

BOARD MINUTES FOR 05/02/24

2005 FEBRUARY 24

PURSUANT TO A RECESS FROM THE FEBRUARY 24, 2005 REGULAR BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS STRICKLAND, COPE, FINCH, SAPP AND CORBIN PRESENT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY, ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT, CLERK COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN FINCH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH BROTHER LEONARD DEAN OFFERING PRAYER. CHAIRMAN FINCH LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

CHAIRMAN FINCH WELCOMED EVERYONE AND READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AS PUBLISHED ON THE BOARD'S INTENT TO CONSIDER THE VACATION OF AND CESSATION OF MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN GRADED, DIRT ROADWAYS: NORTH HENRY LANE, ROCKY LANDING ROAD, A PORTION OF BELL COMMUNITY ROAD, A PORTION OF CHARLEY BROWN ROAD AND A PORTION OF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD.

HE THEN ADDRESSED THE BOARD WANTING EVERYONE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AND ASKED IF THERE WAS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP. MR. LEONARD DEAN ADVISED THEY HAD AN AGENDA THEY WERE GOING TO FOLLOW WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE SPEAKING ON DIFFERENT ROADS.

PAUL BAIN, WITH THE LAW FIRM OF GAYLORD, MERLIN, LUDOVICI, DIAZ & BAIN, WAS PRESENT TO REPRESENT THE KNIGHT FAMILY AND NORTHERN TRUST PROPERTY THAT IS AT ISSUE. HE REQUESTED THE CHAIR INSTRUCT ANYONE SPEAKING TO STATE THEIR FULL NAME AND THEIR MAILING ADDRESS.

BAIN ADDRESSED THE HEARING WAS PART OF A LAWSUIT THAT HAS BEEN FILED ON BEHALF OF THE KNIGHT FAMILY AGAINST WASHINGTON COUNTY BECAUSE OF WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH THE ROADS; THEY ARE ASKING THE COUNTY TO HELP THEM WORK TOWARD RESOLVING THE LAWSUIT AND BY THEM APPROVING THE AGENDAED ITEM AND THE VACATION OF THE ROADS WILL BRING THEM CLOSER TO RESOLVING THE PENDING LITIGATION.

HE RESTATED THE FIVE ROADS THAT ARE AT ISSUE WHICH WERE A PORTION OF NORTH ROCKY LANDING ROAD, A PORTION OF SOUTH BELL COMMUNITY ROAD, NORTH HENRY LANE, POTTER SPRINGS ROAD AND CHARLEY BROWN ROAD.

DUE TO THERE HAVING BEEN SOME MISCONCEPTIONS AT THE LAST MEETING ON WHAT WAS BEING REQUESTED, BAIN STATED HE WOULD BE USING POSTER BOARD AS PART OF HIS PRESENTATION. HE STARTED HIS PRESENTATION WITH THE FIRST ROAD THEY WERE ASKING THE COUNTY TO VACATE WHICH WAS ROCKY LANDING ROAD:

- A. THE ROAD WAS BORDERED ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH BY TRUST PROPERTY
- B. NO ONE ELSE LIVES ON THE ROAD OR OWNS PROPERTY ALONG THE CHOCTOWHATCHEE RIVER EXCEPT THE TRUST AND THE KNIGHT FAMILY
- C. CITIZENS HAVE ILLEGALLY TRESPASSED ONTO THE KNIGHT FAMILY'S PROPERTIES AND DUMPED APPLIANCES, BATTERIES, OIL, ETC. AND CONVERTED IT INTO A PRIVATE DUMPING GROUND

SOUTH BELL COMMUNITY ROAD:

- A. THE KNIGHT FAMILY OWNS THE PORTION OF ROAD COMING OFF OF BELL COMMUNITY ROAD AND CEDAR TREE LANDING ROAD.
- B. MR. LEONARD DEAN HAS POINTED OUT THIS ROAD WASHES OUT
- C. THE ROAD SERVES NO CITIZENS OR NO ONE EXCEPT TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE PEOPLE CAN TRESPASS ON THE KNIGHT FAMILY PROPERTY

NORTH HENRY LANE

- A. IT IS THE ONLY ROAD ON THE EAST SIDE OF HIGHWAY 79
- B. THE PRIMARY ACCESS TO HIGHWAY 79 IS THROUGH HENRY LANE AND NOT NORTH HENRY LANE

- C. NONE OF THE ROADS BEING ADDRESSED ARE PRIMARY ACCESS ROADS AND IF TRAFFIC COUNTS WERE RUN ON THE ROADS THEY WOULD BE NONE TO NEGLIGENT
- POTTER SPRINGS ROAD:
- A. THEY ARE NOT ASKING THE BOARD TO VACATE THE PORTION CLOSEST TO STATE ROAD 79 WHERE THE HOMES ARE; THEY ARE WANTING TO CLOSE THE PORTION WEST OF THAT AND DEAD ENDING AT SPRING RUN ROAD
- B. NO RESIDENTS ARE ON EITHER SIDE OF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD THEY ARE REQUESTING BE VACATED
- C. THE KNIGHT FAMILY OWNS PROPERTY ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF ROAD

CHARLEY BROWN ROAD:

- A. KNIGHT FAMILY OWNS PROPERTY ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD BEGINNING AT ARMSTRONG ROAD AND ENDING AT JACKSON COMMUNITY ROAD AS THE WESTERN BOUNDARY

BAIN HAD CREATED A CHART ON EACH OF THE ROADS TO SHOW THERE WOULD BE NO IMPACT OF SERVICES TO ANY OF THE CITIZENS LIVING IN THE AREA:

1. ROCKY LANDING ROAD-THERE IS NO POLICE, FIRE OR EMS THAT USES THE ROAD BECAUSE NO ONE LIVES BACK THERE; THERE IS NO IMPACT ON ANY OF THESE SERVICES. THERE IS NO IMPACT ON POSTAL SERVICES BECAUSE THERE IS NO POSTAL DELIVERY; THERE IS NO SCHOOL BUS ROUTES SO THERE IS NO IMPACT ON THESE SERVICES; THERE IS NO IMPACT ON SOLID WASTE PICKUP; HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE AN IMPACT ON ILLEGAL SOLID WASTE DUMPING.
2. SOUTH BELL COMMUNITY ROAD-THE UNPAVED PORTION OF THE ROAD THAT IS BORDERED BY THE KNIGHT FAMILY ON EITHER SIDE; THERE IS NO POLICE, FIRE OR EMS IMPACT. HE SAID ALL THE INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF SERVICES ON EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE ROADS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF, BOBBY HADDOCK.

BANE CONTINUED STATING THERE WAS NO IMPACT ON POSTAL SERVICES BECAUSE THERE ARE NO RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE SECTION THEY ARE ASKING THE BOARD TO VACATE; THIS IS THE ROAD THAT WASHES OUT; THERE IS NO SCHOOL BUS ROUTE THAT GOES THROUGH THERE AND NO SOLID WASTE PICKUP IMPACTED; THERE ARE NO SERVICES IMPACTED ON THAT PORTION OF SOUTH BELL COMMUNITY ROAD THAT IS AT ISSUE

3. NORTH HENRY LANE-POLICE, FIRE AND EMS ARE GOING TO USE THE BETTER GRADED ROAD, BETTER MAINTAINED ROAD WHICH IS HENRY LANE; THERE IS NO IMPACT FOR THESE SERVICES ON NORTH HENRY LANE AND NO IMPACT ON POSTAL SERVICES EITHER. COMING OFF OF STATE ROAD 79, NORTH HENRY LANE IS NOT THE PRIMARY ROUTE OF ACCESS; IT IS HENRY LANE; THERE IS NO IMPACT ON THE SCHOOL BUS ROUTE AS THE SCHOOL BUS GOES DOWN HENRY LANE AND TURNS AROUND; THERE IS NO IMPACT ON SOLID WASTE PICKUP; IT WOULD NOT IMPACT ANYONE GETTING IN AND OUT OF THE PROPERTY.

BAIN ADDRESSED SOMETHING FOR THE BOARD TO KEEP IN THE BACK OF THEIR MINDS WAS HAPPY HILL ROAD; IT HAS ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT. ANY SERVICES PROVIDED ON THIS ROAD HAS TO GO IN, MANEUVER AND TURN AROUND ON A DEAD END ROAD.

4. POTTER SPRINGS ROAD-THIS IS A SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD; THE SECTION OF THIS ROAD THEY HAVE ASKED THE BOARD TO CLOSE WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON POLICE, FIRE OR EMS AS IT IS NOT A PRIMARY ROAD FOR THESE SERVICES; THE SUGAR DOLL ROAD IS THE BETTER

MAINTAINED AND ACCESS ROAD FOR PEOPLE GOING BACK TO SPRING RUN ROAD AND THEN GOING NORTH AND SOUTH. THERE IS NO POSTAL SERVICE IMPACT; NO SCHOOL BUS ROUTES ARE GOING THROUGH THIS PORTION OF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD BUT ARE GOING ALONG SUGAR DOLL ROAD OR GOING BACK TO SPRING RUN ROAD; THERE IS NO IMPACT ON SOLID WASTE

5. CHARLEY BROWN ROAD-ALMOST THE SAME SITUATION AS POTTER SPRINGS ROAD AS THE PRIMARY ACCESS OFF OF STATE ROAD 79 IS ARMSTRONG ROAD; ARMSTRONG ROAD IS THE CONNECTING ROAD TO STATE ROAD 79 AND IF SOMEONE GOES DOWN CHARLEY BROWN ROAD THEY ARE HAVING TO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY; THERE IS NO IMPACT ON ANY OF THESE SERVICES ON CHARLEY BROWN ROAD.

BAIN ADDRESSED WHEN THEY LOOKED TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY LEGITI- MATE CONCERNS ON ANY OF THESE FIVE ROADS, THEY HAVE NOT FOUND ANY AND REITERATED THERE WOULD BE NO IMPACT OF SERVICES. EVEN THOUGH THE CITIZENS MAY FEEL LIKE THOSE SERVICES WILL BE IMPACTED; BAIN SAID THE PEOPLE PROVIDING THE SERVICES AND WHO ARE CHARGED WITH THOSE DUTIES ARE SAYING THERE WILL NOT BE AN IMPACT.

BAIN ADDRESSED ANOTHER SPECULATION THAT HAD COME UP WAS THE ROADS WERE BUILT WITH PUBLIC FUNDS; HE SAID THIS WAS NOT AN ISSUE FOR THE BOARD TO DECIDE TONIGHT BUT HE ASKED THEM TO PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT COME UP AND SAY THEY HEARD THAT CERTAIN ROADS WERE BUILT WITH PUBLIC FUNDS BECAUSE WHAT SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE HEARD OR WHAT THEIR UNDERSTANDING MAY BE IS NOT NECESSARILY WHAT CAN BE PROVED BY DOCUMENTARY PROOF OR SOMEONE HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANYBODY WITH ANY DOCUMENTARY PROOF THAT THESE ROADS WERE BUILT WITH PUBLIC FUNDS; THEY WERE MOODY ROADS BEFORE THEY BECAME KNIGHT FAMILY ROADS. SINCE THEY HAVE BECOME KNIGHT FAMILY ROADS, BAIN REITERATED THERE WAS ILLEGAL DUMPING, TRESPASSING AND POACHING GOING ON.

BAIN HAD OUTLINED THE BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY IF THEY VACATE AND THERE IS CESSATION OF MAINTENANCE ON THE ROADS AT ISSUE:

1. SAVE MONEY BY ENDING MAINTENANCE COSTS ON ROADS
2. SAVE MONEY IN THE LAWSUIT BY HELPING CONCLUDE THE LAWSUIT ENDING ANY LAWSUIT COST AND LIMITING ANY POSSIBLE EXPOSURE FOR LOSS
3. IN THE AREA OF LAND MANAGEMENT, THE KNIGHT FAMILY WILL BE QUIT CLAIMING SOME ROADS TO THE COUNTY WHERE THE TITLE MAY BE IN QUESTION; THE HENRY LANE ROAD, BELL COMMUNITY ROAD AND HOLMES VALLEY ROAD
4. BY VACATING THESE ROADS AND ALLOWING RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF THESE AREAS, THE COUNTY WOULD BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO DISCOURAGE OR HELP PREVENT ILLEGAL TRESPASSING, POACHING AND DUMPING; THESE ARE THE THREE BIGGEST ISSUES THE KNIGHT FAMILY HAVE FACED BECAUSE OF WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THESE PROPERTIES. BAIN ADDRESSED THE KNIGHT FAMILY NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING ANYONE ELSE WOULDN'T BE ASKING FOR IF THESE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WERE OCCURRING ON THEIR PROPERTY.
5. REMOVING LIABILITY FOR INJURY; IF ANYONE GETS INJURED ON THESE ROADS NOW THE COUNTY HAS LIABILITY AS WELL AS ANY OTHER OWNERS OF THOSE ROADS
6. ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BY ALLOWING THE KNIGHT FAMILY TO BETTER MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THEIR OWN PROPERTY
7. ALL OF THE ABOVE WOULD PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE FOR A BETTER WASHINGTON COUNTY

BAIN ADDRESSED THE DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD ON THE VACATING OF THE ROADS WOULD EITHER HELP OR HARM IN GENERATING GOODWILL FOR EXPANSION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND REFERRED TO THE KNIGHT FAMILY OWNING OVER 45,000 ACRES IN THE COUNTY. HE ADDRESSED THEM WORKING WITH SHERIFF HADDOCK AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY ON OPENING UP A NEW SHERIFF ANNEX IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PORTION OF THE

COUNTY; THEY ARE WORKING TO PARTNER UP A NEW SCHOOL BUS ANNEX IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PORTION OF THE COUNTY AND BY THE COUNTY VACATING THE ROADS, IT WOULD HELP FOSTER CONTINUED WORKING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FUTURE.

BAIN ADDRESSED THEY WERE LOOKING AT A SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES THE BOARD WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR; THESE WERE ISSUES THAT CAME UP OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AND SOME OF THE FORMER COMMISSIONERS HAD SOME DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WITH SOME OF THE SITUATIONS THEY ARE FACING HERE TONIGHT. THEY WOULD LIKE TO GET THESE ISSUES WORKED OUT TONIGHT, HAVE A MEETING OF THE MINDS AND WORK TOWARD BRINGING IT TO AN END; IF NOT RESOLVED TONIGHT, THEY WOULD GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND THEY HAVE AN AVENUE THEY WOULD TAKE.

BAIN SAID HE HOPED THE BOARD WOULD LISTEN TO WELL REASONED LEGITIMATE OBJECTIONS; WHAT THEY HAVE TRIED TO ADDRESS TONIGHT IS LEGITIMATE OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER, IF SOMEONE COMES UP TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES AND THEY HAVE A BONE TO PICK OR ARE ANGRY AT THE KNIGHT FAMILY, THEY CAN'T ADDRESS THOSE REASONS. OBJECTIVELY, THE BOARD IS CHARGED TO LOOK AT THEIR REQUEST AND ASKED THEM TO EXECUTE THAT DUTY AND ELECT TO VOTE TO CLOSE THE ROAD.

CHAIRMAN FINCH ASKED IF ANYONE ELSE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE KNIGHT FAMILY OR NORTHERN TRUST; NO ONE RESPONDED. HE THEN TURNED THE HEARING OVER TO LEONARD DEAN TO PROCEED WITH HIS AGENDA. DEAN CALLED MILTON BROWN TO SPEAK TO THE BOARD.

MILTON BROWN, 3399 MALLORY ROAD, PHONE NUMBER 535-2417:

1. SHERIFF HADDOCK HAD ADVISED HIM IF THE EMERGENCY SUBSTATION BAIN HAD REFERENCED THE KNIGHT FAMILY WAS WANTING TO BUILD WAS DEPENDENT ON CLOSING THE ROADS, HE DOES NOT WANT IT.
2. EMERGENCY RESPONSES WOULD BE GREATLY AFFECTED BY CLOSING SOME OF THESE ROADS
3. HE REFERRED TO A FIRE THAT HAD OCCURRED IN THE AREA WHERE POTTER SPRINGS ROAD WAS THE ONLY EVACUATION ROUTE USED; THE ROAD BAIN SAID WAS A BETTER ROAD COULD BE USED BUT IT IS LONGER AND IT TAKES MORE TIME TO GO THIS ROUTE. HOWEVER, WHEN TALKING FROM A STANDPOINT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE DEALING WITH EMS, FIRE AND AMBULANCE, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT MINUTES AND MINUTES SAVES LIVES; THE CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTY WANT THE BEST RESPONSE THEY CAN GET.
4. HE ADDRESSED BAIN COMMENTING ON THE TRASH ON ROCKY LANDING ROAD AND CHARLEY BROWN ROAD; CLOSING ROCKY LANDING AT THE AREA BAIN IS TALKING ABOUT DOESN'T AFFECT THE ACCESS TO THE POWER LINE WHERE THE DUMPING IS GOING ON AND WOULD HAVE NO AFFECT ON THE ROADWAY. HE PASSED OUT A PRINTOUT TO THE BOARD ON WHAT HE WAS ADDRESSING. WHEN HE HEARS IT IS ALL ABOUT DUMPING AND TRESSPASSING, THE FACTS SPEAKS FOR THEMSELVES AND THIS IS NOT WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.
5. HENRY LANE ROAD-THERE IS NO DUMPING IN THE AREA AND QUESTIONED WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM. FROM THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDPOINT, HE REFERRED TO BAIN SPEAKING OF HAPPY HILL ROAD HAVING ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT; THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN TREES HAVE BEEN IN THE ROAD AND BLOCKED PEOPLE FROM GETTING IN AND OUT AND THERE IS A NEED FOR TWO ROADS. HE THEN REFERRED TO HIM HAVING RESPONDED TO HURRICANES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND WENT DOWN MANY BLOCKED ROADS WHERE AN ALTERNATE ROUTE HAD TO BE USED. IT SHOULDN'T BE EXPECTED OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO DEPEND WHEN TREES ARE CUT DOWN, THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PEOPLE "MAY" COULD GET TO THEM IF THEY HAD A HEART ATTACK; THIS SHOULDN'T BE ASKED OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

6. SCHOOL BUSES AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS USE THESE ROADS AND GO THE SHORTEST ROUTES; MAIL CARRIERS USE THESE ROADS WHOM THEY HAVE SPOKEN TOO WHO HAVE SAID THEY ARE USING THE BEST ROUTES AND THESE ROADS ARE THE BEST ROUTES.
7. THERE IS A LOT OF ROADS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY WHERE A PROPERTY OWNER OWNS LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PROPERTY; IF EVERY LAND OWNER WHO OWNS LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PROPERTY WHO COME AND COMPLAINED ABOUT DUMPING ON THE PROPERTY AND THE BOARD CLOSED ACCESS TO THOSE ROADS, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE ANY ROADS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY
8. SHERIFF HADDOCK HAS TOLD HIM HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE OVERSEER OF THE LAND AND OFFERED THEM WHATEVER HELP NECESSARY IN POLICING THESE AREAS; HE WANTS THE CHANCE TO POLICE IT. EVERYONE HERE IN THE BUILDING WANTS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING THE DUMPING CAUGHT AND PROSECUTED. FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDPOINT, HADDOCK HAS ALLOWED HIM TO SAY THEY WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO KEEP THESE ROADS OPEN.

LEONARD DEAN PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH A PETITION SIGNED BY THE CITIZENS OBJECTING TO THE ROAD CLOSINGS AND READ THE COVER LETTER. (COPY ATTACHED) DEAN THEN ASKED THE BOARD TO CONSIDER TWO QUESTIONS:

1. WHY CLOSE THE ROADS WHEN THEY ARE WANTING TO BUILD OTHER ROADS AND START A ROAD BUILDING CREW
2. IF THEY WERE A LITTERBUG, WOULD THEY THROW TRASH OUT IN THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD

LEWIS BROWN/BELL COMMUNITY ROAD-3961 LORENZA PLACE, VERNON, FLORIDA 32462:

1. REFERRED TO A CHURCH AND HOME IN THE COMMUNITY HAVING BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE AND FIRE TRUCKS HAVING TO GO DOWN TO THE BRANCH TO GET WATER DUE TO THEM LIVING IN A SMALL COMMUNITY AND NOT HAVING ACCESS TO CITY WATER AND FIRE HYDRANTS. HE SAID IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO THE CITIZENS OR THE COMMUNITY TO CLOSE THE ROAD.
2. HE DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY DUMPING ON BELL COMMUNITY ROAD AND IT WOULD BE TRAGIC TO CLOSE THE ROAD JUST FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF SOMEONE ELSE.
3. THEY DIDN'T NEED TO CLOSE OUT THE ONLY WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE IN CASE THERE IS ANOTHER TRAGIC FIRE.
4. THERE IS NO DUMPING ON CHARLIE BROWN ROAD; HE HAS BEEN TRAVELLING THIS ROAD ALL OF HIS LIFE AND IT IS A CONVENIENCE TO GO OUT STRAIGHT FROM THE HOUSES OUT THERE. HE REITERATED HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS BELL COMMUNITY ROAD AND REQUESTED THEY LEAVE THEM A WATER SUPPLY UNLESS THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE.

LEONARD DEAN, 5119 BELL COMMUNITY ROAD:

1. IT WOULD TAKE THE MAIL CARRIER LONGER TO DELIVER THE MAIL DUE TO HAVING TO TAKE A LONGER ROUTE SHOULD THIS ROAD BE CLOSED.
2. THE GARBAGE TRUCK DOES COME THROUGH BELL COMMUNITY ROAD AND THEY ARE ON A TIME SCHEDULE; IF THE ROAD IS CLOSED, IT WILL DIVERT THEIR TIMELINESS.
3. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO CONSIDER THESE ISSUES AND POINTED OUT EVERY DECENT HOUSE HAS MORE THAN ONE ENTRANCE.
4. HE REFERRED TO A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT WHERE SOMEONE WAS KILLED AND THE ROAD WAS BLOCKED OFF; THE ONLY WAY SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE AREA HAD TO GET OUT WAS BELL COMMUNITY ROAD
5. HE REFERRED TO THERE BEING SEVERAL OLDER LADIES IN THE

COMMUNITY; IF SOMETHING HAPPENED ON JAMES POTTER ROAD AND THE AMBULANCE COULDN'T GET THERE UNLESS THEY CAME AROUND AND COME IN AND THE BELL COMMUNITY ROAD IS CLOSED, HOW IS THE AMBULANCE GOING TO GET TO THEM.

BRUCE WAYNE SMITH, 4859 HENRY LANE, EBRO, FLORIDA, 32427:

1. THE NORTH AND SOUTH END OF HENRY LANE IS USED BY THE PEOPLE
2. HE WANTS THE SCHOOL BUS AND FIRE TRUCK TO BE ABLE TO USE THE ROADS
3. HE WORKS FOR FORESTRY AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR BIG TRUCKS AND TRACTORS BE ABLE TO COME IN AND OUT
4. HE REFERRED TO THE FIRE MILTON BROWN HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED; THE ROAD THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT CLOSING IS WHERE HE LINED THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS UP
5. THE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT IF THEY DIDN'T FEEL THE CLOSING OF THE ROADS WOULDN'T IMPORTANT.

EVA MCCALL, 4782 POTTER SPRINGS ROAD:

1. IF THIS ROAD IS CLOSED, THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HAVE SCHOOL CHILDREN PICKED UP BY THE SCHOOL BUS
2. THERE WOULD BE NO WAY FOR THE GARBAGE TRUCK TO PICK UP THE GARBAGE IF THE ROAD IS CLOSED.

JAMES PETERSON, 4766 POTTER SPRINGS ROAD:

1. CLOSING OF ROAD ON SECTION WHERE SIGN IS BEING PUT UP SAYING IT IS CLOSED; IT WILL CUT A LADY'S LAND OFF; IT RUNS ABOUT 10' ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A POWER LINE GOING INTO POTTERS SPRING ROAD SO IT COULDN'T BE CUT OFF THERE
2. HE CAN'T PUSH OR PULL HIS GARBAGE OUT TO HIGHWAY 79 DUE TO HIM BEING TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED
3. THE ROAD IS IN FINE SHAPE; CHARLES BROCK WORKED ON THE ROAD OVER THE YEARS AND IT HARDLY EVER NEEDS MAINTENANCE ON IT. THE COUNTY IS NOW USING THIS ROAD TO GET BACK TO SPRING RUN ROAD.
HE HOPES A DECISION CAN BE MADE THAT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO EVERYONE IN THIS CASE; IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE NOW TO KEEP THE ROADS OPEN, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL DO AS ALL THE POTTER LAND WILL BE DEVELOPED ONE DAY AND THERE WILL BE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THERE; DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WILL DO WHEN THEY HAVE ONLY ONE ROAD IN THERE AND ONE ROAD OUT

CHANDA MURRAY, 4983 SPRING RUN ROAD, VERNON, FLORIDA, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF SPRING RUN ROAD THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE CLOSING OF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD:

1. FIRE AND RESCUE
2. ALTERNATE SCHOOL BUS, MAIL AND OCCUPATION ROUTES
3. NO POWER LINES
4. POTTER SPRINGS ROAD WAS USED AS AN ALTERNATE ESCAPE ROUTE IN THE PAST DUE TO A WIDE SPREAD FIRE; THE ROAD IS USED TO EXPEDITE THE REFILLING OF THE FIRE TRUCKS WATER TANKS AT THE POTTER SPRINGS BOAT LANDING. THE FIRE TRUCKS ONLY HAVE TO TRAVEL 1.2 MILES TO GET TO THE LANDING FROM STATE ROAD 79; IF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD HAD BEEN CLOSED, THE FIRETRUCKS WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL 2.3 MILES TO THE BOAT LANDING.
5. POTTER SPRINGS ROAD IS USED FOR A BUS ROUTE AND AN ALTERNATE BUS ROUTE IF A FALLEN TREE OR POWER LINE IS BLOCKING SUGAR DOLL ROAD; THIS IS TRUE FOR THE POSTAL SERVICE ALSO.
6. SEVERAL RESIDENTS WHO WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, THE CITY OF

PANAMA CITY BEACH AND BAY MEDICAL CENTER USE POTTER SPRINGS ROAD TO ENSURE THEY REPORT TO WORK PROMPTLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

7. THE FIRST MISSION OF EVERYONE'S JOB IS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC; SHE QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WOULD BE ENABLING THESE INDIVIDUALS TO DO THAT IF THEY CLOSE POTTER SPRINGS ROAD.
8. POTTER SPRINGS ROAD IS USED BY THE UTILITY COMPANIES TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO FALLEN POWER LINES; SHE QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WAS AWARE THE POWER LINES ARE LOCATED DOWN POTTER SPRINGS ROAD AND THERE WERE NO POWER LINES THAT CONNECT THE SOUTHERN PART OF SPRING RUN ROAD AND SUGAR DOLL ROAD. IF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD WAS CLOSED, WOULD THERE BE POWER LINES IN THE SOUTH END CONNECTING AND QUESTIONED HOW MUCH MONEY IT WOULD COST TO REROUTE THE POWER LINES IF ENTRANCE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO POTTER SPRINGS ROADS. IF NONE ARE INSTALLED, HOW WOULD THE EXISTING POWER LINES BE ACTIVATED AND WHAT AMOUNT OF TIME WOULD BE SPENT AND WHAT AMOUNT OF MONEY WOULD IT COST TO RESTORE POWER. SHE QUESTIONED SHOULDN'T THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY BE ALLOWED THE SAME TIME RESTRAINTS AS THE OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY; IF MONEY IS AN ISSUE, WOULDN'T IT BE CHEAPER TO MAINTAIN THE ROAD BY UTILIZING INMATE LABOR AND COUNTY EQUIPMENT THAN ALL THE ELECTRICAL WORK INVOLVED IN REROUTING THE POWER LINES.
9. SHE QUESTIONED HOW MUCH INMATE LABOR HAD BEEN USED SINCE DECEMBER 2004 TO MAINTAIN THESE ROADS AND HOW MANY OF THE CONCERNS SHE ADDRESSED HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AND EVALUATED; IF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD HAD NOT BEEN MADE READILY AVAILABLE AS AN ALTERNATE MEANS OF TRAVEL, LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST, CHILDREN COULD HAVE BEEN HINDERED FROM GETTING AN EDUCATION AND THE AMOUNT OF TIME AND MONEY BEING SPENT TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE POWER LINES TO RESORT TO EXTRA POWER. SHE REFERRED TO THE RESPONSE TIME SAVED BY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS BY HAVING AN ALTERANTE ROUTE OF POTTER SPRINGS ROAD AND IT BEING IN EVERYONES BEST INTEREST FOR POTTER SPRINGS ROAD TO REMAIN OPEN AND MAINTAINED.

MITCHELL D. BROWN, 5197 CHARLIE BROWN ROAD:

1. A LOT OF PEOPLE USE THIS ROAD
2. PEOPLE DO LIVE ON THE ROAD
3. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DIRECT ROADS USED IF WOODEN BRIDGE IS WASHED OUT ON ARMSTRONG ROAD. THIS ROAD IS IMPORTANT TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND MINUTES DO COUNT. HE REQUESTED THE BOARD KEEP THIS IN MIND.
4. THERE IS NO DUMPING ON CHARLIE BROWN ROAD

DEAN ADDRESSED PEOPLE USING ROCKY LANDING ROAD TO GO TO THE RIVER, HAVE FAMILY REUNIONS AND HUNTERS USE IT; HE ADDRESSED 99% OF THE TRASH ON THE ROAD COMES FROM BAY COUNTY.

HE ADDRESSED KIDS HAVING TO WALK ALL THE WAY TO HIGHWAY 79 TO CATCH THE SCHOOL BUS. A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE KIDS WHO LIVE AWAY FROM HOME BUT WANT TO COME BACK HERE ONE DAY TO LIVE. HE SAID THEY BEGGED AND PRAYED FOR THE BOARD TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.

MARY BROWN SILVA, 3729 MARIA CIRCLE, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA; SHE WAS SPEAKING FOR HER BOSSES WHICH WERE NOT PRESENT AND ADVISED SHE WAS A LEGAL ASSISTANT FOR BROWN AND BROWN, ATTORNEYS AT LAW. SHE SAID HER FATHER, ROBERT BROWN, WAS 82 YEARS OLD AND WAS BORN NEAR THE AREA OF CHARLIE BROWN ROAD THEY WERE WANTING TO CLOSE; SHE WAS 52 YEARS OLD AND WAS RAISED ON THE ROAD VISITING HER GRANDPARENTS

AND KNOWS ABOUT WHEN THE ROAD WAS CONSTRUCTED AND MAINTAINED FROM THE COUNTY'S PROSPECTIVE.

SHE REFUTED BAIN'S STATEMENT THERE WERE NO CREDIBLE WITNESSES FOUND; THERE ARE PLENTY OF CREDIBLE WITNESSES WHO KNOW WHEN THE ROADS WERE CONSTRUCTED. SHE REQUESTED THE BOARD, BEFORE THEY DO ANYTHING, FIND THESE WITNESSES. SHE THEN READ THE LETTER FROM HER BOSSES. (COPY ATTACHED)

SHE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO THE CASE FILED BY NORTHERN TRUST FILED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2003, WAS THE ROADWAYS AT ISSUE ARE AND WERE COUNTY ROADS, THEY EXISTED AS TWO TRAIL ROADS MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO BUT THE COUNTY ENTERED UPON THEM, WIDENED THEM AND CONSTRUCTED THEM, THE COUNTY HAS MAINTAINED THEM REGULARLY AND ROUTINELY SINCE THAT TIME WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. SHE ASKED HOW IS IT NOW THE ROADS ARE NO LONGER MAINTAINED AND THE ISSUE WITH THE COMPLAINT FILED WAS DOLLARS AND CENTS; SHE ASKED WHY GET OFF THE DOLLARS AND CENTS WHEN THEY COULD PAY NORTHERN TRUST WHAT THEY WANT OR NEED FOR PROPERTY THAT WAS ILLEGALLY USED AND LEAVE THE CITIZENS AS THEY ARE AND WERE.

CHAIRMAN FINCH STATED THE COUNTY HAS NOT AT ANY TIME CONTENDED THEY DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THOSE ROADS; THEY ARE NOT SAYING THEY CAN'T MAINTAIN THE ROADS BUT ARE HERE TO LISTEN TO BOTH SIDES AND DECIDE WHAT IS FAIR. THEY HAVE NOT SAID IF IT WOULD BE BETTER OR WORSE TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OR NOT MAINTAIN THE ROADS AND THEY WOULD CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEM IF INDEED THE ROADS CONTINUE TO BE AS COUNTY ROADS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN REQUESTED ATTORNEY HOLLEY UPDATE EVERYONE ON WHAT BROUGHT ON THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THE LAWSUIT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY STATED HE WAS THE ATTORNEY DEFENDING THE CLOSING OF THE ROADS; HE FILED AN ANSWER IN OPPOSITION TO THIS LAWSUIT TRYING TO KEEP THE ROADS OPEN. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD WHAT THE PEOPLE HAD SAID TONIGHT BUT HE NEEDED HELP FROM THEM; IF THEY HAVE WITNESSES, HE NEEDS TO KNOW NAMES, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

HOLLEY THEN UPDATED EVERYONE ON WHY THE PUBLIC HEARING CAME ABOUT; THERE WAS A TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT OFFER MADE, THE BOARD MET ON THE SETTLEMENT OFFER IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, DISCUSSED IT AND ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS WENT AND LOOKED AT THE ROADS AND THIS WAS BROUGHT TO A HEARING TO SEE IF THAT WAS AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT TO THE LAWSUIT. THE BOARD DID NOT INITIATE ANYTHING TO CLOSE THESE ROADS; IT WAS INITIATED BY THE LAWSUIT FILED BY THE PLAINTIFF.

HE STATED IF HE HAD WITNESSES SUBSTANTIATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROADS, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A HEARING; HE REQUESTED THE PEOPLE, IF THEY HAVE WITNESSES, TO PROVIDE THEM TO HIM.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN QUESTIONED IF THERE WAS ANY ONE THING THAT CAUSED THE COMPANY TO WANT THE ROADS CLOSED AS THEY HAVE BEEN OPEN FOR YEARS AND YEARS. ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED IT HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS NOW; HE HAS BEEN CORRESPONDING WITH AN ATTORNEY, GIL POWELL, IN OKALOOSA COUNTY FOR QUITE A WHILE ABOUT THESE ROADS.

CHAIRMAN FINCH QUESTIONED WHAT CLOSING THE ROADS WOULD BENEFIT NORTHERN TRUST AND ASKED IF THERE WAS SOMETHING THE BOARD DIDN'T KNOW.

BAIN ADDRESSED SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT:

1. WITH RESPECT TO SILVA, THEY ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT CLOSING THAT SECTION OF ARMSTRONG MILL ROAD THAT GOES TO STATE ROAD 79; THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT CHARLEY BROWN ROAD
2. WITH RESPECT TO MITCHELL BROWN, BANE SAID BROWN DIDN'T LIVE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE PORTION OF THE ROAD THEY ARE PROPOSING TO CLOSE/CHARLIE BROWN ROAD
3. NO ONE IS PAYING TAXES ON THESE ROADS BUT THE TRUST; NO ONE IS HAVING DUMPING ON THEIR PROPERTY EXCEPT THE TRUST. HE APPRECIATED DEAN SAYING HE GUARANTEED THE PEOPLE ARE COMING FROM BAY COUNTY DUMPING ON THE PROPERTY; HOWEVER THIS WAS THE TYPE OF SPECULATION HE HAD ASKED THE BOARD TO PEER THROUGH AS THERE IS NO PROOF. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE THEY ARE COMING FROM; DUMPING IS BEING DONE AND

WHAT WILL BENEFIT THE TRUST IS TO PUT AN END TO IT BY ALLOWING THEM TO FENCE IT OFF PROPERLY AND STOP THE TRESPASSING. HE ADDRESSED IF PEOPLE WERE GOING DOWN ROCKY LANDING ROAD TO GET TO THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER, THEY ARE TRESPASSING ON THE KNIGHT FAMILY'S PROPERTY.

4. FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT POTTER SPRINGS ROAD, THERE IS DUMPING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD; THERE IS DUMPING ON CHARLEY BROWN ROAD.
5. THE WATER SUPPLY ON SOUTH BELL COMMUNITY ROAD IS ON THE KNIGHT FAMILY PROPERTY.

BAIN ASKED THE BOARD TO CONSIDER THEY HAVE NOT HEARD FROM ANYONE FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL DISTRICT, EMS OR THE POSTAL SERVICE.

JOE TAYLOR, COORDINATOR OF THE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE WASHING- TON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, 652 EAST THIRD STREET, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA 32428 ADDRESSED THE BOARD:

1. THE SCHOOL BOARD CONSIDERS A ROAD CLOSED IF THE COUNTY ABANDONS MAINTENANCE ON A ROAD; THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION.
2. THE SCHOOL BUSES WILL TAKE OUT ROADS THAT ARE NOT MAINTAINED; IT WILL TAKE OUT POTTER SPRINGS ROAD IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME IF THERE IS NO MAINTENANCE DONE ON THE ASPHALT
3. SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, IF A FENCE IS PUT UP ON THE ROAD, WILL RUN IT; IF THEY RUN DOWN THE ROAD AND DESTROY IT, THE SCHOOL BOARD DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY OR ABILITY TO FIX ROADS
4. AT SOME POINT IN TIME, THE SCHOOL BUSES HAVE RUN ALL OF THE ROADS IN QUESTION EXCEPT THE ONE GOING TO THE RIVER.
5. IF IT IS RAINING, THE BUSES TRY TO PICK THE KIDS UP AS CLOSE TO THE HOUSE AS POSSIBLE; THEY RUIN DRIVEWAYS DOING THIS AND THEY ANSWER FOR IT.
6. DUE TO THE KNIGHT FAMILY OWNING PROPERTY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD, THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO TELL THE SCHOOL BUSES TO STAY OFF THE ROADS IF THE COUNTY STOPS MAINTENANCE ON THEM.
7. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE; THESE ROADS ARE VITAL, THE BUSES WOULD HAVE TO GO FURTHER AROUND IF THE ROADS ARE CLOSED, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE TIMES UNTIL THE ROAD IS FENCED, THE KNIGHT FAMILY WOULD ALLOW THEM TO USE THE ROAD; HOWEVER, IF THE COUNTY DON'T MAINTAIN THE ROADS AND THE SCHOOL BUSES USE THE ROAD, THEY WILL BE LOOKING AT THE SCHOOL BOARD TO FIX THEM.
8. POTTER SPRINGS ROAD IS USED EVERYDAY, BELL COMMUNITY ROAD IS USED AND THERE HAS BEEN A POINT IN TIME WHEN THE SCHOOL BUS TOOK THE CUT OFF THROUGH THERE COMING BACK AROUND TO CEDAR TREE; HE DOESN'T KNOW IF THEY USE CHARLEY BROWN ROAD NOW. HE ADDRESSED THE POTENTIAL OF SOMEONE MOVING IN AND THE SCHOOL BUSES WOULD NEED TO GET TO THE CLOSEST STOP AT THE CLOSEST PLACES.

MIKE MARLOW, TOWN COUNCIL OF EBRO, ADDRESSED THEIR CONCERNS WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES AS THEY HAVE A CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FIRE SERVICES. WHEN ADDRESSING FIRE SERVICES, MARLOW REFERRED TO THE CEMETERY BRANCH WAS WHERE THEY GOT THEIR WATER SUPPLY; IF THE ROAD IS CLOSED FOR WATER THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE RIVER BUT THEY CAN'T USE POTTER SPRINGS ROAD SO THEY WILL BE CLOSED OFF.

MARLOW REFERRED TO THE WRECK WHERE THE ROAD HAD TO BE BLOCKED AND THE ONLY ACCESS OUT WAS BELL COMMUNITY ROAD; HE REFERRED TO OTHER INCIDENTS THAT HAD HAPPENED WHERE BELL COMMUNITY WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT.

HE SAID ON POTTER SPRINGS ROAD, THE CLOSEST FIRE DEPARTMENT TO THAT POINT IS EBRO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND IF THEY CLOSE THE ROAD IT WILL TAKE THEM LONGER TO RESPOND DUE TO THE DISTANCE THEY WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL.

HE HAD SOME CONCERNS WITH EMS ON SOME OF THE HOUSES ON CHARLEY BROWN ROAD; IF THIS ROAD WAS CLOSED, AGAIN, IT WOULD TAKE THEM LONGER TO RESPOND.

HE TOLD BAIN IF THEY WERE CONSIDERING WANTING TO PUT IN AN EMS SUBSTATION, THE TOWN OF EBRO IS THERE AND IF THEY NEEDED A PLACE TO PUT THE SUBSTATION, EBRO HAD SOMEWHERE TO PUT IT.

MILTON BROWN ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON A CONCERN HE HAD WITH POSSIBLY HAVING TWO SHERIFFS IN THE COUNTY; HE SPOKE WITH SHERIFF BOBBY HADDOCK AND HE SAID THESE ROADS ARE PERTINENT FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE. BROWN SAID DUE TO HIM HAVING WORKED WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR TEN YEARS IN THESE AREAS, THE EMS APPRECIATED THE SYSTEM AND THE FACT THEY HAD THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE TO THESE HOMES.

HE READDRESSSED THE FIRE AND THERE ONLY BEING ONE ROAD OUT DURING THE FOREST FIRE AND WITHOUT THAT ROAD, SOME OF THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HERE. HE ADDRESSED THEY WERE NOT TALKING ABOUT ABANDONING MAINTENANCE ON THE ROADS BUT WERE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE'S LIVES.

HE REFERRED TO STATEMENTS MADE BY BAIN THAT THE ROADS WERE NOT PERTINENT TO AMBULANCES OR FIRE; THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN REBUTTED ALL NIGHT LONG. HE HAS A PROBLEM TRUSTING ANY OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY BAIN DUE TO THAT STATEMENT HAVING BEEN REBUTTED. HE SAID WHAT THE KNIGHT FAMILY WAS ASKING THE BOARD TO DO IS CONDEMN THE PEOPLE TO NOT HAVING A GOOD AND SAFE LIFE.

KERRY ADKISON, 896 MAIN STREET, CHIPLEY, FL, 638-6243; HE ADDRESSED THE BOARD REPRESENTING MR. LEONARD DEAN AND THE COMMUNITY AND IS ALSO THE CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF EBRO.

HE RESPONDED TO SOME OF THE STATEMENTS BAIN SAID:

1. BAIN SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO PEOPLE WHO REALLY MATTERED ON THIS ISSUE; HOWEVER, THE SHERIFF WAS THE ONLY PERSON HE REALLY TALKED ABOUT. HE ADDRESSED HIM KNOWING SHERIFF HADDOCK AND IF THE ISSUES ON THE ROADS ARE GARBAGE OR POACHERS, GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO DO HIS JOB.
IF BAIN HAD OTHER WITNESSES ABOUT EMERGENCY RESPONSE, ETC., HE HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THEM HERE BUT DIDN'T DO SO.
2. HE REFERRED TO CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS, MILTON BROWN AND MITCHELL BROWN, HIGHWAY PATROLMEN, BRUCE SMITH, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND MIKE MARLOW WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAYING THEY NEED THESE ROADS TO DO THEIR JOB. JOE TAYLOR HAS SAID THE SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS THESE ROADS ALSO TO DO THEIR JOB
3. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT GOTTEN UP AND TALKED ON THE ROADS FROM THE CHARTS PROVIDED BY BAIN WAS THE GARBAGE PEOPLE. ADKISON SAID HE ASSUMED IF THE FIRE TRUCK NEEDED THE ROADS TO DO THEIR JOB, THE GARBAGE TRUCKS WOULD NEED THEM TOO; IF SOMETHING IS NEEDED FROM THE GARBAGE PEOPLE, HE SAID THIS COULD PROBABLY BE PROVIDED ALSO.
4. ADKISON SAID HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENT MADE BY MR. BAIN AND COUNTY ATTORNEY GERALD HOLLEY THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO MAINTAINED AND WHO BUILT THE ROADS; HE STATED THAT WAS THE WHOLE ISSUE AS THE COUNTY OWNS THE ROAD AND PUBLIC FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED TO BUILD THE ROADS. HE SAID FOR THE LAWYERS NOT TO EVEN THINK ABOUT DO WE HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT THE FUNDS OR THE PUBLIC BECAUSE IT IS IRRELEVANT TO THE SITUATION; IT IS RELEVANT TO EVERYTHING THAT IS HERE.
5. ADKISON POINTED OUT NOT ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO SPOKE ON THE ROADS WERE NAMED IN THE LAWSUIT BUT THEY HAD AN INTEREST IN THE CASE. FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S ATTORNEY TO

SAY YOU NEED TO BRING ME SOME WITNESSES TO TELL HIM THIS, HE IS LETTING THE PEOPLE DOWN. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT BASED ON WHAT DEAN HAD TOLD HIM, THERE WERE TWO WITNESSES THAT CAME TWO YEARS AGO WHO ATTORNEY HOLLEY TOOK A DEPOSITION FROM THAT BASICALLY SAID THESE ROADS WERE BUILT BY THE COUNTY AND HAD BEEN MAINTAINED BY THE COUNTY. HE SAID HOLLEY, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, HAS HAD THE WITNESSES AND HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ARE HERE. IF THE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE TRUST IS WHAT THE REAL ISSUES ARE, THEY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY AND THE BOARD HAS A PRETTY GOOD FEEL FROM PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE AREA OF THE ROADS AND NOT FROM PEOPLE COMING IN SAYING THE ROAD CLOSINGS WON'T HAVE AN IMPACT.

6. ADKISON REFERRED TO BAIN TALKING ABOUT IT SAVING THE COUNTY MONEY BECAUSE THE LAWSUIT WILL GO AWAY; IT PROBABLY WILL BUT IT IS SORT OF FUNNY THESE PARTICULAR ROADS WERE PICKED OUT OF THE WHOLE COUNTY. THE BOTTOM LINE IS JUST BECAUSE THAT LAWSUIT GOES AWAY DOESN'T MEAN THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER ONE.

BAIN ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HE FELT LIKE HE NEEDED TO DEFEND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO ADKISON, THE COUNTY HAS THE BURDEN ACCORDING TO FL-STATUTE 95.361 TO PROVE, NOT THROUGH SPECULATION OR GUESSES, THE COUNTY BUILT THE ROADS, OR THE ROADS WERE BUILT BY A STATE AGENCY OR GOVERNMENTAL BODY; THIS PROOF IS NON-EXISTENT. WHATEVER ELSE ADKISON DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, BAIN OFFERED TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH HIM; IT IS NOT CONSTRUCTIVE FOR ADKISON TO SAY HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THIS ARGUMENT OR THAT ARGUMENT. IF THE BOARD DOES NOT CHOOSE TO ACT ON THIS MATTER TONIGHT, THEY HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO NAME ANY CITIZENS TO THE LAWSUIT AS THE COUNTY WAS NAMED AS A CORPORATE BODY BECAUSE THE COUNTY AS A CORPORATE BODY IS CHARGED WITH HAVING EITHER CONSTRUCTED OR NOT CONSTRUCTED THESE ROADS. BAIN SAID THEY KNOW THESE ROADS WERE NOT BUILT BY THE COUNTY AND THAT IS WHY THEY WERE CONFIDENT IN FILING THE LAWSUIT. HOWEVER, HE SAID THEY ALSO KNOW THE COUNTY CITIZENS, EITHER FROM BAY COUNTY, WALTON COUNTY, HOLMES COUNTY, ETC., ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR DUMPING; THE COMMISSIONERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DUMPING OR TRESPASSING ON THE PROPERTY. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING TO PREVENT THIS BEING DONE AND QUESTIONED IF THIS ACTIVITY WAS OCCURRING ON THEIR PROPERTY, WHAT WOULD THEY DO.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ASKED BAIN IF THE TRUST'S PRIMARY USE OF THE LAND WAS GROWING TIMBER; BAIN SAID THE PRIMARY INCOME GENERATED FROM THE LAND IS FROM GROWING TIMBER BUT THE LAND IS USED FOR MANY THINGS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN THEN ASKED BAIN IF THEY WEREN'T CONCERNED ABOUT FIRE ON THE PROPERTY; BAIN SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CORBIN'S COMMENT AS ON ONE HAND HE COULD TAKE IT IN THE WAY HE PROBABLY DIDN'T MEAN IT AS THEY HAVE HAD PEOPLE THREATEN THEM WITH FIRE. THE OTHER WAY HE COULD TAKE THE COMMENT WAS ARE THESE ROADS GOING TO HELP PREVENT FIRE FROM CROSSING OVER; BAIN SAID EVEN IF THE COUNTY DOESN'T MAINTAIN THESE AS COUNTY MAINTAINED ROADS, THEY WOULD STILL HAVE THAT FUNCTION AS A FIREBREAKER.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID HE WAS A TIMBER GROWER AND HE WANTS IT TO BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE TO GET THE FORESTRY SERVICE TO HIM AND ALSO THE LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS. BAIN SAID AS PROPERTY MANAGERS OF THEIR PROPERTY, THEY ARE GOING TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THEIR OWN LAND AND THAT IS WHY THEY ARE HERE TONIGHT TO BE A GOOD STEWARD OF THEIR LAND AND HELP MANAGE IT BETTER.

WADE BROWN, 446 SPRING RUN ROAD, REFERENCED THE ATTORNEY HAVING REFERRED TO FL-STATUTE 95.361 WHERE IT WAS UNDETERMINED IT WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE COUNTY BUT THE ATTORNEY DIDN'T READ THE SECOND PARAGRAPH WHERE IT SAID IF THE ROADS WERE MAINTAINED BY THE COUNTY FOR SEVEN YEARS IT BELONGED TO THE PUBLIC.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED HIM HAVING BEEN COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT FOUR FOR 26 YEARS AND KNOWS EVERY ROAD THAT HAS BEEN BUILT SINCE HE HAS BEEN

THERE; HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY ANYONE WOULD BE NEEDED EXCEPT THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THAT DISTRICT AS THEY SHOULD KNOW IF THE ROADS WERE CONSTRUCTED DURING THEIR TIME OR NOT. IT WAS ADDRESSED THERE WERE RECORDS AT THE COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT TO SHOW THE COUNTY HAS MAINTAINED THESE ROADS.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADDRESSED HIM BEING VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE STATUTE BROWN WAS READING FROM; FOR THE ROADS IN THE LAWSUIT, THE COUNTY MUST PROVE CONSTRUCTION BY A GOVERNMENTAL BODY AND MAINTENANCE FOR A PRESCRIBED PERIOD OF TIME. HE SAID THE LAW CHANGED IN JULY OF 2003 AND IT GAVE EVERYONE WANTING TO CONTEST A ROAD ONE YEAR TO CHALLENGE THE MAINTENANCE; THIS SUIT WAS FILED IN THE ONE YEAR PERIOD AND THE COUNTY IS BOUND TO PROVE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT LAWSUIT ADKISON WAS READING FROM BUT HE INDICATED THAT HE, HOLLEY, HAD SAID IT WAS IRRELEVANT OR WOULDN'T RELEVANT; HIS LAWSUIT SAYS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF THAT. HOLLEY SUGGESTED IF ADKISON AND THE PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT WANTED TO HELP, GET ON BOARD AND INTERVENE WITH THE LAWSUIT AND HELP THE COUNTY AND NOT FIGHT THEM.

ADKISON ADDRESSED HE HADN'T SAID HOLLEY HAD MADE THAT REMARK IN THE LAWSUIT; HOLLEY HAD MADE THAT REMARK AT THE LAST MEETING; HOLLEY DENIED THAT. ADKISON SAID HOLLEY WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE LAW AND IF HE WANTED THEIR HELP, THEY WOULD HELP BUT THEY WANTED HIM TO FOLLOW THE LAW; IF THE LAW SAID IT HAD TO BE PROVED THE ROAD WAS BUILT BY THE COUNTY AND MAINTAINED BY THE COUNTY, THEY WOULD PROVIDE THE WITNESSES ALTHOUGH THEY THOUGHT TWO WITNESSES HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID THE LAW SAID THE ROADS HAD TO BE BUILT AND MAINTAINED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AND ONLY ONE WITNESS HAD COME FORTH.

CHAIRMAN FINCH REQUESTED ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROAD CONTACT ATTORNEY HOLLEY.

CHARLES BROCK, 3529 HOLMES VALLEY ROAD, VERNON, FLORIDA, PREVIOUS COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT III, ADDRESSED THERE BEING A BIG IMPROVEMENT ON THE COUNTY ROADS OVER THE YEARS. HE REFERRED TO HAVING TALKED TO ATTORNEY HOLLEY ON A LAWSUIT DEALING WITH CLOSING OF ROADS ON BEHALF OF NORTHERN TRUST; HE WAS NOT AWARE HOLMES VALLEY ROAD AND JAMES POTTER ROAD WAS TAKEN OFF THE LIST OF FIVE ROADS INVOLVED WITH THAT LAWSUIT AND THE POTTER SPRINGS ROAD AND CHARLEY BROWN ROAD REPLACED THEM.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE LAWSUIT HAD NOT CHANGED, THE SAME FIVE ROADS ARE IN THE LAWSUIT THAT WERE THERE ORIGINALLY. HOLLEY SAID IT WAS A PORTION OF HOLMES VALLEY ROAD LYING WITHIN NORTHERN TRUST'S PROPERTY.

CHAIRMAN FINCH QUESTIONED IF THE COUNTY WAS TALKING ABOUT CLOSING HOLMES VALLEY ROAD; ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID IT WAS NOT PART OF THE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION BUT WAS IN THE LAWSUIT.

BROCK SAID DUE TO HIM BEING THE COMMISSIONER OVER THE DISTRICT THESE ROADS INVOLVED IN THE LAWSUIT WERE IN, HE HAD APPOINTED COMMISSIONER COPE TO OBSERVE THE ROADS; COPE AND ATTORNEY HOLLEY HAD OBSERVED THE ROADS AND RODE THE ROADS SEVERAL TIMES. BROCK SAID HE HAD TOLD COPE, IN NEGOTIATIONS IF NORTHERN TRUST WOULD HELP THE COMMUNITY BUILD A CHURCH BACK THAT HAD BURNT, HE WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT TO CLOSE ROCKY LANDING ROAD; HE NEVER DID HEAR ANYTHING.

HE ADDRESSED THE KNIGHT FAMILY AND NORTHERN TRUST SHOULD BE THANKFUL THEY HAVE HAD SUCH GOOD PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THEM AND TAKEN CARE OF THEIR PROPERTY FOR THE LAST FORTY TO FIFTY YEARS.

HE REFERRED TO THE COUNTY HAVING APPROACHED NORTHERN TRUST ABOUT PUTTING A SATELLITE STATION FOR A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER DUE TO THIS BEING A BAD AREA; AT THAT TIME, THEY DIDN'T WANT TO WORK WITH THE COUNTY.

NORTHERN TRUST IS NOT THE ONLY LANDOWNER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY THAT HAS A GARBAGE PROBLEM; HE REFERRED TO HICKS LAKE ROAD AND NORTH OF CARYVILLE HAVING A GARBAGE PROBLEM. THE WHOLE ISSUE IS TO FENCE THE PROPERTY WHICH THEY ARE GOING TO DO; SIMPLY THEY COULD BARRICADE IT OFF, CABLE IT AND POST IT AS IN MOST OF THESE AREAS THAT IS WHAT IS DONE AND IT IS ENFORCED BY LAW. HE AGREED THE GARBAGE HAD BEEN A PROBLEM, BUT THERE IS NOT GARBAGE ON THE ROADS IN QUESTION;

THE PROBLEM IS OFF OF ARMSTRONG MILL ROAD OFF OF HIGHWAY 79 AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE POWER LINE THAT CROSSES THE ARMSTRONG MILL ROAD AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHARLEY BROWN ROAD. HE SAID THIS GARBAGE HAS BEEN THERE FOR YEARS AND YEARS.

BROCK SAID THE COUNTY HAS SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON FOREST AND LAKES; THE COUNTY HAD TO REBUILD LUCAS LAKE ROAD; HOLMES VALLEY ROAD HAD TO BE REBUILT. HE REFERRED TO HIM THINKING THE ROADS BEING TALKED ABOUT TONIGHT ARE UNDER DSR'S NOW TO BE ROCKED.

HE SAID HE SYMPATHIZED WITH FOREST AND LAKES AND IT IS A PROBLEM EVERY LANDOWNER HAS TO DEAL WITH; THE COUNTY DIDN'T PUT THE GARBAGE THERE AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE LAW ENFORCEMENT THERE. HE SUGGESTED TAKING THE GAME WARDENS AND PUT THEM IN TREE STANDS ON NORTHERN TRUST PROPERTY AND LET THEM CATCH WHOEVER IS DUMPING THE GARBAGE.

CHAIRMAN FINCH ADDRESSED THE BOARD HAD HEARD ALL THE ASPECTS ON THE SITUATION TONIGHT AND IT IS EVIDENT THERE IS A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROADS BEING CLOSED.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADVISED BAIN THE COUNTY WOULD ASSIST THEM WITH PREVENTING THE GARBAGE SITUATION AND CLEANING IT UP. BAIN SAID HE APPRECIATED THAT AS THIS IS MORE THAN HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. HE REFERRED TO FORMER COMMISSIONER BROCK'S STATEMENT ABOUT FENCING AND ADVISED THEY HAVE FENCING AND CABLE AND ACTUALLY THE COUNTY, THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES, HAVE KNOCKED DOWN SOME OF THE FENCES AND SOME OF THE POSTS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID THE BOARD WOULD ENCOURAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT TO WATCH THE AREAS WHERE THE GARBAGE IS A PROBLEM AND PROBABLY COULD MAKE SOME EFFORT TO HELP CLEAN IT UP. BAIN REFERRED TO THEM GOING AND CABLING UP ROCKY LANDING ROAD AND PUTTING BARRICADES IN THE GROUND AND THEY WILL GET PULLED UP; MOST RECENTLY THEY WERE PULLED UP BY A COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE.

CHAIRMAN FINCH SAID THE COUNTY CAN HELP CLEAN UP THE ROADS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REBUTTED WHAT BANE HAD SAID; HE REFERRED TO NORTHERN TRUST HAVING PUT UP A CROSSTIE IN THE MIDDLE OF HENRY ROAD AND ROCKY LANDING ROAD AND IF THEY PUT A CROSSTIE IN THE MIDDLE OF A COUNTY ROAD, THEY NEEDN'T THINK HE WOULDN'T GO AND TAKE IT DOWN.

CHAIRMAN FINCH SAID AS LONG AS THE ROADS ARE RECOGNIZED AS COUNTY ROADS, THEY DON'T NEED TO BE CABLES PUT ACROSS THEM. HE ASKED ATTORNEY HOLLEY WHAT BOARD ACTION NEEDED TO BE TAKEN TONIGHT.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED IT WAS UP TO THE BOARD IF THEY WANT TO MAKE A DECISION WHETHER TO OR NOT TO CLOSE OR VACATE THE ROADS BASED ON WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD TONIGHT.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN, BASED ON WHAT HE HAS HEARD TONIGHT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL, OFFERED A MOTION TO ABANDON THE IDEA OF CLOSING THE ROADS. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SECONDED THE MOTION.

CHAIRMAN FINCH SAID IF THE BOARD PASSES THIS MOTION, THE COUNTY WOULD BE BACK IN A LAWSUIT; ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID THERE WAS A TRIAL DATE IN JULY.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ENCOURAGED THE PEOPLE WHO SPOKE TONIGHT ON THEM LIVING ON THE ROADS AND KNOWS THE COUNTY CONSTRUCTED THE ROAD TO GET WITH THE ATTORNEY AND PROVIDE HIM WITH THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE AND PROVIDE HIM WITH WITNESSES.

ROBERT BROWN, 32 HARBESON AVE, FT. WALTON BEACH, PHONE NUMBER 243-9614, ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THIS AREA AND IN 1928 CHARLEY BROWN ROAD WAS THE ONLY WAY DOCTORS HAD TO COME IN; THAT WAS LONG BEFORE HIGHWAY 79 WAS EVER THOUGHT UP. HE ADDRESSED WPA HAVING BUILT THE ROAD COMING FROM SHELL LANDING THROUGH THERE AND THAT WAS LONG BEFORE THE COUNTY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. HE QUESTIONED WHY THEY ARE JUST NOW WANTING TO CLOSE THESE PARTICULAR ROADS; CHARLEY BROWN ROAD WAS THE ONLY WAY THEY HAD TO GET OUT AND GO TO VERNON AND IT WAS THEIR MAIN WAY OF TRAVELLING. HE STATED THE COUNTY DIDN'T TAKE OVER AND START DOING THEM ROADS UNTIL THE 1960'S.

COMMISSIONER SAPP COMMENTED, IN REGARDS TO THE REASON THE WHOLE CONGREGATION IS HERE TONIGHT, IS TO SEE IF THIS GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR ROADS AND THEIR LIVLIHOOD AS WELL AS NORTHERN

TRUST REPRESENTING THEIR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY THEY OWN. THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE SET AND LISTENED TO BOTH SIDES OF THE STORIES AND THERE ARE MORE LANDOWNERS OF INDIVIDUALS THAN THEY ARE OF THE COMPANY. HE SAID THE PROCESS HAS TAKEN PLACE TO SEE IF THERE WAS A NEGOTIABLE PART THAT COULD CLOSE THIS OUT BEFORE LITIGATION OF THE LAWSUIT. AS LISTENING TO THE COMMENTS TONIGHT, SAPP SAID HIS BEST OPINION WOULD BE TO LET THE COURT SETTLE THE ISSUE AS HE DOESN'T SEE WHERE THE COMMISSIONERS OR GROUP OF MEDIATORS HERE TONIGHT COULD DO ANY GOOD WITH THE SITUATION; THE COUNTY'S BEST RESOLVE IS FOR ALL THESE CITIZENS TO SHOW THEIR CONCERN LATER ON WHEN IT GETS TIME FOR COURT AS IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CITIZENS POSITION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THE BOARD COULD SOLVE THEMSELVES; IT IS SOMETHING THE COURT SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO SOLVE. AS THE BOARD VOTES TONIGHT, SAPP SAID IT IS JUST TO PROCEED ON IN THE DIRECTION IT IS ALREADY HEADED.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ROADS SIMILAR TO THESE ROADS AND THE BOARD NEEDS TO STAND UP AND LET EVERYBODY IN THE COUNTY KNOW THEY ARE NOT GOING TO CLOSE THEM OFF. HE THEN CALLED FOR THE QUESTION ON THE MOTION. CHAIRMAN FINCH DID A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MOTION TO ABANDON THE IDEA OF CLOSING THE ROADS REFERENCED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER SAPP OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CORBIN AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:_____

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 05/02/24