

BOARD MINUTES FOR 02/12/08

FEBRUARY 12, 2008

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA, WITH COMMISSIONERS SAPP, FINCH, STRICKLAND, HOLMAN AND PATE PRESENT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY, ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT, CLERK COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED PRAYER WITH COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND LEADING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

TED EVERETT, WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, WHICH THE CHAMBER FEELS IS AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC TOOL FOR THE TWO INDUSTRIAL PARKS; THE TOMMY MCDONALD, SR. INDUSTRIAL PARK AND THE WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK. THEY ARE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CHIPLEY CITY COUNCIL PAY \$25,000 EACH TO FUND A CONSULTANT TO DO THE APPLICATION WORK FOR A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE.

EVERETT EXPLAINED WHAT A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE IS; IT WOULD BE A SUB-PART OF PANAMA CITY. PANAMA CITY IS A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WITH BYRD PIPE AND SEVERAL OTHER INDUSTRIES THERE. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE SUB-TRADE ZONES WITHIN A CERTAIN MILEAGE OF A PORT THAT HAS A TRADE ZONE; WASHINGTON COUNTY MEETS THAT REQUIREMENT. BY BEING A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, YOU CAN ACTUALLY IMPORT THINGS WITHOUT PAYING AS MUCH DUTIES AND IN SOME CASES, NO DUTIES ON THINGS AND IT ALSO OFFERS OTHER BREAKS WITH CERTAIN COMPANIES. IF THE COUNTY HAS A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE OVER THE TWO INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, HE CAN'T PROMISE THEY WON'T BE ANOTHER TRADE ZONE GIVEN TO JACKSON COUNTY OR HOLMES COUNTY AT A LATER DATE. BUT, THESE ARE VERY HARD AND THEY REALLY DON'T LIKE TO DO A LOT OF CLUSTERING OF FOREIGN TRADE ZONES AROUND ONE THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED. THE CHAMBER HAS DONE THEIR HOMEWORK ON THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AND FEEL IF THEY CAN GET \$25,000 FROM THE COUNTY AND THE CITY TO FUND IT, ONCE THEY GO THROUGH THE PROCESS AND GET IT APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THEY ARE A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, THIS ALLOWS COMPANIES SUCH AS WEST POINT HOMES TO MAKE AN APPLICATION INTO THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AND BECOME FOREIGN TRADE BOOTS. THEY HAVE TO SPEND IN EXCESS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND THEMSELVES ON THE SOFTWARE AND PROBABLY HIRE ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO RUN THAT SOFTWARE THAT COMMUNICATES TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND CUSTOMS ON WHAT IS BEING BROUGHT IN AND PUSHED OUT OF THAT FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. IT WILL NOT AFFECT ANY BUSINESS IN EITHER OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARKS THAT DON'T WANT TO BE A PART OF THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. FOR EXAMPLE, ABC FENCE COMPANY WILL NOT BE INTERESTED AT THIS TIME WITH BEING A PART OF THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO PAY ANY FEES OR DO ANYTHING BUT TO SIT RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE DOING BUSINESS AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY DOING, EVEN THOUGH THEIR BUSINESS WOULD LAY WITHIN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA CALLED A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL COMPANIES THAT WOULD BE UTILIZING THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE; WEST POINT HOMES, ARCADIAN HARDWOOD AND ANOTHER BUSINESS THE CHAMBER HAS BEEN TALKING TO ABOUT LOCATING AT THE TOMMY MCDONALD SR. INDUSTRIAL PARK. PROJECT PIPE IS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE.

TED EXPLAINED ANOTHER THING THAT WOULD MAKE IT FEASIBLE FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THE CITY TO BE A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. HE GAVE AN EXAMPLE, IF EVENTUALLY THEY HAVE A 100,000 SQUARE FOOT BUILDING IN ONE OF THE TWO EXISTING INDUSTRIAL PARKS AND THEY HAVE A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WITH THE ENTERPRISE ZONE AROUND IT, THAT IS A HUGE INCENTIVE FOR A NEW COMPANY COMING IN WITH IMPORT AND EXPORT BUSINESS TO TAKE A LOOK AT. IF WASHINGTON COUNTY IS THE ONLY COUNTY HERE THAT HAS THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, IT IS GOING TO MAKE THEIR ABILITY TO MARKET WASHINGTON COUNTY MUCH GREATER THAN IT DOES AS IT STANDS NOW.

TED ADDRESSED THE CHAMBER UNDERSTANDS THE BUDGET SITUATION WITH THE COUNTY AND THE CITY; BUT, THEY BELIEVE A \$25,000 INVESTMENT FROM THE COUNTY IS A LOGICAL AND WISE CHOICE BECAUSE IT WILL HELP WEST POINT HOMES ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AND WILL ALLOW THEM TO MARKET THE COUNTY AS A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AND THEY WILL BE MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH JOBS FOR THIS COUNTY.

TED ADDRESSED HIM HAVING TALKED WITH SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS ABOUT THE COUNTY REALIZING APPROXIMATELY \$350,000 WITH THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY TO PROJECT PIPE; THIS SALE SHOULD BE COMPLETED SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. HE HAD TALKED WITH ROGER MILLER AND HE HAS HANDWALKED AND DELIVERED THE RAILROAD GRANT TO THE OFFICE OF TOURISM, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. IT IS NOW IN THEIR HANDS AND THE COUNTY SHOULD KNOW WITHIN 30 TO 45 DAYS IF THEY WILL BE RECEIVING THESE MONIES, AS WELL AS THE ROAD FUND AND THE CDBG GRANT. HE SAID HE HAD ASKED ROGER MILLER POINT BLANK, NOW THAT THE COUNTY IS AT THE TABLE WITH THESE GRANTS, WHAT IS HIS CONSENSUS ON THEIR CHANCES OF GETTING THESE GRANTS. ROGER ADVISED WITH THE PEOPLE HE HAS TALKED TO WITH OTTED AND MARY HELEN, IT IS GOING TO BE APPROVED. TED REITERATED THE CHAMBER FEELS LIKE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONSUMATE THIS LAND SALE SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS.

HE ADVISED, WITH THESE LAND SALES COMING UP, IT WOULD BE VERY EASY FOR THE BOARD TO TAKE \$25,000 FROM THE LAND SALE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD PROCEEDING WITH THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. AT THIS TIME, HE ASKED TERRY ELLIS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD.

MR. ELLIS PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW THAT WOULD ANSWER A FEW OF THE LARGE QUESTIONS AND GIVE A LITTLE BIT MORE DETAIL. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERING THE REQUEST FOR A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. IN THE MANUFACTURING BUSINESS, HE ADDRESSED HIM HAVING VERY LITTLE TO BE EXCITED ABOUT IN THE LAST FOUR TO FIVE YEARS. IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, HE HAS GOT TO STAND IN FRONT OF APPROXIMATELY 1100 EMPLOYEES AND TELL THEM THEY NO LONGER HAVE A JOB. HE IS EXCITED ABOUT THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE IT GIVES US SOMETHING TO HELP COMPETE GLOBALLY. IT GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO NAIL DOWN THE CHIPLEY PLANT, WHICH IS THE LARGEST FACILITY REMAINING IN WEST POINT HOLMES. IT IS AMONG ONE OF THE FOUR THAT WOULD STILL BE LEFT IN THE STATE TO DO ANY TYPE OF MANUFACTURING. HE REITERATED THEY WERE CURRENTLY DOWN TO AROUND 500 EMPLOYEES. A GOOD PORTION OF THOSE ARE INVOLVED IN MANUFACTURING; BUT, THEN THEY HAVE AROUND 150 INVOLVED WITH THE DISTRIBUTION PORTION. HE FELT WITH THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, IT GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO POSSIBLY ENHANCE THEIR DISTRIBUTION, BRING IN ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS THAT IS FLOWING IN CURRENTLY INTO OTHER AREAS AND OTHER FACILITIES THEY HAVE REMAINING WITHIN THE COMPANY. ONE OF THE THINGS THE BOARD HAS TO UNDERSTAND IS AT LONG TERM, IF YOU BRING A LOT OF PRODUCTS IN FROM OVERSEAS, IT MAKES SENSE TO HAVE A LOCATION CLOSE TO A PORT. THE MAJORITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS IS COMING IN THE EAST COAST. THERE IS A LOT OF MONEY INVOLVED WITH THE COST OF FREIGHT IN GETTING THAT PRODUCT FROM THE EAST COAST TO AN INLAND FACILITY LIKE CHIPLEY. WHAT THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WOULD DO IS GIVE US SOME ADVANTAGES TO HELP OFFSET THAT FREIGHT COST AND IT WOULD BE A HUGE PLUS TO POSSIBLY ALLOW THEM TO EXPAND THEIR DISTRIBUTION CENTER. HE EXPLAINED HE WAS TALKING ABOUT DOWN THE ROAD AND HE TENDS TO GET EXCITED WHEN HE LOOKS AT THOSE POSSIBILITIES.

MR. ELLIS SAID HE COULD TELL THE BOARD, IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VERY DIFFICULT WITHOUT MAKING THIS TYPE OF TRANSITION AND ALLOWING THEM TO HAVE A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. HE SAID THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE IS A GOOD PROGRAM; BUT, THERE WILL BE SOME OTHER THINGS THEY WILL GO AFTER ONCE THEY ARE ABLE TO GET IN THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. HE REFERRED TO DISCUSSING WITH SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY SOME OF THE DUTIES AND HOW THEY ARE BASICALLY BACKWARDS AND DISCOURAGE MANUFACTURING IN THE STATE. THEY WANT TO TRY AND GET SOME OF THOSE IDENTIFIED AND CHANGED; BUT, ALL OF THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN ONCE THEY GET INTO THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. HE REITERATED HIS APPRECIATION, ESPECIALLY IN DIFFICULT

BUDGET TIMES, THE BOARD'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN JOBS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING ADDITIONAL JOBS. HE FELT IT WOULD BE A GREAT INVESTMENT. WHETHER OR NOT WEST POINT HOMES IS THE ONLY ONE THAT EVER USES IT, WHETHER OR NOT WEST POINT HOMES SURVIVES LONG TERM, HE SEES THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE BEING A HUGE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO BE A LEADER WHEN IT COMES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PANHANDLE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN ASKED IF THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WOULD HELP STABILIZE AND KEEP WEST POINT HOMES FROM CLOSING DOWN AND CAUSING PEOPLE TO LOSE THEIR JOBS.

TERRY SAID ABSOLUTELY. HE ADDRESSED ONE OF THE THINGS THE CHIP- LEY FACILITY HAS ALWAYS HAD A REPUTATION FOR IS THEY HAVE A GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT THEY DO. THAT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD WITHIN THEIR COMPANY. BUT, ONE OTHER THING THAT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD WITHIN THEIR COMPANY IS THE TREMENDOUS COOPERATION THEY HAVE HAD FROM THE LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS TO HELP MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN THE BEST MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE. ONE OF THE THINGS THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WILL HELP, ONCE THEY SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE, THE COUNTY AND CITY HAVE MADE THE INVESTMENT, THEY GET THE APPLICATION PROCESS STARTED, IS TO ALLOW HIM TO LAY ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE IN FRONT OF THE COMPANY OFFICIALS SO THAT HOPEFULLY IN ANY LONG RANGE PLANNING, IT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THEM TO SEE WHAT THEY WILL BE GAINING BY BEING IN THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE. HE FEELS THIS IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO HELP NAIL DOWN THESE JOBS.

TED ASKED WHAT THE PAYROLL WAS AT WEST POINT HOMES. TERRY SAID IT WAS APPROXIMATELY A \$25,000,000 PAYROLL THEY WOULD BE GIVING UP IF WEST POINT HOMES CLOSED. HE POINTED OUT CHIPLEY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY WERE HOME AND REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS TO WEST POINT HOMES, HE DOESN'T WANT THOSE JOBS TO BE AN ISSUE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED WHAT TYPE OF BUSINESSES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE; IS THERE JUST A SPECIAL GROUP THAT IS GOING TO BE UTILIZING IT MORE SO THAN OTHERS.

TERRY SAID THE INTEREST WOULD BE ANY COMPANY THAT IS INVOLVED IN EITHER EXPORT OR IMPORT THAT WOULD MAKE UP A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE BUSINESSES. ONE OF THE AREAS HE NEEDS SOME HELP IS ON A FABRIC WEST POINT HOMES IMPORTS; THERE IS VERY LITTLE FABRIC MANUFACTURED ANYMORE IN THE U.S. HE FELT THAT SCENARIO COULD BE PLAYED OUT IN ANY INDUSTRY WHERE A COMPONENT THEY WOULD NEED TO FINISH MAKING A PRODUCT MAY BE MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. BY THE PORT BEING IN A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, IT ALLOWS YOU TO DEFER THE DUTIES YOU WOULD PAY ON THAT COMPONENT YOU BRING IN UNTIL YOU SHIP IT OUT TO THE CUSTOMERS. DEPENDING ON THE DOLLAR VOLUME YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT AND THE COST OF BORROWING MONEY, ETC., THAT CAN BE A 10% TO 12% ADVANTAGE TO BE ABLE TO DEFER THAT MONEY FOR WHATEVER PERIOD OF TIME UNTIL IT ACTUALLY IS SHIPPED OUT TO THE CUSTOMER. THE OPPORTUNITY IS THERE TO HAVE THEM LOOK AT THE DUTY RATE WHICH YOU ARE PAYING AND SAY "YES, THAT IS PUTTING YOU IN A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE," BECAUSE ONE OF THE BIG ISSUES RIGHT NOW IS THAT MEXICO HAS MADE A LOT OF CHANGES TO WHAT THEY ARE DOING. IN MANY CASES PRODUCT COMPONENTS CAN BE SHIPPED INTO MEXICO DUTY FREE, MANUFACTURED AND THEN SHIPPED INTO THE U.S. DUTY FREE. THAT IS A HUGE DISADVANTAGE TO HIM AND WEST POINT HOMES BECAUSE HE IS GOING TO PAY A 12% DUTY RATE WHEN IT ARRIVES IN THE U.S. IN HIS INDUSTRY, MARGINS DUE TO GLOBAL COMPETITION AND ALL THE RETAILERS BEATING EVERYBODY TO DEATH, ANYTIME THEY ARE EXCITED ABOUT A 5% TO 6% PROFIT MARGIN. A 12% DUTY RATE BECOMES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAKING A PROFIT AND LOSING MONEY.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED IF THE FTZ MANUFACTURERS WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME TARIFF RATE AS A FOREIGN BASED FACILITY. TERRY STATED THE FTZ ALLOWS US TO PRESENT WHAT THEIR FOREIGN COMPETITION IS ABLE TO DO. FOR INSTANCE, IF MEXICO IS ALLOWING IT TO COME IN DUTY FREE, IT ALLOWS US TO MAKE A CASE AND SAY IT OUGHT TO COME IN HERE DUTY FREE. IT WOULD ALLOW US THE SAME COMPETITIVE PLAYING FIELD. TERRY ADDRESSED WEST POINT HOMES BRINGS IN CLOTH FROM OVERSEAS AND HE PAYS A 14% DUTY RATE ON IT. IF NOTHING ELSE CHANGES AND THEY DON'T EVEN GET ANY

HELP ON THE DUTY RATE, IT WILL ALLOW WEST POINT HOMES WHEN THE CLOTH COMES IN, TO NOT HAVE TO PAY THE DUTY RATE WHEN IT ARRIVES. IT WOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER THEY MANUFACTURED THE PRODUCT AND HE ACTUALLY HAD AN ORDER FOR THE PRODUCT TO SHIP TO A CUSTOMER. HE WOULDN'T PAY ANY DUTY RATE ON ANY WAITS THEY HAVE OF THAT PACKAGE. IF THERE WAS A THREE OR FOUR MONTH LAG FROM THE TIME HE RECEIVED THE CLOTH TO THE TIME HE MANUFACTURED IT AND SHIPPED IT TO THE CUSTOMER, HE HAD SAVED INTEREST OR WHATEVER THE COST OF MONEY IS TO WEST POINT HOMES FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. IN MANY CASES, IT IS NOT THAT YOU ARE AVOIDING DUTIES TOTALLY, IT IS THAT YOU ARE DEFERRING IT. THERE IS ALSO A TREMENDOUS SAVINGS ON A CONTAINER FEE. CURRENTLY, THEY HAVE ANYWHERE FROM 40 TO 60 CONTAINERS A WEEK AT THE CHIPLEY FACILITY. EACH ONE OF THE CONTAINERS WHEN THEY LEFT THE PORT, THEY PAID A CONTAINER TRANSACTION FEE ON THAT. THE MINIMUM FEE IS ABOUT \$495; DEPENDING ON THE VALUE OF WHAT IS ON THAT CONTAINER, IT CAN BE \$1500. IF THEY ARE A FTZ, THOSE CONTAINERS COULD THEN BE ABLE TO FLOW FROM THE PORT TO THEIR FACILITY WITHOUT A CONTAINER TRANSACTION FEE. THEN, THEY WOULD PAY ON A SUMMARY BASIS ON A WEEKLY OR MONTHLY BASIS AND IT WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS SAVINGS ON ALL THE CONTAINERS FLOWING IN NOW. THOSE ARE THE MAIN AREAS OF SAVINGS AND ADVANTAGES OF BEING A FTZ.

TED POINTED OUT LONG TERM WHAT THE FTZ DOES; WHEN YOU LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE IN RELATION TO THE PORT AT PANAMA CITY AND YOU SEE THE STATISTICS OF WHAT IS BEING MANUFACTURED IN FLORIDA AND BEING EXPORTED OVERSEAS TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, THEY HAVE JUMPED UP ABOUT 12% OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. IT IS THEIR LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. HE ASKED WHAT IS THE SHORTEST ROUTE. THAT IS FROM THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY DOWN SOUTH. MORE AND MORE SERVICES ARE COMING THROUGH THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY AND HEADING OUT. IF THEY CAN SET THEMSELVES UP WITH A COUNTY THAT CAN HAVE INLAND PRODUCTION AWAY FROM THE THREAT OF HURRICANES AND BE ABLE TO GET THAT PRODUCT TO THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY FOR EXPORT, YOU ARE LOOKING AT A SITUATION WHERE COMPANIES ARE GOING TO SAY "THERE IS I-10, THERE IS THE FOUR-LANING OF HIGHWAY 77, THERE IS THE FOUR-LANING OF HIGHWAY 79, THEY HAVE A FREE TRADE ZONE, THEY ARE 59 MILES FROM THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY. THE COUNTY WILL SEE THEY WILL GENERATE MORE INTEREST FOR THE KIND OF JOBS THEY ARE LOOKING FOR IN WASHINGTON COUNTY BY HAVING A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE.

COMMISSIONER SAPP ASKED IF IT WOULD ENHANCE COMPANIES, SUCH AS THE COMPANY THAT CHOSE NOT TO COME TO WASHINGTON COUNTY BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY. TED SAID THE FTZ WOULD HAVE ENHANCED THAT COMPANY TO COME TO WASHINGTON COUNTY. HE ADDRESSED THE COUNTY WAS THE FIRST CHOICE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOR THIS COMPANY BEFORE THEY DECIDED THEY HAD TO GET TO AN INTERNA- TIONAL AIRPORT. AS SOON AS HE HEARD THIS, HE SENT THIS INFORMATION FROM RANDY CURTIS ON OUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; EVEN THOUGH THAT AIR- PORT IS BEING BUILT AND EVEN THOUGH IT WILL BE UP AND RUNNING IN APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS IF THERE ARE NO DELAYS DUE TO WEATHER, ETC., IT WILL STILL TAKE THE BAY COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THREE TO FIVE YEARS TO FIND A CARRIER TO GO TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. THEREFORE, THIS COMPANY WANTED TO BE NEAR AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THAT ALREADY HAD SERVICES TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE REITERATED THERE IS NO DOUBT THE FTZ WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE COUNTY AN ADVANTAGE FOR THIS COMPANY TO COME TO THE COUNTY. THE COMPANY WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPORTING A LOT OF THEIR PRODUCTS. WHEN YOU TRY TO CREATE A BUSINESS CLIMATE FOR BUSINESSES TO COME IN, ANY TIME YOU CAN LAYER, UPON LAYER OF INCENTIVES, YOU ARE THEN IN COMPETITION WITH PEOPLE IN DADE COUNTY, BREVARD COUNTY, ETC. HE POINTED OUT HE HAD READ WHERE EVERY COUNTY IS FIGHTING FOR ROUGHLY OVER 215 MAJOR COMPANIES, WHICH IS COMPANIES THAT EMPLOY OVER 100 EMPLOYEES. EVERY COUNTY IS PULLING OUT EVERY THING THEY CAN TO LAND THESE JOBS BECAUSE IT HELPS THEIR TAX BASE. IF THE COUNTY HAS A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, THE ENTERPRISE ZONE, THEY HAVE SOMETHING A LOT OF COUNTIES CAN'T TOUCH AND IT GIVES THEM ONE LEG UP. THE ENTERPRISE ZONE WILL PROBABLY BE HERE FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS OR SO; AS LONG AS THE COUNTY IS A RURAL ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGED COUNTY. WE NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT THE STATE HAS

GIVEN US WITH THE ENTERPRISE ZONE AND THEN GO ABOUT IT ON OUR OWN AND PAY THIS CONSULTANT TO PUT IN THE APPLICATION TO GET THE FTZ AND ESTABLISH WASHINGTON COUNTY AS ONE OF THE PREMIUM PANHANDLE COUNTIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THE FTZ WENT FORWARD AND THE COUNTY GOT THE FTZ ESTABLISHED, IF THEY OPENED UP IN SUNNY HILLS, EBRO, OTHER AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT, WOULD THEY AUTOMATICALLY GET THE FTZ THERE OR WOULD THAT BE SOMETHING ADDITIONAL. TED ADVISED THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDITIONAL; IT WOULDN'T AUTOMATICALLY GO FROM ONE PLACE. YOU HAVE TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION PER INDIVIDUAL FTZ; THEY WOULD HAVE TO RE-ESTABLISH THAT. AS HE SEES IT, YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED APPROXIMATELY TWENTY SQUARE MILES FOR YOUR ENTERPRISE ZONE. SUNNY HILLS CURRENTLY DOESN'T HAVE AN ENTERPRISE ZONE. SOME OF THESE ENTERPRISE ZONES ARE GOING TO NEED TO BE LOOKED AT IN A COUPLE OF YEARS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF TED WAS SAYING YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE AN ENTERPRISE ZONE BEFORE YOU CAN ESTABLISH A FTZ. TED STATED "NO". HE SAID YOU COULD GO TO SUNNY HILLS AND GET A FTZ THERE; BUT, IF A BUSINESS IS LOOKING FOR SOME PLACE TO LOCATE FOR THE TYPE OF JOBS THE COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR, IF THEY HAVE THE CHOICE OF GOING TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK OR THE CHIPLEY INDUSTRIAL PARK OR SUNNY HILLS INDUSTRIAL PARK, THOSE TWO WITH THE ENTERPRISE ZONE WOULD BE CHOSEN BEFORE THE ONE THAT DOESN'T BECAUSE OF THE SAVINGS THEY WOULD GET ON THE FULL TIME JOBS THEY CAN CREATE AN EMPLOY. IN THE ENTERPRISE ZONE, THEY CAN GET ANYWHERE FROM A 30% TO 45% SALARY BACK TO THE EMPLOYER FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS IN THE ENTERPRISE ZONE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE ENTERPRISE ZONE WHERE THE FTZ IS GOING TO BE BECAUSE THAT WILL GIVE BUSINESSES THE MOST OPPORTUNITY FOR INCENTIVES WITH THE STATE.

TED SAID THEY COULD EVENTUALLY APPLY FOR A FTZ IN THE SUNNY HILLS AREA AND THEY MAY GET IT; BUT, IF IT DIDN'T HAVE AN ENTERPRISE ZONE, IF YOU WERE LOOKING AT ALL OF THEM ON AN EVEN SPREAD SHEET, THOSE THAT HAVE THE ENTERPRISE ZONE WILL BE MUCH MORE DESIRABLE THAN THOSE THAT DON'T.

TERRY EXPRESSED HIM THINKING ONCE THE AIRPORT IS UP AND GOING YOU HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THERE, SUNNY HILLS AND THAT AREA AS FAR AS CREATING AN INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR YEARS DOWN THE ROAD WOULD BE A GOOD LOCATION. HE THINKS ONCE THE FTZ IS DONE IN CHIPLEY, HE WOULD ASSUME THEY WOULD BE WELL INTO THE PROCESS AND HOPEFULLY IF THEY HAVE AN ISSUE WHERE THEY NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE, THAT WOULD BECOME A GREAT AREA TO DO THAT. AT THAT POINT IN TIME, THAT AREA WOULD BE EVEN CLOSER TO THE PORT AND IT COULD POSSIBLY BECOME A SUBZONE AND THAT WOULD BE ANOTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS.

TED REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER FINCH'S PREVIOUS QUESTION. EVENTUALLY THERE COULD BE A POINT IN TIME, THEY MAY WANT TO TAKE AND RE-ADJUST THESE ENTERPRISE ZONES AND SHOULD SUNNY HILLS GET AN INDUSTRIAL PARK OR SAY IF SOMETHING BECOMES AVAILABLE WITH MOODY'S PASTURE, AND THEY WOULD DONATE SOME LAND TO THE COUNTY, THEY COULD POSSIBLY AT THAT TIME LOOK AT THEIR ENTERPRISE ZONE BOUNDARIES IN ALL THREE OF THE AREAS THEY HAVE IN EBRO, VERNON AND CHIPLEY, SHAVE OFF A LITTLE BIT HERE AND THERE, PUT THAT ENTERPRISE ZONE AROUND THAT POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL PARK. NOTHING IS SET IN STONE WITH THE ENTERPRISE ZONE; THE DESIGNATION OF BOUNDARY LINES CAN BE CHANGED AT A SET TIME PERIOD.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED IF THE NEW PANAMA CITY/BAY COUNTY AIRPORT WAS GOING TO BE A SEPARATE ENTERPRISE ZONE. TED SAID NOT THAT HE IS AWARE OF.

GARY CLARK ADVISED THE PANAMA CITY/BAY COUNTY AIRPORT WOULD HAVE A FTZ. HE POINTED OUT THE ENTERPRISE ZONE AND FTZ IS TOTALLY SEPARATE.

COMMISSIONER PATE THEN ASKED IF THE FTZ INCLUDES THE NEW BAY COUNTY AIRPORT. GARY ADVISED THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD HAVE A FTZ.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED IF PART OF IT WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY SOME. GARY SAID THE FTZ FOR THE AIRPORT WOULD ALL BE IN BAY COUNTY.

TED SAID THEY WOULD BASICALLY HAVE A FTZ AROUND THE WAREHOUSING AND THE COMMERCIAL AREAS THAT ARE GOING TO BE BUILT ADJACENT TO THE AIRPORT BECAUSE THERE WILL BE FREIGHT COMING IN AND THEY WILL WANT TO HAVE A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE THERE.

TERRY SAID THE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE IF A COMPANY WANTS TO GET IT OUT OF THE AIRPORT AREA, THEY DO KNOW WHAT PROPERTY IS GOING TO COST IN THE FTZ AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. WHAT WE WOULD HOPEFULLY BE OFFERING WOULD BE IT COMES IN THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; BUT, IT WOULD BE ABLE TO COME DIRECTLY TO CHIPLEY'S FOREIGN TRADE ZONE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE TO HAPPEN WITH IT ACTUALLY ENTERING THE U.S. WE HAVE BECOME ANOTHER OPTION AND HOPEFULLY A CHEAPER OPTION WHEN IT COMES TO LAND PRICES. AGAIN, CHIPLEY WOULD BE THE ONLY FTZ IF THEY ARE ABLE TO GET THIS DONE OUTSIDE THE BAY COUNTY AREA, EITHER THE PORT OR THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

GARY SAID CHIPLEY IS ACTUALLY BECOMING A SUBZONE OF THE EXISTING FTZ IN PANAMA CITY. THERE IS ANOTHER ONE THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN DOTHAN, ALABAMA; DOTHAN HAS USED IT FOR HUGE ECONOMIC GAIN. IT WAS PART OF THE DECISION MAKING FOR SONY LOCATING IN DOTHAN. THE BIG ADVANTAGE WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS IS AT THE NEW WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK; NOT ONLY THE PROPERTY THE COUNTY HAS ALREADY DESIGNATED TO PROJECT PIPE AND THE TWO REMAINING PARCELS THEY HAVE OUTSTANDING, BUT ALSO FOR THE ACREAGE THEY ARE LOANING TO THE CITY ON A SHORT TERM TO BUILD A SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY, WHEN THEY GET THAT PROPERTY BACK, THEY ARE INCLUDING THAT IN THEIR FTZ DESIGNATION SO THEY ALREADY ARE HAVING SOMETHING THEY CAN MARKET FOR MANUFACTURING, ETC. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THEY HAVE A RAIL SYSTEM THAT IS RUNNING THROUGH THERE THAT WILL CONNECT TWO OTHER MAJOR FTZ; THERE IS ONE IN MOBILE AND PORT OF JACKSONVILLE. GOODS THAT ARE SHIPPED INTO THIS COUNTRY CAN BE UNLOADED INTO EITHER OF THOSE AREAS PLUS A N/S RAIL CORRIDOR GOING INTO PORT PANAMA CITY AND ANOTHER SPUR GOING OFF INTO THE PORT THAT IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE MOST VIABLE PORTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH IS PORT ST. JOE. THERE IS A GROUP DOWN THERE THAT IS WORKING TO REVITALIZE THAT AND THEY HAVE SOME INDUSTRY ALREADY BEGINNING TO DEVELOP. AS YOU SEE SOME OF THE INDUSTRIES BUILDING IN THIS AREA, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME REAL ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES AGAINST THESE OTHER COUNTIES IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME INCENTIVES OUT THERE JUST WITH THESE TWO EXISTING PARCELS THEY ARE GOING TO MARKET AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK. THEY ARE GOING TO MARKET THEM AS A FTZ AND IT WILL GIVE THEM A MAJOR ADVANTAGE TO LOCATE ANOTHER MANUFACTURING COMPANY THAT WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE. HE WANTED TO ADD THOSE COUPLE OF THINGS IN THERE TO BE THINKING ABOUT IN TERMS OF MARKETING AND HOW WE ARE GOING TO BE POSITIONING AND UTILIZING THE SERVICE.

GARY SAID THE BOARD MAY BE THINKING WHY ARE THEY ASKING US TO HELP FUND THE COST OF THIS WHEN WEST POINT HOMES IS OBVIOUSLY THE IMMEDIATE BENEFACTOR FOR THIS WHOLE THING. HE REFERRED TO TED HAVING POINTED OUT THAT WEST POINT HAS A HUGE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION IN THIS PROJECT IN TERMS OF GETTING UP AND BEING ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS. THE KEY TO IT IS THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER COMPANIES THAT HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST. HE ADDRESSED PROJECT UNITECH WOULD HAVE BEEN A FANTASTIC MERIT. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE CURRENT AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND LOOK AT THE SOUTH ALABAMA MARKET AND WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH HUNDAI AND NOKIA AND THESE OTHER COMPANIES, EVERY ONE OF THEM IS FOREIGN COMPANIES AND ARE IMPORTING THEIR PRODUCTS INTO THIS COUNTRY AND DOING ASSEMBLY WORK HERE. THEY ARE NOT MANUFACTURING HERE. THE COUNTY HAS A MAJOR ADVANTAGE TO LOOK AT A NEW NITCH MARKET THEY ARE ACTUALLY GOING TO BE TARGETING AND FOCUSING ON OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR SO.

GARY SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE COUNTY TO REQUEST ATTORNEY HOLLEY TO DRAFT UP AN AGREEMENT THAT IS BETWEEN THE COUNTY COMMISSION, THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION, WHICH IS GOING TO BE THE APPLICATION BOARD, AND THE CITY OF CHIPLEY FOR A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE APPLICATION.

TED INFORMED THE BOARD THE FTZ REQUIRES A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION TO MAKE THE APPLICATION AND THERE ARE NO ADMINISTRATIVE FEES INVOLVED. THE CHAMBER WOULD BE SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AND THE COUNTY FOR THE FTZ; THEY WOULDN'T BE RECEIVING ANY FEES AT ALL.

TERRY SAID THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT THE FTZ APPLICATION GOING FORWARD IS THE INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES AND THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY ARE THE ONES THAT BENEFIT

THE PROGRAM ONGOING. THERE IS NO ONGOING COST TO THE COUNTY TO ADMINISTER ANYTHING IN ANYWAY, NO REPORTING, NOTHING IN REGARDS TO THE CITY. THE PORT OF PANAMA CITY BECOMES THE COMPANY THAT WILL BE A SUBZONE TO THEM; THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE OVERSIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO ALL THE TRANSACTIONS THAT HAVE TO TAKE PLACE. THEN THE INDIVIDUAL COMPANY THAT PARTICIPATES WOULD HAVE THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATION COST.

TED REITERATED THERE WOULD BE NO COST TO THE COUNTY OTHER THAN THE \$25,000 APPLICATION FEE.

TERRY SAID THE REASON IT COULD BE A TREMENDOUS MERIT IS BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO JUST SEE INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES APPLY FOR THE FTZ. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING IS YOU HAVE A COUNTY AND CITY INDUSTRIAL PARK THAT ARE BOTH PARTNERING UP WITH A LOCAL ENTITY, THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION, TO MAKE THE APPLICATION. THEY LIKE TO SEE COOPERATION AND THESE ENTITIES WORKING TOGETHER AND HE FEELS WE WILL HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE FTZ HAPPEN.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY DISCUSSION WITH WEST POINT HOMES OR ANY OTHER COMPANY'S CEO'S ABOUT THE FTZ AND HAVE THEY GIVEN TERRY ANY POSITIVE FEEDBACK THEY FEEL THE FTZ WOULD HELP THE CHIPLEY PLANT BE HERE. LONG TERM, FINCH SAID HE WOULD LIKE FOR WEST POINT HOMES TO STAY AT THE INDUSTRIAL PARK AND THE JOBS BE AVAILABLE.

TERRY SAID WHAT HE HAS DONE IS BASICALLY RANTED AND RAVED TO ANYBODY THAT WOULD LISTEN IN HIS COMPANY ABOUT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE COUNTY AND CITY AND FOLKS AT THE STATE LEVEL TO HELP THEM BE AS COMPETITIVE AS THEY CAN BE. HE HAS LAID OUT THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING IN THE FTZ. THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE. THEY ARE IN A POSITION LIKE MANY COMPANIES OUT THERE. USE TO HE WOULD PUT TOGETHER A FIVE YEAR PLAN AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW THEY ARE DOING A THREE YEAR PLAN. IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT, YOU ARE LUCKY TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE DOING IN SIX MONTHS. THAT IS JUST THE WAY THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IS IN OUR WORLD TODAY. ALL HE CAN TELL THE BOARD IS HIS COMPANY IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES; THE CHIPLEY PLANT RIGHT NOW IS IN THE PLANS TO BE PART OF THEIR COMPANY FOR A LONG TIME. HE ALSO KNOWS HOW QUICKLY THINGS ARE CHANGING, THE THINGS GOING ON IN THE REST OF THE WORLD TODAY; HE CAN SEE THE SAME THINGS BUILDING THERE THAT HAVE CAUSED CLOSURE AT THEIR OTHER FACILITIES. THAT IS WHY HE WANTS THE FTZ NAILED DOWN AND IN PLACE SO HOPEFULLY, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY SAY, WELL SHORT TERM IT MAY HURT US A LITTLE BIT BUT THEY CAN SEE THE ADVANTAGES OF HANGING IN THERE UNTIL THEY GET THE FTZ AVAILABLE. HE WILL BE MAKING A CALL NEXT WEEK, ONCE THEY GET THIS NAILED DOWN IF EVERYBODY IS IN AGREEMENT, SAYING THE COUNTY AND CITY HAS STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE AND WANTS WEST POINT HOMES TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO KEEP THESE JOBS HERE; HE WANTS THEM TO DO THEIR PART.

COMMISSIONER FINCH DIRECTED COMMENTS TO TED. HE SAID IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THIS COMMISSION AND PREVIOUS COMMISSIONS, THEY HAVE SUPPORTED TED'S EFFORTS AND THE CHAMBER'S EFFORTS AND EVERY ENDEAVOR THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN. THEY TRY TO DO THAT THINKING OF HOW IT WOULD IMPACT THE COUNTY ON DECISIONS THEY MADE AND DIDN'T MAKE. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THEY WANT TO BRING IN JOBS AND WANT TO CONTINUE KEEPING THE JOBS THEY HAVE. HE DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE BOARD MOVING FORWARD WITH THE FTZ APPLICATION FUNDING EXCEPT THEY DON'T HAVE THE MONEY. TED KEEPS COMING TO THE BOARD AND TELLING THEM THESE GREAT THINGS, AND FEELS TED HAS MADE A BIG OF EFFORT AS ANYBODY THEY COULD HAVE HAD IN THAT POSITION; THE COUNTY HAS TO HAVE A RETURN ON THE MONEY. WHEN HE INVESTS HIS MONEY, HE WANTS TO PUT IT IN SOMETHING HE CAN GET A RETURN ON IT. HE SAID IF THE BOARD COULD DELAY GIVING THE \$25,000 UNTIL TED COULD GIVE HIM A GUARANTEE PROJECT PIPE IS GOING TO COME IN HE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM; BUT, HE CAN'T WRITE A CHECK TODAY. HE WOULDN'T VOTE TO WRITE TED A CHECK OUT OF THE COUNTY'S BUDGET TODAY; BUT, HE SUPPORTS THE PROJECT AND SUPPORTS WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO AND THINKS IT IS BEING CREATIVE AND MOVING AHEAD OF A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THINKING. HE APPLAUDED TED FOR THAT EFFORT; BUT, TODAY FOR HIM TO VOTE TO WRITE HIM A CHECK OUT OF THE BUDGET, HE WON'T DO IT.

TED SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND FINCH'S POSITION; BUT, HE STATED PROJECT PIPE WILL BE HERE. IT HAS GONE WAY TOO FAR; WAY TOO MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT BY BOTH SIDES OF THE EQUATION. CLIFF KNAUER WAS UP HERE AND TOLD EACH OF THE COMMISSIONERS HE HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RETAINED BY PROJECT PIPE TO DO THEIR SITE PLAN. HE DOESN'T BELIEVE, AFTER TALKING WITH ROGER MILLER AND THE STATE AND HAVING THE STATE DO AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE TO MAKE SURE THEIR GRANTS ARE BEING TAKING CARE OF, AT THIS POINT IN TIME THERE IS ANYWAY PROJECT PIPE IS GOING TO GO AWAY. PROJECT PIPE HAS ALMOST \$30,000 OF THEIR OWN MONEY INVESTED IN DOING THE RAILROAD DESIGN; THEY ARE COMMITTED AND HAVE TO HAVE IT. HE KNOWS THE BUDGET IS TIGHT; BUT, HE ALSO HAS TO SAY THERE IS TIMES YOU HAVE TO MAKE AN EXPENDITURE WHEN YOU KNOW IN THE LONG RUN IT IS GOING TO BE BENEFICIAL. HE FEELS THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH AND HE KNOWS PROJECT PIPE IS GOING TO COME TO FRUITION; TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT ON IT. THE COUNTY WILL REALIZE A \$350,000 WINDFALL WITH PROJECT PIPE AND TAKING THAT MONEY AND INVESTING IT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO TRY AND CREATE MORE JOBS IS THE RIGHT AND WISE THING TO DO.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN QUESTIONED WHY COULDN'T THEY TAKE \$25,000 FROM THE LAND SALE TO PROJECT PIPE AND OBLIGATE IT FOR THE FTZ. IT IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY AS FAR AS BEING ABLE TO BRING INDUSTRY IN FOR JOBS, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP WEST POINT HOMES HERE. IF THEY LOSE WEST POINT HOMES AND OTHER INDUSTRIES COMING IN, THE COUNTY IS NOT GOING TO GO VERY FAR AS FAR AS ADVANCEMENT IN THEIR ECONOMY OR ANYTHING. WASHINGTON COUNTY WON'T GROW.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DOING THAT. THAT IS WHAT HE HOPED HE SAID PREVIOUSLY. BUT, AGAIN, HE WANTS TO KNOW WHEN HE WRITES THE CHECK IT IS NOT GOING TO BOUNCE AND HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT IT WON'T.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID WHEN THEY SALE THE LAND TO PROJECT PIPE, THEN THEY CAN SAY YES. FINCH AGREED AND TOLD TED IF HE WOULD HAVE COME TO THE BOARD A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, THEY WOULD HAVE WRITTEN A CHECK; BUT, THINGS ARE NOT THE SAME.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED WHAT THE TIME LINE IS ON APPROVAL OF PROJECT PIPE AS IT ALL HINGES ON THE RAILROAD SPUR. TED REITERATED HE HAD TALKED WITH ROGER MILLER LAST TUESDAY AND ASKED HIM WHAT IS THE TIME LINE FOR APPROVAL ON THE RAILROAD SPUR. ROGER ADVISED HIM IT WOULD BE 30 TO 45 DAYS. IT HAS BEEN HANDWALKED TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE; IT IS IN THE OFFICE OF TOURISM, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NOW. THEY HAD TO GO BACK AND READJUST THE FIGURES ON THE RAILROAD SPUR BECAUSE THE PRICE OF STEEL HAD GONE UP AND IT ADDED ANOTHER \$25,000 TO 50,000 TO THE OVERALL COST OF THE RAILROAD SPUR. IF THE COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THAT FROM ROGER HIMSELF, HE WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HAVE HIM CALL PETE TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION. HE ASSURED THEM ROGER HAD TOLD HIM AND STACY WEBB, THEY SHOULD KNOW WITHIN 30 TO 45 DAYS. TED SAID HE ASKED ROGER HOW WAS IT GOING TO GO. ROGER TOLD HIM IT WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

TERRY SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE POSITION OF WHAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR. HE ADDRESSED THEY WOULDN'T BE ASKING THE BOARD TO DO THIS IF HE FELT THEY COULD WAIT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS UNTIL THAT ACTUAL LAND TRANSACTION WITH PROJECT PIPE TOOK PLACE. HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THEY BEGIN THE PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THAT IS THE ONLY REASON THEY ARE ASKING THE BOARD TO REACH OUT IN FAITH, ESPECIALLY THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY ARE IN AND HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AND APPRECIATES THE POSITION THEY ARE IN. BUT, HE FEELS IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNTY TO GET THAT APPLICATION STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, THEY FEEL LIKE THIS IS SOMETHING AGAIN COMMISSIONER FINCH MENTIONED THEY WERE KIND OF AHEAD OF THE CURVE AND HE FEELS THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT POINT, IF THEY CAN STAY AHEAD. BUT, HE FEELS LIKE IF THEY DELAY IT FOR THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, THERE ARE SOME OTHER FOLKS IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY AND IF THEY HEAR WASHINGTON COUNTY IS MOVING FORWARD OR THINKING ABOUT MOVING FORWARD, HE FEELS THEY MAY TRY AND PULL SOME THINGS TOGETHER AND MAKE IT HAPPEN TO TRY TO GET IN

LINE BEFORE WASHINGTON COUNTY. THAT IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT; WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T MISS THAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE FIRST IN LINE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN ASKED WHY COULDN'T EACH OF THE COMMISSIONERS TAKE \$5,000 OUT OF THEIR MATERIALS BUDGET AND GIVE IT TOWARD THE FTZ AND WHEN THE LAND SALE FROM PROJECT PIPE COMES ABOUT, THE MONEY BE REIMBURSED TO THEIR MATERIALS BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER SAPP SAID THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. HE THINKS IT DEEMS THE MOST UTMOST DOINGS ON THE BOARD'S PART TO SEE THAT IT TAKES PLACE. IT IS GOING TO MEAN THE DIFFERENCE OF A GREAT IMPACT TO THE COUNTY DOWN THE ROAD. HE THINKS IT IS WORTH THE RISK THEY ARE TAKING. THEY MAY NOT GET THE MONEY BACK; THEN, THEY WILL JUST HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH IT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYWHERE IN THE BUDGET WHERE THEY COULD BORROW THE \$25,000. PETE SAID ON THE TOP OF HIS HEAD HE CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING; HE COULD LOOK.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER SAID THEY HAVE THE LOAN FUND MONIES THAT WERE SET ASIDE THAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LOAN PAYMENT THEY WERE MAKING PRIOR TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE LOAN FOR THE HOSPITAL. THEY COULD POSSIBLY USE THIS AND REIMBURSE IT WHEN THE LAND SALE COMES IN.

FINCH SAID IF THEY COULD BORROW SOME FROM A PLACE LIKE THAT, HE WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT FOR THAT.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER SAID THEY ALSO HAVE MONIES IN THEIR REGULAR LAND SALES IF THEY WANT TO TAKE IT FROM THERE; WHATEVER THEY MAY WANT TO DO.

PETE SAID HE THOUGHT THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE SOUNDS GREAT; BUT, \$50,000 FOR A CONSULTANT TO WRITE A GRANT SOUNDS LIKE AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY. HE ASKED IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE THIS MONEY IS GOING TO BE USED FOR.

GARY SAID \$45,000 WAS THE ACTUAL FEE FOR THE CONSULTANT AND \$5,000 FOR ASSOCIATED COST. WHATEVER IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT, THE CHAMBER WOULD RETURN TO THE CITY AND COUNTY.

TERRY SAID HE HAD ASKED THE QUESTION AND ASKED AROUND; THAT IS PRETTY WELL A STANDARD FEE. THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THIS GROUP; THEY APPEAR TO HAVE THE BEST REPUTATION IN THE SOUTHEAST AND THEY HAVE HAD A LOT OF DIALOGUE WITH THEM. THEY HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP AND ACTUALLY HELPED MANAGE THE ZONE IN PANAMA CITY. THE INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FEE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL COMPANY TO GET IN THE FTZ IS \$40,000. BASICALLY, IT IS GOVERNMENT BUREACRACY AT ITS WORSE. IT IS A FIFTEEN TO EIGHTEEN MONTH PROCESS. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF RESEARCH THAT HAS TO BE DONE AND APPROVED THAT THEY ARE NOT CREATING AN UNDUE ADVANTAGE. THE MORE THEY LEARN ABOUT IT THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS AND VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. BASED ON WHAT HE KNOWS AND SEES AT THIS POINT, HE DOESN'T FEEL IT IS AN UNREASONABLE CHARGE FOR THIS PROCESS.

GARY ADDRESSED THEM HAVING HAD MEETINGS WITH THEIR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS AND THEY HAVE ALL AGREED TO HELP; ONCE THIS APPLICATION IS IN, IT HAS TO BE TAKEN THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ETC. THE CONSULTANT WAS ALSO HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY CONGRESSMAN MILLER'S AGENTS.

KATHY FOSTER SAID SHE ASSUMED SINCE IT WAS GOING THROUGH THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION, IT WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE PUT OUT FOR BID. SHE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY KIND OF DISCUSSION WITH OTHER COMPANIES.

TERRY SAID THEY HAVE WENT THROUGH THE PROCESS, FOUND OUT FROM ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED WHO THE RECOMMENDED CONSULTANT WAS AND THEY APPEARED TO HAVE THE MOST SUCCESS IN THIS AREA OR IN THE SOUTHEAST. EVERYTHING THEY KEPT HEARING KEPT POINTING TO THIS GROUP WOULD BE THE BEST GROUP AND MOST PROFESSIONAL GROUP TO HELP MAKE SURE THE FTZ HAPPENS. HE FEELS VERY CONFIDENT AND FELT THEY DID THEIR DUE DILIGENCE TO MAKE SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT CHOICE. HE WOULD HATE TO SKIMP; THIS CONSULTANT HAS THE REPUTATION AND HE THINKS IT HAS BEEN EARNED IN THAT THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING IT DONE. HE WOULD HATE TO GO WITH ANOTHER CONSULTANT THAT WOULD DO IT CHEAPER BUT THEN ALL THE CONNECTIONS AREN'T THERE AND THEY WIND UP GETTING TURNED DOWN BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T DO SOMETHING.

COMMISSIONER FINCH AGREED WITH WHAT TERRY WAS SAYING. A LOT OF TIME RELATIONSHIPS, CONNECTIONS AND EXPERIENCE IN A CERTAIN AREA MEANS APPROVAL OR NOT APPROVAL; IT MEANS YOU GET THE PROJECT OR YOU DON'T GET THE PROJECT. RELATIONSHIPS IS 90% OF ANY KIND OF BID OR BEING ABLE TO GET A GRANT, PROJECT, ETC.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ADDRESSED HIM BEING LIKE COMMISSIONER FINCH; THEY HAVE BEEN HERE GOING ON FOUR YEARS AND IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY IS GETTING JOBS BUT WASHINGTON COUNTY. HE REFERRED TO JACKSON COUNTY GETTING PLENTY OF JOBS AND WASHINGTON COUNTY IS SORT OF SETTING ON THE BACK BURNER. ANYTHING THE BOARD CAN DO TO CHANGE THIS, HE WILL SUPPORT IT. HE KNOWS IT IS A LONG TERM DOWN THE ROAD LOOK; BUT, IF THE FTZ WILL HELP PEPPERELL STAY OPEN LONGER, JOBS BE HERE AND MORE JOBS COMING IN, HE WILL SUPPORT IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE ECHOED WHAT COMMISSIONER FINCH HAD SAID AND REFERRED TO HIM BEING THE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. HE ADDRESSED IT BEING HARD FOR HIM TO SPEAK ON SPENDING MONEY RIGHT NOW BECAUSE THE COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE IT. HE THINKS THEY MAY COULD COME UP WITH THE MONEY IF DEPUTY CLERK CARTER FEELS SURE THEY CAN BORROW FROM ONE FUND AND PAY IT BACK WITH THE SALE OF THE LAND. HOWEVER, IF THE BOARD WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH IT, THEY COULD APPROVE IT TODAY CONTINGENT ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID THE ONLY THING, WHEN THE BOARD LEAVES HERE TODAY AND IT HITS THE STREETS THEY FOUND \$25,000 TO ROLL THE DICE ON SOMETHING, JIM MORRIS IS GOING TO BE AT HIS STORE IN ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES WHEN HE HEARS THIS. HE WILL GET A 1,000 CALLS FROM SUNNY HILLS SAYING THEY HAD A BUILDING SETTING THERE ABOUT TO BLOW DOWN; BUT, YET THEY COME UP WITH \$25,000 FOR THE FTZ. HE ADDRESSED HIM BEING GLAD TO ANSWER CHIPLEY AND SUNNY HILLS AND FEELS LIKE THEY HAVE A GOOD ANSWER. HE TOLD TED HE COULD SEE WHAT THE BOARD WAS FACING TOO AND THEY WOULD BE A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT MAKING A QUICK DECISION. THAT IS THE KIND OF THINGS THEY WOULD LOOK AT BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER.

TERRY SAID HE UNDERSTANDS; NOT ONLY WILL HE BE MAKING A PITCH AND MAKING IT WELL KNOWN WITHIN WEST POINT HOMES THE INVESTMENT THE COUNTY IS MAKING AND HOPEFULLY THE CITY WILL MAKE. BUT, HE ALSO HAS EMPLOYEE MEETINGS AND IN THOSE EMPLOYEE MEETINGS, HE WILL BE TELLING HIS FOLKS THAT LIVE IN ALL THE COMMISSIONER'S DISTRICTS AND EVERYWHERE ELSE, THE BOARD HAS REACHED OUT ON FAITH TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT TO TRY AND NAIL DOWN THEIR JOBS AND CREATE ADDITIONAL JOBS IN THE FUTURE. HE WILL CHAMPION THIS AND MAKE SURE WITH A LOUD TRUMPET THAT IS HEARD BY ALL THEIR FOLKS AND THEY UNDERSTAND THE BOARD IS REACHING OUT ON FAITH AND TAKING A GIANT STEP TO HELP US HOPEFULLY NAIL DOWN THEIR JOBS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID IT IS BAD THEY ARE A COUNTY AND \$25,000 IS A BIG THING. AGAIN, A YEAR AND A HALF OR TWO YEARS AGO, THE BOARD WOULD HAVE DONE IT IN A MINUTE BECAUSE THE BUDGET LOOKED SO GREAT. HE WAS THINKING AT THAT TIME, WHEN THEY WERE PREPARING THOSE BUDGETS, THE COUNTY HAD FINALLY ARRIVED AND THEN THE LEGISLATURE SNATCHED THEIR FEET OUT FROM UNDER THEM.

GARY SAID THE CHAMBER PROBABLY HASN'T DONE AS GOOD A JOB AS THEY SHOULD HAVE FROM AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTIVE OF GIVING THE BOARD SOME MATERIALS, SOME AMUNITION TO SHARE WITH SOME OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

GARY REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND'S COMMENTS BEING RIGHT ON TARGET. YOU LOOK AT HOW WASHINGTON COUNTY COMPETED WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES. HE SAID HE WOULD PUT WASHINGTON COUNTY HEAD TO HEAD WITH ANY OF THE SMALL COUNTIES IN THE PANHANDLE IN TERMS OF JOB CREATION. HE SAID YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT IT FROM THE BIG PICTURE. JACKSON COUNTY IN THE SHORT TERM LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE DONE REALLY GOOD; WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IS ECONOMIC RECOVERY OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. HE REFERRED TO RUSSELL CORPORATION WITH 1200 EMPLOYEES, LEHIGH FURNITURE WITH ALMOST 1,000 EMPLOYEES, UNIMAC WITH A 1,000 EMPLOYEES THAT WENT DOWN. JACKSON COUNTY HAD AN ABUNDANCE OF AVAILABLE BUILDINGS THEY BEGAN TO MARKET TO TRY TO MAKE THOSE RECOVERIES. WASHINGTON COUNTY HASN'T HAD THOSE. THE BEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT YOU COULD DO AND THE MOST OVERLOOKED ASPECT OF JOB CREATION IS THE JOB RETENTION. THE FUNDAMEN- TAL THEORY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS YOU HAVE TO

TAKE CARE OF WHAT YOU HAVE GOT IF YOU WANT TO GROW. THE BEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS TO GROW WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY GOT. THAT HAS BEEN THE CHAMBER'S PHILOSOPHY. THEY HAVEN'T HAD THE UNFORTUNATE SETBACKS THAT HOLMES COUNTY HAS HAD, THAT JACKSON COUNTY HAS HAD WITH MAJOR ECONOMIC LOSSES. HE ADDRESSED THREE SHIRT FACTORIES IN HOLMES COUNTY THAT CLOSED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS. HE REFERRED TO THE MAJOR INVESTMENT PUT OUT WITH THE LOADER FACILITY THAT IS RIGHT BEHIND THEIR OFFICE IN BONIFAY. THEY HAVEN'T HAD THOSE KIND OF SETBACKS. HE COMMITTED TO GIVE WASHINGTON COUNTY SOME BETTER ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION THROUGH THE TAX ROLLS. THAT IS WHERE THE BOARD SEES THE BOTTOM LINE WITH THE AD VALOREM TAXES. HE TOLD THE BOARD TO LET THE CHAMBER GIVE THEM THE AMMUNITION THEY NEED TO SHOW: HERE IS WHERE WE GOT OUR MONEY AND HERE IS OUR PAYBACK; IT COMES BACK IN AD VALOREM TAXES. THEY WILL PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION TO THE BOARD SO THEY CAN PROVIDE IT TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED JACKSON COUNTY RECOVERING SO GOOD THEY HAD A PLANT THAT HAD BLOWED DOWN AND THEY HAD TO GO IN AND ACTUALLY REBUILD IT.

CLARK SAID THE CHAMBER DID AN EXPANSION OF WEST POINT INTO JACKSON COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER SAPP OFFERED A MOTION TO PAY THE \$25,000 TOWARD THE FTZ PROCESS FROM THE LOAN FUND ESTABLISHED TO PUT THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LOAN PAYMENT THEY WERE MAKING PRIOR TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE LOAN FOR THE HOSPITAL WITH THESE MONIES TO BE REIMBURSED ONCE THE PROJECT PIPE LAND SALE IS COMPLETED. COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCOVERED SOMETHING LOOKED BETTER ON THE MONIES TO BE USED TO FUND THE \$25,000 FOR THE FTZ, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE IT COMES FROM BECAUSE THEY ARE BORROWING MONEY AND IT WOULD NEED TO BE FROM THE MOST LOGICAL FUND. THE BOARD AGREED WHEREVER THE \$25,000 COMES FROM, IT SHOULD BE REIMBURSED FROM THE SALE OF LAND TO PROJECT PIPE.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER SAPP OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND CARRIED TO AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY HOLLEY TO DRAW UP THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK FOR THE FTZ.

TED THANKED THE BOARD FOR THE DECISION THEY MADE TO CONTRIBUTE \$25,000 TOWARD THE FTZ. HE ADDRESSED THERE BEING NO BETTER RETURN ON THEIR MONEY THAN AN INVESTMENT IN JOBS. THE BOARD IS SHOWING THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY TODAY THEY ARE KNOWLEDGABLE ENOUGH TO MAKE THAT DECISION IN AN INVESTMENT IN JOBS. THE CHAMBER WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON PROJECT PIPE AND ANY THING THAT COMES THEIR WAY THAT MEETS THE SALARIES, THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITIES EVERYBODY WANTS FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTY.

TED UPDATED THE BOARD ON HAVING MET WITH THE PRESS ON THE FTZ AND YOU WILL NOT SEE A WHOLE LOT IN THE PAPERS ABOUT WHAT THEY DID TODAY ON THE FTZ. THE REASON BEING, THEY ARE KEENLY AWARE THERE ARE OTHER COUNTIES AROUND US THAT ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AS WELL. WE DON'T WANT TO TIP OUR HANDS TO THE COMPETITION. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS POKER; THEY DON'T WANT JACKSON COUNTY TO GET A GOOD STRONG WIND OF WHAT THEY ARE UP TO. JACKSON COUNTY CAN PROBABLY DO THINGS A LITTLE BIT QUICKER AND PROBABLY HAVE A LITTLE BIT MORE MONEY; THEREFORE, WASHINGTON COUNTY IS GOING TO KEEP THIS FTZ TO THEMSELVES. THEY ARE GOING TO GO BEFORE THE CHIPLEY CITY COUNCIL THIS THURSDAY; IF THEY APPROVE IT, THEY WILL ASK THE PRESS TO KEEP THIS ALL AS CLOSE AS THEY CAN TO THEIR CHEST UNTIL APRIL 1ST. HE SAID THEY ARE ASKING THE PRESS AND THE BOARD TO GIVE THE CHAMBER A LITTLE BIT OF TIME UNDER THEIR BELTS TO GET THE APPLICATION FOR THE FTZ IN THE HOPPER. ONCE IT IS IN THE HOPPER, THE PRESS WILL GET A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION AND THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD FOR THE THOUGHT PROCESS THEY PUT INTO THE FTZ.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED WHEN THEY WOULD BREAK GROUND ON PROJECT PIPE. TED ADVISED THEY HOPED TO HOLD IT SOMETIME IN APRIL AND MAY IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDINGLY. THE COUNTY ALLOCATED 25 ACRES OR SO OF UPLANDS THERE COULD BE CONSTRUCTION WORK ON. CLIFF SAID HE WOULD BE MAKING THE PAPERWORK FOR THE FL-

DEP ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY. THERE IS VERY FEW WETLANDS LEFT THAT HAVE TO BE MITIGATED; THAT IS GOING TO SAVE THE COUNTY A BIG CHUNK OF WETLANDS THEY HAVE TO PUT FORWARD TO IT. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE HAVING A MEETING NEXT WEEK WITH ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE COUNTY THAT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PROJECT. THE GRANTS HAVE BEEN CHECKED OFF.

HE REPORTED THAT STACY WEBB HAD MADE A COMMENT THE OTHER DAY AT ROGER MILLER'S OFFICE SHE HAD SEVERAL OTHER LARGE GRANTS SHE WAS WORKING ON IN THE BEHALF OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND HAS A HEAVY WORKLOAD. HE COMMENTED TO HER HE THOUGHT AT THIS POINT IN TIME THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WOULD CERTAINLY WANT THE GRANT FOR PROJECT PIPE STEPPED UP A LEVEL OR TWO SO THEY COULD BRING THIS GRANT HOME TO SHOW THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY THAT PROJECT PIPE IS IN REALITY GOING TO BE BREAKING GROUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

TED SAID THE DELAY OF PROJECT PIPE HAS NOT BEEN THE FAULT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR THE CHAMBER; IT WAS BECAUSE THE COMPANY WAS BUILDING TWO OTHER FACILITIES IN A YEAR AND A HALF THEY COULD HAVE BEEN PUTTING PROJECT PIPE TOGETHER. ONCE THEY GOT THOSE TWO PLANTS UP AND RUNNING, THE ATTENTION WAS TURNED TO CHIPLEY.

COMMISSIONER SAPP UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE EQUESTRIAN FACILITY. HE WAS GOING TO TRY AND GET THE PUBLIC PARKING AREA CLEARED ON FRIDAY WHEN THE EQUIPMENT IS NOT BEING USED ON THE ROADS. HE EXPLAINED THIS IS FOR THE RODEO PARKING OUTSIDE THE FRONT ON THE RIGHT SIDE GOING INTO THE FACILITY. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO ALLOW THEM TO GO AHEAD AND GET THIS DONE BEFORE THE FIRST RODEO THE FIRST OF MARCH. THE BOARD CONSENTED TO ALLOW COMMISSIONER SAPP TO GO AHEAD AND GET THE PUBLIC PARKING AREA CLEARED BEFORE THE FIRST RODEO.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOLMAN AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:_____

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 02/12/08