

# COLUMBIA COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

## JANUARY 15, 2002 MEETING

The Columbia County Charter Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Columbia County Courthouse.

Members Present - Wilton Terrell, Emory Bailey, Richard Weizenecker, Ray Walker, Leandra Johnson (Chairperson), Jim Poole, Delton Turberville, Ed Parker, Dave Rountree, Seeber Johnson, Mario Cappock, Ozell Graham, Tom Brown and Rick Bicknell. Mike Null joined the meeting at 6:20 P.M.

The meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m. and opened with prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Sandy Markham, Deputy Clerk for Clerk of Circuit Court P. DeWitt Cason took roll call.

### MINUTES

There was a brief discussion as to what time Dewey Smith finished his presentation at the prior meeting. Chairperson Leandra Johnson felt the time reflected should be 6:15 p.m. instead of 7:15 p.m. Sandy Markham concurred, stating the typographical error would be corrected prior to the minutes being put in final form. Johnson called for any other corrections to the minutes. There being no response, there was a motion and a second to approve the **proposed minutes** (with the change to the time). The motion carried unanimously.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Leandra Johnson introduced Dale Williams as the guest speaker and stated she requested he provide an overview of operations of county government in Columbia County. Johnson encouraged the Commission to be prepared to ask unanswered questions which have been brought up at other meetings regarding county government.

Dale Williams, a lifelong resident of Columbia County, introduced himself as the County's Coordinator for the past sixteen years (total years with the county is eighteen). Williams also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in business management.

He opened by stating he was not speaking regarding the pros and cons of a charter government, but instead he would explain how the Columbia County Government is currently organized. He distributed a tabbed reference manual to assist with the presentation. He stated that the manual was primarily comprised of excerpts from State produced documents that are used by the County. He stated that he would attempt to explain in his presentation where the County's money comes from and goes to, and also the reserve and debt of the county.

Tah #1 - Williams reviewed the organizational chart of the county, but stated he would focus on the offices of the Board of County Commissioners, and let the elected officials explain the duties of their offices. He mentioned that the elected position of County Attorney was inadvertently left off the organizational chart.

He informed the Commission that the relationship between the Board and the other constitutional officers can be summarized by saying the County Commission provides office space and budget. Some limitations apply. The County has two fee offices. He explained that a fee office is an office that charges for the services provided, and when added, the charges are sufficient enough to pay for the cost of providing that particular service. He advised that the Tax Collector is a fee office as is the Clerk of "Circuit" Court. He added that the Clerk of Court's Office is composed of three parts; Clerk of Circuit Court, Clerk of County Court and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. Regarding the fee offices, the Board does not set their budgets. He explained that the Board primarily receives a notice of what their budget is going to be.

The Tax Collector and Property Appraiser do not submit budgets to the Board of County Commissioners because they fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Revenue. Therefore, the Board is provided with a complimentary copy of the budget that is submitted to the State. If the Board has a problem with their budget, they must take it up with the State. All elected officials have a right of appeal of their budget.

The County and the constitutional officers do share some services, particularly in the area of insurance coverage (i.e. workman's compensation, health insurance, fixed asset controls and some computer services.) The Board works on a regular basis to try to consolidate other areas, such as payroll and accounting departments, and human resource departments. There is certainly a spirit of cooperation between offices, but having different functions of the offices many times may limit the ability to consolidate. He encouraged everyone to inquire when given the opportunity as to the working relationships between the Board and the elected offices. He was certain that they would discover each of the offices have an excellent working relationship with one another.

TAB #2 - Regarding the County Commission. There have always been five (5) commissioners. Until 1984, the commissioners were elected on a countywide basis. He referenced a federal lawsuit, NAACP vs. Columbia County, which resulted in a requirement that all candidates (in future elections) seeking election must reside in the area they are seeking election, and that only those in that particular residence area shall cast ballots for the particular candidate running in that area. That, he explained, is the reason we now have single member districts with commissioners being elected for a particular district.

TAB #3 - Powers and duties of the Board of County Commissioners are outlined in Florida Statutes, Chapter 125. Everything the County does is included in this chapter.

TAB #4 - The question asked many times of who sets the salaries of the County Commissioners was addressed. The practice of state law determining the compensation of all county constitutional officers was sanctioned by the Constitution of 1885, and has been maintained in Article II, Section 5, Florida Constitution, since the 1968 revision.

There are six components outlined in the information provided that explain the

methodology for calculating the commissioners' salaries. Williams reviewed the calculation method.

Dale Williams reviewed his position and the offices he oversees. He is hired by, and has a contract with, the Board of County Commissioners. He explained that statewide his position has various names and can possibly have quite different duties and responsibilities. The duties and responsibilities are to carry out the wishes, objectives, motions and resolutions of the Board.

In drafting a charter, the Commission is specifically required to determine the type of county managerial form of government, which include: (1) County executive form or the executive is elected form, (2) County appointed manager form, or (3) County Chair Administrator form. He explained the difference between manager, administrator and coordinator. In all cases, the administrator is hired by contract and has certain rights per Florida Statute. A county manager may, or may not have those rights, and he may, or may not have a contract. It is up to the Board who hires them. County coordinators are typically found in smaller counties, and they generally have a wide variation of job responsibilities and may or may not have a contract. Dale Williams stated he's has had a contract for approximately ten years.

TAB #5 - The budget is presented, by law, in generally accepted accounting principles. Therefore, the average person cannot fully understand the budget. Dale Williams reviewed a copy of the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Tentative Budget and gave details of how it is set up.

The County receives money from three major sources: Constitutional revenue sources, Home Rule sources and Legislative sources.

TAB #6 - The ability of local government to raise revenue for its operations is narrowly constrained by the state constitution. No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. With the exception of ad valorem taxes and several constitutionally authorized state shared revenue programs, local governments are dependant on the legislature for the authority to levy any other forms of taxation. The two constitutional revenue sources that are available are ad valorem and the constitutional gas tax.

TAB #7 - Contrary to popular belief, the county's millage rate is not capped at ten mills. Counties have the authority to create municipal service taxing units (MSTUs). Through MSTUs, it is possible to levy an additional ten mills. Therefore, the effective ad valorem millage for any type of government is twenty mills. Columbia County, in addition to general millage, has a MSTU.

Williams made reference to a common comment that one half of the citizens of Columbia County do not pay taxes. He explained that is not true by reviewing the chart "*Counties Affected by the Just Value Provision of Section 212.055(2)(h), FS.*" More than half of the property in Columbia County is exempt; that is, homestead and government property combined.

TAB #8 - The Constitutional Fuel Tax, c/k/a fifth and sixth. The State provides this restricted funding, which consists of approximately 136 million dollars. This money may be used only for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of roads.

TAB #9 - Williams invited everyone to read the Revenue Sources based on Home

Rule Authority to gain a better understanding of what authority the County has to levy. He referenced Tab #10.

TAB #10 - Special Assessment are levied for fire and solid waste. Prior to this year an assessment was levied for emergency medical services. On the advice of legal staff, and after recent court rulings, the Board ceased levying the emergency medical service assessment. Williams acknowledged that the special assessments were challenged in the court system and several changes resulted. He also mentioned that each year the County has outside legal staff review the assessments to ensure the County operates within their guidelines.

TAB #11 - User Fees and Service Charges are likely the most common fees charged. Some examples are fees for obtaining a utility permit, tippage fees for using the landfill and costs associated with rezoning.

TAB #12 - Columbia County does not have a utility fee. There was once a franchise fee for cable television in the unincorporated areas. However, this fee was abolished last year by the State of Florida. The same amount of revenues are collected through the Communications Services Tax.

TAB #13 & #14 - Revenue Sources Authorized by the Legislature. Every county in the State of Florida has access to these revenues.

Half Cent Sales Tax - The increase in sales tax years ago, from five to six cents, was a strategy by the State to share the funding with the counties. That program was called the Half Cent Sales Tax Program. The money is allocated by a formula and is a significant revenue for Columbia County.

TAB #15 - Revenue Sharing was implemented by the State in 1972. It was created in an attempt by the Legislature to ensure a minimum level of revenue for units of local government. The share to each county is determined by a formula.

TAB #16 - The County Fuel Tax is state levied on motor fuel at the rate of one cent per gallon. Although this is a county fuel tax, it's not levied by the county. The proceeds are allocated in each county by the same distribution formula as used for the constitutional fuel tax. The County receives approximately six hundred eleven dollars annually.

TAB #17 - The money for Sales and Use Taxes is derived from entertainment, such as dog track races and jai alai. Beginning July 1, 2000, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of \$29,915,500 shall be divided into as many equal parts as there are counties in the state, and the county shares with their school board. The amount distributed to each county is \$466,500. This is not to be confused with the local option sales tax (racing tax money).

TAB #18 - Mobile Home License Tax. This is a state tax in which the county is allowed to share.

TAB #19 - Insurance License Tax. This is a state tax in which the county is allowed to share.

TAB #20 - Alcoholic Beverage License Tax. This is a state tax in which the county is allowed to share. This is not a significant revenue.

TAB #21 - State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program ("SHIP"). This is an



extremely popular program in Columbia County, which was created by the state and is supported by documentary stamp money. This program assists eligible applicants in the purchase of a home. The funds are generally used for down payment, closing cost and rehabilitation.

TAB #22 - Emergency Management laws were completely re-written after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. Williams explained that through a state levy, there was a surcharge placed on every home owners' insurance policy (residential and commercial). The money goes into a special fund and is later distributed to the county. There are certain duties the county must perform to receive those monies.

TAB #23 - Regarding Fuel Tax Refunds and Credits, when counties purchase fuel, they are required to pay tax. The County is then eligible to be reimbursed for the taxes paid.

TAB #24 - The Wireless Enhanced 911 Fee is a state imposed fee. The revenue collected is then put into a trust. The counties then may apply to receive a portion of the collected funds through grants. He added that there are restrictions as to what the money may be used for. To date, Columbia County has applied, but has never received, any type of funding from that particular trust.

TAB #25 - The County collects the Local Occupational License Tax by a Board adopted ordinance. The County collects revenue in the amount of \$25,000-\$30,000 per year from this tax.

TAB #26 - The 911 Fee was put into place by county ordinance. Dale Williams explained that the fifty cents fee is reflected on individuals' monthly telephone statement. The revenues are restricted.

TAB #27 - The Intergovernmental Radio Communication Program was also adopted by county ordinance. He explained that all civil penalties received by a county court pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 318, Florida Statutes, relating to the disposition of traffic infractions, shall be distributed and paid monthly as directed by s. 318.21, F.S. Pursuant to s. 318.21 (10), F.S., \$12.50 of each moving traffic violation must be used by the county to fund its participation in an intergovernmental radio communication program approved by the Department of Management Services. If a county is not participating in a program, funds collected must be used to fund local law enforcement automation. The money is collected by the Office of the Clerk of Court.

TAB #28 - Small County Surtax works similar to the sales tax but is collected by the county. Columbia County implemented this tax by an extraordinary vote of the Board of County Commissioners. The surtax is a major revenue source of approximately 4.5 million dollars annually. By law, the revenue is shared with the City of Lake City and the town of Fort White.

TAB #29 - Local Option Fuel Taxes. The materials contain a general description of the three taxes. Tab #30 addresses the first of the three taxes.

TAB #30 - The Ninth-Cent Fuel Tax (p/k/a "the Voted Gas Tax"). When this tax was initially enacted, it was by referendum. Since the referendum, the tax has been extended and added to. Revenue received is approximately \$600,000. Williams explained that there are some who think the ninth cent tax should generate the same amount of

money as it would if it were a local option. He explained the difference is the State charges various percentages for collecting the taxes.

TAB #31 - One to Six Cent Local Option Fuel Tax. When the tax was initially implemented, it was implemented on all fuel, including diesel fuel. Since that time, the State has equalized the tax on diesel statewide. Every county in the state has equalized taxes on diesel.

TAB #32 - The One to Five Cent Local Option Fuel Tax is the most recently enacted fuel tax. The county has this tax specifically earmarked for the construction of the bypass. This tax has a sunset provision that requires the tax cease to exist. Williams mentioned that unlike the other taxes, it is possible to reenact the tax, but it must end before being reenacted.

TAB #33 - The initial (\*)two pennies of the Tourist Development Tax in Columbia County was done by referendum. The Tourist Development Tax has been as high as three cents, but is currently two cents. Tourists or other persons renting hotels are the only persons subject to the tax. (*\*One penny was changed to "Two Pennies" at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.*)

Dale Williams distributed a printout of the County's Combined Expenditures and explained that there are nationally recognized functions of government. The functions that are nationally recognized are: General Government, Public Safety, Physical Environment, Transportation, Economic Environment, Human Services, Culture/Recreation. Everything the county does can be supported by one of those categories. The printout reflected the Operating Budget, Capital/Debt Service and a total. The reflected numbers were: Operating - \$32,497,214, Capital/Debt Service - \$20,616,636. Once the total Reserves are added, the total Operating Budget of the County is \$70,181,619. Page two of the handout was reviewed. A budget breakdown for all programs, elected offices, and other divisions of the county was discussed.

Finally, Dale Williams briefly discussed the county's Annual Financial Independent Audit Report. His presentation concluded at 6:35 with his entertaining questions from the Commission.

Dave Rountree asked for definition on MSSD, MSBU, CTTF and CCIDA. Williams responded Municipal Service Benefit Unit, Municipal Service Special District and Columbia County Industrial Development Authority, and County Transportation Trust Fund. Rountree suggested that the County refrain from using abbreviations as much as possible since the abbreviations are not commonly known.

Rick Bicknell recalled that he had asked Mr. Smith at the prior meeting about the financial condition of Polk County, and his response was, "we're in debt up to our eyeballs like every county." Rick Bicknell pointed out that the Budget Expenditures Handout reflects Columbia County is profitable to the tune of \$17,000,000. Dale Williams shook his head affirmatively. Bicknell asked, "Are those funds allocated for specific reasons, or are the funds available should the county have some type of emergency?" Dale Williams stated, "In my opinion, Columbia County is as healthy as they come." He feels that Columbia County is better off than many of the other counties he has contact with, in terms of reserve versus debt, and the total operating budget per capita. He stated that there is roughly \$9,000,000 in funds that could be tapped in to in the event of an

emergency.

There was a brief inaudible discussion of Ed Parker. When asked to speak a bit louder, he stated, "I was wondering if the people of Columbia County had an opportunity to vote on whether or not to do a countywide or not." Dale Williams responded, "No sir, that was a federal court action. The U.S. District Judge made that decision." Parker asked, "wasn't that a violation of the people?" The response was, "Mr. Parker, I don't know."

Wilton Terrell inquired as to the amount of the Sheriff's budget and whether it is totally funded by the County. Williams responded, "The State does not supply funds to operate the Sheriff's Department, except through an occasional grant. The Sheriff's Office is primarily funded by the County." Williams explained that the County budgets the Sheriff Department approximately 8.6 million dollars. Terrell commended Williams for a fine presentation and expressed appreciation for his straightforwardness.

#### Public Input

At 6:40 p.m., the Chairperson called for questions or comments from the audience.

H.L. Sistrunk addressed the Board and recalled a comment made by Rick Bicknell. He stated he believes the minutes should reflect that Bicknell said that there were "two" people that couldn't get in the courthouse for the last meeting, and "one" that couldn't get out. *(Note: The minutes reflected there was a problem exiting the building)*

Sistrunk stated "There are some members on the Commission that seems to have the wrong opinion on why this Commission was created. Mr. Parker came up with the idea of a charter. He also came up with the idea of a petition to the Florida Legislature to have people assigned to this commission, not the County Commission." He informed the Charter Commission that they had been picked by the Board of County Commissioners, and informed them that if they had been at the meeting at the library, they would know that Commissioner Skinner was the only one who stated that he felt all members should come from the district the commissioners represent. Sistrunk feels members drawing salaries from tax dollars should not serve on the Commission. He added, "I don't believe the Legislature is the one that said that the elected officials could serve. I think it was the Attorney General's Office." Finally, he mentioned that any credit that is to be given for the development of the Charter Commission should be given to Ed Parker. Leandra Johnson thanked Mr. Sistrunk for his comments and responded that the Charter Commission has no authority to appoint or dismiss members. Also, she acknowledged Parker as being the driving force in the Charter Commission. Rick Bicknell responded to Sistrunk's opening comments regarding entering and exiting the courthouse. He clarified that he said, "Mr. Hill couldn't get in after we started the meeting, and Mr. Montgomery couldn't get out after we had finished." Sistrunk disagreed and felt like that may have been a violation of the Sunshine Law. Bicknell responded, "The problem is taken care of now."

Jeffrey Hill introduced himself. He recalled the question he asked the Chairperson at the first meeting regarding a conflict of interest by some of the Commission members.



He was of the opinion that if there is a problem with people serving with a conflict of interest, it should just be admitted. He pointed out that approximately half of the members serving work for the government. He asked if there were alternates appointed in the event that someone resigns. The response was, "No." He asked if someone dropped, if the Commission would move forward with fourteen members. Johnson replied, "Yes, I guess that is what would happen." Hill asked that a short and a long charter be considered for presentation, because a long charter will have more difficulty passing and a short one would be easier to understand. He concluded that there is obviously a conflict of interest, but nobody wants to admit it. Johnson reiterated that the members do not have the authority to appoint or dismiss anyone from the Commission. She stated that she would rather believe that the length of the charter would not matter as much as the quality.

#### Other Input

Delton Turberville offered the following information to address a couple of Hill's concerns: Per Florida Statute 125.61, persons who are not eligible to serve on a charter committee are county commissioners and members of the State Legislature. He concluded by saying that should a vacancy occur, the Board of County Commission shall fill that position in the same manner that the Charter Commission was created.

David Willis thanked Dale Williams for the excellent presentation. He was of the opinion that anyone drawing a salary by tax funds should not serve on the Charter Commission, but stated nobody has the ability to know a man's heart. Although he believes it appears some commissioners serving on the Board have a conflict, he recognized the fact that those same people that "appear" to have a conflict are also taxpayers and citizens of this county. He concluded by saying that only the individual themselves know their own heart. If they know they can be fair, then let them serve. But, if it becomes obvious that one has set out to undermine the intentions of the Commission, or cannot be fair then he/she should resign.

#### Additional Input

H.L. Sistrunk said *(verbatim)*, "You keep talking about spending money, but now, the County Commissioners back in 1992 forced this curbside garbage collection on us. That got a suit brought against them. They spent between \$90,000 and \$100,000 fighting the lawsuit. So you shouldn't be concerned about \$4,000 or \$5,000 you might spend on this Charter. I think you should go back to the School Board building myself. And, this Kurt Spitzer, Isn't he the one that came from Tallahassee the first time on the stage over there?" Leandra Johnson responded "yes." Sistrunk added, "Well, he is the one that said no changes, or very little changes in the charter. Why are you putting anything in it, if you aren't going to make any changes, or very little? That's what the County Commissioners want. They don't want to lose their control."

Coy Williams also commended Dale Williams for a fine presentation and for the volume of information provided. He offered that one of the largest problems in the county is communication. He was of the opinion that the initiation of the Charter Commission may have never been necessary had the County Commission communicated thoroughly with the citizens. Regarding the budget presentation, Coy Williams suggested that efforts



be made to not use acronyms, but if it is necessary then have a reference available. Coy Williams mentioned that he feels Ed Parker deserves a lot of credit for having got Columbia County to the point of a having the Charter Commission created. He noted that Parker had done a lot of footwork in collecting charters from other counties, and also created one himself. He felt it would benefit the Charter Commission to take the best of each charter and create a charter for Columbia County. He also suggested that the Charter address a method for redistricting after each census.

The Chair made a final call for input from the public. There being none, the Commission moved on to unfinished business.

#### Unfinished Business

Rick Bicknell referenced the three consultants discussed last month. Bicknell asked Tom Brown if he had had the opportunity to research further. Brown responded affirmatively. He advised that he spoke with, and felt like Nabors would do a fine job for the Charter Commission, but he did not pursue any further because Ed Parker had made mention of a person he would like for the Commission to consider. Tom Brown encouraged the Board to take some form of action during the course of the meeting so that they could proceed with the process.

The Chairperson asked Mr. Parker if he had spoken with the consultant he had mentioned at the last meeting. Parker responded that he had spoken with the consultant, and was advised that it would be a waste of money to retain the services of a consultant. Also, he stated that he was informed that with such a large number of people on the Board, there should be an abundance of knowledge as to how a charter works. Parker mentioned the mass amounts of information provided should be sufficient enough for the Commission to draft their own charter without the added expense of a consultant.

Tom Brown responded that it is the Commission that will draft the proposed charter. However, an experienced consultant would only enhance the work product by offering his knowledge and guidance. Further, there are state grant funds available to assist with the cost of a consultant. He also mentioned the contract could be terminated at any time.

**Motion** by Tom Brown to engage the services of Mr. Kurt Spitzer on the terms and conditions presented at the previous meeting was seconded by Delton Turberville.

Ozell Graham expressed that he would like to hear from the citizens of Columbia County. He wants to know how they feel, and what they want. He mentioned that a poll be taken to receive input. The chairperson responded that those are the types of issues that a consultant would certainly be able to assist with. She mentioned that there may already be formulated questionnaires that can be used, rather than reinventing the wheel. In addition she added in order to get correct results, a person must follow a scientific formula. Willard Terrell agreed that the "people" must provide input. The Board agreed that input from the community should be obtained.

Rick Bicknell gave clarification on the motion stating that the motion would bring in a consultant to help with procedure, not with the drafting of a charter.

### Other

Wilton Terrell expressed his concerns regarding the influx of postal mail and e-mail from Polk County. He asked why it's happening and wanted to know who is pushing it. Terrell expressed concern that it appears that there is a county attempting to influence Columbia County. Several of the commissioners expressed similar concerns and added they would not be influenced and would appreciate the flood of mail cease.

Ray Walker expressed the same concerns, and encouraged everyone to research records and police reports in Polk County to find out exactly what type of character Mr. Smith (no first name provided) is. Finally, Walker stated that it was his understanding that the Commission is to do a study to determine what the county is doing wrong, and what the county can do to improve. A study would provide public input.

Regarding Mr. Smith and Walker's comments, Ed Parker informed everyone that he had researched the character of Mr. Smith and has found that Mr. Smith was blackballed in Polk County because of his involvement with charter government. Mr. Parker stated that in his opinion, approximately 99 % of all allegations are false. He also addressed the mail everyone was receiving by saying the mail does not violate the sunshine law. Parker stated several members of the Commission have refused to meet with the people. Parker stated, "We've contacted one thousand people who've signed the petition in this county, who want a charter for the people. And, we're not through. We're trying to get the entire county, not just a few." He concluded that everyone should do as he has done by contacting the "people" and getting their opinion. He also noted that for the one thousand people contacted, everyone has been interested.

Dave Rountree, for clarification of Brown's motion, stated it's his understanding that the Commission's prime objective is to complete a comprehensive study of the operations of county government. He asked if the consultant would actually do the comprehensive study, or would the Commission? The Chairperson responded that is precisely the types of questions that a consultant will be able to answer. Johnson continued that there will be several issues, such as legal questions that a consultant will be able to offer assistance with.

Johnson reminded the Commission that at the last meeting, authorization was given by a unanimous vote to authorize her to proceed with having a consultant who would assist with the Commission's goal. She clarified that Browns motion addresses a specific consultant.

Mario Cappook gave the following analogy: "This is a contract, and I don't know how to write a contract. Therefore, I'd hire someone to help me write the contract."

The **motion** carried 14-1, with Ed Parker opposing. Dale Williams was asked to have staff contact Leigh Ann Root to obtain information in applying for a grant to assist with the cost of hiring a consultant.

Delton Turberville let it be known that he, too, had been contacted and declined the invitation to meet with 50-55 unnamed people to discuss the charter. He informed the contact person that the monthly meeting was the place to come and discuss the charter. It's Turberville's understanding that the group intends to meet with each Commissioner.

In the November meeting a motion was passed to amend Rule 5. It related to

supporting documentation of the current agendas be made available to the public at each meeting. Turberville feels this was a mistake because it has placed an undue burden on the staff to make copies, and there is no way of knowing how many copies will be needed. He advised that F.S. 119.07 provides a fee to be charged for the records.

**Motion** by Delton Turberville, "I move that Section 5, as amended in the November meeting be rescinded, and the rule revert to the October writing". Second by Rick Bicknell.

There was a call for discussion. Turberville used the large notebook provided by Dale Williams as an example, "Placing this large book on the website would place a large burden on county staff. F.S. defines the procedure a person would go about obtaining the copies." Ed Parker disagreed stating the people of the county pay taxes, and therefore have a right to know what is going on in their county without being charged for the information. The Chair asked Turberville to restate the exact language of the original Section 5. Turberville stated that he did not have the exact language available. There was discussion. Several members of the Commission voiced their opinions. Tom Brown suggested the matter be tabled until the next meeting. The Chair asked Turberville if he would consider withdrawing his motion until the Board office can provide figures relating to the cost involved in making copies, and until the exact language of Section 5 is available. Turberville withdrew his motion until the February meeting and stated, "You're asking the Board Staff for a figure that they cannot supply, because if they make twenty copies and twenty-one people arrive, the twenty first person may feel discriminated against". The Chair asked Dale Williams to provide the cost information at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The Chair announced the next meeting as February 19, 2002 at the courthouse.

Miscellaneous

Dave Rountree mentioned the activated charter link to the County's website. He asked if there was an established time table as to when agendas and minutes would be posted. The Chair asked if it was possible to have the approved minutes posted to the web in 24 hours. Sandy Markham and Lisa Roberts felt 48 hours would be the normal amount of time required.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

ATTEST:  
Clerk of Circuit Court

  
P. DeWit Cason

  
Leandra Johnson, Chairperson