

CAPTIONING  
FEBRUARY 15, 2010  
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

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\*\*\*following meeting. It should be used for informational  
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\*\*\*that did not translate.

>>DAN KLEIN: THANK YOU.

GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR  
THE 2010 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

MY NAME IS DAN KLEIN.

I'M THE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
AND I WILL BE PRESIDING OVER YOUR ELECTION OF YOUR CHAIR  
AND VICE CHAIR, AND THEN I WILL REMOVE MYSELF FROM THIS  
SEAT AND ALLOW YOUR NEW CHAIR TO TAKE CENTER STAGE.

BEFORE WE GET TO OUR NOMINATIONS, THE FIRST ITEM ON YOUR  
AGENDA THIS EVENING IS WELCOMING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, KEN HAGAN.

KEN.

>>KEN HAGAN: WELL, THANK YOU, DAN.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.

WELCOME, AND I'LL BE VERY BRIEF THIS EVENING SO YOU CAN --  
SO DAN CAN GET ON TO HIS BUSINESS AND WHAT HE HAS TO DO,  
BUT ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, I DID  
WANT TO THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO SERVE ON THIS CHARTER

REVIEW BOARD.

YOU HAVE THE DISTINCTION OF SERVING ON THE SIXTH CHARTER REVIEW BOARD SINCE THE CHARTER WENT INTO EFFECT IN MAY OF 1985.

I KNOW MOST OF YOU ON THIS BOARD, AND I RECOGNIZE THAT SEVERAL OF YOU HAVE SERVED ON PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS, SO YOU BRING THAT HISTORY WITH YOU AS YOU WILL DELIBERATE AND DISCUSS MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WILL CERTAINLY COME IN FRONT OF YOU, AND HAVING THAT EXPERIENCE WILL, NO DOUBT, BE EXTREMELY HANDY.

I KNOW FIVE YEARS AGO I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH A NUMBER OF YOUR MEETINGS AS I WORKING FROM MY HOME ON MONDAY EVENINGS, AND YOU HAD SOME IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS ON SOME VERY INTERESTING TOPICS, AND I KNOW FROM MY EXPERIENCE ON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IT IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO HAVE EXPERIENCED MEMBERS SUCH AS COMMISSIONER PLATT, WHO I'VE SERVED WITH, COMMISSIONER FRANK, AND NOW WITH COMMISSIONER NORMAN, SO IT'S VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE FOLKS THAT CAN BRING THAT HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TO THE BOARD WHENEVER YOU DELIBERATE ON THE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT YOU'LL -- YOU'LL ENCOUNTER. OF FLORIDA'S 67 COUNTIES, HILLSBOROUGH IS ONE OF 20 COUNTIES WHO OPERATE UNDER A CHARTER FORM OF GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY OUR CONSTITUTION.

EACH OF THESE CHARTERS IS UNIQUE AND REPRESENTS THE DESIRES

OF THE VOTERS WHO HELPED TO CRAFT THEM.

YOUR JOB IS TO DELIBERATE AND TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC TO  
SEE IF OUR CHARTER AS IT IS CURRENTLY CONSTITUTED STILL  
MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS.

YOU HAVE A VERY SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY ON YOUR HANDS.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WISHES YOU WELL AS YOU  
BEGIN THIS JOURNEY.

AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT TASK.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO HILLSBOROUGH  
COUNTY.

APPRECIATE IT.

>>DAN KLEIN: THE NEXT ITEM ON OUR AGENDA IS THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE BY OUR COUNTY  
ATTORNEY, RENEE LEE.

>>RENEE LEE: GOOD EVENING, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.  
I AM TO SWEAR YOU IN, SO IF YOU WILL STAND UP AND RAISE  
YOUR RIGHT HAND, I WILL GIVE THE OATH.

OH, HI, BETH.

JUST IN TIME, HUH?

>>BETH LEYTHAM: [INAUDIBLE]

>>RENEE LEE: I DON'T MIND IT.

>>BETH LEYTHAM: OH, OKAY.

>>RENEE LEE: ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

IF YOU WILL REPEAT AFTER ME.

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

THAT I WILL SUPPORT, PROTECT, AND DEFEND ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

THE CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

THAT I'M DULY QUALIFIED TO HOLD OFFICE UNDER THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY PERFORM THE DUTIES ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

ON WHICH I AM NOW ABOUT TO ENTER ...

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

SO HELP ME GOD.

[BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING]

THANK YOU, COMMISSIONERS, AND GOOD LUCK.

>>DAN KLEIN: ITEM NUMBER 3 ON OUR AGENDA IS THE ELECTION  
OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

I WILL FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING PROCESS FOR THE NOMINATION --  
ELECTION OF BOTH THE CHAIR AND THE VICE CHAIR.

I WILL OPEN THE FLOOR FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR.

I WILL CONTINUE TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS UNTIL NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS ARE RECEIVED.

AT SUCH TIME I WILL CLOSE THE FLOOR TO NOMINATIONS AND ASK FOR A VOTE ON EACH NOMINEE IN THE ORDER THAT THEY WERE NOMINATED.

THE FIRST NOMINEE TO RECEIVE A MAJORITY VOTE WILL BE YOUR CHAIR.

THE BOARD'S ELECTRONIC VOTING BUTTONS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE A GROUP OF THIS SIZE; THEREFORE, ALL VOTES WILL BE BY A SHOW OF HANDS.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS RAISED LONG ENOUGH FOR THE VOTE TO BE RECORDED.

THANK YOU.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE NOMINATION OR ELECTION PROCESS BEFORE WE BEGIN?

ALL RIGHT.

SEEING NONE, AT THIS POINT IN TIME I WILL OPEN UP THE FLOOR FOR NOMINATIONS OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE JAMES TOKLEY FOR CHAIR.

>>DAN KLEIN: YES, MA'AM.

>> I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE JAN PLATT FOR CHAIR.

>>DAN KLEIN: YES, SIR.

>> I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE MITCH THROWER FOR CHAIR.

>>DAN KLEIN: ARE THERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN?

>> I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE JOE ROBINSON FOR CHAIR.

>>DAN KLEIN: OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN?

SEEING NONE, I'LL CLOSE THE FLOOR FOR NOMINATIONS, AND I  
WILL ASK YOU TO VOTE ON YOUR FIRST NOMINEE, MR. TOKLEY.  
PLEASE SHOW OF HANDS IF YOU SUPPORT MR. TOKLEY AS YOUR  
CHAIRMAN.

I SEE ONE, TWO.

TWO VOTES.

ALL RIGHT.

THAT IS NOT A MAJORITY; THEREFORE, WE'LL MOVE TO YOUR NEXT  
NOMINEE.

NEXT NOMINEE IS JAN PLATT.

PLEASE RAISE YOUR HANDS IF YOU SUPPORT JAN PLATT AS YOUR  
CHAIRMAN.

I SEE ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE.

AGAIN, THAT IS NOT A MAJORITY, SO WE'LL MOVE TO THE NEXT  
NOMINEE.

YOUR NEXT NOMINEE IS MITCH THROWER.

PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU SUPPORT MR. THROWER AS YOUR  
CHAIRMAN.

>> IF YOU VOTED ONCE, YOU CAN'T VOTE AGAIN.

>> CAN YOU VOTE MORE THAN ONCE?

>> NO.

>> THANK YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: CAN YOU OR CAN'T YOU?

>> HE SAID YOU CAN'T.

>>JAN PLATT: NO, YOU CANNOT.

>> YOU CANNOT.

YOU CAN'T VOTE TWICE.

>>DAN KLEIN: NO, YOU SHOULD ONLY VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE.

>> OH, OKAY.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>DAN KLEIN: I SEE SIX VOTES FOR MR. THROWER.

THAT AS WELL IS NOT A MAJORITY.

WE'LL MOVE TO THE NEXT NOMINEE, AND THAT NOMINEE IS JOE  
ROBINSON.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR HANDS IF YOU SUPPORT MR. ROBINSON AS YOUR  
CHAIR.

I SEE TWO VOTES.

AGAIN, THAT IS NOT A MAJORITY.

OKAY.

I WILL OPEN BACK THE FLOOR FOR NOMINEES OF CHAIRMAN.

EXCUSE ME.

>>JAN PLATT: CAN I -- WHAT IF I WITHDREW?

I WAS CHAIRMAN LAST TIME --

>>DAN KLEIN: YES, MA'AM.

>>JAN PLATT: -- AND MITCH WAS VICE CHAIRMAN, AND HE DID A  
WONDERFUL JOB, AND I WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW MY NAME AS

CHAIR AND HAVE MITCH BE THE CHAIRMAN THIS TIME.

>>DAN KLEIN: OKAY.

SO WE HAVE ANOTHER NOMINEE FOR MITCH THROWER AS CHAIRMAN.

ANY OTHER NOMINEES FOR RECONSIDERATION?

>>GERALD WHITE: WHO WAS THE OTHER ON THAT SIDE?

WHO WAS THE OTHER PERSON THAT WAS NOMINATED THAT I DIDN'T  
GET A CHANCE TO VOTE FOR?

>>DAN KLEIN: THERE WERE FOUR NOMINEES ORIGINALLY, MR.  
TOKLEY, MS. PLATT, MR. THROWER, AND MR. ROBINSON.

>>GERALD WHITE: I'LL GIVE JOE A SHOT AT IT.  
I'LL NOMINATE JOE ROBINSON.

>>DAN KLEIN: OKAY.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, WAIT.

>> HE'S ALREADY BEEN --

>>JAN PLATT: WAIT.

HOLD --

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, CAN HE BE RENOMINATED AGAIN?

>>JAN PLATT: POINT OF ORDER.

POINT OF ORDER.

>>DAN KLEIN: YES, MA'AM.

>>JAN PLATT: I WAS WITHDRAWING MY NAME.

>>DAN KLEIN: CORRECT.

>>JAN PLATT: AND YOU ALREADY HAD FOUR NOMINEES.

TWO OF THEM HAD BEEN ELIMINATED, AND IT WAS REALLY BETWEEN

ME AND MR. THROWER AS TO WHO WAS GOING TO BE CHAIRMAN, AND SO I WITHDREW, SO THAT LEAVES HIM.

>>DAN KLEIN: WELL, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAIN BECAUSE, I MEAN, YOU KNOW, NO ONE REALLY GOT A MAJORITY VOTE.

>> SO WE'RE STARTING FROM SCRATCH.

>>DAN KLEIN: SO I WOULD SUGGEST WE START OVER, AND --

>> I WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE MR. THROWER FOR CHAIRMAN.

>>DAN KLEIN: OKAY.

OTHER NOMINEES?

>>JAN PLATT: THAT IS WEIRD.

>> I'LL NOMINATE FRANK REDDICK.

>>DAN KLEIN: ANY OTHER NOMINEES?

ALL RIGHT.

I'LL ASK YOU TO VOTE OR SHOW HANDS IF YOU SUPPORT MITCH THROWER AS YOUR CHAIRMAN.

I SHOW 12 VOTES IN SUPPORT OF MR. THROWER.

MR. THROWER IS YOUR CHAIRMAN.

WE'LL GO THROUGH THE SAME PROCESS FOR YOUR VICE CHAIR.

I WILL OPEN UP THE FLOOR FOR NOMINATIONS OF VICE CHAIR.

>> I NOMINATE MR. REDDICK AS VICE CHAIR.

>>DAN KLEIN: ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR?

I'LL CLOSE THE FLOOR FOR NOMINATIONS OF VICE CHAIR AND ASK YOU FOR A SHOW OF HANDS IF YOU SUPPORT MR. REDDICK AS YOUR VICE CHAIRMAN.

>> CAN I VOTE?

I CAN VOTE; RIGHT?

>>DAN KLEIN: 14 VOTES WITH MR. REDDICK.

MR. REDDICK IS YOUR VICE CHAIR OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I WILL ASK MR. THROWER TO COME TAKE THE SEAT AS CHAIRMAN.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, MR. KLEIN.

>> THANK YOU.

>>MITCH THROWER: OKAY.

I WANTED TO FIRST BEGIN BY THANKING EVERYONE.

I WAS HONORED TO SERVE ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD LAST TIME.

I GOT TO SERVE UNDER JAN PLATT AS CHAIR, AND I LEARNED QUITE A BIT.

I HOPE I CAN SHOW SOME OF WHAT I LEARNED THIS TIME AROUND.

IN TERMS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, AT TIMES I WILL BE REFERRING TO LEGAL STAFF, BUT LIKE I SAID, I WANTED TO THANK -- RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS THAT I SERVED WITH LAST TIME ON CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AND LET THOSE WHO HAVEN'T SERVED BEFORE ON CHARTER REVIEWED BOARD KNOW THAT THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO SERVE HERE.

WE'RE NOT SERVING -- WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING DIRECTION FROM ANYONE EXCEPT FOR THE PUBLIC, NOT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, NOT THE COUNTY STAFF, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE IN RECOGNITION -- SERVING FOR THE

PUBLIC, AND I HOPE TO HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT WHEN WE HAVE PUBLIC COMMENT.

WHEN WE DECIDE TO HAVE PUBLIC COMMENT I HOPE TO HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING.

I KNOW WE'RE SCHEDULED TO HAVE, I BELIEVE, TWO PUBLIC FORUMS DURING THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD PROCESS, AND IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING TO HEAR WHAT THE PUBLIC HAS AND WHAT THEIR ISSUES ARE AND WHAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE.

I HOPE ALL THE ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL COME TAKE -- AND ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS THAT WE INVITE ONCE WE DISCUSS OUR SCHEDULE.

I HOPE THEY'LL TAKE THE TIME TO COME AND TALK TO US TOO BECAUSE I THINK THIS IS A -- THIS IS A BOARD THAT IS HERE TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC, TO HEAR FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, AND TO MAKE SOME GOOD DECISIONS, AND WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR DECISIONS ARE WELL-THOUGHT-OUT AND -- YOU KNOW, AND MAKE SURE THAT -- ARE WELL STUDIED, SO LET ME GET TO THE AGENDA AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN MOVE ON.

I'D LIKE TO SAY BEFORE WE GET STARTED, WHEN -- IN TERMS OF DISCUSSION, IF YOU'LL LET ME POINT YOU OUT FOR DISCUSSION SO THAT WE CAN TRY TO MAKE THESE MEETINGS ORDERLY AND PROCEED SMOOTHLY.

I KNOW WE'VE GOT A LOT OF DYNAMIC INDIVIDUALS ON THIS BOARD, WHICH SHOULD MAKE FOR SOME GREAT DISCUSSION, SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING AS YOUR CHAIR, AND I'M HONORED

TO SERVE AS YOUR CHAIR.

SO NEXT ON OUR AGENDA IS NUMBER 4, OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING, AND WE HAVE DAN KLEIN, DEPUTY CLERK, HERE TO DISCUSS THAT.

>>DAN KLEIN: AGAIN, THANK YOU.

DAN KLEIN WITH THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

WHILE YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE MINUTES TAKEN FOR YOUR FORMAL PROCEEDINGS, WE DON'T NECESSARILY PRESUME THAT YOU WANT THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT TO TAKE THOSE MINUTES FOR YOU.

WE HAVE A BOARD SECRETARY HERE TONIGHT, YVETTE, TO EFFECTUATE YOUR FIRST MEETING, BUT IF IT'S THE BOARD'S DESIRE TO HAVE THE CLERK CONTINUE TO TAKE YOUR FORMAL MINUTES OF YOUR MEETINGS, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU DO THAT IN THE FORM OF A MOTION AND A VOTE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> SO MOVED.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

WE HAVE A MOTION, WE HAVE A SECOND.

ANY DISCUSSION?

>> DO THEY CHARGE TO DO THAT?

>>DAN KLEIN: NO, SIR, WE DO NOT CHARGE FOR THAT, SO -- WE ACCOMMODATE THAT WITH EXISTING STAFF.

>> I KNOW PAT FRANK'S BUDGET'S IN BIG TROUBLE.

>>DAN KLEIN: IT IS, BUT IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE DID ANTICIPATE AS PART OF OUR EXISTING WORKLOAD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION?

OKAY.

WE'RE GOING TO VOTE BY A SHOW OF HANDS.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION RAISE THEIR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

YOU GOT THE COUNT?

OKAY.

THAT MOTION PASSES.

>>DAN KLEIN: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NEXT UP IS PAT BEAN, OUR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

SHE'S GOING TO DISCUSS THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE.

>>PAT BEAN: YES.

WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU.

I BELIEVE THIS IS OUR FIFTH CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT, JAN, THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THAT MANY YEARS THAT WE WOULD BE EMBARKING ON OUR FIFTH CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE THAT YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO PLAY HERE, AND I'M VERY HONORED TO BE STANDING BEFORE YOU AND

HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS CHARTER REVIEW TASK.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE, AS MITCH POINTED OUT -- THAT'S WHO YOU'RE HERE TO REPRESENT -- MAKES CERTAIN THAT COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS STRUCTURED THE WAY THAT THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE STRUCTURED, AND SO I WISH YOU WELL AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS YEAR OF DELIBERATING, LOOKING AT THE CHARTER, LOOKING AT ALL OF THE PROVISIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY THERE, AND DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE CHANGES THAT YOU THINK THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE WOULD BENEFIT BY AND WOULD APPRECIATE.

YOU JUST APPROVED THAT THE CLERK WOULD TAKE YOUR OFFICIAL MINUTES.

THEY ARE THE OFFICIAL RECORDKEEPER FOR THE COUNTY, AND I THINK THAT'S A VERY GOOD WAY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE CLERK TAKING THE MINUTES.

HISTORICALLY, AS IT RELATED TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, WE HAVE EITHER PROVIDED STAFF THROUGH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S FUNCTION OR THROUGH SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SET ASIDE BY THE BOARD.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS PAST BUDGET CYCLE WAS A VERY DIFFICULT BUDGET CYCLE BECAUSE WE WERE REDUCING A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND THERE ARE NO SEPARATE FUNDS SET ASIDE TO FUND A STAFF FOR THIS BOARD.

I HAVE TALKED WITH MEMBERS OF MY TEAM.

WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO BE HERE TO PROVIDE YOU WHATEVER RESOURCES YOU MAY NEED, WHETHER THAT'S RESEARCH BETWEEN MEETINGS IN ADDITION TO THE LEGAL RESEARCH THAT I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ASKING FOR FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND POTENTIALLY EVEN SOME RESEARCH FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE ON OCCASION, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO THAT.

WE HAVE PLANNED A NUMBER OF WAYS FOR YOU TO GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT TO THE PUBLIC BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY STAY IN TUNE WITH WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

FOR INSTANCE, THIS 2010 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WILL HAVE ITS OWN WEB SITE COMPLETE WITH ALL THE PERTINENT INFORMATION SO THAT YOU CAN PUT THAT INFORMATION THAT YOU DISCUSS HERE ON THAT WEB SITE AND IT'S ACCESSIBLE TO ANY CITIZEN.

THAT WEB SITE WILL BE IDENTIFIED CLEARLY THROUGH ALL THE VARIOUS MEANS THAT WE HAVE AS COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO GET THAT INFORMATION OUT SO THAT PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT IT.

ANY RESEARCH OR REQUESTS FROM YOU FOR DOCUMENTS OR OTHER MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ON THAT WEB SITE SO THAT EVERYONE WILL KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT, WHAT YOU'RE DISCUSSING, ALONG WITH LINKS TO THE VIDEO ON DEMAND FOOTAGE OF YOUR MEETINGS AND YOUR CLOSED CAPTIONING.

AS YOU'RE SITTING HERE DISCUSSING, YOU WILL BE IN A POSITION WHERE SOMEBODY TOMORROW COULD SAY, WELL, I HEARD SO-AND-SO AT THE MEETING LAST NIGHT SAID X, Y, Z, WHATEVER

YOU MIGHT HAVE SAID.

THEY CAN ACTUALLY GO VIDEO ON DEMAND AND SEE WHAT YOU SAID AND WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAID IN RETURN TO YOUR COMMENTS.

SO THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE, AND SO THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU, NOT ONLY THROUGH THE PUBLIC THAT COMES INTO THIS ROOM BUT ALSO THROUGH THE ACCESS THROUGH THE WEB SITE, THROUGH VIDEO ON DEMAND, FOR THEM TO HEAR AND -- AND UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT YOU'VE HAD.

WE WILL HAVE EDITH STEWART ASSIGNED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL THE APPROPRIATE STAFF ISSUES AND NEEDS ARE ADDRESSED FOR YOU AS YOU REQUIRE THINGS.

IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD IDEA THIS YEAR TO ADD A POSITION AND PAY FOR A POSITION AND THE THINGS THAT GO ALONG WITH THAT IN LIGHT OF THE REDUCTIONS THAT WE HAD MADE DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THIS FISCAL YEAR AND AS WE'LL BE DOING IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WITH FURTHER DOWNSIZING OF THE COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED ALONG WITH THE CLERK AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND SO THAT'S WHAT I OFFER TO YOU TONIGHT, OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED AND THAT THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE, THEN, GETS OUT TO THE COMMUNITY.

I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: QUESTIONS?

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

WELL, PAT, I JUST -- I HAVE ONE CONCERN, AND I JUST THINK THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THIS BE PLACED ON THE PUBLIC RECORD, THE INHERENT -- POSSIBILITY OF INHERENT CONFLICT. THERE'S BEEN JUST A GREAT DEAL OF ACTIVITY WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THIS YEAR, WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE THIS YEAR, AND I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT PUBLIC PERCEPTION WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HANDLING THE WORK OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND YOU'VE HEARD THE CHAIR TALK ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO -- TO EMPHASIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THIS BOARD, SO I WOULD LIKE FOR US TO HAVE A LITTLE, SMALL DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT, WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT STAFF TO STAFF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

HISTORICALLY THERE'S USUALLY BEEN ABOUT \$25,000 OR SO IN THE COUNTY BUDGET, BUT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DIDN'T RECOMMEND THAT MONIES BE PLACED IN OUR BUDGET THIS YEAR, AND SO THAT WAS HER CALL, AND THE BOARD, THROUGH PUBLIC HEARINGS AND WHATEVER, JUST VOTED IT OUT, SO I -- IF WE NEED MONEY, WE USUALLY SEND A REQUEST TO THE BOARD AND THE BOARD GIVES US THE MONEY TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTIES.

AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO SEE LIKE A JOINT POSITION, LIKE AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COUNTY ATTORNEY, HANDLE THE PRIMARY DUTIES OF OUR BOARD, SO WHEN IT'S APPROPRIATE, I'D LIKE TO

DISCUSS THAT, AND THAT WAY WE CAN SAVE MONEY BY BRINGING SOMEONE BACK.

LIKE KEN TINKLER, YOU KNOW, HE WAS AN EXPERT.

HE SERVED THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD TWO OR THREE TIMES.

WHY COULDN'T WE BRING KEN TINKLER BACK TO BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OUR BOARD'S ATTORNEY?

HE WAS OUR BOARD'S ATTORNEY FIVE YEARS AGO AND HE SERVED ON THE BOARD FIVE YEARS BEFORE THAT, SO HE HAS TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE CHARTER BOARD, BUT I KNOW WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS OF THE REQUEST.

THAT'S THE KIND OF THING I WOULD LIKE TO DO, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE THE INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE THERE'S JUST SOME SERIOUS ISSUES OUT THERE THAT THE PUBLIC'S GOING TO BE COMING TO US TO LOOK INTO, AND I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET IN ANY KIND OF CONFLICT, FALSE PUBLIC PERCEPTION, YOU NAME IT, AND SO I JUST WANT TO HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS CONCERNING WHAT GERALD BROUGHT UP?

JAN.

COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, I REALLY THINK IT'S A FALSE ISSUE.

I LOOKED DOWN HERE, AND MARY HELEN FARRIS, I THINK, IS GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO ADVISES US, AND I CAN TELL YOU SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE CHARTER AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAN ANY OTHER ATTORNEY THAT I KNOW, AND TO PAY AN ATTORNEY TO COME

UP HERE OUT FROM THE OUTSIDE, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY \$250,  
\$300 AN HOUR, AND, YOU KNOW, THEY HAVE A CODE OF  
ETHICS WHERE THEY HAVE TO -- THAT THEY HAVE TO ABIDE BY, SO  
I THINK OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY IS WELL-SUITED, ESPECIALLY THE  
ONE THAT I SEE AS LISTED HERE.

MARY HELEN COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THE COUNTY CHARTER.  
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO THE LEGWORK THAT SOMEBODY NEW FROM  
THE OUTSIDE WOULD HAVE TO DO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, IT'S NOT JUST THE ATTORNEY THAT  
WE'RE TALKING -- OH, I'M SORRY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME RECOGNIZE RALPH.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH, IT'S NOT JUST THE ATTORNEY.

>>RALPH FISHER: IT IS A CONFLICT, AND IF IT COMES UP,  
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO IDENTIFY IT.

THERE ARE THREE ATTORNEYS ON THIS BOARD, AND SO -- FIVE  
YEARS AGO I WAS ON THIS BOARD, AND I OBJECTED TO THE COUNTY  
ATTORNEY BEING OUR ATTORNEY BECAUSE WE'RE REVIEWING AN  
ENTITY THAT THEY WORK FOR, SO, I MEAN, I RARELY AGREE WITH  
GERALD WHITE, BUT HE'S RIGHT ON THIS, AND SO WE HAVE TO BE  
VERY VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES.

THANK YOU.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>RENEE LEE: MR. CHAIR, THANK YOU.

I'M RENEE LEE, COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND YOU ARE CORRECT.  
THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN CONFLICTS.  
WE HAVE ALLOWED PRIVATE ATTORNEYS TO COME IN AND SERVE AS  
CONFLICT COUNSEL.

THEY HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO THIS BOARD FOR FREE, AND  
THEY'VE MADE THEMSELVES -- I THINK LAST YEAR OR THE LAST  
TIME THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MET, MARSHA RYBERG ASSISTED  
YOU WITH ANY CONFLICT ISSUES.

CERTAINLY IT'S THE BOARD'S PREROGATIVE TO USE THE COUNTY  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OR TO REQUEST FUNDING.

I THINK YOU'VE HEARD FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR THAT  
FUNDING IS PRETTY TIGHT RIGHT NOW.

WE ARE CERTAINLY AVAILABLE TO YOU, AND COMMISSIONER PLATT,  
YOU MENTIONED MARY HELEN FARRIS, AND CERTAINLY THOSE ARE --  
I WANTED TO INTRODUCE THE LEGAL STAFF TO YOU AND TALK TO  
YOU ABOUT THAT.

I THINK THAT'S NEXT ON YOUR AGENDA, AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO  
GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT AND YOU QUESTION ME WITH  
RESPECT TO THAT, I WILL BE HAPPY TO DO IT NOW.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, YOU CAN GO AHEAD.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, CAN I JUST MAKE ONE POINT BEFORE WE  
CLOSE ON THIS?

I NEED TO EMPHASIZE THIS.

THERE'S \$16 MILLION IN THE RESERVE IN THE COUNTY.

THEY HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY TO STAFF THIS BOARD.

THEY HISTORICALLY HAVE.

\$16 MILLION IN THE RESERVE, AND IT'S NOT JUST THE ATTORNEY,  
IT'S THE -- EDITH STEWART WORKS -- YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT  
HAVING EDITH STAFF OUR BOARD?

NOW, EDITH WORKS --

>>PAT BEAN: YES, I AM.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- FOR DIRECTLY -- SHE'S AT THE HIGHEST  
LEVELS IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

SHE WORKS DIRECTLY FOR YOU; RIGHT?

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S CORRECT, BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I  
NEED -- OKAY.

I'M SORRY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

I WAS GOING TO MENTION LAST TIME AROUND THE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR -- WE DID THE ATTORNEY AND WE DID THE COUNTY  
STAFF AS TWO SEPARATE MOTIONS, TWO SEPARATE ISSUES, SO WE  
MAY WANT TO HANDLE IT THAT WAY.

WE HAD EDITH STEWART HELPING US OR SHELLEY BLOOD --

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, SHE MENTIONED BOTH.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE DISCUSSING BOTH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND THEN THE COUNTY -- THEN KEN  
TINKLER HELPED US AS THE LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

>>GERALD WHITE: RIGHT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO WE HAD TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO'S

HANDLED IT AS TWO DIFFERENT MOTIONS, SO WE MAY WANT TO -- I  
MEAN --

>>GERALD WHITE: AND THE ONLY REASON I BRING THIS UP,  
BECAUSE ONE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS BROUGHT  
IT TO MY ATTENTION, AND SO AFTER THE ELECTED OFFICIAL  
BROUGHT IT TO MY ATTENTION AS A CONCERN, I THOUGHT IT WAS  
IMPORTANT TO BRING IT TO THIS BOARD'S ATTENTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER DISCUSSION?

OKAY.

ANY MOTIONS?

OKAY.

NEXT ON OUR AGENDA IS -- WE HAVE RENEE LEE, OVERVIEW OF  
LEGAL COUNSEL.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONERS, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THE ATTORNEYS WHO  
HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO ASSIST YOU THROUGH THIS PROCESS ARE  
ATTORNEYS WHO ARE VERY EXPERIENCED NOT ONLY WITH THE  
CHARTER, THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION, AND ITS FUNCTIONS  
AND ITS GOVERNANCE POWERS, IT IS ALSO FAMILIAR WITH COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION.

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU MAY FIND A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO  
FIGURE OUT FOR A WHILE, BUT IT -- I MEAN, IT WILL COME.  
THERE ARE LAYERS OF GOVERNMENT.

THEY WILL MAKE SURE THAT WHATEVER YOU RECOMMEND FROM HERE -

- FROM THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IS CERTAINLY ABLE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT GROUND LEVEL.

I THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT YOU HAVE IN TERMS OF HAVING A PERSON ON STAFF WHO OPERATES IN GOVERNMENT.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE TWO ATTORNEYS WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IF THAT IS YOUR WISH.

MARY HELEN FARRIS IS A MORE THAN 25-YEAR ATTORNEY WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

SHE HAS SERVED THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO TELL YOU, THE LAST THREE CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS.

I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S BEEN ANY ISSUES WITH HER SERVICE. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY.

CERTAINLY, AS I'VE SAID, IF THERE ARE ANY CONFLICT ISSUES, WE DO BRING OUTSIDE COUNSEL IN.

THOSE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO SERVE FOR FREE THROUGH THE BAR ASSOCIATION.

THEY ARE NOT PEOPLE THAT WE GO OUT AND HANDPICK AND SAY WE WANT YOU TO SERVE IN -- AS AN ADJUNCT COUNTY ATTORNEY.

THESE WILL BE PEOPLE WHO SERVE YOU, NOT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

THE OTHER PERSON WHO WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION IS DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY.

DEBORA IS A WELL-EXPERIENCED ATTORNEY, HAVING BEEN IN THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE -- COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, SO SHE TOO IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH GOVERNMENT AND YOUR FUNCTIONS.

FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS WE'VE REHEARSED AND MEMORIZED THE CHARTER, SO -- I'M JUST JOKING WITH YOU, BUT IT'S PART OF OUR DAILY LIFE, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE KNOW, WE KNOW HOW IT'S IMPLEMENTED, WE KNOW ANY CASE LAW BEHIND THE PROVISIONS.

I THINK THAT RELYING ON OUR EXPERIENCE TO GET YOU THROUGH THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO YOU.

IT -- IT JUST -- WE KNOW IT.

WE WORK WITH IT EVERY DAY.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, CERTAINLY WE HAVE NO OFFENSE THAT YOU CALL IT TO OUR ATTENTION AND THAT WE FIX IT FOR YOU, WHATEVER IT TAKES, BUT I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEM.

WOULD THE LADIES STAND UP, PLEASE.

MARY HELEN AND DEBORA.

MANY OF YOU KNOW THEM.

YOU'RE VERY FORTUNATE BECAUSE THIS IS A COMMISSION THAT'S STEEPED IN EXPERIENCE, SO NOT ONLY DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MANY OF YOU, BUT YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE THAT YOU'VE WORKED WITH IN THE PAST, AND I CERTAINLY OFFER THEM TO YOU AGAIN TO HELP YOU THROUGH THIS PROCESS, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM NOW.

>> MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS AND STAFF THAT IT IS NOT OUR INTENT TO -- TO MAKE THEM BELIEVE THAT WE IN ANY WAY QUESTION THEIR -- THEIR EXPERIENCE OR THEIR ABILITY AT ALL, BUT WHENEVER THE WORD "CONFLICT" -- WHENEVER THE PHRASE "CONFLICT OF INTEREST" IS -- IS STATED, THAT DOES CAUSE US CONCERN, ESPECIALLY FOR A COMMITTEE SUCH AS THIS.

SO THAT IS WHY WE'RE BRINGING THAT TO THE FLOOR.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.

AND ANYTIME YOU'RE CONSIDERING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR ANYTHING, WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER ATTORNEY HERE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR DISCUSSION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU KNOW, THE PROBLEM IS TO HIRE AN OUTSIDE ATTORNEY, THERE ARE VERY FEW ATTORNEYS WHO KNOW COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAT WILL NOT ALSO HAVE A CONFLICT BIG TIME BECAUSE THEY'RE PART OF LAW FIRMS THAT COME BEFORE THE BOARD ON A REGULAR BASIS OR THEY REPRESENT CLIENTS THAT HAVE COUNTY BUSINESS TO DO, SO TO ME THE ONES WHO ARE THE MOST PURE AS FAR AS CONFLICT CONCERN ARE THESE THAT ARE HIRED BY THE PUBLIC, AND THEY KNOW THEIR JOB, AND I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THAT WE -- I'LL MAKE THE FIRST MOTION THAT WE HAVE MARY -- BEFORE SHE TALKS SO THAT IT'S OUT OF THE WAY, I MOVE THAT WE ACCEPT MARY HELEN FARRIS AS OUR ATTORNEY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: -- TO ADVISE US.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DO WE HAVE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVE A SECOND.

ALL IN FAVOR SHOW THEIR --

>> DISCUSSION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OH, YEAH, I'M SORRY.

DISCUSSION.

>> I'M HEARING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I'VE LISTENED TO GERALD WHITE OVER HERE, I'VE LISTENED TO YOU AND MS. JAN PLATT, AND I'M HEARING MR. FISHER OVER THERE HAS GOT A CONCERN.

I KNOW MARY HELEN FARRIS.

I'VE DEALT WITH HER ON LEGAL, NONLEGAL, AND ALL KIND OF ISSUES.

I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HER, BUT AS WE MOVE DOWN THIS ROAD, THERE'S GOING TO BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, MUCH LIKE WE HAVE IN ALL THE LAWSUITS AND ALL THE LITIGATION AND ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THE COUNTY, THERE'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST, SO WE'RE GOING TO BE A TRULY INDEPENDENT BOARD AND NOT GIVE THE PUBLIC -- IMPRESSION TO THE PUBLIC THAT WE ARE, THEN I THINK WHEN WE IDENTIFY AN ISSUE OR SOMETHING WE'RE TRYING TO GET INFORMATION THAT CLEARLY WE THINK IS A CONFLICT OR SOMEBODY HAS A CONFLICT THAT WE NEED TO HAVE

ANOTHER ATTORNEY.

>>RENEE LEE: ABSOLUTELY.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, COMMISSIONER, I WILL ASK -- I WILL WORK WITH THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND ASK THEM TO HELP US IDENTIFY SEVERAL NAMES THAT WE CAN BRING TO YOU IN THE NEXT FEW MEETINGS SO THAT YOU CAN KNOW WHO YOUR CONFLICT COUNSEL WILL BE.

>> OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVE A MOTION AND SECOND.

>> I JUST WANTED TO COMMENT.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO SEE CONFLICTS FROM TIME TO TIME.

IT'S UP TO US TO IDENTIFY A CONFLICT AT THE TIME.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH PARTICULAR CONFLICTS MR. WHITE HAD IN MIND WHEN HE WAS DISCUSSING THIS, AND CERTAINLY IF WE PROPOSE A CHARTER AMENDMENT THAT INVOLVES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THAT'S A CLEAR CONFLICT.

I THINK WE'RE ALL INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO SEE AND FEEL WHEN WE'RE HAVING A CONFLICT, SO WE -- WE NEED A BASIC NAVIGATOR LEGALLY NOW, AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY I MADE THE SECOND.

WE CAN ALL CALL CONFLICT.

THAT'S NOT BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM US NOW, AND BELIEVE ME, IF I SEE A CONFLICT, I WILL -- I WILL ALSO ASK FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL AS WELL.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>> IF WE DECIDED TO SEND A BUDGET REQUEST TO THE BOARD AND IF THE BOARD DENIED THAT REQUEST, WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: CAN YOU ANSWER THAT, PAT?

>>RENEE LEE: I CERTAINLY THINK THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S BETTER EXPERIENCED IN ANSWERING THAT.

SHE GETS A LOT OF ANSWERS NO, SO --

>>PAT BEAN: YES.

THE BOARD IS THE ULTIMATE ARBITER ABOUT WHAT GETS FUNDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE COUNTY.

AGAIN, WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH VENUES FOR YOUR INFORMATION TO BE PUT OUT THERE IN THE PUBLIC THAT IF YOU SEE A CONFLICT WITH SOMETHING THAT WE'VE DONE IN THE WAY THE INFORMATION'S BEEN PRESENTED -- I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN DO THAT WHEN WE'RE GOING TO BE DOING VIDEO ON DEMAND THAT REPEATS EVERY WORD YOU SAY TO ANYBODY IN THE PUBLIC.

IF YOU'RE ASKING FOR INFORMATION, THERE WILL BE KIND OF A TRIPLE-CHECK BECAUSE WE'LL HAVE THE CLERK'S PEOPLE, WE'LL HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S PEOPLE, AND MY PEOPLE ALL THERE TO DOUBLE-CHECK TO MAKE SURE WE'VE GOT THE CORRECT INFORMATION THAT WE'RE PRESENTING TO YOU.

IT JUST SEEMS LIKE AT THIS POINT IN TIME WITH ALL THE

SIGNIFICANT SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES -- AND I'M NOT TAKING ANYTHING AWAY FROM THIS BOARD.

I HAVE BEEN THROUGH EVERY CHARTER REVIEW BOARD THAT'S SAT SINCE THE CHARTER WAS FIRST IMPLEMENTED, SO I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT AND HOW DETAILED AND HOW IN-DEPTH YOU CAN GET INTO DISCUSSIONS SOMETIMES, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE WHAT YOU NEED.

IT WILL BE GUARANTEED TO BE YOUR WORDS VERBATIM WHEN IT'S GOING OUT.

MINUTES FROM THE CLERK, THE VIDEO ON DEMAND.

PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO GO IN AND HEAR YOU SAY THE WORDS, AND I JUST THINK THAT IN THIS DAY AND TIME, LAYING OFF PEOPLE AS WE HAVE AND REDUCING SERVICES AS WE HAVE AND MORE TO COME, THAT IT MAKES IT A VERY HARD DECISION TO SAY WHILE WE HAVE THESE RESOURCES THAT THE COUNTY AND THE PUBLIC'S ALREADY PAYING FOR THAT WE CAN'T DO THE JOB FOR YOU.

IF THE BOARD SAYS NO, THEN THAT'S IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GERALD.

>>GERALD WHITE: GUYS, YOU GUYS NEED TO REMEMBER THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE'RE DOING, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE -- THAT THE CHARTER CALLS FOR.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE CITIZENS OF THIS -- OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAS CALLED FOR.

THIS IS THE -- THE BODY OF THIS GOVERNMENT, THIS CHARTER REVIEW, AND SO WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY -- ANYTHING AWAY.

THIS IS A PART, A ROOT PART OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND YOU KNOW, WE'VE DONE IT THE OTHER WAYS BEFORE.

I'M THE ONE THAT MADE THE MOTION TO USE THE COUNTY STAFF LAST TIME, AND, YOU KNOW, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY SPECIFICS.

IT'S JUST WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS THAT - - THAT'S DRIVING ME TO CALL FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT OF DISTANCE FROM THE COUNTY STAFF AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND REMEMBER, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY NOT -- JUST NOT REPRESENT THE -- HER OWN OFFICE, SHE'S THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND THAT'S THE HEART OF OUR ENTIRE DEBATE THIS YEAR, THE SEVEN-MEMBER BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSION.

THAT'S THE ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD, AND SO I JUST WAS LOOKING FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT OF SPACE, A LITTLE BIT OF -- A LITTLE BIT OF INDEPENDENCE SO THAT WE CAN BE TOTALLY FREE, AND THE PUBLIC -- THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION, THAT'S WHAT I'M MOST CONCERNED ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION BASED ON ALL THESE THINGS THAT HAS HAPPENED IN OUR GOVERNMENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, FOR THAT INDEPENDENCE. MARY HELEN, SURE, SHE HAVE THE EXPERIENCE, BUT KEN TINKLER -- IF YOU JUST -- JUST ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS, HE WAS RIGHT ALONG ON OUR SIDE.

HE HAS JUST AS MUCH EXPERIENCE AS MARY HELEN, AND SO WE CAN

SAVE MONEY BY HAVING -- PUT IT OUT, IF HE CHOSE TO DO IT,  
TO BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD AND THE ATTORNEY.  
HE HAS THE EXPERIENCE.

HE SERVED ON THE BOARD TWICE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND SO I WOULD JUST LIKE TO JUST -- AND IT  
AIN'T NOTHING AGAINST -- IT'S NOTHING AGAINST -- COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR PAT BEAN IS NUMBER ONE IN MY BOOK, RENEE LEE  
IS NUMBER ONE IN MY BOOK, BUT WE'RE NOT JUST HERE FOR US,  
WE'RE HERE FOR THE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GERALD --

>>GERALD WHITE: LET ME FINISH.

WE'RE HERE FOR THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND  
THAT'S WHY I'M LOOKING FOR THIS INDEPENDENCE AND THIS  
DISTANCE SO THAT WE CAN BE FREE TO DO THE JOB.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: JAN.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU TALK ABOUT DISTANCE, AND YET YOU KEEP  
NAMING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS OUT NOW -- HE'S WITH A PRIVATE  
LAW FIRM, AND IF WE --

>>GERALD WHITE: I KNOW WE'VE GOT -- NO, WE HAVE A  
REQUEST --

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>JAN PLATT: THIS IS AN INTERESTING SCENARIO HANDPICKING  
PEOPLE OUT THERE --

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>GERALD WHITE: I KNOW WE HAVE TO DO A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS.

>>JAN PLATT: I'LL TELL YOU, THAT'S AS BLATANT AS ANY KIND OF CONFLICT, AND AGAIN, WE'VE HAD MARY HELEN FOR THE LAST THREE -- I MEAN BOARDS HAVE HAD HER FOR THE LAST THREE TIMES AND SHE'S DONE A GOOD JOB, AND THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY, IF THERE IS AN OUT-AND-OUT POTENTIAL CONFLICT TO GET A CONFLICT ATTORNEY, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE PAST.

I THINK A MOUNTAIN'S BEING MADE OUT OF A MOLEHILL.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM THE BOARD?

>> THE MOTION IS THEN --

>>JAN PLATT: TO HAVE MARY HELEN SERVE AS OUR ATTORNEY, AND THAT WE -- AND I'LL ADD THAT IN INSTANCES WHERE THERE'S A CONFLICT THAT WE HAVE A CONFLICT ATTORNEY THAT WILL TAKE HER PLACE AT THAT TIME.

>> I'LL SECOND THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SECOND.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THAT AMENDED MOTION?

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR, RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED, RIGHT HAND.

OKAY.

THE MOTION PASSES.

OKAY.

THAT WAS THE OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL SUPPORT.

ONE ITEM I WANTED TO MENTION BEFORE WE MOVE ON.

I KNOW LAST TIME SERVING ON CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WE DID VOTE ON WHETHER WE WANTED COUNTY STAFF TO ASSIST US OR NOT. WE JUST HAD A MOTION FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE COUNTY STAFF?

AND I KNOW, PAT, YOU ADDRESSED THE FUNDING AND EVERYTHING FOR THAT, BUT ANY QUESTIONS OR DISCUSSION BEFORE WE MOVE ON?

>>GERALD WHITE: WHO'S GOING TO STAFF US AS STAFF BECAUSE IF IT'S -- IF IT'S EDITH STEWART, EDITH STEWART IS THE CHIEF LOBBYIST FOR THE COUNTY, AND THE SESSION'S GOING TO START.

SHE'S GOING TO BE UP IN TALLAHASSEE.

WHO'S GOING TO STAFF THIS BOARD?

WHO HAS THE EXPERTISE?

I DON'T WANT A TOP OFFICIAL NAME PUT OUT FRONT AND THEN WE GET SOMEONE THAT HAS ZERO ABILITIES TO CARRY OUT THESE SERIOUS DUTIES OF THE REVIEW OF THIS CHARTER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE REASON I BRING IT UP, BASICALLY THE STAFFING -- AND CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, PAT -- IT'S PROVIDING, YOU KNOW, E-MAILS GOING OUT, PROVIDING INFORMATION, GETTING THE REPORT AT THE END COMPLETED.

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S CORRECT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE PROVIDE THE INPUT, THEY DO THE

DRAFT REPORT.

WE REVIEW IT, WE OKAY IT, AND THEN -- YOU KNOW, I MEAN, YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO STAFF THIS BOARD.

>> LOGISTICS SUPPORT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, LOGISTICS SUPPORT.

IT COULD BE INTERNAL OR WE COULD GO OUTSIDE, BUT LIKE PAT SAID, THE FUNDING ISSUE.

THE QUESTION IS I THINK WE -- AS A BOARD WE NEED TO DISCUSS IT SOMEHOW BECAUSE SOMEBODY -- SOMEBODY NEEDS TO STAFF IT.

>>JAN PLATT: AND HAVING SERVED AS CHAIR, AND I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO FIND YOURSELF IN THE SAME SITUATION, IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, WHO WILL HELP YOU WITH THE AGENDAS, WHO HAS THE CONTACT WITH THE VARIOUS STAFFERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY TO HELP YOU IN DOING -- PUTTING TOGETHER THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS BOARD, SO IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO GET SOMEBODY FROM THE OUTSIDE TO COME IN BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO BE PAYING FOR SOMEBODY WHO'S GOING TO COME IN AND THEN WE'RE PAYING FOR THE COUNTY STAFF WHO'S GOING TO BE HELPING THEM FIND THE ANSWERS.

THAT'S WHY IT'S SO GREAT TO HAVE SOMEBODY LIKE EDITH WHO'S BEEN AROUND FOR 15 YEARS WHO KNOWS -- WHO KNOWS -- SHE COULD -- YOU KNOW, SHE KNOWS THE COUNTY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND I WANTED TO MENTION ONE OTHER THING.

HAVING BEEN AN AUDITOR, I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF

BEING INDEPENDENT.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND WHAT DAVID CATON SAID, AND I TEND TO AGREE WITH HIM.

AS A BOARD, I THINK WE'RE ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE.

IF WE SEE A CONFLICT -- ONE OF US, I HOPE AS A BOARD MEMBER, IF YOU SEE A CONFLICT, YOU POINT IT OUT.

IF -- YOU KNOW, IF STAFF -- IF YOU SEE A CONFLICT, YOU POINT IT OUT AND WE'LL ADDRESS IT AS A BOARD.

THAT'S MY PERSONAL OPINION.

BUT IS THERE ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION CONCERNING THIS?

IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO DISCUSS AS A BOARD BEFORE WE PROCEED BECAUSE IN TERMS OF STAFFING THIS, WHETHER IT'S INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL, WE NEED SOMEBODY TO ASSIST US.

>> IF I MAY, JUST TO BACK UP WHAT MR. WHITE WAS SAYING, IF IT'S TRUE THAT MS. STEWART WOULD BE IN TALLAHASSEE A GREAT DEAL WHILE WE'RE MEETING, WILL THERE BE A BACKUP AVAILABLE TO US IF SHE'S IN TALLAHASSEE AS THE CHIEF LOBBYIST FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY?

>>PAT BEAN: SHE IS SPENDING LESS OF HER TIME IN TALLAHASSEE SINCE HER NEW JOB DUTIES THAN SHE USED TO. SHE HAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO SPENDS ALMOST FULL-TIME IN TALLAHASSEE.

SHE WILL BE HERE TO MAKE SURE, AND IF SHE IS NOT HERE ON A PARTICULAR OCCASION, I WILL FILL IN FOR HER OR HAVE SOMEONE ELSE FILL IN FOR HER.

>> [INAUDIBLE] THAT'S NOT INDEPENDENT.

>>GERALD WHITE: MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS IS JUST RIDICULOUS.  
YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY STAFF THE CHARTER  
REVIEW BOARD?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'M NOT SAYING THAT.

>>PAT BEAN: NO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'M SAYING WE'RE DISCUSSING IT RIGHT  
NOW.

I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING.

I'M SAYING WE'RE DISCUSSING --

>>GERALD WHITE: WE'RE STARTING ON A NEGATIVE.

WE'RE STARTING ON A NEGATIVE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'RE DISCUSSING --

>>GERALD WHITE: WE'RE WAY OUT OF THE POSITIVE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'RE DISCUSSING THIS AS A BOARD  
BECAUSE AS A BOARD WE NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE STAFF IT.

>>GERALD WHITE: THIS IS HORRIBLE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION, GERALD.

WE HAVE NOT MADE A DECISION, YOU KNOW.

ANY OTHER COMMENT?

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

I MEAN, WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

WHAT ARE ALL OF OUR OPTIONS IN THIS REGARD?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WELL, MY UNDERSTANDING -- AND -- MY UNDERSTANDING IS WE COULD ASK THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO HAVE SOMEONE OUTSIDE STAFF THIS BOARD OR WE COULD GO WITH SOMEONE INTERNALLY.

THOSE ARE THE TWO OPTIONS.

I MEAN, ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

>>PAT BEAN: NOT REALLY.

>> THAT -- WELL, I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH ON THIS.

DIFFERENT COUNTIES THE CHARTER REVIEWS DO IT DIFFERENT WAYS.

POLK COUNTY I THINK RIGHT NOW HAS GOT AN RFP OUT TO HIRE EVEN AN ATTORNEY TO HIRE STAFF AND ALL THAT, SO THERE'S DIFFERENT WAYS THAT IT CAN BE DONE, SO IT'S NOTHING NEW THAT -- WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.

SO THIS IS NO NEW WAY.

I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD BOW DOWN AND SAY BECAUSE THE COUNTY HAS A BUDGET PROBLEM, WHICH I -- THERE'S SOME ISSUES WITH SAYING THAT.

SAYS LIKE, WELL, WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, SO YOU REALLY NEED TO STICK WITH WHAT WE'RE SAYING.

I DON'T BUY THAT.

I THINK THAT THIS HAPPENS ONLY EVERY FIVE YEARS.

I THINK THAT PRUDENT ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD HAVE FUNDED THIS, THE BOARD SHOULD HAVE PROBABLY FUNDED THIS SO THAT WE WOULD

HAVE AN OPTION, OKAY.

IF WE DON'T HAVE THAT OPTION, THEN MAYBE WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE A DECISION TONIGHT.

MAYBE WE NEED TO WAIT UNTIL WE GET SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THAT.

MAYBE WE NEED TO WAIT TO ASK THE BOARD AND SEE IF THEY SAY NO BEFORE WE MAKE A DECISION WHETHER WE GO FULLY DOWN THIS PATH BECAUSE I'M HEARING YOU GUYS THAT HAVE BEEN HERE GETTING INTO IT BEFORE WE EVEN GET OFF GROUND ZERO, AND WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN [INCOMPREHENSIBLE] SO WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IS --

>>GERALD WHITE: I MEAN, IT'S GOING TO GET HOT AND HEAVY BECAUSE WE'VE HAD ISSUES WITH THE PERFORMANCE AUDITOR AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES.

I MEAN, WE JUST HAVE AN EXECUTIVE TEAM IN THIS COUNTY THAT HAS SOME ISSUES.

I MEAN, NOW YOU'RE SAYING THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR IS GOING TO STAFF THIS BOARD WHEN WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT ISSUES, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR, ALL CHARTER POSITIONS, AND SO TO HAVE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RUNNING THIS BOARD, IT'S JUST -- JUST DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

>> LET ME JUST RAISE A QUESTION, MS. BEAN, AND MAYBE WE CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS.

AND THE QUESTION IS -- I WANT TO KNOW WHEN IS THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

>>PAT BEAN: ON FEBRUARY 17th, WHICH IS --

>> FEBRUARY 17th?

>>PAT BEAN: -- DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

>> IS IT POSSIBLE -- DO WE HAVE TIME TO SEND -- EVEN THOUGH THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING, DO WE HAVE A POSSIBILITY OF SENDING IN A REQUEST --

>>PAT BEAN: SURE.

>> -- A BUDGET REQUEST TO THE BOARD AND HAVING THEM -- AND BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS SOME OF THE CONCERNS WE HAVE PERTAINING TO STAFFING, AND MAYBE EVEN DEALING WITH LEGAL AND SEE IF THEY'RE WILLING TO WORK WITH US?

IS THAT POSSIBLE?

I'D BE WILLING TO PUT A MOTION TOGETHER THAT WE SEND A BUDGET REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AT THEIR NEXT MEETING AND REQUEST FUNDING, AND THEN I THINK WE CAN MAKE A DETERMINATION BASED ON THEIR RESPONSE WHERE WE'RE GOING, AND SO I'D BE WILLING TO MOVE A BUDGET REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

SECOND.

>> I'M A NEW --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DISCUSSION.

>> YEAH.

I'M A NEW MEMBER, SO I'M APPRECIATIVE OF THESE CONCERNS BEING RAISED INITIALLY.

I'M VERY APPRECIATIVE OF IT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH, BECAUSE I'M NEW, IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EVALUATE THE, YOU KNOW, URGENCY OF SOME OF THE CONCERNS YOU RAISE NOW.

THE OTHER THING IS I WOULD LIKE A JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE STAFF PERSON THAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING BECAUSE IT'S HARD FOR ME TO EVALUATE THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT FROM SOMEONE WHOSE BIG RESPONSIBILITY IS TO GET ME AN E-MAIL ON A REGULAR BASIS.

I WOULD DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT IN THAT. IF I SEE WHERE I'M NOT GETTING THEM AND I'M UNINFORMED, THEN I MIGHT THINK SOMETHING'S GOING ON, BUT IF THAT'S THE EXTENT OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION, THEN I'M GOING TO VIEW IT ONE WAY.

IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S A MUCH MORE SUBSTANTIVE POSITION, THEN I'M GOING TO HAVE -- POTENTIALLY HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW ON THE POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT.

SO COULD WE POSSIBLY GET A JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY STAFF PERSON WHO WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO US WITH RESPECT TO WHAT THAT PERSON -- WHAT THAT PERSON'S FUNCTION WOULD BE AS TO THIS BOARD?

>>PAT BEAN: CERTAINLY.

WE CAN DO THAT.

I DON'T KNOW THAT I CAN GET IT TO YOU TONIGHT, BUT --

>> WELL, I'M -- I'M HAPPY TO HEAR IT FROM YOU, FROM MR. WHITE, WHO'S BEEN HERE BEFORE, YOU KNOW.

I JUST FEEL THAT WITHOUT HAVING SOME SENSE OF WHAT THE JOB ENTAILS, IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

ACTUALLY JAN AND THEN RALPH.

>>JAN PLATT: I DON'T INTEND TO SUPPORT THE MOTION.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ENVISION STAFF.

THEY DON'T SET POLICY.

IT'S THIS BOARD THAT SETS THE POLICY.

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S RIGHT.

>> THAT'S WHY I ASKED.

>>JAN PLATT: WE'RE THE ONES WHO SET THE POLICY, AND WHAT THAT PERSON DOES IS THE LEGWORK TO GET US THE PAPERWORK THAT WE ASK FOR, PERIOD.

THEY DON'T COME UP WITH ANY IDEAS OR THINGS LIKE THAT.

THAT'S OUR JOB.

I MEAN, IT'S JUST A PERSON WHO DOES OUR -- THEY'RE OUR -- THE PERSON WHO DOES WHAT WE ASK THEM TO DO.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL, AND I THINK IT'S BEING MADE INTO SOMETHING THAT IT IS NOT, AND SO I DON'T INTEND TO SUPPORT THE MOTION.

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND ANY MORE TAX DOLLARS.

SOMEBODY IN-HOUSE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET AND ACCESS THE INFORMATION WE ASK FOR MUCH EASIER THAN SOMEBODY YOU HIRE FROM OUTSIDE, AND I KNOW -- AND LET ME JUST SAY -- MARILYN IS UP THERE DOING THIS.

SHE CALLED ME AND LOBBIED ME FOR SOMEBODY.

YOU KNOW, I KNOW YOU WANT SOMEBODY ELSE TO BE HIRED TO DO THIS, AND I JUST THINK THAT -- YOU KNOW, I CALL AN ACE AN ACE, A SPADE A SPADE.

>> YEAH.

I JUST THINK THAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE JOB IS BECAUSE I'M NOT HEARING ANY REAL SUBSTANTIVE FUNCTION IN THAT PERSON THAT WOULD CAUSE ME -- AND I -- I TOO AM VERY SENSITIVE TO ISSUES OF CONFLICT, BUT, YOU KNOW, WE ALSO HAVE PUBLIC RECORDS OPPORTUNITIES AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS BOARD MEMBERS.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT'S CORRECT.

>> SO TO THE EXTENT THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT GETTING ADEQUATE INFORMATION, IF IT'S A -- IF IT'S A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, THAT NEEDS TO BE DISCLOSED, AND IF MARY HELEN TELLS US IT'S NOT A PUBLIC RECORD AND I CAN'T HAVE IT, YOU COULD BE SURE THAT I WILL REACH OUT AND RESEARCH THAT AND I WILL -- IF I FEEL THAT THERE'S BASIS TO CHALLENGE, YOU KNOW, THAT ASSESSMENT, I'M CERTAINLY SOMEONE THAT WOULD DO THAT.

SO I'M CONCERNED TOO ABOUT GOING FORWARD AND ASKING FOR

MONEY FOR WHAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE.

>> MR. CHAIRMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME GET RALPH AND THEN JAMES.

>> I WANT -- I KNOW WE HAVE A MOTION ON THE FLOOR.

CAN WE HAVE AN ADOPTED --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVE A MOTION AND SECOND ON THE FLOOR.

>> I WANT TO MOVE THAT WE ALLOW THE COUNTY TO HAVE A SECRETARY TO HELP US DO THIS FUNCTIONARY STUFF THAT'S NONSUBSTANTIVE.

THIS -- I WAS HERE ALSO FIVE YEARS AGO.

THIS IS NOT A BIG DEAL.

THE THING ON THE LAW THING WAS A BIG DEAL.

THIS IS NOT A BIG DEAL.

>>JAN PLATT: SECOND.

>> I AGREE WITH MS. REBACK, SO I THINK WE HAVE TWO VOTES.

I'M ASKING, MR. CHAIR --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, OKAY.

WE HAVE THE ONE MOTION THAT -- THE ORIGINAL MOTION, WHICH -

-

>> YEAH.

>> CALL THE QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WHO MADE THE ORIGINAL MOTION?

>>JAN PLATT: YOU DID.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO -- CAN YOU CLARIFY THE MOTION.

>> YES, THAT WE ALLOW THE STAFFING TO TAKE PLACE BECAUSE I'VE GOT ANOTHER HOUR ON MY METER OUTSIDE.

OKAY.

WE'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS.

>> MR. CHAIRMAN, I WAS SIMPLY GOING TO SAY THAT WHAT CONCERNS US MOST IS THE ABILITY THAT WE REMAIN INDEPENDENT. THAT IS WHY WE'RE HAVING THE INTENSE AND IN-DEPTH CONVERSATION THAT WE'RE HAVING BECAUSE IT IS BY THE PEOPLE THAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE INDEPENDENT, AND IF IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE ARE NOT INDEPENDENT, THAT HAS AS MUCH IMPACT ON WHAT WE'RE DOING AS ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, UNFORTUNATELY, IS A MAJOR PART OF WHAT WE DO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> MR. CHAIRMAN, JUST TO DEFEND MY MOTION, I DON'T WANT TO THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MEETINGS BE SITTING HERE AND WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT A CONFLICT.

I'D RATHER FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO TURN US DOWN AND SAY THAT THEY'RE IN A LEAN BUDGET YEAR, WE DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS; THEREFORE, YOU HAVE TO STICK WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT, OR THEY'RE GOING TO SAY YOU'VE GOT -- WE CAN ALLOCATE SOME FUNDS TO YOU, BUT FROM WHAT I'M HEARING FROM THOSE WHO SERVED BEFORE, THAT THEY HAD PROBLEMS, AND IT SEEM TO BE -- WE HAVE SPENT ALMOST 25, 30 MINUTES TALKING

ABOUT CONFLICTS.

NOW, ARE WE PLANNING TO DO THIS THE NEXT MEETING IF THIS  
DON'T GET RESOLVED?

NOW, ONE WAY TO GET IT RESOLVED BASED ON WHAT MS. BEAN TOLD  
ME, IT'S THE BOARD THAT MAKES THE FINAL DECISION, AND IF  
THEY SAY NO, IT'S OVER.

SO THAT'S OUR OPTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> AND THEREFORE, THAT'S THE REASON I'M REQUESTING LET'S GO  
BEFORE THE -- LET THEM MAKE --

>> MITCH, I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE THING.

VERY QUICKLY, I'VE WORKED WITH EDITH STEWART.

I WAS ALSO ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD BEFORE.

SHE IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST MINISTERIAL.

SHE DOES BRING SOME SUBSTANCE, AND SHE HAS HOW MANY PEOPLE  
ON HER STAFF, PAT?

>>PAT BEAN: SHE'S GOT PROBABLY 15, 20 PEOPLE.

>> AGAIN --

>>PAT BEAN: I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER.

>> SO I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE WELL SERVED.

I DON'T REMEMBER ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH EDITH -- OR I'M  
SORRY, WITH SHELLEY BLOOD OR ANY STAFF LAST TIME, AND THE  
THIRD THING I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT IS I THINK WE ARE  
RECEIVING BUDGET FUNDS.

EDITH AND/OR ANY MEMBER OF HER STAFF IS BEING PAID.

THEY WILL BE HERE 6:00 TO 8:00 ONCE A MONTH AT LEAST, AND I THINK THAT IS FUNDED BY THE COUNTY.

I THINK THEY GO ABOVE AND BEYOND, AND FOR THAT REASON, I WILL SUPPORT USING THE COUNTY STAFF.

>> THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: BEFORE WE VOTE, I'VE JUST GOT TO CLOSE ON THIS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND I'M GLAD YOU MADE THAT POINT BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THE STAFF OF THIS COUNTY'S DUTIES DIMINISHED.

IF THEY'RE SUPPOSED BE OUT THERE AT TALLAHASSEE OR WHATEVER ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTY AND SITTING HERE, THEN WHO'S SERVED?

WHO IS SERVED?

>> SHE ANSWERED YOU.

SHE'S GOING TO SEND A SUBORDINATE TO BE IN TALLAHASSEE FULL-TIME.

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>GERALD WHITE: HISTORICALLY THIS BOARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN FUNDED ABOUT \$25,000, AND --

>> I HEAR YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- FOR SOME REASON THE ADMINISTRATOR DIDN'T RECOMMEND ANYTHING TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND I THINK THAT WAS WRONG.

I THINK THAT WAS WRONG FOR THE ROOTS OF THE CHARTER, THIS REVIEW BOARD NOT TO BE GRANTED SOME FUNDS, AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED, IF -- WE'VE GIVEN MONEY BACK.

WE HAVEN'T SPENT THE MONEY, BUT I JUST THINK IT WAS WRONG FOR HER NOT TO BUDGET ANY MONEY FOR THE CITIZENS' BOARD, THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>> CALL FOR THE QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

CALL FOR QUESTION.

WE HAVE -- LET ME JUST GET SOME CLARIFICATION ON THIS.

WE HAVE ONE MOTION -- LEGAL.

WE HAVE ONE MOTION OUT THERE TO ASK THE BOARD FOR FUNDING, AND IT'S BEEN SECONDED.

NOW, RALPH, I JUST WANT CLARIFICATION ON YOURS.

YOUR MOTION --

>>RALPH FISHER: ALLOW THE COUNTY STAFFING AS PRESENTED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO WE HAVE TWO MOTIONS.

DID WE GET A SECOND ON YOURS?

>> I'LL SECOND.

>>JAN PLATT: I SECONDED IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S A SUBSTITUTE MOTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: IF YOURS PASSES, THEN WE DON'T DEAL WITH HIS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

SO WE VOTE ON THE SUBSTITUTE MOTION FIRST.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE SUBSTITUTE MOTION OF HAVING THE COUNTY  
STAFF -- MAKE SURE I SAY THAT CORRECTLY -- THE COUNTY STAFF  
SUPPORT OR STAFF OUR BOARD RAISE THEIR RIGHT HAND.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: TEN IN FAVOR.

THAT MOTION PASSES.

SO BY -- BY THE FACT THAT THAT MOTION HAS PASSED, WE DO NOT  
NEED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE OTHER MOTION.

OKAY.

>> THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THE NEXT UP ON OUR AGENDA -- LEGALLY IS THAT ALL I HAVE TO  
DO?

IS THAT ONE MOTION?

>> MAY I ASK A QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT'S SITTING OUT THERE.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE --

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- I HANDLED THAT CORRECTLY.

>> I'M LOOKING AT THIS AGENDA.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>> I NOTICE IT'S THE FIRST MEETING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>> IT'S A PUBLIC MEETING.

IS THERE ANYWHERE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT EACH MEETING?

IT'S NOT ON THIS ONE, AND I KEEP SEEING PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE ACTING LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO GET UP HERE, SO NO DISRESPECT, BUT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THAT'S ONE THING I WAS GOING TO BRING UP WE WOULD DISCUSS -- AT THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WE -- AND IN THE RULES OF ORDER, THERE IS A DISCUSSION CONCERNING PUBLIC COMMENT.

I BELIEVE MARY HELEN FARRIS WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSING THAT WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT SUNSHINE LAW AND EVERYTHING. SHE PROBABLY WILL BE BRINGING THAT UP.

I'M NOT POSITIVE ABOUT THAT, BUT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT I -- WE NEED TO DISCUSS AS A BOARD.

WE NEED TO DISCUSS WHEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IT.

I KNOW THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IT WAS THE LAST -- AT THE VERY END OF THE MEETING.

WE COULD DECIDE TO HAVE IT AT THE BEGINNING.

AS A BOARD WE CAN MAKE THAT DECISION.

>>RENEE LEE: MR. CHAIR, I WOULD JUST ASK YOU TO ALLOW US TO FLIP 7 AND 8.

I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE BOARD UNDERSTANDS THE SUNSHINE LAW AND THE IMPACT IT HAS ON YOUR COMMUNICATIONS, TALKING TO EACH OTHER AS YOU'RE SITTING AS BOARD MEMBERS, WRITING NOTES TO EACH OTHER AS YOU'RE SITTING HERE.

I THINK IT'S REALLY CRITICAL THAT SHE ADDRESS THAT FIRST, SO I WOULD ASK MARY HELEN TO DO THAT AND THEN ROLL RIGHT INTO THE NEXT OVERVIEW OF THE CHARTER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GOOD EVENING.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: GOOD EVENING.

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW, I'M MARY HELEN FARRIS.

I'M WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND I'M REALLY EXCITED TO EMBARK ON ANOTHER CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

MY FIRST ONE WAS IN 1995, AND I'VE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH ALL THE OTHER ONES SINCE THEN.

AS RENEE REQUESTED, I WILL GO OVER A QUICK DISCUSSION OF THE SUNSHINE LAW SO THAT EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LAW AND HOW IT APPLIES TO THIS GROUP. FLORIDA IS WELL-KNOWN IN ITS OPEN GOVERNMENT LAWS, BOTH BY STATUTE AND AS INTERPRETED BY THE COURTS, AS BEING VERY, VERY BROAD, AND THE SUNSHINE LAW BASICALLY SAYS THAT ALL MEETINGS OF ANY BOARD OR COMMISSION OF THE STATE OR IN THIS CASE OF THE COUNTY AT WHICH OFFICIAL ACTS ARE TO BE TAKEN ARE DECLARED OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND NO ACTION IS BINDING UNLESS IT'S TAKEN AT SUCH MEETING, AND REASONABLE NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN.

I'M GOING TO QUICKLY GO OVER SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTED TERMS

SO THAT THERE'S AN UNDERSTANDING OF EXACTLY HOW THIS IS INTERPRETED.

THE FIRST THING IS WHAT IS A MEETING.

OBVIOUSLY YOUR FORMAL BOARD MEETING WHEN YOU CONVENE HERE IS A MEETING, BUT THE COURTS HAVE INTERPRETED AS ANY TIME TWO OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE SAME BOARD HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT ANY ISSUE THAT MAY FORESEEABLY COME BACK TO THAT BOARD FOR ACTION, AND IN THE DAYS OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WITH THE USE OF INTERNET AND TEXTING AND E-MAILS AND OBVIOUSLY PHONE CONVERSATIONS, ALL OF THOSE COULD BE MEETINGS IF IT'S BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT MIGHT COME BACK TO THIS BOARD FOR DISCUSSION, AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE SUCH A WIDE CHARGE OF LOOKING AT THE CHARTER, THERE COULD BE A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT COULD COME BEFORE THIS BOARD, SO I WOULD JUST CAUTION YOU THAT THERE BE NO CONVERSATIONS TO THAT.

IT ALSO, OBVIOUSLY, WOULD APPLY TO SUBCOMMITTEES.

I KNOW WHEN WE DID THE INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR WE HAD SUBCOMMITTEES.

DEPENDING ON THE WORK -- AND I THINK THAT FLOWED REALLY WELL, AND GETTING THE DETAILS DOWN AND THEN GOING BACK TO THE FULL BOARD FOR SOME MORE POLICY DIRECTIONS, BUT THOSE WERE DONE, AS YOU REMEMBER, AS WELL.

THEY WERE NOTICED AND THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS WERE MET.

REASONABLE NOTICE IS REQUIRED.

YOUR STAFF PERSON WILL BE WORKING -- WE WILL MAKE SURE ALL OF THESE MEETINGS ARE NOTICED.

I KNOW THERE'S THE USE OF THE WEB SITE, WHICH I THINK WILL BE VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CITIZENS TO BE ABLE TO MONITOR WHAT THIS BOARD DOES WITHOUT HAVING TO COME DOWN HERE, SO I THINK THAT WOULD BE VERY, VERY GOOD, BUT WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT REASONABLE NOTICE IS REQUIRED.

BASICALLY IT IS THE SUBJECT MATTER, THE PLACE, THE LOCATION, AND THE TIME, AND THE COURTS INTERPRET REASONABLE -- IF THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT YOU NEED TO HAVE A QUICK MEETING, WE HAVE WAYS OF DOING BIG E-MAILS OUT TO GROUPS OF PEOPLE THAT GETS THE NOTICE OUT SO THAT -- SO THAT WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT TO YOU -- FOR YOU.

AND ALSO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES.

REALLY, THIS -- THERE'S A COUPLE OF THINGS WITH THIS.

ONE IS THE MEETING FACILITY.

GENERALLY THE MEETINGS WILL BE HERE.

I KNOW IN THE PAST THERE HAD BEEN SOME MEETINGS IN OTHER LOCATIONS AND COUNTIES.

THAT WAS MANY YEARS -- A COUPLE CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS AGO, BUT THAT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MEANS THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE MEETINGS IN A LUNCHEON MEETING AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE, BUT WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT ANYPLACE THAT YOU-ALL DECIDE TO MEET, IF IT'S ANYPLACE DIFFERENT THAN THIS, WOULD MEET THAT CRITERIA.

AND OBVIOUSLY -- AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

THE SUNSHINE LAW ITSELF DOES NOT DEMAND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

THERE'S A LOT OF STATUTES THAT ARE -- SPECIFICALLY REQUIRE THAT, AND I KNOW ONE OF THE REASONS OF THIS BOARD IS TO GET PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO GET THE NOTICE OUT TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE, WHETHER IT'S BY E-MAIL, HAVING A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION ON YOUR AGENDA, ALL OF THOSE THINGS. WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND THAT EVERYBODY'S VOICE CAN BE HEARD.

AND FINALLY THE REQUIREMENT FOR WRITTEN MINUTES.

THE SUNSHINE LAW SPECIFICALLY SAYS THEY HAVE TO BE WRITTEN. EVEN IF THEY -- THERE IS A TAPE MADE THAT WILL AID IN WRITING THE MINUTES, ACTUALLY WRITTEN MINUTES MUST BE KEPT. AND IF YOU GO ON THE WEB SITE, YOU CAN SEE AND READ MINUTES FROM PAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS, WHICH IS VERY INTERESTING TO SEE WHERE, YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE PAST HAVE GONE.

SO THOSE ARE THE BASIC OVERLINES OF THE SUNSHINE LAW.

IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS AS WE GO THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, OBVIOUSLY I'M HAPPY TO ANSWER THOSE.

AND I -- I'VE ALSO SPENT A LOT OF MY PRACTICE ON THE PUBLIC RECORDS LAW AS WELL, SO IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY QUESTIONS?

>>JAN PLATT: HAVE YOU -- DID YOU MENTION CONDUITS?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OH, THE USE OF A LIAISON --

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- IS ANOTHER THING WHERE YOU COULD HAVE THE USE -- A MEETING.

IF, FOR INSTANCE, ONE BOARD MEMBER USED A CITIZEN TO GO AND TALK TO ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER WITH THE -- WITH THE INTENT OF KIND OF USING IT AS A LIAISON TO GET THE DISCUSSION, IF YOU WILL, AND THAT IS ALSO PROHIBITED, AND THERE'S -- THERE'S CASE LAW ON THAT AS WELL.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH, BUT ALSO -- ALSO, IF SOMEBODY -- IF SOMEBODY TALKS TO YOU AND THEY START TALKING AND TELLING YOU WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE -- A BOARD MEMBER DID, YOU NEED TO STOP THEM RIGHT AWAY BECAUSE, AGAIN, THAT'S A SUNSHINE, AND THEY MAY INNOCENTLY DO THAT.

YOU KNOW, THAT SOMETIMES HAPPENS THAT SOMEBODY WILL SAY, OH, WELL, I KNOW THAT SO-AND-SO FEELS THIS WAY BECAUSE -- AND YOU STOP THEM IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE, AGAIN, THAT'S A CONDUIT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OR THEY COULD GO BACK AND DE FACTO --

>> MR. CHAIRMAN, I BELIEVE IN BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY THERE'S A TERM "REASONABILITY," WHAT ANY REASONABLE PERSON WOULD DO IN A REASONABLE SITUATION, SO IS THE SUNSHINE LAW THAT WHICH IS DRACONIAN, CANNOT BE DONE, OR IS THERE A

POSSIBILITY THAT PERHAPS HUMAN FOIBLES COULD COME IN AND WE MIGHT DO SOMETHING UNINTENTIONALLY THAT --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE USE OF A LIAISON IN THE CASE LAW HAS BEEN AN INTENTIONAL USE.

THERE'S A MEETING -- THERE'S A CASE ABOUT A SCHOOL BOARD THAT WAS GOING TO DO A REDISTRICTING, AND THEY USED THE SCHOOL SUPERVISOR TO GO AND HAVE SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS WITH EACH OF THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, AND THEN WHEN THEY MET TO VOTE ON IT, IT WAS LIKE A FIVE-MINUTE MEETING.

THAT'S JUST THE FACTS OF THAT CASE, BUT I THINK WHAT -- WHAT -- WHAT'S BEING SAID HERE IS THAT IF -- IF SOMEBODY SAYS, WELL, SO-AND-SO'S GOING TO WANT TO DO THIS, WELL, I WOULD SUPPORT THAT ONLY -- IT COULD BE AN INNOCENT THING, BUT AGAIN, IN THE CASE LAW THAT WE HAVE ON THE BOOKS NOW IT IS AN INTENTIONAL USE OF A LIAISON, BUT I THINK THE POINT IS VERY WELL TAKEN, THAT IT'S JUST BETTER -- AND AGAIN, LET ME ADD ONE MORE THING.

IF THERE IS AN ISSUE THAT YOU WANT TO PUT ON THE AGENDA OR INFORMATION YOU NEED, CONTACT MY OFFICE, CONTACT THE STAFF, AND LET US DO THAT AND THEN BRING IT BEFORE THE FULL BOARD SO THAT THE WHOLE BOARD GETS THE SAME INFORMATION AT THE SAME TIME, AND THAT'S HOW WE'VE PROCEEDED IN THE PAST.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> FOR CLARIFICATION, SORT OF WHAT -- SAY I'M OUT ON THE STREET, I'M OUT IN THE PUBLIC, PEOPLE SAY, HEY, MAN, I

THINK YOU'RE ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, YOU GUYS NEED TO BE DOING THIS, YOU NEED TO BE DOING THAT, YOU KNOW, CAN WE TALK TO THE PUBLIC AND LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAY AND THEN BRING THAT BACK HERE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OH, ABSOLUTELY.  
SURE.

>> AS LONG AS WE DON'T TALK TO ANY OF THESE OTHER 14?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT.

>> AS LONG AS WE DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER, DON'T LOOK AT EACH OTHER, DON'T TALK TO ANY OF THEM, DON'T EVEN RESPOND TO THEM, DON'T EVEN SMILE AT THEM; RIGHT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YOU CAN -- YES.

>> I GOT IT.

I TREAT PEOPLE LIKE THAT ANYWAY, SO --

>> YOU'LL BE SAFE.

>> SO -- OKAY.

I GOT IT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: ALL RIGHT.

AND IF ANY ISSUES COME UP AS WE GO ALONG, I'M CERTAINLY, YOU KNOW, HAPPY TO SPEAK TO THEM.

AND IF IT'S OKAY WITH THE CHAIR, I'LL GO RIGHT IN.

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CHARTER.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE CHARTER, SOME OF YOU MAY NOT BE SO FAMILIAR WITH IT, SO I'LL JUST SPEND A FEW MINUTES JUST TO KIND OF GO OVER THE MAIN POINTS

AND THE SECTIONS OF THE CHARTER.

THE FIRST THING IS IF YOU READ THE ACTUAL ORDINANCE THAT ADOPTED THE CHARTER, ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS -- AND OF COURSE, COMMISSIONER PLATT CAN SPEAK TO THIS -- WAS THE SEPARATION OF GOVERNMENT, THE SEPARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS, SO THAT WAS KIND OF PREFACE FOR THE CHARTER.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW IN SECTION 1.02, THE CHARTER DEFINES COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DEFINED AS EXCLUDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, EXCLUDES SOME OF THE -- LIKE PORT'S AUTHORITY, THE SPORTS AUTHORITY, THE SCHOOL BOARD.

IT'S IMPORTANT, AS YOU KNOW -- NOW, AS WE GET INTO THE DISCUSSION, THERE ARE SOME WAYS THE CONSTITUTION WILL ALLOW YOU TO CHANGE THAT, BUT FOR THE MOST PART, WHEN YOU DISCUSS ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT, I JUST WANTED YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS.

I MEAN, IT ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR IN THE CHARTER THAT IT'S NOT ANY FORM OF CONSOLIDATION, AND THAT WAS A FORM -- THAT WAS A WAY TO GET IT PASSED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE SEPARATION OF POWERS, THAT IS -- THERE'S TWO PLACES WHERE THE BOARD DOES EXERCISE SOME POWER OVER THE ADMINISTRATOR, OTHER THAN ACTUALLY APPOINTING THE ADMINISTRATOR.

THE BOARD CONFIRMS SOME HIGH-LEVEL STAFF, WHICH IS

BASICALLY THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS, AND ALSO THE BOARD ADOPTS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE BY ORDINANCE.

BUT BASICALLY UNDER THE POWERS -- UNDER HOME RULE POWERS, THE CHARTER -- THE COUNTY BASICALLY HAS ALL POWERS IN THE CHARTER THAT'S NOT INCONSISTENT WITH GENERAL LAW.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT WE WANT TO DO VIS-A-VIS ELECTIONS OR WHATEVER THE ISSUE IS, WE LOOK TO SEE IF THERE'S -- IT CAN'T BE INCONSISTENT WITH GENERAL LAW.

OTHER THAN THAT -- AND THERE'S PERVASIVE WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE CHARTER.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AS YOU KNOW, THERE'S SEVEN OF THEM.

WE HAVE -- THERE'S THREE AT-LARGE AND FOUR SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS.

THE PURPOSE FOR SETTING THIS UP IS THAT EVERY VOTER IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CAN VOTE FOR THE THREE AT-LARGE AND THEIR DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, THEREBY GIVING EVERY VOTER THE CHANCE TO ELECT THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

THE TERMS ARE STAGGERED.

THE -- THERE IS A REQUIREMENT, WHICH IS COMING UP NOW, EVERY TEN YEARS AFTER THE CENSUS, THAT THE SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS BE REAPPORTIONED, AND THAT IS DONE ONCE WE HAVE A TIME FRAME AFTER WE RECEIVE THE NUMBERS FROM THE FEDERAL

CENSUS TO DO THAT.

THERE ARE TERM LIMITS.

THE CHARTER DOES ALLOW -- IN THE SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS YOU'LL HAVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM, FOUR-YEAR TERM, AND A TWO-YEAR TERM ON A STAGGERED BASIS, AND THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE CENSUS, SO YOU CAN SERVE AS A SINGLE-MEMBER COMMISSIONER FOR UP TO MAYBE TEN YEARS DEPENDING ON THE TIMING AND THEN GO TO AN AT-LARGE.

THOSE ARE TREATED SEPARATELY, BUT THERE ARE TERM LIMITS IN THE CHARTER.

TO POINT OUT, IF WE ADOPT AN ORDINANCE, THE MUNICIPALITIES CAN ADOPT AN ORDINANCE -- A CONFLICT ORDINANCE BASICALLY. WE ALLOW THEM THE CHOICE TO ADOPT SOMETHING THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM OURS.

THERE'S A PROVISION ON THE COUNTY INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR.

THIS MAY BE DISCUSSED MORE IN-DEPTH AS YOU MOVE ALONG, BUT IT SETS UP THE QUALIFICATIONS, HOW THE AUDITOR IS HIRED AND FIRED, HOW THE BOARD GOES ABOUT DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO DO AUDITS AND BUDGET REVIEWS.

THAT WAS A RESULT OF A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK TO GET THAT PUT TOGETHER.

THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

THAT SECTION HAS THE QUALIFICATIONS, SOME OF THE

RESTRICTIONS.

THE COMPENSATION IS FIXED BY THE BOARD, AND IT ALSO RESTRICTS THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

THE COUNTY ATTORNEY IS -- IS SELECTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

SOME YEARS AGO IT WAS A HYBRID WHERE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WAS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE BOARD, BUT NOW THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS UNDER THE BOARD.

THIS SECTION ALSO SETS OUT THE QUALIFICATIONS, THE STAFFING LEVELS, AND WHAT IS REQUIRED.

I TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

THIS IS -- YES, SIR.

>> MR. CHAIRMAN, MAY I ASK A QUESTION.

IS THE IPA RELATIVELY NEW?

IS IT --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH, THAT WAS --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: [INAUDIBLE]

>>JAN PLATT: THE BOARD CREATED THAT.

THE BOARD PUT THAT ON THE BALLOT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, YES.

>>JAN PLATT: NOT THIS BOARD, THE --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, THE IPA WAS THE CHARTER REVIEW

BOARD.

>>JAN PLATT: IT WAS?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT WAS ONE THING THAT WENT ON THE  
BALLOT --

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- AT THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>JAN PLATT: NOT [INAUDIBLE] THE ONE BEFORE THAT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT, THE ONE BEFORE -- TWO CHARTER  
REVIEW BOARDS AGO.

>>JAN PLATT: [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, IT WAS THE LAST CHARTER --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT WASN'T '05.

>>JAN PLATT: NO, IT WASN'T.

>>GERALD WHITE: IT WAS THE 2000 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I SERVED ON THE BOARD, AND I SECONDED THE MOTION TO PLACE  
THAT ISSUE ON THE BALLOT AND IT PASSED.

IT'S THE ONLY ISSUE THAT THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD HAS VOTED  
OUT THAT HAS BEEN PLACED INSIDE THE CHARTER OF HILLSBOROUGH  
COUNTY.

>> SO IT WAS THE [INAUDIBLE]

>>GERALD WHITE: WE'VE ONLY HAD TWO CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

ONE HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

THE COUNTY ATTORNEY NOW -- USED TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED BY SUPERMAJORITY VOTE TO PLACE IT ON THE BALLOT.

NOW THE COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

THAT WAS ONE CHARTER AMENDMENT.

THE OTHER AMENDMENT, WHICH THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD DID, VOTED OUT AN AMENDMENT TO CREATE THE PERFORMANCE AUDITOR POSITION, AND IT WENT BEFORE THE VOTERS, IT PASSED, AND NOW IT'S -- IT'S AN EXISTING POSITION.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>GERALD WHITE: SO WE CAN GET SOME THINGS DONE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: AND ALONG THOSE LINES, I'LL TOUCH BRIEFLY -- THE LAST THING I'LL MENTION IS THE WAY THE CHARTER CAN BE AMENDED.

THERE'S THREE WAYS.

AS GERALD JUST SAID, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CAN ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER BY -- BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE FIVE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, AND THE CHANGE TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WAS ONE SUCH AMENDMENT THAT WAS MADE.

THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IS THE SECOND WAY, AND YOU SEE, IT SAYS 14-MEMBER BOARD APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS, AND

AFTER -- IT DOES REQUIRE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS.

ALL THE ONES THAT I'VE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HAD MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ALSO PUBLIC HEARINGS.

AND THE THIRD WAY IS BY CITIZEN INITIATIVE, AND THAT IS WHERE THERE'S -- THERE'S A FORMULA THAT TELLS YOU THE NUMBER OF VOTES -- SIGNATURES WE HAVE TO GET, AND THEY HAVE TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY SPREAD OUT.

THE CHARTER WOULDN'T ALLOW YOU TO GO TO ONE AREA LIKE SOUTH COUNTY AND GET ALL THE SIGNATURES, IT HAS TO BE SPREAD OUT ACCORDING IT A CERTAIN FORMULA.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CAN PUT THEIR PROPOSAL ON A PRIMARY BALLOT IF THEY WANT TO.

BOTH THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AND THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE GO ON THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT, SO JUST SO YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHERE THIS -- THIS -- ANY PROPOSALS THAT COME OUT, WHERE THEY WOULD BE PLACED.

AND WITH THAT, I KNOW THAT'S A QUICK OVERVIEW, BUT WE'LL BE -- WE'LL BE TALKING IN DETAIL AS WE MOVE ON.

>> THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

GERALD.

>>GERALD WHITE: BEFORE SHE LEAVE, AS THE -- HISTORICALLY HAVE -- DO WE SEND OUT A PROPOSAL TO ACTUALLY SELECT THE CONFLICT ATTORNEY UP FRONT AND WE KNOW THAT PERSON IS SITTING THERE IN ABEYANCE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WE CAN -- WE CAN FIGURE -- LIKE RENEE SAID, WE WILL SOLICIT NAMES.

WE WILL BRING NAMES BACK AND -- AND LET YOU MAKE THAT, YOU KNOW, SELECTION, OR WE CAN FOLLOW THE SAME -- YOU KNOW, ONCE -- WE'VE USUALLY HAD TWO OR THREE THAT WERE WILLING TO DO IT.

IT HASN'T TAKEN A LOT OF TIME, AND THEY DO IT AS A PUBLIC SERVICE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I WANT KEN TINKLER TO BE ON THAT LIST.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT'S FINE.  
THAT'S FINE.

I'VE WORKED -- I'VE WORKED VERY CLOSELY --

>>GERALD WHITE: BECAUSE HE HAS EXPERIENCE.  
HE'S SHARP.

I'M TELLING YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

>> YES.

MR. -- MARY HELEN, ON 8.02, CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, JUST -- IT SAYS HERE -- I JUST WANT TO GET CLEAR HERE BECAUSE -- BEING BRAND-NEW.

IT SAYS, SUCH BOARD SHALL BE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ANY OR ALL PHASES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

SO IT'S NOT JUST THIS CHARTER, IT'S ANY AND ALL PHASES OF  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT?

THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

ANYTHING IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT -- THAT'S WHY I MENTIONED THE  
DEFINITION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT -- UNLESS YOU WANT TO  
CHANGE THAT, AND THAT GETS WITH THE CONSTITUTIONALS, AND AS  
WE GO FORWARD -- BUT IT'S A BROAD -- IT'S A BROAD CHARGE.

>> SO ANY AND ALL PHASES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT'S A BROAD CHARGE.

>> WHATEVER IS DEALING WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE  
A RIGHT AT LEAST TO STUDY IT; RIGHT?

OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

OKAY.

NEXT ON OUR AGENDA -- OKAY.

WE DID -- THE --

>> RULES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- RULES OF ORDER.

MARY HELEN, YOU'RE STILL LISTED ON THE AGENDA.

I WAS CURIOUS WHY YOU WERE LEAVING.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I APOLOGIZE.

I'VE ATTACHED THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD'S RULES OF ORDER  
THAT HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PAST.

WE DRAFTED THESE GENERALLY BASED ON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RULES OF ORDER, MADE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

IT SETS OUT THE QUORUM, THE STANDING RULES OF ORDER, MOTIONS, AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

ONE -- ONE ORDER THAT IT -- ONE THING THAT IT DOES HAVE IN IT IS THE MEETINGS, EMERGENCY MEETINGS, SPECIAL MEETINGS, AND THIS IS THE ONE THAT -- THAT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED.

I KNOW IT'S KIND OF JUST GIVEN TO YOU.

YOU DON'T NEED TO ADOPT IT TONIGHT.

IF YOU WANT TO LOOK IT THROUGH OR IF YOU WANT TO ADOPT IT TONIGHT AND UNDERSTAND THAT IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE AMENDED, YOU CAN ALWAYS AMEND THIS AS NEED BE AS YOU GO THROUGH.

WE JUST PUT THAT UP FRONT SO THAT YOU WOULD HAVE SOME FRAMEWORK AT LEAST TO START WITH AND THEN --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME JUST MENTION, THAT'S IN SECTION 3 OF OUR BINDER.

THE RULES OF ORDER ARE IN SECTION 3, SO YOU GUYS -- EVERYONE COULD LOOK AT THEM.

AND UNDER SECTION 3, RULE NUMBER 19 IS AUDIENCE COMMENTS. THAT'S WHERE IT DISCUSSES THE PUBLIC COMMENT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I WAS GOING TO JUST MENTION, IT SAYS IN HERE, EACH PERSON APPEARING -- UNDER THESE RULES OF

ORDER, EACH PERSON APPEARING UNDER THIS SECTION OF THE AGENDA WILL BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES.

I BELIEVE -- I MAY BE MISTAKEN, BUT DID WE CHANGE THAT LAST TIME?

I THINK WE CHANGED IT, WHICH -- I MEAN, IT'S UP TO THE BOARD.

IF WE -- I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LAST TIME, THREE MINUTES, I BELIEVE, BUT THAT'S UP TO THE BOARD.

WE MAY WANT TO DISCUSS THAT, AND WE MAY WANT TO DISCUSS IN TERMS OF PUBLIC COMMENT WHETHER WE WANT TO HAVE PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, END OF THE MEETING, BEGINNING AND END.

I MEAN, IT'S UP TO THE BOARD TO MAKE THE DECISION, YOU KNOW, SO --

>> WELL, I SPOKE TO THE CHARTER BOARD THE LAST TIME AND I THINK THE TIME BEFORE THAT.

IT SAYS LIMITED TO FIVE, SO THAT MEANS WE CAN SAY -- FOR EXAMPLE, SOME SUBJECTS MAY NEED FIVE, BUT IF WE SAY IT'S NOT A BIG CROWD -- USUALLY WHAT HAPPENS, THEY LIMIT IT TO FIVE, BUT WE MAY SAY, HEY, IT'S ONLY TWO OR THREE BECAUSE WE'VE GOT A HUNDRED PEOPLE OUT THERE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT.

>> I THINK WE CAN KEEP IT LIKE IT IS, BUT WE'LL MODIFY IT AS THE CHAIR SEES FIT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CERTAINLY WE CAN DO THAT.

>> WE CAN DO THAT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CERTAINLY, YEAH.

AND THERE MAY BE A BIG ISSUE THAT HAS A LOT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND, LIKE YOU SAID, YOU HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE THAT WANT TO SPEAK, AND YOU CAN MOLD THE RULES JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU GET THE BROADEST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: CAN WE GET A LIST, LIKE A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR PUBLIC COMMENT --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- SO WE HAVE AN IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN SPEAKING IN ADVANCE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL WHEN IT COMES TO -- I MEAN, IF WE HAD A HUNDRED PEOPLE, WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER CUTTING BACK.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD GET THAT MANY PEOPLE.

I KNOW LAST TIME -- I THINK WITH THE FACT THAT OUR MEETINGS ARE TELEVISED, A LOT OF PEOPLE -- I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WATCH THEM ON TV BECAUSE I'VE GOTTEN COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE IN THE PAST, FROM THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, PEOPLE THAT SAID, OH, YOU BROUGHT UP THIS ISSUE OR YOU BROUGHT UP THAT ONE, SO WE DON'T GET A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE. IT'S GREAT TO SEE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE, BUT WE DON'T GET

A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE.

SOME PEOPLE WATCH IT ON TV.

AS BOARD MEMBERS, DON'T THINK THE PEOPLE DON'T -- AREN'T WATCHING BECAUSE THERE AREN'T PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WATCHING IT AT HOME, AND I'M SURE AS MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD, YOU'LL HEAR COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITIZENS, CONCERNING ISSUES THAT THEY'RE INTERESTED IN.

YES.

>> IS THERE A CAPACITY TO TAKE COMMENT THROUGH THE WEB SITE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT I DON'T --

>>EDITH STEWART: BOARD MEMBERS, EDITH STEWART.

YES, THE WEB SITE THAT WE HAVE SET UP WENT LIVE TODAY, AND MS. LEYTHAM IS AWARE OF HOW WE DID THE CONE RANCH SITE, AND THERE WILL BE A LINK THAT IS NOT PRESENTLY ON THERE THAT WILL ALLOW COMMENTS TO THE BOARD MEMBERS, AND THAT'S HOW WE DEAL WITH THE SUNSHINE LAW.

THEY WILL COME TO ME, I WILL DISTRIBUTE THEM TO ALL OF YOU SO THAT THERE IS NOT A BACK-AND-FORTH DIALOGUE.

>> SO -- EXCUSE ME.

I NEED -- YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE NEEDS TO DIRECT THEIR COMMENT TO AN INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER OR YOU DIRECT ALL COMMENTS TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS?

>>EDITH STEWART: ALL COMMENTS THAT ARE RECEIVED ON THE

SITE WILL GO TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS.

>> ALL BOARD -- OKAY.

AND WILL WE GET THOSE IN A TIMELY WAY BEFORE THE MEETING SO WE'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY --

>>EDITH STEWART: ABSOLUTELY.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WAS GOING TO DISCUSS AT THE NEXT AGENDA ITEM THAT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE E-MAIL -- AND I HAVE AN ADDRESS FOR EACH OF YOU, BUT I INTEND TO CONTINUE WHAT I DID THIS TIME, TO SEND YOUR AGENDA, TO SEND THE POTENTIAL BOARD MEETING DATES, AND ANY OTHER MATERIALS THAT MIGHT BE ATTACHED.

>> IS IT -- IS IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO HAVE IN THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF WHO WE ARE AND OUR CONTACT INFORMATION, TO HAVE A WEB -- WEB SITE -- OR AN E-MAIL ADDRESS AFFILIATED WITH THIS BOARD SO THAT COMMENTS, YOU KNOW, WILL ALWAYS GO THROUGH THAT BOARD ADDRESS AND NOT BE PERSONAL?

>>EDITH STEWART: THAT'S WHAT I WAS EXPLAINING.

>> OKAY.

>>EDITH STEWART: THEY WILL COME TO THE WEB SITE, AND ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS THAT YOU RECEIVE WILL POSTED TO THIS WEB SITE AT THE SAME TIME THAT YOU GET THEM.

IF YOU -- FOR SOME REASON YOUR E-MAIL IS DOWN, YOU CAN GO ON-LINE TO OUR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY WEB SITE AND GET ALL OF THE INFORMATION THAT I WILL ALSO BE SENDING TO YOU INDIVIDUALLY AT YOUR INDIVIDUAL E-MAIL ADDRESS.

>> OKAY.

I APPRECIATE THAT.

THAT WASN'T MY POINT, THOUGH.

MY POINT WAS, THOUGH, FOR PURPOSES OF DISCLOSING OUR CONTACT INFORMATION IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, CAN WE SUBSTITUTE THAT E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES THAT I KNOW ARE IN --

>>EDITH STEWART: I HAVE NOT PUT ANYONE'S PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE WEB.

>> OKAY.

>>EDITH STEWART: ONLY YOUR NAME AND WHO APPOINTED YOU.

>> I HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET, SO I DON'T KNOW.

BUT IF THERE THERE'S A WAY TO GET A BOARD E-MAIL ADDRESS THAT MIGHT GO TO A CENTRAL --

>>EDITH STEWART: YES.

>> YOU KNOW, IN CASE SOMEONE FEELS LIKE THEY WANT TO DIRECT IT TO ONE OF US -- I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE ULTIMATELY DIRECTED TO ALL OF US, BUT MAYBE WE COULD GET A WEB -- YOU KNOW, A LINKED E-MAIL ADDRESS THAT THE PUBLIC --

>>EDITH STEWART: ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU -- EACH OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OWN E-MAIL ADDRESS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE?

>> WELL, THAT WOULD -- I UNDERSTAND IF IT'S A PUBLIC COMMENT THAT WOULD GO -- MAYBE SOMEONE FEELS LIKE THEY WANT TO DIRECT IT TO ONE OF US BASED ON SOMETHING THAT THEY SAW

ON TV.

I UNDERSTAND IT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO EVERYONE, AND I THINK THAT'S APPROPRIATE, BUT I JUST -- I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT --

>>EDITH STEWART: WELL, WE CAN MAKE THE FORM SAY, DO YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THIS TO A SPECIFIC BOARD MEMBER.

>> OKAY.

>>EDITH STEWART: I'LL WORK WITH MARY HELEN ON THAT SO THAT WE ARE SURE THAT WE ARE HANDLING THE -- THE SUNSHINE LAW ADEQUATELY.

>> YEAH.

I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE -- I DON'T KNOW IF I'M SPECIAL OR SOMETHING, BUT I'VE GOT TWO SETS OF RULES OF ORDER HERE. IS THERE ANY REASON WHY I GOT TWO SETS IN HERE?

>>EDITH STEWART: NO, SIR, BUT THE GROUP THAT ASSEMBLED IT MAY HAVE JUST --

>>OKAY.

>>EDITH STEWART: -- PICKED UP TWO INSTEAD OF ONE.

>> THE OTHER THING IS IS I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT -- SHE BROUGHT AN ISSUE UP.

YOU SEND ME AN E-MAIL.

NOW, ALL MY E-MAIL ON MY E-MAIL, OUTLOOK EXPRESS, IS PUBLIC RECORD NOW; RIGHT?

>>EDITH STEWART: YES.

>> MARY HELEN?

SO UNLESS I GET AN E-MAIL ADDRESS THAT SAYS  
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DOT ORG OR  
SOMETHING -- I WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THAT THAN TO HAVE  
SOMEBODY LATER ON --

>> RIGHT.

>> -- THAT SAYS, WE WANT TO COME SNATCH YOUR COMPUTER AND  
SEE EVERY E-MAIL YOU GOT, WHETHER IT WAS FROM THE COUNTY OR  
ANYWHERE ELSE.

>> THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO EFFECTUATE.

MAYBE I WASN'T CLEAR, BUT THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT.

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE --

>>EDITH STEWART: EXPLAIN HOW THAT WILL WORK.

>> -- COMMINGLED --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WHAT I HEAR YOU SAYING, WHAT I THINK  
YOU'RE SAYING IS YOU WANT JOE ROBINSON CHARTER REVIEW BOARD  
AT HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DOT ORG, SO IF THEY SEND YOU AN E-  
MAIL, IT DOESN'T GO TO YOUR HOUSE, IT GOES TO THE PUBLIC --

>> CORRECT.

>> AND I CAN PULL IT UP FROM THERE.

>> EXACTLY.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS TRYING --

>> RIGHT NOW I'M JUST GIVING YOU MY REGULAR E-MAIL ADDRESS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YOU'D HAVE TO GET WITH I.T.

>> RIGHT.

I MEAN, WE CAN LINK THAT E-MAIL TO OUR OWN, YOU KNOW,

PERSONAL E-MAIL ACCOUNT SO THAT IT COMES INTO YOUR OUTLOOK FOLDER IN YOUR COMPUTER, BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE -- IT SHOULDN'T BE COMMINGLED WITH PERSONAL E-MAIL SO THAT EVERYTHING NOW IS A PUBLIC RECORD.

>> WHAT I'M SAYING IS IF IT GOES TO A SEPARATE SERVER, I CAN GO ANYWHERE AND PULL THAT UP, OKAY, BECAUSE IT'S THE ACTION OF -- IT'S THE ACTION OF -- ONCE IT GETS TO MY SERVER, IT GETS TO ME, IT'S PUBLIC RECORD, AND EVERYTHING IN THERE THAT MAY NOT BE PUBLIC RECORD, IT COULD BE ANY OTHER KIND OF BUSINESS, BUT IF IT GOES TO JUST THE COUNTY SERVER, THEN I CAN GO THERE AND GET IT BECAUSE I'M ACCESSING IT, BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO USE MY PERSONAL ADDRESS IF IT'S GOING TO --

>>EDITH STEWART: THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING.

IT WILL ALL BE IN ONE FOLDER ON YOUR WEB SITE THAT THESE ARE ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT THE WEB SITE, AND THEN YOU GO TO THE LINK AND YOU READ IT AND IT'S NOT ON -- NOT SENT TO YOUR COMPUTER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DAVID.

>>DAVID CATON: I WANT TO BE CLEAR OR MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND.

MY PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESS THAT I GET PERSONAL E-MAILS FOR, IF I GET E-MAILS FROM THE COUNTY, ARE STILL MY PERSONAL E-MAILS AND THEY'RE NOT SUBJECT TO PUBLIC RECORDS, CORRECT, I MEAN, UNLESS THE ISSUE OF THE E-MAIL --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: DEALS WITH PUBLIC BUSINESS, CORRECT.

>>DAVID CATON: -- IS REGARDING THE CHARTER REVIEW.

SO WE DON'T NEED A SEPARATE E-MAIL BECAUSE YOU'D END UP GETTING -- YOU COULD HAVE FIVE LAYERS OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES, AND ULTIMATELY IT'S GOING TO GO TO YOUR PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESS.

AS LONG AS IT'S DEALING WITH THE CHARTER REVIEW, YOU'RE SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS.

IF IT'S NOT, IT'S NOT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THEN IT'S NOT A PUBLIC RECORD.

>> NO, BUT ONCE IT GETS INTO MY OUTLOOK EXPRESS BOX, EVERYTHING IN THERE, WHETHER IT'S PUBLIC RECORD OR NOT, BECOMES --

>>DAVID CATON: THAT'S NOT TRUE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO.

A PUBLIC RECORD IS ONLY A DOCUMENT THAT'S MADE OR RECEIVED IN A CONDUCT OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, SO IF MY E-MAIL ADDRESS AT HOME HAS, YOU KNOW, THREE CONTRACTS TO REVIEW FOR THE OFFICE AND THEN SOME THINGS FROM MY MOM OR MY, YOU KNOW, WHATEVER, MY FAMILY, IF SOMEBODY WANTS PUBLIC RECORDS, THE ONES THAT ARE NOT DEALING WITH OFFICIAL BUSINESS ARE NOT PUBLIC RECORD.

>> OKAY.

I'M FINE WITH THAT.

>> RIGHT.

BUT WE DON'T WANT -- I DON'T WANT MY PROFESSIONAL E-MAIL TO BE DELUGED WITH 300 PUBLIC COMMENT E-MAILS BECAUSE I HAVE BUSINESS TO CONDUCT THROUGH THAT OTHER E-MAIL.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>> SO THAT'S ALL I'M JUST SAYING.

I NEED TO KEEP IT SEPARATE AND NOT COMMINGLED.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

GETTING BACK TO RULES OF ORDER --

>> DO WE NEED TO MAKE A MOTION TO PASS THESE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'RE NOT DONE WITH DISCUSSION.

JAN.

>>JAN PLATT: I'M BACK TO THE CITIZEN AUDIENCE COMMENTS AGAIN.

IT SAYS, EACH PERSON APPEARING UNDER THIS AGENDA WILL BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES.

ISN'T IT STANDARD -- DOESN'T THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE THREE MINUTES?

ISN'T IT THREE MINUTES?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WE CAN MAKE IT THREE MINUTES IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THAT THE STANDARD.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, ONCE YOU PUT FIVE MINUTES IN THERE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO REALLY GET MAD AT YOU IF YOU SAY THREE MINUTES, AND I JUST -- AND IT'S NOT CLEAR.

IT SAYS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD THIS TIME MIGHT BE CHANGED, BUT THEN YOU HAVE A WAY TO WAIVE THE RULES, AND THAT'S A MAJORITY PLUS ONE, SO IS THAT HOW YOU CHANGE THEM? I DON'T KNOW.

AND THEN THE AMENDMENTS, IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THEM, IT SAYS YOU HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE NEXT MEETING, SO IT'S REALLY -- TO ME IT'S A MUDDLE --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I CAN MAKE IT --

>>JAN PLATT: -- AND YOU HAVE A LOT OF CRACK PEOPLE HERE AND SOME -- THERE WILL BE PEOPLE WHO WILL PICK UP ON THIS FIVE MINUTES, AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE THERE AND LET THEM DO IT FOR FIVE MINUTES, AND THAT'S A LITTLE LENGTHY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ARE YOU MAKING A MOTION?

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF MOTION TO MAKE BECAUSE TO ME IT'S SUCH A MUDDLE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STRAIGHTEN IT OUT.

>>JOE AMON: JUST CHANGE IT TO THREE MINUTES WHICH IS COMPATIBLE WITH ALL THE OTHER BOARDS.

THE BOARD OR THE CHAIR ALWAYS HAS THE ABILITY TO ALLOW SOMEONE THE FLEXIBILITY OF HAVING FIVE MINUTES IF SOMETHING MAJOR -- LIKE MR. ROBINSON SAID.

IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO HAVE MORE TIME, ALL THEY'VE GOT TO DO IS ASK FOR IT.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH.

>>JOE AMON: BUT IF YOU -- I AGREE WITH YOU, MS. PLATT.

IF YOU HAVE -- YOU COME TO A MEETING AND THERE'S 20 PEOPLE  
OUT THERE AND THEY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO TALK FOR FIVE AND  
YOU CUT THEM OUT, YOU'VE GOT A RIOT ON YOUR HANDS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO MAKE THAT MOTION?

>> MAKE THE MOTION AND I'LL SECOND IT.

>>JAN PLATT: I MOVE THAT THE LANGUAGE REFLECT THAT THEY --  
THAT EACH PERSON WOULD HAVE THREE MINUTES UNLESS -- HOW TO  
SAY IT? -- UNLESS THE CHAIRMAN DETERMINE OTHERWISE.

>> SO MOVE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

DISCUSSION.

>> YOU KNOW, I HAVE ONE OTHER COMMENT.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GENERALLY READS A  
STATEMENT ASKING THAT THE AUDIENCE BE POLITE AND DIRECT  
THEIR COMMENTS TO THE ISSUE AT HAND.

I THINK WE MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT PUTTING THAT LANGUAGE  
IN THERE AND READING THAT BEFORE PUBLIC COMMENT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH, IT'S IN HERE.

>> OH, IT IS?

I'M SORRY.

I MISSED IT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH, THEY ADDRESS THE BOARD COMMENTS

SHOULD NOT BE DIRECTED PERSONALLY, BUT IT DOESN'T -- AGAIN,  
THAT'S PRINTED ON THE SIGN-IN SHEETS, BUT WE CAN SAY IT  
ALSO IF YOU WANT TO CONDUCT --

>> YEAH, I THINK WE SHOULD.

I JUST THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I'LL ADD THAT, AND THEN WHAT I WILL DO IS AT THE NEXT  
MEETING I'LL BRING BACK THE REVISED AND THEN WE CAN ADOPT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

WE HAVE A MOTION ON THE TABLE.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION BEFORE WE VOTE?

>> WE'RE GOING TO SAY -- WE'RE CHANGING THE LANGUAGE ON  
PAGE 72 TO SAY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD CHAIR OR VICE  
CHAIR?

>>JAN PLATT: THREE MINUTES UNLESS --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: REPEAT YOUR MOTION.

>>JAN PLATT: THREE MINUTES UNLESS -- UNLESS THE CHAIRMAN  
DECIDES DIFFERENTLY, AND I DON'T KNOW -- I'M [INAUDIBLE]  
FOR THE WORDS, BUT --

>> BUT IT SAYS RIGHT HERE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD -  
-

>>JAN PLATT: AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

>> -- CHAIR THE TIME MAY BE CHANGED.

>>JOE AMON: CORRECT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: THREE MINUTES.

>> IF THE CHAIR ISN'T HERE, THE VICE CHAIR GETS THAT SAME  
AUTHORITY?

OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION BEFORE WE VOTE?

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR, RIGHT HAND -- SHOW THEIR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

IS THERE ANY -- BEFORE MARY HELEN SITS DOWN -- I KNOW

SHE'S -- ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR ANYTHING?

I THINK WE'VE GOT --

>> CAN WE GO AHEAD AND VOTE THIS -- I MEAN, SHE SAID WE CAN  
ALWAYS CHANGE IT.

I MEAN, UNLESS -- I THINK THE NEXT MEETING WE NEED TO HAVE  
A SET OF RULES.

I MEAN, SO I'LL MAKE A MOTION THAT WE ADOPT THE RULES AS

AMENDED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET JAN --

>>JAN PLATT: I FIND ANOTHER ISSUE, THOUGH, BEFORE WE VOTE. THAT'S WHY I SORT OF HESITATE FOR US TO VOTE ON THESE TODAY BECAUSE I'M JUST LOOKING AT VOTING.

IT SAYS, VOTING SHALL BE DONE BY VOICE VOTE UNLESS THERE IS A DISSENTING VOTE, IN WHICH CASE THERE WILL BE A SHOW OF HANDS.

WELL, TODAY EVERY VOTE HAS BEEN BY THE SHOW OF HANDS, AND I JUST THINK IT PROBABLY BEST TO HAVE A SHOW OF HANDS RATHER THAN A VOICE VOTE BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, THAT'S A GOOD WAY FOR PEOPLE TO DUCK OUT, YOU KNOW, AND EVERYBODY NEEDS TO SEE IN THE PUBLIC WHO VOTES WHICH WAY, SO --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I CAN MAKE THAT CHANGE.

>>JAN PLATT: I MOVE THAT VOTING SHALL BE DONE BY A SHOW OF HANDS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

DO WE HAVE A SECOND FOR THAT?

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SECOND.

GOOD.

ANY DISCUSSION BEFORE WE VOTE?

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR SHOW THEIR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

THAT MOTION -- GERALD, WERE YOU --

>>GERALD WHITE: NO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- IN FAVOR?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THAT MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

>> SO MS. PLATT, YOU'RE SAYING THAT WE DON'T NEED TO VOTE  
ON THE RULES TONIGHT?

[INAUDIBLE]

>>JAN PLATT: NO.

I DON'T -- I MEAN, WE'VE JUST GOT THEM, AND I ALREADY  
PICKED UP THOSE TWO THINGS THAT WERE PRETTY IMPORTANT.

>> [INAUDIBLE] LAST TIME.

>>JAN PLATT: I DON'T KNOW.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IF YOU HAVE OTHER CHANGES, WE CAN  
MAKE THOSE.

>>JAN PLATT: WE'LL JUST AMEND THOSE NEXT TIME?

>> YEAH, SURE.

OKAY.

OKAY.

>> THAT'S WHAT I WAS HOPING, SO WE CAN --

>> SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>> I HAVE TWO VERSIONS OF THE RULES OF ORDER.

>> SO YOU GOT TWO TOO?

>> YEAH, AND THEY'RE DIFFERENT.

>> OH, THEY'RE DIFFERENT?

>> THEY'RE DIFFERENT.

>> I DON'T KNOW.

I JUST GOT ONE WITH THE PAPER CLIP, AND THAT'S WHY I WAS ASKING THE QUESTION.

>> UNDER THE AUDIENCE COMMENTS IT'S DIFFERENT.

>>JAN PLATT: WHERE DID YOU FIND -- UNDER WHAT NUMBER?

>> THEY BOTH SAY PAGE 70 ON THEM.

>> THAT'S THE ONLY ONE I SEE IS DIFFERENT RIGHT NOW.

THE ONE THAT WAS E-MAILED TO US ON -- ON FRIDAY HAD A DIFFERENT PROVISION DEALING WITH RULE 19, AUDIENCE COMMENTS, THAN WHAT'S IN THE BOOK.

>> THESE ARE THE SAME, SO --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WHAT PROVISION DID THAT HAVE?

I'M JUST CURIOUS.

>> THE ONE THAT -- THE ONE IN THE BOOK IS MUCH SHORTER.

THE ONE THAT WAS E-MAILED TO US HAS THE LANGUAGE ABOUT THE SIGN-IN SHEETS AND WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO SAY AT THE BEGINNING -- THE STATEMENT THAT'S READ AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, AND I DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE -- BUT MY POINT

IS I DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: CAN WE GET THE --

>> THERE MAY NOT BE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- COUNTY STAFF TO SEND US A NEW ONE JUST TO MAKE SURE WE ALL HAVE THE SAME ONE?

>>GERALD WHITE: SEND EVERYONE -- I WOULD REQUEST THAT EVERYONE GET A COPY OF THE RULES THAT WAS ADOPTED BY THE PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND WE'LL KNOW HOW THE PREVIOUS -- THE 2005 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- OPERATED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE DO HAVE THOSE MOTIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY PASSED.

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT'S WHAT I WANT BECAUSE YOU SAY THESE RULES WERE TAKEN FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSION RULE BOOK?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, NO, NO.

WHAT I SAID IS THE ORIGINAL CHARTER REVIEW BOARD RULES OF ORDER WERE ORIGINALLY BASED LOOSELY ON THE BOARD'S RULES OF ORDER.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

THE PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, THOSE ARE THE RULES THAT

I WANT TO SEE BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE RULES THAT WE WORKED UNDER.

>> THERE'S -- I SEE A DIFFERENCE TOO UNDER RULE 22, USE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WAS IN THE -- WHAT WAS E-MAILED TO US BUT IS NOT IN THE BOOK TODAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

I GUESS THE QUESTION IS FOR LEGAL.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: MAYBE YOU JUST GOT AN EARLY VERSION OF THE BOOK, BUT THE E-MAIL IS WHAT WE'RE GOING OFF OF.

>> OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: QUESTION FOR LEGAL.

WE HAVE TWO MOTIONS THAT HAVE PASSED.

I WOULD -- MY QUESTION FOR YOU, WOULD THOSE BE INCORPORATED IN WHAT WE -- WE'VE GOT THE THREE MINUTES --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- AND WE GOT THE SHOW OF HANDS.

I THINK THOSE WOULD BE INCORPORATED.

I THINK THEY ARE --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT'S IN THE CORRECT VERSION WHICH IS WHAT I -- WHAT YOU WERE E-MAILED IS THE CORRECT VERSION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

I THINK THEY ALREADY ARE.

>>GERALD WHITE: THEY ARE.

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NEXT ON OUR AGENDA IS ESTABLISHING THE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE.

OH, LET ME MENTION SOMETHING BEFORE WE MOVE FURTHER, AND THAT'S A QUESTION.

WE DID NOT DISCUSS PUBLIC COMMENT IN DETAIL UNDER THE RULES OF ORDER.

I MEAN, WE DISCUSSED IT THREE MINUTES, WE DIDN'T DISCUSS IT IN TERMS OF BEGINNING OR END OF THE MEETING OR THE TIMING OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT.

I GUESS DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY COMMENTS CONCERNING THAT BEFORE WE MOVE FORWARD?

I KNOW WE'VE ALREADY VOTED -- WE'VE ALREADY -- WE'RE DISCUSSING THE RULES OF ORDER, BUT WE NEED TO KNOW IN TERMS OF NEXT MEETING, ARE WE GOING TO HAVE PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, GOING TO HAVE IT AT THE END OF THE MEETING?

I'LL TELL YOU, LAST TIME WE HAD IT AT THE END THERE WAS PROS AND CONS TO THAT.

I GUESS I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS IF WE NEED -- IF ANYONE WANTS TO DISCUSS THAT.

>> WELL, I PREFER TO HAVE IT RIGHT UP -- GET IT OUT -- I WANT TO HEAR WHAT PEOPLE GOT TO SAY BEFORE I OPEN MY MOUTH

UP.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

I TEND TO AGREE WITH YOU TOO BECAUSE I THINK IT'S A COURTESY.

IF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SHOW UP, TO HAVE THEM SIT HERE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS TO WAIT TO THE VERY END TO DISCUSS, I THOUGHT THAT WAS -- I MEAN, THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO SAT THE ENTIRE MEETING AND THEY HAD A FEW COMMENTS --

>>GERALD WHITE: I MOVE THAT THE MINUTES BE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE -- THE PUBLIC COMMENT BE AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA, BEGINNING OF THE MEETING.

>> SECOND.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SECOND.

OKAY.

ANY DISCUSSION ON THAT, HAVING PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING?

NO DISCUSSION.

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR SHOW THE RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

THAT MOTION PASSES.

SO WE WILL START OFF THE NEXT CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING WITH PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE BEGINNING.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: EXCUSE ME, MR. CHAIR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: MAY I HAVE THE SECOND, WHO SECONDED THE MOTION.

MR. TOKLEY?

THANK YOU, SIR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

AND I'LL LET EDITH GO AHEAD.

GOOD EVENING.

>>EDITH STEWART: HI.

I HAVE PASSED OUT TO YOU THE POSSIBLE MEETING DATES, AND I DID E-MAIL IT TO YOU IN ADVANCE HOPING YOU MIGHT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK IT AGAINST YOUR PERSONAL CALENDARS. THE THING ABOUT THESE DATES IS THAT THE BOARDROOM HAS BEEN RESERVED, HTV IS ON NOTICE THAT THEY WILL BROADCAST IF YOU CHOOSE TO MEET.

I DO NOT KNOW THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH YOU CARE TO MEET, BUT EVERY MONDAY EVENING THAT THIS BOARDROOM WAS AVAILABLE IS LISTED HERE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE DATES THAT THE BOARD -- BOARDROOM IS OPEN, AVAILABLE?

>> WERE THERE OTHER TIMES OR OTHER DAYS DURING THE DAY THAT WERE ALSO AVAILABLE ON A CONSISTENT BASIS?

>>EDITH STEWART: I DIDN'T CHECK THAT BECAUSE I JUST BOWED

TO CUSTOM, AND IT HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM IN THE PAST TO DO IT THIS WAY.

THE BOARD ACTUALLY MAKES GREAT USE OF THIS ROOM DURING THE DAY HOURS, AND IT'S INFREQUENTLY AVAILABLE.

THERE ARE BOARDS THAT MEET REGULARLY AT NIGHT THAT USE THIS ROOM, SO MONDAY WAS THE MOST LOGICAL DATE TO CHOOSE THAT HAD THE GREATEST NUMBER OF AVAILABLE DATES, AND I DID ACTUALLY HAVE TO BUMP A GROUP FROM THE ROOM TO DO THIS.

>> COULD ANY RESEARCH BE DONE AS TO MAYBE ANOTHER POSSIBLE EVENING THAT THERE'S OTHER -- I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE ELSE --  
-

>>EDITH STEWART: I'D BE HAPPY TO DO THAT IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE.

>> I'M HIGHLY INVOLVED IN, YOU KNOW, COACHING YOUTH SPORTS, SO -- YOU KNOW, TO ME THE YOUTH IS THE FUTURE, SO, YOU KNOW, I INVEST A LOT OF TIME INTO THAT, AND THAT WOULD BE A DIRECT CONFLICT, SO I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE ELSE HAS, YOU KNOW --

>>GERALD WHITE: WE HAD OUR HIGHEST ATTENDANCE WITH THIS CALENDAR THE PREVIOUS TWO PAST CHARTER REVIEWS.

IT WORKED FOR EVERYBODY, SO, YOU KNOW -- YOU'RE GOING TO MISS A MEETING HERE AND THERE, BUT --

>> NO, I'M NOT GOING TO MISS.

I JUST WAS WONDERING IF THERE WAS ANOTHER OPTION, POSSIBLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

>>GERALD WHITE: IT WORKS FOR ME.

NO, WEDNESDAY, THE BOARD MEETS HERE ON WEDNESDAY, DON'T THEY?

>>EDITH STEWART: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OTHER DISCUSSION CONCERNING --

>>GERALD WHITE: THIS CALENDAR WORKS FOR ME.

I'VE ALREADY LOOKED AT MY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I GUESS THE QUESTION IS, AS EDITH MENTIONED, SOME MONTHS THERE'S THREE, SOME MONTHS THERE'S TWO.

WE NEED TO DETERMINE HOW OFTEN WE WANT TO MEET TOO.

I MEAN, DO WE WANT TO MEET TWICE A MONTH, DO WE WANT TO MEET -- WE'VE GOT TO THINK IN TERMS OF HOW OFTEN WE WANT TO MEET, AND WE ALSO MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THE PUBLIC FORUMS IF WE WANT TO HAVE THAT.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN DISCUSS TONIGHT OR WE CAN DISCUSS AT THE NEXT MEETING, BUT TYPICALLY I DON'T THINK WE DID -- WE DIDN'T DO PUBLIC FORUMS THE LAST YEAR AT OTHER SITES, BUT I KNOW YOU MENTIONED THAT IS AN OPTION, SO --

>> MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE THE MONTHS THAT WE HAVE THREE DATES, AND AS WE LOOK AT OUR -- YOU KNOW, WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH AT THE TIME AS TO WHETHER OR NOT WE NEED TO HAVE THREE NIGHTS -- BECAUSE SOME OF THESE ARE A WEEK APART, SO, I MEAN, WE PROBABLY OUGHT TO JUST VOTE IT ALL IN, AND THEN IF WE SEE SOMETHING COME UP AND WE'RE JAMMED

AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO -- WE JUST DON'T HAVE TO  
TIME TO MOVE TO THE NEXT MEETING, WE JUST DON'T DO IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ARE YOU MAKING A MOTION?

>> YES.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SECOND.

OKAY.

ANY DISCUSSION CONCERNING THIS BEING OUR CALENDAR, THIS  
LIST OF DATES?

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>> THE ONLY ISSUE I HAVE IS THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT BE  
ABLE TO MAKE AN EVENING MEETING, AND THESE EACH -- EACH ONE  
IS -- AND EACH ONE IS AN EVENING MEETING, AND I'M WONDERING  
IF WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND AT LEAST ONE OR TWO MEETINGS  
WHERE IT'S A DAYTIME MEETING, AND, YOU KNOW, THERE ARE  
PEOPLE WHO WORK AT NIGHT AND --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER DISCUSSION CONCERNING THAT?

>> YOU MAY HAVE TO COME BACK TO US WITH THAT, OBVIOUSLY, TO  
DETERMINE WHEN THE ROOM'S AVAILABLE, BUT I THINK IT'S  
IMPORTANT THAT WE AT LEAST MEET ONCE OR TWICE WHEN -- IN  
THE DAYTIME.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME MENTION WE HAVE A MOTION.

DID WE GET A SECOND FOR THAT MOTION?

>> UH-HUH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

WE GOT A SECOND.

WHAT WE COULD DO IS WE COULD APPROVE THIS CALENDAR SO WE HAVE THESE DATES SET, AND WE CAN ALWAYS AMEND IT LATER ONCE THE COUNTY STAFF COMES BACK WITH ANY DAYTIME, AND WE COULD ADD THOSE IF WE, YOU KNOW -- AND THAT WAY WE'LL AT LEAST HAVE THESE DATES LOCKED IN.

I KNOW THIS BOARD -- THIS BOARDROOM, YOU KNOW, WE NEED TO GET IT WHEN WE CAN.

SO ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION?

JOE.

>>JOE AMON: JUST A QUESTION.

HOW OFTEN ARE WE -- WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF MEETING?

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LAST -- I SERVED ON THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WITH SOME OTHERS WHO ARE HERE.

WE MET TWICE A MONTH THROUGH, I THINK, FEBRUARY OF 2006, SO WE STARTED IN JANUARY 2005, WE WENT THROUGH FEBRUARY 2006, MEETING TWICE A MONTH.

>>JOE AMON: TWICE A MONTH.

SO THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR IS TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR WITH THREE WEEKS A MONTH?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

AND DAVID, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THE MOTION; RIGHT?

>>DAVID CATON: RIGHT, WITH THE OPTION OF VOTING TO NOT ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

WHAT WE'RE DOING IS BASICALLY LOCKING IN THE DAYS, AND WE CAN LOOK AT THE CALENDAR AND WE CAN -- MAYBE AT THE NEXT MEETING OR WHATEVER, WE CAN DECIDE DO WE NEED TO MEET THIS MANY TIMES OR WHATEVER, BUT WHAT WE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND IS WHEN WE START SETTING UP -- I BELIEVE IT WILL BE OUR -- OUR NEXT MEETING IS WHEN WE'RE GOING TO START TALKING ABOUT WHO WE WANT TO INVITE TO SPEAK TO US.

WE'RE NOT -- ONCE -- ONCE WE SET THIS CALENDAR AND ONCE WE START INVITING PEOPLE, WE'RE GOING TO -- YOU KNOW, OUR CALENDAR'S PRETTY MUCH SET ONCE WE START INVITING PEOPLE FOR CERTAIN DAYS, SO --

>> MR. CHAIRMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>> PLUS THERE'S FIVE MONTHS OF TWO MEETINGS ONLY, OKAY, AND THIS IS A LOT THAT WE NEED TO GO OVER AND WE'RE SERVING THE PEOPLE, AND IT JUST TAKES TIME.

BECAUSE I REMEMBER WATCHING LAST TIME THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE RIGHT AT THE END, CLOSE TO THE FINISH, IS WHEN EVERYBODY TRIED TO GET STUFF DONE AND THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME AND THE YEAR WAS UP AND THAT WAS IT.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND THAT'S A GOOD POINT, AND I WOULD RECOMMEND, YOU KNOW, WITHIN 90 -- WITHIN 90 DAYS IF YOU

HAVE A SERIOUS ISSUE YOU WANT CONSIDERED, YOU KNOW, YOU NEED TO GET IT OUT UP FRONT SO THAT IT COULD BE REALLY FLUSHED BECAUSE I REALLY BELIEVE THE FIRST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, SOME THINGS WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE BALLOT, BUT I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THE BOARD RAN OUT OF TIME, AND -- AND SO SUMMERTIME COMES, PEOPLE GO ON VACATION, YOU CAN'T GET PEOPLE IN HERE.

YOU GOT TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR GUEST SPEAKER WHO'S SCHEDULED TO COME TO THE BOARD MEETING, AND SO TO ME THIS FIRST 90 DAYS IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING SERIOUS THAT YOU WANT THIS BOARD TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER, DON'T HESITATE TO PUT IT OUT AND START GETTING IT FLUSH.

THIS IS YOUR BOARD.

YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT AS IT RELATES TO THE ISSUE AS FAR AS PUSHING IT FORWARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: JOE.

>>JOE AMON: ONE MORE POINT.

DECEMBER 27th SEEMS TO ME A VERY UNLIKELY DATE TO HAVE A MEETING.

[LAUGHTER]

>> MS. STEWART, HAVE YOU --

>>JOE AMON: I GUESS WE'LL TAKE -- MODIFY, TAKE THE LIST THE WAY YOU-ALL HAVE GOT IT WITH THE EXCEPTION TAKE DECEMBER 27th OFF THE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YOU MAKING A MODIFIED MOTION?

>>JOE AMON: MODIFY TO TAKE IT OFF.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

WE GOT A SECOND ON THE MOTION?

OKAY.

TELL ME YOUR MODIFIED MOTION AGAIN.

>>JOE AMON: YEAH.

NO, IT'S A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION TO TAKE  
DECEMBER 27th OFF THE CALENDAR.

>> I'LL ACCEPT THAT.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THAT'S GOOD.

YES, DISCUSSION.

>> I'M SORRY.

TWO THINGS.

ONE, I GUESS I -- HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH THIS CALENDAR WITH  
REGARD TO CHECKING AGAINST ANY OTHER MAJOR HOLIDAYS, LIKE  
MR. AMON POINTED OUT?

>>EDITH STEWART: NO, MA'AM, I HAVE NOT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN DO BECAUSE WE  
CAN ALWAYS AMEND THIS BEFORE NEXT TIME.

WE CAN LOCK THIS IN, WE CAN AMEND IT -- WE CAN AMEND IT  
NEXT TIME.

WE MAY WANT TO CHECK THE SCHOOL BOARD CALENDAR TOO TO SEE

IF WE HAVE KIDS.

SOME OF US MAY BE -- IF THERE'S SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ON SOME OF THESE DAYS, WE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER MOVING THAT OR -- SO WE MAY WANT TO VERIFY THAT AGAINST THE SCHOOL BOARD CALENDAR.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND YOU CAN CHANGE A MEETING DATE.

IF SOMETHING'S GOING ON OR WHATEVER, YOU CAN CHANGE IT.

ONE TIME WE HAD A HURRICANE, I THINK, AND WE CHANGED THE MEETING DATE.

>>EDITH STEWART: TWICE.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

SO YOU JUST GOT SOMETHING WHERE YOU'RE LOCKED IN YOUR GOVERNMENT FACILITIES.

>> SO DO I NEED TO MAKE A MOTION, THEN, TO -- TO SCHEDULE OR TO ASK STAFF TO -- TO GIVE US A RANGE OF DATES TO SCHEDULE AT LEAST ONE DAYTIME MEETING PER QUARTER?

>> YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU CAN MAKE A MOTION.

>> YOU KNOW, I'D LIKE TO MAKE THAT MOTION.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVE A MOTION, WE HAVE A SECOND FOR THAT.

WE STILL HAVE A MOTION SITTING --

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, JOE.

>>JOE AMON: JUST CALL THE QUESTION ON THE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, CALL THE QUESTION ON THE FIRST MOTION.

OKAY.

THE FIRST MOTION, TO MAKE SURE EVERYBODY REMEMBERS, IT'S THIS CALENDAR WITH THE AMENDED TAKING OFF DECEMBER 27th.

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR SHOW YOUR RIGHT HAND.

OKAY.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

THAT MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

THIS IS OUR CALENDAR FOR NOW.

>>JOE AMON: JUST A COMMENT.

WHY IS IT ALWAYS THE RIGHT HAND?

I'M LEFT-HANDED.

[LAUGHTER]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

NOW YOUR MOTION -- AND DID WE GET A SECOND ON YOUR MOTION?

>> YES.

>> YES, MR. FISHER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

-- WAS TO HAVE COUNTY STAFF -- MAKE SURE I GET THIS CORRECTLY.

WE'VE GOT A MOTION ON THE TABLE TO HAVE COUNTY STAFF LOOK AT THE CALENDAR AND SEE ABOUT BRINGING BACK SOME POSSIBLE DAYTIME DATES.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>> AND JUST TO CLARIFY, I'M LOOKING NOT TO ADD ADDITIONAL NUMBERS OF MEETING DATES BUT TO SUBSTITUTE FOR PERHAPS ONE OF THE MONTHS WHERE WE HAVE -- IN THE MONTHS WHERE WE HAVE THREE OR FOUR SCHEDULED OR THREE SCHEDULED, WE MIGHT SUBSTITUTE ONE OF THOSE, IF POSSIBLE, TO A DAYTIME.

>>EDITH STEWART: MAY I ASK -- DID I HEAR YOU SAY PER QUARTER?

>> I SAID PER QUARTER.

I -- YOU KNOW, I THINK AT LEAST ONE PER QUARTER WOULD BE IMPORTANT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

AND THIS IS JUST A MOTION TO GET COUNTY STAFF TO COME BACK WITH SOME POSSIBLE DATES WHERE THE BOARDROOM IS AVAILABLE SO THAT WE CAN MEET.

>> MAYBE MORE IF THERE'S AVAILABLE SPACE, BUT --

>>JOE AMON: DOES IT HAVE TO BE THIS BOARDROOM?

COULD YOU MOVE IT ON THE 18th FLOOR, THE BOARDROOM THERE, THE MPO?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THAT'S A QUESTION FOR I GUESS PAT OR EDITH.

>>EDITH STEWART: YOU CAN DO IT ON THE 26th FLOOR BASED UPON ITS AVAILABILITY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NOW, A QUESTION CONCERNING THAT. IS THAT ROOM TELEVISED?

>>EDITH STEWART: YES.

THAT'S WHY I WAS OFFERING IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> THAT'D BE GOOD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: BECAUSE I WOULD WANT TO MAKE SURE THE PUBLIC IS ABLE TO WATCH.

YES.

>> I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION THAT TIES INTO THE CALENDAR.

DO WE NEED TO BE MADE AWARE OF ANY DEADLINE DATES REGARDING CHARTER AMENDMENTS?

I KNOW WE ALL SERVE FOR A YEAR, SO THAT WILL TAKE US PAST ANY ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, BUT COULD YOU AT LEAST BRIEF US ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED?

>>EDITH STEWART: MS. FARRIS IS --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES, YOU DO MEET UP FOR UP TO A YEAR, AND THE WAY THE CYCLE HAS BEEN IS YOU END UP MEETING -- YOU'RE STARTING IN LIKE 2010, YOU'LL CONCLUDE IN 2011, AND IN THE PAST ANY PROPOSALS THAT HAVE GONE TO THE BALLOT THEN WOULD BE 2012, AND YOU'D HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR, YOU KNOW, THE REFERENDUM LANGUAGE PRECLEARANCE IF IT WAS REQUIRED, NOTICING THE REFERENDA, AND THAT IS THE TIMELINE THAT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE PAST.

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

THAT'S THE PAST.

I'M HERE TO ASK DIFFERENT QUESTIONS.

CAN WE GET SOMETHING ON THE BALLOT THIS FALL?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

THEN --

>> LEGALLY CAN THAT BE DONE?

I MEAN, IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE, BUT CAN THAT BE DONE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THIS WAS A BIG DISCUSSION THAT CAME UP WITH THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND ULTIMATELY -- WELL, THAT'S JUST THE PAST, AS YOU SAID.

THE CHARTER JUST SAYS THAT ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL BE PLACED AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

>> BY A MAJORITY VOTE, WHICH IS TEN PEOPLE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

SO THEN IT WOULD BE THE 2010.

WHERE THE ISSUE IS IS THEN ONCE THEY DO THAT, CAN THEY CONTINUE MEETING AND PUTTING ONE ON THE 2012?

I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY COULDN'T, BUT I'D LIKE TO LOOK INTO THAT.

AND THE ONLY REASON I MENTIONED THE PAST IS WHEN THE DISCUSSION -- AT THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD THEY DECIDED NOT TO DO THAT FOR FEAR A CHALLENGE, SO THEY JUST PUT IT ON AND LET IT GO THE WAY THAT IT HAD BEEN IN THE PAST, BUT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT UNDER THE LANGUAGE OF THE CHARTER COULD BE DONE, AND CERTAINLY, THEN, I COULD ADVISE YOU ON --  
- DEPENDING ON THE AMENDMENT, IT MAY OR MAY NOT NEED PRECLEARANCE BY JUSTICE, AND THAT IS ADDITIONAL DAYS.

>> TIME, OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YOU KNOW, SO KIND OF TO ANSWER THE DEADLINES, I CERTAINLY WILL ADVISE YOU WHEN YOU START TALKING ABOUT AN ISSUE IF IT'S ONE THAT WOULD NEED PRECLEARANCE OR WOULD NOT NEED PRECLEARANCE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR 2010?

CONSIDERING PRECLEARANCE --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WELL, PRECLEARANCE TAKES 90 DAYS, AND THEN I WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE SUPERVISOR BECAUSE THERE'S A BALLOT PRINTING LOGISTICAL THING, TIME FRAME THAT THEY NEED TO HAVE ALL THE LANGUAGE, AND WE TAKE THAT, WE BACK UP FOR THE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS, SO I WOULD HAVE TO -- TO KIND OF GIVE YOU EXACT DATES, BUT THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT YOU LOOK TO.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS REALLY THE LONGEST BECAUSE THEY CAN TAKE 90 DAYS IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES PRECLEARANCE, AND I CAN GIVE YOU A LITTLE DISCUSSION ON WHAT IS PRECLEARANCE IF YOU WANT TO AT -- AT A FUTURE MEETING IF YOU WOULD LIKE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>> I WAS GOING TO SAY, YEAH, IF YOU COULD MAYBE NEXT TIME - - IF YOU DID BACK IT UP, WHAT WOULD BE THE DEADLINE DATE BECAUSE -- NOT THAT I HAVE ANYTHING IN MIND AT ALL, BUT --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: FOR THE 2010, YES, I WOULD BE HAPPY

TO DO THAT.

>> I WOULD HATE FOR US TO BE DISCUSSING SOMETHING AND THEN THINKING -- GO ALONG CERTAIN LINES AND THEN BE TOLD THAT IT'S --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CERTAINLY.

>> I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF SOMETHING COULD BE PUT ON IN 2010.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

AND WHAT -- I THINK WHAT HER QUESTION IS IS WHAT WOULD YOUR DEADLINES BE IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

AND I CAN PROVIDE THAT, ONE IF IT DOES REQUIRE PRECLEARANCE AND ONE IF IT DOES NOT.

>> MR. ROBINSON -- I'LL JUST READ.

IT SAYS, CHARTER SHALL AFTER TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS AND UPON TWO-THIRDS OF ITS MEMBERS FILE ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER WITH THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS WHO SHALL PROVIDE FOR A VOTE PURSUANT TO 8.04, AND THEN 8.04 IS --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

>> -- THE NEXT ELECTION.

>> WE CAN HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING REAL QUICK --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OH, CERTAINLY.

CERTAINLY.

THERE'S NO QUESTION --

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>> -- RULES ALREADY FOUND OUT.

WE GOT E-MAIL COPY, WE GOT ALL KIND OF COPIES.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

YES, THERE'S NO QUESTION.

>> SO I'M JUST ASKING, YOU KNOW [INCOMPREHENSIBLE] IN 2010,  
WHAT'S THE REQUIREMENTS THAT DO EXIST IN CASE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I WILL GIVE YOU DATES BASED ON  
PRECLEARANCE OR NON-PRECLERANCE.

>> THANK YOU, MARY HELEN.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVE A MOTION STILL ON THE TABLE,  
ROCHELLE'S MOTION, AND IT WAS SECONDED.

WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WITH THAT MOTION YET.

THE MOTION BASICALLY WAS TO HAVE COUNTY STAFF LOOK AT THE  
DATES.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION BEFORE WE VOTE?

ALL IN FAVOR OF HAVING COUNTY STAFF LOOK FOR SOME POSSIBLE  
DATES, DAYTIME DATES FOR A BOARD MEETING, RAISE YOUR RIGHT  
HAND.

OKAY.

ANYONE OPPOSED RAISE THEIR RIGHT HAND.

OKAY.

THAT MOTION PASSES.

YES.

>> WE DON'T NEED -- MARY HELEN, SHE'S JUST GOING TO DO  
THAT, WE DON'T NEED A MOTION FOR HER TO DO THAT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DO WE NEED -- WE DON'T NEED -- I MEAN,  
I DIDN'T THINK WE DID.

THANK YOU, THOUGH.

MAKE SURE WE FOLLOW THE RULES HERE.

OKAY.

LET ME JUST MENTION SOMETHING BEFORE EDITH CONTINUES, OR  
ACTUALLY -- WELL, WHAT I WANTED TO MENTION IS I KNOW IN  
TERMS OF THE WEB SITE, LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD EACH  
MEMBER SUBMITTED SOME INFORMATION, AND WHAT I SHOULD HAVE  
DONE BEFORE I GOT STARTED IS HAD EVERYBODY INTRODUCE  
THEMSELVES.

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE BECAUSE I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE  
PUBLIC TO GET AN IDEA WHO'S SERVING, WHO THEY ARE, WHAT  
THEIR BACKGROUND IS.

I DIDN'T DO THAT AT THE BEGINNING, SO WE MAY WANT TO -- I  
GUESS A QUESTION IS WE COULD DO IT NOW OR WE COULD DO IT  
BEGINNING OF NEXT MEETING.

>>GERALD WHITE: CAN WE DO IT BEFORE WE ADJOURN BECAUSE I  
STILL HAD -- I HAD A REQUEST OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY BEFORE  
WE ADJOURN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YEAH.

AND I'M NOT GETTING READY TO ADJOURN YET.

I GUESS MY QUESTION IS WOULD -- IN TERMS OF INTRODUCING  
OURSELVES, MY THOUGHT IS IF WE DID IT AT THE NEXT MEETING

AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, WE COULD -- WE COULD AT LEAST INTRODUCE OURSELVES, AND I KNOW IN THE PAST, WE -- LAST TIME AROUND EVERYBODY SUBMITTED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THEMSELVES THAT WAS ON THE WEB SITE, AND I THINK THAT'S HELPFUL FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE GOING TO THE WEB SITE TO GET AN IDEA WHO'S SERVING AND WHAT THEIR BACKGROUND IS AND EVERYTHING.

>> WHAT'S THE URL OF THE WEB SITE, U-R-L, THE UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR?

>> HILLSBOROUGHCOUNTY.ORG.

>> THAT'S OUR WEB SITE?

>>EDITH STEWART: YES.

YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO THAT AND THEN GOOGLE "CHARTER REVIEW," AND IT WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR OWN PAGE.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>EDITH STEWART: AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PREPARE A TEMPLATE AND SEND IT FOR WHATEVER LEVEL OF INFORMATION YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADD SO THAT IT'S UNIFORM.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I GUESS WHAT I WAS MENTIONING IS WE MAY WANT TO -- I'M -- I'M SUGGESTING THAT WE EACH SUBMIT LIKE A SHORT BIO OF OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUALS, AND IN THE PAST EACH INDIVIDUAL HAD SUBMITTED A PICTURE, AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS HELPFUL BECAUSE PEOPLE -- I KNOW PEOPLE CAME UP TO ME, AND, YOU KNOW, IT'S KIND OF -- PEOPLE KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

I DON'T KNOW, YOU MAY LIKE IT, YOU MAY NOT, BUT PEOPLE SEE IT, THEY KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND THEY KNOW WHO TO APPROACH IF THEY HAVE A SPECIFIC QUESTION.

>> I'D APPRECIATE THE TEMPLATE TOO.

I THINK THAT'S APPROPRIATE SO THAT EVERYBODY FOLLOWS THE SAME FORMAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

SO I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO DO A MOTION ON THAT.

I MEAN, IT'S JUST --

>>EDITH STEWART: IT'S PROCEDURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND IN TERMS OF INTRODUCTIONS, I'M THINKING NEXT BOARD MEETING, BEGINNING OF THE MEETING SINCE -- WE CAN DO THAT RIGHT OFF THE BAT.

>> I AGREE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO EDITH, DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER --

>>EDITH STEWART: I JUST HAVE ONE LAST THING.

I'VE PROVIDED YOU THE NOTEBOOKS.

THE COUNTY ATTORNEY KINDLY PROVIDED US THE INTERNAL PIECES, AND WE FILED THEM.

YOU CAN KEEP THE NOTEBOOKS OR YOU CAN HAVE ME KEEP THEM, AND I WILL BE POSTING EVERYTHING TO THE WEB, BUT I WILL BRING YOU HARD COPIES OF THINGS SO THAT YOU CAN ADD THEM TO THE NOTEBOOK.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>EDITH STEWART: AND I'M HAPPY TO TAKE ANY OTHER DIRECTION OF WHAT YOU FEEL YOU MIGHT NEED TO DO YOUR WORK.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: I HAVE ONE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I WAS GOING TO MENTION BEFORE WE ADJOURN I WANTED TO MAKE SURE WE DO HAVE -- LEAVE TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO DO IT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, BUT BECAUSE WE DID NOT DO IT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING TODAY, I WAS GOING TO ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HERE TO COME UP FOR THREE MINUTES IF THEY WANTED TO TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT.

WE'RE NOT READY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT YET.

GERALD.

>> YEAH.

EDITH, I WANTED TO FIND OUT, WHEN IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD -- THE BIG NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING WITH ALL THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION LEADERS BECAUSE ATTORNEY FISHER AND I STAFFED THAT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING IN PAST -- YOU REMEMBER WE STAFFED THE MEETING IN PAST --

>>EDITH STEWART: IT'S ON A SATURDAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: WHEN?

>>EDITH STEWART: NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

>>EDITH STEWART: YES.

IT'S ON A SATURDAY AT HCC AT DALE MABRY CAMPUS.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

AND THAT'S THE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE?

>>EDITH STEWART: YES, SIR.

>>GERALD WHITE: THIS NEXT MONTH OR WHEN?

>>EDITH STEWART: MARCH.

>>GERALD WHITE: MARCH.

>>EDITH STEWART: I'LL LOOK AT MY CALENDAR AND TELL YOU THE FIRM DATE, BUT I THINK IT'S THE 19th.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, WHAT I WANT TO TELL THE BOARD, WE STAFFED -- WE HAD TO SET UP A TABLE AND WE PASSED OUT THE CHARTER, WE PASSED OUT WHAT WAS THE FUNCTION OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD TO ALL THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

MR. FISHER AND I STAFFED IT, AND IT WAS GREAT.

MITCH, YOU DID TOO.

I APOLOGIZE.

WE STAFFED IT WITH THREE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT AGAIN BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT WAS SO HELPFUL.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DID YOU WANT TO MAKE A MOTION THAT THE, I GUESS -- THE CHARTER -- THE COUNTY STAFF COORDINATE WITH BOARD MEMBERS, ANYONE WHO IS WILLING TO VOLUNTEER TO STAFF THAT.

I MEAN, IT'S USUALLY IN THE MORNING A FEW HOURS.

IT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE WORD OUT TO THE PUBLIC.

IT'S MAINLY NEIGHBORHOOD -- IT'S COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS.

IT'S A GREAT EVENT THAT THE COUNTY PUTS ON, AND THEY BRING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOGETHER, SO IT'S -- WOULD YOU WANT TO MAKE A MOTION?

>>GERALD WHITE: I'D LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION THAT WE STAFF A TABLE AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD -- HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: HAVE WE GOT A SECOND FOR THAT?

>> I'LL SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ALL IN FAVOR.

I'M SORRY.

DISCUSSION.

I WAS ABOUT TO CUT YOU GUYS OFF.

ANY DISCUSSION CONCERNING THAT BEFORE WE VOTE?

ALL IN FAVOR SHOW THEIR RIGHT HAND.

OKAY.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

THAT PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

THANK YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND I HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

MARY HELEN.

MARY HELEN, UP FRONT I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST ANY ACTION THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE TAKEN RELATED TO THIS -- THIS COUNTY MAYOR ISSUE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: I KNOW THEY SENT A LETTER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

ANY INFORMATION THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS FORMALLY TAKEN RELATED TO THE ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR, I WOULD LIKE FOR THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD TO HAVE IT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

THERE'S SOME MINUTES WHERE IT WAS DISCUSSED.

THERE'S SOME OTHER THINGS THAT I CAN PULL.

>>GERALD WHITE: ALL RIGHT.

THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT, AND -- BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO -- I WANT TO ADDRESS THAT, SO WE NEED TO GET EVERYBODY THE INFORMATION.

AND THESE DOCUMENTS THAT WE HAVE, IF YOU'LL JUST GO THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES, YOU CAN SEE WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, AND -- RELATED TO THE BOARD, AND I THINK WE'VE GOT A GOOD GROUP HERE.

I'M EXCITED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: JOE.

>> I WANT TO EXPAND ON THAT.

HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE COUNTY MAYOR ISSUE.

THERE'S ALSO -- I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THE COUNTY COMMISSION HAD SOME ISSUES COME UP, AND THEY SAID IN THE ARTICLE I READ, WHICH WAS FEBRUARY OF 2009, THAT THEY WERE GOING TO REFER IT TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR, AND THERE WAS AN ISSUE THAT THEY SAID IN THIS ARTICLE -- AND I'VE GOT IT WITH ME -- WHERE THEY WERE GOING TO REFER IT TO THE CHARTER REVIEW, AND I DON'T -- AND SO IF THERE'S ANY OF THOSE FLOATING AROUND WHERE THE COUNTY COMMISSION OPTED TO REFER IT TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD ADD THOSE TO WHATEVER HE'S TALKING ABOUT OVER THERE.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

AND THE ISSUE WAS TO TAKE THE VOTE TO 60% --

>> YES, THAT WAS THE ISSUE.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- TO AMEND THE COUNTY CHARTER, AND SO THEY VOTED TO REFER THAT ISSUE OVER TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER DISCUSSION?

>>GERALD WHITE: ONE OTHER THING.

I'M SORRY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GERALD.

>>GERALD WHITE: I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE SETTING UP SPEAKERS, BUT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO -- TO GET THE MAYOR OF TAMPA, PAM IORIO, SCHEDULED TO COME BEFORE

THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: SHE WAS THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, SHE'S A SITTING MAYOR FOR EIGHT YEARS, AND SHE JUST HAS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE ON ELECTION ISSUES AND AS AN EXECUTIVE OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, SO I WOULD HOPE THAT THE MAYOR OF TAMPA, PAM IORIO, CAN BE OUR FIRST SPEAKER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME MENTION -- AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THE AGENDA.

I'M ASSUMING THE NEXT MEETING THAT'S WHAT WE'LL BE DOING, DISCUSSING WHO WE WANT TO INVITE, SO JUST TO LET YOU GUYS BE AWARE, YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER WHO YOU THINK WOULD BE A GOOD PERSON TO INVITE.

TYPICALLY IT'S BEEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, THE ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM WITHIN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND WE'VE INVITED A NUMBER -- YOU KNOW, SOME EXPERTS ON CHARTERS, SOME INDIVIDUALS.

WE'VE INVITED A NUMBER OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

WE'VE ALSO -- WE'VE HAD PUBLIC COMMENT, AND -- YOU KNOW, AND IF SOMEONE IN THE PUBLIC CONTACTS US AND THEY -- YOU KNOW, I MEAN, WE'RE PRETTY MUCH OPEN TO HEARING FROM ANYBODY.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, BUT I'D JUST SUGGEST TO YOU GOOD INFORMATION, IF YOU GO TO THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY WEB SITE AND YOU LOOK AT THE PRIOR

CHARTER REVIEW BOARD INFORMATION, THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR YOU GUYS JUST TO GET SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WHAT ISSUES BECAUSE IN MY EXPERIENCE LAST TIME --

>>GERALD WHITE: EVERYTHING'S IN HERE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

>>GERALD WHITE: EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING THAT THE PREVIOUS TWO CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS HAVE DONE IS IN THIS PACKET.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND MY EXPERIENCE IS THE ISSUES TEND TO KEEP POPPING UP, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WHAT THE ISSUES ARE BEFOREHAND SO THAT WE CAN HAVE INFORMED DISCUSSION HERE, SO -- JAN.

>>JAN PLATT: AND RATHER THAN SINGLE ANY ONE PERSON OUT, IF STAFF WOULD JUST BRING US A LIST OF WHO THEY BELIEVE SHOULD BE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE OUGHT TO CONSIDER, AND THEN WE CAN ADD FROM TO THAT LIST OR SUBTRACT FROM THAT LIST BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE.

WE HAVE THREE CITIES, NOT JUST ONE, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT SHOULD BE ASKED, SO IF THAT COULD BE AN AGENDA ITEM THAT STAFF COULD PUT TOGETHER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO MAKE A MOTION ON THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: NO.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND MR. CHAIR, THAT WASN'T TO TAKE AWAY FROM PLANT CITY OR TEMPLE TERRACE, BUT MAYOR PAM IORIO IS

MY MAYOR.

I LIVE IN THE CITY OF TAMPA.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE INVITED HER LAST TIME, SO -- ANY FURTHER COMMENT BEFORE WE GO INTO PUBLIC -- ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION BEFORE WE GO INTO PUBLIC COMMENT?

YOU'RE HERE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, SIR?

>> YES, SIR.

AND THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT, AND --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IF YOU DON'T MIND GIVING US YOUR NAME.

>> YES, YES.

I DON'T MIND AT ALL.

MY NAME IS AL DAVIS, AND I'M A RESIDENT OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND I LIVE ON WILDER AVENUE IN TAMPA, FLORIDA, EAST WILDER, 3717.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

YOU KNOW, THIS IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE AGAIN.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE ALMIGHTY AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOU.

I WILL NOT BELABOR YOUR TIME BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND YOU'RE READY TO ADJOURN, BUT I WOULD ASK THIS, IS THAT YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE HERE FOR THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS, NOT FOR YOUR INDIVIDUALIZED AGENDA.

YOU KNOW, WHEN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES CAME INTO FOCUS WE HAD WHAT WE CALL THE ARTICLE OF CONFEDERACY,

AND FROM THAT STEMS THOSE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT THE CHANGE.

YOU ARE A CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT MEANS THAT YOU REVIEW THE CHARTER AND SEE THAT NOTHING NEEDS TO BE DONE OR YOU REVIEW THE CHARTER AND SEE THAT SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WITH THAT IN MIND, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER WHAT YOUR ROLE REALLY, REALLY IS.

YOU HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, AND I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME.

I DON'T THINK YOU-ALL ARE GETTING ANY WAGES FOR THIS; ARE YOU?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.

>> AND I'LL BE LOOKING VERY CAREFUL AT THE APPOINTEES BY THE COMMISSIONER WHO REPRESENTS DISTRICT 3, THE DISTRICT FOR WHICH I'M REPRESENTED, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING ENGAGED WITH YOU, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE SUCCESS OF YOUR LABOR, BUT MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE, YOU KNOW, WE HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION.

I WANT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THIS COUNTY FOUNDING MOTHER FOR ITS CHARTER, AND THAT'S MS. JAN PLATT.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

I DON'T SEE TOO WELL.

MS. PLATT, RAISE YOUR HAND.

THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>> BLESS YOU, AND I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE STILL HERE.

>>JAN PLATT: I AM TOO.

>> AND I'M GLAD THAT I'M STILL HERE.

YOU-ALL DON'T KNOW -- MAYBE SOME OF YOU DO -- STARTING FROM THE EARLY HOURS IN THE EVENING TO THE LATE HOURS AT THE NIGHT AND TO THE EARLY HOURS IN THE A.M., MOTHER PLATT, YOU KNOW -- EXCUSE THE PUN --

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>> -- WAS THERE AND SHE GUIDED THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION, SHE GUIDED US INTO FASHIONING FOR THE FIRST TIME A CHARTER FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> NOW, SOME OF YOU --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

>> I MAY COME BACK LATER, BUT THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. CHAIRMAN.

BEST WISHES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU, AL.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GOOD EVENING.

>> YES.

GOOD EVENING, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FULL YEAR, A VERY INTERESTING ONE, BUT LET ME SET MAYBE A GOAL THAT YOU MIGHT

CONSIDER.

>> EXCUSE ME.

COULD YOU GIVE ME YOUR NAME.

>> NEIL COSENTINO, 708 SOUTH DAVIS BOULEVARD HERE IN TAMPA. OUR COUNTY HAS MORE PEOPLE THAN ALASKA, OUR COUNTY HAS MORE PEOPLE THAN DELAWARE AND RHODE ISLAND AND VERMONT AND MONTANA AND WYOMING AND SOUTH DAKOTA, AND SO WE COULD VERY EASILY ACT AS IF WE WERE A STATE, WHICH INDEED WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE HAVE, WE ARE INDEED -- ARE A STATE, BUT WE SHOULD START -- I BELIEVE START ACTING LIKE ONE AND GOVERNING OURSELVES THAT WAY, AND THERE'S PRECEDENCE HERE BECAUSE WE HAVE SUPER COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND I THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

THERE IS A MIAMI-DADE, AS WE ALL KNOW.

IT USED TO BE DADE.

NOW IT'S MIAMI-DADE.

WE HAVE A JACKSONVILLE-DUVAL, SUPER COUNTIES, SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS CHARTER COMMITTEE TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

I THINK IT'S TIME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

ANY OTHER?

GOOD EVENING.

>> GOOD EVENING.

I AM ANN [INCOMPREHENSIBLE] WHITE, AND I'M AN EVANGELIST AND ALSO A STUDENT EDUCATOR HERE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND I'M PLEASED TO WELCOME AND TO GREET EACH OF YOU AS THE PEOPLE'S CITIZENS' CHARTER REVIEW BOARD FOR 2010.

I WANT TO SAY HELLO AGAIN FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS, MR. WHITE, MS. PLATT, AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO ARE RETURNING, AND ALSO CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MEMBERS, AND I HOPE YOU WILL, IN FACT, SPEAK FOR THE CITIZENRY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND NOT YOURSELVES AND ESPECIALLY NOT SPECIAL INTERESTS.

I HAVE ATTENDED AND WITNESSED THE REVIEW OF THE COUNTY CHARTER DURING MANY PAST SESSIONS, AND I SAW SOME MANY -- I SAW MANY MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO TWEAK, TO CHANGE, AND TO ADJUST AND TO IMPROVE VARIOUS FACETS OF OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT VIA CHANGES IN THE CHARTER, SO I HOPE THAT I DON'T HAVE TO SIT THROUGH THAT THIS TIME AROUND.

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF TAMPA SINCE AGE 11, AND I'M NOT GIVING OUT ANY ADDITIONS TO THAT, BUT -- AND I HAVE YET TO EXPERIENCE A PERFECT COUNTY OR TO LIVE IN A PERFECT COUNTY OR A PERFECT COMMUNITY.

PERFECT WE ARE NOT AND NEITHER ARE OUR INSTITUTIONS OR OUR ENGAGEMENTS.

THEREFORE, WHERE CHANGE AND CORRECTIONS ARE NOTED AND KNOWN -- BECAUSE MANY TIMES WE KNOW WHERE CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE, BUT SOMETIMES WE JUST WON'T MAKE THEM BECAUSE,

LET'S FACE IT, EVERYBODY KNOWS SOMEBODY WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN SOMETHING THAT THEY EITHER WANT TO MAINTAIN OR THEY MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE, SO THE STATUS QUO IS GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH CHANGE JUST LIKE THE REST OF US AND THE REST OF OUR ENGAGEMENTS, SO THEREFORE, WHERE CHANGE AND CORRECTIONS ARE NOTED AND KNOWN, PLEASE CONSIDER THEM AND REVIEW THEM AND ADJUST THEM AND CHANGE THEM IF NECESSARY.

THOSE AREAS AS NEEDED, PLEASE MAKE THOSE NECESSARY CHANGES, BEARING IN MIND THE COUNTY'S INTERESTS, THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENRY, THE WISHES OF THE VOTERS, AND, OF COURSE, THE BENEFITS OF SUCH CHANGES TO OUR COUNTY, AND AS A POST-NOTE ON THE VIDEO ON DEMAND AND ON THE MINUTES, I'VE SAT THROUGH MANY OF THESE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS, AND I HAVE READ THROUGH THE -- MANY OF THE MINUTES, AND I HAVE NOTED SOME ERRORS, AND I DID BRING SOME OF THOSE ERRORS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD, SO DO NOT BELIEVE AND DO NOT THINK THAT THEY DON'T MAKE MISTAKES FROM TIME TO TIME. THEY DO, ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT OFTEN.

PLEASE READ THOSE MINUTES AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY'RE THOROUGH AND THAT YOU ARE, IN FACT, BEING QUOTED CORRECTLY BECAUSE I HAD TO POINT THAT OUT BEFORE.

OKAY?

NOW, JUST AS A POST-NOTE TOO TO WHAT SOMEONE SAID ABOUT THE PUBLIC COMMENTS, I WOULD THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER HAVING COMMENTS ALSO AT THE END BECAUSE MOST OF THE PUBLIC

SPEAKERS FOR COMMENT -- PUBLIC COMMENT WILL HAVE MADE THEIR COMMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MRS. WHITE --

>> -- BUT SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT ARRIVE UNTIL LATE OR LATER IN THE MEETING, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THAT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>> I THANK ALL OF YOU, AND AGAIN, GREETINGS 2010 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

JAN.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU KNOW, I'M GLAD SHE APPEARED TODAY BECAUSE IT RAISES THE ISSUE THAT WE NEED FOR THE FUTURE BECAUSE I THINK SHE'S GERALD'S WIFE.

IS THERE A NEED -- IN CONFLICT FROM THE ATTORNEY, WHEN -- WHEN A RELATIVE OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OR SOMEBODY LIKE THAT SPEAKS, DO THEY NEED TO DISCLOSE THAT OR DO WE JUST IGNORE THAT?

>>GERALD WHITE: IS YOUR HUSBAND COMING NEXT MEETING?

>>JAN PLATT: NO, HE'LL STAY AWAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, UNDER THE ETHICS CODE, WHICH THE CHARTER ADOPTS AS THE ETHICS CODE FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, UNLESS THERE WAS SOME VOTE THAT WOULD INURE TO A PRIVATE

THING, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO REQUIREMENT TO DISCLOSE THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS HERE THAT WOULD WANT TO SPEAK PUBLIC COMMENT -- DURING PUBLIC COMMENT?

GERALD.

>>GERALD WHITE: BEFORE WE CLOSE, MR. CHAIRMAN, I JUST WANTED TO JUST MENTION CIVILITY.

CIVILITY.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD EXCELLENT REMARKS RELATED TO CAMARADERIE AND WORKING TOGETHER, AND THIS IS A VERY -- VERY THOUGHTFUL BOARD, VERY ENGAGING BOARD, VERY SHARP PEOPLE ON THIS BOARD, AND IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DISAGREE OR BE -- WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE, AND SO WE MUST KEEP IN MIND, I BELIEVE, THAT WE'RE HERE TO REPRESENT THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND CIVILITY IS IMPORTANT, AND I WOULD HOPE THROUGHOUT OUR YEAR WE KEEP THAT IN MIND, AND I'M CONFIDENT WE WILL, AND SERVE THE PUBLIC IN HIGH REGARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

IF THERE'S NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, DO WE HAVE A MOTION TO ADJOURN?

>> SO MOVE.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SECOND.

ALL IN FAVOR.

MEETING'S ADJOURNED.

THANK YOU.