

CAPTIONING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2005  
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

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>>SUE PARRISH: WELCOME.

THIS IS THE ORGANIZING MEETING FOR THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD  
OF 2005.

I'M SUE PARRISH.

I'M THE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD, AND I WILL BE PRESIDING  
OVER THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA, WE HAVE WELCOME REMARKS FROM OUR  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JIM NORMAN.

>>JIM NORMAN: WELCOME, EVERYONE.

THAT'S MY JOB.

I GUESS I'M DONE NOW.

[LAUGHTER]

I REALLY WAS EXCITED ABOUT COMING DOWN HERE AND WELCOMING  
YOU-ALL.

YOU-ALL ARE THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND IF  
YOU-ALL LOOK AROUND THE DAIS -- AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU-  
ALL PROBABLY SEE COMMISSIONER PLATT SITTING HERE, AND I  
WAS -- I WAS TALKING TO HER THE OTHER DAY, AND COMMISSIONER

PLATT HAS MADE FULL CIRCLE.

SHE ACTUALLY WAS HERE WHEN OUR CHARTER WAS CONSTITUTED, AND NOW SHE'S COME FULL CIRCLE AND IS SERVING ON THE CHARTER REVIEW.

SO IT WAS AN HONOR THAT WE -- THAT SHE ACCEPTED THAT SHE WOULD SERVE.

THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT OUR BOARD HAS SELECTED, I SAW THE LIST AND WAS SO EXCITED THAT -- A LOT OF YOU-ALL ARE VETERANS.

BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I JUST WANT TO LEAVE WITH YOU IS THIS IS OUR CONSTITUTION.

THIS IS WHAT -- AND THE EMPOWERMENT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU IS HOW OUR COUNTY CAN GOVERN.

TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.

TRY TO BE HERE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

THIS IS SO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, THE JOB THAT YOU'RE DOING, AND I KNOW EACH OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT, BUT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A TASK, AND YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN SOMETHING FOR ALL THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND PLEASE TAKE THAT VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY BECAUSE WHAT YOU'RE DOING MEANS SO MUCH TO EVERY MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY.

SO, AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME JUST BE HERE, AND I WANTED TO WELCOME YOU, AND YOU HAVE A FULL YEAR AHEAD OF YOU, AND ACTUALLY, I ACTUALLY WAS ABLE TO TALK FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT GERALD WHITE SAYING, JIM NORMAN.

[LAUGHTER]

YOU-ALL HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, AND THANK YOU.

>>SUE PARRISH: THANK YOU.

NEXT WE HAVE RENEE LEE, OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY, WHO WILL DO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU.

IF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WOULD RISE AND RAISE THEIR RIGHT HAND, PLEASE.

AND I WILL BREAK THE OATH UP SO THAT YOU CAN 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 AND THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER ...

(BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING)

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

(BOARD MEMBERS REPEATING)

[TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES]

>>SUE PARRISH: ... THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN.

JIM PORTER.

>>JIM PORTER: I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER JAN PLATT FOR CHAIR.

AS COMMISSIONER NORMAN SAID, COMMISSIONER PLATT WAS ELECTED TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION BEFORE THE CHARTER.

SHE SERVED DURING THE TIME IT WAS FIRST ADOPTED, AND THEN SHE SERVED AFTER THE CHARTER, AND I THINK SHE BRINGS A UNIQUE INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PERSPECTIVE TO IT AND WOULD BE A GOOD GUIDE FOR US THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS.

>>SUE PARRISH: ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS?

YES.

>> I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE JIM PORTER.

>>JIM PORTER: OH.

UM, WELL, I THINK I'LL DECLINE BECAUSE COMMISSIONER -- I APPRECIATE THAT, MS. WILSON, BUT I'LL LET MY NOMINATION OF MS. PLATT STAND.

THANK YOU, THOUGH.

>>SUE PARRISH: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR, POINT OF ORDER.

FIRST OF ALL, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OR REALLY KNOW A FEW OF THE BOARD MEMBERS, AND I'VE SERVED WITH A FEW, BUT REALLY I HAVE NO IDEA, OTHER THAN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES, WHO THESE CITIZENS ARE.

I UNDERSTAND THEY'RE GREAT CITIZENS BECAUSE THEY WERE APPOINTED THROUGH THIS BOARD, AND SO SINCE WE HAVE NOT

ADOPTED ANY RULES UP TO THIS POINT, I THINK A MORE FAIR WAY TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION IS REALLY JUST TO ASK ANY INDIVIDUAL THAT WISH TO SERVE IN THE CAPACITY AS CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR JUST TO PLACE THEIR OWN NAME IN NOMINATION. I THINK THAT'S THE FAIR WAY TO DO IT, AND THEN GIVE EACH PERSON THAT -- THAT PLACE THEMSELF AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK SO WE CAN GET A CHANCE TO LEARN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE CHAIR NOMINEE AND THE VICE CHAIR NOMINEE.

>>SUE PARRISH: THERE ARE NO RULES, SO ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE THAT AS A MOTION?

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, TO HAVE A SENSE OF FAIRNESS, NOT JUST FOR THE CITIZENS ON THIS PARTICULAR CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, BUT FOR ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THIS COUNTY, I'D LIKE TO MAKE THAT IN THE FORM OF A MOTION.

>>SUE PARRISH: IS THERE A SECOND?

MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN?

>> MADAM, I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE MITCHELL THROWER FOR CHAIRMAN.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

>> THANK YOU.

>>SUE PARRISH: MITCHELL THROWER.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN?

THEN THE FLOOR IS CLOSED FOR NOMINATIONS.

ALL IN FAVOR OF JAN PLATT, WOULD YOU SIGNIFY BY RAISING

YOUR HAND AND GIVING US A VOICE VOTE FOR THE RECORDER.

[CHORUS OF AYES]

SECRETARY, CAN YOU COUNT THE NUMBER.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: I'M GOING TO MAKE AN ORAL VOTE OR -  
- OKAY.

YES.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS RAISED FOR JUST A MOMENT.

>>SUE PARRISH: ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF MITCH THROWER.

[CHORUS OF AYES]

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: IT WILL BE FIVE VOTES FOR  
MRS. PLATT -- I MEAN FOR MS. PLATT -- AND FOUR VOTES FOR  
MR. THROWER.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

THANK YOU, THEN --

>>JAN PLATT: IT WAS SIX, SIX AND FIVE.

>> SIX AND FIVE.

>>SUE PARRISH: WOULD YOU VOTE AGAIN, THOSE OF YOU FOR  
COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>> RAISE THEM HIGH.

>>SUE PARRISH: AND FOR MR. THROWER.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>SUE PARRISH: WOULD YOU ANNOUNCE THE VOTE AGAIN.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: AND THE VOTES FROM SIX FOR MS.  
PLATT AND FIVE FOR MR. THROWER.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

SO COMMISSIONER PLATT, MS. PLATT, YOU'RE THE CHAIRMAN.

IT SAYS ON THE AGENDA THAT I DO THE VICE CHAIR TOO, BUT I NEVER TRADITIONALLY DO THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

ARE THERE NOMINATIONS FOR THE VICE CHAIR THEN?

>> I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE JIM PORTER.

>> I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE MITCH THROWER.

>>SUE PARRISH: JIM PORTER AND MITCH THROWER.

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS?

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, CAN YOU NOMINATE YOURSELF?

I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE MYSELF.

THE PEOPLE THAT WILL SUPPORT ME, I GUESS, ASK -- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT, BUT I'D LIKE TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR, SO I'D LIKE TO PLACE MY NAME IN NOMINATION.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

SO WE HAVE JIM PORTER, MITCH THROWER, GERALD WHITE.

ANYONE ELSE?

>> CAN WE HAVE WHOEVER NOMINATED THEM SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUND?

>>SUE PARRISH: SURE.

YOU WANT TO START, JIM?

>>JIM PORTER: OH?

OR DID --

>> I THOUGHT THE PERSON WHO NOMINATED THEM.

>>SUE PARRISH: OH, I'M SORRY.

I MISUNDERSTOOD.

>> MAYBE THEY'D RATHER NOT.

OF COURSE, JIM PORTER HAS BEEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, VERY GOOD.

I KNOW HE KNOWS ALL THE RULES, ALL THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES, AND ALL THE LEGAL ANGLES, AND I THOUGHT HE'D BE A GOOD ASSET TO JAN, WHO ALSO KNOWS THE PROCESS.

>>SUE PARRISH: YES, SIR.

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR NOMINEE?

>> I DON'T KNOW MR. THROWER, BUT HE COME IN WITH FIVE VOTES, AND THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT THINK A LOT OF HIM, AND I THINK THAT HE COULD MAKE A GOOD VICE CHAIR.

>> OKAY.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

>> I'D LIKE TO ADD TO THAT.

I'VE KNOWN MITCHELL FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND HE WOULD BE A GOOD MAN AND GOOD VICE CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

GERALD, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF?

>> WELL, MY NAME IS GERALD WHITE.

I'VE 42 YEARS OF AGE.

I'M A 21-YEAR EMPLOYEE WITH TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY.

I'VE SERVED SEVEN YEARS STRAIGHT ON THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

I SERVED AS VICE CHAIR OF THAT GROUP.

I'M THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

I'M A COMMISSIONER WITH THE TAMPA HOUSING AUTHORITY.

I'M MARRIED FOR 21 YEARS, A FATHER OF FOUR.

MY DAUGHTER'S AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, AND I HAVE A SON THAT'S ON THE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA, AND I HAVE A DAUGHTER THAT'S A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.

THE REASON I WANT TO BE CHAIR IS THAT WE DO HAVE STRONG EXPERIENCE IN THE CHAIR CAPACITY AND ALSO TREMENDOUS INSIDE KNOWLEDGE, IF YOU WILL, RELATED TO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

AND THE REASON I WANT TO BE VICE CHAIR IS THAT I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT I BRING AN OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE, A CITIZEN PERSPECTIVE, IF YOU WILL, TO THE POSITION AS VICE CHAIR TO ASSIST THE CHAIR AND THIS BOARD, AND ALSO, AS IT RELATES TO DIVERSITY, THIS IS A VERY, VERY DIVERSE COMMUNITY WITH AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND HISPANICS, AND I THINK IT WILL SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WELL TO HAVE SOME DIVERSITY, IF YOU WILL, IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

AND SO, ALONG WITH THAT, I FORGOT TO MENTION, I'VE ALSO SERVED WITH THIS COMMUNITY FOUR NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

I'VE REPRESENTED THIS COMMUNITY AS A DEMOCRAT DELEGATE TO FOUR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTIONS, VOTED AND ELECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTY.

SO I'VE BEEN AN ACTIVIST, REALLY, FOR ABOUT 20, 22 YEARS, ALL OF MY ADULT LIFE, AND SO I THINK I BRING A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISM, IF YOU WILL, TO THIS BOARD, AND I THINK I WILL SERVE THE COMMUNITY WELL.

AND I GUESS TO TOP IT ALL OFF, I SERVED ON THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I SERVED -- I DID NOT MISS ONE MEETING.

I HAD PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR THE FULL YEAR ON THE 2000 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

SO I BRING THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD TO -- TO THIS GROUP, AND SO IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO ME IF YOU WOULD ALLOW ME TO SERVE AS THE VICE CHAIR OF THIS GROUP.

THANK YOU.

>> WOULD SOMEONE GIVE US A BACKGROUND OF MR. THRASHER.

>> THROWER.

>>MITCH THROWER: YES.

I'M MR. THROWER.

I SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

I'M A CPA.

I'VE BEEN VICE PRESIDENT OF MY SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF AGENCIES OUTSIDE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AS A VOLUNTEER.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND I'D BE HONORED TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR.

>>SUE PARRISH: OKAY.

ARE WE READY FOR THE VOTE?

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF JIM PORTER.

OKAY.

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF MITCH THROWER.

AND ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF GERALD WHITE.

SECRETARY, WERE YOU ABLE TO COUNT THAT QUICKLY?

I'M SORRY.

I WENT A LITTLE FAST.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: I BELIEVE THAT WAS SEVEN VOTES FOR MITCH THROWER, THREE VOTES FOR JAN PLATT, ONE VOTE FOR GERALD WHITE.

>>JAN PLATT: I DIDN'T RUN THAT TIME.

JIM PORTER.

>>JIM PORTER: DIFFERENT J. P.

[LAUGHTER]

>>SUE PARRISH: IT'S OKAY, LESLEY.

WE KNEW WHAT YOU MEANT.

OKAY.

I'LL TURN THE CHAIR OVER TO JAN PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: SHOULD I MOVE OVER THERE?

>>SUE PARRISH: YEAH, AND YOUR AGENDA'S RIGHT HERE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>> WHERE DO YOU WANT THE VICE CHAIR?

DO YOU WANT TO SIT HERE?

I'LL MOVE.

IT DON'T MATTER.

>>MITCH THROWER: I CAN SIT HERE, OR IS THERE A SEAT OVER THERE?

>> YOU WANT ME TO MOVE DOWN ONE?

I DON'T MIND MOVING.

>> I'LL MOVE OVER THERE.

>> YOU CAN COME THIS WAY.

WE'LL JUST MOVE DOWN THE CHAIRS IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU-ALL.

>> MADAM CHAIRMAN, ARE THERE MORE AGENDAS OUT THERE ANYWHERE?

>>JAN PLATT: I HAVE NO IDEA.

I'M AS GREEN AT THIS AS YOU ARE.

I JUST WALKED IN AND FOUND IT.

AND SOMEBODY NEEDS TO PULL MY CHAIR UP.

I'M ALREADY STARTED OFF IN A HOLE.

WHY DON'T WE JUST SWITCH.

>> NO, I SAID I LIKE THIS ONE.

>> OH, YOU LIKE IT BECAUSE IT'S HIGH.

>> YEAH.

THAT'S TOO LOW.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR HAVING  
SELECTED ME AS CHAIRMAN.

THE OFFICERS ARE REALLY NOT THAT IMPORTANT IN THIS  
ORGANIZATION.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHAT WE HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE  
ISSUES OF A SUBSTANTIVE NATURE THAT WE DEAL WITH WITH THE  
CHARTER.

I AM A FAIR, IMPARTIAL PRESIDER.

KNOW THAT.

THAT'S HOW I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BE ELECTED TO OFFICE SO MANY  
YEARS IS THAT I AM FAIR, AND SO I WILL BE.

AND SO NOW WE'LL MOVE ON AND DEAL WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE  
ISSUES.

I, LIKE YOU, HAD NOT SEEN THE AGENDA OR THE BACKUP, SO  
WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE GOING THROUGH THIS MEETING TOGETHER  
FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AND SO, YOU KNOW, I THINK -- AND SOMETHING THAT PROBABLY  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE AT THE VERY BEGINNING AND I THINK  
THAT SOMEBODY POINTED OUT IS THAT WE DON'T REALLY KNOW ONE  
ANOTHER, AND SO I WOULD SUGGEST -- WHY DON'T WE JUST GO  
AROUND THE ROOM AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES AND TELL -- GIVE US  
A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND ABOUT OURSELVES SO WE KNOW ONE  
ANOTHER BETTERWOULD YOU GO AHEAD AND START.

>> I'LL START.

GOOD EVENING.

I'M MARK MANDT.

I AM PRESIDENT OF A COMPANY CALLED CLASSIFIED TECHNOLOGIES,  
WHICH IS LOCATED OUT IN THE EAST HILLSBOROUGH AREA.

I ACTUALLY LIVE ON DAVIS ISLAND.

I'VE BEEN IN TAMPA SINCE 1988, WHEN MY FAMILY MOVED HERE.

I GREW UP IN THE PUBLISHING BUSINESS.

I'M MARRIED FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS, HAVE A DAUGHTER,  
MACK SEEN, WHO IS ABOUT TEN MONTHS OLD.

GRADUATE OF FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AND THEN A MASTER'S  
DEGREE FROM BABSON COLLEGE, AND I'M EXCITED AT THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AND HOPEFULLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR  
OUR FUTURE.

THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>>DAVID STORCK: YES.

I'M DAVID STORCK, AND I'VE BEEN IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NOW  
18 YEARS.

I'M WITH WAL-MART COMPANY.

ALSO, I HAVE A PLANT NURSERY.

I'VE BEEN WITH WAL-MART 24 YEARS, AND I -- LIKE MR. WHITE,  
I WAS HONORED TO BE A DELEGATE TO THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL  
CONVENTION THIS YEAR IN NEW YORK CITY.

I'M ALSO THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

AND I'M HONORED TO BE ON THIS COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU.

>>HUNG MAI: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.

MY NAME IS HUNG MAI, AND I AM A CIVIL ENGINEER, AND I HAVE MY OWN COMPANY CALLED HT MAI, INCORPORATED.

ORIGINALLY I COME FROM VIETNAM, AND I'M HERE SINCE 1980, AND I'M MARRIED FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS.

I HAVE ONE DAUGHTER, 29 YEARS OLD, AND I HAVE TWO GRANDKIDS.

I'M VERY DELIGHTED AND VERY EXCITED TO BE -- SIT AMONG, YOU KNOW, THE VERY TALENTED PEOPLE HERE.

THANK YOU.

>>TERRY BALLARD: MY NAME'S TERRY BALLARD.

I'M FROM PLANT CITY.

I WAS BORN IN TAMPA AND RAISED IN EAST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

I'M A BANKER.

I'VE BEEN -- I'M MARRIED TO DAPHNE HARVLEY-BALLARD, HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS AND THREE GRANDCHILDREN.

I WAS THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PLANT CITY AND THEN ALSO ON THE COMMISSION OVER THERE.

I'M AFFILIATED WITH THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL.

I'M A RETIRED GENERAL OF THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD, AND I ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA AND GRADUATED FROM THERE.

THANK YOU.

>> I'M A RESIDENT OF SUN CITY CENTER.

MY HUSBAND AND I BOTH GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, MYSELF WITH A MASTER'S.

MY FIELD IS ACCOUNTING.

I WORK BOTH IN CORPORATIONS AND LATER AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING.

I GUESS I RETIRED BEFORE HE DID, AND THEN I PLAYED GOLF. HOWEVER, WHEN WE RETIRED TO SUN CITY CENTER, THE VILLAGE WE'D LIVED IN HAD MANY ISSUES OF GROWTH, AND WHEN WE CAME TO SUN CITY CENTER, WE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL FINISHED BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT A DEVELOPING COMMUNITY.

MY HUSBAND BECAME PRESIDENT AFTER IT WAS PURCHASED BY AL HOFFMAN, AND JAN PLATT WAS COMMISSIONER THAT SAVED OUR COMMUNITY.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>> WHO SENT WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO OUR MASTER PLAN TO MY HUSBAND, WHO WAS PRESIDENT, AND UNFORTUNATELY, GOD PUT ME IN THE SAME SITUATION FOR SOME REASON, SOME PUNISHMENT OR SOMETHING, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH COUNTY AND LAND GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AS IT RELATED TO SUN CITY CENTER AND WATCHING OTHER COMMUNITIES AND THE WHOLE COUNTY FOR 20 YEARS NOW, AND I'VE INTERACTED WITH PROBABLY EVERY DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE COUNTY, SO I THINK I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY THE PROCESS WORKS.

I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE BENEFICIAL.

I'M VERY PLEASED AND HONORED TO BE APPOINTED TO THIS COMMISSION.

>>JAN PLATT: I'M A NATIVE OF THE AREA.

I ATTENDED FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND IT HAD ONLY BEEN COED FOR TEN YEARS WHEN I WENT, AND I MAJORED IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND I MET MY HUSBAND WHEN HE WAS STATIONED AT MacDILL AIR FORCE BASE.

HE WAS A PILOT -- HE IS A PILOT -- WAS A PILOT WITH -- WITH STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, WITH B-47s, SO WE'RE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR PICTURES, MODELS OF B-47s.

BUT ANYWAY, HE WENT TO LAW SCHOOL AND CAME BACK TO TAMPA AND IS A PRACTICING ATTORNEY.

I HAVE ONE SON, KEVIN, WHO IS IN REAL ESTATE, AND ONE GRANDDAUGHTER, EMMA, WHO IS FOUR AND A HALF, AND SHE IS THE JOY OF MY LIFE.

AND SINCE I'VE BEEN OUT OF OFFICE -- I WAS IN PUBLIC OFFICE FOR 28 YEARS -- IT'S REALLY A JOY TO BE WITH A FOUR AND A HALF YEAR OLD AND WATCH THEM GROW AND WATCH THEIR MINDS DEVELOP.

SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING ON THIS WITH EACH OF YOU.

I THINK WE CAN HAVE FUN TOGETHER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

>>MITCH THROWER: MY NAME'S MITCH THROWER.

I'M MARRIED.

I HAVE TWO CHILDREN, A FOUR- AND A SIX-YEAR-OLD.

THEY'RE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

I AM -- I AM VICE CHAIR OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BOCC, WHICH I MENTIONED EARLIER.

I'M ALSO PAST-PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS, THE SUNCOAST CHAPTER IN TAMPA.

I'M ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CARROLLWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

I'M INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF OTHER SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, BUT I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING ON THIS COMMITTEE.

I THINK WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, AS JAN PLATT JUST MENTIONED -- CHAIRMAN PLATT JUST MENTIONED.

SO I'M EAGER TO SERVE.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK YOU.

AGAIN, GERALD WHITE.

THIS IS MY SECOND CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND I'VE BEEN VERY, VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY, AS I SAID.

I WOULD SAY, I GUESS, AS WE GET STARTED HERE, IS THAT MY HOPE IS THAT WE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AND THAT WE REALLY TAKE A SERIOUS LEARNING CURVE AND LEARN THE INNER WORKINGS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE RULES WHICH WE EVENTUALLY WILL ADOPT SO THAT WE CAN HAVE SOME MEANINGFUL RESULTS RELATED TO A STUDY.

AND I BELIEVE IN MY HEART IF WE HAD JUST HAD ONE MORE MEETING AT THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING WE WOULD HAVE ADOPTED A REFERENDUM AND TOOK SOMETHING TO THE BALLOT

RELATED TO THE SIZE AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JUST ONE MORE MEETING.

THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE.

AND SO I BELIEVE IN MY HEART IF WE DON'T HAVE SOMETHING BY JULY THAT CAN GO TO PUBLIC HEARING, THEN I REALLY BELIEVE WE, AS A GROUP, PROBABLY WOULD -- MIGHT AS WELL JUST SAY WE FAILED AND GO HOME BECAUSE, AS WE MOVE INTO THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, ATTENDANCE WILL GO AWAY, THE PUBLIC ATTENTION WILL GO AWAY, AND WE JUST WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET IT DONE. AND SO I BELIEVE IF WE DON'T HAVE REAL RESULTS AND A REAL STUDY DONE AND SOMETHING REAL TO TAKE TO THE PUBLIC BY JULY, WE JUST WOULD HAVE WASTED A FULL YEAR.

AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I BELIEVE AT THIS POINT BASED ON MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, AND THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO BE VICE CHAIR, BUT I AM A BOARD MEMBER OF THIS GROUP, AND SO I'M READY TO CONTINUE MY STUDY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, I'M READY TO HAVE INPUT, AND I'M READY TO TRULY REPRESENT AS A CITIZEN.

AND SO I THINK WE CAN HAVE TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT I THINK IT'S CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO NOT WASTE TIME, THAT WE GET THE NECESSARY SPEAKERS THAT WE NEED TO HAVE IN HERE, THAT WE LET THE CHAIR RUN THE MEETING, AND THAT WE ADOPT SOME RULES THAT ARE FAIR AND THAT EVERYONE CAN LIVE WITH AND THAT IT -- IT MAKES A WAY RELATED TO OUR RULES THAT WE WOULD EVENTUALLY ADOPT THAT EVERYONE AT ALL TIMES

CAN HAVE INPUT RELATED TO GETTING THE JOB DONE.

AND IF WE DO THOSE THINGS, I THINK WE'LL HAVE SOME RESULTS, WE WOULD HAVE DONE A GREAT STUDY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND WHETHER THAT RESULTS, AS WE APPROACH JULY, SAYS THAT SOMETHING NEEDS TO GO TO PUBLIC HEARING OR NOT, THEN I THINK WE WOULD HAVE DONE THE CITIZENS A GREAT DEAL OF SERVICE AND A SENSE OF FAIRNESS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THEM ON THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

THIS IS A TREMENDOUS HONOR, AND AS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN CITIZEN BORN AND RAISED IN THIS GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA, I'M HONORED TO BE HERE, AND I'M READY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>RALPH FISHER: GOOD EVENING.

I'M RALPH FISHER.

I'M AN ATTORNEY, CPA, A FLORIDA NATIVE, AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO KEN HAGAN FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE, AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM BECAUSE I WILL LEARN FROM EVERY ONE OF YOU, AND I CAN'T WAIT.

>>KEITH HALL: HI.

I'M KEITH HALL, AND I FOLLOWED TWO GREAT SPEAKERS HERE.

I'M MARRIED, GOT THREE YOUNG CHILDREN.

I CONSIDER MYSELF A NATIVE OF FLORIDA, AND I DO CONSULTING ENGINEERING, AND SO WE DO -- WE SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE AND MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES ALL THE TIME,

AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING TO THIS, AND I'M THANKFUL AGAIN -- THANKFUL ALSO FOR COMMISSIONER HAGAN APPOINTING ME TO THIS BOARD.

>>FASSIL GABREMARIAM: YES.

MY NAME IS FASSIL GABREMARIAM, PROBABLY MOST DIFFICULT NAME AROUND THE TABLE HERE.

I'M ORIGINALLY FROM ETHIOPIA.

I'VE BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES -- I'VE LIVED HERE LONGER THAN I HAVE IN ETHIOPIA, SO -- THE ACCENT STILL LINGERS ON. I'VE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY IN A VARIETY OF AREAS.

I HOPE I CAN CONTRIBUTE IN THIS ROLE.

IF I CANNOT CONTRIBUTE, I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO WALK OUT. IT'S NOT -- IT'S NOT GOOD TO SIT AND WATCH GRASS GROW. BUT IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE AROUND THE TABLE WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELVES TO SERVE AND TO BE CALLED TO SERVE AGAIN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>JIM PORTER: MY NAME IS JIM PORTER.

AS SOMEONE MENTIONED, I WAS WITH THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, FROM 1990 UNTIL LAST YEAR.

I'M CURRENT WILL A PARTER WITH THE RUDEN McCLOSKEY LAW FIRM. I SPECIALIZE IN LAND USE THERE, AND WHEN I WAS WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, I SPECIALIZED IN LAND USE, AND I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SITTING WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS DURING THEIR LAND USE MEETINGS, AND WHAT MY YEARS AT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TAUGHT ME WAS THE POWER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO REALLY IMPACT PEOPLE'S LIVES ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS.

PEOPLE KNOW WHO THEIR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE.

THEY MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW WHO THE STATE LEGISLATORS ARE, AND THEY MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW WHO THEIR CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS ARE, BUT I WAGER TO VENTURE THAT WHEN JAN PLATT GOES TO PUBLIX, SHE GETS ASKED A LOT OF QUESTIONS, AND PEOPLE KNOW WHO SHE IS AND THEY SEE HER IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

THAT BEING SAID, THE CHARTER IS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNTY.

IT WAS A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT DOCUMENT WHEN IT WAS ADOPTED THE FIRST TIME 20 YEARS AGO.

I GUESS THIS IS THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF IT, ALMOST, 19 YEARS, 20 YEARS, AND I THINK IT'S A MODEL IN A LOT OF WAYS, AND I THINK IT'S A VERY HEALTHY THING TO LOOK AT IT EVERY FIVE YEARS, LIKE THE CHARTER REQUIRES, SO I'M VERY HONORED TO BE SERVING WITH YOU-ALL.

I THANK KATHY CASTOR -- COMMISSIONER CASTOR FOR APPOINTING ME, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF THE GROUP.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

WELL, THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH, AND MAYBE FOR NEXT TIME, IF WE COULD HAVE NAME PLATES FOR EVERYBODY SO THAT WE CAN ALL REMEMBER WHO -- WHO IS -- WHO IS WHERE.

SUE, NOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO AHEAD AND START?

>>SUE PARRISH: WE DON'T MAKE ANY ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WANTS.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>SUE PARRISH: I DO HAVE A SECRETARY HERE TONIGHT, BUT IF YOU WANT THE SERVICES OF THE CLERK'S SECRETARY, YOU DO NEED TO DO THAT BY A VOTE.

IT'S NOT A BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION FOR YOU.

WE DON'T CHARGE YOU FOR THE SERVICES, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE FORMALLY ASKED TO BE YOUR SECRETARY IF THAT'S WHAT YOU DESIRE.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, AND THE SUNSHINE LAW REQUIRES THAT PUBLIC MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS HAVE MINUTES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, SO IT'S NOT AN OPTION TO NOT HAVE MINUTES, SO ANYWAY.

WHAT -- WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION REGARDING THE CLERK'S OFFICE WITH --

>> I MAKE A MOTION THE CLERK'S OFFICE CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR MINUTES FOR OUR MEETINGS.

>>JIM PORTER: I'LL SECOND THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

THERE'S A MOTION AND A SECOND.

IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THAT?

THEN WHAT IS OUR METHOD OF VOTING TONIGHT?

>>SUE PARRISH: HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO VOTE, LESLEE?

JUST RAISE THEIR HANDS?

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: JUST RAISE YOUR HANDS.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

WOULD EVERYONE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION PLEASE SIGNIFY BY  
RAISING YOUR RIGHT HAND.

EVERYONE OPPOSED, THE SAME SIGN.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: THE MOTION CARRIED 11-1.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

AND CAN I ASK ANOTHER QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO NEXT -- THE  
NEXT MEETING?

WILL IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE ABLE TO USE THIS VOTING  
APPARATUS SO THAT WE DON'T DO SHOW OF HANDS?

>>SUE PARRISH: I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ENOUGH OF THEM, ARE  
THERE?

>>JAN PLATT: THERE ARE NOT?

>>SUE PARRISH: I DON'T THINK THERE ARE 14, BUT WE'LL  
CHECK.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

OKAY.

>>SUE PARRISH: ALL RIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, THEN, ABOUT THE  
MINUTES?

>>SUE PARRISH: NO.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

BEFORE YOU STEP BACK, WOULD YOU TELL EVERYBODY HOW THOSE

MINUTES WILL BE PREPARED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE,  
BECAUSE I THINK EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT WHO IS ON THIS  
BOARD, AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC.

>>SUE PARRISH: I'M PRETTY SURE WE'LL PUT THEM OUT ON THE  
INTERNET, BUT WE CAN MAIL THEM TO YOU IF YOU DON'T HAVE A  
COMPUTER.

WE CAN GIVE YOU A HARD COPY, AS THEY SAY.

>>JAN PLATT: AND I NOTICE THAT ALL OF THIS IS ON CLOSED  
CAPTION -- CLOSED CAPTIONING, AND AGAIN, FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
BOARD -- BECAUSE I KNOW, HAVING BEEN ON THE -- OTHER BOARDS  
WITH THIS THAT USES CLOSED CAPTIONING, THIS MAY BE A  
VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR YOU AS YOU WANT TO REFER BACK TO  
SOMETHING THAT OCCURS IN THE MEETING, AND SO WILL THE --  
WILL THE MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD HAVE ACCESS TO THIS CLOSED  
CAPTIONING, TOO, FOR THE MEETINGS?

>>SUE PARRISH: THAT REALLY FALLS UNDER THE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

WELL, WE'LL ASK HER THEN.

>>SUE PARRISH: ANYTHING ELSE?

>> COULD THOSE MINUTES BE E-MAILED TO US?

>>SUE PARRISH: I THINK SO.

I'LL CHECK AND SEE.

>>JAN PLATT: THEY'LL COME -- YOU'LL COME BACK AT THE NEXT  
MEETING AND DISCUSS THAT.

>>SUE PARRISH: YEAH, I WILL.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>SUE PARRISH: THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THE NEXT IS OVERVIEW OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION.

PAT BEAN, OUR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

>>PAT BEAN: THANK YOU.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TONIGHT ON THE NIGHT OF YOUR FIRST MEETING AND HAVE THE PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO WELCOME YOU TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO TAKE A LOT OF TIME TALKING ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT -- BECAUSE YOU'VE ALREADY HAD SEVERAL PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THAT, BUT THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION THAT YOU'RE ON, AND YOU SHOULD EACH BE VERY PROUD TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTY IN THIS -- IN THIS PROCESS.

WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, AS CITIZENS, TO PARTICIPATE IN SO MANY WAYS IN HOW OUR GOVERNMENT IS STRUCTURED, AND THIS IS ONE SPECIAL WAY THAT YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE, THROUGH SERVING ON THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

SO TAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT, FIRST, WITH PRIDE.

SECOND, TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.

AND THIRD, BE VERY, VERY DILIGENT IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS BECAUSE IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF

OUR COUNTY, AND THAT'S ALL I'LL SAY ABOUT THAT.

LET ME TALK NOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW WE PLAN TO TRY TO HELP YOU AT LEAST TO GET STARTED.

HISTORICALLY, THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS HAVE ACTUALLY HIRED A STAFF PERSON.

SOMETIMES THAT'S BEEN SOMEONE THAT WE WENT OUT AND CONTRACTED WITH, SOMETIMES IT'S BEEN SOMEONE THAT YOU GO THROUGH A RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND YOU SELECT AN INDIVIDUAL THAT IS HANDLED THROUGH OUR HR DEPARTMENT SO THAT IT'S ALL HANDLED APPROPRIATELY UNDER THE -- THE NORMAL GUIDELINES, BECAUSE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD HISTORICALLY HAS NOT WANTED TO USE STAFF OF EITHER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY OR THE BOARD STAFF, AND SO THEY'VE ALWAYS CHOSEN TO HIRE SOMEONE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

NOW, WHAT WE DO FOR YOU IS WE'LL HELP YOU GET THROUGH THAT PROCESS OF MAKING A SELECTION ONCE YOU MAKE THE DECISION HERE TONIGHT.

CERTAINLY, IF YOU WANT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM PRIOR BOARDS, I WILL CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO HELP YOU WITH SUPPORT THROUGH THE PROCESS.

BUT I WANTED YOU TO UNDERSTAND OR KNOW THAT PRIOR BOARDS HAVE CHOSEN TO HIRE THEIR OWN PERSON WHO REPORTED DIRECTLY TO THE CHAIR AND TO THIS BOARD.

OBVIOUSLY, IF YOU CHOOSE TO HIRE SOMEONE, WE WILL HELP YOU WITH THE SPACE FOR THAT PERSON, WHERE THEY'LL BE

ACCOMMODATED HERE IN THE COUNTY CENTER.

WE'LL HELP YOU WITH THE LOGISTICS OF GETTING A TELEPHONE, GETTING A COMPUTER, AND ALL THOSE THINGS THAT THAT PERSON WILL NEED.

THAT'S MY JOB TO DO THAT FOR YOU, AND WE'LL BE VERY PLEASED TO DO THAT.

WE WILL PUT TOGETHER A BUDGET THAT WILL ACCOMMODATE EITHER IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO THIS CONTRACTUALLY OR IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO IT BY HIRING A PERSON FOR A SHORT-TERM, AND THAT WOULD BE WHAT WE WOULD CONSIDER A FULL-TIME BUT TEMPORARY, BECAUSE YOU'RE ONLY IN OFFICE FOR A DESIGNATED PERIOD OF TIME.

IT WOULD BE A TEMPORARY POSITION SUCH THAT WHEN YOU HAVE CONCLUDED YOUR WORK AND ALL OF YOUR WORK IS -- YOUR REPORTS ARE FINISHED AND EVERYTHING, THAT POSITION WOULD GO AWAY.

I -- I NEED SOME DIRECTION, AS SUE DID, FROM YOU ABOUT HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED AS FAR AS HIRING SOMEONE, IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS -- LET ME JUST MENTION ALSO THAT I HEARD A COUPLE OF YOU COMMENT TONIGHT, AS YOU CAME IN, THAT PARKING WAS AN ISSUE.

WE'LL GET THAT RESOLVED BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.

YOU WILL HAVE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING ABOUT PARKING ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT WHEN YOU COME FOR THIS -- WE'RE ASKING YOU TO DO THIS ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS.

MY GOODNESS, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS PROVIDE YOU A PLACE TO PARK WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH ANY HASSLES OF PARKING AVAILABILITY.

SO WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.

AND IF YOU HAVE OTHER ISSUES OR QUESTIONS RELATED TO LOGISTICALLY HOW YOU'RE GOING TO OPERATE, I'LL BE HAPPY TO TRY TO ANSWER THOSE NOW, OR LATER, IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO DO SOME RESEARCH ON THEM.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THIS THE END OF YOUR PRESENTATION, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS?

>>PAT BEAN: YES, BECAUSE TONIGHT WE WERE ONLY GOING TO FOCUS ON LOGISTICS AND HOW TO GET YOU ORGANIZED AND GET YOU UP AND RUNNING.

>>JAN PLATT: SURE.

WELL, PAT, WHY DON'T WE LET EVERYBODY ASK YOU QUESTIONS, AND FOR INSTANCE, NUMBER ONE IS HOW MUCH MONEY IS BUDGETED TO THIS IN YOUR BUDGET, IF -- HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE? AND THEN -- OKAY.

>>PAT BEAN: WE CAN ACCOMMODATE, WITHIN REASON, OBVIOUSLY - - WE'RE -- WE'RE A VERY CONSERVATIVE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

I WILL COMMENT AND COMPLIMENT MY BOARD THAT FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS REDUCED THE MILLAGE RATE EVERY YEAR.

THEY'RE VERY CONSERVATIVE IN THEIR WORK, SO WHEN I SAY WE CAN ACCOMMODATE, I CERTAINLY AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE WILL

AGREE TO JUST ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD PERHAPS ASK, BUT CERTAINLY WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR NEEDS.

THE BUDGET THE LAST TIME WAS APPROXIMATELY \$51,000, AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT YOUR BUDGET CAN BE SOMEWHERE WITHIN THAT RANGE, AND I WOULD NOT SAY, YOU KNOW, TONIGHT, YOU ONLY HAVE 50,000 OR YOU ONLY HAVE -- LET'S FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU NEED, AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF MAKING SURE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER AND THAT IT'S A REASONABLE BUDGET.

>>JIM PORTER: PAT, DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR GOING ABOUT HIRING SOMEONE TO BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSON?

>>PAT BEAN: I THOUGHT IT WORKED VERY WELL LAST TIME WHEN THE BOARD DECIDED TO HAVE A RECRUITMENT DONE, SELECT SOME CANDIDATES TO INTERVIEW AND HIRE AFTER SOME OF THIS BOARD OR ALL OF YOU, DEPENDING ON YOUR CHOICE, WOULD INTERVIEW THE CANDIDATES.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO TAKE VERY LONG.

I WOULD -- I MEAN, WE WOULD NOT DO A NATIONAL SEARCH, OBVIOUSLY.

WE'D DO A LOCAL SEARCH.

WE'D ADVERTISE IT, THOUGH, AND GET THE NAMES INTO YOU AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT YOU COULD GET SOMEBODY ON BOARD RIGHT AWAY.

UNTIL YOU HAVE SOMEONE ON BOARD, YOU'VE JUST VOTED TO HAVE THE CLERK TAKE YOUR MINUTES, BUT WE'LL HANDLE, THROUGH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, ANY LOGISTICAL ISSUES,

ANYTHING LIKE THAT, SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE MEANTIME.

SO DON'T LET THAT BE AN ISSUE FOR YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: NOW GERALD -- WAIT.

LET'S START OFF BY LETTING ME CALL ON YOU, AND BECAUSE WE ALREADY HAVE A LINE OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SPEAK, AND GERALD IS GOING TO BE NEXT, AND THEN TERRY, AND THEN KEITH WOULD LIKE TO ASK, SO LET'S GO IN THAT ORDER.

GERALD AND THEN TERRY.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD I SERVED ON IN 2000, IT TOOK UNTIL, LIKE, MARCH OR WHATEVER TO GET HIRED, AND REALLY IT TOOK ANOTHER COUPLE MONTHS FOR THE PERSON TO GET TRULY ACCLIMATED TO THE COUNTY.

I WOULD LIKE TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

WE HISTORICALLY HAVE USED THE CLERK TO TAKE THE MINUTES.

WE HISTORICALLY HAVE USED THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT US LEGALLY.

I THINK THE BEST THING TO DO, TO HAVE YOU, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, ASSIGN SOMEONE THAT'S -- THAT HAS HIGH SKILL AND THAT IS TRULY QUALIFIED AND HAVE BROAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE COUNTY TO -- TO SERVE AS OUR -- OUR DIRECTOR, TO HANDLE OUR DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS.

AND THAT WAY WE CAN FACILITATE OUR BUSINESS, WE CAN GET THINGS DONE BETTER AND FASTER, AND WE CAN SAVE MONEY.

I WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF GOING THAT ROUTE.

THE PERSON THAT IS ASSIGNED TO US OR WORK FOR US IS GOING TO BE CARRYING OUT OUR WISHES ANYWAY, AND ALL OF US, NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF INTEGRITY, AND SO I WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF THAT, AND I WOULD RECOMMEND, BOARD, THAT WE DO THAT.

AND THAT WAY, YOU KNOW, WE'LL HAVE SOMEONE THAT -- THAT KNOWS COUNTY GOVERNMENT ALREADY AND NOT HAVE TO SPEND TWO OR THREE MONTHS LEARNING JUST THE BASICS.

>>JAN PLATT: UH-HUH.

TERRY.

>>TERRY BALLARD: I CONCUR WITH MR. WHITE.

THE FACT THAT LAST TIME -- I WAS ON THE 2000 CHARTER REVIEW, AND WE WENT THROUGH A LENGTHY PROCESS TO HIRE SOMEBODY.

I DID NOT VOTE FOR HER, BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT THEY WAS AN EXCELLENT INDIVIDUAL, BUT I HAVE -- I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE SUNSHINE LAW, AND I HAVE FAITH IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND WITH YOU-ALL HANDLING THAT, I'D LIKE TO ALSO SEE IF YOU-ALL COULD HAVE A STAFF MEMBER TO HANDLE THIS, AND THEN WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY LAST TIME, WE HAD A CONFLICT ATTORNEY, BUT WE NEVER USED THAT, AND SO AS MUCH AS WE CAN SAVE THE TAXPAYERS MONEY, I'D LIKE TO DO THAT, AND I CONCUR WITH MR. WHITE ON THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: KEITH.

>>KEITH HALL: YES, I -- GERALD, I AGREE WITH THE DIRECTION YOU'RE HEADED AS WELL, BUT BEING A NEW -- NEW PERSON AND THE FIRST TIME HERE, EXPLAIN TO ME -- I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THE ACTUAL DUTIES OR THE SCOPE OF THIS ADMINISTRATOR. WHAT SPECIFICALLY WILL THIS PERSON BE DOING?

>>PAT BEAN: WELL, THERE HAS TO BE -- AS COMMISSIONER PLATT OR CHAIRMAN PLATT -- WHAT DO I CALL YOU NOW?

>>JAN PLATT: JAN.

[LAUGHTER]

>>PAT BEAN: AS SHE SAID A FEW MOMENTS AGO, YOU HAVE TO OPERATE IN THE SUNSHINE.

THERE ARE SOME REQUIREMENTS THAT COME WITH THAT.

YOU MAY WANT TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS -- IN FACT, I EXPECT THAT YOU WILL AT SOME POINT IN TIME.

YOU NEED A PERSON WHO CAN HANDLE GETTING OUT THE LEGAL NOTICES, THE APPROPRIATE NOTICES FOR MEETINGS, GET ALL YOUR MATERIALS TO YOU.

YOU MAY SAY, AT THE END OF A MEETING, THAT YOU HAVE THREE OR FOUR DIFFERENT ITEMS YOU WANT TO HAVE BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING.

SOMEBODY'S GOT TO COORDINATE GETTING THE RESEARCH DONE, LINING UP SPEAKERS, SO IT'S THAT KIND OF THING THAT YOUR STAFFPERSON DOES, AND ALSO HELP YOU IN THE PROCESS AS YOU MOVE ALONG TO DEVELOP THE PIECES OF YOUR REPORT THAT ULTIMATELY BECOME YOUR FINAL REPORT, AND IT'S THAT PERSON

WHO PUTS THAT REPORT TOGETHER FOR YOUR REVIEW AND YOUR  
CONFIRMATION, OBVIOUSLY.

BUT THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT THE STAFFPERSON DOES.

>>KEITH HALL: THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: ARE THERE OTHER QUESTIONS?

ANYBODY ELSE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

DO YOU NEED -- YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: I'LL MAKE A MOTION, MADAM CHAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: WAIT, WAIT.

I CALLED ON HIM NOW.

YES, SIR.

>> IS THERE ANY -- BECAUSE I'M A NEW GUY ALSO.

IS THERE ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY US USING A COUNTY  
AGENCY TO DO THIS?

I KNOW -- I HEARD HISTORICALLY WE'VE USED INDEPENDENT  
OUTSIDE PERSONS.

I'D JUST BE CURIOUS IF THERE'S ANY CONFLICT.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, I THINK WE'D NEED TO ASK OUR COUNTY  
ATTORNEY THAT QUESTION.

>>PAT BEAN: IT COULD BE A CONFLICT FOR ME TO ANSWER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> GOOD ANSWER.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, BECAUSE IT'S A LEGAL ISSUE.

IT'S LEGAL.

IT'S A LEGAL QUESTION.

>>RENEE LEE: I'M SORRY.

I WAS ABOUT TO ADDRESS YOU AS COMMISSIONERS, BUT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANY CONFLICT IN REPRESENTING THE BOARD OR PROVIDING YOU THE LEGAL SUPPORT THAT YOU MIGHT NEED THROUGHOUT THIS.

IF THERE APPEARS TO BE THAT YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING OR YOU'RE RECOMMENDING SOMETHING THAT IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT CONFLICT COUNSEL WILL BE CALLED.

I THINK YOU'VE HEARD FROM PRIOR BOARD MEMBERS THAT THAT HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY IN THE PAST, SO I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WE CAN GO FORWARD AND REPRESENT YOU IF THAT'S YOUR CHOICE.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, BUT THE QUESTION WAS ABOUT PAT BEAN'S STAFF.

>>RENEE LEE: NO.

NO, I DON'T SEE THAT THAT WOULD -- THAT THAT WOULD HAPPEN AT ALL.

NO, I DON'T.

>>JAN PLATT: SO IT'S YOUR VIEW, THEN, THAT IF EITHER ONE OF YOU OR YOUR STAFFS REPRESENT US THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CONFLICT?

>>RENEE LEE: NO, THERE WOULD NOT BE A CONFLICT.

>>JAN PLATT: BECAUSE THIS IS REALLY ENVISIONED TO BE AN INDEPENDENT BOARD THAT IS NOT IN ANY WAY INFLUENCED BY THE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN INFLUENCE US IS THE PUBLIC,  
SUPPOSEDLY.

THAT'S -- THAT'S HOW IT'S IDEALISTICALLY SUPPOSED TO WORK.  
OKAY.

ARE THERE OTHER QUESTIONS?

YES, SIR.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, MADAM CHAIR, THEN I'LL MAKE A  
MOTION, SO WE CAN DO IT IN A FORMAL WAY, THAT -- THE MOTION  
IS THAT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMEND SOMEONE THAT'S  
HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND WILLING TO SERVE IN THE CAPACITY AS A  
DIRECTOR OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.  
THAT'S MY MOTION.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> I'LL SECOND IT, BUT I'D LIKE A CLARIFICATION.

THAT'S A MEMBER OF HER STAFF THEN?

>>GERALD WHITE: A MEMBER OF HER STAFF.

>> OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: DOES ANYONE -- NOW, THE FLOOR IS OPEN FOR  
DISCUSSION.

DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANTED TO SAY?

YES.

>>HUNG MAI: MADAM CHAIR, THE QUESTION I HAVE IS THAT --  
LET'S SAY, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SOMETHING DISCUSSED IN PAT

BEAN'S DEPARTMENT OR, YOU KNOW, AND THEN THAT PERSON, YOU KNOW, WORKING FOR PAT.

IS THAT GOING TO BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

>>JAN PLATT: IF WE WANT TO ABOLISH THE ADMINISTRATOR?

[LAUGHTER]

[INAUDIBLE]

>>HUNG MAI: UNLESS, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SOMETHING TO ORGANIZE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND THEN IF WE HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REPRESENT US, THAT GOING TO BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

THAT'S IN MY OPINION.

>>PAT BEAN: AND RENEE JUST SAID, AND I TOTALLY AGREE WITH HER, REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE OPERATING FULLY IN THE SUNSHINE. THIS IS BEING TELEVISED.

THE CLERK IS TAKING MINUTES.

THERE'S HARDLY ANY WAY THAT EITHER OF US COULD GET IN THE WAY OF YOU BEING ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU NEED TO ACCOMPLISH IF YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION.

NOW, OBVIOUSLY, WHAT JAN PLATT JUST SUGGESTED I THOUGHT WAS A TERRIBLE CONFLICT, BUT, YOU KNOW.

>>JAN PLATT: I'M KIDDING.

[LAUGHTER]

>>PAT BEAN: SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE WELL PROTECTED BY THE VERY FACT THAT YOU ARE OPERATING IN THE SUNSHINE.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, AND I THINK IF WE WENT ON ONE COURSE AND IF WE FOUND THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM, THEN WE COULD -- WE COULD CHANGE, PROBABLY.

YES.

>>RALPH FISHER: MAY I ADD SOMETHING, MS. PLATT?

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>RALPH FISHER: RALPH FISHER.

WHO PREPARED THESE MATERIALS FOR US THIS EVENING?

WHO DID ALL THIS?

>>PAT BEAN: WELL, THE THICK DOCUMENT IS, IN FACT, FROM THE LAST BOARD.

>>RALPH FISHER: YES, MA'AM.

>>PAT BEAN: AND THAT WAS THE PERSON WHO --

>>RALPH FISHER: I MEAN THIS LITTLE BOOKLET AND THE ITINERARY AND THE AGENDA AND ALL THIS STUFF, WHO PUT ALL THIS TOGETHER?

WHO COLLATED ALL THIS AND COPIED IT AND BROUGHT IT HERE TODAY?

>>PAT BEAN: I THINK THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

>>RALPH FISHER: WHO HERE DID THAT?

THAT'S WHO I WANT TO DO THIS BECAUSE IT'S PERFECT.

I -- YOU KNOW, I THINK WE COME TO A VOTE AND GET THAT PERSON TO DO IT AGAIN, AND LET'S MOVE ON, BECAUSE WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH.

>>PAT BEAN: YES, YOU DO.

>>GERALD WHITE: I LIKE HIM ALREADY.

[LAUGHTER]

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

IS THERE ANY OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION THAT'S ON THE FLOOR?

AND THE MOTION THAT'S ON THE FLOOR IS THAT WE REQUEST THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDE A STAFF MEMBER TO SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OUR CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE.

ALL RIGHT.

EVERYONE IN FAVOR, WOULD YOU RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ALL OPPOSED, RAISE YOUR HAND.

YOU HAVE TO VOTE UNLESS YOU HAVE A CONFLICT.

OKAY.

SO WERE YOU OPPOSED OR YOU WERE FOR IT?

>> OPPOSED.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU'RE OPPOSED TO IT.

SO THAT PASSED WITH ONE NEGATIVE VOTE.

>>PAT BEAN: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, PAT, THAT WE NEED TO --

>>PAT BEAN: NOT UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING MORE THAT SOMEONE ON THE BOARD WANTS TO ASK ABOUT NOW LOGISTICALLY.

I WILL TELL YOU THAT BETWEEN NOW AND YOUR NEXT MEETING WE WILL GET THE PERSON ASSIGNED, WE WILL GET YOU INFORMATION

FOR THE NEXT MEETING WITH YOUR PARKING INSTRUCTIONS AND EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

GREAT.

YES.

>> WE DIDN'T ALL GET COPIES OF THE BOOKS AND EVERYTHING.

IS THERE MORE HERE TONIGHT?

BECAUSE NOT ALL OF US --

>>RALPH FISHER: OH, I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID.

I'M SORRY.

I HAVE ONE.

>> IT WAS PUT TOGETHER FINE.

IT JUST WASN'T DISTRIBUTED WELL.

>> THE OTHER THING I'D LIKE TO KNOW IS IF WE CAN GET A LIST OF EVERYONE'S E-MAIL ADDRESSES ON THE BOARD.

>>PAT BEAN: I THINK THAT WOULD BE VERY GOOD FOR EACH ONE OF YOU TO HAVE, NOT ONLY E-MAIL, BUT ALSO TELEPHONE NUMBERS, ALTHOUGH YOU CANNOT TALK TO EACH OTHER AND YOU CANNOT E-MAIL ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

>>JAN PLATT: ABOUT ANY ISSUES.

>>PAT BEAN: WELL, YOU CAN ABOUT -- IF YOU WANTED TO JUST SAY I WANT TO GO HAVE LUNCH ONE DAY AND YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING RELATED TO THE CHARTER REVIEW, BUT YOU CANNOT DISCUSS PRIVATELY -- AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WILL CERTAINLY TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THAT, BUT YOU CANNOT DISCUSS

PRIVATELY OUT OF THE SUNSHINE ANY ISSUE THAT'S COMING BEFORE THIS BOARD WITH ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THIS BOARD. BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO HAVE THE PHONE NUMBERS AND THE E-MAILS IN CASE YOU WANT TO SEND OTHER INFORMATION.

WE CAN DO THAT.

WE DO THAT TYPICALLY.

>> I HAVE -- CAN A CITIZEN COME TO US AND MAKE A SUGGESTION ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S COMING UP?

>>PAT BEAN: WELL, CERTAINLY.

I WOULD EXPECT THAT ON YOUR AGENDA --

>> I MEAN, THAT'S NOT IN THE SUNSHINE, IT'S JUST IF WE TALK TO EACH OTHER?

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S ANY TWO MEMBERS OF THIS BODY CANNOT TALK PRIVATELY OUT OF THE SUNSHINE ABOUT ANY ISSUE THAT'S LIKELY TO COME BEFORE THIS BODY, BUT YOU CAN TALK TO ANY CITIZEN OUT THERE IN THE COMMUNITY, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT SOMEBODY SITTING UP HERE WITH YOU.

IF IT'S ONE OF YOUR COMEMBERS, YOU CANNOT TALK TO THEM ABOUT ANY OF THESE ISSUES.

>>JAN PLATT: AND NO ONE CAN BE A CONDUIT EITHER.

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S CORRECT.

>>JAN PLATT: AND SO WE'LL LET KEN CLARIFY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT WITH BEING A CONDUIT, BECAUSE THAT'S THE MOST -- THAT'S -- THAT'S WHERE YOU CAN GET YOURSELF IN TROUBLE.

BUT ANYWAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR, I HAVE A --

>>JAN PLATT: ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO  
PAT?

YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

I HAVE A REQUEST OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE GOOD OF THE  
BOARD.

I BELIEVE IT'S THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES --

>>PAT BEAN: FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES?

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH, AND SOME OF THE OTHER GROUPS OUT  
THERE THAT HAVE BROAD KNOWLEDGE OF -- AND BOOKS AND THINGS  
OF THAT NATURE.

THERE WAS A SMALL BOOK WE RECEIVED LAST TIME ON CHARTER  
REVIEW, AND IT WAS LIKE A LITTLE LEARNING BOOK, AND IT WAS  
LIKE, MAYBE 50 PAGES.

CAN YOU SEE IF YOU CAN GET THAT FOR THE BOARD MEMBERS?

>>PAT BEAN: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: WHEN YOU READ THAT, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT  
YOU GOT GOING IN A HURRY.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>PAT BEAN: VERY GOOD.

WE'LL DO THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>>PAT BEAN: UH-HUH.

>>JAN PLATT: AND THIS IS OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY, RENEE LEE, AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE US AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF LEGAL COUNSEL SUPPORT.

>>RENEE LEE: YES, MEMBERS, AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'M QUITE HONORED TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS YOU THIS -- THIS EVENING.

I'D LIKE TO SAY WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS AND WELCOME BACK TO SOME OF THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED BEFORE.

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THIS IS A 14-MEMBER BOARD WHO WILL SERVE -- YOU WILL SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

THIS BOARD IS APPOINTED EVERY FIVE YEARS, AND EACH COMMISSIONER -- AND WE HAVE SEVEN COMMISSIONERS -- HAS APPOINTED TWO MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD.

IT'S A RATHER HISTORIC CHARTER REVIEW BOARD BECAUSE, AS YOUR CHAIR, YOU HAVE A FORMER COMMISSIONER WHO HAS SERVED 24 YEARS ON THE COUNTY COMMISSION AND WHO HAS WRITTEN NOT ONLY THE COUNTY CHARTER, BUT THE CITY CHARTER.

THAT'S A LOT OF DEPTH HERE.

WE ALSO HAVE A FORMER -- FORMER CHIEF ATTORNEY HERE WHO'S WORKED FOR THE COUNTY WHO HAS HAD TO LIVE BY THESE LAWS WHO KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN THEY ACTUALLY ARE IMPLEMENTED, AND YOU HAVE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD HERE WHO HAVE ALREADY PASSED SOME CHARTER AMENDMENTS, OF WHICH I THINK I AM -- WELL, NO.

THIS -- MY POSITION WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE CHARTER BOARD,

BUT IT WAS A CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT LAST YEAR.  
SO THERE IS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THIS  
BOARD, AND I CERTAINLY INVITE YOU TO CALL UPON THAT AT ANY  
TIME.

AS YOU'VE HEARD EARLIER DURING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S  
PRESENTATION, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS READY TO  
SERVE YOU.

WE HAVE TWO ATTORNEYS WHO ARE IN OUR PROFESSIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY DEPARTMENT WHO ARE VERY WELL EQUIPPED, BOTH  
IN THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD ASPECT, AS WELL AS SUNSHINE  
LAW, PUBLIC RECORDS, ALMOST ANYTHING THAT YOU WILL NEED AS  
A LEGAL RESOURCE.

OUR DEPARTMENT -- OUR OFFICE IS DIVIDED UP INTO EIGHT  
DEPARTMENTS, SO ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD NEED WITH RESPECT  
TO ANY ASPECT OF LAW IS AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH THAT  
OFFICE.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO STOP NOW, MADAM CHAIR, AND  
LET YOU DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU'D LIKE TO USE THE COUNTY  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

I HAVE SOME OTHER COMMENTS THAT I'D LIKE TO MAKE TO THE  
BOARD, AND CERTAINLY SOME INFORMATION THAT I'D LIKE TO  
SHARE WITH YOU IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.

>>JAN PLATT: DO ANY MEMBERS HAVE QUESTIONS THAT YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO ASK OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY  
OF THEIR SERVING AS THE ATTORNEY FOR THIS BOARD?

>>GERALD WHITE: I HAVE A QUESTION, MADAM CHAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: I GUESS THE ONLY -- THANK YOU, ATTORNEY LEE, FOR COMING.

THE ONLY QUESTION I HAVE -- I GUESS THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WITH THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AND THE PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WAS THERE HAVE -- THERE HAVE BEEN A CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATED TO YOUR REPORTING AUTHORITY.

YOU REPORT NOW TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD YOU REPORTED TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND THE VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAS CHANGED THAT.

NOW, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE RULES RELATED TO YOUR POSITION, THE CHANGE, HAVE NOT BEEN PROMULGATED YET.

IS THAT CORRECT?

>>RENEE LEE: WELL, I'M UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

THE CHARTER HAS BEEN AMENDED.

I BELIEVE THAT THE RULES HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THAT.

WE DON'T HAVE -- WE ARE NOT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.

I DO HAVE A POLICY HANDBOOK THAT'S BEING IMPLEMENTED.

WE DO HAVE A SEPARATE BUDGET.

WE HAVE SEPARATE STAFFING, AND CERTAINLY I REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, BUT, YOU KNOW, IN TERMS OF

RULES BEING INCORPORATED, I'M NOT CERTAIN OF WHICH RULES YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

WELL, TO FOLLOW UP WITH THAT, I GUESS MY QUESTION TO YOU, AS THE COUNTY ATTORNEY -- PREVIOUSLY, I GUESS, YOU WAS GRANTED PERMISSION FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FIRST TO OFFER YOUR SERVICE TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

DO YOU HAVE THAT SAME RELATIONSHIP AT THIS POINT WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

>>RENEE LEE: I HAVE NOT ASKED THEM SPECIFICALLY IF THEY WOULD LIKE ME TO OFFER MY SERVICES TO THE -- TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I ASSUMED THAT THEY WOULD NOT MIND BECAUSE, CERTAINLY, I THINK WE'RE ALL WORKING IN -- TOWARDS THE SAME PURPOSE OF GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND I DON'T FORESEE THAT THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

WELL, I HAVE NO PROBLEM -- TO BE HONEST, I'M TELLING YOU, THE SERVICES LAST TIME WERE JUST OUTSTANDING.

KEN TINKLER, MARY LOU --

>>RENEE LEE: MARY HELEN CAMPBELL.

ABSOLUTELY.

>>GERALD WHITE: MARY HELEN CAMPBELL, THEY ARE JUST ABSOLUTELY DYNAMITE.

>>RENEE LEE: AND THEY ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU THIS TIME AS

WELL.

KEN TINKLER, I WILL INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU IN A COUPLE MINUTES TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE SUNSHINE LAW AND ASK THAT KEN GIVE YOU A HISTORY OF THE PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS SO THAT YOU CAN GET SOME CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU'RE WORKING.

>>GERALD WHITE: BUT I WOULD -- TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE -- AND IT'S GOOD TO BE SAFE -- THAT YOU WOULD ASK THE BOARD AND FORMALLY DO THAT AND LET THEM FORMALLY SAY YES SO THAT WE'LL KNOW WE'RE IN GOOD STANDING.

>>RENEE LEE: I WILL DO THAT, SIR.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: JIM.

>>JIM PORTER: I'D LIKE TO MOVE THAT WE ASK THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO REPRESENT THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>> SECOND.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> SECOND.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION?

I MIGHT JUST ADD THAT IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OVER THE YEARS, THAT IF THERE IS ANY PERCEIVED CONFLICT, THEY IMMEDIATELY LET EVERYONE KNOW.

I MEAN, THEY -- THEY ARE GOVERNED BY A STRONG CODE OF ETHICS SO THAT THEY WON'T -- THEY WILL NOT GET THEMSELVES

OR US IN TROUBLE IN THAT REGARD.

BUT I JUST NEEDED TO SAY THAT.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

I APPRECIATE THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE ANY -- IS THERE ANY OTHER DISCUSSION  
ON THE MOTION THAT'S ON THE FLOOR?

THEN -- DID YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR A COMMENT?

OKAY.

THEN ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION, WHICH IS TO ASK THE COUNTY  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO REPRESENT THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD --  
ALL IN FAVOR, WOULD YOU PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ALL OPPOSED.

OKAY.

SO THERE WAS ONE VOTE AGAINST.

AND BE SURE -- FOR THE RECORDKEEPING PURPOSES, SINCE WE  
DON'T HAVE THE ELECTRONIC, THAT YOU HAVE WHO IT IS THAT  
VOTES NO IN EACH OF THESE INSTANCES.

AGAIN, FOR PUBLIC RECORD PURPOSES, THAT'S REQUIRED.

ALL RIGHT.

DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE?

>>RENEE LEE: YES.

JUST A FEW OTHER COMMENTS, AND KEN, IF YOU WILL SHARE THAT  
INFORMATION WITH THE BOARD MEMBERS.

I WANTED TO JUST GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT THE STATE OF

FLORIDA LOOKS LIKE IN TERMS OF CHARTER COUNTIES.

THERE ARE 67 COUNTIES IN THE STATE.

THERE ARE NOW 19 CHARTER COUNTIES.

I BELIEVE THE LAST TWO CHARTER COUNTIES WERE MADE IN 2002.

AND TO UNDERSTAND YOUR JOB, IF YOU'LL LOOK AT -- ON PAGE 15 OF THE LITTLE PAMPHLET -- AND KEN WILL GO THROUGH THIS MORE THOROUGHLY FOR YOU -- BUT IT INDICATES THAT YOU WILL BE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ANY AND ALL PHASES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

THAT MEANS THAT YOU CAN INVITE ANYBODY HERE THAT YOU NEED TO, INCLUDING ME, TO DISCUSS THE POSITIONS OR ISSUES THAT YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU.

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ANY AND ALL PHASES OF GOVERNMENT.

SO THAT'S A PRETTY BROAD CHARGE THAT YOU HAVE THERE.

I HAVE A FRIEND OF MINE WHO I RESPECT AS A COLLEAGUE, A MENTOR, AND A FRIEND, AND I WANTED HIM TO BE HERE WITH US TODAY BECAUSE HE ADVISES CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

HE WAS UNABLE TO COME TODAY, SO I ASKED HIM IF I COULD BORROW HIS NOTES.

SO I DO, IN FACT, HAVE HIS NOTES THAT I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU TODAY BECAUSE I THINK THEY'RE VERY IMPORTANT.

THESE ARE THE TOP TEN LISTS THAT HE GIVES TO CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS EVERY TIME HE SPEAKS TO THEM.

AND HE -- HE THOUGHT WELL ENOUGH THAT HE WOULD ALLOW -- HE

WOULD ALLOW ME TO JUST READ THEM TO YOU.

SO I'LL GO THROUGH THEM.

HIS NUMBER ONE ISSUE IS --

>>JAN PLATT: WHO IS IT?

DO YOU WANT TO TELL US WHO HE IS?

>>RENEE LEE: OH, I'M SORRY.

THANK YOU.

HIS NAME IS RICHARD SMITH.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>RENEE LEE: AND HE PRACTICES IN THE LAW FIRM SMITH AND  
HESSE IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA.

HIS FIRST RECOMMENDATION IS TO DO NO HARM.

WHAT YOU DECIDE NOT TO DO IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU  
DECIDE TO DO.

NUMBER TWO IS TO FOLLOW YOUR OATH OF OFFICE.

PROTECT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF FLORIDA.

DON'T PROPOSE CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE POPULAR BUT DOUBTFUL OF  
THE CONSTITUTIONALITY.

NUMBER THREE, CHARTER PROVISIONS NEED TO BE DRAFTED WITH AN  
EYE TO THE FUTURE.

FOR EXAMPLE, AVOID SETTING A PARTICULAR DOLLAR AMOUNT IN  
THE CHARTER.

IT'S MUCH BETTER TO SET A STANDARD.

NUMBER FOUR, LANGUAGE MATTERS.

PROVISIONS NEED TO BE REFINED AND REFINED AGAIN TO AVOID

AMBIGUITY.

NUMBER FIVE, AVOID BITING OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW AND THE VOTERS CAN DIGEST.

SIX, TRY TO ACHIEVE A BROAD CONSENSUS AS POSSIBLE ON THE BOARD, WHICH WILL LIKELY IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE VOTERS.

NUMBER SEVEN, AGREE, BUT DON'T BE DISAGREEABLE.

YOUR WORK IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN PERSONALITIES AND EGOS.

RESPECT AND CIVILITY ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY HELP FOCUS ON IDEAS AND NOT PERSONALITIES.

NUMBER EIGHT -- AND HE WRITES THIS ONE IN CAPITAL LETTERS -  
- OBEY THE SUNSHINE LAWS, INCLUDING PHONE CALLS AND E-  
MAILS.

NUMBER NINE, REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

ADDRESS BROAD POLICY ISSUES, NOT CONTROVERSIES OF THE MOMENT THAT SHOULD BE TREATED WITH ORDINANCES THAT CAN BE TWEAKED AND AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

AND NUMBER TEN, HAVE THE ATTORNEY AND AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD REVIEW THE DRAFT MINUTES.

MINUTES SHOULD BE MORE THAN BARE BONES BECAUSE THEY HELP TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY.

THOSE ARE THE TIPS THAT I'VE SHARED WITH YOU TODAY FROM AN EXPERT IN THIS AREA.

CERTAINLY, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK WITH THE JOB AHEAD.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, WOULD YOU MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE MEMBERS A COPY OF THOSE POINTERS?

>>RENEE LEE: ABSOLUTELY.

>>JAN PLATT: AND I NOTICE ON THIS AGENDA THAT THERE'S NO DISCUSSION OF THE ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS GROUP, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE, ARE THERE ANY GIFT REQUIREMENT DISCLOSURES.

EVERYBODY NEEDS TO BE PUT ON NOTICE ABOUT WHAT IS EXPECTED SO THAT YOU'RE NOT BLINDSIDED.

>>RENEE LEE: I WOULD AGREE.

>>JAN PLATT: AND SO --

>>RENEE LEE: I UNDERSTAND, MADAM CHAIR, THAT THE GIFT DISCLOSURE LAWS WERE RECENTLY CHANGED AND THAT THE CHARTER BOARD MEMBERS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO DO THE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.

I KNOW THAT KEN HAS, IN HIS PRESENTATION --

>>JAN PLATT: OH, HE'S GOING TO SPEAK TO THOSE?

>>RENEE LEE: -- SOME OF THE OTHER THINGS.

YES, HE WILL COVER MANY OF THE RESPONSIBILITY ITEMS THAT YOU'RE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE.

>>JAN PLATT: AND IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR YOU TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALL OF US THE PHONE NUMBERS OF THE TWO ATTORNEYS WHO ARE GOING TO BE ADVISING US SO THAT IF YOU

HAVE A QUESTION YOU CAN BE ABLE TO CALL THEM AND FIND OUT AND RUN IT BY THEM SO THAT -- BECAUSE I DO THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL FOR EACH ONE OF US TO HAVE THOSE PHONE NUMBERS.

>>RENEE LEE: THANK YOU.

I'VE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE LITTLE PACKET THAT YOU JUST RECEIVED --

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>RENEE LEE: -- A PRIMER ON CHARTERS.

THIS JUST SUMMARIZES WHAT A CHARTER IS.

YOU'VE HEARD OTHER MEMBERS SAY IT'S LIKE THE LOCAL CONSTITUTION.

THIS IS A CONSTITUTION THAT GUIDES THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT'S USUALLY BROKEN DOWN IN THREE PARTS.

IT'S BROKEN DOWN -- IT GIVES US THE HOME RULE, THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, AND THE SEPARATION OF POWERS.

THOSE ARE THE -- GENERALLY THE BROAD AREAS THAT YOU'LL FIND IN THE CHARTER.

YOU'LL ALSO FIND A CUTE LITTLE TEST IN YOUR PACKET THAT SAYS, "DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?"

AND IT'S A MATCHING WITH THE ANSWER AT THE BOTTOM, AND IT WILL TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTY.

IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER QUESTIONS OF ME THIS EVENING --

>>JAN PLATT: DOES IT HAVE ALL -- IS SOMEBODY GOING TO GO

OVER THIS WITH US?

>>RENEE LEE: KEN IS GOING TO DO THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: HE'S GOING TO DO THAT?

OKAY.

>>RENEE LEE: I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE KEN TINKLER RIGHT NOW.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I DO HAVE A QUESTION.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: HOW ARE WE GOING TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF  
THE CONFLICT ATTORNEY?

>>RENEE LEE: MADAM CHAIR, THERE WAS --

>>JAN PLATT: WOULD YOU EXPLAIN?

I THINK WE ONLY HAVE ONE ATTORNEY WHO IS ON THIS BOARD.

IS THAT RIGHT?

AND THAT'S --

>>GERALD WHITE: I MEAN THE CONFLICT ATTORNEY --

>>JAN PLATT: WAIT.

WE HAVE TWO ATTORNEYS ON THIS BOARD.

TWO ATTORNEYS ON THIS BOARD.

THE REST OF US ARE NONATTORNEYS, SO WE NEED TO HAVE OUR  
COUNTY ATTORNEY TELL US WHAT IS A CONFLICT ATTORNEY AND WHY  
WOULD YOU USE ONE AND WHEN, BECAUSE THE REST OF US DON'T  
KNOW.

OKAY.

>>RENEE LEE: SOMETIMES AN ISSUE WILL COME UP THAT WILL  
DIRECTLY IMPACT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY OR THE COUNTY

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OR OUR CLIENT, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

IF WE FIND THAT WE ARE EITHER COMPROMISED BY GIVING ADVICE TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD OR COMPROMISED BY GIVING ADVICE TO OUR CLIENT, SOMETIMES THE INTERESTS DO NOT ALIGN JUST RIGHT, THEN WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU WOULD ALLOW US TO GET A CONFLICT ATTORNEY.

THAT ATTORNEY WILL COME IN AND WILL BE A -- AN ATTORNEY WHO IS NEUTRAL ON THE ISSUE, WHO HAS NO INTEREST IN EITHER THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OR ANY -- YOU OR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND THEY WOULD GIVE YOU ADVICE ON THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE, OR IF YOU FIND THAT IT'S A CONFLICT THREAD THAT GOES THROUGH EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO, THEN WE WOULD STAND DOWN AND ALLOW THAT PERSON TO REPRESENT YOU THROUGHOUT THE REST OF YOUR TENURE.

>>JAN PLATT: ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT?

>>JIM PORTER: I'LL JUST MAKE AN OBSERVATION.

I REVIEWED THE MINUTES FROM THE 2000 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND THEY DID GO THROUGH A PROCESS WHERE THEY PICKED CONFLICT COUNSEL.

I THINK THERE ARE A COUPLE THINGS, THOUGH, THAT ARE DIFFERENT.

ONE, THE CHARTER WAS JUST AMENDED AS IT DEALT WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, SO -- AND TWO, THEY DIDN'T USE THE CONFLICT COUNSEL AT ALL IN THE YEAR 2000 FOR THE CHARTER

REVIEW BOARD.

SO IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WOULD IDENTIFY WHEN A CONFLICT WAS PENDING, THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT AT THAT TIME AS OPPOSED TO GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS, WHEN IT SEEMS KIND OF UNLIKELY THAT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WOULD EVEN BE ON THE TABLE AT THIS POINT.

I MEAN, IT COULD BE, BUT BECAUSE IT WAS JUST AMENDED, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY.

AND TWO, IF HISTORY IS ANY GUIDE, AND I THINK IT IS, THE CONFLICT REALLY DOESN'T ARISE.

AND AS YOU POINTED OUT, CHAIRMAN PLATT, BECAUSE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY IS A MEMBER OF THE BAR, SHE HAS TO IDENTIFY A CONFLICT, AND SHE'S NOT GOING TO PUT HER BAR LICENSE AT RISK, AND I THINK IT'S INCUMBENT UPON HER TO DO THAT, SO I DON'T THINK THERE'S A NEED TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS AT THIS POINT, AND IF ONE -- A CONFLICT DOES ARISE, I THINK THEY COULD FIND A CONFLICT COUNSEL, JUST AS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DOES, PRETTY QUICKLY WHEN IT NEEDS TO.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE ANY OTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT MATTER?

YES, MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, YOU KNOW, I LIKE TO THINK AHEAD, AS IT'S BEEN SAID, AND AVOID ANYTHING, IF POSSIBLE, AND SO I THOUGHT IT WORKED WELL THAT -- WHAT WE DID LAST TIME WAS WE JUST ASKED FOR A CONFLICT ATTORNEY FROM THE HILLSBOROUGH

COUNTY BAR TO JUST VOLUNTEER, AND THAT WAY WE USELESS KNEW THAT WE HAD SOMEONE ON -- AVAILABLE AND THERE, AND IT WAS AN HONOR FOR THEM TO PROVIDE THAT PUBLIC SERVICE.

IT DIDN'T COST US ANYTHING.

THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR, THEY WENT THROUGH IT, AND A FEW STEPPED FORWARD, AND WE PICKED ONE, AND IT REALLY WILL TURN IN TO JUST BE PUBLIC SERVICE OFFERED TO US, AND THAT WAY THAT SAFETY NET -- I BELIEVE IN HAVING THAT SAFETY NET, NOT HAVING THE -- WE'RE HOT AND HEAVY INTO AN ISSUE, THEN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY HAS TO COME AND SAY, WELL, SO-AND-SO IS THE CONFLICT, AND THEN WE HAVE TO STOP WHAT WE'RE DOING AND FIND A CONFLICT ATTORNEY AND ALL OF THAT.

I JUST THINK THAT'S JUST WAY TOO MUCH WORK TO NOT -- WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT WHEN WE CAN JUST DO IT RIGHT NOW, HAVE SOMEONE VOLUNTEER AND HAVE THEM ON THE BOOKS, AND THEN WE CAN PROCEED WITH OUR PROCEEDINGS.

THAT'S -- THAT'S -- THAT'S WHAT I RECOMMEND.

IT WORKED WELL THE LAST TIME.

I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM -- WHY CAN'T WE DO THAT THE SAME THIS TIME?

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, NOT HEARING A MOTION, I THINK WE NEED TO MOVE ON.

I MEAN, I DON'T HEAR A MOTION BEING MADE OR A SECOND.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, MADAM CHAIR, I'LL MAKE A MOTION THAT WE GO THROUGH THE SAME PROCEEDINGS THAT WE DID LAST TIME BY

ASKING THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR TO GO THROUGH THAT  
PROCESS, A NEWSLETTER, AND ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR A  
CONFLICT ATTORNEY, AND THEN WE CAN JUST PICK ONE.

>> I SECOND.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THERE'S A MOTION AND A SECOND.

IS THERE A DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION THAT'S ON THE FLOOR?

YES.

>>RALPH FISHER: WE CAN DO THIS IF IT COMES UP.

I SUGGEST WE NOT DO THIS RIGHT NOW, AS SUGGESTED BY MY CO-  
COUNSEL.

[LAUGHTER]

I -- YOU KNOW, THESE ARE GREAT FOLKS, BUT WE NEED TO MOVE  
ON.

LET'S JUST VOTE THIS DOWN AND MOVE ON.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE ANY OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION?

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, MADAM --

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: THIS IS IMPORTANT.

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS IMPORTANT TO DEAL WITH THIS STUFF  
UP FRONT.

HAVE THE PERSON ON THE BOOKS.

WE NEVER USED THEM THE WHOLE YEAR, BUT WE ALWAYS KNEW THAT  
THAT CONFLICT ATTORNEY WAS THERE.

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND IF WE CAN DO SOMETHING UP FRONT WITHOUT DELAYING OUR PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO A PARTICULAR ISSUE, I'M TELLING YOU, IT SERVES YOU WELL TO DO IT UP FRONT, AND IT'S NOT COSTING A DIME TO HAVE SOMEONE ON THE BOOKS VOLUNTEERING. IT'S A GREAT PUBLIC SERVICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA -- OF THE FLORIDA BAR AND THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND SO I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM WITH JUST GETTING IT DONE, GETTING IT OVER WITH, AND NOT HAVING TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING LATER WHEN WE CAN DEAL WITH IT RIGHT NOW, WHEN THIS IS THE PART OF THE MEETING WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LOGISTICALLY PUTTING THINGS IN PLACE.

>>JAN PLATT: JANET.

>>JANET WILSON: IN ALL DUE RESPECT TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS, I WATCHED MANY OF THESE.

THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS THAT DELAY ACTION.

I LIKE TO SOLVE THINGS FIRST.

I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE, NOT LOOKING FOR THEM WHEN WE NEED THEM.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE ANY OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION?

ALL RIGHT.

THEN ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION, RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ALL OPPOSED, RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

SO THE MOTION HAS PASSED WITH THREE VOTES --

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: 9-3.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

SO YOU'VE GOT THAT ON THE RECORD.

OKAY.

LET'S MOVE ON.

>>JIM PORTER: IT DIDN'T PASS.

>>JAN PLATT: I MEAN -- I'M SORRY -- IT FAILED.

IT DIDN'T PASS.

>>RECORDING SECRETARY: IT FAILED 3-9, YES.

>>JAN PLATT: RIGHT, IT FAILED.

OKAY.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU NEED TO SAY?

>>RENEE LEE: NO.

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY KEN TINKLER, WHO IS A MEMBER OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY SECTION.

KEN WILL GO OVER AND THE SUNSHINE LAW, THE PUBLIC RECORDS LAW WITH YOU, AS WELL AS SOME OF THE PREVIOUS ACTIONS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MEMBERS.

>>JAN PLATT: CAN I -- BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SINCE THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOING TO TALK ABOUT, I THOUGHT -- IN MY THINKING ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN AT TONIGHT'S MEETING, I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS GOING TO GO IN DEPTH THROUGH THE CHARTER.

IS THAT GOING TO BE AT ANOTHER MEETING WE DO THAT SO WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS IN IT?

>>RENEE LEE: WE WILL.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT WILL BE AT THE NEXT MEETING?

>>RENEE LEE: YES, WE WILL.

>>JAN PLATT: JUST -- OKAY.

KEN.

>>KEN TINKLER: GOOD EVENING, BOARD MEMBERS.

I'M KEN TINKLER, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY.

MADAM CHAIR, TRADITIONALLY, WE WOULD START WITH GOING THROUGH THE CHARTER AT THE SECOND MEETING.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: THIS IS TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TAKE HOME A COPY OF THE CHARTER WITH YOU SO YOU CAN WALK THROUGH IT NEXT TIME.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: PLUS WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP YOU TOO LONG AT YOUR FIRST MEETING.

THE FIRST THING I'LL DO IS GO OVER THE PACKET THAT WAS LEFT FOR YOU TODAY, JUST SO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN THERE.

OF COURSE, YOU HAVE THE AGENDA.

THE ATTACHED CHARTER IS THE CURRENT EDITION, AS AMENDED THROUGH THE LAST ELECTION.

THE NEXT DOCUMENT IS ORDINANCE 83-9, WHICH WAS THE ORIGINAL COUNTY CHARTER, AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS AND PLACED ON THE BALLOT.

IF YOU FLIP THROUGH THAT DOCUMENT, TOWARDS THE END, IT'S THE -- PAGE 17, YOU CAN SEE THE QUESTION THAT WAS POSED TO THE CITIZENS ON THE BALLOT.

THAT WAS THE ACTUAL LANGUAGE THAT WAS PLACED ON THE BALLOT WHICH ADOPTED THIS CHARTER.

THE NEXT DOCUMENT, JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WAS A MAP OF THE COUNTY DISTRICTS BEFORE THE CHARTER WENT INTO EFFECT, JUST SO YOU CAN SEE THE POPULATION GROWTH AND HOW WE NOW OPERATE WITH THE SEVEN DISTRICTS.

AFTER THAT IS A QUICK -- [INCOMPREHENSIBLE] -- THAT'S PUT OUT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

I'LL BE GOING OVER THIS A LITTLE MORE IN-DEPTH, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING FOR YOU TO TAKE HOME THAT HAS A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE USUALLY ASKED.

THE FINAL DOCUMENT IS THE BOUND PACKET.

WHAT THIS IS IS THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY THAT WAS PUT OUT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE 2000-2001 CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, WITH A FEW AMENDMENTS AT THE END.

AT THE BACK OF THE DOCUMENT -- AND IT BEGINS WITH SUPPLEMENT -- IT INCLUDES THE AMENDMENT THAT WAS PASSED UNDER COUNTY ORDINANCE 04-9, WHICH AMENDED THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S SECTION, SECTION 6 OF THE CHARTER, WHICH WAS THE MOST RECENT CHANGE.

THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN TWO CHANGES TO THE CHARTER SINCE ITS

ADOPTION IN 1983; THAT IS THE COUNTY INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR THAT WAS PROPOSED BY THIS GROUP IN 2000 AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S SECTION, WHICH JUST PASSED.

AT THIS POINT, I'LL JUST GO OVER A BRIEF HISTORY.

MOST OF THIS MATERIAL IS ON PAGE 85 OF YOUR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

I WON'T GO OVER ALL OF IT, JUST TO GIVE YOU THE BACKGROUND.

THAT GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE FIRST STUDIES IN 1967.

THE KEY EVENTS WOULD BE THE CHARTER PASSING BY A SPECIAL ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER OF 1983.

THE CHARTER THEN WENT INTO EFFECT FOLLOWING PRECLEARANCE APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON MAY 28th OF 1985.

JUST TO BRIEFLY EXPLAIN PRECLEARANCE, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY REMAINS A PRECLEARANCE COUNTY UNDER THE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT, WHICH MEANS ANY CHANGE AFFECTING VOTING HAS TO BE REVIEWED AHEAD OF TIME BY EITHER THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OR BY THE FEDERAL COURTS.

SO ANY PROPOSAL THAT THIS GROUP COMES UP WITH, IF THERE ARE TEN VOTES TO PLACE IT ON THE BALLOT, WOULD THEN GO TO JUSTICE FOR PRECLEARANCE BEFORE IT IS PLACED ON THE BALLOT. USUALLY WE TRY TO SCHEDULE IT SO THE REVIEW CAN BE DONE WHILE YOU'RE STILL IN SESSION, JUST IN CASE ANY CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE.

THE FIRST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MET ON OCTOBER 1st, 1985,

WHICH WAS ONLY A FEW MONTHS LATER AFTER THE CHARTER WENT INTO EFFECT, BECAUSE OF THE WORDING IN CHARTER SECTION 8.02.

I'D ACTUALLY LIKE YOU, IF YOU CAN, TO TURN TO THAT SECTION RIGHT NOW IN THE SMALL CHARTER BOOKLET THAT YOU HAVE. THAT IS PAGE 15.

THIS IS YOUR CHARGE.

SECTION 8.02 SOLELY CONCERNS THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AND GOES OVER YOUR AUTHORITY AND YOUR ABILITY TO RESEARCH ANY ISSUE RELATED TO THE CHARTER.

ONE THING I DO WANT TO POINT OUT -- I THINK MR. WHITE HAD BROUGHT UP EARLIER -- THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS DIRECTED, IN THAT SECTION, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: THE FIRST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IN 1985, THEIR DISCUSSION INCLUDED AN ELECTED MAYOR, CHANGING THE 4-3 DISTRICT FRAMEWORK, AND VARIOUS OTHER PROPOSALS.

THAT GROUP PREPARED AN ENTIRE REPLACEMENT CHARTER, BUT IT FAILED ON A VOTE OF 7-7, SO NO ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE BALLOT THAT YEAR.

THE SECOND CHARTER REVIEW BOARD BEGAN MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1990.

DISCUSSIONS, AGAIN, WERE QUITE VARIED, AND THIS BOARD DID APPROVE THE FIRST TIME A BALLOT INITIATIVE BY A 10-4 VOTE.

THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE CREATED A NINE-MEMBER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH SEVEN SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS AND TWO ATEN LARGE MEMBERS.

IT ALSO HAD AN ADDITIONAL PERSON WHO WOULD BE ELECTED AS COUNTY CHAIRMAN, BUT THE PERSON WAS BARRED FROM VOTING ON LAND USE ISSUES.

THIS BALLOT PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, WAS DEEMED CONFUSING BY THE COURTS WHEN CHALLENGED AND WAS REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT, SO IT WAS NOT VOTED UPON.

THE THIRD CHARTER REVIEW BOARD BEGAN MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1995.

WHILE DISCUSSION WAS AGAIN VERY THOROUGH, THE ONLY PROPOSAL TO GAIN TEN VOTES WAS A CHANGE TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING TIME FROM FIVE YEARS TO EVERY EIGHT YEARS.

HOWEVER, THE VOTERS, IN NOVEMBER OF 1996, VOTED THAT DOWN, SO THAT IS HOW WE REMAIN UNDER OUR EVERY FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE.

THE FOURTH CHARTER REVIEW BOARD BEGAN MEETING IN FEBRUARY OF 2000, AS MR. BALLARD AND MR. WHITE WELL KNOW.

THIS GROUP DEBATED EXTENSIVELY ON THE MERITS OF CHANGING THE CURRENT COUNTY CHARTER STRUCTURE.

IT RECOMMENDED CHANGING THE OATH OF OFFICE THAT YOU TOOK THIS EVENING TO INCLUDES THE WORDS "HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER," WHICH WAS THEN ADOPTED BY THE BOCC.

IT ALSO PASSED ONE BALLOT PROPOSAL BY A 10-4 VOTE

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF COUNTY INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR.

THAT POSITION WAS THE FIRST CHANGE TO THE CHARTER SINCE '83, AND IT WAS PASSED BY THE ELECTORATE WITH -- THE FIRST TIME IT WAS A POSITIVE REACTION BY THE ELECTORATE -- IN NOVEMBER OF 2000.

THE FIRST AUDITOR, MS. KATHLEEN MATHEWS, WAS HIRED BY THE BOCC IN 2003 AND IS STILL CURRENTLY SERVING IN THAT POSITION.

IN 2004, THE BOCC, BY A 5-2 VOTE, DECIDED TO EXERCISE THEIR OWN ABILITY, WHICH IS SECTION 8.01, AGAIN, ON PAGE 15 OF YOUR CHARTER, TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY CHARTER.

THE PROPOSAL CHANGED SECTION 6, AS I OUTLINED BEFORE, CONCERNING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND THAT WAS PASSED BY THE ELECTORATE IN NOVEMBER OF 2004.

ONE THING, IF YOU WISH, THE 1983 ORDINANCE AND THE BOOKLET GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO COMPARE HOW THE LANGUAGE HAS CHANGED, OBVIOUSLY, ESPECIALLY SECTION 6 AND SECTION 4.10, WHICH IS THE AUDITOR, WAS AN ADDITION TO THE CHARTER.

SHOULD THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD PASS ANY ITEM -- AND IT TAKES TEN VOTES OF YOUR FULL 14 MEMBERS TO PUT AN ITEM ON THE BALLOT -- THE QUESTION WOULD GO TO THE NOVEMBER 2006 BALLOT.

THIS WAS AN ISSUE THAT CAME UP IN -- WITH THE 2000 CHARTER

REVIEW BOARD.

THEY HAD TWO CHANCES, IN THEORY, THE NOVEMBER 2000 ELECTION AND THE NOVEMBER 2002 ELECTION, BECAUSE YOUR ITEMS ARE PLACED ON THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

THAT GROUP CHOSE TO PLACE THEIR ITEM ON THE 2002 BALLOT.

THAT'S WHY THE AUDITOR DID NOT GO INTO EFFECT AND WAS NOT HIRED TILL 2003.

YOUR FINAL PRODUCT IS A FORMAL RESOLUTION.

WHAT YOU WOULD DO IS IF YOU CHOOSE TO CHANGE LANGUAGE IN THE CHARTER, IF YOU'VE SEEN ORDINANCES, ANYTHING ALONG THAT LINE, IT WOULD OUTLINE THE REPLACEMENT LANGUAGE THAT YOU WISH THE CHARTER TO BE AND THEN A 75-WORD OR LESS QUESTION THAT YOU WOULD POSE TO THE QUESTION.

THAT IS STILL A REQUIREMENT UNDER STATE LAW, THAT IT BE 75 WORDS OR LESS.

YOU'LL SEE BALLOT QUESTIONS THAT ARE LONGER.

THE LEGISLATURE EXEMPTED THEMSELVES OUT OF THE 75-WORD LIMIT, BUT IT REMAINS ON US AT THIS POINT.

WITH THAT, THAT'S JUST A BRIEF OVERVIEW.

THERE'S MUCH MORE IN THE PACKET THAT WAS PUT TOGETHER, AND I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH EVERYTHING THERE AND BORE YOU, BUT I'LL MOVE ON TO SUNSHINE AND PUBLIC RECORDS UNLESS THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: I DO HAVE ONE QUESTION.

YOU KNOW, YOU POINTED OUT ABOUT -- IN SECTION 8.02, THAT

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL PROVIDE SUCH PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, AND CLERICAL ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE REASONABLY REQUIRED BY THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD UPON SUBMISSION OF AN APPROPRIATELY DOCUMENTED REQUEST BY THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

SO, MR. WHITE, I HAVE A FEELING WE NEED TO HAVE SOME KIND OF -- HOW DO YOU READ THAT LANGUAGE, THAT LAST PART OF IT? DO WE HAVE TO --

>>KEN TINKLER: TRADITIONALLY, THE BOARD HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU A BASE BUDGET.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: SHOULD YOU EXCEED WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED BY THE BOARD, IT WOULD SIMPLY BE A BUDGET REQUEST TO THEM, AND THEY WOULD DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS REASONABLE UNDER SECTION 8.02.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

I'M SORT OF A STICKLER IN THAT I DON'T WANT TO NOT DO WHAT THIS SAYS ABOUT USING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY STAFF AND THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

>>KEN TINKLER: I BELIEVE YOUR MOTIONS TONIGHT ARE IN LINE WITH THAT SECTION.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: OKAY.

AS I BELIEVE MANY OF YOU HAVE ALREADY SERVED ON SUNSHINE BOARDS, I'LL JUST DO A QUICK OVERVIEW AND, OF COURSE, BE

HAPPY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS.

THE SUNSHINE LAW IS FOUND IN CHAPTER 286 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES.

SUNSHINE LAW ESTABLISHES A BASIC RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MOST MEETINGS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER GOVERNING BODIES OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES.

THE LAW IS ALSO OFTEN REFERRED TO WITH CHAPTER 119, WHICH IS THE PUBLIC RECORDS LAW.

SUNSHINE LAW REQUIRES THAT MEETINGS OF BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, REASONABLE NOTICE OF SUCH MEETINGS MUST BE GIVEN, AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING MUST BE TAKEN.

THIS GROUP IS A GOVERNMENT BODY ACTING PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY CHARTER AS A SUNSHINE GROUP, MEANING YOU MUST LIMIT DISCUSSION AMONG YOURSELVES TO ONLY -- REGARDING ANY ISSUE YOU MAY VOTE ON TO WHEN YOU ARE IN SESSION, THAT IS THE MEETINGS THAT YOU REGULARLY SCHEDULE AND NOTICE.

THIS WOULD PRECLUDE ANYTHING ALONG THE LINES OF LUNCH MEETINGS, E-MAIL, PHONE CALLS, ANY KIND OF COMMUNICATION THAT COULD INVOLVE ANYTHING THAT YOU MAY VOTE ON REGARDING THE CHARTER.

YOU CAN CERTAINLY STILL SAY HELLO TO EACH OTHER, YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER, AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON PUTTING THE WEATHER IN THE CHARTER.

THAT'S WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO AT THIS POINT.

IT IS VERY RESTRICTIVE, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IF YOU'RE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THIS LAW, IT'S A SECOND-DEGREE MISDEMEANOR WITH FINES, AND THE -- WHAT CAN BE SEEN BY THE ENTIRE GROUP AS EVEN WORSE IS THAT CAN VOID ALL OF YOUR ACTIONS TO DATE.

SO IT TYPICALLY WOULD BE -- IF SOMEONE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING TO THE BALLOT, IT WOULD BE A CHALLENGE THAT WOULD BE MADE AT THE END OF YOUR PROCESS, WHICH WOULD THEN VOID OUT THE PREVIOUS YEAR OF WORK, SO IT IS SOMETHING WE DEFINITELY WANT TO EMPHASIZE TO TAKE OVERPRECAUTION, NOT E-MAILING, ALONG THOSE LINES.

THAT -- E-MAIL HAS CERTAINLY BEEN THE HOTTER TOPIC THE LAST FEW YEARS BECAUSE TYPICALLY IT'S MUCH EASIER TO E-MAIL THAN IT IS TO PHONE CALL.

PEOPLE TEND TO BE A LOT MORE EXPRESSIVE IN E-MAIL LATELY. SO IT'S SOMETHING DEFINITELY TO KEEP IN MIND.

IF YOU'RE CLOSE FRIENDS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, THEN THIS MAY BE A LITTLE BIT OF A HINDRANCE, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY WORTH IT TO PRESERVE THE WORK THAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

ONE THING THAT OFTEN -- ALSO COMES UP A LOT IS MEMORANDUMS. OFTENTIMES BOARD MEMBERS WISH TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES TO OTHER BOARD MEMBERS IN A MEMO FORMAT.

THAT IS PERMISSIBLE IF IT IS DONE TO THE ENTIRE GROUP.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU WISH TO SHARE WITH OTHER

BOARD MEMBERS, WHETHER IT BE AN ARTICLE, A MEMO, ANYTHING ALONG THOSE LINES, IT SHOULD BE ROUTED TO THE STAFF PERSON APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR, UNTIL THAT POINT, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE ENTIRE GROUP.

YOU CANNOT USE THAT, THOUGH, AS A CONDUIT.

YOU CANNOT THEN HAVE A PERSON TRY TO SEND SOMETHING THAT WAY AND THEN ANOTHER PERSON RESPOND THAT IT BECOMES A CONVERSATION.

IF YOU WISH TO PUT SOMETHING OUT THERE, THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT, TO THE ENTIRE GROUP, BUT YOU CANNOT HAVE ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL PASS ALONG A DIRECT MESSAGE TO ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER.

PRESIDENTS JUST -- IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL THAT YOU'RE NOT SEEN AS TRYING TO GO AROUND CHAPTER 286 OR LATER ON THEN I'LL GET TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS.

CHAPTER 119 PROVIDES THAT ALL MATERIALS MADE OR RECEIVED BY AN AGENCY IN CONNECTION WITH OFFICIAL BUSINESS WHICH ARE USED TO PERPETUATE, COMMUNICATE, OR FORMALIZE KNOWLEDGE ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.

A GOOD THING TO REMEMBER ON THIS IS IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR CHARTER MATERIALS AND CHARTER WORK SEPARATE FROM YOUR OTHER PRIVATE MATERIALS.

ALL THE MATERIALS THAT WILL BE PASSED OUT THIS EVENING ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.

YOU MAY HAVE -- THERE MAY BE MEDIA REQUESTS.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE PRIVATE MATERIAL MIXED IN WITH YOUR PUBLIC WORK AND THEN HAVE A DISPUTE OVER WHETHER OR NOT IT'S A PUBLIC RECORD.

IT SAVES EMBARRASSMENT, CERTAINLY, ON ALL SIDES.

MOST TIMES, IF YOU KEEP A FOLDER, KEEP SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES, OF YOUR CHARTER MATERIALS, THAT HELPS KEEP THEM SEPARATE FROM ANYTHING YOU MAY DO AT WORK, ANYTHING YOU MAY DO AT HOME.

AS YOU GO ALONG IN THE PROCESS, THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE MUCH MORE ATTENTION, MUCH MORE COVERAGE OF THIS, AND YOU MAY BE SUBJECT A PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST.

WE'RE CERTAINLY AVAILABLE TO GO THROUGH THAT WITH YOU, HANDLE THE REQUEST, WHICH NEED TO BE DONE QUICKLY, AND YOU'LL FIND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU WORK ON IN THIS GROUP WILL BE REVIEWED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC RECORD.

SO I KNOW THIS MAY -- ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THE BUSINESS SIDE, THIS WILL BE A BIT OF A SHOCK THAT YOU HAVE NO SECRETS AND YOU CAN'T TALK TO PEOPLE, BUT THAT'S TYPICALLY WHAT HAPPENS IN THESE KIND OF GROUPS.

AND THE POINT OF THIS IS THAT ANYONE WATCHING, ANYONE ATTENDING YOUR MEETINGS CAN SEE THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION, THAT THERE'S NOTHING THAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE OF THIS MEETING. INCLUDED IN THE PACKET IS A GOOD QUESTIONS-AND-ANSWERS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW OR PUBLIC RECORDS?

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, YOU KNOW, I HOPE YOU'LL COME BACK AT THE NEXT MEETING BECAUSE SINCE THIS IS NEW TO THE MAJORITY OF THIS GROUP, THEY MAY HAVE QUESTIONS AFTER -- AFTER EVERYBODY'S READ THROUGH THIS MATERIAL, SO PLEASE BE PREPARED TO COME BACK.

>>KEN TINKLER: WE WILL BE HERE AT EVERY MEETING.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

GOOD.

>>KEN TINKLER: WHAT I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT, MADAM CHAIR, IS ALSO IN THE PACKET, ON PAGE 70, WERE THE RULES OF ORDER THAT WERE ADOPTED BY THE PAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD. WHAT -- YOU HAVE NO REQUIREMENT TO PASS -- PASS THESE THIS EVENING.

WHAT YOU MAY WISH TO DO, DEPENDING ON WHAT THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO DO, IS TAKE THESE HOME, REVIEW THEM, AND BRING BACK ANY QUESTIONS OR CHANGES THAT YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE.

THESE RULES ARE MODELED UPON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RULES.

THEY'RE A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF STANDARD ROBERT'S RULES.

THAT IS ONE THING -- I THINK IT LISTS THE 1990 EDITION OF ROB ROBERT'S RULES.

WE WOULD, OF COURSE, WANT TO UPDATE THAT TO THE 2000 EDITION.

BUT UNLESS THERE'S --

>>JAN PLATT: JIM.

>>JIM PORTER: COULD YOU MAYBE JUST HIGHLIGHT HOW THESE DIFFER FROM ROBERT'S RULES AND HOW THEY DIFFER FROM THE BOCC RULES IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY?

>>KEN TINKLER: SURE.

I BELIEVE PROBABLY THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IS IN THE AUDIENCE COMMENTS SECTION ON PAGE 72.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TYPICALLY USES A THREE-MINUTE RULE WITH A 45-MINUTE CAP UPON THE ENTIRE GROUP, AND THEN ANYONE WHO COMES AFTER THE 45 MINUTES GOES AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

THIS GROUP HAS HAD A MORE EXPANSIVE VIEW WITH DOING FIVE MINUTES AND HEARING EVERYONE THAT ATTENDS.

OBVIOUSLY, AS YOU GET MORE INTO ISSUES, YOU MAY FIND A LARGER ATTENDANCE AT EACH MEETING, AND YOU CAN CERTAINLY DECIDE TO LIMIT THAT FURTHER LATER.

BEYOND THAT IS SIMPLY -- IT'S JUST A SIMPLIFIED VERSION AS FAR AS LANGUAGE AND GIVING THE CHAIR THE SAME AUTHORITY THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS.

>>JIM PORTER: THANKS.

>>KEN TINKLER: SURE.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU KNOW, I SEE ANOTHER CHANGE -- DIFFERENCE. PAGE 41, ON MOTIONS, THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL FIRST RECOGNIZE BOARD MEMBERS TO SPEAK ON THE QUESTION AND THEN

SHALL RECOGNIZE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON THE QUESTION.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WOULD EVER OPERATE UNDER THAT BECAUSE EVERY SINGLE MOTION THAT WAS MADE, EVEN IF IT WAS A MOTION TO ADJOURN, YOU'D HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE PUBLIC.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DOESN'T HAVE THIS.

>>KEN TINKLER: I BELIEVE -- I THINK YOU'RE CORRECT.

I BELIEVE THAT COMES FROM WHEN ITEMS ARE PRESCHEDULED FOR AN AGENDA.

>>JAN PLATT: I DON'T THINK THAT'S CLEAR.

>>KEN TINKLER: MAYBE THAT'S WHERE THAT GREW OUT OF THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT THAT'S NOT CLEAR.

I MEAN, YOU KNOW, IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE SOMETHING -- I MEAN, THIS COULD --

>>KEN TINKLER: THAT CAN CERTAINLY BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE BOARD'S WISH.

>>JAN PLATT: ANYWAY, WOULD YOU-ALL LIKE TO MAYBE LOOK THIS OVER AND COME BACK AT OUR NEXT MEETING, AND WE CAN LOOK AT IT WITH A CRITICAL EYE AND FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND MAY I?

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR, YES, IF YOU WILL.

COULD YOU -- I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THEM, BUT ANY CHANGES YOU THINK THAT YOU NEED TO BE MADE TO THESE RULES THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE FULL BOARD, MY -- MY PAST

EXPERIENCE ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD -- AND I WAS LOOKING FOR THE RULE RELATED TO SETTING THE AGENDA.

>>JAN PLATT: UH-HUH.

>>KEN TINKLER: RULE 11.

>>GERALD WHITE: I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE -- HMM?

>>KEN TINKLER: RULE 11.

>>GERALD WHITE: THE WAY I UNDERSTAND THE LAST TIME, THE CHAIR SET THE AGENDA.

NOW, IF THE BOARD WANTED TO HAVE SOMETHING AT THE NEXT MEETING, IF YOU WILL, IT WOULD BE UP TO THE CHAIR.

THERE WAS NOTHING TO SAY THE BOARD AS A WHOLE COULD SAY, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM THIS AT THE NEXT MEETING.

IT WOULD BE UP TO -- BY ADOPTING THESE RULES, WE WAS GIVING THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO THE CHAIR TO SET THE AGENDA, AND I KNOW COMMISSIONER PLATT -- WELL, CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEMBER PLATT WILL BE FAIR, BUT I WAS LOOKING AT SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THAT RULE.

MADAM CHAIR, IF YOU COULD LOOK AT THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH, I SEE THAT, AND I AGREE WITH YOU THAT I DON'T WANT THAT -- I DON'T WANT TO BE -- I'M NOT THAT KIND OF A PERSON THAT IS LOOKING FOR POWER ON THIS THING, AND SO EVEN WITH THE -- EVEN WITH THE AGENDA FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSION, THERE IS A SECTION WHERE INDIVIDUALS CAN SUBMIT ITEMS AND THAT THEY'RE -- THEY'RE LISTED SO THAT -- BECAUSE MY -- I DON'T OPERATE THAT WAY, TO KEEP PEOPLE QUIET.

I THINK THAT DEMOCRACY IS -- IS A WONDERFUL PROCESS, AND WE MAY NOT ALWAYS AGREE, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE AIRED.

SO HOWEVER WE CAN WORK WITH THAT ONE.

>>KEN TINKLER: WE CAN PREPARE LANGUAGE THAT REFLECTS THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH.

BUT REFLECT IT LIKE IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA, THAT -  
- YOU KNOW, SO THAT -- BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THAT POWER.  
I DON'T WANT TO SHUT ANYBODY UP.

>>KEN TINKLER: RIGHT.

WE CAN INCLUDE A COMBINATION OF ANYTHING VOTED ON BY THE BOARD FOR AGENDA OR THAT THE CHAIRMAN LISTED.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

WELL -- AND I NOTICE THAT THIS REFERS TO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

CAN -- WITH THIS COPYRIGHT DATE.

CAN YOU MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP A COPY OF THE MOST CURRENT ROBERT RULES OF ORDER SO THAT WE CAN LOOK AT THAT AS WE LOOK AT THIS?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET AT?

BECAUSE EVERYBODY HERE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE ROBERT'S.

>>KEN TINKLER: WE CAN.

IT IS -- THE 2000 EDITION IS THE CURRENT EDITION.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT YOU MIGHT NEED TO GET THAT IN THE MAIL TO US AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

>>KEN TINKLER: WE'LL PLACE THE ORDER.

THE BOOKS ARE ABOUT \$16 APIECE.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, THEN --

>>KEN TINKLER: THAT WOULD COME OUT OF YOUR BUDGET.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, OR WE CAN EACH PAY OUR OWN.

I DON'T KNOW.

I'M SORRY YOU-ALL GOT INTO THAT.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IT?

>>JIM PORTER: I WOULD RATHER PAY FOR MY OWN.

>> I THINK WE CAN ALL GO TO A BOOKSTORE AND BUY OUR OWN.

>>JAN PLATT: WHY DON'T WE ALL DO THAT.

>>KEN TINKLER: THE EASIEST WAY, IT'S THE GOLD EDITION, AT BARNES & NOBLE OR --

>>GERALD WHITE: SO WE'VE GOT TO BUY OUR OWN?

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

>>KEN TINKLER: AND AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

>>GERALD WHITE: NO, THE COUNTY SHOULD PROVIDE A COPY.

>> DO THEY HAVE THEM AT WAL-MART?

>>GERALD WHITE: NO, WE SHOULD BE PROVIDED -- IF THAT'S SOMETHING WE NEED, MADAM CHAIR, I THINK THEY SHOULD GET US FOR IT.

IT SHOULDN'T COST US TO SERVE.

IT SHOULDN'T COST US TO SERVE.

>>JAN PLATT: DID YOU HAVE A QUESTION, JANET?

>> I THINK WE CAN PROVIDE OUR OWN.

WE DON'T NEED TO CHARGE THE TAXPAYERS FOR THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

WELL -- OKAY.

NOW, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, KEN, THAT YOU WANTED TO -- IS  
IN THIS DOCUMENT THE PAST LEGAL OPINIONS RENDERED REGARDING  
THE CHARTER?

>>KEN TINKLER: IT IS NOT IN THIS DOCUMENT.

WE WERE PLANNING TO BRING THAT AT A LATER MEETING AS  
ANOTHER PACKET FOR YOU.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS ENOUGH MATERIAL FOR TONIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: THE OTHER ITEM YOU HAVE ON YOUR AGENDA IS  
DISCUSSING A MEETING SCHEDULE AT THIS POINT.

>>JAN PLATT: I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, BUT I HAD ASKED -  
- BECAUSE, AGAIN, I'M A STICKLER ON RULES.

>>KEN TINKLER: YES, YOU ARE.

>>JAN PLATT: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE, GIFTS.

NOW, WHAT IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR THIS GROUP?

ALSO, CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

BECAUSE ONCE WE GET INTO THIS, SOMEBODY MAY WANT TO  
ABSTAIN.

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW SO YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT IN A QUAGMIRE.

SO WOULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THOSE ISSUES.

>>KEN TINKLER: YES, MA'AM.

THIS HAS ACTUALLY BEEN A CHANGE SINCE 2000.

THIS GROUP IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED A GROUP THAT NEEDS TO

FILE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

PREVIOUS MEMBERS HAD TO DO THAT.

AS FAR AS GIFTS, THERE'S NO -- YOU'RE ALSO NOT A GIFT-REPORTING AUTHORITY; HOWEVER, YOU'RE, OF COURSE, NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE ANY GIFT THAT WOULD INFLUENCE YOUR VOTE HERE ON A CHARTER ISSUE.

OBVIOUSLY, THAT'S A VERY BROAD SUBJECT.

AS FAR AS OTHER CONFLICT OF INTEREST --

>>JAN PLATT: CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

>>KEN TINKLER: -- SHOULD YOU COME UP -- SHOULD YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN WHICH YOU WOULD HAVE A SPECIAL GAIN OR LOSS, YOU WOULD NEED TO ABSTAIN AND, OF COURSE, PUT THAT ON THE RECORD WHAT THE CONFLICT IS.

THE ETHICS COMMISSION HAS ALSO OPINED IF YOU FEEL THERE WOULD BE AN APPEARANCE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, YOU CAN ALSO STATE THAT AS THE REASON WHY YOU ARE ABSTAINING, AND, OF COURSE, THAT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE ON THE RECORD.

YOU DO -- YOU ARE REQUIRED TO VOTE UNLESS YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE -- YOU MEET ONE OF THOSE TWO CATEGORIES, THAT EITHER YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PRIVATE LOSS OR GAIN OR THERE'S AN APPEARANCE OF SUCH, AND YOU HAVE TO STATE WHAT THAT IS AND PLACE THAT ON THE RECORD.

>>JAN PLATT: AND YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR EVERYBODY TO HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, BECAUSE IF YOU SEE AN AGENDA COMING UP AND YOU SEE AN ITEM

THAT YOU MAY QUESTION IN YOUR MIND, WELL, GOSH, DO I HAVE SOME KIND OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT, IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO CALL THEM FIRST AND RUN IT BY THEM SO THAT YOU'RE NOT CAUGHT FLAT-FOOTED.

NOW, SOMETIMES YOU WILL BE IN A MEETING WHERE SOMETHING COMES UP WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA, AND MY VIEW IS WHENEVER YOU'RE IN DOUBT, DON'T.

DON'T VOTE.

OR CONFER WITH THEM IMMEDIATELY SO THAT YOU DON'T GET YOURSELF IN TROUBLE, BECAUSE LIFE'S TOO SHORT.

>>KEN TINKLER: MY PHONE NUMBER IS 272 --

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

HOLD ON.

272 --

>>KEN TINKLER: 5670.

>>JAN PLATT: -- 5670.

AND IS MARY HELEN ALSO GOING TO BE HELPING OUT?

>>KEN TINKLER: YES, MA'AM.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THAT THE SAME PHONE NUMBER?

>>KEN TINKLER: SAME PHONE NUMBER.

YOU CAN ASK FOR EITHER OF US.

THAT'S MARY HELEN CAMPBELL OR KEN TINKLER.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU, KEN.

YES.

>> ASK A QUESTION.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>> I'D LIKE TO ASK A DIFFERENT QUESTION.

SINCE THIS IS ALL ABOUT REPRESENTATION, I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE POPULATION OF TAMPA AND THE COUNTY AT THE TIME OF THE 1983 ACCEPTANCE OF THIS CHARTER AND EACH OF THE CHARTER REVIEW PERIODS.

>>KEN TINKLER: OKAY.

WE CAN OBTAIN THAT FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

>> THE POPULATION OF TAMPA AND THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTY SEPARATELY, AND THEN YOU CAN ADD THEM UP FOR THE TOTAL.

>>KEN TINKLER: YES, MA'AM, ALONG WITH TEMPLE TERRACE AND PLANT CITY.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT WE NEED, ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN THINK OF THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAYBE HAVE BACK FOR OUR NEXT MEETING THAT YOU CAN THINK OF, LIKE ONE OF THE THINGS I'D LIKE IS ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC.

PRIOR TO OUR -- AT OUR MEETINGS, PRIOR TO OUR DELIBERATIONS, AND AFTER.

>>KEN TINKLER: ONE THING I WOULD CERTAINLY WORK OUT WOULD BE --

>>JAN PLATT: BECAUSE THE PUBLIC IS SUPPOSED TO BE A MAJOR PART OF THIS PROCESS, AND SO WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT ARE OUR ALTERNATIVES FOR INVOLVING PUBLIC INPUT.

>>KEN TINKLER: JUST AS AN FYI, THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD USED E-MAIL, THE WEB SITE, DID A SURVEY, AND WORKED WITH USF REGARDING INFORMATION, AND, OF COURSE, I'LL DISCUSS THAT WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTEE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: I WOULD LIKE ALL THE LEGAL OPINIONS THAT WAS PROVIDED TO THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

COULD YOU PROVIDE THOSE TO THE BOARD MEMBERS?

I THINK THAT WILL HELP A GREAT DEAL.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO REPEAT THE SAME QUESTIONS RELATED TO A LOT OF THESE LEGAL QUESTIONS THAT CAME UP AT THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>KEN TINKLER: YOU'LL HAVE THEM NEXT MEETING.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND ALSO, MADAM CHAIR, RELATING TO COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC, THERE'S AN EVENT THAT'S COMING UP NEXT MONTH, THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE.

THAT'S GOING TO BE AT THE HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DALE MABRY CAMPUS.

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD CAN HAVE A BOOTH THERE, AND MAYBE WE CAN DISCUSS IT -- I DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE TIME, BUT SET SOMETHING UP THERE -- AND CAN YOU IMAGINE THE CITIZENS THAT'S GOING TO BE AT THAT CONFERENCE

-- SO THAT WE CAN GET SOME INPUT RELATED TO THE CHARTER AT THAT CONFERENCE.

>>PAT BEAN: YES.

LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS THE FIRST CONFERENCE PUT ON BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS OFFICE, WE WERE AMAZED AT THE ATTENDANCE.

WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THERE MIGHT BE AS MANY AS 80 OR A HUNDRED PEOPLE THAT WOULD SHOW UP, AND INSTEAD, THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO SHOWED UP, AND THE REACTION AT THE END OF THE DAY WAS SO POSITIVE, I VISITED WITH A LOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD ATTENDED, AND I SAID, WILL YOU COME BACK NEXT YEAR?

AND THEY SAID, NOT ONLY WILL I COME BACK, BUT I'LL BRING MANY WITH ME THAT DIDN'T COME BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THAT THIS WOULD BE SO VALUABLE.

SO IT WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE, GERALD.

I THINK THAT'S AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO HAVE A BOOTH THERE, AND, YOU KNOW, YOU CAN -- EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO TRY TO HAVE SOME QUESTIONNAIRE, I'M SURE BETWEEN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND OUR OFFICE, WE COULD DEVELOP SOMETHING YOU COULD LOOK AT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE AND SAY, YES, LET'S PUT THIS OUT AND ASK THE CITIZENS WHAT DO THEY THINK.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

>>JAN PLATT: UH-HUH.

OKAY.

SO WHY DON'T YOU BRING US A DRAFT FOR OUR NEXT MEETING.

>>PAT BEAN: OKAY.

WE'LL DO THAT.

>> DO YOU KNOW THE DATE OF THAT?

>> MARCH 12th.

IT'S FROM 8:00 TO 2:30 MARCH 12th AT HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND, MADAM CHAIR, A GOOD PLACE TO START IS THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, WE PUT TOGETHER A QUESTIONNAIRE THAT WENT OUT.

>>PAT BEAN: I'M SURE THAT THAT'S THE FIRST THING WE'RE GOING TO PULL TO LOOK AT, GERALD, IS THAT QUESTIONNAIRE TO SEE IF -- IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE WITH THAT.

WE'LL LOOK AT IT TO SEE IF WE WANT TO SUGGEST ANY CHANGES, BUT ABSOLUTELY.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: ACCORDING TO THIS AGENDA THAT'S BEEN PREPARED, I THINK WE'VE COVERED ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT ESTABLISH A MEETING SCHEDULE AND THEN ADJOURN.

I DO SEE SOME CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE, AND AGAIN, IF THERE BE NO OBJECTION, I THINK IF THERE IS ANY CITIZEN WHO WOULD WANT TO SPEAK THAT WE OUGHT TO HEAR FROM ANY CITIZEN WHO MAY WANT TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS.

IS THERE ANY CITIZEN IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD WANT TO

SPEAK?

WE'RE VERY GLAD THAT YOU'VE COME TO OBSERVE.

>> I WAS GOING TO YIELD TO AL FIRST.

HE'S MORE OF AN ACTIVIST THAN I AM.

I AM MRS. ANN WHITE, AND I AM A LICENSED BAPTIST MINISTER AND ALSO A FOUNDER HERE IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA OF A SCHOOL THAT IS APPROXIMATELY 21 YEARS OLD.

I'M A FOUNDER/ADMINISTRATOR OF A CHRISTIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL HERE IN TAMPA, FLORIDA, AND I AM THE SPOUSE OF GERALD WHITE, WHO IS ALSO A CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEMBER HERE TONIGHT WITH YOU.

I RESIDE HERE IN TAMPA IN THE CITY OF TAMPA ON NORTH 46th STREET.

AND I'M GLAD TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

I WAS ACTIVE AS A KIND OF WITNESS TO THOSE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS WHEN THEY CONVENED.

I DIDN'T COME TO EVERY ONE OF THEM, BUT PEOPLE SEEMED TO THINK THAT I WAS A FIXTURE BECAUSE I -- I DID FEEL THAT AS A CITIZEN, NOT ONLY AS THE SPOUSE OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS HERE, BUT WE'RE ALL STILL INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, AND WE WANT TO OBSERVE WHEN POLICIES ARE BEING MADE OR BEING ECHOED OR BEING PRESENTED BY THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC, AND I DO -- AS MY HUSBAND HAS ECHOED EARLIER, I DO WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT DIVERSITY.

I SAW -- AND I'M NOT SURE, PAT, WHO THE GENTLEMAN WAS, BUT I PICKED HIM UP ON HGTV SEVERAL TIMES.

THERE WAS A GREAT SPEAKER THAT YOU-ALL HAD INVITED TO THE TAMPA BAY AREA, AND THE SCHOOL JUST -- OH, JUST WENT THROUGH MY MIND.

I'LL THINK OF IT LATER.

BUT HE HAD BEEN INVITED HERE TO TAMPA, AND HE WAS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS.

IT'S ON HGTV, SO I ASSUME THAT THE COUNTY HAD INVITED HIM, AND I JUST HAPPENED TO BE FLIPPING THROUGH THE CHANNELS, AND HE SAID SOME VERY, VERY PROVOCATIVE WORDS ABOUT HOW TO GROW A COUNTY AND HOW TO IMPROVE A CITY, AND ONE OF THE KEY WORDS THAT HE MENTIONED, WHICH SOME OF US MIGHT SHUN FROM TIME TO TIME, WAS DIVERSITY, AND I THINK THAT THAT IS A KEY WORD THAT WE SHOULD KEEP IN THE BACK OF OUR MINDS AS WE CONSIDER ANY AND ALL ISSUES, BECAUSE TAMPA IS A VERY, VERY -- TAMPA/HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY IS A VERY DIVERSE AREA IN TERMS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE OF ALL RACES, OF ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, ALL COLORS, ALL CREEDS, ALL PHILOSOPHIES, AND I THINK THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN ETHICAL BOARD AND A BOARD THAT IS SET FIRMLY IN INTEGRITY, I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ALL PEOPLE, ALL OF US AS YOU THINK OF POLICY, NOT JUST YOURSELVES, BECAUSE SOME OF SELF IS GOING TO CREEP IN.

LET'S NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES.

AND I DON'T HAVE TO PREACH TONIGHT, BUT I KNOW THAT WHEN WE'RE THINKING OF THINGS, WE'RE IN THERE TOO.

SO I'M GLAD TONIGHT TO SPEAK TO YOU, AND JUST KNOW THAT I MAY NOT BE A FIXTURE THIS TIME AROUND, BUT I WILL BE HERE AS A WITNESS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JUST MAKE A FEW COMMENTS?

AL.

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR EVERY CHARTER.

>> YES.

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, GREETINGS.

I CONGRATULATE YOU.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU REALLY KNOW IT OR NOT, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO IMPACT ON THIS COUNTY FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT 20 YEARS OF THE WORK THAT YOU DO, AND I WANT TO CONGRATULATE JAN PLATT, PARTICULARLY, AS YOU HAVE CHOSE A VERY WISE AND SKILLFUL CHAIR TO FACILITATE YOUR BUSINESS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING -- MADAM CHAIRMAN, CAN I CALL MYSELF ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE CHARTER?

>>JAN PLATT: I THINK YOU CAN.

YOU SURE TOLD US WHAT TO DO.

>> YEAH, I'M OLD ENOUGH NOW.

[LAUGHTER]

THOSE WERE SOME INTERESTING DAYS, LET ME PUT IT THAT WAY.

>>JAN PLATT: THEY WERE.

>> VERY INTERESTING DAYS.

AND I DID HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING ON THE FIRST TWO  
CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS.

AS GEORGE BUSH SAID, IT'S HARD WORK.

IT'S REALLY HARD WORK, AND I FEEL YOUR PAIN AS YOU GO  
THROUGH THE PROCESS TONIGHT.

I WISH YOU WELL.

I'LL HOLD MY CRITICISM, I GUESS, TILL LATER, BUT, YOU KNOW,  
I HEAR THE WORD "DIVERSITY" USED A WHOLE LOT.

I GUESS THAT'S A CODE WORD FOR SOMETHING.

IT USED TO BE "INCLUSIVE," YOU KNOW, RIGHT?

AND IT USED TO BE "INTEGRATION."

BUT THE POINT IS, I GUESS -- AND I GUESS EACH GENERATION'S  
ENTITLED TO USE THEIR OWN TERMS AND PHRASES TO MEAN THAT WE  
ARE LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY, AND AS CITIZENS, WE HAVE CERTAIN  
INALIENABLE RIGHTS, AND AMONG THESE -- NOW, YOU NOTICE THE  
LANGUAGE OR THE TERM IS "AMONG THESE" IS LIFE, LIBERTY, AND  
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

THERE MAY BE SOME THAT'S NOT LISTED, BUT IT'S SELF-EVIDENT  
THAT THEY'RE ENTITLED TO.

SO I WISH YOU WELL.

I'LL BE COMING IN AND OUT DURING SOME OF YOUR SESSIONS.

UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE A VISION IMPEDIMENT OR IMPAIRMENT,  
BUT I HEAR VERY GOOD, AND BLESS YOU, AND THANK COMMISSIONER  
CHAIRMAN FOR BRINGING THAT ISSUE UP ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY  
FOR CITIZENS BECAUSE I WAS GOING TO RAISE THAT QUESTION.

BUT THERE'S TWO THINGS.

CAN I EXTEND MY REMARK FOR A COUPLE MORE SECONDS?

>>JAN PLATT: SINCE THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING, YOU SURE  
CAN.

>> THANK YOU.

AND I THANK THIS BOARD.

THE LAST BOARD SUPPORTED THE IDEA WHEN THESE COUNTY  
OFFICERS TAKE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE THAT THEY INCLUDE THE  
PHRASE, THE "COUNTY CHARTER."

I ALMOST FAINTED AT THE LAST SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, BUT KEN  
HELPED ME OUT.

HE FANNED ME A LITTLE BIT AND SAID, WHAT THEY SAID WAS  
SUBSTANTIVELY WHAT THE RESOLUTION THAT THIS BOARD PASSED AS  
FAR AS THE OATH OF OFFICE.

YOU KNOW THAT EACH ONE OF THEM -- AND I DON'T KNOW WHO  
PREPARED IT FOR THEM -- LEFT OUT -- YOU KNOW WHEN YOU SAID  
YOU WOULD SUPPORT, DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED  
STATES AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE  
PHRASE "AND THE COUNTY CHARTER" WAS LEFT OUT, AND KEN TOLD

ME JOKINGLY LATER, YOU KNOW, AL, I DON'T THINK NO ONE ELSE WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT BUT YOU.

SO I SAID, WELL, WHO PREPARED THAT OATH OF OFFICE FOR THEM? I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF A COORDINATED THING.

AND I CERTAINLY DIDN'T WANT TO ACT DISORDERLY BY JUMPING UP, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE OATH OF OFFICE IS IMPAIRED, BUT I HELD MY PEACE, BUT IT GOT THROUGH IT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS, WHEN THEY SIGNED, WAS IT INCLUDED IN THAT PHRASE.

BECAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE AN OFFICER SERVING IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND THEY'RE NOT AWARE THAT WE GOT A CHARTER, THEN IT KIND OF SCARES ME A LITTLE BIT.

BUT ANYWAY.

THE -- THE -- THE THING THAT I LOOK TOWARD THIS BOARD TO DO -- I KNOW YOU GOT WHAT, ABOUT A YEAR?

>>JAN PLATT: YES, WE HAVE ONE YEAR.

>> ABOUT ONE YEAR.

AND AS THE TIMELINE, YOU KNOW, BEGINS TO FLOW, OKAY, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE SOME INDICATION AS TO WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO.

AND LIKE I INDICATED, I'LL BE BACK AND FORTH.

I CERTAINLY WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN.

I -- CAN I PUT OUT A PROPOSAL?

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, NOT -- YOU'VE SORT OF GONE PAST YOUR TIME TONIGHT.

>> THANK YOU.

WELL, I'LL COME BACK.

>>JAN PLATT: SO -- WE'RE GOING TO BE MEETING FOR A YEAR,  
SO THERE WILL BE OTHER TIMES.

>> THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>> BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

ALL RIGHT.

I THINK THE LAST ITEM IS ESTABLISH A MEETING SCHEDULE.

>> BEFORE THAT, MS. CHAIRMAN.

>>JAN PLATT: YES, TERRY.

>>TERRY BALLARD: I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE SOMEBODY IN THE  
AUDIENCE.

DEE WILLIAMS WAS ALSO A MEMBER.

SHE DIDN'T GET UP TO SPEAK HERE, BUT SHE WAS A FELLOW  
MEMBER OF THE 2000 CHARTER REVIEW, ALONG WITH GERALD AND  
MYSELF.

>>JIM PORTER: AND THE ONE BEFORE THAT AS WELL.

SHE'S BEEN ON IT TWICE.

>>TERRY BALLARD: THE ONE BEFORE THAT.

OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE YOU HERE TONIGHT.

>> WE HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE SITTING OUT THERE TONIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: WE SURE DO, AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU DURING THE PROCESS.

AND I SEE RALPH HUGHES IN THE AUDIENCE, AND I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO HEAR FROM HIM TOO.

AND THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, TO HEAR FROM EVERYBODY AND GET EVERYBODY'S POINT OF VIEW.

NOW, ESTABLISH A MEETING SCHEDULE.

WAS STAFF GOING TO SPEAK TO THAT, OR WHAT -- KEN.

>>KEN TINKLER: BOARD MEMBERS, TRADITIONALLY, THE GROUP HAS PICKED SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY, SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY NIGHT, APPROXIMATELY THIS TIME.

THAT'S CERTAINLY UP TO YOU, AND THEN WE CAN CHECK WITH THE SCHEDULING FOR THIS ROOM TO MAKE SURE THIS ROOM IS AVAILABLE.

USUALLY THE BOARD TAKES A MOTION TO ADOPT SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES, THEN WE COME BACK WITH A PROPOSED CALENDAR AT THE NEXT MEETING.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

YES.

>> MADAM CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT WE MEET AT THE SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY EACH MONTH AT 6:00 IN THE CHAMBERS HERE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE A SECOND TO THAT MOTION?

>>MITCH THROWER: SECOND.

>>JAN PLATT: DISCUSSION.

NOW, DOES ANYBODY KNOW THEY HAVE A CONFLICT FOR SURE?

MR. FISHER.

>>RALPH FISHER: I HAVE FRENCH CLASS ON TUESDAYS.

THAT'S OKAY.

>> IT'S OPEN TO DISCUSSION.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH, BECAUSE SOME OF US MAY HAVE CONFLICTS,  
AND WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.

>>RALPH FISHER: CAN WE MAKE IT WEDNESDAY?

>> NO.

>> NO.

>>JAN PLATT: YES, SIR.

>> LET US KNOW, THIS MONTH COMING UP, IN MARCH, I DO HAVE A  
CONFLICT ON THE 8 PTC.

TUESDAYS ARE FINE IN GENERAL, BUT THIS PARTICULAR ONE.

>>RALPH FISHER: THE CLASS WILL END IN APRIL, SO IT WILL BE  
FINE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WE MET LAST TIME.

REALLY WE NEED TO LET HIM LOOK AND SEE WHAT'S AVAILABLE  
BECAUSE THERE ARE OTHER BOARDS THAT MEET IN HERE, AND WHAT  
WORKED FOR US LAST TIME, MADAM CHAIR, WAS WE MET TWICE A  
MONTH ON THURSDAYS.

THAT WAS THE FREEST DAY, WHERE WE CAN MEET IN ONE PLACE ALL  
THE TIME FOR THE WHOLE YEAR.

THAT WORKED OUT WELL, AND SO --

>>JAN PLATT: HOW ABOUT MONDAYS?

IS THAT TERRIBLE?

>> OH, NO MONDAY.

FOOTBALL SEASON.

>> MADAM CHAIRMAN, I'LL WITHDRAW MY MOTION TILL WE CAN DISCUSS IT, BUT THURSDAY IS A GOOD NIGHT TOO.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

THURSDAYS WORKED OUT WELL FOR EVERYONE.

WE HAD A STRONG ATTENDANCE.

>>JAN PLATT: WHY DON'T WE DO THIS?

WHY DON'T WE PLAN TO MEET THE NEXT TUESDAY -- NOT THIS NEXT TUESDAY, BUT THE NEXT TUESDAY, AND THEN EVERYBODY LOOK AT YOUR CALENDARS AND LET'S -- AND LET'S GIVE YOUR CALENDARS TO THE -- LET'S LET OUR STAFF -- GIVE THE TIMES WHICH ARE BEST FOR US TO OUR STAFF, TO PAT BEAN'S OFFICE, SO THAT SHE CAN COME BACK WITH A CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION FOR OUR NEXT MEETING.

WOULD THAT BE OKAY?

>>PAT BEAN: LET ME GIVE EVERYONE MY E-MAIL ADDRESS SO YOU CAN E-MAIL THAT TO ME, BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE THE BEST THING TO AVOID ANY KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

IF YOU TRIED TO PHONE IT IN AND I GOT A MESSAGE, I DON'T WANT TO MESS IT UP.

SO E-MAIL IS BEANP -- SPELLED LIKE B-E-A-N-P -- AT

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, SPELLED OUT AS ONE WORD, DOT ORG.

AND IF YOU'LL JUST SEND THOSE TO ME, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT WE  
GET THEM COORDINATED AND COME BACK WITH SOME  
RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT WHAT WORKS BEST FOR THE GROUP, AS  
WELL AS CHECKING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ROOM.

>>JAN PLATT: NOW, THERE'S NOT ANOTHER TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY.

>>PAT BEAN: NO.

YOU'RE ALMOST DONE WITH FEBRUARY.

>>JAN PLATT: SO WHEN SHOULD WE MEET THEN?

>>JIM PORTER: WOULD BE MARCH 1st?

IS THAT RIGHT?

>>PAT BEAN: YEAH, THAT WOULD BE THE FIRST TUESDAY IN  
MARCH.

>> THAT'S NEXT TUESDAY.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT'S NEXT TUESDAY.

THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TIME FOR THEM TO GET TOGETHER  
EVERYTHING WE'VE ASKED THEM TO GET.

HOW ABOUT THE 8th?

IS THAT A GOOD TIME FOR EVERYBODY?

HOW ABOUT YOUR FRENCH CLASS?

WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO FAIL.

>> I HAVE A CONFLICT AS WELL.

>>JIM PORTER: YEAH, I HAVE A CONFLICT ON THE 8th.

>> I ALSO HAVE A CONFLICT.

THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IS IN FULL BLAST.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT'S TRUE.

WELL, THEN, LET'S LOOK -- NO, HOW ABOUT THE 15th?

>> WHAT DAY IS THAT?

>>JAN PLATT: THAT'S A TUESDAY.

THAT WOULD BE THE NEXT TUESDAY.

>> I HAVE A CONFLICT ON THE 15th.

>>JAN PLATT: OH, MY GOODNESS.

THE 14th, ON A MONDAY, JUST WON'T WORK FOR PEOPLE?

>> WORKS FOR ME.

>> WHY NOT?

>>JAN PLATT: THE 14th, A --

>> I HAVE A STANDING COMMITMENT, BUT WHATEVER THE GROUP DECIDES.

>>JAN PLATT: WHY DON'T WE TRY THE 14th ON MONDAY, THE 14th, AND THEN THAT'LL GIVE THEM PLENTY OF TIME TO GIVE ALL THE BACKGROUND MATERIAL.

AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE'LL TRY TO DO TOO IS GET A DRAFT AGENDA TO EVERYBODY, AND IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK OUGHT TO BE INCLUDED OR YOU WANT INCLUDED, THEN YOU CAN GET IT TO STAFF SO THAT IT CAN GET INCLUDED IF THERE'S TIME.

>> SO MARCH 14th IS OUR NEXT MEETING, MADAM CHAIRMAN?

>>JAN PLATT: YES, YES, AT 6:00.

>> 6:00 P.M., HERE?

>>JAN PLATT: HERE.

>>JIM PORTER: LET ME ASK MS. BEAN, WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT FROM US?

WHAT'S GOING TO BE MOST HELPFUL TO YOU WHEN YOU TRY TO FIGURE THIS OUT.

>>PAT BEAN: WELL, I THINK WHAT THE CHAIR WAS TRYING TO DO IS FIGURE OUT WHICH NIGHT OF THE WEEK IS BEST FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS.

IF MONDAY NIGHT WORKS -- I THINK I HEARD ONE MEMBER SAY HE HAS A STANDING CONFLICT EVERY MONDAY NIGHT.

>>KEITH HALL: EVERY SECOND MONDAY, BUT I CAN REARRANGE THAT.

>>PAT BEAN: OKAY, BUT IF MONDAY NIGHT WORKS FOR EVERYONE, MAYBE WE JUST SETTLE ON A MONDAY AND WE JUST TRY TO FIND OUT, THEN, IS THERE A MONDAY NIGHT THAT IS A CONFLICT. IF NORMALLY YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON THE SECOND MONDAY, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO MEET ON A SECOND MONDAY NORMALLY, BUT MAYBE THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH WOULD WORK.

>>JAN PLATT: IF WE CAN ALL --

>>PAT BEAN: FIRST AND THIRD.

>>JAN PLATT: IF WE CAN ALL CONTACT HER ABOUT THAT, ABOUT THE MONDAY, AND THEN SHE NEEDS TO FIND OUT IF THIS ROOM IS AVAILABLE.

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S THE OTHER ISSUE.

I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD BE, BUT I CAN FIND OUT VERY EASILY TOMORROW.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

SO WE'LL GET BACK -- SHE'LL GET BACK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, BUT WE WILL MEET ON THE 14th.

EVERYBODY LET HER KNOW ABOUT THE MONDAYS AND HOW -- IF YOU'RE CLEAR, AND SHE WILL ALSO CHECK THE -- THE --

>>PAT BEAN: AVAILABILITY OF THE ROOM.

>>JAN PLATT: -- AVAILABILITY OF THE ROOMS.

AND WE'LL TRY -- I'M A STRONG BELIEVER IN HAVING AGENDA MATERIALS BEFORE THE MEETING SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT AND GO THROUGH IT AND SO THAT WE CAN MOVE ON IT, AND SO WE'LL WORK ON THAT TOO, AND -- BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU CAN SEE THAT WE NEED TO DO? YES.

>>PAT BEAN: MADAM CHAIR, WE'LL MAKE AN EFFORT TO HAVE THE AGENDA MATERIALS OUT BY THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE MONDAY NIGHT MEETING SO THAT YOU HAVE TIME TO LOOK AT THEM.

SO THAT MEANS, HOWEVER, THAT IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO HAVE REQUESTED TO PUT ON THE AGENDA, YOU NEED TO GET IT TO US BEFORE THEN.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, AND I'LL MEET WITH YOU POSTHASTE TO GET A DRAFT AGENDA OUT SO THAT YOU-ALL CAN SEE.

>> HOW WILL THAT BE DELIVERED TO US?

>>PAT BEAN: IT WILL PROBABLY BE E-MAILED IF EVERYBODY HAS E-MAIL.

HAVE YOU-ALL GIVEN YOUR TELEPHONE, ADDRESS, E-MAIL,

EVERYTHING ALREADY AS PART OF THIS PROCESS?

IF YOU HAVE NOT, WE BETTER GET THAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE  
TONIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: I THINK IT'S PROBABLY -- EVERYONE HAD TO FILL  
OUT AN APPLICATION WITH CHARLOTTE, I THINK SHE'S GOT ALL OF  
THAT.

>>PAT BEAN: THAT'S FINE THEN.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU HAVE A QUESTION.

>> WHY DON'T WE GO DOWN MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,  
THURSDAY -- FRIDAY WOULD BE BAD BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC -- AND  
SEE HOW MANY WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, WHICH WOULD HELP PAT.

>>JAN PLATT: HOW MANY ON MONDAYS -- ARE AVAILABLE ON  
MONDAYS?

>>JIM PORTER: OH, ARE WE DOING IT RIGHT NOW?

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH, WHY DON'T WE DO IT RIGHT NOW.  
IN GENERAL.

>> MAYBE HOW MANY AREN'T.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

SO IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYBODY ON MONDAY.

THEN TUESDAY.

>> AVAILABLE?

>>JAN PLATT: AVAILABLE.

EVERY TUESDAY.

WEDNESDAYS.

THURSDAYS.

AND FRIDAYS.

>>PAT BEAN: OH --

>>JAN PLATT: AND YOUR SPOUSES ARE WATCHING THIS.

[LAUGHTER]

SO IT LOOKS LIKE MONDAY NIGHT MIGHT BE --

>>PAT BEAN: MONDAY LOOKED TO BE THE MOST POPULAR, BUT WE'LL CHECK ON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ROOM, AND IF THE ROOM IS NOT GOING TO BE AVAILABLE ON MOST MONDAYS, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO GO TO AN ALTERNATIVE, AND IT LOOKED LIKE THURSDAYS MIGHT BE A BETTER DAY THAN --

NO?

TUESDAY?

>>GERALD WHITE: THURSDAY WAS THE SECOND CHOICE.

>>PAT BEAN: NO.

DO TUESDAY AGAIN.

>>PAT BEAN: OKAY.

LET'S SEE EVERYBODY WHO'S AVAILABLE ON TUESDAY.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT'S THE ONLY ONE, AND THEN THURSDAYS.

>>JIM PORTER: YOU'RE RIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S REALLY MONDAYS.

OKAY.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS BEFORE WE ADJOURN?

>>GERALD WHITE: [INAUDIBLE]

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

LET'S MOVE ON FROM THAT.

YES, YES.

>>MITCH THROWER: I WAS WONDERING, IN TERMS OF THE AGENDA ITEM, IF WE'RE GOING TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S MINUTES, WE SHOULD RECEIVING A COPY OF THAT IN ADVANCE.

>>JAN PLATT: OH, ABSOLUTELY.

THOSE WILL BE IN THE AGENDA.

THEY WILL BE IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

ALL BACKUP THAT WE WILL NEED FOR EACH AGENDA WILL BE IN A PACKET.

BUT THE DRAFT AGENDA WON'T -- YOU WON'T GET THAT PACKET, YOU'LL JUST GET THE -- WHEN WE SEND OUT THE DRAFT AGENDA, IT WILL BE LIKE THIS, AND THEN IT'LL BE THE TOPICS, AND THEN IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT ADDED, THEN THAT -- WE'LL ADD IT, TIME PERMITTING.

YES.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

THE TIME.

>>JAN PLATT: AND THE TIME WILL BE 6:00 ON THE 14th.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR, I DON'T WANT TO MISS THAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD -- HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE, AND WE MEET AGAIN THE 14th, AND  
THE CONFERENCE IS ON THE 12th, SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO WORK  
THAT?

I WANT TO MAKE SURE -- THAT'S JUST TOO GOOD OF AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO PASS UP.

>>JIM PORTER: I MOVE THAT WE ASK OUR CHAIRMAN AND MS. BEAN  
TO COORDINATE THE ATTENDANCE OF THE -- REPRESENTATION OF  
THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AT THE FAIR THAT YOU MENTIONED.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE A SECOND TO THAT?

>> SECOND.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION?

ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE.

[CHORUS OF AYES]

ALL OPPOSED, NO.

THAT PASSED.

OKAY.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

OKAY.

THEN THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED.