

JUNE 10, 2010

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

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER. COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED PRAYER AND LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED THE MEETING THAT WAS CALLED FOR TODAY WAS CONCERNING ISSUES AT PUBLIC WORKS AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS; BUT, ANOTHER ISSUE HAS COME ABOUT. HE ASKED MR. PITTS AND MS. GRIFFIN TO EXPLAIN WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING PERTAINING TO THE NEW HOPE VOTING PRECINCT.

MR. PITTS EXPLAINED AT THE LAST SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING, HE HAD BROUGHT TO THE BOARD AN OFFER FROM FL-DOT TO PURCHASE THE EXISTING VOTING PRECINCT BUILDING IN NEW HOPE. THE OFFER WAS FOR \$71,000 FOR THE BUILDING AND LAND WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 RELOCATION FEE TO GO TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BUILDING. THE BOARD VOTED TO ACCEPT THAT OFFER. THERE WAS A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT RELOCATING THE PRECINCT IN NEW HOPE ALONG HIGHWAY 79 ON SOME OF THE PARCELS THAT WERE LEFT. SEVERAL OF THE COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSED CONCERN OF THE TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY 79; THERE WOULDN'T BE A CROSSING IN THE MEDIUM AND IT WOULD CAUSE PEOPLE TO HAVE TO MAKE A U-TURN TO GET BACK TO THE VOTING PRECINCT UNLESS IT WAS DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH MILLERS FERRY ROAD. THERE WAS NO PARCEL AVAILABLE THERE. MS. GRIFFIN SUGGESTED MOVING THE PRECINCT TO CAMPBELL PARK. THE COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING THAT WOULD BE USED AS A COMMUNITY BUILDING AS WELL AS A VOTING PRECINCT USING THE \$81,000 FROM FL-DOT TO BUILD A BUILDING. SINCE THAT TIME, THE BOARD INSTRUCTED HIM TO PUT OUT A BID PACKAGE; THEY HAVE DISTRIBUTED THE BID PACKAGES, ADVERTISED IT AND SEVERAL CONTRACTORS HAVE PICKED UP THE BID PACKAGE.

THE BIDS ARE DUE BACK ON JUNE 16TH AND HE HAD PLANNED ON HAVING A PROPOSAL TO THE BOARD FOR AWARDING THE BID AT THEIR JUNE 24TH MEETING IN VERNON.

MR. PITTS SAID THE BUILDING THEY ARE PROPOSING IS A 36' X 48' STICKFRAME BUILDING, INCLUDING TWO BATHROOMS, A SMALL KITCHEN; IT WOULD END UP BEING A METAL COVERED BUILDING ON THE OUTSIDE SIMILAR TO THE BUILDING AT BLUE LAKE. THE LAST DIRECTION OF THE BOARD WAS TO GO FORWARD WITH THE BUILDING AT CAMPBELL PARK.

MS. GRIFFIN ADDRESSED THEY HAVE TO REPLACE THE CURRENT VOTING HOUSE AS THE PROPERTY IS BEING TAKEN BY THE STATE; HER THEORY WAS TO REPLACE THE VOTING HOUSE AND ALSO ADD AN ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY WITH A COMMUNITY CENTER. APPARENTLY THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE UNHAPPY WITH THAT. SHE SAID IT WAS UP TO THE BOARD'S DISCRETION WHAT THEY WANT TO HAVE AS A VOTING HOUSE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED, WITH THAT BEING SAID, HE WAS GOING TO DIRECT THE COUNTY MANAGER AND MS. GRIFFIN TO SET UP A MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY DOWN THERE BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT BOARD MEETING; AT THE JUNE 24TH BOARD MEETING IN VERNON, THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE ISSUE AGAIN. BUT, IT WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED TODAY ANY FURTHER.

MS. GRIFFIN ASKED COULD THEY JUST ALLOT TWENTY MINUTES AND GIVE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE, BECAUSE THERE ARE A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE ASSEMBLED TODAY, TO DISCUSS THIS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED, BEING THIS A BIG AFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY OF THAT AREA AND LIKE HIM IT WAS SPRUNG ON THEM ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY HAVE JUST GOT THE NEWS OF THIS AND THERE ARE A LOT OF ISSUES OUT HERE WITH THIS AND THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY CONCERNED AND HAVE A RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED. HE STATED HE WOULD HATE TO SEE THE CHAIRMAN DENY THEM THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THEY WERE NOT GOING TO TAKE UP THE WHOLE MEETING TODAY CONCERNING THE NEW HOPE PRECINCT; HE WILL ALLOW FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS AND THEN THERE WILL BE A COMMUNITY MEETING WITH MR. PITTS

AND MS. GRIFFIN AND LET THE PEOPLE VOICE THEIR OPINIONS TO THEM. ON THE 24TH OF JUNE, THEY WILL REDISCUSS THE ISSUE AND SEE WHAT THE BOARD WANTS.

MS. GRIFFIN STATED THERE HAVE BEEN PRECINCTS THAT WERE CLOSED AND PRECINCTS THAT WERE MOVED THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN ADVERTISED; THEY DID WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS THE BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY. THEY JUST CLOSED TWO PRECINCTS IN CHIPLEY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK AGREED; BUT, THE CHURCH RIGHT BELOW THE ROAD AT NEW HOPE VOTING PRECINCT WAS MENTIONED; NOBODY HAS BEEN TO THEM. IN HIS OPINION, HE HAS BEEN TOLD THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT COULD BE A VOTING PRECINCT, THE SAME AS SHEPHARDS GATE AND THE COURT OF PRAISE. THE CHURCH IS CENTRALIZED FOR THE PRECINCT.

MS. GRIFFIN SAID SHE AGREES; BUT, IF THEY GO AHEAD AND CONSTRUCT THE VOTING HOUSE, IT COULD BE ALSO A MULTI-USE FACILITY POSSIBLY FOR THE PEOPLE TO USE AS WELL. BUT, TO HAVE A BUILDING WITH ITS PRIMARY USE BEING A VOTING HOUSE BEING USED TWICE A YEAR, THAT IS A POOR WAY OF SPENDING MONEY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK AGREED; BUT, A 1600 SQUARE FOOT BUILDING IS NOT GOING TO SIT MANY PEOPLE. THEY NEED A COMMUNITY CENTER THAT WILL SEAT 200 TO 300 PEOPLE AS THEY HAVE A LARGE TURNOUT FOR EVENTS.

MS. GRIFFIN SAID SHE JUST KNOWS ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE IN FRONT OF THE BOARD AVAILABLE CURRENTLY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR EVERYBODY COMING TO THE MEETING TODAY. INSTEAD OF EVERYBODY MEETING WITH MR. PITTS AND MS. GRIFFIN, HE SUGGESTED HAVING A COMMITTEE SET UP WHERE THE PEOPLE IN THE NEW HOPE AREA SELECTS FIVE TO SEVEN PEOPLE AND LET THEM MEET WITH MR. PITTS AND MS. GRIFFIN.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED THOSE PRESENT TO SPEAK ON THE NEW HOPE VOTING PRECINCT WHO THEY WANTED TO REPRESENT THEM IN VOICING THEIR OPINION AND STATED THEY HAD FIFTEEN MINUTES TO SPEAK. THEY WILL STILL HAVE THE COMMUNITY MEETING.

OTIS DOYLE, 4116 JACKSON COMMUNITY ROAD, ADDRESSED THE BOARD

STATING HE LIVED NEXT DOOR TO CAMPBELL PARK. THE PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUES PLACED BEFORE THEM. EVERYTHING COMMISSIONER BROCK BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD PREVIOUSLY ARE THEIR CONCERNS. THEY WANT TO UPFRONT SHOW THEIR DISAPPROVAL FOR THE DECISION THAT WAS MADE FOR PLACING THE NEW HOPE PRECINCT AT CAMPBELL PARK IN THE VICINITY IT WAS PLACED. THEY ALSO VOICED THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT NOT BEING INFORMED PRIOR TO THIS SITUATION; THIS BEING SPRUNG UPON THEM LIKE THAT. THEY HAD NO IDEA OR HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE TO PUT IN THEIR INPUT. ALSO, THEY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR BEFORE LEAVING TODAY, CONCERNING THE BID OFFERS THEY HAVE OUT ALREADY, PRIOR TO THE COMMUNITY MEETING CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SUGGESTED THEY HAVE, THE BOARD DO SOMETHING TO STOP THE PROCEDURES UNTIL AFTER THIS IS SETTLED SO THEY WANT HAVE A BUNCH OF CONTRACTORS HERE WITH BID INFORMATION, ETC.

MR. PITTS STATED THE BIDS ON THE BUILDING WILL BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THAT MEETING; THE MEETING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. THEY HAVE ALREADY ADVERTISED, THE BIDS ARE OUT AND ALL THE COUNTY HAS TO DO IS NOT ACCEPT ANY OF THE BIDS.

MR. DOYLE ASKED COULD THE BOARD NOT ACCEPT ANY OF THE BIDS. MR. PITTS SAID THEY COULD IF THEY WANT TO.

MR. DOYLE ASKED WHEN WAS THE OFFER MADE BY FL-DOT TO THE COUNTY FOR THE NEW HOPE PRECINCT AND HOW LONG DID IT TAKE FOR WHATEVER MEMBERS AND MS. GRIFFIN TO MAKE THAT DECISION TO CHOOSE CAMPBELL PARK AS THE PRECINCT SITE. WAS THIS SOMETHING THAT WAS DONE IN A DAY OR WAS TIME TAKEN TO REALLY LOOK AT THE SITUATION PRIOR TO DECIDING TO PUT IT AT CAMPBELL PARK. IS THIS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MORE TIME TO DO.

MR. PITTS SAID NO DOUBT THEY CERTAINLY COULD HAVE TAKEN MORE TIME TO HAVE DONE IT; BUT, HE WOULD SAY WITHIN TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE BOARD'S MEETING IN MAY IS WHEN FL-DOT MADE THE OFFER. HE GUESSED THE REASON FOR TRYING TO BE EXPEDIENT ABOUT IT WAS TO TRY AND GET A VOTING PRECINCT PUT UP BY THE ELCTION IN AUGUST. THE EFFORT WAS TO

HAVE THE BUILDING READY BY AUGUST SO THEY COULD MOVE THE VOTING LOCATION TO CAMPBELL PARK BY THAT TIME.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ADDRESSED THE BOARD WAS TOLD THEY COULD USE THE EXISTING BUILDING FOR THE AUGUST AND NOVEMBER ELECTIONS; BUT, THIS BOARD WAS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE COMMUNITY, GIVE THEM SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T HAVE WITH THE EXISTING BUILDING. THE BOARD DOESN'T HAVE A \$100,000 OR \$150,000 TO BUILD A NICE COMMUNITY CENTER AND EVER WHO SAID THAT THEY FLAT OUT LIED TO THE PEOPLE.

MR. DOYLE SAID THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES OF GRANTS TO BE GOTTEN.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN INFORMED MR. DOYLE FL-DOT OFFERED \$71,000 PLUS \$10,000 TO PUT UP A VOTING PRECINCT AND EVEN A SMALL COMMUNITY CENTER TO ENJOY. TO BUILD A BIG FACILITY LIKE THE COUNTY ANNEX OR THE SUNNY HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER, COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID HE WOULD SAY NO AS THEY DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR THAT.

MR. DOYLE SAID THEY UNDERSTAND THIS; BUT, THE BOARD DOESN'T HAVE TO BUILD THE BUILDING NOW. THEY DON'T HAVE A COMMUNITY CENTER DOWN THERE NOW. THEY WORK FAITHFULLY TO LET THE BOARD KNOW THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A COMMUNITY CENTER NOW. THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO PAY FOR A BUILDING; THEY CAN GET A GRANT WHICH DON'T HAVE TO BE DONE IN HASTE. BUT, TO COME AND IMPOSE UPON A COMMUNITY THAT ARE VOTERS, TAXPAYERS IN THE COMMUNITY IS WRONG. THEY DON'T FEEL THIS IS PROFESSIONAL.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED MR. DOYLE IF HE WAS SAYING HE DIDN'T WANT A COMMUNITY CENTER.

MR. DOYLE STATED THAT WAS NOT WHAT HE WAS SAYING; THEY DON'T WANT TO BE FORCED UPON ANYKIND OF A COMMUNITY CENTER. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME KIND OF INPUT AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR A COMMUNITY CENTER; WHAT TYPE THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, WHAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE THEM AS A COMMUNITY AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. THIS IS A COUNTY PARK, WE ARE COUNTY PEOPLE, TAXPAYERS AND SO IS EVERYBODY IN HERE. THE THING IS THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE JUST LIKE EVERYBODY HAS AND NOT JUST BE IMPOSED UPON.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE BOARD CERTAINLY DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE IMPOSING ANYTHING ON THE NEW HOPE AREA; THEY WERE TRYING TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY.

MR. DOYLE SAID WHAT THE BOARD HAD DONE WAS NOT AN IMPROVEMENT. HE REFERRED TO THE FIRST THING SOMEBODY SAID WAS THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE EQUIPMENT OUT OF THE WAY TO PUT A BUILDING THERE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN ASKED WHO TOLD MR. DOYLE THAT. MR. DOYLE SAID HE DIDN'T COME BEFORE THE BOARD TO ARGUE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID MR. DOYLE'S INFORMATION ABOUT EQUIPMENT BEING MOVED TO PLACE A BUILDING IS WRONG.

MR. DOYLE EXPLAINED THE FACT STILL REMAINS THE BUILDING STILL SHOULDN'T BE JUST IMPOSED UPON THEM; THAT IS AN IMPOSITION ON HALF OF THE COMMUNITY AND SOME OF THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD SHOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. THE MEETING COULD HAVE BEEN HELD BEFORE THE MEETING THE BOARD IS NOW LETTING THEM HAVE AS A COMMITTEE WITH THE COUNTY MANAGER.

MR. DOYLE REITERATED THE PEOPLE'S REQUEST TO GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND TO POSTPONE THE BIDS ON THE BUILDING UNTIL A DECISION CAN BE MADE WITH THE COUNTY. ALSO, THEY WANT TO AT A DIFFERENT TIME DO WHAT ELSE THEY WANT TO WITH THE COUNTY TO HAVE A COMMUNITY CENTER PLACED THERE.

MR. JAMES WHITE, 5178 BOYINGTON CUTOFF, ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON HIM HAVING BEEN A RESIDENT OF NEW HOPE SINCE 1993 UNLIKE A LOT OF THESE FOLKS PRESENT WHO HAVE BEEN GENERATED OVER THE YEARS. HE AGREED WITH THESE FOLKS AND THOUGHT THIS THING HAS FAST TRACKED IN A POSITIVE WAY AND HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT MS. GRIFFIN WAS TRYING TO DO. ALSO SHE WAS LOOKING AT TRYING TO SAVE THE COUNTY MONEY. IF THESE FOLKS WANT A COMMUNITY CENTER ON THEIR PLACE, THEY MAY NOT NECESSARILY WANT THE VOTING PRECINCT DOWN THERE. THE VOTING PRECINCT HAS BEEN AT NEW HOPE AT THE TOP OF THE HILL FOR SOME SEVENTY FIVE YEARS; SEVENTY FIVE YEARS IN ONE SPOT IS A PRETTY LONG TIME TO KEEP SOMETHING AT THE TOP OF THE HILL. HE DOESN'T KNOW IF THESE FOLKS WOULD WANT TO

BE INTERESTED IN A COMMUNITY CENTER OR ANYBODY ELSE IN HERE THAT WOULD ENJOY A COMMUNITY CENTER ON THAT PARK. HE QUESTIONED WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH ROOM AT CAMPBELL PARK TO EXPAND IT TO A POINT OF WHERE THEY WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE A FEASIBLE COMMUNITY CENTER TO OPERATE OUT OF OR EVEN WORK WITH. HE SAID THE \$81,000 OR WHATEVER THE COUNTY HAS COLLECTED ON THE CURRENT EBRO PRECINCT, WHAT HE HAS HEARD ONCE THIS MONEY IS SPENT WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, THE STATE IS GOING TO REIMBURSE THIS MONEY. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN NOTED THE COUNTY HAS NOT COLLECTED ANYTHING TO DATE.

MR. PITTS ADDRESSED WHAT MR. WHITE HAD HEARD ON THE STATE REIMBURSING THE COUNTY WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME WHEN THE \$81,000 IS SPENT ON THIS COMMUNITY CENTER. MR. PITTS STATED THAT WAS NOT TRUE; \$71,000 WAS THE OFFER FOR THE BUILDING AND THE LAND AND \$10,000 WAS MONEY TOWARD THE BUILDING. IF THEY DON'T PUT A BUILDING UP AND USE THE \$10,000 TOWARD FINISHING THE BUILDING, THEY CAN'T USE IT TO BUILD A SHELL, IT HAS TO BE IN FINISHING, THAT \$10,000 IS REIMBURSABLE.

MR. WHITE ASKED MS. GRIFFIN IF HE HAD MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT SHE HAD SAID. MS. GRIFFIN SAID HE MUST HAVE BECAUSE SHE KNEW ONLY THE \$10,000 WAS REIMBURSABLE.

MR. WHITE ADDRESSSED HIM ASKING HER TWICE TO MAKE SURE OF WHAT SHE HAD TOLD HIM BECAUSE HE HAD SAID LETS NOT WAIT ON THE STATE TO REIMBURSE THIS MONEY. MS. GRIFFIN SAID SHE HAD THEN SAID WE ARE GOING TO GET THE MONEY.

MR. WHITE SAID MS. GRIFFIN MUST HAVE BEEN TALKING IN GENERAL THEY WERE GOING TO GET THE MONEY FROM THE STATE TO GO AHEAD AND DO THE PROJECT. SO THEY ARE GOING TO GET THE MONEY OUT OF GENERAL FUND TO GET STARTED WITH AND THE STATE IS GOING TO PAY THEM WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

MS. GRIFFIN SAID THE \$71,000 WILL BE UPFRONT MONEY; BUT, THE \$10,000, THE COUNTY WILL HAVE TO GIVE RECEIPTS IN ORDER TO GET REIMBURSED FOR IT.

MR. WHITE SAID HE STOOD TO BE CORRECTED AND APOLOGIZED. HE

SAID HE KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE STATE AND THE COUNTY WAS WAITING TO GET IT REIMBURSED.

MR. WHITE SAID IT WAS APPARENT TO HIM THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE HERE, HE KNOWS ALL THESE FOLKS AROUND HERE AND A LOT OF THEIR FAMILIES, THEY UNDERSTAND. THEY ARE A COMMUNITY DOWN THERE AND THEY DESERVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY SO ESPECIALLY SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE. HE REFERRED TO THE EXISTING VOTING PRECINCT BEING HISTORICAL; THAT HOUSE ON TOP OF THE HILL HAS HINDERED THAT ROAD DEVELOPMENT DOWN THERE THAT WAS MOVED THERE THIRTY FIVE YEARS THAT HAS CREATED ALL KIND OF PONDRIES DOWN THERE. THIS OLD HISTORICAL MARKER THEY MOVED UP THERE ON TOP OF THE HILL HAS CREATED ALL KIND OF CONTROVERSY WITH THE ROAD DEVELOPMENT; IT HAS HELD UP THINGS. THEY HAVE HAD TO DO THIS AND MAD ABOUT THIS HISTORICAL MARKER. HE WANTS THEM TO HAVE A COMMUNITY CENTER TO CONGREGATE, SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND WORK FOR THEIR COMMUNITY; BUT, THE PEOPLE DON'T LIKE BEING RAILROADED AND SHOVED TO THE SIDELINES. THEY DON'T MAKE BIG DECISIONS FOR THE BOARD UNTIL THEY GO TO THE VOTING BOOTH AND THEN THEY MAKE THE DECISION. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO BE FAIR; GOVERNMENT ALREADY RUNS ENOUGH AS IT IS. HE SAID LETS JUST HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF THE PEOPLE'S SAY SO BACK INTO THEIR COMMUNITY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE HAD HEARD A COUPLE OF STATEMENTS HERE AND HE WANTED TO CLARIFY THIS. HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ON THE SOUTH END OF THE PARK IS TO BE SHIFTED, TO BE MOVED FOR THE BUILDING TO GO IN.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED COMMISSIONER BROCK WHO TOLD HIM THAT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID IT WAS HEARD RIGHT HERE AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING AND HE THOUGHT COMMISSIONER HOWELL HAD MADE THE STATEMENT. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID "NO."

COMMISSIONER BROCK THEN ASKED WHERE IS THE BUILDING GOING. MR. PITTS SAID FACING THE PARK, IT WOULD BE IN THE FRONT RIGHT CORNER OF THE PARK RIGHT OUT NEXT TO THE FENCE. THAT IS THE ONE PLACE IT COULD GO WITHOUT HAVING TO MOVE ANYTHING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A WATER TANK GOING IN RIGHT THERE THAT WAS DISCUSSED. MR. PITTS SAID THAT WAS DISCUSSED; BUT, IT WAS DISCUSSED IT WOULD BE EASIER TO RELOCATE A WATER TANK THAN IT WOULD BE A BUILDING AND POSSIBLY LOCATING THE WATER TANK OUT INTO THE PARKING LOT SO A FIRETRUCK WOULD HAVE EASIER ACCESS TO IT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK STATED RIGHT NOW THERE IS \$180,000 LEFT OUT OF THE EOC MONIES, THE BOARD HAS \$70,000 COMING FROM THE STATE; THEY COULD TAKE \$130,000 OUT OF THE EOC MONIES, PUT \$70,000 WITH IT AND BUILD THESE PEOPLE A COMMUNITY CENTER THE SAME AS SUNNY HILLS. GIVE THEM A 5,000 SQUARE FOOT BUILDING IF THE BOARD WANTS TO BUILD THEM A COMMUNITY CENTER; THE MONEY IS THERE. THIS BOARD JUST HAS TO ACT ON IT AND PASS IT; HE KNOWS THAT FOR A FACT.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THEY WERE DISCUSSING A VOTING PRECINCT FOR THEM TO HAVE A PLACE TO VOTE AND UPGRADING IT A LITTLE BIT FOR A NICER FACILITY. THEY ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT A COMMUNITY CENTER AT THIS TIME; IT WAS A VOTING PRECINCT SO THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE A BUILDING TO GO VOTE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THEY USED THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO GET IT AT CAMPBELL'S PARK. HE ADDRESSED MR. WHITE WILL HAVE TO DRIVE 14 MILES ONE WAY TO GO VOTE; HE WILL HAVE TO DRIVE 28 MILES TO EXPRESS HIS RIGHT TO GO VOTE AND THERE IS SEVERAL DOWN THERE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED EVERYBODY HAS TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY UP HOLMES CREEK, COMES ACROSS MILLERS FERRY BRIDGE, GO TO HIGHWAY 279 AND GO DOWN. A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, NOT JUST A FEW. THE BOARD HAS PUT A HARDSHIP ON PROBABLY A THIRD OR HALF THE PEOPLE DOWN THERE. HE ASKED THE BOARD TO PUT THE VOTING PRECINCT IN A CENTRAL PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE, GIVE THE PEOPLE A COMMUNITY CENTER IF THAT IS WHAT HE IS HEARING HERE THE BOARD HAS OFFERED TO THEM.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED THE COMMUNITY CENTER WAS JUST AN EXTRA THEY COULD DO WITH THE VOTING BUILDING; THEY COULD DO THE VOTING JUST LIKE THEY TALKED ABOUT IN THE CHURCH PROBABLY. THEY DON'T HAVE TO BUILD ANYTHING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING IS \$70,000 TO \$80,000 WON'T HARDLY GO NOWHERE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID IT WOULD BUILD AS NICE A COMMUNITY CENTER AS BLUE LAKE; IT WOULD HOLD 65 TO 70 PEOPLE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT 200 TO 300 PEOPLE. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE IS AWARE OF THAT; BUT, THE COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THEY HAVE THE MONEY IF THIS BOARD WANTS TO USE IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID JUST BECAUSE THEY GOT MONEY DOESN'T MEAN THEY NEED TO RUSH INTO THINGS. HE VOTED WITH CHARLES ON NOT MOVING THE BUILDING TO CAMPBELL PARK BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THEY WERE RUSHING IT A LITTLE TOO MUCH. WHEN THEY GO AND SEPARATE THE COMMUNITY CENTER, HE IS NOT AGAINST ONE BEING DOWN THERE; BUT, TO GO AND SPEND MONEY THE COUNTY MAY NEED FOR SOMETHING ELSE WHEN THEY COULD GO BACK AND PLAN A COMMUNITY CENTER A LITTLE LATER ON. HE IS NOT FOR TAKING THE REMAINING EOC MONIES BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TIMES THEY COULD USE FUNDS FOR SOMETHING ELSE TO KEEP THE COUNTY RUNNING, ETC. AND THEY DIDN'T DO IT. IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO HIM WHERE IT IS AT AS LONG AS THEY DON'T GO OUT AND BUY. EVEN THOUGH THE VOTING PRECINCT HAS BEEN AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION FOR 75 YEARS, THEY HAVE BEEN LUCKY SOMEBODY HASN'T BEEN KILLED WHEN THEY TRIED TO TURN WHEN COMING AROUND THAT HILL; WHEN IT GETS TO BE FOUR LANED THERE, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO SLOW DOWN. THEY HAVE GOT TO COME OFF THAT HILL AND FIND SOMEWHERE WHERE IT IS SAFER COMING IN AND OUT.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN REITERATED THEY ARE GOING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH HAVING MS. GRIFFIN AND MR. PITTS MEET WITH THE NEW HOPE COMMUNITY; AS FAR AS THE VOTING PRECINCT, IF THE CHURCH IS GOING TO BE OKAY TO MOVE THE VOTING PRECINCT THERE FOR THE PEOPLE TO VOTE, HE DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT. THE COMMUNITY CENTER, HE DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE PEOPLE HAVING A COMMUNITY CENTER; BUT, RIGHT NOW, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY ARE GOING TO GET THE MONEY.

HE ADDRESSED EVERYBODY KNOWS HOW THE ECONOMY IS; BUT, THE BOARD WILL WORK TOWARD THIS. HE ASKED ONE OR TWO OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUP FROM NEW HOPE TO GET WITH MR. PITTS AND MS. GRIFFIN AND SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.

MS. GRIFFIN SAID SHE WAS ONLY HERE IN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE BOARD; IT IS NOT HER DECISION TO MAKE. IF THE BOARD IS TALKING ABOUT MOVING THE NEW HOPE PRECINCT ANYWHERE, THE BOARD HAS TO PROVIDE HER A PLACE TO VOTE IN AND SHE WOULD LEAVE THAT UP TO THEM TO TELL HER WHERE THEY WANT TO MOVE THE VOTING PRECINCT.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THAT; BUT, THE BOARD WILL LET HER AND MR. PITTS GET WITH THE NEW HOPE REPRESENTATIVES AND HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE WHERE THEY WANT IT AND THEN GO FROM THERE. IN THE MEANTIME IF THEY HAVE TO USE THE PRECINCT THERE NOW UNTIL THEY MAKE A DECISION, THAT IS WHAT THEY WILL DO.

TODD BROWN, 5220 SHELL POINT ROAD, VERNON, FLORIDA, ADDRESSED THE BOARD REQUESTING, SO THERE WILL BE NO CONFUSION IN THE COMMUNITY, COULD THE NEW HOPE VOTING PRECINCT STAY WHERE IT IS AT THROUGH THE NOVEMBER ELECTION AND THEN THEY WILL KNOW SOMETHING IS GOING TO CHANGE AFTER NOVEMBER.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID ONCE THEY GET THE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY, THE BOARD WILL MAKE THAT DECISION AT THE JUNE 24TH MEETING IN VERNON AT 5:00 P.M. WITH THAT BEING SAID, CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THIS ISSUE WOULDN'T BE DISCUSSED FURTHER TODAY AND THANKED THE PEOPLE FOR COMING.

TED EVERETT UPDATED THE BOARD ON PROJECT PIPE, WHERE THEY ARE AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT NEED TO OCCUR TO MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD. HE ADDRESSED ONE WEEK AGO THEY HAD A TWO HOUR SITE VISIT WITH THE CONCRETE PIPE COMPANY OWNER AND ENGINEER. THERE WAS A GOOD DISCUSSION ABOUT GETTING EVERYTHING SQUARED AWAY SO THEY COULD CONTINUE TO BE ON THEIR TIME LINES. HE PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH A BOUNDARY SURVEY ON A TEN ACRE PARCEL THE COUNTY CURRENTLY DOESN'T OWN; HE BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN SOME TITLE WORK DONE ON THIS. HE

EXPLAINED THE REASON THIS TEN ACRE PARCEL IS BECOMING IMPORTANT TO THE PROJECT IS, AS HE UNDERSTANDS FROM FL-DEP PART OF THIS PROPERTY PROJECT PIPE HAS BOUGHT HAS 4.6 ACRES OF HIGH QUALITY WETLANDS. THE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF FL-DEP WILL ALLOW THOSE HIGH QUALITY WETLANDS TO BE MITIGATED INTO A STORM WATER RETENTION POND. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER THIS IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. BECAUSE OF THAT, THE COMPANY IS GOING TO BE FORCED TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF ITS STORM WATER RETENTION POND CONSIDERABLY.

TED EXPLAINED IN THE CONTRACT WITH PROJECT PIPE, THE COUNTY IS SUPPOSE TO PROVIDE THEM AS CLOSE TO 70 USABLE ACRES AS POSSIBLE; IF YOU CUT OUT THE 4.6 ACRES OF HIGH QUALITY WETLANDS, AND ADD THE MASSIVE STORM WATER RETENTION PONDS ON THOSE UPLANDS, THEY COULD CONSIDERABLY BE CUTTING OUT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 10 TO 12 ACRES OF USABLE PROPERTY. THIS COMPANY IS GOING TO NEED QUITE A BIT OF LAY DOWN AREA AS THEY PRODUCE HUGE BOX CULVERTS AND PIPE.

TED SAID IT IS THE SUGGESTION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THEY TASK ATTORNEY HOLLEY TO TAKE THE PROPER MEASURES TO ACQUIRE THIS TEN ACRES AND PRESENT IT TO THE CONCRETE COMPANY IN EXCHANGE FOR GETTING BACK THE WETLANDS. THEY WILL BASICALLY CUT OUT THOSE WETLANDS SO THEY ARE NOT PART OF PROJECT PIPE'S PROPERTY. BY DOING THIS IT WILL MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD FASTER, WHICH THE TIME LINE IS EXTENDING TO APRIL 12, 2012 TO GET EVERYTHING DONE. ALSO, THE BOARD NEEDS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IF THEY HAVE TO MITIGATE THOSE 4.6 ACRES OF WETLANDS, CLIFF HAS SAID THEY WOULD BE LOOKING AT PERHAPS HAVING TO COME UP WITH 20 TO 30 ACRES PER ACRE. THAT WILL BASICALLY TAKE ALL THEIR MUDHILL WETLANDS AND SOME OF THE COUNTY'S OTHER WETLANDS WHICH THEY COULD POSSIBLY USE FOR ANOTHER PROJECT. THIS WILL BE A WAY TO SOLVE THIS SOLUTION IN MOVING THE PROJECT FORWARD AND TAKE THAT ISSUE OFF THE TABLE.

TED ASKED THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO INSTRUCT ATTORNEY HOLLEY TO MOVE WITH COMING UP WITH A WAY TO ACQUIRE THAT PROPERTY FOR THE COUNTY. HE BELIEVES THERE WERE SOME HEIRS THEY HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT

AND HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED; HE KNOWS THERE WAS A TITLE SEARCH DONE. THE COUNTY HAS HAD THE POSSESSION OF THAT PROPERTY EVER SINCE THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GAVE THEM THAT PROPERTY. ALMOST BY ADVERSE POSSESSION, IT IS THE COUNTY'S. BY TAKING THIS ACTION, IT WILL FACILITATE MOVING THIS PROJECT FORWARD BY TWO MONTHS TIME.

TED ADDRESSED ANOTHER ISSUE WITH THE RAIL SPUR. THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND HAVE SENT A USAGE AGREEMENT TO CSX WHICH IS ALSO REQUIRING \$673,000 TO SEND TO CSX TO BUY THE SWITCHOUTS, ALL THE STUFF THEY HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER ON THEIR RIGHT-OF-WAY BEFORE IT TURNS INTO THE COUNTY PROPERTY IN THEIR RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE RAIL SPUR TO BE ADDED TO THAT. THEY HAD A CLAUSE IN THEIR ROAD FUND THAT SAYS CONSTRUCTION MUST START FOR THAT MONEY TO BE RELEASED. THIS MONEY NEEDS TO BE RELEASED SOONER THAN LATER.

TED REPORTED THAT HE, COMMISSIONER HOWELL, MR. CLARK AND MR. HOLLEY WENT TO THE STATE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE TO SEE IF THEY COULD GET SOME MOVEMENT ON THIS. THEIR DEFINITION FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY WITH THIS PROJECT IS BASICALLY TO HAVE THE COUNTY PUT THE FOOTERS ON THE GROUND BEFORE THEY RELEASE THE FUNDS. TED SAID HIS ISSUE IS HE HAS TIME LINES. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SITE PLAN BY THE CONCRETE COMPANY THAT IS IN THE STATE'S HANDS AND THE COUNTY'S ENGINEER PLANS AND THEY ARE WORKING THROUGH THOSE ISSUES.

TED REITERATED THE CONTRACT THE COUNTY HAS WITH THE CONCRETE COMPANY STATES TO HAVE THE RAILSPUR BUILT IS ACTUALLY GOING TO PUT THEIR FOOTERS AND BUILD THEIR BUILDING. HE HAS TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET AROUND THIS BECAUSE HE HAS A TIME LINE WITH CSX. WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS \$2,000,000 THAT IS OBLIGATED FROM THE STATE TO WASHINGTON COUNTY. ONE SUGGESTION TO THE COUNTY IS THERE IS ANOTHER SOURCE OF MONEY THAT COULD BE LOANED TO THE COUNTY INTEREST FREE, \$400,000. THE STATE WOULD THEN LOAN THE COUNTY \$263,000 WITH A 1.5% TO 3% INTEREST RATE. ONCE THE FOOTERS ARE IN PLACE, THE STATE WOULD RELEASE THE MONIES AND THE COUNTY WOULD PAY THOSE LOANS BACK.

TED EXPLAINED THEY NEED TO MOVE ON GETTING CSX TO ORDER THE

MATERIALS. THEY ALSO WILL HAVE DISCUSSION WITH THE CONCRETE COMPANY TO SEE IF THEY COULD PUT THE FOOTERS IN SOONER THAN LATER.

TED SUGGESTED THE BOARD ALLOW THE STATE TO SEND AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY FOR THE \$263,000 AND FILL THAT APPLICATION OUT. THE BOARD DOESN'T HAVEN'T TO TAKE THE MONEY IF THEY DON'T WANT TO.

TED TOLD THE BOARD PROJECT PIPE WAS COMING. IF THEY DON'T COME, PROJECT PIPE IS ON THE HOOK FOR THE TOTAL CDBG GRANT THE COUNTY OBTAINED FOR THE ROAD, WATER AND SEWER AND WILL HAVE TO PAY IT BACK. EVERY JOB PROJECT PIPE SAYS THEY ARE GOING TO CREATE AND THEY DON'T CREATE IT, PROJECT PIPE WILL HAVE TO PAY THE COUNTY AND THE COUNTY WILL HAVE TO PAY THE STATE \$35,000 PER JOB. HOWEVER, HE NEEDS TO EXPEDITE THIS RAIL SPUR.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE MEETING THEY HAD WITH THE STATE YESTERDAY AND TRIED EVERY WAY THEY COULD TO GET AROUND AND NOT DO THIS; BUT, THEY HAVE A STATUE THEY HAVE TO GO BY AND UNTIL SOME TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION IS STARTED OUT THERE, THE STATE WANT RELEASE THE FUNDING. IF THE COUNTY DOESN'T MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY CSX MAY MAKE THE COUNTY REDESIGN THE RAILSPUR.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY REPORTED THAT 10 ACRES TED IS TALKING ABOUT THE COUNTY ACQUIRING IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE CONDEMNED. HIS RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE PROBABLY TO GET TIM WELLS WHO DOES CONDEMNATION LAW AT FL-DOT TO DO THIS FOR THE COUNTY.

TED ADDRESSED IFAS DEEDED THIS TEN ACRES TO THE COUNTY THINKING IT WAS CLEAR.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATE AND CARRIED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH BOTH THESE OPTIONS; THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTING THE LOAN, THEY ARE JUST APPLYING FOR THE LOAN.

COMMISSIONER PATE REFERRED TO EVERYTIME TED COMES BEFORE THE BOARD, THEY EXPEDITE SOMETHING ON PROJECT PIPE; THEY HAVE BEEN WAITING ABOUT SIX YEARS ON THIS AND ASKED COULD THEY GET SOMEBODY TO GET PROJECT PIPE TO MOVE AHEAD.

TED WANTED THE BOARD TO RECOGNIZE THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN SLOW FOR ONE REASON AND ONE REASON ONLY. HE ASKED THE BOARD IF THEY HAD A \$12.5 MILLION DOLLAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT TWO YEARS AGO, WOULD THEY HAVE DONE IT AND HE SAID "NO." BECAUSE THE ECONOMY TANKED. THIS COMPANY IS LIKE ANY OTHER COMPANY; THEY WANTED TO GET OUT OF RECESSION. HE SAID PROJECT PIPE IS HIGHLY ENGAGED NOW. COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ASKED IF THE 9.93 ACRES WAS TITLED TO WASHINGTON COUNTY NOW; HAS THE COUNTY GOT A DEED TO IT. TED SAID WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS A DEED TO IT AND OWNS IT.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID THE COUNTY DOESN'T NEED TO CONDEMN THE PROPERTY THEN; THEY JUST NEED TO FILE A QUIT TITLE SUIT ON IT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REQUESTED TED TELL THE AUDIENCE WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT AS FAR AS THE CONCRETE COMPANY.

TED EXPLAINED THE COMPANY IS CALLED THE CONCRETE COMPANY; IT IS OUT OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA. THEY HAVE FOUR OTHER FACILITIES; THREE IN GEORGIA AND ONE IN ALABAMA. THEY APPROACHED THE COUNTY SIX YEARS AGO THROUGH OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA. THEY HAVE WORKED THIS PROJECT. HE UPDATED THE AUDIENCE ON THE VALUE OF HAVING AN INDUSTRIAL PARK. THERE ARE VERY FEW INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN THE PANHANDLE OF FLORIDA THAT ARE FULLY EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE TOOLS TO BRING IN INDUSTRY. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THROUGH THIS PROJECT AND THE GRANTS THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THROUGH THE COUNTY, THEY NOW WILL HAVE AN INDUSTRIAL PARK THAT WILL HAVE WATER, SEWAGE, NATURAL GAS, UTILITIES, AN ACCESS ROAD, FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AND ENTERPRISE ZONE. THIS IS A PREMIER INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR FUTURE GROWTH; WHEN THEY BUY MORE LAND AROUND THE INDUSTRIAL PARK, THE RAILSPUR HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED SO OTHER COMPANIES CAN ADD TO THAT LINE. THAT CREATES MORE JOBS.

MR. WHITE ASKED TED HOW INVOLVED HE WAS, THE TDC AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KNIGHT FAMILY PROPERTY IN THE 40 TO 50 YEAR GROWTH PLAN THEY ARE TRYING TO IMPLEMENT THAT WILL

CREATE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY.

TED SAID HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH SOME OF THE MEETINGS WITH SOME OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH THE KNIGHT TRUST FAMILY; THIS IS A LONG TERM PROJECT. THE VERY FACT THE FL-DCA HAS NOW SAID NO TO A SECTOR PLAN, WHICH IN HIS OPINION IT HAS TO BE A SECTOR PLAN. THERE IS A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY AND HE WOULD DARE SAY THAT IN FIFTY YEARS TIME EBRO COULD VERY WELL BE THE LARGEST MUNICIPALITY IN THIS COUNTY. WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IS YOU DON'T PICK AND CHOOSE WHERE GROWTH IS COMING; THE ROADS DO IT. THEY HAVE THE FOUR LANING OF HIGHWAY 20 AND 79 GOING ON RIGHT NOW. HE WOULD LIKE TO THINK IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KNIGHT TRUST FAMILY THEY WOULD BE GENEROUS TO DONATE SOME LAND TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL PARK; THAT WOULD BE A HUGE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH DOWN THERE. IN THE CHAMBERS EYE, THEY ARE WATCHING THE SOUTH END OF WASHINGTON COUNTY VERY CAREFULLY. THEY SEE THE FUTURE IN FIFTY YEARS AND IF THE COUNTY DOESN'T START LAYING THE GROUND WORK NOW FOR FUTURE GROWTH, THEY WILL NEVER HAVE IT THE WAY THEY WANT IT.

EMS PAY SCALE-HEATHER PROVIDED THE BOARD INFORMATION SHE HAD GATHERED ON THE EMS PAY SCALE. SHE UPDATED THE BOARD ON THEIR HAVING DISCUSSED THIS PAY SCALE AT THEIR LAST MEETING. A PAY SCALE IS NEEDED WHICH WOULD DESIGNATE THE POSITIONS AT EMS AND A PAY GRADE FOR IT. SHE REFERRED TO HAVING HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO TWO OR THREE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES. SHE PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH A DRAFT OF THE PAY SCALE; THE FRONT PAGE BEING THE PARAMEDIC AND EMT POSITIONS AND THE REMAINING THREE PAGES BEING FOR THE PARAMEDIC SUPERVISOR, EMS DIRECTOR AND EMS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. SHE ADDRESSED THE REASON FOR THE THREE PAGES ON THE SUPERVISORY POSITIONS WAS BECAUSE OF THE SALARIES; SHE WANTED THE BOARD TO SEE THREE DIFFERENT SCENARIOS. SHE REFERRED TO HAVING BEEN ASKED AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING WHAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD DO FINANCIAL-

LY; WOULD IT COST AN INCREASE IN ANYONE'S PAY. THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS YES. SHE HAD PROVIDED ALSO HER RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS; SHE SURVEYED ELEVEN DIFFERENT COUNTIES AND REITERATED IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO COMPARE EMS SERVICES AS THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT. SHE TRIED TO COMPARE DIFFERENT COUNTIES GETTING THE POPULATION, THE DISTANCE TO HOSPITALS, THE NUMBER OF LIVES THEY SERVICE IN THOSE COMMUNITIES, THE NUMBER OF STATIONS, TRUCKS, NUMBER OF POSITIONS THEY HAVE AND THEIR PAY. THE SECOND PAGE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS SHOW THE POSITIONS THAT WOULD BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED FINANCIALLY BY APPROVING THIS. IT SHOWS THE DIFFERENT SCENARIOS AND WHAT IT WOULD COST. AS OF JULY 1, THE FRS HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE RETIREMENT RATES; THE COUNTY CONTRIBUTES FOR THE EMPLOYEES.

RANDALL TRUETTE ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HE DIDN'T KNOW WHO SHE PREPARED EMS WITH ON THE SCALE AND ALL; BUT, THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR NINETEEN MONTHS THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET THIS IN PLACE. HE THOUGHT THREE OF THE COMMISSIONERS HAD ALREADY ADVISED THE PREVIOUS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND HEATHER TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM; IT HAS NOT BEEN DONE. AS FAR AS THE FINANCES, RANDALL SAID THE EMS BUDGET WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE. EMS HAS GOTTEN AN INCREASE, THEY ARE DOING GREAT ON THEIR COLLECTIONS AND IT WON'T AFFECT THE COUNTY OR ANY OF THEIR TAX MONEY.

RANDALL ADDRESSED THE EMS PERSONNEL PRESENT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT; THEY HAVE TAKEN ON A LOT MORE RESPONSIBILITY SINCE THEY BEEN UNDER THE COUNTY. THEY ARE DOING THINGS THE HOSPITAL DID FOR THEM BEFORE; THEY DON'T HAVE SECRETARIES. THE EMS PERSONNEL ARE DOING IT BOTH. HE SAID THE PAY GRADE REFLECTS AN INCREASE FOR INCENTIVE TRAINING. HE POINTED OUT THE BOARD WANTS THE VERY BEST EMS SERVICE FOR ITS CITIZENS; EMS GOES BEYOND WHAT THE STATE REQUIRES. THERE IS A LIMIT ON WHAT THEY GET. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING NEW; IT IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON BEFORE THEY EVER LEFT THE HOSPITAL. EMS CAN SUPPORT THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE AND HE REITERATED IT WASN'T GOING TO AFFECT THE COUNTY'S FINANCES. HE UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE PRESI-

DENT HAVING SIGNED IN THEY ARE GOING TO GET A 3% IN THEIR MEDICARE COLLECTIONS. HE ADDRESSED EMS COLLECTIONS HAVE INCREASED ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE; THEY ARE GETTING OVER TWICE AS MUCH AS THEY WERE WHEN THEY WERE UNDER THE HOSPITAL.

RANDALL REFERRED TO A THIRD STATION HAVING BEEN MENTIONED; THE STATION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED YET. BUT, THEY HAVE BEEN BRINGING ON THREE TO FIVE CREWS A DAY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY AND CATCH THE CALLS. THE CREWS ARE OUT THERE; THEY ARE NOT OUT THERE ON A FULL TIME BASIS BUT AS NEEDED. EVERYDAY THEY HAVE TO CALL PEOPLE IN; EMS'S VOLUME HAS INCREASED THAT MUCH. EMS HAS SOME OF THE BEST PEOPLE THE COUNTY COULD FIND IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THEY NEED TO KEEP THEM. EVERYBODY IN THIS COUNTY HAS A PAY SCALE EXCEPT EMS; IT HAS TAKEN NINETEEN MONTHS TO GET TO THIS POINT. IF THEY COMPARE WITH ANY OTHER COUNTIES, JACKSON COUNTY IS A FIRE BASED EMS AND BAY COUNTY EMS IS HOSPITAL BASED. THEY DON'T EVEN WANT TO COMPARE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMS TO HOLMES COUNTY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T THINK THEY HAVE A COUNTY MANAGER OR HR PERSON; THEIR ROAD AND BRIDGE GETS PAID A LOT LESS AND THEIR EMS PROBABLY DOES TOO. IF YOU GO THERE, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE BROAD SPECTRUM. YOU AREN'T COMPARING APPLES TO APPLES.

THERE ARE TWO THINGS EMS IS TASKED TO DO AS A COUNTY DEPARTMENT: FIND A WAY TO GENERATE FUNDS AND FIND A WAY TO SAVE MONIES. EMS HAS DONE BOTH OF THESE TASKS. IF HE CAN GIVE THEM A PAY SCALE THEY CAN LIVE OFF OF, LIKE THE ONE BEING PROPOSED, THEY ARE STILL KIND OF SITTING OUT THERE LIKE A STEP CHILD AND ARE NOT A PART OF THE COUNTY NOR THEY WILL NOT BE A PART OF THE COUNTY UNTIL THIS PAY SCALE IS FIXED OR THEY WANT FEEL LIKE THEY ARE A PART OF THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED IF THE TOTAL FIGURE INCREASE BEING ASKED FOR THE PAY INCREASES IS \$73,000 ANNUALLY. RANDALL SAID THAT IS CORRECT. THEY HAVE GENERATED THAT MUCH THIS MONTH; THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT OUT OF THIS MONTHS COLLECTIONS ALREADY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED HOW MANY EMPLOYEES WAS THIS

AFFECTING. RANDALL SAID IT WOULD AFFECT FIVE POSITIONS; FIVE PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN SETTING THERE IN A POSITION THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED AND SIGNED OFF ON BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR THAT IS NOT GETTING THEIR MONEY AND HAVE NOT GOTTEN THEIR MONEY ALL THESE YEARS AND SIT BACK PATIENTLY AND STILL WORK DILIGENTLY TO MAKE MORE MONEY TO TRY AND IMPROVE EVERYTHING WAITING FOR THEIR TIME TO COME. HE SAID MAYBE TODAY SEEMS LIKE A GOOD TIME TO MAKE THEIR TIME COME.

COMMISSIONER PATE QUESTIONED THE DRAFT SCENARIOS. HEATHER EXPLAINED SHE HAD WORKED WITH A COUPLE OF GUYS AT EMS TO COME UP WITH THE PAY SCALE FOR THE PARAMEDIC SUPERVISOR POSITION. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE THREE COLORS ON THE DRAFT SCENARIOS WAS MONEY; SHE HAS PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH THREE DIFFERENT OPTIONS TO LOOK AT AS FAR AS THE FINANCES GO.

AT THE REQUEST OF COMMISSIONER HOWELL, HEATHER EXPLAINED THE THREE SCENARIOS. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED SHOWED THE ACTUAL DOLLAR FIGURE PER HOUR THE EMPLOYEE IS MAKING NOW AND THAT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE CERTIFICATION PAY. EACH OF THE TOP FOUR EMPLOYEES ARE ALL CERTIFIED WITH MORE THAN FOUR CERTIFICATIONS IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS LEGALLY REQUIRED OF THEM. THE PROPOSED HOURLY IS SHOWN, THE CURRENT ANNUAL RATE, THE PROPOSED ANNUAL RATE BASED ON THE PROPOSED HOURLY RATE, THE CURRENT FRINGE, PROPOSED FRINGE AND THE TOTAL NEEDED FOR THE BUDGET. SHE PROVIDED THIS IN THREE DIFFERENT SCENARIOS BECAUSE OF THE HOURLY RATE; THE HOURLY RATE ON THOSE THREE PAGES ARE DIFFERENT BY A \$1.00 EACH. SHE STARTED AT \$13.25 PER HOUR, WENT TO \$14.25 UP TO \$15.25.

WHILE DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW WAS GETTING AN EXPLANATION ON THE SALARIES QUOTED, RANDALL EXPLAINED HE WOULD NEVER COME BEFORE THE BOARD AND REQUEST SOMETHING THAT EMS COULD NOT SUPPORT. EMS IS PAYING THE COUNTY BACK MONEY THEY HAD GOTTEN BEFORE JUST LIKE THEY SAID THEY WOULD DO AND THEY ARE MAKING MONEY. THEY ARE NOT BEING A BURDEN ON THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY; BUT, THEY ARE GIVING THEM A GOOD SERVICE. THE EMS EMPLOYEES DESERVE WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE IN THIS COUNTY HAS

GOT.

RANDALL EXPLAINED WHEN THEY WERE UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE HOSPITAL, THEY COLLECTED ROUGHLY \$35,000 TO \$40,000 MONTHLY; NOW, THEY COLLECT AN AVERAGE OF \$80,000 TO \$85,000 MONTHLY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED THE NUMBER OF EMS EMPLOYEES. RANDALL EXPLAINED THERE WERE 35 FULL AND PART TIME EMS EMPLOYEES.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE OTHER EMS EMPLOYEES; TO HIM, THEY ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT. HE ASKED HOW MANY FULL TIME EMS EMPLOYEES THERE WERE. RANDALL ADVISED THERE WERE TWELVE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AND THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE WILL BE AFFECTING FIVE EMPLOYEES AT THIS TIME.

RANDALL EXPLAINED THE PART TIME EMS EMPLOYEES WORK OTHER JOBS; THEIR EMS SALARY JUST HELPS THOSE EMPLOYEES SUPPLEMENT THEIR OTHER PAY AND KEEPS EMS FROM HAVING TO PAY OUT A LOT OF BENEFITS BY USING PART TIME PEOPLE WHEN THEY NEED THEM. HE ADDRESSED THIS IS SAVING MONEY TOO.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID IF EMS HAS TWELVE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES, IT IS HARD FOR HIM TO GIVE ONE A RAISE AND THE OTHERS NOT. HE WISHES HE COULD GIVE EVERYBODY IN THE COUNTY A RAISE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE HAS BEEN ON THE BOARD BEFORE WHEN THEY STARTED DOING THIS AND THE COUNTY IS GOING TO START GETTING GRIEVANCES BECAUSE ONE PERSON GOT A RAISE AND ANOTHER ONE DIDN'T.

RANDALL SAID THEY ARE ASKING THE BOARD TO BRING PEOPLE UP TO THE LEVEL THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN BEFORE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED WHY THERE WEREN'T THREE SCENARIOS ON THE EMS DIRECTOR. HEATHER EXPLAINED THIS POSITION WASN'T CHANGING MUCH FINANCIALLY; HE IS CHANGING HOURS SO THE BOTTOM LINE WAS ONLY GOING TO CHANGE A VERY MINIMAL AMOUNT OF MONEY.

RANDY TRUETTE EXPLAINED IF THEY GET THE PAY GRADES APPROVED, OVER THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE, THEY HAVE DIFFERENT ANNIVERSARY DATES AND THEY WILL GET THEIR 1.5% FOR LONGEVITY. RANDALL SAID IT WAS IDENTICAL TO WHAT IS SET UP FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE WANTED EVERYBODY TO KNOW HE CARES ABOUT THEM.

RANDY SAID THE EMS EMPLOYEES SITTING IN THE AUDIENCE THAT AREN'T GOING TO GET ANY MONEY, THEY UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ARE NOT BUT UNDERSTAND SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS DOWN THE ROAD, THEY MAY PASS THAT THREE YEAR MARK AND GET A LONGEVITY RAISE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK EXPLAINED HE DIDN'T WANT TO CREATE MORAL FEELINGS BECAUSE HE KNOWS HOW EMPLOYEES FEEL WHEN ONE EMPLOYEE GETS A RAISE AND ANOTHER ONE DOESN'T.

RANDALL EXPLAINED HE HAD BEEN WORKING FOR THE COUNTY SINCE 1975 AND HAS NOT RECEIVED A THREE YEAR LONGEVITY INCREASE BECAUSE HE WAS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE HOSPITAL. IT WAS THE SAME BOARD MEMBERS AND HE WAS A COUNTY EMPLOYEE OUT THERE; WHEN, HE COMES UNDER THE BOARD HE IS TREATED DIFFERENTLY JUST LIKE HE STARTED YESTERDAY. THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE WILL PUT THE LONGEVITY IN PLACE. THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT GETTING AN INCREASE NOW WILL BE IN THE SAME BALL PARK AS ROAD AND BRIDGE, THE CLERICAL WORKERS AND EVERYBODY ELSE THAT WORKS FOR THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL REFERRED TO MORE SCENARIOS BEING ON SOME OF THE EMS POSITIONS THAN OTHERS. HEATHER SAID THE ONLY REASON SHE GAVE EXTRA SCENARIOS ON THE OTHERS WAS BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WAS INVOLVED AND THE RESEARCH SHE HAD DONE. SHE EXPLAINED THE EMS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHE DIDN'T GIVE ANY OTHER SCENARIOS BECAUSE THERE WASN'T MUCH OF AN ANNUAL CHANGE; AS FAR AS THE SALARY DIFFERENCE, IT WILL BE LESS THAN \$3,000. IF YOU LOOK AT THE HOURLY RATE FACE VALUE, YOU WOULD THINK IT WAS FIGURED WRONG; HOWEVER, THIS IS BECAUSE THIS EMPLOYEE'S SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE. CURRENTLY THEY WORK THE NIGHT SHIFT, ETC. NOW AND THEN. THE DIRECTOR POSITION WILL CHANGE TO 5/40 AT OVERTIME INSTEAD OF WHAT THE REST OF THEM WILL GET SO IT MAKES THE MULTIPLIER GO DOWN PLUS MAKES THE ANNUAL SALARY STAY THE SAME.

RANDALL EXPLAINED THAT ITSELF DON'T PAINT A TRUE PICTURE BECAUSE

HE IS ON A SET THING; WHEN YOU LOOK AT HIS, IT LOOKS LIKE HE IS GETTING PAID 40 HOURS A WEEK AND HE IS STILL WORKING 60 HOURS A WEEK. IF YOU GET CALLED OUT IN HIS POSITION, IT DOESN'T REFLECT ON YOUR TIME CARD. YOU HAVE A FLAT RATE BASICALLY; YOU ARE NOT LOSING HOURS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF THEY WOULD STILL BE WORKING 540 HOURS OVERTIME. RANDALL SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE THAN THAT IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT.

RANDALL SAID HE IS GOING TO BE SCHEDULED LIKE ADMINISTRATIVE 40 HOURS PER WEEK. RANDALL SAID THAT IS JUST SCHEDULED; THAT IS THE SAME THING AS MR. PITTS, ROGER AND HIMSELF.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID IF THEY HAVE MORE THAN SIXTY HOURS A WEEK, HE ASKED IF EMS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HIRE MORE PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO COVER THOSE HOURS.

RANDALL ASKED IF COMMISSIONER HOWELL WAS SPEAKING OF A SINGLE POSITION. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE WAS TALKING ABOUT ANY POSITION WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WORKING A LOT OF OVERTIME.

RANDALL SAID IF YOU LOOK ACROSS THE STATE YOU ARE GOING TO FIND EMS WORKS TWENTY FOUR ON AND FORTY EIGHT OFF. THAT IS WHY THEIR HOURLY RATES ARE SO LOW. IF THE BOARD WANTS THEM TO WORK FORTY HOURS A WEEK, THE HOURLY RATES WILL GO WAY UP AND THEY WILL REALLY START SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY. THEY WILL HAVE A HARD TIME KEEPING PERSONNEL BECAUSE YOU ARE TRIVIALLING THEIR PERSONNEL PEOPLE.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN ADDRESSED IF THERE WASN'T A SHORTAGE AS FAR AS EMS, PARAMEDICS, IN THE HOSPITAL, A SHORTAGE OF RN'S, LPN'S; THE ONES THAT ARE THERE NOW ARE HAVING TO WORK OVERTIME BECAUSE OF THAT SHORTAGE.

HEATHER EXPLAINED SHE HAS PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL ROUNDS OF INTERVIEWS WITH THEM AND GETTING PARAMEDICS HERE IS VERY HARD; THEY JUST DON'T APPLY. IN DOING THIS RESEARCH AND CALLING ALL THESE COUNTIES, THEY ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.

RANDALL EXPLAINED YOU REALLY WANT TO LOOK AT THE QUALITY OF PARAMEDICS WHEN YOU DO FIND THEM AND WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS GOOD

QUALITY PARAMEDICS.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED THERE BEING TWENTY THREE PART TIME EMS WORKERS. HE ASKED COULD THESE PEOPLE FEEL SOME GAPS TO HOLD THE EMS COST DOWN WITH OVERTIME.

RANDALL SAID IT WOULDN'T MAKE A LOT OF DIFFERENCE ON COST; HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THEY CAN CUT IT ANYMORE.

COMMISSIONER PATE AGREED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH HOW EMS WORKS AND THAT IS WHY HE IS ASKING QUESTIONS. IF YOU HAVE QUALIFIED PEOPLE THERE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD WORK THEM IN SOME AND CUT DOWN ON OVERTIME.

RANDALL EXPLAINED THEY WERE DOING THIS.

HEATHER REITERATED A LOT OF THE PART TIME EMS WORKERS DO HAVE FULL TIME DAY JOBS; THEY HAVE QUITE A FEW FL-DOT EMPLOYEES.

RANDALL SAID WITH THE PART TIME PERSONNEL IT IS HARD TO GET ANYBODY WITH OVERTIME UNLESS THEY ARE ON CALL AND HAVE TO GO OVER THAT FORTY HOURS.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE PART TIME EMS PERSONNEL GETTING TO WORK MORE HOURS TO CUT DOWN ON OVERTIME OF THE FULL TIME EMS PERSONNEL.

RANDALL SAID THEY HAVE POSITIONS NOW THEY HAVEN'T FILLED AND ARE USING PART TIME PEOPLE; THAT IS SAVINGS RIGHT THERE. HE REITERATED YOU HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE MONEY AND SAVE MONEY AND EMS IS DOING BOTH.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE HAS SUPPORTED EMS ALL ALONG; THEY HAVE DONE THE BIGGEST CHANGE AROUND IN THIS WHOLE COUNTY. BUT, HE WANTS TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS BETTER.

RANDALL SAID ALL THEY ARE ASKING IS TO BE PART OF THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED WHEN THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THE LONGEVITY RAISES, THE MAJORITY OF EMS PERSONNEL IS PART TIME PEOPLE.

RANDALL SAID THEY ARE AND IT WON'T AFFECT THEM.

HEATHER SAID WHEN TALKING ABOUT PART TIMERS, SHE QUESTIONED WHAT THE PLEASURE OF THE BOARD IS ON GIVING PART TIME PERSONNEL LONGEVITY

INCREASES. HER SCHEDULE SHE HAS PROVIDED HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE LONGEVITY OF THE PART TIME EMPLOYEES. IF THE BOARD AND EMS DOESN'T THINK THE PART TIME EMS PEOPLE SHOULD GET THE SAME LONGEVITY INCREASES, SHE NEEDS TO KNOW THIS.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN QUESTIONED WHAT WOULD CAUSE THE PART TIME PEOPLE NOT TO GET THE LONGEVITY INCREASES. HEATHER REFERRED TO OKALOOSA COUNTY HAVING WHAT THEY CALL RELIEF EMPLOYEES WHO DON'T GET THE SAME BENEFITS AS THE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, THE PART TIME EMS WORKERS DON'T GET THE SAME BENEFIT AS THE FULL TIMERS DO HERE. THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE INSURANCE BECAUSE OF THE HOURLY REQUIREMENT CONTRACT WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD AND THERE ARE SOME OTHER THINGS THEY AREN'T ELIGIBLE FOR.

RANDALL EXPLAINED THE LONGEVITY INCREASES ARE INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT. COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED THIS WOULD OPEN UP A CAN OF WORMS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF THE PART TIME PEOPLE WERE PAID MORE PER HOUR. RANDALL AND HEATHER BOTH SAID THEY DID PAY THE PART TIME PEOPLE MORE PER HOUR.

HEATHER ADDRESSED IT MAY BE A BIG HASSLE TO NOT GIVE THE PART TIME EMS PEOPLE THE LONGEVITY INCREASE; IT IS NOT GOING TO COST THAT MUCH TO GIVE IT TO THEM ANYWAY.

RANDALL EXPLAINED THE BOTTOM LINE IS THE LONGEVITY RAISES AND THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE IS NOT GOING TO AFFECT EMS'S BUDGET AND THEY CAN SUPPORT IT.

RANDY STATED EVERY PLACE HE HAS EVER WORKED HAS HAD CONTRACT EMPLOYEES; HE AGREES TO LEAVE THE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE AS IS SO THE PART TIME WORKERS CAN GET A LONGEVITY INCREASE.

COMMISSIONER PATE THOUGHT THE COUNTY POLICY WAS YOU HAD TO BE A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE TO RECEIVE THE LONGEVITY PAY.

JAMES WHITE ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING IT WAS A WIN WIN SITUATION WITH THE COUNTY; EMS HAS DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB TO TURN THIS THING AROUND; THEY HAVE GOT THE FINANCES GOING IN THE GREEN AND

IT IS PRETTY MUCH A HANDS DOWN WIN WIN SITUATION. THE COUNTY HAS A GOOD GROUP OF MEN PROVIDING GOOD EMS SERVICES.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF SCENARIO 3 ON THE EMS PAYGRADE SCHEDULE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK THANKED RANDALL FOR EVERYTHING EMS DOES FOR THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THERE ARE A LOT OF PARAMEDICS AND EMT'S HERE; THEY DO A GOOD JOB. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ADDRESSED THE REMAINDER OF THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION ALSO.

HEATHER, FOR CLARIFICATION, WANTED TO CHANGE EMS EMPLOYEE'S HIRE DATE FROM APRIL 1, 2009 WHEN THEY CAME UNDER THE COUNTY TO THEIR ORIGINAL HIRE DATE AS EMS WORKERS. SHE HAD ALREADY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE LONGEVITY; THE ONLY EMPLOYEES THAT WILL FINANCIALLY BENEFIT FROM IT RIGHT NOW IS THE ONES THE BOARD JUST VOTED ON. THE REST OF THE EMPLOYEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CALCULATED INTO THIS; THEY FIT IN THE PAY SCALE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND CARRIED TO CHANGE THE EMS EMPLOYEES FROM APRIL 1, 2009 WHEN THEY CAME UNDER THE COUNTY TO THEIR ORIGINAL HIRE DATE WHEN THEY BEGAN WITH EMS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN CALLED FOR A 10 MINUTE RECESS.

PURSUANT TO A RECESS, CHAIRMAN HOLMAN CALLED THE MEETING BACK TO ORDER.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED THE BOARD HAVING DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF HIRING A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO RUN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO TAKE A LITTLE BIT OFF OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. HE HAD PLANS TO TALK ABOUT SOME OTHER THINGS AT PUBLIC WORKS AS WELL; BUT, HE DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION HE NEEDS. HE ASKED FOR DISCUSSION ON THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL STARTED DISCUSSION SAYING HIS IDEA THE WHOLE TIME HAS BEEN TO HAVE A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO RUN PUBLIC WORKS

ON A DAILY BASIS AND TO ADVERTISE THE POSITION.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THE BOARD HAS TO HAVE SOME WAY TO GIVE THEIR EMPLOYEES SOME RELIEF FROM BEING SWITCHED FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER. IN HIS OPINION, THEY NEED A STANDARDIZED CONSISTENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE AND THAT WOULD COME ABOUT AND BE BETTER IF THEY HAVE A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. ONCE THEY HIRE A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, HE HOPES THE BOARD CAN COME TO A CONCLUSION AND AGREEMENT THEY ALL STAY OUT OF THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS; THAT ALL GOES THROUGH THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR OR MR. PITTS. IN TALKING TO MS. DEBBIE YESTERDAY ABOUT THE FEMA WORK, FEMA IS PRODUCTION BASED; IF YOU WORK FOR IT YOU GET PAID FOR IT. THE DAYS OF MAKING MONEY OFF OF FEMA IS PRETTY WELL GONE. THEY HAVE VERY FEW PW'S WHERE FEMA PAYS YOU A LUMP SUM TO DO THE PROJECT AND WHATEVER IS LEFT, THE COUNTY GETS TO KEEP. MOST OF THE PW'S REQUIRE THE COUNTY TO SPEND THE MONEY UPFRONT AND GET REIMBURSEMENT; REIMBURSEMENTS ARE SOMETIME SLOW COMING IN. THE COUNTY IS OBLIGATED TO DO THE FEMA WORK WHEN THEY ASKED FEMA TO COME IN AND WRITE THE PW'S; SOONER OR LATER THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE A DECISION HOW THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THAT. MOST OF IT IS DIRT WORK; SOME OF IT REQUIRES SOME EXPENDITURES. THE SUPERVISORS NEED TO BE ABLE TO GO OUT AND SET THEIR CREWS AND MAKE SURE THEY STAY OUT THERE AND WORK AND NOT BE PULLED OFF SOMEWHERE ELE.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THE BOARD IS TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND SET POLICY; THE COUNTY MANAGER'S JOB IS TO SEE THE POLICIES THE BOARD SETS ARE ENFORCED. HE HAS PRETTY WELL TRIED TO GET OUT OF THE HABIT OF CALLING ON THE SUPERVISORS ON THINGS HE HAS WANTED DONE. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GO THROUGH MR. PITTS THE LAST FEW MONTHS AND HAVE HIM TELL THE SUPERVISORS WHAT HE WOULD LIKE FOR THEM TO DO. IF SOMEBODY CALLS HIM FROM ANOTHER DISTRICT, HOLMAN SAID HE LETS THE COMMISSIONER OF THAT DISTRICT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON; THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT CAN HANDLE IT OR HE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT IF THEY ASK HIM TO. THAT IS WHAT THE

BOARD NEEDS TO DO; THEY DON'T NEED TO BE OUT HERE RIDING AROUND WITH THE SUPERVISORS ON A DAILY BASIS. THEY DON'T NEED TO BE OUT THERE TELLING THE EMPLOYEES WHAT TO DO; THAT IS NOT THEIR JOB. THEIR JOB IS TO SET WHERE THEY ARE AT AND DISCUSS AND SET POLICY FOR THE REST OF THE EMPLOYEES TO DO. HE FEELS LIKE SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS; THEY NEED A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. HOWEVER, HE ASKED WHERE THE FUNDING WAS COMING FROM AND DO WE HAVE THE MONEY TO HIRE A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE THOUGHT THE BOARD NEEDED TO DECIDE IF THEY WANT A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND SEE IF THEY CAN FIND THE MONEY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED HIM HAVING BEEN TOLD THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE MONEY TO HIRE LABORERS; THEY HAVE HAD TO HIRE TEMPORARY LABORERS. HE REFERRED TO THE LIABILITY OF EQUIPMENT WORKING WITHOUT HAVING AN EMERGENCY LIGHT AHEAD OF THEM OR A FLAGMAN. THESE HAVE NEVER BEEN ADDRESSED DUE TO THE LACK OF STAFFING.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID, EVEN BEFORE HE BECAME A COMMISSIONER WHEN HE WAS AT PUBLIC WORKS, IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND IT WAS TOLD THE EQUIPMENT OPERATORS WAS TO PUT OUT FLAGS AND THE OPERATORS HAVE BEEN TRAINED HOW TO PUT OUT FLAGS, THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN SAFETY ISSUES. HE REFERRED TO EVEN WHEN COMMISSIONER BROCK WAS A COMMISSIONER BEFORE, ALL THIS HAS BEEN BROUGHT OUT. DOES THE EMPLOYEES TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT. HOLMAN SAID HE CAN'T SAY WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT. IS ALL THE SAFETY ISSUES BEING TAKEN CARE OF AND HANDLED AT PUBLIC WORKS NOW; AGAIN, HE DON'T KNOW.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ASKED IF YOU ARE GOING TO USE \$15 AN HOUR EMPLOYEES TO FLAG WHEN YOU CAN GET EMPLOYEES TO DO THIS FOR \$9 OR \$10. HE SAID WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SAVING MONEY.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED THEM USING A \$25 AN HOUR EMPLOYEE LAST WEEK TO FLAG. COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T HIRE LABORERS; YOU HAVE TO HIRE PEOPLE TO DO THE JOB IF YOU DON'T HAVE THEM. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN FOUR DIRECTORS HIRED AND THERE IS

NOT A COUNTY COMMISSIONER UP HERE THAT DON'T GET PHONE CALLS. ROAD AND BRIDGE GETS TONS OF PHONE CALLS. THERE ARE RURAL ROADS THAT CHANGE WITH THE WEATHER; YOU WRITE OUT WORK ORDERS FOR TWO WEEKS AHEAD. THOSE WORK ORDERS WILL CHANGE BECAUSE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THERE WILL BE ROUGHBOARDS IN THE ROAD OR A POSSIBILITY THERE WILL BE ROADS FULL OF WATER; YOU HAVE TO WORK TO THE WEATHER. HE SAID MR. PITTS CAN'T RIDE THE ROADS AND SEE WHAT ROADS NEED WORKING AND WHAT ROADS DON'T NEED WORKING.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID IF THE COMMISSIONERS ARE RIDING AROUND WITH THE SUPERVISORS, THE SUPERVISORS CAN'T DO THEIR JOB.

COMMISSIONER BROCK STATED HE THOUGHT THE SUPERVISORS DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB. HE THINKS THEY DO A GOOD ENOUGH JOB TO SATISFY MR. HOLMAN, ROBERT DOES A GOOD ENOUGH JOB TO SATISFY DONNIE AND DALLAS DOES A FINE JOB; HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS WITH THE SUPERVISORS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED IF THE ISSUE WAS COMMISSIONER BROCK HAD A PROBLEM WITH HIRING A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID "YES;" IT HAS BEEN TRIED FOUR TIMES.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN AND PATE BOTH STATED THEY ONLY REMEMBER A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BEING HIRED ONE TIME. COMMISSIONER PATE REFERRED TO HIM HAVING ASKED COMMISSIONER BROCK AFTER THE LAST DIRECTOR WAS HIRED HOW HE LIKED HIM AND COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE DIDN'T LIKE HIM AND HE WOULD BE GONE IN LESS THAN A YEAR AND HE WAS.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THEY DO HAVE GOOD PEOPLE AT PUBLIC WORKS; THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THE COMMISSIONERS INTERFERE TOO MUCH AND BY LAW THEY ARE NOT SUPPOSE TO BE DOING THAT. HE SAID HE GETS COMPLAINTS BUT USUALLY HE JUST REFERS THEM RIGHT ON TO PUBLIC WORKS. IF THE SUPERVISORS ASK HIM TO GO LOOK AT SOMETHING, HE DOES; BUT, OTHER THAN THAT, HE LEAVES HIS GUYS ALONE AND LET THEM DO THEIR JOB. AS FAR AS SCHEDULING, IT IS WORKING IN OTHER SMALL COUNTIES AND ASKED WHY IT CAN'T WORK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. HE STATED IT IS BECAUSE

THERE ARE COMMISSIONERS THAT WANTS TO HAVE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AND IT SAYS YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSE TO BE DOING THAT. THE SUPERVISORS WILL OPERATE A LOT BETTER IF THEY CONTROL THEIR WORK SCHEDULE. HE TALKED TO EVERYONE OF THEM DOWN THERE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID "SO YOU HAVE COMMISSIONERS WORKING DAILY WITH THE EMPLOYEES." COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THAT IS WHAT HE HEARS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE COMMISSIONER PATE IS HEARING THIS AT. HE DOES LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE EVERY WEEK EQUIPMENT IS TO GO CERTAIN ROADS AND HE GIVES THE WORK ORDERS FOR THE EQUIPMENT TO GO TO WORK. HE HAS HEARD COMMISSIONERS CALL, CALL, CALL TELLING ROBERT WHAT TO DO, TELLING DALLAS WHAT TO DO ALL THE TIME; THEY WILL COME UP HERE TO THIS BOARD AND DENY IT. THAT IS ACTUAL FACTS AND THAT IS THE TRUTH. IF YOU ARE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND YOU HAVE A PILE OF DIRT ROADS, YOU BETTER TEND TO THEM; YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOUR PHONE CALLS. HE SAID HE HAS TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE AS THE PEOPLE PUT HIM IN THIS POSITION TO REPRESENT THEM AND THE REST OF THE BOARD MEMBERS BETTER OR THEY WILL GET THE RESULTS AT THE END.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID IT WOULD WORK BETTER IF THEY HAVE A DIRECTOR AND THE COMMISSIONERS STAY OUT OF IT; IT IS WORKING EVERYWHERE ELSE AND THERE IS NO REASON IT CAN'T WORK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY EXCEPT THERE IS TOO MUCH OLD BOY CRONISM GOING ON AND TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE WITH THE PEOPLE AT PUBLIC WORKS FOR THEM TO DO THEIR JOB. THE BOARD COULD HIRE A DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC WORKS. THE SUPERVISORS ARE CAPABLE OF DOING THEIR JOB; BUT, THEY ARE INTEREFERED WITH BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR COULD PULL ALL THE PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES TOGETHER AND TELL THEM THIS IS THE WAY IT IS GOING TO BE; THE EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE A CERTAIN LENGTH OF TIME TO SHOW THE DIRECTOR THEY CAN KEEP THEIR JOB. IF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL LEAVE THEM ALONE, THEY WILL DO THEIR JOB; BUT, THEY CAN'T DO IT IF EVERYTIME SOMEBODY CALLS THEM ABOUT A PROBLEM, AND COMMISSIONERS RUN DOWN THERE AND GOES TO GIVING THEM TROUBLE. THAT IS EXACTLY THE REASON THE ONE GOT RUN AWAY IN ABOUT

EIGHT TO NINE MONTHS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE TOTALLY DISAGREED WITH WHAT COMMISSIONER PATE IS SAYING. NO COUNTY COMMISSIONER GOES OUT THERE AND TELLS THE EMPLOYEES WHAT TO DO. HE ASKED WHAT COUNTY COMMISSIONER TELLS THE EMPLOYEES WHAT TO DO. COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE WORKS WITH ROBERT; HE IS WELL FAMILIAR WITH THE DISTRICT AND ALL ROADS AT ALL TIMES AND SO IS DALLAS. NOBODY ELSE IN THIS COUNTY IS FAMILIAR WITH THAT. THEY KNOW HOW THE DIRT ROADS ARE; THEY KNOW WHERE THE RUB BOARDS ARE AND THEY ARE VERY QUALIFIED OF DOING IT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED DAVID CORBIN HAS ALL THE PARKS, ALL THE COUNTY DIRT ROADS WITH GARBAGE, ALL THE COUNTY ROADS CUTTING THE BUSHES, LIMBS, OUTFALLS, DRIVEWAYS. HE ASKED WHO DOES DAVID CALL TO SEE WHICH ROADS ARE THE WORSE OR WHERE THE TRASH IS THE WORSE. DAVID DON'T HAVE TIME TO RIDE THE ROADS; HE IS AT THE COUNTY ANNEX MOSTLY AND DOES A GOOD JOB, OUTSTANDING JOB. HE IS AT THE SOD FARM TRYING TO GET SOD; TRYING TO WORK FOR ALL THE DEPARTMENTS WHETHER IT IS THE LIBRARY, AG CENTER. HE IS WAY OVERLOADED; SO, SOMEBODY HAS TO TELL HIM WHERE THE GARBAGE IS THE WORSE AT OR WHERE THE BUSHES NEED CUTTING BACK. THEY ARE WAY UNDERSTAFFED IN THIS COUNTY AND MR. PITTS CAN'T DO IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THAT IS THE PROBLEM; MR. PITTS IS THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, JUST LIKE PETE WAS, OVER PUBLIC WORKS AND HE CAN'T DO BOTH THESE JOBS AND DO THAT AND DO THEM GOOD. HE THINKS HE IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB. BUT, IT IS NOT RIGHT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS COUNTY. HE ADDRESSED HIM HAVING BEEN IN MANAGEMENT FOR ABOUT TWENTY PLUS YEARS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK STATED THIS IS NOT ABOUT MANAGEMENT; THIS IS ABOUT HELPING THE PEOPLE.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THE PEOPLE ELECTED THE COMMISSIONERS TO MANAGE THIS COUNTY'S BUSINESS.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE PRICE FOR HIRING A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, MR. PITTS SAID THE CURRENT PAY SCALE SHOWS THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

STARTING SALARY WILL BE \$57,283 A YEAR.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED THE QUALIFICATION FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THAT IS WHAT THEY HAVE TO DECIDE ON.

MR. PITTS READ FROM A WORKING DOCUMENT ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR; GRADUATION FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELORS DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OR POLICY RELATED FIELD, FIVE YEARS OF MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE PREFERABLY IN A LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND REFERRED TO MR. PITTS HAVING SAID SOMETHING ABOUT AN ENGINEER AND QUESTIONED WHAT ABOUT CLIFF.

MR. PITTS ADDRESSED THIS WOULDN'T REPLACE AN ENGINEER; BUT, IT WOULD ALLOW AS A DIRECTOR TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE ENGINEERING SKILLS WHICH THEY CURRENTLY PAY AN ENGINEER TO DO. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE DIRECTOR WOULD HAVE TO BE ON STAFF TO DO THESE THINGS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED ABOUT HAVING A WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION FURTHER AND ASKED MR. PITTS IF HE AND HEATHER COULD COME UP WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION, WHERE THE MONEY WAS GOING TO COME FROM.

MR. PITTS STATED WHAT HE HAD READ WAS HIS AND HEATHER'S IDEA OF WHAT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR SHOULD BE AND THEY ARE GIVING IT TO THE BOARD FOR THEIR COMMENTS. IF THEY HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS OF WHAT THE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD BE, THEY CAN ADDRESS THIS.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID IT ALSO BORDERS ON WHAT THE BOARD EVENTUALLY WINDS UP WANTING OUT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, ETC. THEY HAVE TO FIND THE FUNDS; BUT, A GOOD PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LEFT ALONE CAN SAVE ENOUGH MONEY AT PUBLIC WORKS TO PAY FOR HIS SALARY TWO TIMES OVER. A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR HAS WORKED IN OTHER PLACES AND IT CAN WORK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY; THEY JUST HAVE TO DECIDE

IF THEY WANT TO STAY WITH THIS GOOD OLD BOY THING OR DO THEY WANT TO MOVE ON TO THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY.

HEATHER EXPLAINED THE JOB DESCRIPTION MR. PITTS READ WAS A COMPILATION OF SOMETHING THEY PULLED FROM FOUR OR FIVE DIFFERENT JOB DESCRIPTIONS THEY PULLED FROM SANTA ROSA, BAY, WALTON, GADSDEN AND THE CITY OF CHIPLEY.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED IF THEY COULD SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP ON THE 30TH OF JUNE. THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION AT THEIR JUNE 24TH BOARD MEETING.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN REQUESTED THE BOARD LOOK OVER THE JOB CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTION HEATHER HAD PROVIDED AND IF THEY CAN THINK OF ANYTHING THEY WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE DESCRIPTION, THEY WILL DISCUSS IT AT THE JUNE 24TH MEETING IN VERNON.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND UPDATED THE BOARD ON HIM HAVING ASKED MS. LYNN GOTHARD TO DO A PRESENTATION ON FIRE DEPARTMENT ISSUES; THE PRESENTATION IS NOTHING MS. GOTHARD HAS DONE BY HERSELF OR NOTHING HER HUSBAND HAS DONE BY HIMSELF. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HE, AND MORE PEOPLE GOT INVOLVED AND TALKED ABOUT. HE ADDRESSED IN THE PAST THE BOARD MEMBERS WAS WANTING SOME STUFF DONE AND THIS IS WHAT THEY HAVE COME UP WITH.

WHILE MS. GOTHARD WAS GETTING HER PRESENTATION READY, CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED THE BOARD TO LOOK OVER THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE DANIELS LAKE EQUESTRIAN CENTER AND THEY WILL DISCUSS AND ACT ON IT AT THE JUNE 24TH MEETING.

RANDALL MCGOWAN, 415 RED DEER RUN, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA, ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HIS REAL BEEF IS WITH MR. PITTS. THERE HAS BEEN A GUY OUT THERE THAT HAS BEEN LIVING IN A TRAVEL TRAILER FOR 2.5 YEARS WITH POWER AND MR. PITTS KNOWS ABOUT THIS. MCGOWAN STATED HIS BROTHER HAD JUST BOUGHT A PIECE OF PROPERTY NEXT TO HIS AND HE HAS WENT THROUGH ALL THE STEPS, 911 ADDRESS, DRIVEWAY, ETC. MR. PITTS TELLS HIM TO GO AHEAD AND PULL THE PERMIT; GULF POWER HAS HOOKED UP

A POWER POLE TO IT AND NOW MR. PITTS WANT COME OUT AND SIGN OFF ON IT AND SAYS HE WANT DO THAT ANYMORE BECAUSE THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO.

MR. MCGOWAN SAID HE WAS JUST AT MR. PITTS' OFFICE AND A LADY TOLD THEM THE REASON MR. PITTS WANT DO IT IS BECAUSE THE GUY NEXT DOOR HAS GOT POWER. MR. MCGOWAN ASKED WHAT HIS BROTHER HAS TO DO TO GET POWER OUT THERE. MCGOWAN SAID HE WAS ABLE TO GET POWER; HE PAYS TAXES ON HIS PLACE AND PROPERTY, ETC. HE ASKED CHAIRMAN HOLMAN WHAT DO THEY DO TO GET HIS BROTHER POWER.

NAN THOMPSON ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING PART OF THE REASON MR. PITTS IS STOPPING DOING THIS IS FLORIDA GAS HAS STILL NOT MADE IT CLEAR ON WHERE THEY ARE MAKING THAT CROSSOVER.

MR. MCGOWAN SAID THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO ANYTHING; BUT, FLORIDA GAS HAS. HE HAS THE LEGAL PAPERWORK AND AN ATTORNEY.

NAN EXPLAINED THE PEOPLE ACROSS THE STREET TO HIM, FLORIDA GAS HAS MADE A DECISION TO CROSS OVER; BUT, THE DECISION HAS NOT BEEN FINALIZED. SHE IS WORKING WITH THE ATTORNEY AND THE HALLS BECAUSE THEY ARE DOING THE CROSSOVER THERE; THEY HAVE NOT MADE THE DECISION WHETHER THEY ARE GOING TO CROSSOVER TO DEAL WITH THE HALLS OR THE CROSSOVER TO DEAL WITH MR. MULLIS ON HIS SIDE. NOTHING CAN BE DONE; MCGOWAN'S BROTHER IS NOT GOING TO BUILD HIS HOME UNTIL SUCH TIME FLORIDA GAS MAKES ITS FINAL DECISION WHERE THE CROSSOVER PIPE IS GOING TO BE.

MR. MCGOWAN EXPLAINED IT SAYS IN NAN'S PAPERWORK FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY A PERSON CAN ONLY LIVE IN AN RV, MOBILE HOME, ETC. FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS OR SO AS THEY ARE PULLING PERMITS TO BUILD A HOUSE. THE PIPELINE IS ACROSS THE STREET; THE PIPELINE IS NOT GOING TO COME ANYWHERE NEAR HIS OR HIS BROTHERS. THIS HAS BEEN OVER TWO YEARS. HE HAS CALLED MR. PITTS SEVERAL TIMES AND TRIED TO BE CORDIAL WITH HIM AND ALL HE HAS GOTTEN IS A BUNCH OF BROKEN PROMISES. THEY WANT POWER OUT THERE; HIS BROTHER HAS DONE EVERYTHING HE IS SUPPOSE TO DO. ALL HE AND HIS BROTHER ARE AFTER IS POWER.

MR. PITTS STATED HE DIDN'T THINK A COMMISSION MEETING IS THE PROPER PLACE TO ADDRESS THIS; BUT, THIS GENTLEMAN HAS COMPLAINED SEVERAL TIMES ON THE NEIGHBOR AT 121 RED DEER. MR. MCGOWAN STATED IT HAD FELL ON DEAF EARS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN REQUESTED MR. MCGOWAN GET WITH MR. PITTS AFTER THE MEETING TODAY AND A MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR MCGOWAN, PITTS AND HIM TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE FURTHER BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

MR. MCGOWAN REITERATED HE WOULD LIKE TO GET THE POWER HOOKED UP TO HIS BROTHER'S PLACE. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED AS SOON AS THEY GET THE MEETING SCHEDULED AND DISCUSS THE ISSUE, THEY WILL FIND OUT WHAT THEY CAN AND CAN'T DO.

MR. MCGOWAN ASKED IF THEY COULD GET A NUMBER TO CALL TO SCHEDULE THE MEETING. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN INFORMED HIM TO CALL 638-6200 AND TELL THE SECRETARY HE WANTS TO TALK TO MR. PITTS AND SHE WILL PASS HIM THROUGH TO PITTS.

MR. MCGOWAN STATED HE HAS DONE THIS ABOUT FIFTY TIMES AND THAT IS WHY HE AND HIS BROTHER ARE HERE RIGHT NOW.

MR. PITTS STATED THAT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE; HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY MR. MCGOWAN HAS COME TO THE MEETING. MR. MCGOWAN HAS CALLED HIM AND COMPLAINED TO HIM AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES AND HE HAS TALKED TO MR. MCGOWAN ABOUT 421 RED DEER HAVING POWER ON IT AND MCGOWAN WANTS THAT PERSON TO MOVE HIS TRAVEL TRAILER. THEN MR. MCGOWAN SHOWS UP AT THIS MEETING AND IS ASKING MR. PITTS WHY HE WANT TURN POWER ON TO HIS BROTHER SO HE CAN DO THE SAME THING MCGOWAN IS COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR IS DOING. MR. PITTS SAID THEY COULD SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT THIS; HE TOLD MR. MCGOWAN THEY WILL PUT POWER ON THE PROPERTY WHEN THEY APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT AND WHEN THE HOUSE IS PERMITTED. THAT IS WHEN THEY WILL PUT POWER ON FOR THEM TO HAVE A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE TO LIVE ON THAT PROPERTY WHILE THEY CONSTRUCT A HOUSE.

LYNN GOTHARD ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING THE PROPOSAL FOR A WASHINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT SHE WAS ABOUT TO DO A PRESENTATION ON WAS NOT HER PROPOSAL AT ALL. SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE CONTRIBUTED INFORMATION AND DATA, ETC.; SHE WAS ONLY ASKED TO PUT IT IN A FORMAT AND SPEAK TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION. SHE CHOSE ON HER OWN TO DO A POWER POINT PRESENTATION BECAUSE SHE FELT LIKE IT WAS AN IMPORTANT THING AND WANTED THE BOARD TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT IT. SHE BEGAN WITH THE POWER POINT PRESENTATION STATING IT WAS JUST A PROPOSAL FOR A COUNTY WIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A. CANCEL ALL EXISTING CONTRACTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 THE COUNTY HAS WITH THE ELEVEN FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COUNTY BECAUSE OCTOBER 1ST THEY WILL BEGIN A NEW BUDGET YEAR.

B. NEGOTIATE WITH MUNICIPALITIES AND EXISTING VFD CORPORATIONS TO ABSORB DEPARTMENTS INTO A COUNTYWIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2010.

C. ANY DEPARTMENT WHERE AN AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED WILL RECEIVE NO FUNDING AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2010.

D. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS USUAL. SHE ADDRESSED THERE WERE SOME RUMORS GOING AROUND THE IDEA WAS TO STOP THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS; THIS IS NOT TRUE AS NO ONE HAS SAID ANYTHING ABOUT DOING THAT.

E. VOLUNTEER CHIEFS WILL CONTINUE TO RUN VFD AND WILL BE CALLED DISTRICT CHIEFS. IN THEIR INSTANCE IN SUNNY HILLS, IT IS THE WASHINGTON COUNTY FIRE, SUNNY HILLS DISTRICT AND EACH DISTRICT WOULD HAVE THEIR OWN.

F. ALL VFD WILL UTILIZE PURCHASE ORDER SYSTEM AND WILL HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL BEFORE MAKING ANY PURCHASES. THE IDEA WAS AT EACH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING EACH MONTH, PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THE CHEIFS WOULD MAKE THEIR WISHES KNOWN WHAT THEY WANT TO PURCHASE IN THE NEXT MONTH; IT WILL ALL BE PUT ON ONE PIECE OF PAPER AND THE PAPER WILL BECOME PART OF THE REGULAR BOARD PACKET, THE BOARD MEMBERS WOULD LOOK AT IT AND IF THEY HAD ANY QUESTIONS, THEY WOULD ASK FOR

CLARIFICATION. AT THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING, THE BOARD WOULD EITHER APPROVE OR NOT APPROVE THE PURCHASES AND A PURCHASE ORDER WOULD BE CUT AND THE VFD'S WOULD BE ABLE TO GO AND PURCHASE WHAT THEY NEED. OF COURSE THERE WOULD BE SOME EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE IF THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY IN BETWEEN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS.

G. COUNTYWIDE FIRECHIEF POSITION WILL BE CREATED. POSITION MAY OR MAY NOT BE PAID. COUNTY CHIEF WILL ROLL ON ALL PAGED CALLS DURING DAYTIME HOURS. THIS IS KIND OF LIKE WHAT EMS HAS GOING ON NOW WHERE THE EMS SUPERVISOR RUNS ON THE CALLS; THE COUNTYWIDE CHIEF WOULD ALSO RUN ON THE CALLS.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND STATED THIS IS LIKE THE CITY OF CHIPLEY; MR. AYCOCK, WHEN HE GETS A CALL, GOES TO EVERYTHING.

MS. GOTHARD SAID AT THE BEGINNING, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT SURE ABOUT THE FUNDS, THEY MAY WANT TO SPEND MONEY ON THE COUNTY WIDE FIRECHIEF; BUT, THE FIRST YEAR, IT MAY NOT BE. THAT IS UP TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

MS. GOTHARD ADDRESSED THE DIFFERENCES IN WHAT GOES ON NOW AND WHAT THE PROPOSAL IS OFFERING:

A. RIGHT NOW THE INCORPORATED FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES GET A SET AMOUNT OF MONEY EACH YEAR WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO QUARTERLY PAYMENTS. ON THE NEW SYSTEM, THE QUARTERLY DRAW WOULD NOT BE THERE; BUT, ALL PURCHASES WOULD BE MADE BY PURCHASE ORDERS. THEY WOULD COME BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION TO BE APPROVED.

B. CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION ON HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT. BASICALLY, THE MONEY IS GIVEN TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THEY DECIDE AMONG THEMSELVES HOW THEY WANT TO DO IT AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS NO SAY OVER IT. WITH THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WOULD HAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL PURCHASES WITH TAX DOLLARS BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE GETTING A PURCHASE ORDER TO PURCHASE WHAT WAS NEEDED.

C. CURRENTLY, MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT IS PRIVATELY OWNED. UNDER THE NEW COUNTY DEPARTMENT, THE COUNTY WOULD OWN ALL OF THE APPARATUS;

BUT, WOULD LEASE IT. IF IT IS SOMETHING A CORPORATION OWNS, THEY WOULD LEASE IT TO THE COUNTY.

MS. GOTHARD ADDRESSED THERE BEING ANOTHER RUMOR THAT IS GOING AROUND THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO COME AND TAKE ALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TRUCKS. THAT IS NOT TRUE; THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION SHE HAS HAD WITH COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND THE COUNTY WANTS TO COME POSSESS THIER TRUCKS. BUT, THERE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT REACHED WITH EACH OF THE FIRECHIEFS IN CORPORATIONS ON WHAT HAPPENS.

D. CURRENTLY, THE COUNTY MAINTAINS NO CONTROL OF TRAINING STANDARDS OR EQUIPMENT SAFETY/CERTIFICATION OF DEPARTMENTS. EACH CORPORATION OR TOWN BASICALLY DOES THEIR OWN THINGS. WITH THE NEW COUNTY DEPARTMENT, THE COUNTY WOULD MAINTAIN TRAINING RECORDS AND HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND CONTROL OF SAFETY/CERTIFICATIONS. THE IDEA WAS THROWN AROUND FOR ALL THE EQUIPMENT IN ALL THE DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE SET UP ON A MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE SO THEY WOULD KNOW EVER SO OFTEN, THEY WOULD BRING ALL THEIR TRUCKS ENTERED ON THEIR COUNTY'S FIRE UNIT; IT WOULD BE A REGULAR MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE AND THEIR TRUCKS WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND PAID OUT OF THEIR COUNTY DRAW.

E. CURRENTLY, EACH DEPARTMENT PURCHASES EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR DEPARTMENT IN SMALL ORDERS. SOME FIRE DEPARTMENTS PURCHASE FIVE SETS OF GEAR, SOME TEN SETS, ETC. THE NEW COUNTY DEPARTMENT WOULD DO BULK PURCHASING WHICH WILL ALLOW BETTER RATES EFFECTIVELY UTILIZING TAX DOLLARS. WITH BULK PURCHASING, MAYBE TWO TO THREE TIMES A YEAR, THE COUNTY WILL BID OUT SEVENTY SETS OF GEAR, AIRPACKS, ETC. WITH BULK PURCHASING, YOU CAN GET A MUCH BETTER RATE AND SAVE COUNTY TAX DOLLARS.

F. CURRENTLY, MOST OF THE DEPARTMENTS ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS THAT FREQUENTLY WORK DURING THE DAY LEAVING MINIMAL NUMBERS OF FIREFIGHTERS WHO CAN RESPOND TO CALLS. UNDER THE NEW COUNTYWIDE DEPARTMENT, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HIRE PAID FIREFIGHTERS IN FOUR STATIONS IN THE COUNTY RESULTING IN QUICK RESPONSE FOR BOTH FIRE AND MEDICAL. THE IDEA IS TO FORM A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH EMS WHERE IF YOU HAVE

FF2, FF2/EMT, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RUN ON ALL FIRST RESPONDER CALLS UNTIL EMS ARRIVES WHICH WOULD BE A BIG DEAL IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE COUNTY. SHE REFERRED TO HER HAVING BEEN IN SEVERAL COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS WHERE PEOPLE HAVE ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON THEM LIVING SO FAR OUT THEY ARE AFRAID IT IS GOING TO TAKE SO LONG FOR EMS TO GET TO THEM. THIS WILL HELP THAT.

G. CURRENTLY, THE CORPORATION MEMBERS CONTROL ALL ASPECTS OF TAX DOLLARS AND MEMBERS DECIDE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE. UNDER THE NEW DEPARTMENT, THE WC BOCC CONTROLS ALL THE SPENDING AND ASSURES COMPLIANCE WITH STATE STANDARDS. THE GOAL IS ALL THE SPENDING, PURCHASES, TRAINING, STATE STANDARDS IS OPEN AND ACCOUNTED FOR. IF ANYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS SPENDING THEIR MONEY ON, THEY CAN COME TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING AND THEY CAN HEAR WHAT EVERYBODY IS BUYING AND EVERYBODY WILL KNOW WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE IS BUYING.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND STATED THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL STILL GET THEIR MONEY; IT WILL STILL BE ON THEIR LINE ITEMS AND WHEN THEY GET SOMETHING, IT IS LIKE A CHECK AND BALANCE. THIS WAY, THE BOARD WILL KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY THEY HAVE IN THEIR ACCOUNT AT ALL TIMES. THE COUNTY WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO GO BY THE CHECKS AND BALANCE IS GOING TO PAY FOR IT.

MYRON PIERCE QUESTIONED IF THEY HAD SAID THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO TAKE OVER KEEPING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES UP; BUT, THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE BEING CHARGED FOR IT BY THE COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE ROAD DEPARTMENT DO THE MAINTENANCE ON THE VEHICLES; IF A VEHICLE NEEDS THE OIL CHANGED, ETC., IT WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT CHEAPER FOR THEM TO DO IT THAN SOMEBODY ELSE.

MS. GOTHARD EXPLAINED MR. PIERCE WOULD SEE WHEN THEY GET TO THE FINANCIAL PART, THERE IS A WHOLE POD OF MONEY SET ASIDE FOR MAINTENANCE.

MS. GOTHARD WENT OVER THE ISO RATINGS AND ADDRESSED THIS BEING

DATA SHE RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY EOC; IF THIS IS DIFFERENT, SHE DIDN'T MAKE THESE NUMBERS UP. SHE REPORTED ON THE CURRENT ISO RATINGS FOR ALL ELEVEN FIRE DEPARTMENTS; THE RATINGS ARE ASSIGNED FROM 1-10 WITH 1 BEING THE BEST. FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WASHINGTON COUNTY SPENT \$2.5 MILLION ON FIRE DEPARTMENTS, TAX DOLLARS; YET, MOST OF THE ISO RATINGS HAS NOT GONE ANYWHERE. IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WORLD, THIS MEANS YOU NEED TO CONTINUALLY WORK TOWARD IMPROVEMENTS. SHE ADDRESSED THE ISO RATINGS HAVE TO DO WITH HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE, ETC.

MS. GOTHARD WENT OVER THE ADVANTAGE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS BY HAVING A COUNTY WIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A. THERE IS GOING TO BE A STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY OF TAX DOLLARS; ANYTIME THEY WANT TO BUY SOMETHING, THEY HAVE TO COME BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION AND ASK PERMISSION IF THEY WILL BE ABLE TO BUY IT. THERE WILL BE A RECORD, PURCHASE ORDER, ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERYTHING PURCHASED.

2. UNIFORM RELIABILITY OF MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY. MS. GOTHARD REFERENCED SOME DEPARTMENTS NOW DON'T FEEL THEY HAVE ANY MONEY FOR MAINTENANCE, TRAINING OR GEAR. BUT, THE GOAL IS THERE WILL BE A UNIFORM STANDARD SET.

3. UNIFORM FIRE PROTECTION COVERAGE FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

4. BULK PURCHASING TO SAVE MONEY.

5. IMPROVED STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.

6. IMPROVED ISO RATING FOR TAXPAYER

7. NO INCREASED COST TO TAXPAYER

MS. GOTHARD ADDRESSED THE PLAN IS TO TAKE THE EXISTING TAX DOLLARS AND MANAGE THEM A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN MANAGED. SHE SAID ANOTHER ADVANTAGE TO THE COUNTY RESIDENTS IS TO BE ABLE TO DO COUNTY WIDE FUND RAISERS. SHE REFERRED TO SOME DEPARTMENTS NOW SPEND ONCE A MONTH ALMOST EVERY MONTH TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS. SHE GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF HAVING THE FIRE FIGHTERS STAND AT THE RED LIGHTS AND ASK FOR DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE STOPPING

AT THE RED LIGHTS. SHE ADDRESSED THIS HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER AREAS THEY HAVE LOOKED AT.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THE MONEY THE BOARD GIVES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS WHAT THEY ARE WANTING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR; WHAT EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT RAISES ON THEIR OWN IS THEIR MONEY. HE REFERRED TO THERE BEING A RUMOR GOING AROUND THE BOARD IS WANTING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE MONIES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RAISES ON ITS OWN. HE CLARIFIED THE MONIES THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS RAISE ON THEIR OWN IS THEIRS TO USE AS THEY SEE FIT.

MS. GOTHARD STATED IT MIGHT BE EXCITING TO GET ELEVEN DEPARTMENTS TO STATION AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY MAYBE TWICE A YEAR AND COLLECT DONATIONS ON A BUSY WEEKEND TO SEE HOW MUCH MONEY THEY CAN RAISE. WHATEVER MONEY IS COLLECTED WOULD BE BETTER THAN HAVING A FUNDRAISER ONCE A MONTH EVERY MONTH. SHE ADDRESSED THAT JUST BEING AN IDEA.

SHE SAID ANOTHER THING SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO HAVE A VERY NICE CHRISTMAS PARTY; SHE WOULD PERSONALLY BE WILLING TO GO TO SOME OF THE BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS AND ASK THEM TO DONATE TOWARDS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, SOMETHING NICE FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERS TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR.

MS. GOTHARD SAID THE SECOND PART OF THE COUNTY WIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT PLAN IS FROM THE TAX DOLLARS BEING SAVED BY BRINGING ALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS BACK UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE COUNTY, SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD, THERE WOULD BE PAID (PT) FFT OR FF2/EMT 10 HOURS A DAY, FIVE DAYS A WEEK AT FOUR POSSIBLE STATIONS IN THE COUNTY. THIS WOULD BE PAID WITH THE EXISTING HALF MILL. THE CURRENT FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET IS APPROXIMATELY \$450,000 PER YEAR AND EXISTING MONIES WILL BE UTILIZED AND THERE WILL BE NO INCREASED TAXES TO THE TAXPAYER. THEY ARE BASICALLY TAKING THE MONEY THAT IS ALREADY OUT THERE, USING IT WISELY, ACCOUNTING FOR EXPENSES AND TRYING TO USE IT TO PAY FIREFIGHTERS. THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO BE ABLE TO HAVE ALL PAID FIREFIGHTERS 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A

WEEK.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS IS WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT TODAY; THE EMT IS DOWN THE ROAD.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNTY WIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MS. GOTHARD SAID TO HAVE PART TIME FIREFIGHTERS AT FOUR STATIONS AT 50 HOURS A WEEK WOULD BE ABOUT \$105,000 OUT OF THE EXISTING \$450,000. THEY NEED TO SET ASIDE ABOUT \$50,000 FOR MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS; ABOUT \$39,600 FOR UTILITIES FOR ELEVEN STATIONS, ABOUT \$20,000 IN TRAINING, \$150,000 FOR EQUIPMENT AND \$35,000 FOR WORKERS COMP INSURANCE. THE \$150,000 FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES WOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL ELEVEN DEPARTMENTS.

MS. GOTHARD ADDRESSED THE ANNUAL ALLOTMENT FROM THE BUDGET THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE CURRENTLY GETTING AND THE CALL RUN TOTALS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT. SHE SAID THE ALLOTMENT IS BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE, FROM WHAT SHE UNDERSTANDS, IN THE FIRE DISTRICT; BUT, IF YOU LOOK AT THE DATA, IT SEEMS LIKE IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE A LARGE CALL VOLUME BECAUSE THEY HAVE FEW RESIDENTS, THEY ARE GETTING A LOWER AMOUNT OF MONIES. SHE ADDRESSED IT BEING INTERESTING TOO THAT IN SOME INSTANCES TWO DISTRICTS CAN HAVE ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT OF CALLS AND IN SOME INSTANCES THERE IS ABOUT \$20,000 DIFFERENCE IN THE FUNDING THEY GET. SHE POINTED OUT YOU COULD HAVE TWO DEPARTMENTS, HAVING ALMOST THE SAME AMOUNT OF CALLS AND THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING THEY ARE GETTING IS VASTLY DIFFERENT. SHE REFERRED TO HINSON CROSSROADS VFD RUNS ABOUT 2% OF THE CALLS AND THEY ARE RECEIVING 7% OF THE ALLOTMENT. IF YOU LOOK AT EBRO, THEY RUN 7% OF THE CALLS AND THEY GET \$29,000; CARYVILLE ON THE OTHER HAND, RUNS ABOUT 7% AND THEY GET \$17,000. ALTHOUGH THIS IS BASED ON THE FORMULA, THE ALLOCATIONS FOR SOME OF THESE DEPARTMENTS, IT IS NO WONDER THEY DON'T HAVE ANY MAINTENANCE MONEY OR DON'T HAVE WHATEVER THEY NEED.

BASICALLY THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNTY WIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS:

1. THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE TAX DOLLARS; KEEPING THE FIRE

DEPARTMENTS BUT MAKING THEM MORE ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING TO GO.

2. TRY TO INCREASE STANDARDS AND SERVICE
3. FORM A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH EMS TO RUN FIRST RESPONDER CALLS.

4. TRY TO MAKE THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS BE THE VERY BEST THEY CAN BE, WHICH SHE BELIEVES THEY WANT TO BE IF THEY CAN GET THE FUNDING MORE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED BASED ON THEIR NEEDS.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN GAVE THE FIRECHIEFS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON THE PRESENTATION FOR A COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK, BEFORE THE FIRECHIEFS SPOKE, QUESTIONED THE 7% CALLS FOR CARYVILLE IF THIS INCLUDED THE HOLMES COUNTY CALLS TOO. HE WAS ADVISED IT DID NOT. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID CARYVILLE SOMETIMES SERVICES WESTVILLE AND PONCE DE LEON; THEY DO A LOT BESIDES JUST WASHINGTON COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED HIM BEING AWARE CARYVILLE GOES NORTH ACROSS HIGHWAY 2 ALSO.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED MR. HAGAN TO PROVIDE THE BOARD A COPY OF THE LAST CONTRACT THAT WAS DRAWN UP FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

CALVIN STEVENSON, HINSON CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT, ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HE GETS REAL DEFENSIVE WHEN HINSON CROSSROADS DOESN'T LOOK REAL GOOD. HE REPORTED ON AUGUST 1, 2007, HINSON CROSSROADS RECEIVED THEIR ISO RATING; A COPY WENT TO THE CHIEF AND THE COUNTY COMMISSION. HINSON CROSSROADS IS ISO RATED. HE REFERRED TO HIM HAVING TALKED TO THE CHIEF IN WAUSAU AND THEY HAVE AN ISO RATING OF 5. ONE OF THE REASONS THE RUNS WERE ELIMINATED IN THE FUNDING FORMULA WAS BECAUSE ALL THE DEPARTMENTS DIDN'T COUNT THEM THE SAME WAY. SOME COUNTED EVERYTIME THE FIRETRUCK LEFT THE STATION AND SOME COUNTED THE RUNS ONLY WHEN THEY PERFORMED SERVICES. THE RUN COUNTS WERE VERY INACCURATE; THEY ELIMATED THAT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T THINK IT WAS FAIR TO EACH OTHER.

MR. STEVENSON STATED ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS HE IS REALLY

UNHAPPY ABOUT IS THIS PROPOSAL SEEMS TO BE ALL ABOUT MONEY AND NOT ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE #1 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VFD; THEY PUT THEIR LIFE ON THE LINE AND ARE UP DAY AND NIGHT. HE WOULD BE TICKLED TO DEATH TO GO COUNTY WIDE AND TAKE HIM OUT OF THE LOOP; HIS WIFE WOULD LOVE IT FOR THOSE PHONES NOT TO GO OFF DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OR NOT GO OFF WHEN THEY ARE PUTTING THEIR GRANDBABIES TO BED. SHE WOULD LOVE IT IF HE WAS HOME WITH HER RIGHT NOW TAKING CARE OF THE GRANDBABIES AND HE WOULD LIKE TO BE THERE. BUT, THIS IS VERY, VERY, VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM. THEY ARE SLOWLY BUT SURELY DESTROYING THE FAMILY OF THE VFD; THERE IS NOT A COMMISSIONER HERE THAT CAN CONVINCHE HIM THAT SUNNY HILLS IS BETTER OFF TODAY THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. HE KNOWS FOR A FACT WHEN THE TONES WENT OFF FOR SUNNY HILLS, WAUSAU, GREENHEAD, COUNTRY OAKS HAD ALL RESPONDED IF IT WAS A STRUCTURE FIRE. THEY ALL WANTED TO WORK TOGETHER; HOWEVER, THIS HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND THAT RELATIONSHIP IS LOST. THIS IS SAD BECAUSE THE PEOPLE IN SUNNY HILLS IS THE ONES THAT LOST; IT IS NOT THE BOARD.

MR. STEVENSON STATED HE WAS FOR COUNTY WIDE FIRE PROTECTION; BUT, YOU CAN'T GO ABOUT IT UNLESS YOU HAVE THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP BECAUSE IT WILL NOT WORK. IF HE WERE TO GO TO HINSON CROSSROADS AND PUT ON THE MARQUE EFFECTIVE SUCH AND SUCH DATE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS REFUSED TO FUND HINSON CROSSROADS, THERE WOULD BE SOME UPSET PEOPLE. THAT IS JUST TELLING HIM, IF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS DON'T GO ALONG WITH WHAT THE BOARD IS GOING TO DO, THEN THE BOARD IS NOT GOING TO FUND THEM. THE COUNTY WOULD LOSE A COMMUNITY CENTER BECAUSE THAT LAND BELONGS TO HINSON CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. AND THE COUNTY PUT A BUILDING ON TOP OF THAT LAND.

MR. STEVENSON ADDRESSED THERE BEING HISTORY BEHIND WHY CARYVILLE IS AT 4% AND THE BOARD NEEDS TO KNOW THE HISTORY. HE ASKED THE BOARD NOT TO DESTROY SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN WONDERFUL; DON'T DESTROY THIS RELATIONSHIP OVER MONEY. IT IS NOT THAT MUCH MONEY. THE COUNTY ALLOCATES \$33,800 TO HINSON CROSSROADS; EVERY QUARTER THE COUNTY HAS

A COPY OF WHERE EVERY DIME OF THAT MONEY WENT. THAT IS JUST ABOUT AS ACCOUNTABLE AS YOU CAN GET. IF THE BOARD IS CONCERNED HINSON CROSSROADS IS SPENDING THEIR FUNDS ON SOMETHING THEY WERE NOT SUPPOSE TO, GO OVER TO EOC, PULL HIS RECORDS AND THEY WILL SEE EXACTLY WHAT THEIR BEGINNING BALANCE WAS AND WHAT THEIR ENDING BALANCE WAS.

MR. STEVENSON REFERRED TO ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIM HOARDING MONEY; THE REASON HE HOARDED THE MONEY WAS HE WAS NOT GOING TO PUT HIS HOME AT RISK BECAUSE HE IS GOING TO SIGN A NOTE FOR A FIRETRUCK. HE NEEDED A FIRETRUCK AND THE ONLY WAY HE KNEW FOR SURE HE COULD GET IT AND SAVE HIMSELF WOULD BE TO SAVE THE MONEY. IT TOOK THE VFD 3.5 YEARS AND THEY JUST SPENT \$64,500 AND HINSON CROSSROADS HAS A NEW ENGINE IN THEIR FIRE STATION. THE PEOPLE IN HINSON CROSSROADS ARE BETTER OFF BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DID. THE VFD IS NOT HAVING TO MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS BECAUSE IT IS PAID FOR IN FULL. IT IS ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY. THE REASON HE DID THAT IS BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE BOARD WAS GOING TO DO. HE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE CAN TRUST THE BOARD TO NOT TAKE THE VFD FUNDS AWAY SO HE CERTAINLY IS NOT GOING TO PUT HIS NAME ON A NOTE NOT KNOWING IF HIS MONEY IS GOING TO BE THERE THE NEXT YEAR, ETC. OR WHOEVER FOLLOWS THE PRESENT BOARD TAKES IT AWAY. HE IS JUST NOT THAT TRUSTING; HE IS TOO OLD FOR THAT AND HE DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE WHAT HE WORKS FOR. HE REITERATED THAT IS WHY HINSON CROSSROADS SAVED THEIR MONEY. THAT IS THE REASON THEY DON'T HAVE LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE, INTERNET AND A LOT OF STUFF AT HINSON CROSSROADS; BUT, THEY WERE TAKING THEIR MONEY AND SAVING IT FOR A FIRETRUCK SO THE CITIZENS IN HINSON CROSSROADS COULD BE BETTER SERVED. HE IS SUPER PROUD TODAY OF THE TRUCKS THAT SIT IN THE HINSON CROSSROADS VFD. THEY HAVE A GREAT PUMPER, BRUSH TRUCK AND NOW THEY HAVE A GREAT ENGINE AND HE IS PROUD OF IT; WHEN HE NEEDS HELP, HE KNOWS HE CAN CALL ON FIVE POINTS AND THEY WILL BRING HIM A SUPER TRUCK.

MR. STEVENSON ADDRESSED THE PRESENTATION REFERRED TO THE COUNTY HAVING SPENT \$2.5 MILLION ON FIRE SERVICES, ETC.; SEVEN OF THE

FIRE DEPARTMENTS HAVE BETTER TRUCKS TODAY THAN THEY DID TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. SOMEBODY IS WORKING FOR SOMETHING.

IN TALKING ABOUT TRAINING, MR. STEVENSON ADDRESSED FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY, THERE WILL BE BETWEEN 35 TO 40 FIREFIGHTERS AT THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DOING PUMPER TRAINING ON THEIR OWN TIME TAKEN AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DO THE PUMPER TRAINING. THEY WILL GET A CERTIFICATE. HE REPORTED THAT WASHINGTON HOLMES VO-TECH CENTER IS THEIR DESIGNATED TRAINING CENTER. THE REASON FOR THIS IS SO THE BOARD WOULD HAVE CERTIFICATES SHOWING THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN ARE TRAINED; THE VO-TECH DOES THE EVOC TRAINING. THE SIXTEEN HOUR ORIENTATION TRAINING, HE KNOWS FOR A FACT JACKSON COUNTY THOUGHT SO MUCH OF THIS THEY WANTED THE VO-TEC SCHOOL TO COME TEACH IT IN THEIR COUNTY. THE VFD'S ARE DOING LOTS OF TRAINING AND IF THE BOARD WILL PULL THE RECORDS, THEY ALL HAVE CERTIFICATES. ONCE A MONTH HINSON CROSSROADS DOES TRAINING AT THEIR FIRE STATION THEY DON'T HAVE CERTIFICATES FOR; IT IS JUST TRAINING. HE SAID HE REALLY GETS OFFENDED WITH THE BOARD BEING SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE MONEY; THEY HAVE TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. THEY OUGHT TO BE THEIR #1 CONCERN AND MONEY OUGHT TO BE #2.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE WAS JUST AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AS MR. STEVENSON AND HE DOES A LOT OF VOLUNTEERING. HE IS NOT SAYING THIS PROPOSAL IS THE RIGHT THING; SO FAR NOBODY HAS BROUGHT ANYTHING THAT REALLY TICKLES HIS FANCY. ONE OF THE THINGS HE ASKED COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND THEM IS TO TELL HIM WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT AND THINGS THEY NEED TO DO TO OPERATE THE MINIMUM FIRE DEPARTMENT. START THERE AND IF THERE ARE DEPARTMENTS OUT THERE THAT DON'T MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS, THEY NEED TO WORK ON THAT; IF THERE IS SOME THERE THAT IS A LITTLE BIT IFFY, THEY NEED TO WORK ON THAT. HE GOT INVOLVED IN THIS COUNTY BECAUSE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS, EMS AND THE WAY IT IS RUN. HE IS STILL INVOLVED AND DOES A LOT OF VOLUNTEER HOURS THAT NOBODY AROUND

HERE KNOWS ABOUT. THEY HAVE TO GET A HOLD OF IT SOME WHERE OR ANOTHER. IT IS ABOUT THE MONEY, YES BECAUSE THE MONEY IS GOING TO HELP YOU GET WHERE YOU NEED TO GO. BUT, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A PLAN TO DO IT. WHEN YOU HAVE ELEVEN FIRE DEPARTMENTS, DO THEY REALLY NEED ELEVEN OR DO THEY NEED 8, 12, 14, 15 THAT ARE POSITIONED IN DIFFERENT PLACES. NOBODY HAS COME UP WITH THAT KIND OF STUFF.

MR. STEVENSON STATED IT DEPENDED ON WHAT THE BOARD'S GOAL IS AND THAT IS WHAT HE IS WONDERING. WHAT IS THE BOARD'S GOAL.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THE BOARD'S GOAL IS SERVING THE SAME PEOPLE EFFICIENTLY JUST LIKE MR. STEVENSON WANTS TO DO.

MR. STEVENSON SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS A FIRE STATION EVERY FIVE MILES AND THE COUNTY CAN'T AFFORD THAT. IF THE BOARD WANTS TO MAKE IT THE BEST WHERE THE VFD'S HAS THE BEST ISO RATING, THERE WOULD NEED TO BE A FIRE STATION EVERY FIVE MILES.

COMMISSIONER PATE QUESTIONED HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE; THEY ARE NOT IF THEY DON'T HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN TO START THERE AND THAT IS WHAT HE IS WANTING TO SEE NOW IS A PLAN TO GET THERE.

MR. STEVENSON SAID THE COUNTY HAS ONE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HE UNDERSTANDS THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT VERNON WOULD LIKE FOR THE COUNTY TO TAKE OVER THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT. HE QUESTIONED WHY DIDN'T THE COUNTY JUST START THERE AND TAKE OVER THAT FIRE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED ALL THE COUNTY WANTS IS A GOAL; MR. STEVENSON JUST SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE A GOAL. LET'S SET A GOAL.

MR. STEVENSON SAID THEY CAN'T SET A GOAL WORKING BEHIND EACH OTHERS BACK.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED AND TOLD MR. STEVENSON HE WAS ON THE SAME PAGE WITH HIM. LET'S SIT DOWN, TALK ABOUT IT AND ESTABLISH A GOAL. HE REFERRED TO A REPORT THAT WAS ADOPTED IN 2003 AND QUESTIONED IF ANYTHING HAD BEEN ADOPTED OUT OF THE REPORT. HE SAID MAYBE ONE OR TWO THINGS AND THERE WAS AT LEAST TEN THINGS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE THAT WOULDN'T HAVE COST A DIME; BUT, IT NEVER WAS DONE.

IT IS THIS BOARD'S FAULT FOR NOT DOING IT.

COMMISSIONER PATE COMMENDED THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT ARE DOING REAL GOOD; THOSE THAT ARE MINIMUM OR ARE HAVING PROBLEMS, THEY NEED TO BE TALKING TO THE BOARD MORE OPENLY ABOUT THEIR NEEDS. HE WANTS TO GO TO A WCFA MEETING; BUT, HE IS A LITTLE SCARED TO GO THERE BECAUSE HE IS A LITTLE SCARED TO GO IN FEAR OF BEING SCALPED.

MR. STEVENSON TOLD HIM TO COME TO THE WCFA MEETINGS AS THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE THERE.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE A POPULAR OPINION OR GOAL; HE WANTS BETTER FIRE SERVICE, EMS SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE. THEY ARE GOING TO GET EATEN ALIVE HERE IN A FEW YEARS IF THEY DON'T START PLANNING NOW AND START DOING IT. EBRO IS NOT EVEN GOING TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN A FEW YEARS.

MR. STEVENSON SAID HE BET EBRO WAS TALKING ABOUT A PLAN; HE KNOWS THEY ARE.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID THEY HAVE TO; THEY BETTER, MORE SO THAN THE COUNTY COMMISSION, BE PLANNING FOR IT.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID HE WAS NOT OUT TO HURT ANY OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. HE WANTS TO SEE BETTER DEPARTMENTS, BETTER EQUIPMENT AND WHATEVER THE BOARD HAS TO DO TO DO THAT, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT WHETHER IT BE GRANTS, ETC. TO UPGRADE THE VFD'S. AS LONG AS A DEPARTMENT CAN SHOW THIS BOARD WHERE THE MONEY THEY HAVE ALLOTTED TO THEM HAS BEEN SPENT, THAT IS FINE. FOR EACH MEMBER A VFD HAS, AS LONG AS THEY ARE CERTIFIED WHEN THEY GO TO A FIRE TO DO WHAT THEY DO, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THE CERTIFICATION FOR THAT BECAUSE MR. STEVENSON HEARD AT THE SAME MEETING HE SET IN ON, THE TWO FIRE MARSHALLS FROM TALLAHASSEE STATED BY THE COUNTY GIVING EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT MONEY, THE COUNTY IS LIABLE IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ONE OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN OR ANYBODY ELSE. HE IS ASKING FOR ALL THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN TO BE CERTIFIED. OUTSIDE OF THAT, HE IS NOT OUT TO TAKE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S MONEY AWAY FROM THEM. HE WANTS THE BOARD AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO GET TOGETHER AND WORK OUT

SOMETHING THAT WILL BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY; BUT, EVERY FIRE CHIEF THEY HAVE BE HAPPY WITH WHAT IS GOING ON.

MR. STEVENSON SAID PROBABLY ONE OF THE SHORTCOMINGS, IF THEY HAVE A SHORTCOMING, IS NOT BLOWING THEIR OWN HORN. HE ADDRESSED CHIPLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVING A NEW FIRETRUCK, COUNTRY OAKS HAS HAD THREE GRANTS AND PURCHASED ONE NEW TRUCK AND BUNKER GEAR, FIVE POINTS JUST GOT A NEW TRUCK, HINSON CROSSROADS JUST GOT A NEW TRUCK AND GREENHEAD JUST GOT A NEW TRUCK. THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE MAKING PROGRESS WITH EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING; THEY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING APPRECIATED.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL EXPLAINED THE BOARD DOES APPRECIATE THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. HE DON'T KNOW HOW ACCURATE ALL THE PRESENTATION IS; MR. STEVENSON JUST TOLD THE BOARD HINSON CROSSROADS DID HAVE AN ISO RATING AS STATED IN A LETTER OF AUGUST 2007. THIS IS NOT A REPORT THAT WAS PUT TOGETHER BY THE COUNTY; HE SUPPOSED MS. GOTHARD PUT THIS TOGETHER JUST TO PRESENT TODAY. HIS CONCERN IS PUBLIC SAFETY AS WELL; THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT. HE IS SAD THAT MR. STEVENSON CAN'T TRUST THE BOARD.

MR. STEVENSON SAID HE WAS JUST TELLING THE BOARD THE FLAT OUT TRUTH WHY HE WOULDN'T SIGN A LOAN TO GET A FIRETRUCK AND THAT IS WHY THEY HAD TO SAVE THE MONEY TO PURCHASE IT. HE WANTS HIS COMMUNITY TO HAVE THE BEST HE CAN OFFER AND THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY HE FELT SECURE TO GET IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF MR. STEVENSON THOUGHT WHAT THEY HAD NOW WAS THE BEST THEY CAN OFFER. MR. STEVENSON STATED IT WAS THE BEST THEY CAN OFFER WITH WHAT MONEY THEY HAVE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL THOUGHT IT WAS REAL GOOD; BUT, HE STILL THINKS IT COULD BE BETTER. MR. STEVENSON SAID HE KNOWS IT CAN BE BETTER.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THEY NEED TO MAKE IT BETTER; SIT DOWN AND SET A GOAL PLAN AND GO FORWARD. MR. STEVENSON REITERATED THEY NEED TO DO THIS TOGETHER; THEY CAN'T DO IT GOING BEHIND EACH OTHERS

BACK.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED WHY COULDN'T THE ELEVEN FIRECHIEFS AND THE BOARD GET TOGETHER IN A WORKSHOP AND DISCUSS THE ISSUES THEY CAN BETTER SERVE THE PEOPLE AND THEY CAN MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION WHERE THEY CAN ALL BE IN ONE ACCORD.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID A LOT OF THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.

MR. STEVENSON SAID HE WOULD LIKE FOR THE BOARD TO KNOW WHAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE DOING. EVERYTIME SOMEBODY TALKS ABOUT MORE ACCOUNTABILITY, HE COULD GET UPSET ABOUT THAT BECAUSE HE CAN'T GIVE THEM ANY MORE INFORMATION THAN "THIS CHECK WAS WRITTEN FOR THIS, THIS CHECK WAS WRITTEN FOR THAT, ETC. AND IT EVERY BIT WENT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS." HE KNOWS MOST OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS GIVE THAT INFORMATION TO THE EOC; HE KNOWS IT IS THERE AND IT IS ACCOUNTED.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED SAYING THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS DON'T GET THEIR FUNDING UNLESS THEY ACCOUNT FOR IT. MR. STEVENSON SAID IT IS DONE AND THAT IS WHY HE KEEPS GETTING UPSET ABOUT THE BOARD THINKING HE IS SPENDING MONEY ON SOMETHING HE IS NOT SUPPOSE TO, SHOW IT TO US.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID HE WOULD NEVER THINK THAT OF MR. STEVENSON WITH STEVENSON SAYING HE WASN'T SPENDING MONEY ON SOMETHING HE WAS NOT SUPPOSE TO.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED HOW LONG IT HAD BEEN SINCE ALL ELEVEN CHIEFS HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER. MR. MYRON PIERCE SAID EVERY THIRD THURSDAY THEY HAVE A MEETING WITH ALL THE CHIEFS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THAT IS WHAT HE WANTS; HE WANTS IT TO BE A FAMILY AND THEY ALL AGREE. MR. STEVENSON SAID THEY HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ASKED MR. STEVENSON TO GET WITH THE OTHER TEN FIRECHIEFS AND MR. PITTS, SET UP A WORKSHOP, DISCUSS THE ISSUES, COME UP WITH A PLAN THAT WILL HELP THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EVERYBODY BE IN AGREEMENT WITH. HE THEN TOLD MR. STEVENSON TO GET WITH MR. HAGAN AND SET UP A MEETING TO ALL GET TOGETHER, DISCUSS THE ISSUES,

WORK TOGETHER AND GET THIS THING SOLVED.

COMMISSIONER PATE ADDRESSED HIM HAVING HEARD GOOD THINGS OUT OF BOTH SIDES OR ALL SIDES HERE; SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE, THEY HAVE TO TAKE ALL THE GOOD PARTS OUT OF ALL SIDES AND GET TOGETHER AND GET BETTER FIRETRUCKS OUT HERE. HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT FIRE SERVICE FOR THE WHOLE COUNTY. WHY WOULD HE BE CONCERNED IF HE LIVES ONLY FOUR MILES FROM WHERE FLOYD AYCOCK ROLLS THOSE FIRETRUCKS OUT DOWN THERE. HE SAID BECAUSE IT IS MY COUNTY, OUR COUNTY AND HE WANTS GOOD SERVICE OUT THERE AND GOOD EMS OUT THERE. THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN. IN THE FUTURE, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME; MONEY IS HARD TO GET AND IT IS NOT GOING TO GET ANY BETTER FOR A WHILE SO THEY NEED TO BE PLANNERS. HE SAID HE GUESSED HE WAS THE ONE THAT STARTED THIS WHOLE THING ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO ASKING TO HAVE A COMMITTEE GET TOGETHER TO TELL THE BOARD WHAT THEY NEED TO DO TO HAVE A BETTER FIRE DEPARTMENT. THEN THE CONTRACTS CAME UP. HE SAID HE HAS A PROBLEM WHEN YOU GO TO COUNTING CALLS AS A FUNDING MECHANISM AS OPPOSED TO THAT. IF YOU ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LIVE IN AN AREA WHERE THEY DON'T HAVE TO ROLL THE FIRETRUCK AT ALL, YOU STILL WANT IT SITTING THERE READY TO GO IF YOUR HOUSE WAS ON FIRE. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THE FUNDING FORMULA IS; BUT, HE DOES KIND OF WONDER ABOUT SOME OF THE FIGURES IN THE PRESENTATION. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW THE FUNDING FORMULA WORKS; BUT, THEY CAN GET THERE IF THEY TAKE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AND PORTIONS FROM DIFFERENT INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED AND PUT IT TOGETHER AND EVERYBODY WORK TOGETHER. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS EITHER BECAUSE WHEN THEY SET UP THE COMMITTEE, HE HAD SOME PEOPLE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EVERY TAXING AUTHORITY IN THIS COUNTY WAS SUPPOSE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE THERE BECAUSE WHATEVER THEY CAME UP WITH WAS GOING TO AFFECT THEIR TAXES, ETC. THEY GOT SO FAR AND BOGGED DOWN AND HE IS SORRY FOR THAT.

JIM PALMER, GREENHEAD VFD FIRECHIEF AND PRESIDENT OF THE WCFA, SAID IN THE FIFTEEN SOME ODD YEARS HE HAS BEEN DOING VOLUNTEER FIRE

WORK WITH GREENHEAD, EVERY DEPARTMENT IN THIS COUNTY IS RIGHT NOW TODAY, PROUDER, STRONGER AND BETTER EQUIPPED THAN HE HAS EVER SEEN THEM. THE WCFA TODAY IS BETTER, STRONGER AND MORE UNIFIED THAN HE HAS EVER SEEN THEM. THE GOAL OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS WITH THE WCFA WAS TO BECOME A UNIFIED VOICE FOR EVERY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTY WHERE THEY CAN ALL COME TOGETHER, SHARE IDEAS, MOVE FORWARD AND IMPROVE EVERY DEPARTMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. IN THE FIFTEEN YEARS HE HAS BEEN DOING VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTING AND IN THE SEVERAL YEARS HE HAS BEEN ATTENDING THE WCFA MEETINGS, MR. PALMER SAID HE HAS NEVER ONCE SEEN A COUNTY COMMISSIONER COME TO THEM AND ASK WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP THE DEPARTMENTS MAKE IT BETTER. THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS HAVE DONE EVERY BIT OF IMPROVING ON THEIR OWN. HE WOULD LOVE TO OPEN UP NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS PRESIDENT OF THE WCFA TO WORK TOGETHER; BUT, YOU HAVE TO WANT TO DO IT. AS FIREFIGHTERS, THEY WANT TO; THEY CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES THEY POSSIBLY CAN WITH THE MONEY THEY ARE ALLOTTED. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS GOT TO WANT TO WORK WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ALSO. HE HAS NEVER ONCE HEARD A COUNTY COMMISSIONER COME TO THEM AND ASK WHAT THEIR GOALS WERE, HERE IS WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU, HOW CAN WE DO THIS. LETS GET IT GOING, LETS GET TOGETHER ON THIS; THE BOARD HAS THE MECHANISM IN PLACE TO DO EVERYTHING THEY WANT TO DO ON THIS PROPOSAL WITH WHAT IS EXISTING IN PLACE. THAT PROPOSAL UNFORTUNATELY HAS HIDDEN COST NOBODY IS LOOKING AT; COST OF EQUIPMENT, BUNKER GEAR, HOSES, NOZZLES, STATIONS, LAND. HE THOUGHT THE COUNTY ONLY HAS TITLES TO FOUR VEHICLES; ONE IN SUNNY HILLS, ONE IN GREENHEAD WHICH IS A COUNTY LOANER THAT HAS NO EQUIPMENT ON IT, ONE TANKER AND ONE BRUSH TRUCK. YOU CAN'T PROTECT AN ENTIRE COUNTY WITH THAT. THE WCFA WANTS TO HELP THE COUNTY COMMISSION AND ASKED THEY MEET WITH THEM, SET UP THIS WORKSHOP AND HASH IT OUT TOGETHER, TELL THE WCFA WHAT THEY WANT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS CAN SHOW THEM WHAT THEY CAN PROVIDE AND TOGETHER THEY CAN DO IT WITH THE MONEY THEY HAVE. THE

SAME AS HINSON CROSSROADS, GREENHEAD SCRIMPED AND SAVED AND DID WITHOUT A LOT OF THINGS SO THEY COULD GO PAY CASH FOR THEIR 1995 PIERCE WHICH IS IN OUTSTANDING MECHANICAL SHAPE. ONCE AGAIN HE DOESN'T KNOW SIX DAYS FROM NOW THE COUNTY COMMISSION WILL SAY THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FUNDING. AS A PRIVATE CORPORATION HE IS NOT GOING TO PUT HIS NOSE ON THE LINE FOR THAT; HE IS NOT GOING TO BUY A NEW TRUCK WITH FINANCING. IF HE CAN'T PAY CASH FOR IT, HE DOESN'T WANT IT. WE CAN'T HAVE THAT SORT OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THEY HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER AND THEY CAN. THE WCFA IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING FIRE SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY; NOT JUST ONE DEPARTMENT BUT ALL OF THEM.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN REQUESTED MR. PALMER GET WITH MR. HAGAN AND MR. PITTS TO SET UP A WORKSHOP; THEY WILL TALK ABOUT THESE ISSUES, WHAT THEY CAN DO AND CAN'T DO AND WORK SOMETHING OUT AND COME TO A CONCLUSION THAT EVERYBODY WILL BE HAPPY ABOUT.

BRYAN PIERCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR THE FIVE POINTS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, FELT THE PRESENTATION WAS A LITTLE BIT OF PROPAGANDA BECAUSE IT STARTED OUT TO OPERATE AS USUAL AND THEN EVERY OTHER SLIDE WAS HOW IT WAS GOING TO CHANGE. THAT SEEMED A LITTLE ODD. RIGHT NOW EVERY FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN APPLY FOR A GRANT; IF THE COUNTY TAKES OVER ALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS, ONLY ONE GRANT COULD BE APPLIED FOR. THE COUNTY COMMISSION ALSO HAS TO CONSIDER, IF THEY TAKE OWNERSHIP OF ALL THE EQUIPMENT, THE ADDITIONAL LIABILITY THEY WOULD HAVE. THERE IS A HUGE AMOUNT OF NFPA REGULATIONS HE IS SURE NOBODY IN THIS COUNTY MEETS. IF THEY DO CHECK A TRUCK, ONCE A YEAR IT IS SUPPOSE TO BE CHECKED OUT; IF IT DOESN'T PASS, IS THE COUNTY GOING TO TAKE IT OFF LINE. RIGHT NOW THE LIABILITY IS, YOU CAN'T GET BLOOD OUT OF A TURNIP. HE SAID HE DIDN'T SEE THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS GETTING SUED AS QUICK AS THE DEEP POCKETS OF THE COUNTY. THERE IS A HUGE AMOUNT OF STUFF HE IS SURE THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE NOT DOING. HE DOESN'T SEE THEM GETTING SUED BECAUSE THEY JUST TURN THE KEYS OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER PATE SAID PEOPLE WOULD TURN AROUND AND SUE THE COUNTY WHETHER THEY HAVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR NOT. BRYAN SAID THAT WOULD BE SOME RESEARCH THE COUNTY WOULD NEED TO DO.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN REITERATED ALL OF THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND WORKED OUT AT THE WORKSHOP. BRYAN SAID HE IS NOT A FIRECHIEF; HIS DAD IS BUT HIS VIEWS AND HIS DAD'S VIEW AS A BOARD MIGHT BE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

BRYAN SAID THE COUNTY COULD DIRECT DEPOSIT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHECKS INTO A CHECKING ACCOUNT, THEY COULD PICK THE BANK AND MAKE SURE THEY HAVE INTERNET ACCESS TO PULL IT UP AND LOOK AT THE CHECKS THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE WRITING ON A DAILY BASIS. ALSO, HE BELIEVES THE LAW SAYS IF YOU DIRECT DEPOSIT INTO AN ACCOUNT, YOU HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PULL MONEY BACK OUT. HE WOULD PREFER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHECKS FROM THE COUNTY BE DIRECT DEPOSIT. HE ADDRESSED HIM THINKING IF YOU HAVE UNETHICAL PEOPLE IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS, STUFF IS GOING TO GO MISSING. UNETHICAL PEOPLE WILL DO UNETHICAL THINGS AND HE WASN'T SURE IF EVEN A PURCHASE ORDER IS GOING TO CORRECT THAT. IN CLOSING, BRYAN TOLD THE BOARD THEY NEEDED TO CONSIDER AN ELMO, WHICH IS AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE LIKE A PROJECTOR, WHEN THESE PEOPLE COME UP AND HAVE A WRITTEN PRESENTATION SO THE AUDIENCE COULD FOLLOW THE PRESENTATION.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN VERNON, TRAY HAWKINS ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON VERNON CONSIDERING TURNING THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT BACK TO THE COUNTY. HE STATED IT WASN'T ANYTHING AGAINST THE VOLUNTEERS; THE VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE CITY COUNCIL THANKS THEM AND APPRECIATES THEIR SERVICES. HIS BIGGEST ASPECT, AS A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTING VERNON, VERNON IS THE CENTER OF THE COUNTY. VERNON HAS SUCH LITTLE FUNDS TO HELP OUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ITSELF. IF THE COUNTY TAKES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM VERNON AND MAKES IT A LOCAL WASHINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT HUBBED IN VERNON, NOT GETTING RID OF ANY OF THE OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND KEEP THEM RUNNING; BUT, LET VERNON'S PAID FIRE-

FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST THEM IN CALLS, ETC. VERNON IS NOT A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF LOCAL BUSINESS. THEY DON'T HAVE ANYBODY THERE IN THE DAYTIME THAT IS READILY AVAILABLE TO RUN THE CALLS. AT NIGHT, EVERYBODY IS HOME AND THE FIREMEN ARE ACCESSIBLE TO COME AND RUN CALLS. IN THE DAYTIME, IF THEY COULD GET A PAID CHIEF, SOMEBODY THAT COULD SPEARHEAD THE OPERATION AND GET THE TRUCKS ROLLING, AND THEN THEY COULD CALL OUT THE OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO HELP WITH THE CALL ITSELF. THAT IS ALL THE VERNON CITY COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR AND THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONER PATE STATED HE DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY HAS ADVOCATED TO CLOSE ANY PARTICULAR FIRE DEPARTMENT; THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS NOT PROPOSED TO CLOSE ANY OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS YET. THEY SEE A PROBLEM OUT THERE THEY NEED TO SOLVE AND THEY NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND SOLVE IT. CALVIN AND SOME OF THE OTHER FOLKS ARE RIGHT; THEY ARE NOT GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM FACING THE COUNTY ON FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMS UNTIL WE ALL, EVERY PERSON THAT HAS TO BUY IN ON THIS, IS WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND GET THE BOARD SOMETHING AS TO WHERE THE FUNDING GOES. IF THEY HAVE TO GO TO MORE FUNDING, PUT IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE AND LET THEM TELL US WHERE THEY NEED TO DO IT OR NOT.

MR. HAWKINS STATED VERNON DIDN'T WANT TO NOT ASSIST WITH THE FUNDING. THEY WILL WORK AS A COUNCIL WITH SPENDING ANYWAY THEY CAN TO POSSIBLY HELP FUND THE ELEVEN FIRE DEPARTMENTS. IT IS JUST SOMETHING AT THE END OF THE DAY PUBLIC SAFETY IS THEIR NUMBER 1 CONCERN. DOES HE THINK RIGHT NOW VERNON IS AS SAFE AS IT COULD BE; "NO." DOES HE THINK IT WOULD BE SAFER IF THEY HAD A PAID CHIEF THERE TEN HOURS A DAY, FIVE DAYS A WEEK; "I DO OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE ASKING THE BOARD TO CONSIDER IT."

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND REFERRED TO TWO YEARS AGO THEY HAD A MEETING AT THE COUNTY ANNEX ONE NIGHT AND THEY TOLD MR. HAGAN AND THE FIRECHIEFS TO GET TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH A PLAN. TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO ONE EVER CAME UP AND MET. NOW, SIX MONTHS AGO THEY COME UP AND THREW A PLAN TOGETHER. MR. HAGAN CAME UP SAYING YOU

WANT BETTER ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE MONEY. WHEN HE AND MR. HAGAN MET MR. STEVENSON AT HINSON CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT, THEY TALKED TO HIM. THEY GAVE A PLAN AND THEY CAME BACK AND GAVE IT TO THE BOARD AND THE BOARD WOULDN'T HAVE IT BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T HAPPY WITH IT. THAT IS WHEN THEY WENT AND DONE SOMETHING DIFFERENT. HE IS GETTING HOUNDED UP HERE ABOUT CONTRACTS. IT IS HARD TO GET EVERYBODY TOGETHER AND MEET. THE BOARD DOES NEED TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. HE IS NOT SAYING TO CLOSE THEM DOWN OR DO AWAY WITH THEIR MONEY. EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON, MORE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE MONEY, WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING TO. THAT IS WHAT HE BROUGHT UP AND THIS PROPOSAL WAS DONE. HE WAS NOT HERE TO HURT ANY FIRE DEPARTMENT; HE HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS FOUR YEARS AGO THAT SUPPORTED HIM AND NOW HE CAN MEET THEM ON THE STREET, AND THEY WANT THROW THEIR HANDS UP AT HIM. IT SHOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT. THE BOARD HAS A JOB TO DO AND SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT THEY DO AND SOME PEOPLE WILL. THE BOARD WANTED SOMETHING TO GO BY AND THIS IS WHAT HE CAME UP WITH. HE DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO. HE SAID THE BOARD CAN PLAN ANOTHER MEETING, GET EVERYBODY TOGETHER; BUT, HOW IS THAT GOING TO WORK OUT. NOBODY IS GOING TO BE HAPPY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID BETTER THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO THE VFD'S IN THIS COUNTY WAS BASICALLY NO FUNDING, \$4,000 OR \$5,000. THE COUNTY HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE BOARD TIGHTENED THEIR BELTS AND INITIATED A HALF MIL IN THIS COUNTY AS A TAX BASE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THAT IS WHEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS STARTED TO IMPROVE. HE THINKS ABOUT SITTING HERE THROUGH THE YEARS, HOW MANY YEARS IS IT GOING TO TAKE FOR THE TAX BASE OF THIS COUNTY TO GET WHERE THEY CAN HAVE A DECENT FIRE DEPARTMENT. WHEN HE SAYS THAT, THAT IS PAID FIREMEN LIKE OTHER COUNTIES THAT HAVE THE TAX BASE. THE COUNTY RUNS AROUND 22,000; THESE OTHER COUNTIES RUN ABOUT 60,000 TO 80,000 AND HAVE GOOD FIRE DEPARTMENTS. BAY COUNTY RUNS ABOUT 180,000 AND OF COURSE THEY HAVE A TREMENDOUS TAX BASE AND WALTON COUNTY HAS A TREMENDOUS TAX BASE. HE HAS HEARD THIS STATEMENT

OVER AND OVER AND OVER; "ONE DAY SUNNY HILLS IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING THEY ARE GOING TO GROW." HE HAS HEARD IT FOR THIRTY YEARS AND THERE IS STILL "FOR SALE" SIGNS THERE, ABOUT AS MANY AS THERE WERE TWENTY YEARS AGO. IF THEY LOOK IN REALITY, HERE COMES REAL ESTATE, HIGH DOLLAR, HIGH DOLLAR AND HERE COMES THE AIRPORT. EVERYBODY IS COUNTING ON THE AIRPORT. IT IS GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST BOOM THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED. GUESS WHAT, JETS ARE LEAVING THE GROUND AND HE CAN'T TELL ANY DIFFERENCE THAN IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO. THE KNIGHTS ARE HAVING A PROBLEM WITH BAY COUNTY; THE KNIGHTS HAVE GOTTEN A LETTER BACK DENYING THEIR SECTOR PLAN. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THAT. THE STATE MAY WIND UP WITH IT FOR A NO FLY ZONE FOR EGLIN; HE DON'T KNOW. IT IS IN THE MAKING. IF HE LOOKS AT A PROJECTION RIGHT NOW, IT IS GOING TO BE SEVERAL YEARS. HE ASKED IF ANYBODY HAD A FORMULA OF WHAT TYPE OF POPULATION TAX BASE WASHINGTON COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE TO DO THE SUFFICIENT FUNDING THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE. IS IT 50,000 AND WHAT IS THE PROJECTION OF THIS COUNTY HAVING 50,000; THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS FROM NOW. THE COUNTY IS WHERE THEY ARE AT AND THEY HAVE TO DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO WITH AND DO THE BEST THEY CAN WITH FIRE AND EMS. BOTH OF THESE SERVICES ARE VERY CRITICAL TO THE PEOPLE. IN REALITY, THE BOARD HAS COME A LONG WAY AND HAVE SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR. THE PEOPLE HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB FOR THE COUNTY. HE WANTS THE COUNTY, THE BOARD, FIREMEN, PEOPLE ALL TO BE ONE FAMILY TO COME TOGETHER AND LETS WORK TOGETHER. WE HAVE BEEN HAMPERING ON THIS FOR TWO YEARS SINCE HE CAME BACK ON THE BOARD. HE IS TIRED AND FRUSTRATED. HE IS LIKE SOME OF THE FIREMEN, CHIEFS; BUT, IT IS TIME WE ALL GET TOGETHER AND GET A PLAN WORKED OUT AND GET THIS BEHIND US. WASHINGTON COUNTY DON'T HAVE THE GREATEST TAX BASE IN THE WORLD; BUT, THEY HAVE A LITTLE BIT. LET'S TAKE WHAT LITTLE BIT THEY DO HAVE AND TRY TO DO THE BEST THEY CAN.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL AGREED WITH COMMISSIONER BROCK; THEY HAVE COME A LONG WAY. BUT, THEY CAN GO A LOT FURTHER. THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE WORKING VERY HARD AND HAVE DONE GOOD THINGS. WHAT WAS

PRESENTED HERE IS ANOTHER OPTION, SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. CAN THEY ADOPT ANY PARTS OF IT.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID ALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS WHEN THEY GO TO A BRUSH FIRE, THE PEOPLE OF THAT RESIDENCE IS GETTING A BILL FOR \$200 OR \$250. THEY ARE GETTING TAXES FROM EVERYBODY AND THE MONEY THE COUNTY GETS OFF THAT \$200 ISN'T VERY MUCH. IT IS PROBABLY CAUSING MORE PROBLEMS, HEADACHES THAN IT IS DOING GOOD.

COMMISSIONER PATE ASKED COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY ARE NOT GETTING THE WHOLE THING. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND ASKED HOW MANY TIMES ARE THEY GETTING CALLED OUT FOR A BRUSH FIRE WITH COMMISSIONER PATE SAYING HE DON'T KNOW. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY THEY ARE GETTING CALLED OUT FOR ANY BRUSH FIRES; THAT IS THE FORESTRY PROBLEM. PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE DISAGREED.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID WHAT HE IS SAYING THAT \$200 BILL IS BEING SENT TO THE RESIDENT EVEN IF THEY DON'T CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO DO AWAY WITH THE \$200 THE COUNTY CHARGES FOR BRUSH FIRE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS PASSED, IT WAS ONLY FOR STRUCTURAL FIRES. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID NO; IT IS FOR BRUSH FIRES TOO.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID A MAN STANDING OUT BURNING LEAVES WITH A WATER HOSE AND HE GETS A FIRE BILL. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID IF SOMEBODY CALLS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON YOU, YOU ARE GOING TO GET CHARGED.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND GAVE AN EXAMPLE IF HE AND COMMISSIONER BROCK LIVED BY ONE ANOTHER AND HE IS MAD AT COMMISSIONER BROCK AND HE IS BURNING A BRUSH FIRE, HE WOULD CALL AND COMMISSIONER BROCK WOULD GET CHARGED.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND WAS ASKED TO REPEAT HIS MOTION. HE STATED HIS MOTION WAS TO DO AWAY WITH THE \$200 THE COUNTY CHARGES PEOPLE WHEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS GO TO A BRUSH FIRE.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ASKED WHY THE COUNTY CHARGES A FEE. MR.

HAGAN WAS ASKED TO EXPLAIN THIS TO THE BOARD.

MR. HAGAN SAID HE THOUGHT THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED IN 1995 FOR A \$250 FEE AND HE THOUGHT MR. BROCK OR MR. CORBIN MADE THE MOTION TO CHARGE THE FEE. MR. CORBIN BROUGHT IT TO THE BOARD'S ATTENTION THAT MOST OF THE HOMEOWNERS HAVE A PROVISION IN THEIR INSURANCE POLICY THAT PAYS FOR RESPONSE FOR A FIRE DEPARTMENT. THEY WANTED TO PASS AN ORDINANCE THAT ANYBODY THAT HAD INSURANCE WHEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WENT THERE, IT WOULD BE CHARGED AGAINST THE POLICY, WHATEVER IT WOULD PAY. MR. HOLLEY ADVISED THE BOARD THEY COULDN'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAD INSURANCE VERSUS THOSE THAT DIDN'T; IF THEY ADOPTED AN ORDINANCE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BILL EVERYBODY. THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED. HE BELIEVES A FEW YEARS AGO, IN AN EFFORT, TO BRING SOME RELIEF, THE BOARD REDUCED THE FEE FROM \$250 TO \$200. RIGHT NOW, THIS FEE GENERATES ABOUT \$3,000 TO \$5,000 A YEAR. AT ONE TIME, IT ALMOST PAID A STAFF POSITION THAT WAS DOING THE BILLING, ETC. IT WAS DONE ON THE PREMISE, HE THINKS BECAUSE THE EMS SENT A BILL FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, WHEN THEY GO PICK YOU UP, YOU GET BILLED TOO. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES RANDALL HAS TO SAY THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN WHAT EMS DOES VERSUS WHAT OTHERS DO. THE PREMISE WAS TO PUT MONEY IN IT AND IT WAS A WAY TO GENERATE MONEY. THAT IS HOW THE \$200 CAME ABOUT. HE FELT MOST OF THE FIRE CALLS ARE FOR BRUSH FIRES; THEY RESPOND TO A LOT MORE BRUSH FIRES THAN STRUCTURE FIRES. IF THEY ARE GOING TO DO AWAY WITH CHARGING A FEE FOR BRUSH FIRES, THEY WON'T GENERATE MUCH MORE THAN \$2,000 A YEAR. THAT WAS BEFORE THE HALF MIL WAS OBLIGATED FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THE BOARD ALSO GAVE \$12,000 TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY FUND INTO A CONTINGENCY LINE. THAT WAS DONE AWAY WITH IN A CORPORATE EFFORT BETWEEN THE WCFA AND THE PREVIOUS BOARD. IF THEY ARE NOT GOING TO COLLECT THE \$200, HE WOULD JOIN COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND THE FIREMEN THAT HAVE APPROACHED HIM MANY TIMES, THEY DON'T NEED TO HAVE THE ORDINANCE ON THE BOOKS. HIS OFFICE SENDS FOUR CERTIFIED LETTERS A YEAR TO EACH PERSON, CHART IT, SEND IT TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE,

RECEIPT IT AND SOME OF THEM ARE PAID OFF WITH \$10 TO \$20 A MONTH. THERE IS A LOT MORE INVOLVED IN COLLECTING THE \$200 IN THE END. ALMOST IN ANY MONTH, THERE WOULD BE FROM SEVEN TO TEN BILLS ON THE REPORT THAT ARE OUTSTANDING, BAD DEBTS, SUBMITTED UNCOLLECTED. HE REQUESTED, IF THE BOARD VOTES TO CANCEL THE ORDINANCE, THEY HAVE ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADDRESS IT; THEY WILL HAVE TO REPEAL THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE CHARGING THE FEE.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY REQUESTED MR. HAGAN GET HIM A COPY OF THE ORDINANCE. MR. HAGAN SAID IT COULDN'T BE ADVERTISED AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE JUNE 22ND MEETING.

MR. HAGAN SAID IF IT WAS A STRUCTURE FIRE, UNDETERMINED WILD FIRE, LIGHTENING STRIKE, ETC., THOSE AREN'T BILLED. IF IT IS A DETERMINED WILD FIRE, THAT IS WHERE THE WILD FIRE BILLING COMES IN.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED IF MR. HAGAN HAD SAID IF IT WAS A LIGHTENING STRIKE, DOES THE LANDOWNER GET CHARGED. MR. HAGAN SAID IF IT WAS AN UNDETERMINED LIKE A LIGHTENING STRIKE. WHEN THEY GET THROUGH AND THEY CAN'T TELL IT WAS FIRE THAT GOT AWAY FROM A TRASH PILE OR SOMETHING IT WAS SPREAD, IF IT IS UNDETERMINED IT IS NOT BILLED.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HE KNOWS A FIRE THAT WAS CAUSED BY A LIGHTENING STRIKE WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE CHARGED. MR. HAGAN SAID IF SOMEBODY WAS OUT THERE BURNING THOUGH, EVEN THOUGH THEY DO A CONTROL BURN, THEY HAVE TO KEEP IT CONTROLLED. IF THE CONTROLLED BURN GETS AWAY, THE PERSON GETS BILLED FOR IT.

MR. HAGAN SAID IF THEY DO AWAY WITH THE ORDINANCE, THEY WANT HAVE TO DO ANYMORE BILLING AND IF THEY SUSPEND IT EFFECTIVE TODAY, WHATEVER THEY GET IN THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BILL FOR IT. HE ASKED ATTORNEY HOLLEY IF THE BOARD COULD SUSPEND AN ORDINANCE BY ACTION OF THE BOARD.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID THE BOARD COULD SUSPEND THE PAYMENT UNTIL THE ORDINANCE IS REPEALED; THE ONLY TIME THEY GET PAID IS MAYBE A

CAR FIRE AND THE INSURANCE PAYS IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL ADDRESSED SOMEONE CALLING HIM ABOUT A MONTH AGO WHERE HE HAD GOTTEN CHARGED FOR A BRUSH FIRE THAT GOT AWAY.

MR. HAGAN SAID THE REASON HE DID WAS THAT WAS HIS BRUSH FIRE; HE WAS PUTTING THE LIVES OF THE RESPONDERS IN DANGER WHEN THEY HAD TO GO OUT THERE AND FIGHT IT. THAT WAS THE THINKING OF THE BOARD. THE FEES COLLECTED USE TO GO BACK TO A CONTINGENCY FUND TO HELP KEEP THE TRUCKS, ETC. UP; THAT IS WHY THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED SO THE MONEY COULD GO BACK TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO KEEP UP THE EQUIPMENT. THE MONEY GOES BACK INTO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HE THOUGHT MR. HAGAN HAD SAID IT WENT INTO THE GENERAL FUND. MR. HAGAN SAID THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE FUNDED OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED HOW IS ACCIDENTS NOW. MR. HAGAN SAID THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE STOPPED THAT LAST YEAR; THEY CAN'T BILL ACCORDING TO STATE LAW. THEY CAN BILL TO CLEAN UP HAZMAT, ETC. THIS ORDINANCE INCLUDES ALL OF THAT; BUT, WHAT HE IS HEARING THE BOARD SAY IS THEY WANT THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO GO TO WHATEVER THEY ARE CALLED TO AND NOT CHARGE ANYTHING.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS AWFUL WHEN SOMEBODY HAS TO PAY \$200 WHEN THEIR HOUSE BURNS DOWN; THEY HAVE PROBLEMS ANYWAY. IF THEY HAVE A CLAUSE IN THEIR INSURANCE POLICY WHERE IT WILL PAY FOR FIRE SERVICE, THAT IS ONE THING; BUT, NOT PEOPLE THAT DON'T HAVE INSURANCE.

MR. ALBERT DAVIS SAID IF THE ATTORNEY HAS TO WRITE A LETTER FOR COLLECTIONS, THAT COST MORE THAN \$200 SO WHAT IS MR. HAGAN TALKING ABOUT.

MR. HAGAN SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW IF ATTORNEY HOLLEY CHARGES THE COUNTY FOR LETTERS. MR. DAVIS SAID HE THOUGHT THE ATTORNEY DID.

BRYAN PIERCE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CHARGE DONE AWAY WITH.

MR. HAGAN SAID IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED SEVERAL TIMES TO PREVIOUS BOARDS TO DO AWAY WITH THE ORDINANCE.

AL MANNING, MAYOR OF VERNON, SAID HE DIDN'T FEEL THE BOARD HAD THE FULL DETAILS OF THIS PROPOSAL FROM THE PRESENTATION TODAY. COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THEY WEREN'T VOTING ON THE PROPOSAL.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ASKED COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND TO REVISE HIS MOTION TO DO AWAY WITH THE \$200 FEE CHARGED. MR. HAGAN SAID THAT WOULD INCLUDE HAZMAT, ANYTHING; IF THEY RESPOND, THEY JUST RESPOND BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO THE COUNTY AND THE BOARD WANTS THEM TO GO. WHEN HE SAYS HAZMAT, HE IS TALKING ABOUT FUEL SPILLS, ETC. NOT SOME PLACE WHERE THEY HAVE TO CALL A HAZ MAT TEAM OUT. HE HAS TO GO TO HAZMAT.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID HAZMAT WAS MR. HAGAN'S JOB. COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF PEOPLE WERE GETTING CHARGED FOR THAT TOO.

MR. HAGAN SAID IF THEY HAVE A CONTRACTOR THAT COMES OUT HERE AND SPILLS DEISEL FUEL ON THE ROAD OR IN THE DIRT. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID SO ANYTIME A FIRETRUCK ROLLS, THEY CHARGE \$200 EXCEPT TO A WRECK.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER PATE OPPOSED. DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW QUESTIONED IF COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND AND HOWELL RESCINDED THEIR PREVIOUS MOTION AND THEIR MOTION IS TO DO AWAY WITH THE \$200 FEE ALTOGETHER. THE BOARD AGREED THAT WAS CORRECT. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE WILL BE REPEALED. DEPUTY CLERK GLASGOW SAID ATTORNEY HOLLEY WILL HAVE TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE ORDINANCE THAT IS IN AFFECT.

MR. HAGAN SAID IT WAS A MOTION AND A SECOND TO REPEAL AN ORDINANCE THAT ASSESSED THE CHARGES TO RESPOND TO FIRES.

AL MANNING ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING THE PROPOSAL SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE A WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD TO TAKE CARE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS GOING TO BE A FIRE CHEIF THAT WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE WHOLE COUNTY AND HE WOULD REPORT TO THE BOARD.

COMMISSIONER HOLMAN SAID THAT IS WHAT THE BOARD WANTS TO DO. MR. MANNING SAID THAT IS NOT WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE DURING THE PRESENTATION. IT SOUNDED LIKE THE CHIEFS WERE GOING TO HAVE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD FOR THEIR PURCHASE APPROVALS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THE BOARD WON'T APPROVE THE PURCHASES. MR. MANNING EXPLAINED VERNON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CITIZENS SAFETY; HAVING A MAN AT THE VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT FIVE DAYS A WEEK WOULD IMPROVE THEM 200% BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE A FIREMAN DURING THE DAY. MR. MANNING ADDRESSED THE BOARD ASKING FOR A COMMITTEE AND THE FIRE CHIEFS TO GET TOGETHER AND RESOLVE THESE ISSUES. HE FELT THE CITIES HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS DECISION TOO.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED DIDN'T VERNON HAVE A FIRECHIEF AND DIDN'T HE ATTEND THE FIRECHIEFS MEETINGS.

MR. MANNING SAID HE WASN'T SURE. HE REITERATED HE HOPED THIS ISSUE WOULDN'T GO TO A COMMITTEE OF JUST FIRECHIEFS BECAUSE HE DOESN'T THINK THIS IS ALL THE PEOPLE THAT ARE INVOLVED; THE CITIES ARE INVOLVED AND THEY NEEDED TO BE INCLUDED.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF VERNON CITY COUNCIL HAD A LIASON TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. MANNING SAID HE WAS THE LIASON FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL TOLD MR. MANNING HE WOULD BE INVOLVED.

COMMISSIONER PATE STATED WHEN HE ORIGINALLY SET UP THE ORIGINAL COMMITTEE, EVERY TAXING AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTY WAS SUPPOSE TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE. MR. MANNING SAID HE WASN'T THERE AT THAT TIME; BUT, HE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH ROGER FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS.

ROGER REPORTED MR. MANNING WAS INVOLVED; THERE IS A COMMITTEE THE BOARD APPOINTED AND THERE IS SEVEN OF THOSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IN THE ROOM NOW. THE BOARD APPOINTED ROGER, RANDALL TRUETTE AND FLOYD AYCOCK TO COCHAIR A COMMITTEE. EVERYTHING THE BOARD SAW ON THE SCREEN TODAY WAS HANDED TO THEM LAST JUNE IN A PROPOSAL; IF IT HAS EVER BEEN READ, ITS NEVER BEEN FED BACK TO THE COMMITTEE. BUT, ALMOST EVERYTHING ON THERE, INCLUDING THE PAYING, MONEY, ETC. WAS INCLUDED; ALL THE CITIES HAD SOMEBODY THERE AND THE MSBU HAD A REPRESENTATIVE THERE. THE BOARD HAS A COMMITTEE IN PLACE. ROGER ASKED IF THE BOARD WAS APPOINTING ANOTHER COMMITTEE NOW.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID "NO." HE HAD SAID HE WANTED THE FIRECHIEFS AND THE BOARD TO GET TOGETHER AND DISCUSS THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT AND COME TOGETHER TO A CONCLUSION TO HELP EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ROGER SAID HE WAS SURE MR. PITTS UNDERSTOOD IT BETTER THAN HE DID; BUT, IT SOUNDED LIKE ANOTHER COMMITTEE TO HIM WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF ELEVEN CHIEFS AND FIVE PEOPLE. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN SAID IT WAS A WORKSHOP WITH FIRECHIEFS; IT IS NOT A COMMITTEE.

MR. MANNING QUESTIONED IF HE WOULD BE INVOLVED AND COME TO THE WORKSHOP. THE BOARD ADVISED HIM HE WOULD BE INVOLVED.

MR. MANNING STATED HE FELT THE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE A WIN WIN SITUATION FOR VERNON AND THE COUNTY. THEY CAN HANDLE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON AS FAR AS TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, ETC. IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS TOO. HE REITERATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COUNTY WIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE APPROVED.

AL GOTHARD SAID IF VERNON WANTS TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE A DECISION NOW, WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT FOR COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND TO GO AHEAD AND NEGOTIATE WITH VERNON. CHAIRMAN HOLMAN STATED "NO." THE BOARD IS NOT GOING TO DO THAT NOW.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATE TO ADJOURN.

MR. PITTS UPDATED THE BOARD ON JERRY BROCK, 911 DIRECTOR, HAS REQUESTED APPROVAL TO SPEND \$12,588 FOR A SERVICE CONTRACT ON THE NEW 911 EQUIPMENT AT THE 911 DISPATCH. THIS IS IN ARRAY OF \$1398 A MONTH TO HAVE 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK SERVICE TO TAKE CARE OF THE EQUIPMENT. MR. PITTS RECOMMENDED APPROVAL CONTINGENT ON HIM VERIFYING THE MONEY IS IN THE 911 BUDGET. THE SERVICE CONTRACT WAS NORMALLY PAID THROUGH A GRANT; BUT, THE GRANT IS NOT AVAILABLE THIS YEAR.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATE AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR 911 TO SPEND \$12,588 FOR A SERVICE CONTRACT TO SERVICE THE NEW 911 EQUIPMENT AT 911 DISPATCH CONTINGENT ON MR. PITTS VERIFYING THE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE 911 BUDGET.

MR. PITTS UPDATED THE BOARD ON DALLAS CARTER, PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR, PRESENTING A LETTER ON ORANGE HILL HIGHWAY; THERE ARE SOME SERIOUS SITUATIONS WITH DROP OFFS ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. MR. PITTS ASKED THE BOARD'S PERMISSION AND COOPERATION TO PULL THE NECESSARY HELP THEY NEED FROM WHEREVER THEY NEED TO PULL IT TO GET THIS DANGEROUS SITUATION RESOLVED.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL INFORMED MR. PITTS THIS IS NOT SOMETHING HE SHOULD HAVE TO ASK THE BOARD; TAKE THE PEOPLE NEEDED AND CORRECT THE PROBLEM.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN TOLD MR. PITTS IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND DO WHATEVER IS NEEDED TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM ON ORANGE HILL HIGHWAY.

MR. PITTS UPDATED THE BOARD ON AN OFFER FROM CY BROWN ON THEIR PURCHASING TWO ACRES IN SUNNY HILLS FOR \$15,000 PLUS FENCING OF THE TWO ACRES.

MR. PITTS BROUGHT THE BOARD UP TO DATE ON AQUA UTILITES HAVING OFFERED THE COUNTY A LOT NEXT TO A LOT THE BOARD HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO PURCHASE FOR \$25,000. ONCE THEY GOT THE LOTS SURVEYED FROM AQUA UTILITIES, THERE WAS A 33' INTRUSION BY THEIR FENCE; THEY HAVE

A WATER TANK AND OWN 33' ON THAT LOT. BASICALLY ON A 90' LOT, THE COUNTY WOULD LOSE 33' OF THE LOT ON A 90' WIDTH. THIS MAKES THE LOT PRACTICALLY UNUSABLE TO GET A FIRE BUILDING AND MSBU BUILDING ON.

MR. PITTS SAID RIGHT DOWN THE STREET, WITHIN A QUARTER OF A MILE, MR. BROWN HAS OFFERED THE COUNTY TWO ACRES FOR \$15,000 PLUS THE COUNTY FENCING THE TWO ACRES. THE TWO ACRES WOULD GIVE ENOUGH ROOM TO PUT BOTH THE MSBU BUILDING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING ON. ALSO, IT IS OUTSIDE SUNNY HILLS ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND IT WOULDN'T REQUIRE ANY APPROVAL FROM SUNNY HILLS. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO PUT A WELL AND SEPTIC TANK DOWN; BUT, STILL AT THE \$15,000 COST, IT WOULD BE WELL BELOW THE \$25,000 THEY WERE GOING TO PAY FOR THE ONE LOT.

CHAIRMAN HOLMAN ADDRESSED THE COUNTY HAVING THE LAWSUIT GOING ON AND QUESTIONED FOR THE TIME BEING WHY COULDN'T THE BOARD HOLD UP ON ANY SPENDING ON THIS UNTIL THE LAWSUIT IS OVER. HE QUESTIONED WHERE THE MSBU EQUIPMENT WAS BEING STORED RIGHT NOW.

MR. PITTS STATED THE MSBU EQUIPMENT WAS BEING STORED OUTSIDE BEHIND THE OLD SUNNY HILLS FIRE STATION. THE EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND MATERIALS ARE INSIDE IN A TRAILER THEY PUT THERE; BUT, THE LAWNMOWERS ARE BEING PARKED OUTSIDE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND STATED THEY HAD TO HAVE A BUILDING FOR THE FIRETRUCKS AND THEY WANT EVER GET THE BUILDING BACK FROM THE OLD FIRE DEPARTMENT. IT DON'T BELONG TO THE COUNTY AND THE COUNTY CAN'T TAKE IT AND THEY NEED A PLACE TO PUT THE FIRETRUCKS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED NOW THEY ARE GOING OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF SUNNY HILLS; YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE THEIR PLANNING APPROVAL. THEY CAN DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO OUT THERE.

MR. PITTS REPORTED THE PROPERTY MR. BROWN IS PROPOSING TO SELL THE BOARD IS LOCATED ON GABLES BOULEVARD AND IT IS DIRECTLY ADJACENT, RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO WHERE THE TRUCKS ARE PARKED NOW.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID IT IS SAD; IT HAS BEEN ALMOST A YEAR AND WE CAN'T EVEN BUILD A BUILDING. HE ADDRESSED THE BOARD HAVING TALKED

ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE AND THEY KNOW THE FOUR LANING IS COMING UP TO GREENHEAD. HE QUESTIONED WHERE WAS GREENHEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT GOING. HE ASKED COULD THEY PUT TWO OR POSSIBLY THREE UNITS INTO ONE AND CONSOLIDATE THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE.

MR. PITTS SAID HE WAS SURE THEY CAN; BUT, IT WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE FIVE MILE SERVICE RANGE.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND SAID MR. PALMER WOULD WANT TO MOVE THE GREENHEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT BESIDE THE AMBULANCE SITE AT SPRING POND.

MR. PITTS SAID COMMISSIONER BROCK WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT; THEY COULD HAVE BUILT A FIRE STATION SEVERAL TIMES. BUT, HE THINKS THEY WOULD HAVE BUILT IT ON THE WRONG PIECE OF PROPERTY.

MR. PITTS UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE CONTRACTOR HAVING ASSURED HIM HE COULD STILL BUILD THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING FOR THE SAME PRICE HE QUOTED BEFORE. IF THE BOARD AUTHORIZES THE PURCHASE OF THE TWO ACRES FROM CY BROWN, AS SOON AS THE PROPERTY CAN BE SURVEYED AND THE OWNERSHIP TRANSFERRED, THEY WILL START THE BUILDING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ASKED IF THE BUILDING WOULD BE BID OR WAS THEY JUST GOING TO GET SOMEBODY TO BUILD IT. MR. PITTS ADVISED IT HAS BEEN BID ALREADY.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL QUESTIONED IF THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE COUNTY'S TWO ACRES THROUGH MR. BROWN'S PROPERTY IF THEY CHOOSE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY. MR. PITTS STATED "NO." MR. BROWN IS WANTING THE COUNTY TO PUT A GATE NEXT DOOR IN FRONT OF HIS ACREAGE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED WHO HAD LOOKED AT THIS PROPERTY. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID HE KNEW WHERE IT WAS AT.

MR. ALBERT DAVIS QUESTIONED WHO WAS THE CONTRACTOR THAT HAS BID ON THIS BUILDING. HE WAS ADVISED THE CONTRACTOR WAS DAVID NELSON FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY.

MR. DAVIS ADDRESSED THERE BEING A LAWSUIT PENDING IN SUNNY HILLS AND QUESTIONED WHY THE BOARD WAS IN SUCH A HITHER IF THE EQUIPMENT IS STORED, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT, ITS ADJACENT TO THE OLD DEPARTMENT.

HE QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE ONCE THE LAWSUIT IS RESOLVED, THEY COULDN'T GO DOWN AND WORK WITH SUNNY HILLS AND UTILIZE THE EXISTING BUILDING WHERE THE EXISTING FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID "NO." MR. DAVIS QUESTIONED WHY NOT. COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID BECAUSE THEY OWN THE BUILDING.

MR. DAVIS SAID HE SAID TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM; HE DIDN'T SAY TAKE IT.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL TOLD MR. DAVIS THEY HAD OFFERED TO BUY IT; BUT, THEY DIDN'T WANT TO SELL IT. MR. DAVIS SAID THEY COULD NEGOTIATE OTHER THINGS BESIDES PURCHASING. BUT, TO ARBITRARILY GO OUT AND SPEND \$15,000 FOR TWO ACRES OF LAND AND YOU BID TO BUILD A BUILDING WHAT HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THEY WOULD HAVE A BUILDING AND A FIRE DEPARTMENT.

MR. DAVIS SAID "NO." THEY HAD A FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THEY DESTROYED IT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF INITIATIVE OF THIS BOARD TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM.

COMMISSIONER HOWELL SAID THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE; THEY ARE JUST TRYING TO MOVE ON.

MR. VERNON ANDERSON ADDRESSED THE BOARD REQUESTING THEY ACT ON THE PROPERTY BECAUSE THEY NEED A FIRE STATION IN SUNNY HILLS. HE THINKS THE PROPERTY MR. BROWN IS OFFERING IS A DEAL AND HE WISHES THE BOARD WOULD ACT ON PURCHASING IT SO THEY COULD HAVE A FIRE STATION IN SUNNY HILLS THAT WOULD NOT ONLY SERVE SUNNY HILLS BUT THE WHOLE AREA.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REFERRED TO A STATEMENT MADE EARLIER AND IT IS BOTHERING HIM. MR. PALMER CAME UP AND HE THOUGHT MADE A STATEMENT THAT POSSIBLY THE COUNTY OWNS FOUR TO FIVE FIRETRUCKS; BUT, YET THE TAXPAYERS OF THE COUNTY HAVE ALLOTTED THESE FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS TO BUY THESE FIRETRUCKS AND THEY COME BACK TITLED IN A CORPORATION'S NAME. SO THE COUNTY DON'T HAVE A TRUCK; BUT, THE

TAXPAYERS BOUGHT THEM. THIS TROUBLES HIM BECAUSE THESE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE RUNNING COUNTY TAGS. HE HAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT WHEN THEY ARE TOLD BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS, MORE OR LESS LIKE USING BLACKMAIL, THESE ARE OUR TRUCKS AND YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM. THESE FIRETRUCKS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE; THEY BOUGHT THEM.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL FOR DISCUSSION TO ACCEPT THE TWO ACRES FOR \$15,000 FROM MR. CY BROWN AND BUILD THE BUILDING.

COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID HIS OPINION FROM THE BEGINNING WAS TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAWSUIT IS OVER; HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE LAWSUIT.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE SUNNY HILLS LAWSUIT, ATTORNEY HOLLEY SAID HE HAD TALKED TO THE OPPOSING COUNSEL AFTER THE BOARD'S LAST MEETING AND HE WAS SUPPOSE TO GET BACK WITH HIM TO SCHEDULE SOMETHING; BUT, HE HASN'T DONE IT YET.

THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO ACCEPT THE TWO ACRES FOR \$15,000 FROM MR. CY BROWN AND BUILD A BUILDING CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER BROCK OPPOSED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

ATTEST:

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN