

BOARD MINUTES FOR 03/09/09

MARCH 9, 2009

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 9:00 A.M. IN SPECIAL SESSION AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS HOWELL, PATE, HOLMAN AND BROCK PRESENT. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT AND DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN HOWELL OPENED THE MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER HOLMAN OFFERING PRAYER AND LEADING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CHAIRMAN HOWELL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE BOARD WOULD BE RECESSING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATION, STRATEGY AND LITIGATION EXPENDITURES IN A MATTER OF PENDING LITIGATION.

PURSUANT TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION, THE MEETING RECONVENED IN PUBLIC SESSION FOR A WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE MSBU ORDINANCE AND THE COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS.

CHAIRMAN HOWELL ADDRESSED IT BEING APPARENT AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING, THERE WERE THINGS ABOUT THE MSBU ORDINANCE SOME OF THEM WERE NOT HAPPY WITH. HE REQUESTED THEY GO OVER THE ORDINANCE, REVIEW IT AND REWRITE IT TO WHERE IT WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH ALL THE BOARD. THEY WILL WORKSHOP THE ORDINANCE AGAIN ON THE 23RD AND HAVE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MSBU ORDINANCE ON THE 26TH.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED THIS AT THEIR LAST WORKSHOP BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 26TH MEETING AND NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NOT AGREEING WITH THE ORDINANCE; HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC HEARING IS HELD ON IT ON THE 26TH AND FOUR OF THE BOARD VOTED AGAINST IT. HE EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE WORKSHOP PROCESS BEFORE THE MEETING AND SAID YOU HAVE WORKSHOPS TO GO OVER ISSUES, DISCUSS THEM AND IF THERE ARE ANY DISAGREEMENTS, IT IS AT THAT POINT IN TIME WHEN THEY OUGHT TO BE BROUGHT UP, NOT ON THE NIGHT OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HIS UNDERSTANDING, IN A MEETING BEFORE NOVEMBER, THE BOARD AT THAT TIME MADE A MOTION TO RESCIND THE COMMITTEE. LATER ON, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TOLD THE BOARD THEY WOULD HAVE TO REDO THE ORDINANCE; THEY WERE IN VIOLATION. HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN THERE ALL THE TIME; LEGALLY, IT HAS NEVER BEEN DISSOLVED.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID HE DIDN'T REMEMBER THE BOARD OFFICIALLY DISSOLVING THE COMMITTEE. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT ADVISED THE BOARD DID VOTE TO DO AWAY WITH THE COMMITTEE.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE NEW MSBU ORDINANCE DOES AWAY WITH THAT ANYWAY.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL REFERRED TO THE AUGUST 23RD MINUTES ELIMINATED THE MSBU COMMITTEE AS OF OCTOBER 2008.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REPORTED ATTORNEY HOLLEY CAME BACK AND SAID IF THEY WANTED TO DO AWAY WITH THE COMMITTEE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED HIM HEARING STATEMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, EVERYBODY IS PLEASED WITH THE MSBU COMMITTEE THEY HAVE; THEY HAVE BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB. IF YOU HAVE A COMMITTEE THAT IS DOING A GOOD JOB, WHY DO YOU WANT TO ELIMINATE THEM AND REDO IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL POINTED OUT THAT IS WHAT THE BOARD VOTED TO DO; ELIMINATE THAT PRESENT SITTING MSBU COMMITTEE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REITERATED ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY HOLLEY, THEY HAD TO REDO THE ORDINANCE BEFORE THEY COULD ELIMINATE THE MSBU COMMITTEE. LEGALLY, THAT VOTE WAS NO GOOD.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE MSBU ORDINANCE HAD TO BE CHANGED.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY STATED THE NEW ORDINANCE HAS TO HAVE A COMMITTEE IN IT ALSO; YOU CAN'T HAVE AN MSBU WITHOUT AN MSBU COMMITTEE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED HIS UNDERSTANDING THE BOARD COULD HAVE VOTED TO ELIMINATE THE MSBU COMMITTEE THAT WAS SITTING AT THE TIME. ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE BOARD DID VOTE TO DO THAT. THEREFORE, YOU HAD TO CHANGE THE ORDINANCE FOR A NEW COMMITTEE.

DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW SAID SHE THOUGHT THE BOARD'S UNDERSTANDING WAS THEY WANTED TO DO AWAY WITH THE MSBU COMMITTEE, HAVE A COUNTY EMPLOYEE DO THE FUNCTIONS AND ACCORDING TO WHAT ATTORNEY HOLLEY IS SAYING NOW, MSBU CAN'T LEGALLY OPERATE WITHOUT A COMMITTEE. SHE THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY THE MOTION WAS MADE TO BEGIN WITH TO DISBAN THE MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL EXPLAINED THE WHOLE POINT IN THE NEW MSBU ORDINANCE WAS TO KEEP AN MSBU COMMITTEE IN PLACE SO THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE A SAY IN HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT SO THE COUNTY WOULDN'T DO IT. THAT WAS THE WHOLE REASON FOR HAVING A COMMITTEE; THE BOARD WANTED TO ABOLISH THE WHOLE COMMITTEE AND NOT EVEN HAVE A COMMITTEE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID THE BOARD AGREED TO DO AWAY WITH THE MSBU COMMITTEE ON THE EXTENT OF EVERYTHING GOING ON DOWN THERE AND THEN FIND OUT THEY HAD TO HAVE A COMMITTEE. IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A COMMITTEE, HE WANTED TO KEEP THE SAME COMMITTEE AND THE ONES THAT NEED TO BE REPLACED, REPLACE THEM AND LET THEM DO WHAT THEY NEED TO DO ACCORDING TO THE ORDINANCE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE SAYING FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MEET THREE MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR TO DO THE BUDGET FOR MSBU AND PRESENT IT TO THE COMMISSION.

COMMISSIONER PATE EXPLAINED THERE WAS REALLY NOTHING ELSE MSBU CAN DO DUE TO THEIR DEBT SERVICE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THERE IS PROBABLY A SURPLUS AMOUNT OF MONEY ONCE THEY PAY THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE LOAN AND THE LOANS ON THE EQUIPMENT; THE COMMITTEE WOULD NEED TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THAT SURPLUS.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID HE THOUGHT THE BOARD HAD VOTED ONE TIME TO DEVOTE ALL THE MSBU FUNDS TO PAYING OFF THE MSBU DEBT. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE DIDN'T THINK HE SEEN ANY MINUTES TO THAT AFFECT; THE MINUTES HE READ SAID THE BOARD VOTED TO DISSOLVE THE COMMITTEE. ATTORNEY HOLLEY REPORTED WHEN THE BOARD DIRECTED HIM TO REDO THE NEW ORDINANCE, THAT WAS THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, HE BELIEVES.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL REFERRED TO THE NEW ORDINANCE ATTORNEY HOLLEY PREPARED SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE MSBU MONIES WOULD GO TOWARD DEBT WITH ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAYING THAT IS THE WAY HE WORDED IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE NEEDED DIRECTION FROM THE BOARD ON WHAT THEY WANT TO DO ABOUT MSBU. HE ASKED DO THEY WANT A COMMITTEE OR DO THEY WANT A COUNTY EMPLOYEE TO DO IT ALL.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY REITERATED THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE AN MSBU COMMITTEE.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO KEEP THE MSBU COMMITTEE THEY HAVE AND ANYONE UP FOR RENEWAL, GO THROUGH THE PROCESS AND KEEP THE REMAINDER OF THE NEW MSBU ORDINANCE AS IS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL INFORMED THE BOARD THE NEW ORDINANCE SAYS THE COMMITTEE WILL FUNCTION THREE MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR, THEY WILL CREATE THE BUDGET AND PRESENT IT TO THE BOARD BY JULY 31ST.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ASKED IF THE BOARD WAS OKAY WITH ROGER HAGAN BEING COORDINATOR. THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS THEY HAD NO PROBLEM WITH ROGER HAGAN BEING COORDINATOR; HOWEVER, HE IS NOT TO RECEIVE ANY PAY. THEY AGREED FOR ROGER TO ACCRUE COMP TIME FOR ANY HOURS WORKED OVER ON MSBU.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED THE NEED FOR THE BOARD TO OPEN IT BACK UP FOR PEOPLE TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS AND THOSE POSITIONS BE FILLED WITH APPLICATIONS THEY ALREADY HAVE AND THEN WITH THE NEW APPLICATIONS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID IT WOULD BE FAIR IF THEY ARE GOING TO DO A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO DO IT AGAIN NOW. HE ADDRESSED THE DISCUSSION AT THE FEBRUARY 26TH MEETING ABOUT THE PAPER THE COUNTY ADVERTISED IN AS FAR AS THESE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. HE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMING OUT OF SUNNY HILLS AND WANTED THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE MSBU COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE PUT IN THE SUNNY HILLS NEWSLETTER AND THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PAPER. WHEN ASKED WHERE ELSE THE PEOPLE WANTED THIS ADVERTISED, THE BUGLE, FOSTER FOLLIES, ALL THE PAPERS, ETC, WERE MENTIONED. ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THEY WERE LEGALLY COVERED WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PAPER.

KAREN SCHOEN ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING ONE OF THE REASONS THE MSBU COMMITTEE WAS BEING CHANGED IS THE WAY THE COMMITTEE WAS CHOSEN; IT WAS NOT CHOSEN BY ADVERTISING IN THE PAPER. IT WAS CHOSEN BY PETE GOING THROUGH THE OLD RESUMES, GIVING THEM TO VERNON ANDERSON TO CHOOSE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL TOLD MS. SCHOEN IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW THOSE WERE PICKED, ETC.; THE BOARD IS GOING TO PICK FOUR NEW PEOPLE THAT ARE ROTATING OFF TO GO WITH THE THREE THAT IS ALREADY ON THE COMMITTEE. HOW THEY WERE PICKED BEFORE, HOWELL SAID IT DOESN'T MATTER. ALL THE APPLICATIONS THAT COME IN WILL BE SCORED AND THE BOARD WILL SELECT THE FOUR REPLACEMENTS FROM THAT.

VERNON ANDERSON TOLD THE BOARD IT WAS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT FOR THE MSBU COMMITTEE TO OPERATE THREE MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR BECAUSE THERE IS CERTAIN BUSINESS THAT COMES UP THAT HAS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. HE GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE CURRENT COMMITTEE HAVING TWO MEMBERS RESIGN; ONE OF THEM HAD A YEAR LEFT ON THEIR TERM. ACCORDING TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES, IF A MEMBER RESIGNS, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD TO APPOINT A POSITION TO FILL IT. WHEN A MEMBERS TERM EXPIRE, THE COMMITTEE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT; THAT IS SOLELY THE COUNTY.

MR. ANDERSON REFERRED TO ANOTHER REASON FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MEET MORE OFTEN THAN THREE MONTHS IS THERE ARE CERTAIN EMERGENCIES THAT COME UP. HE GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF A REMARK BEING MADE THE FIRECHIEF WAS GOING TO MOVE MSBU OFF THE FIRESTATION PROPERTY WHERE THEY HAVE THEIR SHOP, PARTS AND EQUIPMENT STORED. IF THAT COMES UP, THE COMMITTEE IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNTY ABOUT PURCHASING ANOTHER PIECE OF PROPERTY SOMEWHERE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED WHY THE COMMITTEE HAD TO DO THAT; WHY WOULDN'T THE COUNTY TAKE CARE OF THAT. MR. ANDERSON STATED THERE WAS NOBODY MINDING THE STORE DOWN THERE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL INFORMED MR. ANDERSON THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE AN MSBU COORDINATOR DOWN THERE.

MR. ANDERSON REITERATED IT IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO MEET THREE MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR AND TAKE CARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL STATED THERE WAS A CLAUSE IN THE NEW MSBU ORDINANCE, IF THE BOARD NEEDS TO, THEY CAN CALL THE MSBU COMMITTEE INTO SESSION. IT ALSO SPEAKS TO THE TERM OF OFFICE AND SELECTION IN THE ORDINANCE AS WELL.

JOHN MAHOLSKI ASKED IF WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS A LEGAL PAPER FOR PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES. ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS WAS THE OFFICIAL PAPER THEY USE FOR PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES. THE BOARD CAN ADVERTISE IN OTHER PAPERS IF THEY WISH TO; HOWEVER, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS IS THE ONLY ONE REQUIRED.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED HIM NOT HAVING A PROBLEM IF THE MSBU COMMITTEE MEETS SIX MONTHS AND QUESTIONED WHY THREE MONTHS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED THE COMMITTEE COULD START EARLY; BUT, THEY JUST NEED TO HAVE THE MSBU BUDGET READY BY THE 31ST OF JULY SO THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TIME TO INCORPORATE IT IN THE BUDGET PROCESS.

CHAIRMAN HOWELL ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE MSBU ORDINANCE; THERE WAS NO RESPONSE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL BROUGHT UP ROADS THEY HAD DISCUSSED AT THE FEBRUARY 26TH MEETING THAT EITHER NEEDED TO BE DELETED OR ADDED TO THE COUNTY'S ROAD LIST:

1. SEMINOLE ROAD-DELETE
2. HILLTOP ROAD-DELETE
3. PANTHER TRAIL-ADD ONE MILE
4. SPRINGPOND ROAD-ADD FOUR TENTHS OF A MILE
5. WOODY MARION-ADD ONE MILE
6. SNOWDEN DRIVE-ADD ONE TENTH OF A MILE
7. WALTERS ROAD-MAINTAINED LENGTH TO BE A MILE

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED AS FAR AS THESE ROADS ARE CONCERNED, HE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT THESE ROADS HIMSELF BEFORE TAKING ACTION ON THEM. HE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE WALTERS ROAD BECAUSE THE LANDOWNERS OUT THERE DON'T WANT THE COUNTY TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THE MILE ANYWAY. COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID THE BOARD HAD AGREED TO DISMISS SNOWDEN DRIVE AT THE FEBRUARY 26TH MEETING, SO IT WAS TAKEN OFF THE LIST.

THE WOODY MARION ROAD, PANTHER TRAIL AND SPRING POND ROAD IS ALL IN THE SEMINOLE PLANTATION SUBDIVISION THAT STAN PORTER PUT TOGETHER. DALLAS SAID WOODY MARION, PANTHER TRAIL AND SPRING POND ROAD HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COUNTY AS FAR AS THE DISTANCES BEING ADDRESSED; THEY JUST NEED TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST. WHEN QUESTIONED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL WHEN THESE ROADS WERE ACCEPTED, ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT SAID IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN THE BANK FORECLOSED ON THE PROPERTIES; THE ATTORNEY FROM THE BANK CAME AND TALKED TO THE BOARD AND MADE A DEAL FOR THE BOARD TO TAKE OVER THE MAINTENANCE ON THOSE ROADS.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO TALK ABOUT THE ROADS AGAIN AT THE MARCH 23RD WORKSHOP.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REQUESTED THEY TALK ABOUT THE FUNDING FOR ROADS THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT BUILDING. HE ADDRESSED THERE BEING MILES OF FENCES TO BE PUT UP, PILES OF CROSSDRAINS, DRIVEWAY PIPES, STRIPING, SODDING, ETC. HE EXPLAINED HE DIDN'T WANT TO START BUILDING ROADS LIKE THEY DID AT ROLLING PINES AND NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO PUT STRIPING ON THEM.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THEY COULD CLEAR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY; BUT, BEFORE THEY GET MUCH FURTHER ALONG, THEY NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW MUCH OF THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO PAVE WITH THE MONEY THEY HAVE AND GRASS THE DITCHES, ETC. AND DO IT RIGHT. IF THEY CAN'T DO TWO OR THREE MILES OF IT, THEN THEY NEED TO DO A MILE OF IT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK POINTED OUT THE FUNDING RECEIVED IS EARMARKED FOR THREE MILES AND HE DOESN'T KNOW IF YOU CAN ONLY DO ONE MILE.

COMMISSIONER PATE TOLD THE BOARD THE STATE HAD CHANGED THE FUNDING FORMULA ON THE COST PER MILE IF HE REMEMBERED CORRECTLY.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT SAID THE COUNTY SIGNED A CONTRACT TO DO THREE MILES AND THEY ARE GOING TO NEED TO DO THREE MILES; BUT, THE STATE DID INCREASE THE PER LANE MILE COST.

IT WAS DISCUSSED THAT SOME OF THE PROJECTS THEY HAVE ONGOING ARE RESURFACING AND SOME ARE ROAD BUILDING PROJECTS.

PETE SAID BAHOMA ROAD, BONNETT POND AND RIVER ROAD ARE ALL FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION; HIGHWAY 279 AND OLD BONIFAY IS RESURFACING PROJECTS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED THERE BEING EIGHT MILES OF ROADS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BUILD AND THEY ONLY HAVE A LITTLE BETTER THAN \$1,000,000 TO BUILD THEM; THERE IS NO WAY POSSIBLE TO BUILD THEM WITH THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED THE COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUILD THESE ROADS AND IF FL-DOT DOESN'T GIVE US ENOUGH MONEY TO DO NEW CONSTRUCTION, LET'S GO BACK TO TALK TO THEM.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THE BOARD NEEDS TO TALK TO FL-DOT ABOUT PROVIDING MORE MONEY OR EITHER LOOK AT IMPLEMENTING THE ELMS NICKEL. HE POINTED OUT THE ELMS NICKEL WAS AVAILABLE FOR COUNTIES THAT ARE IN FINANCIAL BURDEN TO USE FOR NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL POINTED OUT THE ELMS NICKEL WAS TALKED ABOUT AT A PREVIOUS WORKSHOP; BUT, NOBODY WAS WILLING TO DO THAT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK EXPLAINED YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU GET. HE ADDRESSED THE COUNTY HAVING THIRTEEN PIECES OF EQUIPMENT AT PUBLIC WORKS THAT IS OUT OF WARRANTY, GRADERS RUNNING THAT HAVE AROUND 800 OR 900 HOURS ON THEM NOW AND IT IS GOING TO BE A BIG PROBLEM FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE IF THE COUNTY DON'T COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF FUNDING FOR TRANSMISSIONS, MOTORS, ETC. THE ELMS NICKEL IS NOT BORROWED MONEY AND NOT PUTTING THE COUNTY IN DEBT; THE BOARD IS JUST TRYING TO PROVIDE A SERVICE TO THE RURAL AREAS BECAUSE THEY NEED IT.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE ELMS NICKEL IS ESTIMATED TO GENERATE \$430,000; BUT, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SHARED WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES THAT PARTICIPATE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED IF THE MUNICIPALITIES DIDN'T HAVE A ROAD PROGRAM, THE COUNTY WOULDN'T HAVE TO SHARE THE REVENUES WITH THEM. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT ADVISED THAT WAS CORRECT.

DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW SAID THE CITY OF EBRO IS THE ONLY MUNICIPALITY THAT DOESN'T HAVE TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES IN THEIR AUDIT REPORT AND YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER THOSE. SHE EXPLAINED THE PROCESS OF DERIVING THE FORMULA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX BY OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM THE LAST FIVE YEARS AUDIT REPORTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED COMMISSIONER BROCK BEING RIGHT ABOUT THE FUNDING AT PUBLIC WORKS. WHETHER THEY AGREE TO DO THE ELMS NICKEL OR NOT, PATE SAID IT WAS PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH TO DO WHAT IS NEEDED TO BE DONE. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IS WHEN THESE PROJECTS WERE FIRST STARTED, EVERYBODY KNEW THEY SHOULD BE MATCHING MONEY. IN 2005-2006, THEY DIDN'T PUT ANY MATCHING MONIES UP. NOW, THEY HAVE COME ALONG WITH BAD ECONOMY AND DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED YOU GO WEEK BY WEEK AND NO MATTER WHAT GAS PUMP YOU ARE AT, NONE OF THE GAS PRICES ARE THE SAME AND FLUCTUATE FOUR TO FIVE CENTS EVERY WEEK. HE REFERRED TO THE MAINTENANCE NEEDED IN

THE COUNTY AND THE COUNTY NEEDING TO GET OUT OF THE ROAD BUILDING BUSINESS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF THE ELMS NICKEL COULD BE USED FOR MAINTENANCE AT PUBLIC WORKS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID IT COULD BE USED FOR ANYTHING FOR PUBLIC WORKS HE THOUGHT. COMMISSIONER HOWELL FELT, IF THE BOARD CONSIDERED THE ELMS NICKEL, PART OF THE MONEY SHOULD BE EARMARKED FOR NEW CON- STRUCTION OR PAVING ROADS, ETC.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED HIM, THE PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISORS, AND PETE MEETING WEEKLY AND ARE TRYING TO CUT DOWN COSTS AND LOOK AT DIFFERENT THINGS THAT COULD BE DONE DIFFERENTLY OR BETTER TO SAVE MONEY. ONE OF THE BIG THINGS ON THEIR MIND IS THE SHOP AND THE EQUIPMENT. HE ADDRESSED THE BOARD MAY NEED TO CONSIDER SEEING IF THEY HAVE ANY EQUIPMENT AROUND THAT NEEDS TO BE SOLD. IF THERE IS EQUIPMENT THAT IS NOT BEING USED VERY OFTEN, THEY MAY COULD SELL IT AND RENT THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WHEN NEEDED.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID IF THE BOARD DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO DO THESE THREE PROJECTS, THEY MIGHT HAVE TO JUST LET THEM GO BACK.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL FELT A MEETING WITH FL-DOT TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT GIVING ADDITIONAL FUNDINGS FOR THESE PROJECTS WAS NEEDED BEFORE THEY LET THE PROJECTS GO BACK.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REPORTED ON BAHOMA ROAD AND BONNETT POND ROAD THERE IS A 50/50 MATCH AND FL-DOT WILL WAIVER THE MATCH; BUT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY WILL REDUCE THE SCOPE OF WORK. THEY WILL LEAVE IT AT THREE MILES. THE COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE TO PUT UP A CASH MATCH; THEY CAN COVER IT WITH AN INKIND MATCH.

HERBERT REPORTED THAT RIVER ROAD IS A NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT AND IT IS FOR CONSTRUCTION ONLY; THE ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, ETC., THE COUNTY IS REQUIRED TO PAY FOR THESE SERVICES.

COMMISSIONER PATE QUESTIONED IF THERE WAS ENOUGH TO BUILD RIVER ROAD IF THE COUNTY PAYS FOR THESE OTHER SERVICES.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THEY WOULD TALK ABOUT THE FUNDING OF ONGOING COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS WITH CLIFF AT THE MARCH 23RD WORKSHOP. HE SAID EVEN IF THE BOARD ENACTED THE ELMS NICKEL TODAY, THE COUNTY WOULDN'T START COLLECTING THE PROCEEDS UNTIL JANUARY OF 2010.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED IT POSSIBLY COULD HELP THE COUNTY OUT TODAY IF THEY PASSED THE ELMS NICKEL; THE CONTRACTORS WOULD WORK WITH THE COUNTY ON ROAD CONSTRUCTION. THEY WILL FINANCE TO BUILD THE ROADS FOR THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL TOLD THE BOARD HE AND PETE HAD TALKED ABOUT TAKING THE ELMS NICKEL AND PLEDGE IT TOWARD A LOAN. THEY TALKED WITH RALPH CELLON ABOUT GETTING SOME BRIDGE MONEY IN BETWEEN AND GOING AHEAD AND PASS THE ELMS NICKEL; START COLLECTING THE MONEY IN JANUARY 2010, BUILD THE ROAD PROJECTS NOW AND PAY IT BACK NEXT YEAR WITH THE ELMS NICKEL. THE QUESTION IS DOES THE BOARD WANT TO PUT THE COUNTY IN DEBT FOR ANOTHER FIVE TO TEN YEARS FOR ANOTHER LOAN JUST TO BUILD THESE THREE LITTLE PROJECTS.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO SET A WORKSHOP FOR MARCH 16TH AT 10:00 A.M. ON THE ROAD PROJECTS.

RICK DAVIS, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH INFORMATION ON THE MAJOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

RICK REPORTED THE WCHD DENTAL CLINIC SERVED 1400 MEDICAID CLIENTS AND 22 PRIVATE INSURANCE CLIENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008; ABOUT 99% OF

THEIR CLIENTS ARE MEDICAID AND THEY ARE ALL UNDER 21. THE WCHD MEDICAL CLINIC FOR THE SAME CALENDAR YEAR SHOWED 55% OF THEIR CLIENTS HAD NO INSURANCE, 24% HAD MEDICAID AND 11% HAD PRIVATE INSURANCE. HE ADDRESSED THE POPULATION THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS SERVING IS FROM THE LOWER ECONOMIC SPECTRUM, WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING.

RICK UPDATED THE BOARD ON EVERY YEAR THE WCHD SIGNS A THREE YEAR CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAYING WHAT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO DO, HOW THEY ARE GOING TO DO IT AND WHERE THE MONEY IS COMING FROM.

RICK SAID THE WCHD IS NOT LIKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR STATE AGENCIES; WHEN THE BUDGET YEAR IS OVER, EVERYTHING DISAPPEARS; THE CASH WILL ACTUALLY ROLL OVER. HOWEVER, HE WAS SURPRISED; THE STATE CONTROLS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH THE BUDGET AUTHORITY. THE WCHD MAY HAVE THE CASH; BUT, THE STATE HAS TO GIVE THEM THE BUDGET AUTHORITY TO SPEND IT.

HE PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH THE SPENDING PLAN FOR THE WCHD FOR THEIR REVIEW. HE EXPLAINED THE FISCAL YEAR FOR THE WCHD IS FROM JULY THROUGH JUNE; THE COUNTY'S AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL YEAR ARE FROM OCTOBER THROUGH SEPTEMBER. THE SPRING AND SUMMER QUARTERS FOR THE WCHD ARE A LITTLE BIT INTERESTING; ESPECIALLY THE SUMMER WHEN THEY ARE TRYING TO CLOSE OUT THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND GET READY FOR THE NEXT YEAR FOR TWO DIFFERENT BUDGET YEARS.

HE REFERRED TO HIM BEING ASKED TO ADDRESS THE BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE AFFECT ON SERVICES. HE SAID THE CURRENT GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL HAS LITTLE IMPACT ON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS. THE GOVERNOR STUCK SOME MONEY IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; BUT: HE STOPPED THE FUNDING FOR FIVE OR SIX NEW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS, WASHINGTON COUNTY BEING ONE OF THEM. HOWEVER, RICK SAID THAT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE SERVICES OF THE WCHD.

RICK ADDRESSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THEIR OWN DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO GO THROUGH A 15% BUDGET REDUCTION EXERCISE; ONCE AGAIN, THERE WAS LITTLE IMPACT ON THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS. DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TOOK SOME PRETTY BIG HITS.

RICK POINTED OUT THE REAL CRUX OF THE PROBLEM IS MEDICAID COST REIMBURSEMENT; COST REIMBURSEMENT REFORM WAS GOVERNOR BUSH'S PLAN AND IT IS BEING PILOTED IN FIVE COUNTIES RIGHT NOW. RIGHT NOW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS GET REIMBURSED AT A DIFFERENT RATE THAN HMO'S; THERE IS A REAL COMPLICATED FORMULA AND DIFFERENT COUNTIES GET REIMBURSED AT DIFFERENT RATES. BUT, WHAT THAT DOES IS GIVE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT A MEANS TO SERVE THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE INSURANCE AND CAN'T PAY. THEY SERVE PEOPLE ON A SLIDING FEE SCALE; DEPENDING ON THEIR INCOME AND FAMILY SIZE, THEY EITHER PAY 0%, 17%, 33%, 50%, 67%, 83% OR 100%.

RICK ADDRESSED THE WCHD DENTAL SERVICES. DENTAL SERVICES ALSO USE MEDICAID COST REIMBURSEMENT. THE SHEET THAT ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT GAVE HIM SHOWS UNDER THE REFORM, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE A \$59,000 PER YEAR HIT. THAT GROSSLY UNDERESTIMATES THE PROBLEM BECAUSE THE DATA THE FAC USED WAS FY 2006-2007 AND THEY HAD NO DENTAL CLINIC THEN. CURRENTLY, THE WCHD DENTAL CLINIC PULLS IN ABOUT \$350,000 TO \$400,000 A YEAR; THAT WOULD ALSO BE AFFECTED. THE \$59,000 PER YEAR HIT TODAY WOULD JUMP UP TO SOMEWHERE BETWEEN \$265,000 TO \$300,000 THE WCHD WOULD LOSE IF THIS MEDICAID COST BASE REFORM WENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

COMMISSIONER PATE QUESTIONED HOW THE BOARD COULD HELP OUT WITH THE LOSS OF REVENUE SHOULD THE BILL PASS ON MEDICAID COST BASE REFORM.

RICK EXPLAINED HE WORKS FOR THE GOVERNOR SO HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO LOBBY; HE IS ALLOWED TO EDUCATE. HE IS EDUCATING THE BOARD IF THIS MEDICAID COST BASE REIMBURSEMENT REFORM GOES THROUGH, THE WCHD'S DENTAL PROGRAM WILL GO AWAY AND A LOT OF THEIR MEDICAL SERVICES WILL GO AWAY UNLESS THE STATE CAN COME UP WITH SOME OTHER WAY TO FUND IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE REQUESTED RICK GET WITH HIM IN ABOUT A WEEK OR SO. RICK AGREED TO GET WITH COMMISSIONER PATE AND INVITED ANY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS TO COME BY THE WCHD AND HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES WITH THEM.

COMMISSIONER BROCK COMMENDED RICK ON THE FINE JOB HE IS DOING.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL REMINDED THE BOARD HE HAD A LETTER FROM PAT OWENS ABOUT PROPERTY ON RUFUS ROAD. HE HAS SPOKEN TO HER AND MS. OWENS SAID THE COUNTY HAS CUT A DITCH INTO HER PROPERTY; THE WATER IS RUNNING OUT OF THE ROAD INTO HER PROPERTY.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT SAID HE THOUGHT THOSE DITCHES HAVE BEEN THERE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. DALLAS AGREED MOST OF THE DITCHES HAVE BEEN THERE AS LONG AS RUFUS ROAD HAS BEEN THERE; PUBLIC WORKS JUST WENT IN AND CLEANED THE DIRT OUT OF THEM.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE ONE HE SAW HAD BEEN DUG 50' TO 60' OFF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ASKED IF THE COUNTY DID THIS AND DID WE GET PERMISSION FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER TO DO THAT.

DALLAS SAID THE COUNTY DID DIG THIS DITCH AND THEY DIDN'T GET PERMISSION FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER TO DO THAT. IT WAS FULL OF SAND AND THEY WENT IN AND CLEANED IT OUT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID MS. OWENS WAS ADVOCATING THE COUNTY WAS KILLING THEIR TREES AND NOBODY HAD PERMISSION TO DIG OUT THE DITCH. HE REQUESTED ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT CHECK INTO THIS MATTER AND SEE WHAT THE COUNTY NEEDS TO DO ABOUT IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE AGREED THERE WERE A LOT OF PROBLEMS ON RUFUS ROAD AND THE COUNTY NEEDS TO GO IN THERE, TALK TO ALL THE PEOPLE AND MAKE IT RIGHT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED MS. OWENS WANTING TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN MARCH. HE ADVISED HER HE DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A REAL NEED FOR HER TO DO THAT IF THE COUNTY IS GOING TO FIX WHAT THEY DID WRONG; BUT, MS. OWENS MAY STILL WANT TO COME. HE REQUESTED ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT GIVE MS. OWENS A CALL.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW. COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED BEING TWO PEOPLE SHORT ON THE EAST SIDE AND THEY COULD PUT THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW OVER THERE UNTIL THEY ARE NEEDED ELSEWHERE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WAS WANTING TO DISSOLVE THE SPECIAL PROJECT CREW OR ARE THEY JUST MOVING THE CREW OVER THERE TO WORK FOR A WHILE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK AND COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW DISSOLVED; YOU HAVE A SUPERVISOR WORKING UNDER A SUPERVISOR RIGHT NOW. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW PUT BACK UNDER DALLAS. HE SAID ROAD AND BRIDGE NEEDS A SPREAD GRADER, DUMP TRUCK OPERATOR, ETC.; THERE ARE POSITIONS AT PUBLIC WORKS THAT DON'T HAVE ANYBODY IN THEM. THAT IS THE KEY TO THE MAINTENANCE FOR DISTRICT 2, 4 AND 5; GET YOUR SPREADGRADERS RUNNING.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THEY NEED TO MOVE THE SPECIAL CREW TO THE EAST SIDE; BUT, IS THE BOARD GOING TO PULL THEM BACK LATER ON AND MAKE A SPECIAL PROJECT CREW. COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID NOT AS HE KNOWS OF.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THEY COULD USE THE SPECIAL PROJECT CREW ON BAHOMA ROAD; BUT, THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE A SPECIAL CREW BECAUSE THEY ARE ALREADY THERE.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DISSOLVING THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW; IT IS JUST A COUPLE OF TITLES. THAT IS WHAT THEY WERE HIRED ON AS AND WHAT THEIR SALARY WAS BASED OFF OF. HE IS NOT GOING TO ENTERTAIN A THOUGHT OF REDUCING THEIR PAY IF THEY ARE MOVED TO THE EAST SIDE.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REPORTED THAT COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND TOLD HIM HE HAD NO PROBLEM DOING AWAY WITH THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW AND PUTTING THEM EITHER UNDER DALLAS OR ROBERT; WHEREVER THEY NEED TO BE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK AND PATE SAID THEY FELT LIKE THEY ARE NEEDED ON THE EAST SIDE.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT STATED THE BOARD CREATED THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW AND THEY PROBABLY WOULD NEED BOARD ACTION TO DO AWAY WITH IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO DO AWAY WITH THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW UNTIL COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND IS PRESENT.

THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO TAKE ACTION ON THE SPECIAL PROJECTS CREW AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING AND THEY ARE TO CONTINUE WORKING UNDER DALLAS UNTIL THEN.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED WHAT WAS BEING DONE ON RIVER ROAD. ROBERT HARCUS ADVISED THEY ARE WORKING ON THE CLEARING AND GRUBBING.

COMMISSIONER PATE REPORTED ROAD AND BRIDGE IS MOVING FAST AND DOING A GREAT JOB ON RIVER ROAD.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF CLIFF HAD GOTTEN THE PERMIT. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT SAID HE KNOWS THEY HAVE THE FL-DEP STORMWATER PERMITS. COMMISSIONER HOWELL REQUESTED ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT GET WITH CLIFF TO MAKE SURE HE HAS THE MPDS PERMIT. HE ALSO QUESTIONED IF THE SILT FENCE IS UP.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WAS PUTTING UP THE SILT FENCE LAST WEEK. COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE KNEW THEY HAD ORDERED THE SILT FENCE.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ATTEST: _____

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 03/09/09