.

Right Now The Solid Waste Disposal Cost Including Operating And Debt Services About \$43 Million A Year.

We Handle About 600 Million Tons Which Comes Down To, If In Fact We Can Divert An Additional 10% Of That 600,000 Tons Then We Can Save \$5 Million.

In Future Costs.

Now That Cost Will Be There Unless We Can Start Reducing The Amount Of Waste That Is Generated, That Is Thrown Away In This County.

And Again That Is The Real Purpose Of This Ordinance.

I've Provided Summaries Relating To How This Ordinance Will Work To The Board.

I Don't Believe It's Over Burdensome By Any Means.

We, In Fact, Utilize The Choice Method Of Participation As Opposed To An Enforcement Code Violation Method That Some Other Communities Use.

The Exception Is With Multi-Family Properties.

We Speak Of Though Generally As Apartment Complexes.

Certain Condominiums And Mobile Home Parks.

In These Instances Recycling Services And Collection Is Already Being Provided To Those Properties At No Additional Costs From What They Are Currently Paying With Their Garbage And In That Instance Or In These Instances This Is Why We Establish Them As A Separate Group.

That Because The Services Are Provided, It Will Not Cost Them Anymore To Implement The Services.

We Believe That It Is Necessary To Utilize An Enforcement Policy In That Situation.

This Also Comes From Our Discussions With Many Of These Properties That Do Not Recycle Multi-Family Properties And They Have Simply Related To Us That They Don't Want To Mess With It.

They Don't Want To Allow Additional Space For Containers, They Don't Want To Deal With Picking Up Litter And They Don't Want To Deal With Educating The Tenants As To What Goes In The Garbage Can And What Goes Into The Recycle Container.

For Businesses, As I Mentioned It's A Choice To The Businesses.

For Construction Activities, We Have Established A Procedure That A Contractor Or An Owner In Applying For A Permit To The County Will Pay A Fee.

A Fee That Is Fully Refundable, That At The End Of The Construction Job They Demonstrate To The County To The Solid Waste Division That They Have Made, They Have Realized 50% Diversion Of The Solid Waste From That Site Or That They Were Mitigating Circumstances And Reasons Why That 50% Could Not Be Reached.

In The Event They Do Either Of Those Two Items Their Fee Is Refundable.

We Have Heard From Members Of The Eroq Committee And Horizon Council That The

County Should Do More With Respect To Educating The Public, Particularly Businesses And That We Should Simply Maintain A Hands-Off Attitude.

Let The Businesses Do What They Think Is Correct And That Recycling Will Improve.

We Saw This Same Scenario Play Two Years Ago In Collier County.

There Was Much Public Discussion, Much Public Debate Before The Collier County Commissioners.

The Chamber Of Commerce In Collier County Represented That The Businesses Need To Do A Better Job.

Can Do A Better Job And That The Government Should Help By Publishing Information And Education To Help Those Businesses.

They Asked For 12 Months To Show The County Government What The Businesses Could Do.

In 12 Months, The Head Of The Chamber Of Commerce In Collier County Went Before The Board And Said We Have Not Been Able To Improve To Any Significant Event Recycling Activities By The Businesses And That If The County Wish To Adopt An Enforcement Ordinance The County Can Go Right Ahead And Do That.

I Submit To You There Would Be Very Little Difference In Lee County If We Take That Path.

I Want To Bring Up One More Item Why I Have This Opinion.

In 2000 We Issued Bids For Garbage Collection.

In A Requirement Of The Contracts Was That The Hauler Could Not Charge More Than 50% Of What The Garbage Costs With A To Pick Up Business Commercial Garbage As Opposed To Picking Up Business Commercial Recycling.

We Thought The 50% Value Would Encourage Recycling.

In 2005 We Again Issued Hauling Contracts, Received Bids And We Required In These Contracts That Rather Than 50%, The Haulers Could Charge Only \$1.25 Per Yard To Pick Up Recycling.

That Has Escalated Today To \$1.30 A Yard.

Average Price Of Picking Up Is Between \$7 And \$9 A Yard Depending On The Location.

All Locations Cannot Charge More Than \$1.30 A Yard For Recycling.

Now To Me, If You Want To Talk About An Economic Incentive To Businesses This Incentive We Have Built Into The Hauling Contracts Is Extraordinary.

Yet We Have Seen The Businesses Have Not Taken Advantage Of That Available Service.

I Believe That We Have Put In Place Already Necessary Procedures For Businesses To Economically Adopt Recycling Programs In Their Operations.

And We Have Found That Although 35-40% Of Businesses Do Recycle And Upwards Of 65-70% Of Multi-Family Properties Do Recycle That The Need To Do More Is Still Here At Hand.

Finally With Regard To Information Just A Small Package Every Six Months We Require A Notice In The Business Billings.

We Have Advertised Publications, Has Your Trash Bill Sky Rocketed.

Call Solid Waste Department We Will Provide Analysis To See How You Can Save Money.

We Have Sent Out Publications Including Business Recycling Information To Every Resident In An Unincorporated Lee County.

We Have Advertised In Lee County Bar Association For Shredding Paper.

Other Ads And Publications The Solid Waste Division Has Done And Continues To Do, Our Budget More Promotions And Advertising Is \$200,000 A Year.

If The Board Wishes To Increase That Amount We Can Certainly Do More.

But I Would Submit To The Board Right Now We Have Participated.

We Have Encouraged And We Have Done What We Think Is Prudent And Reasonable To Encourage Recycling And We Do Believe That The Actual Act That We Cannot Go Any Further And That This Ordinance Will Be The Instrument That Will Be Required To Really Bump These Numbers.

With That, I'll Allow Public Comment.

Thank You Very Much, Lindsay.

Board Members Any Questions At This Point?

Yes Commissioner Mann?

Lindsay, How Are You Going To Determine That 50% Diversion Fee Before Diversion Of The Refuse Before The Fee Is Refundable?

We Will Have To Have Garbage Cops Out?

I Admit It Won't Be An Easy Task, There's One Specific Recycling Program In Lee County, Soon To Be Two.

And We Will Review Their Activities And See What Actual Recycling Takes Place At Those Facilities.

Walk Me Through.

Use An Example Of A House Under Construction, A Brand New One.

They Will Always Have The Dumpster, Now Will There Be A Second Dumpster?  
A Contractor Is Building A House.

They Typically Have A Roll Off Container For Their Waste.

If That Contractor Demonstrates That He Has Taken That Material To A Recycling Facility,  
As I Said, Currently One Soon To Be Two Operating In Lee County.

And We Know That Recycling Operation Generally Diverts 50% Of It's Material, Then The  
Submittal Of This Contractor's Invoices, Weigh Tickets, Whatever, To That Recycling Facility  
Will Indicate To Us That He Has Reached That Goal.

If On The Other Hand A Contractor Decides He Will Do Source Separation, He Will Actually  
Separate Materials At The Site, And As He Generates Concrete Block And Concrete Plaster,  
Stucco, That He Will Take All That Concrete Block And Pieces Of Concrete And Stucco And  
Haul It To A Specific Site Of Which There Are More Than A Half Dozen In Lee County That  
Will Simply Accept, That's What They Want, Concrete Block, Plaster Material, Stucco  
Material.

He Could Source Separate That In One Container.

Take All The Other Material To A Landfill.

Typically On A Concrete Block Stucco House, Just Over 50% Of The Material Is Concrete  
Block And Those Types Of Inert Material.

So If A Contractor Does Nothing More Than Recycle That Material, Perhaps Even Wood  
Which Is Readily Recyclable, Then He Would Meet The 50% Goal.

So That's Two Examples Of How That Could Be Accomplished.

Additionally, Any Metal Is Recyclable.

New Houses Often Use Metal Studs As Opposed To Wooden.

That Is Readily Recyclable To Waste Metal.

I'm Not Saying It's An Easy Task.

On The Part Of The Solid Waste Division Or On The Part Of The Contractor.

It's A Doable Task.

Excuse Me For Interrupting.

If I'm Hearing You Right It Will Be His Receipt From The Facility Where They Are Receiving

This Material Which Will Be The Indication That He Has Met The Requirement.

It's Those Receipts As Well As -- We Expect, As We Know, Builders.

And I'll Just Simply Let You Know That There Are A Dozen Builders In This County That Build 50% Of The Structures.

Our Staff As Well As, Particularly Our Staff Can Certainly Monitor From A Distance The General Activities Of Particular Builders And How They Handle Their Waste And Get A Very Good Idea, And A Very Good Understanding Of What Different Contractors Are Doing With Their Waste.

In Addition We Have A Daily Relationship With Most Of The Hauling Companies In This County.

And We Simply Will Also Use Communication With The Hauling Companies To Know What Builders, Contractors Are Doing.

The Information Is Available And We Will Take Certain Attention By The County Staff To Follow That.

At The Same Time --

I'm Sure When We Get To Public Comment We Will Hear From The Industry Representatives That Can Touch On This And Whether It's Difficult, Possible Or Easy.

But I Would Like To Understand It A Little Better.

Thank You.

Mr. Chairman?

Recently We Just Approved A Zoning Request Where It's A Sorting Facility.

Remember That?

Where They Were Going To Bring In Construction Debris And It Would Be Sorted And That Which Can't Be Recycled Is Then Hauled Off To A Dump Site Or What Not.

Has There Been Any Consideration Given To Maybe Incentivizing That, So If Somebody Brings To Us A Voucher That Says, Yeah All Of My Waste Was Dumped At This Sorting Location, Seems Like We Would Be Saving Ourselves A Whole Lot Of Work In This Regard, Because We've Got To Hire Folks To Monitor This.

I'm Not Saying That Would Not Work.

However, I Would Simply State It Would Be Up To The Board To Determine Where That Money Is Going To Come From.

\$200,000 A Year In Advertising.

We Could Take Away From Advertising And Put Into That Effort.

I Don't Believe It Would Represent The Type Of Incentive Necessary To Accomplish The Goals That Are Included Here.

But Again, Remember -- On A Monetary Basis All Of Our Money Comes From The Citizens Of Lee County.

The Question Is Did We Look At Something Like That?  
Some Other Sort Of Carrot Approach To It Than What I See Is Nothing More Than A Stick.

The One Thing About The Way The Ordinance Is Set Up, Whether Business Or Construction Site, Again, They Pay A Fee On The Construction Site.

They Get It Back.

Businesses Don't Have To Pay A Fee.

You May Say It's Disincentive Ordinance.

But I Think We All Understand That Businesses Operate Based On The Bottom Line, There's No Doubt About That.

The Bottom Line Could Be Reflected In Generally Two Ways, Make More Money Or Spend Less Money.

Would You Agree With This Statement, If I Give You, Mr. Contractor, \$100 To Take Your Dumpster To A Sorting Location, Some Recyclable Material And Less In Our Dump Facilities Aren't We Saving Some Number Over \$100 In Future Years Because We Won't Have To Site A Dump And Build Infrastructure.

\$100 A Day I Might Prevent The Government From Having To Spend.

I Don't Know Where The First Comes From.

Pay Me Now Or Pay Me Later.

As We Were Considering Under Commissioner Items, Commissioner Judah, If We Can House The Homeless Now It's Cheaper Than Having To Deal With The End Result Which Is Increase Health Care Costs, Increased Crime.

Just Something To Think About.

I Think It Might Be A Way To Incentivize This Effort That We All Agree Is A Noble Endeavor.

Just Seems There Were More Sticks Than Possible Carrots.

Even The Carrots Were Their Carrots, We Are Just Giving Them Back, We Aren't Finding A Way To Incentivize The Effort, You Do More To Recycle You Get A Bigger, Something.

Rebate On Your Occupational License.

Or The Sky Is The Limit.

We Have A Number Of Cards People Who Want To Speak On The Subject.

First I Will Call On Cindy Bear.

Followed By Rudy Bush.

For The Record I'm Cindy Bear, Resource Teacher For Environmental Education Program And I Serve On The Board Of Several Community Environmental Organizations And I'm Here Today In Support Of The Business Recycling Ordinance As Written And Before You Today.

The Environmental Education Program Conducts Field Trips For 8th Grade Students That Include In One Day A Visit To The Landfill, Waste Energy Facility And The Recovered Materials Processing Facility Commonly Known As The Recycling Center.

This Trip Is Part Of A Comprehensive Unit That Assists Students In Understanding Required Physical Science Concept Such As The Laws Of Thermodynamics, No Better Way To Do It Then With Garbage.

Diversified Program And Why Particular Materials Are Or Are Not Accepted At Certain Facilities, These Include The Fact Some Materials Have Low Energy Value Or Cannot Be Burned.

That The Economics Of A Program Are Critical And We Haven't Offered Programs In Certain Sectors.

We Drive Students Up The Landfill Hill In A Bus.

And During The Days Where Construction And Demolition Debris Was Accepted It Was Common For Students To Express Concerns About Why We Are So Wontonly Wasteful.

And Their Dismay Was Particularly Palpable In The Months Following Hurricane Katrina.

It's Also Common After The Waste Energy Visit For Me To Be Requested About Why Glass, Cardboard And Aluminum Are Present In The Pit To Be Burned Rather Than To Be Sold For Recycling.

The Students May Be Naive But Understand Materials Are From Non-Renewable Sources That Energy Is Saved When Products Are Recycled That Efficiency Almost Always Equals Profit And We Could Be Better In Our Community To Reduce Reliance On Centralized Fixes While Enhancing Small Business Opportunities.

I've Read This Ordinance Carefully.

I've Been Involved In Garbage And Recycling Issues For Many Years In Order To Be An

Effective Teacher To These Students And The Ordinance Provides An Approach For Businesses.

It Provides Exemptions For Hardships, Allows Flexibility For Hauling Materials To Appropriate Centers And Imposes Fees Only When Businesses Do Not Participate Because It Will Be More Expensive To.

It's Modeled On The Best Aspect Of Successful Programs Around The Country.

Provisions For Multi-Families.

The Construction And Demolition Debris Access That Requires Permit Holders To Estimate The Amounts, Types Of Materials To Be Collected To Determine How To Divert That Waste And Set Aside And Indicate Vendors To Do That, To Me Those Are Good Business Practices That Amount To Tracking Materials And Reducing Expensive Waste.

Exceptions Are Provided.

And This Provision Can Even Be Met By Use Of New Methods, Generated Through The Front End Through New Technologies, The Ordinance Is Fair, It's Clear And It Will Go A Long Way Toward Me Being Able To Assure Young People In Our Community The Adults Are Doing The Best They Can To Be Good Stewards In Their Community.

Thank You, Cindy.

Rudy Bush Followed By Mike Welsh.

My Name Is Rudy Bush.

Before I Go Into My Little Dissertation I Will Tell You We Held Our Annual Budget Meeting On Thursday Of Last Week And The Board Voted Unanimously To Support This Ordinance In Every Aspect Of It.

For Very Obvious Reasons.

And I'm Never Supposed To Say This, My Wife Will Get Mad, But It's A No-Brainer, Guys.

It Saves Money.

You've Got Two Simple Facts To Consider, Business Multi-Family Accounts For 60% Of Total Solid Waste Disposed By Lee County Solid Waste System.

Business Right Now Shows About A 35% Participation Rate In Recycling.

While Homeowners Recycling To 70-75% Participation Rate.

Don't Those Same People Own Businesses And Manage Businesses And Send Kids To School And They Are Recycling At Home At Twice The Rate They Are Recycling In Their By.

-- Business, Yet Business Produces Ten Times The Amount Of Solid Waste As Their Home.

Sprint Contributes \$10,000 A Year To Make Sure I'm On The Street And Have Container To Recycle Used Telephone Directories Which They Have No Social Responsibility For.

They Host Fundraisers And Recycle Books, Turn Them Into Bedpans In Hospitals, Drywall.

Any Number Of Uses.

I Read In Last Week's Paper A County On The East Coast Is Getting Ready To Crush Glass And Turn It Back Into Sand To Renourish The Beaches.

Glass Is 10-25 A Ton, Makes Sense To Me Compared To Dredging Costs.

I Hope You Are With Me, It's Just A No-Brainer.

I Raised Four Children In This Community, They Have All Returned Because Of The Kind Of Community It Is.

They Are All Working And Doing Well And I've Got Three Grandchildren.

We All Recycle, It's Part Of Our Responsibility As Citizens.

I Can Go Along With Facts And Figures, If You Want.

I Call It A Recycle Or Pay System.

You Don't Have To Recycle, We Can Charge You.

But Yet It Will Help Fund Our Future Endeavors And Hopefully Won't Have To Site Another Landfill.

I Lived Through The Wars Of 1987 To 1992.

It Wasn't Pretty.

It Tore A Lot Of Organizations Apart, The Incinerator Was Going To Cook Our Kids.

Gases Were Going To Come Out Of The Ground And We Were Going To Die.

There's A Playground There.

We Are On The Cutting Edge Of Technology, Not Just The United States But In The World.

I Know Lindsay Shared Some Of These Trips To Foreign Countries.

Gentlemen, We Are The Standard Setters For The Entire Country, Let Alone The World.

I Can't Matheny Of You Voting No On This Because Some Construction Site Will Have To Put A 96 Gallon Toter To Collect To Make Everybody Happy, They Are Already Recycling C And D.

My Wife Makes A Living Doing That, She Knows Where To Take The C And D.

And Knows When It Turn It Into Energy.

In General The Public Wants To Recycle.

The Ordinance Simply Ask Businesses Provide Employees With Programs That Offer The Opportunity For Employees To Recycle At A Very Cost Effective Rate, \$1.25 A Cubic Yard.

I Live In A Small Community, I Have \$300,000 Worth Of Trucks, Three Trucks A Week Come By My House, Pick Up My Horticulture, Recyclables And Solid Wastes, Three Times A Week, That Costs Me \$213 A Year.

Having Raised Four Kids, Pool Cleaner And Yard Service I Couldn't Get The Pizza Man To Do That For \$213 A Year.

They Are Wearing Uniforms Now.

Back In '88 They Didn't, And We Dumped It Where Ever We Wanted To Dump It.

In Closing, Do We Want To Be The Environmental Beacon That We Say We Are.

I Hope You Have Seen This, Particularly I Will Leave It So You Can Pass It Around.

Budget Cuts.

This Came Out Of The Department Of Solid Waste.

It Will Tell You If Every Homeowner In The County Uses This, They Would Know Everything About Solid Waste And Most Of Us Are Ignorant About Solid Waste, Especially, Unfortunately, Their Bottom Line Is Get It Built, Get It Out The Door.

Spent Half A Day On The Hill.

We Should Have Built The Three Burners The First Time, Politically Impossible But Now It's Not.

This Is Not A Hot Issue, I Came To The Solid Waste Assessment Hearing.

Not A Person In Lee County To The Best Of My Knowledge Spoke When The Budget Was Proposed Earlier This Spring Or Summer.

Are They Worried About Solid Waste Costs?  
I Think It's The Greatest Bargain.

We Will Take Everything You Got.

Let's Help The Department Out, Not To Neglect The Other Staff, I Know It Comes From The Head Down.

Solid Waste Department Thank You For A Good Job And Let's Pass This Recycling Ordinance.

Mike Welsh?  
Good Afternoon Commissioners.

For The Record My Name Is Mikele Welsh, Representing The Lee County Building Industry Association.

Mr. Wright Could Not Be With Us Today.

First Of All To Shock You We Are Enthusiastically Supportive About Implementing An Effective And User-Friendly And Streamlined System Of Recycling Of C And D Recycling Materials In Lee County.

We Are All In Agreement Of That.

Introducing A Massive Program Such As The One The Ordinance Lays Out, Companies That Comprise Our Industry We Are Asking You Take The Recommendation Of Your Executive Regulatory Over Site Committee That Met On July 11th And Had This Portion Of The Ordinance Sent Back For Further Development, Not For Nixxing But Further Development.

We Believe The System Is Outlined By The Ordinance As Cumbersome And Cannot Be Fully Implemented By January 1st Without The Necessary Infrastructure In Place, Some Of Which Are Providing For A Clear And Concise Listing In Lee County Ensuring Home And Construction Companies Will Have The Property Facilities At Their Disposal To Fully Implement The Ordinance Once Adopted.

Today We Only Have Anecdotal Information Concerning What Is And What Isn't Available In Lee County, We Need All Of The Facts.

Recycling Is A Community Endeavor And We Are In Perfect Agreement With The People Who Have Spoken Before Me.

It Only Works When The Interest And Synergy Comes From The Bottom Up Rather Than Forced Down Upon Them.

Sticks Don't Work Very Often.

Carrots Often Do.

All Of Us Want Genuine And Enthusiastic Compliance.

Onerous Fees And Record Keeping Almost Ensures Confusion That Ultimately Will Turn The

Deposits Into Yet Another Fee On An Industry That Is Already On Its Knees.

Our Proposal Is The Commission Send Section Five Of The Ordinance Back For Further Development.

As In The Past Our Industry Has Worked For Previous Commissions To Solve Difficult Problems.

I Believe Our Work Together With The Ad Hoc Committee That Helped The Community Come Together With Our Industry In Solving A Major And Complex Problem Was A Definite Plus For The People Of Lee County.

At The Very Least We Ask For The Establishment Of A Similar Working Group Made Of Industry, Working Government And Recycling Professionals To Work On An Infrastructure And User-Friendly System That Will Work For All Involved There By Doing Our Part, Helping Our Environment At The Same Time, We Urge You Accept The Recommendation And Send This Back For Further Development And Above All We Too Want To Ensure A Culture Of Recycling Here In Lee County.

Good Evening Mr. Chairman, My Name Is Ron Inge, I'm Here Representing The Horizon Council Of Lee County.

Appreciate The Opportunity To Speak Before You This Evening.

The Horizon Council Supports The Laudable Goal Of Recycling.

Our Concern Is With The Educational Efforts We May Need And The Timing Of Going Forward With The Program.

I Personally Have Been Involved In Organizations For 20 Years In Lee County And I Haven't Heard One Presentation About Recycling Issues, Maybe That's The Fault Of Our Organization For Not Having Sought That Out.

That's Probably Available As Mr. Samson Talked About, I Think More Of An Educational Effort Needs To Be Made, That Carrot As Mike Spoke Of A Minute Ago.

We Recommend There Be Sufficient Time For Businesses To Get Oriented.

The Example Of Collier County.

I Understand They Worked With The Chambers Of Commerce, I'm Not Sure If The County Was Involved Or Simply Let The Chamber Of Commerce And Other Organizations Take Care Of Themselves.

We Think It Could Be A Joint Effort And Could Start With The Rising Council That Has A Number Of Member Organizations To Get The Message To.

We Would Like To Support And Assist In That Regard, Not Sure If Collier County Gave The Opportunity To Help Craft Changes To Possible Unworkable Situations, There Is Some

Concern How You Will Implement The Construction Demolition Debris Aspects, There Are Four Or Five Products.

You Certainly Grappled With An Agonizing Decision Over Disposal Recently, But For Instance, Roofing Shingles, I'm Not Sure Where You Take Though, Don't Have Any Idea Where You Recycle, Drywall, Check With Members Of The Industry, Who Might Utilize Damaged Drywall.

Wood A Possibility But They Don't Know Where Those Facilities Are.

Concrete, On Alico Road, You Get Charged To Take It There.

We Prefer The County Spend Energy And Time Educating The Business Community, Working With The Business Community On Changes To Make It Workable And Go Forward In That Regard, We Are Not Opposed To Recycling, We Think It's A Wonderful Idea And We Would Like To Volunteer On Behalf Of The Infrastructure To Assist In Any Efforts To Either Bring Those Educational Efforts Toward Our Members And Participate In Any Committees You May Have Empanelled In That Regard.

Thank You.

Ben (Inaudible)  
My Name Is Keith.

For The Past Six Years I've Been In The Solid Waste And Recycling Business In Lee County And Worked With The Solid Waste Division Throughout That Time.

I Believe The Time Has Come That We Need To Move Forward And Implement The Ordinance.

I've Had The Opportunity To Review This Proposed Ordinance And I'm Of The Opinion This Ordinance Has Been Extremely Well Reviewed And Thought Out.

I Have Placed Myself In The Position Of The Business, Of The Hauler, And Of The Solid Waste Division And Found To Be Very Sound For Every Party That's Involved.

Anyone Can Go To The Waste Energy Facility And Watch As The Commercial Trucks Dump Their Loads On The Tipping Floor, If Not You Would Be A Amazed To See How Much Comes Out Of Those Loads, Yet Lee County Continues To Grow And We Are Looking At Capacity And Other Disposal Alternatives.

I Believe A Significant Part Of The Answer Is Before You And Make Mandatory What Should Be Common Sense.

After Hearing Comments From The Other Speakers, Mr. Samson, I Was A Hauler That Hauled The Construction Demolition Wastes From Laguna Lakes.

We Recycled All The Concrete And Provided Separate Dumpsters.

If The Case Is True To The 50% We Exceeded That Just On That Job Site Alone.

It Was A Fast Track Job Side And Built 600 Units In Roughly 18-20 Months.

Just To Show You, It Can Be Done, Before This Ordinance Was Ever Discussed Or Talked About And I Think It Was Successful.

Economic Incentives For Other Businesses, We Are Talking About The Carrot Versus Stick Approach, No Economic Incentive From The Hauler.

From The Hauler's Standpoint It Doesn't Make Economic Sense Or Incentive For Us To Promote It, Yet It's The Right Thing To Do.

The Businesses, Their Economic Incentive Is To Reduce The Cost Of Their Garbage.

Thank You.

Thank You, Very Much.

That Concludes All The Cards I Have, Is There Anyone Else Who Wishes To Speak On That Subject?

You Got To Wave Your Hand So I Can See.

There Appears To Be Nobody Else.

I Will Close The Public Hearing.

If We Can Ask Lindsay To Step Forward, Ron Inge Mentioned Some, I Think Important Issues, With Regards To Sites To Dispose Materials That Could Be Considered Recyclable, The Shingles, The Drywall.

In The Ordinance It Indicated If No Such Facility Is Available It Would Be Considered A Hardship And The Imposition Would Not Be Placed On The Construction Contractor.

We Need To Have You Expand The Sites That Could Take Those Materials.

The Question Often Comes Up About The Horse And The Cart.

I Would Certainly Say That Businesses In General Don't Want Government To Come In And Educate Them On How To Run Their Business.

Anyone That Can Run And Operate A Business And Be Viable Can Certainly Determine If It Costs \$1.30 To Haul Recyclables Or \$8 To Haul Garbage Which Item Would Be Better For His Business Bottom Line.

With Regards To C & D.

I Don't Disagree There May Be Certain Gaps With Regards To Opportunities For Recycling But I Want To Mention The Keyword Here Is Opportunities.

There Was A Roofing Company That Recycled Asphalt Shingle Roof Material.

Thousands And Thousands And Thousands Of Tons.

That Can Be Set Up.

That Can Be Done.

This Ordinance Provides An Opportunity For Someone To Do That.

The Same Is True For Any Other Number Of Materials Off Construction Sites And This Ordinance Will Provide Those Opportunities.

From A Time Period Also Mentioned By One Of The Speakers, This Ordinance Doesn't Become Effective Until January 1st 2008.

There's Also Leeway To Grant Certain Hardships After That Time.

And I Do Believe In Implementing This Ordinance At This Point In Time, Adopting It Without, The Effective Date To Be January 1st, Four Months From Now And The Provisions For Certain Considerations, Particularly To The C & D Business After That Time Safeguards Are Built In That Opportunities Will Be Grabbed.

Will Be Developed By Businesses Within The Four Months Between Now And January 8th.

Regarding, We Are Available.

If I Need Something, When I'm Sitting In The Office And I Need To Buy Something, I Open The Phone Book, Get On The Internet, Where Do I Find This.

Businesses Can Do The Same Thing.

If They Want To Know How To Recycle, What Makes Sense, They Can Call Somebody, They Can Call Us, We Can Provide Information.

Look At Their Waste Stream And Say There's A Lot Of Cardboard In This Waste Stream, Why Are We Putting It In The Same Dumpster For? These Aren't Difficult Tasks.

They Go Through The Bottom Line And I Think Businesses Are In A Great Position.

I Appreciate You Levering On The Response.

I Just Want To Make Abundantly Clear There's A Safety Valve In The Ordinance.

If Those Opportunities Don't Present Themselves, If The Recycling Reuse Facility Is Not Available The Construction Contractor Can Claim A Hardship.

Also I Don't Understand The Stick Approach.

I See Nothing But Carrots In This Ordinance.

I See An Extremely Innovative Approach To Take The Best That's Out There To Help Promote And Support Recycling Efforts.

The Construction Fee Is Refundable, If There's A Demonstration Easy Enough Accomplished To Show Materials Had Been Recycled.

The Differential Between The Fee For Recycling Waste Versus Disposing Of It Is Class I Trash Is Incredible Differential.

It Really Amazes Me Businesses Aren't Taking Advantage Of That Opportunity.

I Can See This As A Tremendous Carrot-Based Approach.

That It's Time Has Come.

And The Bottom Line Is What We Need To Recognize After The Painful Discussions About Long Term Planning, About Solid Waste Program That The Best Thing We Could Concentrate On Was Depreciate, Because The Long Term Cost And Pain And Suffering To The Community Both Socially And Economically.

I Hope Board Recognizes Staff Has Put A Lot Of Effort To Make Sure Everyone Is On Board As Part Of The Solution.

Any Further Comments?

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Yes, Commissioner Mann?

What Input Did The Building Industry Have In The Development Of This?

They Are Expressing Problem They Would Like More Time For Input, What Was The Dialogue Between You Guys And Them As This Ordinance Or This Draft Came Together? There Was No Direct Input During The Construction Of The Ordinance.

The Only Direct Dialogue We Had Was During About A Three-Hour Meeting With The Eroq Committee.

But That's The Committee That Asked To Review This Section Five --  
Let Me Also Clarify.

I Have An Environmental Specialist Dedicated To Nothing But Recycling.

He Has Been With Our Department Since The Year 2000.

Prior To That We Had Another Person, The Person That I Have Now Came Directly From The Garbage And Recycling Collection Industry.

He Had Previous 12-15 Years Experience As A Garbage Collector, Supervisor, Safety Coordinator For The Waste Business He Worked For.

During The Last Seven Years He Has Made It A Point To Meet With Individually Businesses Including Construction Sites, But Primarily Everyday Businesses.

He Deals With Businesses, He Looks At Their Waste, Advises And Finds Out How Best They Can Handle And Recycle Their Waste.

They Have Had Input For Years And Years.

I Appreciate That, But Let Me Interrupt You, As A For Instance I'm Looking At Page 30 Of Part 5 And I See We Won't Be Requiring People To Participate In This If They Are In A New Residential Construction Project Less Than \$150,000.

That's Not Many Houses, Most Of Them Are Still Averaging \$200,000 Or Better.

\$300,000 Last Year This Time.

The Little Houses Will Fallout And Won't Be Required But Then I Look At Part E, Residential Alterations Less Than \$500,000.

My Goodness Sakes.

You Can't Change A Bathtub Out In A Bathroom For \$5,000 Anymore, Why Would You Exempt A Whole House At \$150,000 And Make Them Participate At \$5,000?

We Also Exempted Projects That Would Be Simply A Plumbing Job, An Electric Job, An Air-Conditioning Job.

You Can Do A \$5,000 Plumbing Job In A Bathroom Real Quick.

Those Are All Exempt.

A \$10,000 Or \$20,000 Plumbing Job Would Be Exempt.

Why Does It Say Residential Alteration -- Does It Say A Plumbing Job Up To Some Amount?

Where Am I?

No, It Says If A Permit Is Required Strictly For A Plumbing Job Or Electrical Job Or Strictly For An Hvac Job, Then Those Are Exempt.

If You Get In The Bathroom And Ripped Out The Tub And Probably Some Wiring Too -- Why Wouldn't It Be Did 25,000 Instead Of \$50,000?

My Question Is What Was The Dialogue Here And These Guys Are Asking For A Little More Input, The Eroq Committee Suggested A Little More Input Would Be Appropriate.

The Effective Date On This Calls For January 1st, I'm Wondering Why We Can't Have One More Month On Section Five Alone To See If Some Of This Could Be Smoothed Out A Little Bit But Let Me Send This Message While I'm Saying That, I'm Totally Supportive Where We

Are Headed But There Could Be More Work.

And A Time When The Building Industry Truly Is, I Heard The Expression, On Its Knees.

You Are Going To Read In Tomorrow's Papers About A Large Company Around Here Laying Off Another 1,000 Employees.

This Is Really Serious Stuff.

I'm Hearing Him Say They Want To Participate And Want To Be Part Of The Solution, Not A Part Of The Problem.

We Have Never Done This Before, It Seems Like Buying A Month And Giving More Dialogue, We Still Have Plenty Of Time To Have This In Effect By January 1st.

That's Where I'm Headed, Folks.

But If We Can't Come To Some Resolution In A Month, Folks I Will Take It The Way It Is, But I Bet We Could Improve On This.

I'm Not Jeopardizing Anything About This Being In Effect By January 1st But We May Have Something That Functions More Smoothly When We Hit The Ground With It.

I Understand.

I Do Want To Remind The Board That Again The Fees Are Refundable.

I Understand That.

I Understand That.

But That Was My First Question Was About That And It Will Be A Little Cumbersome Until We Get On That Process, The Whole Refunding Mechanism.

We Can Make This More Manageable, Efficient, Easier For The Industry To Understand And I'm Not Asking You To Sacrifice One Day In The Implementation Date Here But To Make This A Little Easier For The Implementation By A Little Broader Dialogue By The Industry.

I Just Wanted To Say As Far As I'm Concerned That First Of All I've Heard Absolutely No Objections Nor Has Anyone Commented Against Apartment Houses And Family Dwellings, That's One Of The Big Comments I Hear All Over, Why Won't The Apartment Houses, Why Won't They Participate?

And To Me That Makes Perfect Sense, So As Far As I'm Concerned I Have No Problem With That Portion Of The Ordinance But I Also Want To Indicate That It Seems To Me If We Can Use As Much Time As Possible, Now We Have Four Months Before It Takes Effect Which Means We Can Get Out Educational Program To Try To Help Out People And Understand How It Works And What Could Be Done And That To Me Makes Some Kind Of Sense.

I Would Hate To Have This Thing Adopted December 24th And Have It Go January 1.

If We Delay This We Delay It Beyond January 1.

What I Would Like To Ask Lindsay Is If They Are Contemplating Or Somebody Else.

Lindsay Are You Contemplating Any Kind Of Public Information Campaign If We Were To Adopt This Ordinance?

Commissioners, Yes, We Have Intended And Planned That All Along.

But Again, I Would Mention That With Respect To Some Comments Here, The Continuation Of This Item Perhaps To Another Public Hearing To Provide To You Some Of The Information Regarding Such Promotions And Education To Provide Us An Opportunity To Sit Down With The B.I.A. We Have No Problem With That.

Let Me Ask You This, Is There A Need For Another Hearing On This, David?

Scott, Assistant County Attorney.

If The Board Desires To Continue The Item Until Another Day, We Will Just Continue It To That Date, Whether It's 30, 60, 90 Days And We Can Make Adjustments As Far As The Effective Date, Instead Of January 1st 2008, We Can Adjust It To Whatever The Board Desires.

Mr. Chairman, Where I'm Headed On This, I Don't Know It's Necessary, My Hope Is It Wouldn't Be Necessary To Extend The Implementing Date, I Think Still With The January 1st.

If We Could Continue This One Month For The Sole Purpose Of Reviewing Section Five, Alone, For Possible Updating Alterations, Perfections And Then Come Back With It And Leave Everything Else Exactly As It Is, Including The Implementation And We Would Continue This, Pick It Up And We Will Pass Something, I Will Be Supporting Whatever We Have In Front Of Us That Staff Brings Us You But I Would Like To Do It After That Additional Input.

I Would Have To Agree With Mr. Bush, That Recycling Is A No-Brainer With The Goal We Should Be Striving For, So I Applaud What We Were Trying To Do Here As A Goal.

The More I'm Thinking About This Though, This Is Not Just A Carrot Potentially For Some Businesses It Could Be A Billy Club Because The Smaller You Are The Harder It Is To Make This Work To The Advantage Of Your Business.

Grocery Stores Recycles Grocery Store As A Bottom Line Effort Because They Can Package It, They Buy A Compressor And They Have It Wrapped Up And It's Sold To A Recycler.

It Will Be Easy For Them To Conform.

Not A Problem.

For The Mom And Pop Who Has A Little Bit Of Cardboard And Has Garbage Cans Out Front, You Know, It Just Seems Like That Will Be So Much More Onerous.

The Multi-Family, I Think I'm Agreeing, I Think You Have To Somehow Require The Facilities Provide An Opportunity For The Residents To Recycle.

Short Of That Opportunity To Take It Someplace In The Parking Lot, Bigger Residents Can't Recycle Or Have That Peer Pressure.

Self Inducement Of Sorts.

C & D.

I Hear A Lot Of Problems With This One, This One I Think Of The Three That Needs The Greatest Amount Of Work, I Would Like Us To Try To Consider Some Kind Of Incentive Program.

An Idea That Came To Me As I'm Sitting Here, Maybe We Can Refund To A Builder The Cost Of Their Dumpster If They Agree They Will Pay The Tipping Fee At A Sorting Facility Where The Majority Of The Material Is To Be Recycled.

Again It's The Money Up Front Versus Down The Road Where We Have To Site A New Burn Facility Which Is Something I Think We Already Have To Do Anyway, We Could Save Some Money In Future Years With A Little Investment Today I Think We Are Better Off For It.

I Agree This Needs More Time.

I'm Thinking A Month Probably Isn't Going To Do It.

But I Will Wish Along With You.

I'm Just Really Concerned About The Little Folks And The People That Are On Their Knees As Demonstrated By The Building Industry.

Lindsay?

Businesses On Minimum Level Service, Two Garbage Cans A Week Are Exempt From This Ordinance.

Little Mom And Pop?

Very Good.

We May Be Able To Come Up With An Incentive Program If They Recycle Some We May Be Able To Find A Way To Help Them.

We May Fund Their Assessment.

One Last Problem Mr. Chairman.

I Don't Want To Beat This, We Have People Who Want To Talk On Other Issues.

I Think This Could Be Down On One Four Hour Meeting In A Morning, Just Kick A Few Ideas

Around, Particularly If They Know This Board Is Intending On Adopting This Thing.

My Motion Is To Bring This Back In One Month, Whatever Particular Date That Would Be For The Purpose Of Allowing Industry And Staff Study On Section 5, Alone.

And Bring This Back As Soon As We Can Whatever That Date Would Be.

I Wouldn't Want To Commit To Any Particular Or Specified Date But When Staff And Industry Has Had An Opportunity To Get Together.

I Want To Keep The Heat On.

I Don't Want This To Start To Ooze Out, Our Normal Tuesday 5:00 Hearings In September.

The 25th.

I Would Include That In My Motion, Then Mr. Chairman.

Can We Defer To September 25th?

Is There A Second?

I'm Going To Say There Is No Second, Commissioner.

Move To Adopt The Ordinance.

There's A Motion By Commissioner Judah To Adopt The Ordinance, Is There A Second?

Is There A Second?

There Doesn't Appear To Be A Second.

That Motion Fails, Commissioner.

I'll Try One.

I'll Move To Adopt It With The -- Only Applicable To The Multi-Family Businesses Or Developments.

Is There A Second?

There's No Second So Apparently That One Dies.

We Will Have A Full Board When?

Next Week.

No You Won't.

Why Won't We?

You Will Have Four.

When Will We Have A Full Board?

Move To Defer To September 11th To 5:00 Public Hearing.

You Heard The Motion.

Is There A Second?  
I Will Second That.

Second By Commissioner Mann.

Further Discussion?  
Took The Words Out Of My Mouth.

I'm Perfectly Comfortable With That.

I'm Assuming Staff Will Be Happy --  
We Are Amending The Motion.

The Seconder Agrees.

Further Discussion?  
I Think In The Spirit Of Going Along, I'll Go Along.

All In Favor?  
Opposed?  
The Aye's Have It, The Motion Is Deferred Until The September 11th Meeting At 5:00.

Thank You Very Much.

Defer Or Continue?  
Continue.

The Same Thing.

Okay.

The Next Item, We Are Done With The Agenda Items, We Now Have Several Other Items,  
Jim English.

Jim?  
Downstream Property In Lee County, I Would Like To Read This Letter Into The Record, I  
Would Like For You All To Consider The Letter To The Full Commission.

I Addressed It To Commissioner Judah Because I Had A Meeting With Him And Some Of  
The Staff Earlier And I Wanted To Discuss It To That Point And I Thought It Would Be More  
Proper To Do It This Way.

The Letter Says Dear Commissioner Judah, As You Can Easily Determine The County's  
Comments Were Forwarded To Monica J. Day Of The U.S. Army Corps Engineer On July 6th  
2007 At 4:23 P.M. By Sam Lee Natural Resources Division.

It Appears These Comments Were Provided To The South Florida Water Management

District And Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council And They Had An Earlier Date Which I Cannot Determine From The Information I Have Received To Date.

As Mentioned In The Memo, And I Referenced The Memo, I Just Didn't Read The Reference.

Lee County Comment Regarding Adverse Effects This Project Will Have On The Purchase From Babcock.

This Request Was Not Acted Upon Or Granted.

This Course Of Action If Not Corrected, Considerable Risk To Damage To Property Due To Flooding And Loss Of Use Of The Property For Extended Periods Of Time While It Is Under Water.

I Discussed This With Parks And Army Corps Of Engineer Yesterday And They Assured Me For The Time Being The Comment Period Is Still Open.

I Respectfully Request That Lee County Make Further Comment To The Three Regulatory Agencies Mentioned In Paragraph One Above With Particular Emphasis On The Structure Including A Dike Across Telegraph Cypress Swamp, In Charlotte County.

It's Flow From Telegraph Creek To Cypress, Hall And Picture Creek In Lee County And Adverse Effect Of The Diverted Flow On The Depth And Duration Of Flood Flows On The Lands Recently Purchased By Lee County From The Babcock Ranch.

With Copies To Bob James,  
Brian Bigelow, Tammy Hall And  
Frank Mann.

Thank You Very Much.

Thank You.

Thank You Very Much.

Can We Maybe Discuss This A Little Or Are We Going To Take Public Input Further?  
I Don't Know If Anybody Wants To Speak On It Other Than Jim English?  
If You Want To Make A Comment --  
No, No.

I'll Wait.

I'm Going To Move On To Another Subject.

Now Is The Time If You'd Like To.

I Don't Want To Hold Up The Citizens That Are Here To Speak.

They Have Been Waiting.

O.K.

The Next Is A Group Of People Which Heard Or Received A Communication From The Florida Council Of The Blind That Would Like To Make A Presentation To Speak.

First I'm Going To Call On Joyce Thornton Who's The Vip -- Vice President -- Can You Assist Her -- We're Visually-Impaired -- To Get Her To The Microphone, Please? All Right.

There You Go.

Thank You, Gentlemen For Allowing Us To Speak To You Today.

I'd Like To Start With A Story That Might Bring My Point Home.

There Was A House On Fire And A Polish Lady Called The Fire Department And Asked If They Would Come Help Her Get The Fire Out Of Her House.

They Said, How Do We Get There?

She Said, Don't You Still Have Those Little Red Trucks With The Flashing Lights?

How Do We Get There Is The Question That Most Visually-Impaired People In The County Ask Every Day.

When They Are Asked To Go To A Meeting, Asked To Go To Work, When They Have To Go To A Party.

My Goal In Life Is To Try To Bring Visually-Impaired Citizens In Lee County To Be An Integral Part Of The Community, Not To Sit Home Because They Can't Get Transportation.

Not To Have To Keep Asking Friends For Their Generosity Of Travel.

Since 1993, We Have Had The Ada Transportation.

It Is Not The Worst In The County, In The State, But It Certainly Is Not The Best.

It Has Come To Our Attention That It's Become Untenable.

I Work For The Va.

There Isn't A Day In My Office I Don't Hear A Complaint Or Somebody Not Being Able To Get Where They Need To Go Because Of Transportation Problems.

The Transportation Para-Transit System Hasn't Advanced Since 1993.

The Ada States That If You Have A Fixed Route System, You May Stay Within The Three-Quarter Mile Corridor.

If You Live Outside That, You May Not Get Transportation.

You Might Get Transportation From Transportation Disadvantage Which Is A State Program, However It Limits You To Medical Only.

There Have Been A Lot Of Movements And More People Coming Into Lee County Since 1993.

Everybody Cannot Be In The Three-Quarter Mile Corridor.

The Discrepancy Is If Lee-Tran Eliminates A Route And The Person Was In The Three-Quarter-Mile Area And That Lee-Tran Route Is Eliminated, Then The Para-Transit Is Eliminated Also, Which Happened To A Totally Blind, Handicapped Man Living On Mcgregor Who Was On The Three-Quarter-Mile Route.

They Eliminated The Route.

He's No Longer Eligible For Para Transit.

His Wife Is Handicapped And I Don't Know How Much Longer She Can Drive.

He's Out Of The Transportation Loop And Has To Stay Home Or Find Somebody To Drive Him.

The Situation Has Become Rather Untenable.

We Have Talked To Lee County As A Group.

We Have Gotten Very Little Response.

We Have Recertification Problems.

I Myself Traveled Across College Parkway Until Two Years Ago To Get Lee-Tran Because I Was Trying To Get Other People That Needed The Para Transit More Until I Was Hit By A Car.

I Have Been Discouraged From Crossing The Streets.

I Have People Here From The V.I.P.

Center, From The Lions Club Fort Myers Beach Lion Club Representing The Florida Council Of The Blind And Several Others That Want To Speak.

So I Don't Delay You.

We Have Before You With A Proposal.

We Realize These Things Cannot Happen In A Day And They Can't Happen In A Month.

We Would Like A Voice On The Transportation Board And We Would Like A Voice At Dot.

The Audible Street Lights We Have In Lee County Aren't Adequate.

I Was Crossing 41 One Day.

The Little Bird Was On The Street Light But It Was A Real Bird And I Thought It Was A Cardinal Allowing Me To Go Across 41.

I Got Trapped On 41.

That Is Not Fun.

I Was Told By Dot When I Suggested Another Type Of Signal That This Was The Only Standard Signal In The Country.

That Is Not True.

Tallahassee Has Talking Lights That Say "This Is State Street, The Light Is Green." Tomorrow, You May Not Be Able To Drive.

Your Friends May Not Be Able To Drive.

People Who Are Driving Right Now May Not Be Able To Drive Next Week, Next Year.

We Are Concerned About All Citizens With Diseases, With Eye Problems.

Eye Problems Aren't Going Away.

So I Will Defer To My Colleagues Waiting To Speak To You About The Various Issues And We Have Come To You To Have A Voice In Transportation Problems In Lee County.

Thank You Very Much.

Thank You, Ms.

Thornton.

Thank You.

Next We'll Call On Larry Newman Followed By Ted Clifton.

We May --

I Think The Dog --

Don, If You Will Stay Back There And Just Help -- Just Help Larry Newman Up.

Don Maybe?

How About Ted Clifton?

Can I See The Card For The Woman That Just Spoke?

Good Evening.

I'm With The Florida Council For The Blind.

I Lost Most Of My Vision About Six Years Ago.

It's Quite An Awakening When You Have To Give Up Your Car In Lee County.

It's Difficult To Get Around As You Might Imagine.

Fixed Route Bus Transportation, The Good Wheels And The Transportation Disadvantage Programs That Joyce Talked About Or Relying On Friends Are The Only Options.

I'm Young And Healthy Enough And Like To Walk.

Walking Is Risky And Difficult For Someone With A Visual Impairment.

I Would Just Like To Echo What Joyce Says.

People With Vision Problems Are Still Participants In The Community To Go To The Grocery Store, They Go To Church, Out To Eat.

Many Still Work.

Anything You Can Do To Make Transportation Safer, More Reliable And More Available To Us Would Be Greatly Appreciated.

I Would Like To Add Briefly What Joyce Said About The Lee County Department Of Transportation.

They Do Work Very Well With Individuals To Make Our Individual Walking Pedestrian Safety Safer.

They Will Work To Put In The Audible Crossing Alarms.

They Will Refresh Street Markings.

They Will Work With Family And Individuals.

There Is A Fairly Long Lead Time Involved With That, But It Is A Program That's Working.

The Other Thing I Would Like To Ask Commissioners To Consider Is For Us And For All Citizens, Conflicts Between Automobiles And Pedestrians Are Very Dangerous.

Enforcement Is A Real Issue.

I'm Sure Each Of You See This On Your Daily Drives -- People Running Red Lights, People Supposed To Make Permissive Right Turns Not Coming To A Complete Stop.

What Joyce Failed To Tell You When She Told You She Was Hit On College Parkway Is She And Her Dog Have Been Hit Twice Since Then.

Much Of That Is Just Due To People Not Paying Attention.

Much Of It Is Due To People Not Following Traffic Regulations.

If The Commissioners Could Work With The Sheriff's Department When Their Budget Comes Up To Make Traffic Enforcement A Bigger Part Of What The Sheriff's Department Is Able To Do, That Would Benefit All The Citizens Of Lee County, Not Just Us.

It Would Be Of Special Benefit To Us.

Thank You For Your Consideration.

Thank You Very Much.

Ted Clifton Followed By Leo Bonamie.

Good Evening.

For The Record My Name Is Ted Clifton, I'm Vice President Of The Fort Myers Beach Lions.

The First Item Is A Letter From A County Citizen Named Joe Anne King Who Couldn't Be Here Because Of The Transportation Situation.

My Husband And I Are Blind And We Came To Cape Coral In 1973.

In 1991, We Looked For A Quieter Neighborhood Because Of The Traffic Noise And Debris.

We Moved To A Very Quiet Neighborhood, However, We Have No Transportation.

We Would Like To Move Back Into Cape Coral And A Quiet Neighborhood, However There Isn't Any Transportation Except For Transportation Disadvantage Which Is Unreliable.

According To The Ada Transportation Is Required Within A Minimum Three-Quarter Mile From A Fixed Route.

I Would Like To Ask That The Minimum Be Expanded To Two Miles From A Fixed Route System.

We, The Blind Community, Are Willing To Be Charged Double For The Additional Miles.

Doing It Will Give Almost Full Coverage In The Cape.

Because Of Cab Fares, It's Out Of The Question For Most.

Living In This Area Is Unfair To Blind Individuals Exposed To Noise And Traffic Instead Of An Area Where We Can Inebb Joy The Sound Of Birds, Wind And Peace Instead Of Noise,

Sirens And Traffic.

Our Eyes Are Our Eyes.

If We Can't Hear Our Lives Are At Risk.

Please Consider My Proposal.

Thank You For Your Time.

As Vice President Of The Fort Myers Beach Lions, There Are Seven Organizations In Lee County.

Those Seven Clubs Have 17 Visually-Impaired Members Who Have To Rely On Friends, Family Or Other Members For Their Transportation Because Most Of Our Meetings Are During The Evening.

They Do Not End By 8:00 And They Have No Transportation To Get Home At That Point.

Many Other Service Clubs In The County Have The Same Situation With Evening Meetings And The Current Transportation Problem Is Limiting A Lot Of The Volunteering That Could Be Done By Visually-Impaired Members Of Lee County.

Thank You.

Thank You Very Much.

Leo Bonnamie Followed By Frank Reilly.

My Name Is Leo Bonnamie.

I'm Retired.

I'm 84 Years Old.

I'm Visually-Impaired, Hearing-Impaired And I'm Enjoying Fort Myers Beach.

I Am Enjoying It Because You People Have Wonderful Weather Here And You Provide A Lot Of Things That Are Necessary For The Blind Community To Live And Exist.

You Remember The Old Story -- Many Of You -- About One Of Our Famous Politicians Saying, Don't Give Them Food.

Teach Them How To Fish.

The Blind Community Is Trying To Exist And They Can't Exist When They Can't Move From One Place To Another.

I Come Out Of Michigan.

Michigan Ada System Is Called "Smart." It Covers Not Only The One County, But The Counties Cooperate With One Another In Providing Transportation From A County To B County By Using A Common Meeting Place.

We Don't Have That Here In Florida.

You Know The Boundaries Of Lee County And How Helpful It Would Be If There Was This Kind Of Transportation To Help In This Case Veterans Getting To The Veteran Building Down Here In Fort Myers.

It Isn't That We're Trying To Complain About The Lee Transport System.

It Has Real Bumps In It.

But It Has Real Assets To It.

Any Blind Person That Can't Get Out Of The House And Move Around Again Is Better Than He Was Last Time.

And You've Provided It For Many Of Us.

I'm One That's Used The Good Wheels And Passports.

With That Comes Two Horror Stories.

I Know Horror Stories Are Not A Good Thing To Take And Bring Up, But Picture Yourself Being A Person Who Is Limited To Angel Flight From West Palm Beach To Pagefield.

The Plane Arrives At 11:00 A.M.

And There's No Transportation Available Even Though It Was Ordered In The Proper Time, Place, Et Cetera.

Every Half Hour, That Blind Person Or Pagefield Person Called For Assistance And I'm In Trouble, I Think, Because I Think There Is A Light Blinking Here.

It Took Six And A Half Hours And A Cab Did The Job, Not Lee Transport.

Now We Can Say That -- That's One.

Two Weeks Ago, My Wife Was In West Palm Beach -- Excuse Me -- Southwest Florida.

My Transportation And I Needed To Get Her Back Home.

I Called Appropriately To Lee Transport And They Did Not Do It.

On The Way Home, The Driver Did Tell Me That The One That Was Assigned To Us In The Morning Was Over In Cape Coral And Would Be Available In An Hour And A Half.

That's With My Wife, The Nurse, And I Being At West Palm Beach Visitors Lobby.

What We're Not -- We're Not Trying To Criticize The System.

It Just Needs A Band-Aid Here Or There.

As Joyce Has Requested, Some Way That The Blind Community Can Be A Member Of The Transportation Thing, To Help To Try And Put A Stop To Some Of These Unusual Things.

Thank You.

I Hope You Take And Make A -- Well, You Will Make The Right Decision.

Amen.

Thank You, Sir.

Frank Reilly?

Don?

Thank You, Ron.

Good Evening, Mr. Reilly.

My Name Is Frank Reilly From Cape Coral.

I'm 100% Disabled, Service-Connected Veteran.

I Originally Lived In New Jersey.

I'm A Widower Now.

We Owned A Home Here, So I Decided To Come Down To Paradise To Find Out I Was In Hell For Transportation.

I Live About 1.3 Miles From One Of Your Fixed Bus Routes.

Now Here I Am Blind.

I Do Have A Dog, But She Decided Not To Come Because There Weren't Any Male Dogs Around.

[Laughter]

She Likes To Fool Around.

Anyway -- [Laughter]

-- Picture Me Walking Down A Street That Has No Sidewalks, Looks Nice To Everybody Else.

Has No Sidewalks.

The Mcadam's Hard.

It's 97 Degrees.

The Humidity Is 93.

I'm Going To Walk A Mile And A Quarter?  
I'll Be 70 In Two Months.

If I Live Two Months Walking That Far.

You Have A Limit On Them That Says Three-Quarters Of A Mile, But Good Politicians Made The Ada.

They Used The Carat And Said "May" And "Should", Not "Shall" And "May Not.".

That Means There Is Flexibility In It.

You Read The Rules And Went By That, But It Says "May." Three-Quarters Of A Mile Is Ridiculous.

I Used To Be On The Board Of Education In New Jersey For 13 Years.

If Kids Wanted To Be Bussed We Had A One-Mile Limit, But If There Were Situations Of No Sidewalks, Main Streets, That Was Dropped.

We Picked Them Up.

I Don't Understand This -- Even If I Did -- Weren't Able To Be Picked Up By The System You Have, I Wouldn't Be Able To Get Home Now Because They Stop Running.

You Know, I Have To Use Words From A Song.

If God Were One Of You, What Would You Do?  
You Have The Ability To Be That God.

You Can Change That "May" By Pushing It Maybe Two Miles.

Maybe A Mile And A Half.

You Don't Have To Stick With That Limit.

And I'm Going To Blame You For My Fat Stomach Because I'm A Couch Potato Now.

So I Don't Have The Ability To Get Around And I Love To Get Around.

That's Why I Have A Dog.

But She Doesn't Know The Way To The Bus Stop.

I Have To Tell Her The Way.

O.K.?

Thank You For Your Time.

Thank You, Mr. Reilly.

It's Amazing The Adversity You're Dealing With, You Maintain A Wonderful Sense Of Humor.

We Thank You For Your Time.

Lois Gillgore?

Good Evening, Ma'am.

I Am Short.

Thank You Very Much For Having Us This Evening.

We Appreciate Your Time.

Several Years Ago --

Ma'am, I Apologize.

Is It Gillgore?

Kilgore.

Thank You.

Several Years Ago When I Went To College, I Did A Composition On -- And Researched The Statistics On Blindness And How It Affects.

It Was Anticipated Six Years Ago That By The Year 2010, One Out Of Every Four People In America Will Either Be Visually-Impaired Or Know Of Someone Within Their Family Unit Who Is.

That Means That In Sitting Here, One Out Of Every Four Of Us Standing Here Might Be Visually-Impaired.

There Are Quite A Few Of Us Here That Are.

So Your Statistics Just Went Up A Little Bit.

What I'm Trying To Say Though Is The Problem Is Not Going To Go Away.

We Are Growing Down Here By Leaps And Bounds.

I'm Not Complaining About The Lee-Tran System.

Not At All.

I'm Very Grateful For It.

I Drove -- I Was Able To Drive From Pennsylvania Down Here Although I Was Visually-Impaired In Pennsylvania, They Allowed Me To Drive.

I Got Down Here And Found Out I Couldn't Drive.

Had I Known That, I Probably Would Have Stayed In Pennsylvania.

But I Love It Down Here.

And The People That Are Down Here And The People Within The Visually-Impaired Community All Are Vital People That Are Trying To Live.

They Are Not Asking For Entitlements.

We Are Asking Only For An Even Playing Field So That We Can Contribute And We Can Be Part Of Lee County And What I'm Asking Is I'm A Worker.

Passport Does Need To Be Monitored To Some Extent.

I Ran Into A Situation Two Weeks Ago.

I'm Scheduled In There On A Regular Schedule And It's Known That I'm In A Job Situation.

I Had A Driver Come In And Ask Me -- Tell Me That I Had To Leave A Half Hour Before Work Was Finished.

You Do That In A Workplace, You're Not Going To Be Hired Very Long, Are You? Most Of Us That Use The System Are Dealing With That On A Regular Basis.

Please Consider Where We Can Help.

Put Us Wherever We Can Be Of Service, Helping To Keep Things Straight And Keep Things Going In A Fair Way.

Thank You Very Much For Your Time.

Thank You, Ma'am.

I Believe Doug Fo --  
Fowler.

I Apologize.

Good Evening, Mr. Fowler.

Good Evening.

I'm The New Director Of The Visually-Impaired Center Of Southwest Florida In North Fort Myers.

I'm Speaking On Behalf Of Being In Lee County And Southwest Florida For The Last 15 Years.

My Career Here Has Been Working With People With Various Disabilities.

I Was Able To Help People From The Hurricanes And Brought In Millions Of Dollars Of Support And Aid For People To Lee County, Including All Disabilities.

Transportation Is A Problem.

It's A Problem State-Wide For Anyone With Any Disability.

My Encouragement To You Is That To Encourage Those In Charge Of The Transportation To Have Representation Of The Various Disabilities -- Not Just The Blind.

There Is The Deaf.

There Is The Physically-Handicapped, Developmentally-Disabled.

All Of Which Are Trying To Be Productive Members Of Society.

Where I Work, Where I Am In Charge Of, Three-Fourths Of My Staff Are Visually Or Physically Impaired.

I Depend On Them Getting To Work In A Bus System.

Do I Have To Flex And Work Around Everything To Meet The Requirements That Funders Require?

Yes.

It Takes A Lot Of Management.

We Strive To Do That.

My Encouragement To You Is To Have More Representation Of The Various Disabilities Advising Those Who Make The Transportation Decisions.

I Know Transportation Decisions Are Impacted By Fiscal Realities.

I Know That The Money Is Getting Leaner These Days.

We All Have To Work More Effectively Off The Money That's Available.

I Want To Offer To Each Of You, If You Would Like My Input On Things, I Would Be Glad And Honored To Do So Because My Calling In Life Is To Help People.

I'd Be Glad To Do That With You.

Doug, A Quick Question.

Do You Know Whether Or Not V.I.P.

Has A Representative On The Core For Disadvantage?

We Have Just Had Someone Asked To Be On That By Karen Hawes.

Actually, I Believe Tammy Hall Is The Chairperson Of The Committee.

There Is A Regional Planning Council Employee That Oversees And Is A Liaison To The Committee.

I Don't Think Karen Hawes Is Involved In This.

Maybe It's Not That Particular Council.

I Will Ask After The Meeting Since Commissioner Hall Isn't Here, Call My Office Tomorrow.

We'll Be Sure You End Up With A Representative On The Council For The Transportation Disadvantaged.

Also, You Need To Know There Is A Percentage Of The Revenue Stream That Comes From Vehicle Registration That The Legislature Has Exempted For Motorcycles, Trailers, Vehicles In Excess Of 5,000 Pounds.

If That Was Eliminated, It Would Bring Into The State Some \$10 Million That Could Go To The Transportation For The Disadvantaged.

That Would Be Money We Need For Services You're Requesting.

We'll Need Your Help With The State Legislative Delegation.

I'll Go To Tallahassee Any Time.

Let's Connect After The Meeting.

Kevin Shaye Wanted To Speak One Last Time.

Before Kevin Begins, I Would Take A Second Here And Thank This Delegation That Came On Behalf Of The Visually-Impaired Citizens.

I Know We Are Sensitive To Their Needs And All Of Us Wish We Could Do More.

What I Would Ask Mr. Stilwell If We Could Since We Didn't Have Our Transit People Here Tonight If You Could Ask Them To Review The Tape And Make Certain These People's Comments Are Heard.

Some Of These Suggestions They Made Didn't Strike Me As Being That Unreasonable Or Necessarily That Expensive.

There May Be More We Can Do.

I Hope We Would Make Every Effort.

I Want To Thank Ms.

Thornton In Particular.

I Have Had The Opportunity To Meet Her On Wednesday Nights At Our Church Get-Togethers -- She And Her Dog.

I Encouraged Her To Come On Down.

I Thank You For Coming And Sharing Your Thoughts With Us.

Just Wanted To Say That For The Record.

You Did Mention To Ms.

Thornton The Opportunity To Get Up And Close And Show Me With The Legislative Delegation?

She Is Not A Shy Lady You Have Probably Already Found.

[Distant Voice]

I'm Sorry, Ma'am.

You Will Need To Come Up To The Microphone.

I Would Just Like To Comment That If We Can Get On The Committee And Get A Voice, We Really, Really Appreciate This Because This Is Getting Very Critical.

One Of The Things That's Happening To Me Right Now -- I May Not Be Eligible For Passport In A Month.

I Might Have To Go Back To Crossing College Parkway.

I Have Been Recertified.

I Was Told By Passport Today That They Were Short On Forms.

I Asked To Fill Out The Form To Be Recertified That Yes, Indeed, I Am Totally Blind.

I Was Told They Are Short On Forms.

I Almost Asked If They Had A Copy Machine, But I Didn't Do That.

There Are Some Untenable -- Then There Is A Man In Cape Coral, Uses A Scooter, Legally Blind, Could Not Get Here Tonight.

He Is Two Blocks Past The Three-Quarter-Mile System.

He Cannot Get A Ride Unless He Gets A Ride To The Three-Quarter-Mile System.

Then Passport Will Pick Him Up.

He's Also Being Recertified.

They Have Said His Time Was Up August 12th Because He Was Not Able To Read The Letter, They Almost Cancelled Him.

They Have Extended Him For A Couple Of Weeks.

These Are Things Why We Need A Voice And Representation.

While I'm Up Here, I'm Also Plugging For A Walk-A-Thon October 13th In Celebration Of White Cane Day.

We Have The Backing Of The Sheriff's Department.

Our Theme Is Pedestrian Safety.

We Have Aid Agencies Walking.

This Is Our Fourth Year.

I Am Leaving The Packets For You All.

I Would Love The County Commissioners To Form A Team And Walk With Us.

You Will Get A Free Lunch At Carabba's.

Thank You, Gentlemen.

Thank You, Ms.

Thornton.

I Think There Is Another Woman That Wants To Speak.

I Don't Have It On The List.

Commissioners, With Us In The 21st Century Now, I Would Like To Recommend That Somehow Some Way With A Few Dollars That You Develop A Multi-Computer Web Page Structure So That You Put All Of Your Documents, Down To The Last Vendor's Invoice, On Computer, Readily Available For Public Review.

We're In The 21st Century.

I'm Going To Get A New Computer In A Couple Of Weeks With 500 Gigabytes Of Hard Drive And Capable Of Downloading Just In One Small Segment, They Tell Me, A Hundred Thousand Pdf Files.

I Already Have About 5,000 On My Current Computer.

So A Court Case Is Whatever.

The Technology Is Available.

I Think We Should Move Into The 21st Century.

To Think Out Of The Box In Terms Of These Municipal Taxing Units, Here We Are Accumulating This Money.

Why Not Take A Few Dollars From This Accumulated Interest You Mentioned This Morning Of \$60-Some Million, A Loan Of Five, Ten, Twenty Thousand Units And Get Some Projects Started This Year.

Don't Wait Until 2008-2009.

While We Are In This Terrible Construction Downturn And Everything Else, Explore The Possibility Of Jump-Starting Some Of These Projects And Give Them A Little Seed Money, A Little Temporary Loan Money For Six Months Or Nine Months And Get The Project Going Now, Not Just Bank This Money For Another Year.

The Reason It's Being Banked Is The Projects Aren't Production-Ready.

Once They Are, We're Moving Forward.

Just Trying To Think Out Of The Box.

I Appreciate It.

One Last Thing.

I Realize Your Deep Concerns About Sugar Cultivation In South Florida And The Damage To Lake Okeechobee.

I Did An Extensive Research Paper On The Sugar Act, The Sugar System And So Forth From Original Documents From The United States Senate Many Years Ago.

The Problem Is That This Whole Structure Has Shifted That South Florida Cane Sugar Is An Insignificant Part Of The Protective Sugar Structure.

Where The Big Input Now Is The Multi-Billion Dollar Infrastructure In The Northern States - North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho -- For Sugar Beet Production.

I Have A First Cousin In Idaho That's A Cooperative Share-Holder In One Of These Beet Sugar Production Protected Operations.

That's Where It -- With Senator Grassly And Others, That's Where The Situation Is So That South Florida Cane Sugar Has Really Become A Minor Part Of The Big Picture.

To Let You Know What The Situation Is.

Thank You, Mr. Shaye.

Again, I Deeply Appreciate The Opportunity To Appear Before You Today On Multiple Occasions.

Thank You For Your Time Today And This Evening.

Ma'am, Did You Want To Speak?  
Please.

If You Could Step Forward.

State Your Name For The Record, Please.

I Didn't Follow The Procedure, So It's O.K.

That's O.K.

I Need Your Name For The Record.

I'm Janet Bonnamie.

I Worked In A Prominent Rehabilitation Center For 20 Years.

It Did Not Work With Blind People, But I Seem To Be Working With Them Now.

You Know These People When They Leave The Rehabilitation Centers, The Majority Of Them Can Drive.

They Can Put Wheelchairs In The Van Or In The Trunk Of The Car And Get In A Car Or Van With Special Equipment.

They Can Drive.

They Can Go Home, They Can Go Anywhere They Want To.

Well, I Heard A Rumor That Blindness Is Not A Disability.

I Don't Think That's So.

You See, Joyce Can't Get In A Car And Drive.

She Can't Go Anywhere On Her Own Except With Her Dog And In Her Neighborhood.

I Absolutely, Being Able To See, Would Not Try To Cross Cyprus Lake And 41 On Foot.

Because I'm Sure I Wouldn't Make It.

The Only Thing That I Want To Say Is That Any Help That You Can Give To Passport, For Example, To Get Their Routes Changed, To Get Them To Be A Little Bit Longer, To Connect With The Next County So That These Folks Can -- Their Problems Welcome Back Alleviated -- And You Heard Their Problems.

And Hopefully That You All Will Never, Ever Have To Use These Services.

So Do All You Can Now For These People And For Yourselves For Our Futures.

Thank You Very Much.

Thank You, Ma'am.

Anyone Else Wish To Comment At This Point In Time?  
All Right.

We'll Conclude Public Comment Then.

Unless There Is Anything Else For The Board, We Are Adjourned.

Thank You.