

BOARD MINUTES FOR 09/11/03

SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 5:05 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, HALL AND FINCH PRESENT. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT, CLERK LINDA COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN CORBIN, VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERING PRAYER. VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK STATED THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO HOLD THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE THE MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004. THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADVERTISED VIA THE TRIM NOTICES SENT TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK STATED THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 TOTALLED \$22,692,212 WITH THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE SET FOR 10 MILLS WHICH IS 6.38% MORE THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 9.40.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 10 MILLS. A GENTLEMAN IN THE AUDIENCE ASKED IF THE MILLAGE RATE HAD INCREASED. COMMISSIONER BROCK ADVISED THE MILLAGE RATE WAS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR AND HAD NOT INCREASED; HE INFORMED THE PERSON THE SCHOOL BOARD HAD INCREASED THEIR MILLAGE RATE TO BUILD A NEW VERNON HIGH SCHOOL.

CAROL GRIFFIN, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH A SURVEY SHEET FROM TWO DIFFERENT COUNTIES ON PAY SCALES FOR ELECTION OFFICES AND THEIR STAFF. ACCORDING TO THE PAY SCALE, GRIFFIN STATED IN MOST INSTANCES HER TWO EMPLOYEES' SALARY WAS WELL BELOW THE OTHER COUNTIES EVEN WITH THE SALARY THEY WILL BE MAKING EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2003. SHE REITERATED THE ELECTIONS OFFICES ARE SO DEPENDENT ON THEIR ONE TO TWO MAN STAFF, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO ALLOW THEIR EMPLOYEES TO GET EXPERIENCE AND THEN WALK OUT THE DOOR.

SHE ADDRESSED HER HAVING PREVIOUSLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD ON HER BUDGET AND LEFT THINKING HER BUDGET FOR FY ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 WAS IN TACT; HOWEVER, SHE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE TENTATIVE APPROVED BUDGET AND HER SALARY LINE ITEM HAD BEEN CUT BY \$4,000 AND HER PRINTING AND BINDING HAD BEEN CUT BY \$3,447 FOR A TOTAL OF \$7,447. SHE POINTED OUT SHE DID NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT A LINE ITEM BUDGET TO THE BOARD FOR THEIR APPROVAL; BUT, SHE DID SO AS A COURTESY. BY DOING SO, SHE OPENED HERSELF UP FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO MAKE THE DECISION WHERE HER BUDGET WAS CUT. SHE ADVISED HER BIGGEST PROBLEM WAS SHE NEVER GOT A LETTER ADVISING HER SHE NEEDED TO MAKE FURTHER BUDGET CUTS.

GRIFFIN EXPLAINED HER PRINTING AND BINDING BUDGET WAS TO COVER COST OF BALLOTS, ABSENTEE BALLOT ENVELOPES, ETC. AND REFERENCED THE MILITARY THAT ARE OVERSEES WILL HAVE TO BE MAILED TWO ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE SALARIES WITH GRIFFIN EXPLAINING SHE WANTED HER ASSISTANT, LATRELLE WILLIAMS, TO MAKE \$21,000, HER CHIEF DEPUTY TO MAKE \$18,000 AND USE THE REMAINDER OF HER SALARY LINE ITEM FOR OVERTIME THEY EARN DURING ELECTIONS.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER ADDRESSED THE BOARD HAVING TAKEN ACTION TO CUT EVERYONE'S BUDGET 1.5% THAT DID NOT CUT THEIR BUDGET THE 7.5%, THE 1.5% WAS CUT OFF THE PRINTING AND BINDING LINE ITEM; HOWEVER, THE \$3,447 COULD BE MOVED FROM ANY OR ALL OF HER LINES ITEMS AT GRIFFIN'S DISCRETION.

GRIFFIN AGREED TO DO WHATEVER THE BOARD ASKED HER TO DO BUT INFORMED THEM IF THE BALLOTS WENT OVER THE AMOUNT BUDGETED, SHE WOULD SPEND WHATEVER WAS NEEDED AND COME BACK BEFORE THE BOARD ASKING FOR MORE MONIES.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE COMPARISON OF SALARIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIES VERSUS WHAT GRIFFIN HAD REQUESTED FOR HER TWO EMPLOYEES. GRIFFIN EXPLAINED THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE BECAUSE IF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR WERE TO WALK OUT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY WOULD NOT PICK UP HIS DUTIES.

GRIFFIN POINTED OUT SHE HAD HEARD A LOT OF TALK ABOUT THE BOARD CONSIDERING REDISTRICTING AGAIN AND PRINTING COST WOULD BE INVOLVED WITH THIS ALSO. THE BOARD TOOK NO ACTION TO PUT THE FUNDING BACK IN GRIFFIN'S BUDGET AT THIS TIME DUE TO BUDGET RESTRAINTS.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK ASKED IF ANYONE ON THE BOARD HAD ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET. COMMISSIONER COPE UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE 4-H POSITION AT THE AG CENTER HAVING BEEN ADVERTISED AS A PART TIME POSITION AND NO ONE RESPONDED; HE WAS REQUESTING IF THERE WAS ANY WAY POSSIBLE THE BOARD FUND IT AT 100%. IF THEY AGREED TO DO SO, COMMISSIONER COPE POINTED OUT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THE STATE WOULD PUT WASHINGTON COUNTY AT A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR RECEIVING FUNDING WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL FUNDING WOULD BE NEEDED TO BUDGET THE FULL TIME POSITION.

COMMISSIONER COPE ADDRESSED WAYS TO ASSIST WITH THE BUDGET FUNDING:

1. USE INMATE LABOR TO DO THE CLEANING OF ALL THE COUNTY OFFICES AND DO AWAY WITH THE JANITORIAL CONTRACT
2. ENTER INTO A MOWING CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD USING INMATE LABOR

DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON THE 4-H POSITION WITH IT QUESTIONED IF THE \$33,000 NEEDED WAS JUST FOR SALARY OR WAS IT FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS; COMMISSIONER COPE WAS NOT SURE IF IT INCLUDED BENEFITS OR NOT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED IF THE 4-H POSITION WOULD REQUIRE A MASTERS DEGREE SHOULD THE BOARD FUND THE POSITION AT 100%. DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH COMMISSIONER COPE AGREEING TO FIND OUT IF THE UNIVERSITY WOULD STILL REQUIRE A MASTERS DEGREE.

GRIFFIN QUESTIONED IF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MAY HAVE MONIES THEY COULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE FULL TIME AG POSITION DUE TO THE PROGRAM INVOLVING SCHOOL CHILDREN.

COMMISSIONER COPE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 4-H POSITION AND THE NEED TO HAVE THE POSITION FILLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS NO ONE THERE TO WORK WITH THE KIDS. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER ADVISED THERE WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$17,000 TO \$20,000 ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED TO FUND THE POSITION FULL TIME.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REQUESTED THE BOARD TRANSFER \$40,000 FROM THE BARROW PIT LINE ITEM IN TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFER IT FOR THE 1.3 MILES EXTENSION OF THE HOLMES VALLEY ROAD PROJECT. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER STATED SHE THOUGHT THESE MONIES HAD ALREADY BEEN OBLIGATED. COMMISSIONER COPE ADVISED THE MONIES WERE TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY ADJOINING THE AG CENTER; HOWEVER, HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE OWNER WILL SELL.

WHEN QUESTIONED IF MONIES WERE BUDGETED IN THE FY 2003-2004 BUDGET FOR BARROW PITS, DEPUTY CLERK CARTER ADVISED THERE WAS \$40,000 BUDGETED. SHE ALSO ADVISED THE \$40,000 FOR FY 2002-2003 IS CURRENTLY STILL IN THE BARROW PIT LINE ITEM.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF LETTING COMMISSIONER BROCK HAVE THE \$40,000 IN THE BARROW PIT LINE ITEM TO DO THE EXTENSION OF THE HOLMES VALLEY ROAD PROJECT.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER INFORMED THE BOARD THEY HAD BEEN PROVIDED A COPY OF THE BUDGET NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 11TH WHICH SHOWED THE CHANGES MADE SINCE THEIR AUGUST 19TH MEETING; BOTH BUDGETS ARE BALANCED WITH A CONTINGENCY IN TRANSPORTATION OF \$38,266 AND NO CONTINGENCY IN THE GENERAL FUND.

COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND ON A ROLL CALL VOTE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 10 MILLS AS THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FY ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON POSSIBLY NEEDING CHANGES TO THE TENTATIVE BUDGET WITH DEPUTY CLERK CARTER ADVISING THE BOARD HAS A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18TH AND CHANGES MAY BE MADE AT THAT TIME.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET TOTTALLING \$22,692,212 AS THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER INFORMED THE BOARD THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY TAKEN ACTION TO HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR FY ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 ON SEPTEMBER 30TH; HOWEVER, DUE TO THE TRIM REQUIREMENTS ON THE ADVERTISING FOR THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, IT WOULD NEED TO BE CHANGED TO SEPTEMBER 29TH. COMMISSIONER HALL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED TO ADVERTISE THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND A NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS SEPTEMBER 24, 2003 AND HOLD THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2003 AT 5:05 P.M.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK STATED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 WAS CONCLUDED. HE THEN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND THE BOARD FOR ALL THE TIME AND EFFORT PUT IN WITH THE BUDGET PROCESS.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REPORTED ON THE TWO BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE TRAILOR AT THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:

1. ROBERT HARCUS \$120.13
2. NICHOLAS GUETTLER \$1,500.00

COMMISSIONER HALL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE HIGH BID FROM NICHOLAS GUETTLER.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT ADVISED THE BOARD GERALD MASON WAS HAVING AN AUCTION ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2003 AND HE HAD PUT A NOTICE OUT TO ALL THE DEPARTMENTS TO SUBMIT A LIST OF THEIR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:

PARK AND RECREATION SUBMITTED:

1. A 1991 CHRYSLER VAN WHICH WAS RECEIVED FROM COUNTRY OAKS FIRE DEPARTMENT; COUNTRY OAKS HAS REQUESTED A REPLACEMENT VAN
2. LANIER COPIER
3. HEWITT PACKARD PRINTER, FAX AND SCANNER

PUBLIC WORKS SUBMITTED:

1. 2 BAT WING MOWERS
2. 1 OLD GRADER
3. 1 WATER TRUCK
4. YELLOW TRACTOR #9864

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE WATER TRUCK WITH THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS TO PULL THIS ITEM FROM THE LIST OF SURPLUS PROPERTY.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT ADVISED THAT CLERK LINDA COOK HAD A COPIER, THE COMPUTER DEPARTMENT HAD A LOT OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS, PARTS AND EQUIPMENT WHICH A LOT OF IT WAS DAMAGED IN THE FIRE AT THE COURTHOUSE AND THE AG CENTER HAS SOME MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUCH AS BROKEN CHAIRS, TYPEWRITERS, ETC.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT RECOMMENDED SURPLUSSING ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT EXCEPT THE WATER TRUCK AND SELLING IT AT GERALD MASON'S AUCTION ON THE 27TH OF SEPTEMBER. COMMISSIONER HALL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF HERBERT'S RECOMMENDATION.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT UPDATED THE BOARD ON HE, COMMISSIONER FINCH AND DIANNE CARTER HAVING MET AS A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE EMPLOYEE PAY SCALES AND HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONE TIME ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE BOARD TO REVIEW AND ADDRESS AT THE SEPTEMBER 18TH MEETING.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT BROUGHT UP RECOMMENDATIONS THE COMMITTEE HAD PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED WITH THE BOARD BUT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THEM:

1. DO AWAY WITH THE CURRENT PAY SCALE
2. ADOPT THE BASE PAY BUT NOT INCLUDE IN IT THE 3% RAISE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2003; REVIEW THE BASE PAY THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR TO SEE IF IT NEEDS TO BE INCREASED

3. DO AWAY WITH PAY INCREASES FOR PRIOR EXPERIENCE AND START NEW HIRES AT BASE PAY
4. DO AWAY WITH POLICY OF PAYING AT A HIGHER WAGE WHEN AN EMPLOYEE WORKS MORE THAN 4 CONSECUTIVE HOURS IN A HIGHER PAYING POSITION.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REITERATED THE COMMITTEE WAS RECOMMENDING THE BOARD TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON EMPLOYEES GETTING STEP PAY INCREASES FOR PRIOR EXPERIENCE AND ON EMPLOYEES WORKING MORE THAN 4 CONSECUTIVE HOURS IN A HIGHER PAID POSITION GETTING PAID AT THE HIGHER RATE.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON CHANGING THE POLICY SO IF AN EMPLOYEE STAYS IN A POSITION FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, THE EMPLOYEE BE MOVED TO THAT POSITION PERMANENTLY.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON DOING AWAY WITH THE DUMP TRUCK LEADER CLASSIFICATION AND JUST HAVE ONE CLASSIFICATION FOR ALL DUMP TRUCK DRIVERS.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO ADDRESS THESE CHANGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 18TH BOARD MEETING.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT UPDATED THE BOARD ON TALKING WITH CHIEF HALEY ON THE TRANSFER OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. CHIEF HALEY REQUESTED:

- A. UTILITIES FOR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY REMAIN UNDER THE BOARD
- B. \$2,000 OF THE \$5,000 BUDGETED FOR UTILITIES STAY UNDER THE ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET FOR UNIFORMS, ETC.
- C. A BETTER TRUCK FOR THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED THE VEHICLES TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL HAD DONATED TO THE COUNTY; HE HAD TALKED WITH DAVID CORBIN, PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR, AND HE WAS ADVISING HIM OF WHERE THE VEHICLES WERE GOING TO BE PLACED. COMMISSIONER FINCH STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE SOME OF THE VEHICLES AS HE HAD REQUESTS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS ADDRESSED HER BEING UNAWARE OF THERE BEING SURPLUS VEHICLES; SHE NEEDS A VEHICLE TO TRANSPORT THE VOTING EQUIPMENT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID HE HAD NO IDEA THE BOARD HAD GIVEN CORBIN THE AUTHORITY TO PLACE THE VEHICLES; HE THOUGHT THE BOARD ACTION WAS FOR CORBIN TO COME BACK BEFORE THE BOARD AND ADVISE THEM OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHERE THE VEHICLES SHOULD BE PLACED.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER ADVISED THE BOARD HAD AUTHORIZED THE PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR TO PLACE THE VEHICLES.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH COMMISSIONER BROCK INFORMING COMMISSIONER FINCH HE HAD REQUESTED CORBIN MAKE THE FIRST PRIORITY TO SEND ONE OF THE CARS TO ROAD AND BRIDGE AND TAKE A VAN AS THE VAN COMMISSIONER COPE'S INMATE CREW HAD BEEN USING HAD A BAD TRANSMISSION. COMMISSIONER BROCK STATED AS FAR AS HE KNEW NOTHING ELSE HAD BEEN FINALIZED. COMMISSIONER FINCH REQUESTED THE BOARD BE PROVIDED A LIST WHERE ALL THE EQUIPMENT IS GOING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK INFORMED THE BOARD A BILL HAD BEEN SENT FROM ROAD AND BRIDGE TO PARK AND RECREATION FOR FUEL FOR THE INMATE CREWS. DUE TO 90% OF THE FUEL BEING USED ON COUNTY ROADS, COMMISSIONER BROCK RECOMMENDED IT BE PAID FOR OUT OF THE ROAD AND BRIDGE FUEL LINE ITEM.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE VARIATION OF GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL EACH MONTH LISTED ON THE BILL. THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS THERE SHOULDN'T BE THAT MUCH DIFFERENTIAL AND THE GALLONS NEEDED TO BE CHECKED.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO APPROVE OF COMMISSIONER BROCK'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FUEL BILL TO BE PAID OUT OF ROAD AND BRIDGE FUNDS.

CLERK LINDA COOK THANKED THE BOARD FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN WORKING ON THE BUDGET BUT ALSO EXPRESSED HER FEELINGS IT WAS TIME THE BOARD STOPPED PAMPERING THEIR EMPLOYEES.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, CAROL GRIFFIN, REQUESTED THE BOARD GO AHEAD AND MOVE ON THE REDISTRICTING IF THEY ARE CONSIDERING DOING IT DUE TO THEIR TIME RUNNING OUT. SHE RECOMMENDED THEY THINK IT THROUGH THOROUGHLY, WORK TOGETHER AND GET A MAP THAT WILL WORK FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. SHE POINTED OUT BOTH THE DISTRICT LINES AND PRECINCT LINES WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED AND THE BOARD NEEDED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES AND THE CITIZENS IN THE COUNTY.

JAN MORRIS, REPORTER, QUESTIONED WHEN THE BOARD WAS GOING TO DISCUSS THE WITHDRAWAL OF SACRED HEART'S OFFER ON THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND IF THEY WERE STILL GOING TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING SINCE SACRED HEART HAS WITHDRAWN.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADVISED THE WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE SEPTEMBER 18TH BOARD MEETING.

DUE TO SACRED HEART WITHDRAWING THEIR OFFER, COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED TO CANCEL THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL FOR THE NWFCH SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 18TH.

MORRIS QUESTIONED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING OFFICIAL FROM SACRED HEART ON WHY THEY WERE WITHDRAWING; SHE WAS ADVISED THERE HAD ONLY BEEN A PRESS RELEASE ADVISING THEY WERE WITHDRAWING.

MORRIS THEN QUESTIONED IF COMMISSIONER BROCK WAS IN A MEETING WHEN SACRED HEART'S WITHDRAWAL WAS DISCUSSED; HE ADVISED HE WAS BUT HE COULDN'T TELL ANYONE BECAUSE IT WAS VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING ELSE COMMISSIONER BROCK WAS AWARE OF BESIDES THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY SACRED HEART AS IT DIDN'T STATE WHY THEY WERE PULLING OUT; COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THE PRESS RELEASE WAS IT.

AFTER CONTINUOUS QUESTIONING, COMMISSIONER BROCK ADVISED HE WAS IN A MEETING WITH PETER HETHORNE AND ROBERT GRANGER AND THEY ADVISED HIM AN EXTENSION OF SACRED HEART HAD TURNED DOWN THE OFFER ON NWFCH, AND IN FACT, HAD TURNED DOWN THREE OTHER PROJECTS; IT WAS NOT SACRED HEART OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA THAT WITHDREW THE OFFER.

IT WAS QUESTIONED WHEN THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS KNEW ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL AND THE REASON FOR THE WITHDRAWAL; COMMISSIONER HALL AND COMMISSIONER FINCH ADVISED THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING UNTIL TODAY; COMMISSIONER COPE ADVISED HE WAS MADE AWARE OF THE WITHDRAWAL ON SEPTEMBER 10TH; ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT ALSO ADVISED HE WAS MADE AWARE OF IT ON SEPTEMBER 10TH.

COMMISSIONER BROCK WAS QUESTIONED WHY HE MET WITH HETHORNE AND GRANGER RATHER THAN COMMISSIONER COPE AS COPE WAS APPOINTED TO SIT IN ON THE DUE DILIGENCE. COMMISSIONER COPE ADVISED THIS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DUE DILIGENCE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED HIM BEING ORIGINALLY APPOINTED TO GO IN AND GET THE GUIDELINES TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED SO SOMEONE ELSE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD COULD GO INTO DUE DILIGENCE.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, CAROL GRIFFIN, READDRESSED THE BOARD REQUESTING THEY GIVE SOMEONE THE AUTHORITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH REDISTRICTING IF THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT DOING IT DUE TO THERE BEING A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CLERK

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CHAIRMAN

\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 09/11/03