

Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of  
**March 06, 2003**

Vice Chairman Skinner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Ronald Williams, James Montgomery, Dewey Weaver, George Skinner, and Jennifer Flinn.

Others Present: County Manager Dale Williams, County Attorney Marlin Feagle, Assistant County Manager Lisa Roberts, Clerk of Court DeWitt Cason, and Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham.

I. Building and Zoning

*Small Scale Land Use Amendments:*

1. **CPA 0106** - Columbia 90 Land Trust (Daniel Crapps - Agent)  
The property consists of 9.99 acres. The request is to change the land use from Residential Very Low Density, to Commercial. The property is located on U.S. Hwy. 90 approximately one half mile West of NW Brown Road. The property is located in District III. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commission Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **CPA 0107** - Umesha Mhatre (Donald Williams - Agent)  
The property consists of 9.77 acres. The request is to change the land use from Residential Very Low Density, to Residential Low Density. The property is located on SW Sisters Welcome Road. The property is located in District III. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The pubic hearing opened and closed without opposition.  
Motion by Commissioner Skinnner to approve. Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. CPA 0108 - Donald Williams**

The property consists of 10 acres. The request is to change the land use from Residential Very Low Density, to Residential Low Density. The property is located on Sisters Welcome Road. The property is located in District III. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. CPA 0109 - Sandra Williams (Donald Williams - Agent)**

The property consists of 10 acres. The request is to change the land use from Residential Very Low Density, to Residential Low Density. The property is located on SW Sisters Welcome Road. The property is located in District III. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. CPA 0110 - Shipla Mhatre (Donald Williams - Agent)**

The property consists of 8.92 acres. The request is to change the land use from Residential Very Low Density, to Residential Low Density. The property is located on NW corner of SW Sisters Welcome Road. The property is located in District III. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. CPA 0111 - Board of County Commissioners**

The property consists of .39 acres. The request is to change the land use from Residential Very Low Density, to Commercial. The property is located on the north side of SW Grandview, approximately 1/3 mile West SW McFarlane Avenue. The property is located in District V. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

*Text amendment to Land Development Regulations (1st Hearings):*

1. **LDR 03-01** Board of County Commissioners - Adding additional language concerning the location of borrow pits distance requirements. See the attached language.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

The public hearing opened. Mr. Eugene Carter asked questions regarding the cost involved in the appeal process. Mr. Dale Williams told the Commission that the concern is, if the injured party is forced to appeal a decision, should the appealing party have to pay for the cost involved in filing an appeal. An answer should be available at the second hearing on March 20, 2003.

*Special Permit:*

1. **SP 0115D** Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Dock to be located on Perennial River (Ichetucknee Springs State Park) in District II.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

*Subdivisions - Preliminary Plats:*

1. **SD0123** - John's Place at Woodborough in District III. The developer is Bill Rowan. There are two lots in the subdivision. One is 2.19 acres and the other lot is 2.22 acres. The property is located NW Scenic Lake Drive.

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **SD 0124** - Westwind in District II. The developer is John Scott. There are fourteen lots ranging in size from 5 acres to 6.14 acres. The property is located SW Pinemount Road (CR 252).

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

## II. Road Closing

A public hearing has been advertised for a road closing on **Shady Way Road**. The road is located in Lulu. Mr. Marlin Feagle explained that it's his understanding that the advertised portion of the road has never been opened. The owner of the property on both sides of the road is Mr. **P.D. Cason**.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commissioner Flinn to approve the closure of Shady Way Road subject to Legal Staff's verification that the road has never been opened, and that no land locks will be caused as a result of the closing. Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

## III. Consent Agenda

- (1) Invoice – Florida Association of Counties Trust - \$4,532.01
- (2) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. - \$2,063.60
- (3) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. - \$536.74
- (4) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc - \$8,724.05
- (5) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. - \$8,238.05
- (6) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. -\$2,418.54
- (7) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. - \$146,820.00
- (8) Invoice – CSX Transportation – Signal Maintenance at Granger Road - \$935.00
- (9) External Budget Amendment – **BA #02-18** – Medicaid Settlement -\$46,875.48
- (10) **South Birley Avenue Project** – Acquisition of Right-of-Way Settlement – Parcel No. 6 – **Marion W. Davis** - \$7,750
- (11) **South Birley Avenue Project** – Acquisition of Right-of-Way Settlement – Parcel No. 7 – **William David and Claire D. Durrance** - \$4,500.00
- (12) **South Birley Avenue Project** – Acquisition of Right-of-Way Settlement – Parcel No. 11 – **Frank Ray Hines** - \$6,000.00

- (13) **Resolution No. 2003R-7 – Century Ambulance Services, Inc.** - Certificate of Necessity & Convenience. **See attached.**
- (14) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – **February 6, 2003**
- (15) Invoice – Harlis R. Ellington Construction, Inc. – Birley Road Project # 2000-20 - \$79,686.10
- (16) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – CR 25A - \$2,777.50
- (17) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – CR 250 (Lake Jeffery) - \$4,538.50
- (18) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Birley Road North - \$5,570.00
- (19) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – North/South Connector - \$5,368.75
- (20) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Engineering - \$640.00
- (21) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Birley Road South - \$640.00
- (22) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Adult Softball Complex - \$1,240.00
- (23) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Engineering Reviews - \$240.00
- (24) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Engineering - \$950.00
- (25) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Miracle Lane – Engineering - \$625.00
- (26) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Engineering - \$4,283.63
- (27) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Engineering & Surveying - \$4,797.15
- (28) **Courthouse Renovation** – Contractor Pay Request Summary – Phase I, II, and IIB - \$155,616.98
- (29) External Budget Amendment – **BA #02-22 Sheriff's Office – BA #11 – Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Grant** - \$7,325.69
- (30) Adopt-A-Road Litter Removal Program – **Drew Feagle Road – Sondra Dubose**
- (31) Utility Permit – Alltel Florida, Inc. – **SW Gallberry Court**
- (32) Utility Permit – Bell South Telecommunications – **SW Phillips Circle**
- (33) Utility Permit – Alltel Florida, Inc. – **SW Terrell Court**

- (34) 9-1-1 Addressing – Change of Road Names or New Road Names – **NW Snipe Court**
- (35) 9-1-1 Addressing – Change to Approved Streets/Roads Names – **SW Geraldine Drive**
- (36) 9-1-1 Addressing – Approval of Street/Roads Names – **SW Gerald Witt Glen**
- (37) 9-1-1 Addressing – Naming of Found Unnamed Roads – **NW Bond Court, SW Gay Glen and SW Lazy Court**
- (38) Tourist Development Council – **Re-appointment of Brian Bickel** for a 3 year term ending December 31, 2005 and the appointment of **James (Jim) Free** to fill an un-expired term ending December 31, 2004
- (39) Columbia County Resources, Inc. – Request Approval of **Fireworks** at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Gateway Pro **Rodeo**
- (40) Board Administration – Declaration of Surplus Property – **See attached list.**
- (41) **Public Library** – Certification Regarding Debarment – Application for LSTA Grant
- (42) **Southwest Birley Avenue** – Acquisition of Right-of-Way Settlement – Parcel No. 5 – **Alex H. Stevens, ETAL Property** – Representative **Don Stevens** - \$13,930.00
- (43) **Bid Award** – Public Works Wash Rack Enclosure – **L & L Construction** - \$10,200.00
- (44) **Public Library** – Temporary Part-Time Position - Job description – Program Technician
- (45) **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council** – First Amended Inter-local **Agreement** creating the original Florida Tourism Task Force – Adding Leon County as participant. **See attached agreement.**
- (46) **Courthouse Renovation** – Monthly Progress Report #48
- (47) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – **February 20, 2003.**

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Montgomery.

There was a call for clarification on items #13, #41, and #45. Clarification was provided by Mr. Dale Williams.

#13 is the annual contract resolution with **Century Ambulance Service** to provide non-medical emergency service. Law requires the Certificate of Public Need. Several years ago, the County determined it to be in the public's best interest that 911 personnel

respond to emergency calls, and that inter-facility transports be left to a different provider. Item #13 is for inter-facility transports only.  
The Sheriff offered input, but it was inaudible as he was speaking from the audience.

#41 is a certification regarding **debarment**. This is a federally required document that ensures the federal money the County receives (through the library) is administered by an employee in good standing.

#45 is an **inter-local agreement** with several counties and cities concerning the original **Florida Tourism Task Force**. The agreement is as originally written except that it is being amended to include Leon County. **See the attached agreement.**

Mr. David Rountree addressed Item #47. He informed the Board that he takes exception to the **minutes of February 20, 2003** being approved. He requested that Section XI (4) be transcribed verbatim. There was brief discussion. Staff suggested the Chair consider Mr. Rountree's request, and if the Chair agrees, the minutes may be amended according to Mr. Rountree's request.

The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham addressed the Chair to ask if the **February 20th minutes** (Summary of Section XI (4)) should be amended to reflect the discussion verbatim. The Chair responded, *"It might be, or could be verbatim in the minutes, but the Chair reserves the right to choose other methods of appointing those members; Other than drawing out of a hat."*

Mr. David Rountree asked the Chair to be more specific regarding the request that the **minutes of February 20, 2003** be transcribed verbatim. The Chair directed that the section be transcribed verbatim.

*Clerk's Note: See Section XI (c) below.*

### III. Culverts

Huey Hawkins, the County's engineer has expressed concern with the box culverts located in Cannon Creek at Ward Lane. There is concern with the alignment of the road as it approaches the box culverts. The road immediately on the south side of Ward Lane is going to be encompassed in the new entrance to Service Zone, which is part of the agreement the County made to entice Service Zone to locate locally. Mr. Dale Williams said, *"We have an identical situation there, and therefore, we have an identified cost, which was established by bid."*

Mr. Hawkins provided a written recommendation that it will be in the County's best interest to approve a **change order** to include the cost of **box culverts in Cannon Creek at Ward Lane**, (While there is an established price of \$145,000). Staff concurred and recommended approval of the proposal.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to approve the recommendation of the box culverts. Second by Commission Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

#### IV. Inmate Health Coverage

In 2002 the Columbia County Sheriff's Office received from **Catastrophic Healthcare Coverage**, a check for various policy limits applied to claims made by inmates for health insurance. The amount of the check was \$43,762.18. The Sheriff requested that the Board consider returning the money to the budget of the Sheriff's Office. The request was made because he has already closed out the prior fiscal year. At that time, the Board elected to keep the money in abeyance pending future changes with **inmate healthcare**, and until cost overruns could be determined.

The Sheriff requested the Commission take action on his request to return the money. The Sheriff is seeking \$33,762.18 to buyout compensatory time earned by his employees, and has asked that \$10,000 be placed in a contingency for overruns in the **Inmate Healthcare Account** at the Detention Center.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to approve the Sheriff's request. Second by Commissioner Skinner.

Commissioner Weaver asked the County Manager if it is a policy that we routinely pay employees for **compensatory time**. The response was that the compensatory time is given "as time". Mr. Dale Williams had no recollection where the County has ever paid for compensatory time. Time is given hour for hour, unless accrued in an **overtime** situation; then time is give at time and a half.

Commissioner Weaver asked the Sheriff if that was a routine procedure within his office. He responded that they are given time off, **flex time** is used, and there are times that they are paid for the time on the books. He told the Board that the majority of the time is that of supervisors who work in critical positions.

Commissioner Williams said the action would clear out the **Contingency Account**. He said, "*Sheriff, you know if it runs over and we don't have money to pay for it this year, it comes out of next year's monies.*" The Sheriff acknowledged.

The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Weaver voting in opposition

*Clerk's Note: See Section XII below for additional discussion.*

#### V. Litter Removal

Mr. Dale Williams gave a report on the recently approved **Roadside Litter Removal Program**. The actual number of road miles increased from what was projected. He explained that the original estimate was based on map mileage, but the County paid on actual mileage. Approximately nine miles were added because once at major



intersections, it was determined that in order to improve the quality of the work, a tenth of a mile would be done on each side of the major intersection.

Roadside **litter** was removed from 197.35 miles of secondary roads. There was 26,560 pounds (13.28 tons) of **litter** collected on the roads. That is approximately 1,000 pounds per road on average. The number of man hours used on this project was 768. The numbers do not include the equipment usage or supervision costs.

The Board received a number of telephone calls, and some written correspondence. Although there were a few in opposition to this program, the majority of the contacts spoke favorably. Staff suggested that it is in the Board's best interest to continue the program for the remainder of the year. A shift in **Road Department funding**, along with certain costs within the **Road Department** being eliminated make the funding for this project possible. The Board was asked to continue the program through this fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery, "So moved." Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

## VI. Legislative Update

It was explained that **Article V** is the transfer of responsibility for court cost to the State from local government. The voters approved that as an amendment to the **Constitution** approximately five years ago. To date, the committees that have been appointed to oversee Article V implementation have yet to define what "**basic court functions**" are. The County has been told to expect that **Teen Court, Drug Court, Mediation**, and others probably will not be included in the definition of basic court functions. The County's response to that is that, if that is what they deem to do, then the State should not make those programs mandatory, and counties should be able to decide individually as to whether the programs should be continued.

The County has asked that "**County Obligations**" be specifically defined as they relate to Article V. Specifically the County would like the wording "communications" to be defined. Mr. Dale Williams stated that whether any of the foregoing will materialize is uncertain. There is still no definite dollar amount as to what revenues the State intends to tap into in order to pay for the new state expenses. There is nothing listed within the **County's Fines and Forfeiture Fund** that isn't being considered. Fines and Forfeiture generates approximately 1.4 million dollars per year for Columbia County. This is a potential loss of revenue coupled with whatever expenses the County will incur for what is left; For either non-basic court functions or what may be defined as primary functions. Senator Smith, who represents Columbia County is chairing the Article V Committee. According to Mr. Williams, he is very good at listening, but he is listening to a variety of sources. Mr. Williams said, there have been some prior agreements that were made prior to the actual vote concerning Article V, that have now allegedly been broken. Mr. Williams said it is uncertain what affect that will have on the overall final solution. However, the Article V Committee is working on it.

Regarding **Medicaid** and the impacts to County Governments, the Commission was advised that the County is definitely going to have to pay more for its Medicaid contribution. The County's current annual cost for Medicaid is approximately \$1,250,000. Mr. Dale Williams said, *"The best case scenario will add about \$150,000 in additional expense. The worst case scenario will add \$1,016,000, and it could range anywhere in between."*

A Bill has been sponsored that would eliminate the **State's Transportation Disadvantage Program**. The cost for that program will be shifted to the County should the current proposed law pass. The Bill is expected to go to the floor for debate very soon. Mr. Williams noted that any Medicaid eligible person who is without transportation currently qualifies for this program.

Commissioner Montgomery asked what the combined impact of the three would be. Mr. Williams responded by saying it is impossible at this point to determine the **Article V** issue without more specifics. Transportation Disadvantage is also an unknown figure at this time. However, the State currently invests approximately 1.5 million dollars into the program.

Commissioner Weaver pointed out that along with doing away with other programs previously mentioned, the County is already looking at an impact of four to five million dollars. Mr. Williams agreed and said that some counties, in order to emphasize and highlight the impact, are creating a new fund through their budget process for costs shifted by the State. The idea behind this is to show all of the increases as a direct result of State mandates. The Counties will then affix a **millage rate** that is equal to the impact in dollars.

Mr. Williams will continue providing updates as they develop.

## VII. Jail Committee

On February 12, 2003, the **Jail Committee** met as a follow-up meeting to a previous meeting where **Clemons, Rutherford and Associates** presented the **Jail Needs Assessment Study**. On February 26, 2003, another follow-up meeting was held where three recommendations were made for presentation and consideration of the County Commission.

The Jail Committee feels it would be beneficial for a Court Liaison position to be created within the Clerk of Courts Office, whose responsibility will be monitoring judicial activities that result in increased cost to Columbia County. **Indigency** approvals, and reduction of **VOP incarcerations** were used as examples. This position will answer to the Clerk of Courts. The Committee is certain this position would benefit the County financially. Mr. Williams said, *"It could save the County money whether we build a new facility or not."*

Mr. Williams explained that this position is the same position as was discussed during the budget process as a means to attempt curtailing the escalating cost of the court system. A proposed job description has been drafted **and is attached** hereto. Conceptually, the Board is being asked to approve the new position for the Clerk of Courts Office.

Clerk of Courts DeWitt Cason concurred that the **Court Liaison** position is needed and will save the County money. The Chair asked that when the job description is in final form, that it be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and to the **Jail Committee**. Mr. Cason asked the Board's preference in addressing the salary. The Chair directed Mr. Cason to provide the Jail Committee and the Board of County Commissioners with a final draft that reflects the salary. The Commission and Committee will together review the proposal.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to agree to the concept. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

It was discussed that **Lake Shore Hospital** is an independent taxing authority and they levy a **millage** for **indigent healthcare** provisions. The Board feels costs should be absorbed by the hospital for residents of Lake City, Columbia County who are incarcerated in the **Detention Center**, and are found to need emergency medical care due to a life threatening illness. This idea is being explored.

#### VIII. **Jail Committee** Recommendations

(a) Commissioner Flinn and Weaver have been appointed to the **Public Safety Coordinating Council** per Florida Statute 951.26. They will be making member recommendations to serve on the committee in the very near future. The Jail Committee has recommended that the Public Safety Council review all of the architect's recommendations relating to suggested alternative sentencing. The Council will be asked to study this and report as to whether in their opinion the recommendations presented in the **Needs Assessment** are workable. Mr. Williams reminded the Board that there will be representatives from the judiciary, the Sheriff, and all various parties involved in the court system to serve on the council.

Motion by Commission Weaver to approve recommendation. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously

(b) The Jail Committee has recommended that the Board proceed with the **schematic phase** of the proposed **Jail**. This will provide all of the necessary information in order to determine whether the new jail would be financially feasible for the County at this time. Mr. Williams said, *"That's not only in terms of the facility, but just as importantly, if not more important, the cost of operating expense. It will take more staff, energy, insurance, food, and so forth. Those costs have to be identified and have to be understood before the Board can make a reasonable determination as to whether it can proceed or not."* The schematic phase will likely cost in the neighborhood of \$250,000. This amount will

be applied toward the contract cost should the Board elect to construct. On behalf of the **Jail Committee**, Mr. Williams advised the Commission that approval is being requested to contact **Clemons, Rutherford & Associates** to ask that they prepare a draft **Schematic Phase Contract**. The contract will be subject to the review by Attorney Marlin Feagle and the Board of County Commissioners prior to implementation.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve the recommendation based on Board's review and legal review of the contract. Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

#### IX. Connector Road

As a result of a **City/County Joint Meeting** held last week, Board approval was sought to revised the budget for the **North/South Connector Road**, c/k/a the **Western Bypass**. The budget has been impacted in two ways. The **D.O.T. funding** that the County once thought to be received is believed to no longer be available. The **Small County Outreach Program** has been eliminated and will result in a \$2,000,000 loss. It is felt that it would no longer be a wise decision to prepare the budget as if the money is forthcoming. The second impact is the **railroad crossing** issue. The original conceptual design was going to have an **"at grade" crossing**. There is still an option of agreeing to close three other graded crossings in order to receive the one grade crossing for this road.

Mr. Williams explained a traffic count issue surfaced. There is concern that the amount of traffic that is now believed will use the road will cause a severe traffic backup each time a stop-bar is down. Because of that, the engineer began to look at the possibility of going under or over track. It was recommended at the **City/County Joint Meeting** that the **Connector Road** go over the **railroad tracks**.

Money to fund this project comes from the the **Five Cents Gas Tax Levy**, a/k/a the **ELMS Levy**. By action of the Board, this levy five year levy that must sunset at the end of the five years.

Based on the current rate of collection, it is estimated that in five years the County will have collected \$10,839,312 from the levy. With the reduction in state revenue, with the addition of the engineer's estimated cost of the **overpass**, and with making the adjustment for current land and engineering costs, it is believe the estimated cost of the road to be \$9,671,000. This is a difference of \$1,168,024. He reiterated, *"That is what we expect to collect versus what we expect to spend, and with the adjustments that have been discussed."* Mr. Williams told the Board that considering the project could be impacted by a number of factors, the amount isn't a considerable amount of money. He said the difference would come from the project's contingency. Staff recommended approval of the new **Connector Road Budget**.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner.

As an informational item, Mr. Williams advised that Phase I of the project is complete, and hopefully the rain will not postpone completion of Phase II, which is expected to be complete in July. Phase III is still in the bidding process.

Commissioner Flinn reiterated her concern that the dollar amounts are only estimates, and that future unexpected impacts could leave the County having to search for money to make up the deficit. She reminded her fellow commissioners that the expected revenues are based exclusively on the **gas taxes**, and that one more terrorist attack or another major setback with the economy could prove to be financially detrimental. She asked, *"What happens at the end of the five years if we don't have enough? Where are we going to get the money?"* Mr. Williams responded one option is to not complete the project. Another option is that any general revenue the commissioners currently have in their budget can be allocated to a road project. The Commission would likely shift **general revenue**. That would not necessarily mean a new tax or new income, but that another project may not be funded in order to generate the needed money. Commissioner Flinn asked for an example. Mr. Williams said that one example would be that the Commission could elect to refinance the Courthouse Project and use the savings from refinancing to allocate to the project. Another option would be to reallocate **property tax money**. Mr. Williams said, *"Should something happen, and anything is a possibility, we have to outline the Board's options, and the Board will have to decide."* Commissioner Flinn responded, *"That's a concern for me since we haven't gone that far right now. I mean, we've spent a lot of money on this road already. However, we're going to spend millions more. That's a legitimate concern, because of what's going on overseas."* Mr. Williams explained that the designing that went into the phases could have made it possible to bring the project to a halt should the Commission have found it unfeasible to proceed due to finances. However, Mr. Williams said that because the budget seems to support the project, the Commission voted at the **Joint City-County Meeting** to proceed.

Commissioner Williams said that it is his understanding that even with the September 11th attack by terrorists, the funds generated went down but continued to generate a sufficient revenues to stay "in the ballpark." Mr. Williams concurred with Commissioner Williams.

Commissioner Weaver pointed out that since that attack, that Lake City's tourism is the highest in the state. He explained that part of this is due to the strong marketing campaign taking place by the **Tourist Development Council**. He said, *"We've actually seen an increase in our tourism in this area by 7%, and that is the highest in the state."*

Mr. Williams noted as an informational item that there is nothing in the **inter-local agreement** with the City that requires the Board to complete the project if all gas tax revenues are exhausted.

The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Flinn voting in opposition.

*Clerk's Reference: The City/County joint meeting referenced above was held on February 27, 2003.*

#### X. Private Property Work

Mr. Williams requested on behalf of Commissioner Flinn that the Board approve work to be done on private property. Water has run from the County's Right-of-Way onto **Cable Way Road** has damaged the driveway of Ms. **Linda McGlothlin**. Mr. Williams said that it is very clear that the County has responsibility. **See attached pictures.**

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to enter private property to correct the problem.  
Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

#### XI. Miscellaneous by Commissioner Williams

(a) For the past 23 years, the American Legion Post 57 has hosted an **Appreciation Banquet** for all of the **emergency services workers** in Columbia County. He asked the Board to formally recognize their works by way of proclamation.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to draft a proclamation to be presented at the banquet.  
Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously. **See attached.**

(b) Commissioner Williams explained that recent floods have damaged a turnabout area causing bus DH-17 to back out of Chambira Road for almost a quarter of a mile. Commissioner Williams said he provided the details of the extenuating circumstance to Attorney Mr. Feagle and obtain permission to make the **emergency repair** without delay. Unfortunately, the situation could not wait until the Board met again. This was provided as an informational item. **Pictures are attached.**

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to approve the emergency repair. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Commissioner Williams re-addressed Mr. David Rountree's request regarding the transcribing of the **February 20, 2003 minutes** verbatim. Commissioner Williams said that one must realize that the redistricting is not done behind closed doors as is with the Legislature. The decisions are discussed and made in public, and must be ultimately ratified by both the School Board and the Commission. He explained that the Chair and two senior members of the Commission have historically been appoint to serve on the Redistricting Committee, and for that reason he appointed himself, Commissioner Weaver and Commissioner Montgomery.

*Clerk's Note: See Section XIII (3), and Section XV below for additional comments regarding this issue.*

## XII. Sheriff - Compensatory Time (revisited)

The Sheriff thanked the Board for their vote on the budget request earlier in the meeting and offered clarification to Commissioner Weaver. He said, *"We have this money to resolve our **comp time** issue. But, we're also developing a plan to leverage that money by requiring individuals to take **comp** in order to be paid for **comp time**. So, if a person has twenty hours of comp time on the books, they must take ten hours in order to be paid for the other ten hours. So that maximizes the little bit of money, and we understand this is a one time deal, but hopefully this will get us to the point where comp time won't be a debt hanging over us."* Commissioner Weaver replied that he understood, but believes in a uniform system for all county employees.

## XIII. Citizen Input by Mr. Wayne Williams

(a) Mr. W. Williams asked regarding the **Embree Building**, *"If the County was to buy it, what would it be used for?"* Commissioner Williams responded that the Board was considering using the building for a **Records Retention Center**. However, action was taken at the last meeting to not purchase the building.

*Clerk's Note: See minutes of December 19, 2002, January 16, 2003 and February 20, 2003, for other Board discussions regarding the possible purchase of the Embree Building to be used as a Records Retention Center.*

(b) Regarding **redistricting**. Mr. W. Williams offered that since all five commissioners are equally affected by the redistricting, that all five commissioners should have the same amount of input. Commissioner Williams responded that his appointments were made in accordance with Florida Statutes, and as mentioned earlier each Board will have to approve the proposed redistricting. Mr. Williams explained his understanding of the redistricting stating that the boundary line should change so that an equal number of people are in each district. Commissioner Williams responded, that as he mentioned earlier the population will be equally divided and each commissioner and member will stay within their own district.

(c) Regarding the **Workers Compensation** issue. Mr. Williams offered that it's equally outrageous throughout Florida, but pointed out the Columbia County has a problem when **industry** is electing to locate in Florida, but not in Columbia County. He said, *"I've preached it, and I'm going to keep preaching it right on. We've got to have **jobs**."* Mr. Williams feels if there are new jobs in the county, that there will be more people and money. Commissioner Williams said, *"I agreed with you on that at the last meeting."* Commissioner Williams invited Mr. Williams to stand beside the Commission when the time comes to pay what some will feel is an unreasonable price to get a business in Columbia County. Commissioner Williams said, *"Because there are so many out there who criticize the Board for trying to buy business."* Mr. Williams replied, *"If you offer them \$3,000,000 to come in and they say that's not enough, then you should offer them \$6,000,000, because it will offset in a few years the amount of money that you pay them through buying homes, gas and everything."* Mr. Williams also encouraged the

Board to give the Sheriff as much money as they could spare to help him protect the county.

(d) Mr. Williams asked, "*What is the situation of the Phase II of the **Service Zone Road**? Is that over with?*" Mr. Dale Williams responded by saying that phase will be from the Service Zone building, to Hwy. 47. The bid has been awarded.

(e) Mr. Williams asked the status of the potential **Tire Burning Business** that may locate in Columbia County. Mr. Dale Williams explained that it's his understanding that the Planning and Zoning Board tabled a decision until their next meeting later in the month.

#### XIV. Citizen Input - Mr. Huntsinger

Mr. Huntsinger expressed that the Board has created a hornet's nest by attempting to restrict the hours of operation for the **Lake City Speedway**. He said that it's been tried all over the country, but the only result is that this type of restriction will only close them down. Mr. Huntsinger, speaking as a former driver, employee and **racetrack** owner expressed these types of restrictive actions will only provoke the drivers, and that the recent court action has only made a bad solution worse. He said that drivers who are forced to shutdown before a race is finished, will "punch your lights out." Mr. Huntsinger read an article pertaining to racetrack operations and the situation as he sees it. He asked that the recent mandates be rescinded.

Commissioner Flinn expressed that she feels Mr. Huntsinger's comments may indicate violence is being promoted.

Chairman Williams asked Mr. Feagle if the Board should be commenting since the matter is tied up in court, and since the attorneys for both sides have been instructed to "try" to work out an agreement. Mr. Feagle responded the decision was at the total discretion of the Chair, but confirmed that the Judge has asked that the parties make an effort to resolve as many of the issues as possible to attempt to establish reasonable regulations. Mr. Feagle directed that the Board should not engage in the legal issues, but that a public hearing may be beneficial.

The Chair and Commissioner Flinn both agreed that it would be advantageous to refrain from debating the issue. However, Ms. Flinn asked that the comments regarding "punching your lights out," be passed on to the Judge for consideration. Mr. Huntsinger continued to reiterate that a racer would indeed "punch your lights out" if you asked that he/she stop in the middle of a race, and that indeed a sheriff would then be needed.

*Clerk's Notes: See Section XVI below for additional comments.*

#### XV. Citizen Input - Rufus Ogden, Jr.

Regarding the **redistricting**, Mr. Ogden asked for clarification of the redistricting. The clarification was that Commissioners from Districts 1, 2, and 5 have been appointed. Mr.



Ogden asked, "*Who on the School Board is District 3 and 4? Who decides on the School Board?*" The Chair was without knowledge. Mr. Ogden said that he feels it's important that each district have equal representation, even if every member attends the meetings. Commissioner Flinn said that District 4 is being represented by School Board Member Keith Hudson. Mr. Ogden complained that it is in no way fair that District 3 be left with no representation, and something should be done about it prior to proceeding with the **redistricting project**.

Mr. Wayne Williams interjected a suggestion that Mr. Feagle investigate the statutes to determine whether additional representatives (above what the statute calls for) can be appointed to the **Redistricting Committee**.

#### XVI. Citizen Input - Pamela Miller

Ms. Miller said that she is employed by **Lake City Speedway** as a Public Relations Representative. She clarified that they in no way advocate violence at their track, and have never had a need to hire off-duty law enforcement officers to work at their racetrack. She told the Board that in three years, there has only been one incident where law enforcement was called for assistance. She assured the Board that their operation is family oriented.

#### XVII. Citizen Input - Kenneth Witt Regarding **Ormond Witt Road**.

*Clerk's Note: Because several calls were made asking when the minutes would be ready, and that emphasis be put on certain sections of this discussion, a decision was made by the Clerk to transcribe this section in verbatim form.*

*Abbreviation Used: Witt (Kenneth Witt), Chair (Commissioner Ronald Williams), Flinn (Commissioner Jennifer Flinn), M. Feagle (County Attorney Marlin Feagle), Weaver (Commissioner Dewey Weaver), Bidwell (Citizen Timothy Bidwell)*

Witt: Good evening. I'm Kenneth Witt at Route 3 Box 337, Lake City Florida. Mr. Chairman, Board members, I have a little thing here, I wanna bring up that was brought up back in January. I think you got some wrong information, and I want to correct the information. On uh...the road funds that you reallocated on that day; on January 16, 2003 meeting.

Commissioner Flinn stated that **Ormond Witt Road**...that everybody on their did not want it paved, but that was not true. Because I have a signed petition by people that owns property, or lives on that road. And, I'd like to pass them out to you now, and also .. uh... (Witt pauses to pass out copies of a petition) It wasn't just for Ormond Witt road to be paved; that money. That money was put in there to also take care of **Buckley Road**. I think all of you remember out there where 349 and I-75 comes in. It was to correct a problem there that DOT created for us quite a few years ago. The road gets bad, and they can't get up on the road. I put in there, while I was

commissioner, temporarily.... right at the road where the people could get onto the road, without having a serious accident. It needs to go back a little further and be paved. That's what that money was set aside.... If you'll go back and check at the Road Department, you'll find that to be true.

Also, on the petition that was presented after the Board meeting on January 16th also has, for the other side, has minors' signature on there. I don't think minors should sign. I think there should be an adult to sign it. And it should be people that joins the road, not people that don't join the road. And you have three names on the original... people who signed the other one... you'd only actually have four people that would be eligible to sign it. All of these people here, I can verify either owns property, or lives on this road.

Now, I wanna correct one thing. If you go check it at the Property Appraiser's Office, on one parcel of land Dale and Amber Tompkins owns the land. But it's still in my name, and they've been on it for 3-4 years; several years, and Mr. Feagle can advise ya, and tell ya we gotta problem on it with the title company, and they will not straighten it out. So, it's not in my... it's not my land. Bank of America holds the mortgage on it for them. So, therefore, that's the problem. If you go check it, I wanna have it straightened out. Anybody have a question from where the attorney can straighten it out?

Chair: Where's the other petition?

Witt: Did you pass them out? *(Witt speaks to Lisa Roberts)* Which one?

Chair: You said you had ... uh.. made some reference to another petition.

Witt: Well, ya'll have this one. She's suppose to have presented this one. I only have a copy of it.

Flinn: I do not have that one. No.

Witt: I only have a copy of that one.

Flinn: May I make.... *(Witt interjects as Flinn begins to speak)...*

Witt: This was presented in after the Board meetings. It was no petition at the Board meeting when the decision was made.

Flinn: Mr. Witt, um... I would just like to say you have *(counting)* six, twelve, fourteen names signed on your petition. Eight of them are your personal family members, including Amber Thompkins. I know for a fact that she

is your niece. Um...

Witt: *(Interjection)*...She is not. That is not my niece.

Flinn: Okay. Well, she is related to you in some way.

Witt: She is a cousin.

Flinn: Okay. I'm sorry, she's your cousin. So eight of the fifteen people on your petition that want Ormond Witt Road paved is... are relatives of yours. Now, I received a phone call today, and um... from two of the people on here. One of em' says she did not sign the petition, her husband signed it, and they call to ask me if... to say they were sorry for signing the petition. So, eight of the people on there are your family members of the fifteen. Two felt kinda pressured to sign your petition. And, all I have to say is you own one hundred acres on that road. You told people for four years Mr. Witt, that you had no money! One of them is sitting in the back of the room. Okay. You told them that, but you were saving that money for four years so that you could pave a road that eight of your family members live on. Okay. To me, that is misappropriation of funds. Okay. I don't know about everyone else here in the room, and I would not purposely embarrass you, but you've come here to...and you have purposely embarrassed yourself.

Witt: I have not.

Flinn: I feel that this is just horrible that you would come here and even assume that people would feel sorry for you, when for four years road in District IV went unfixed with potholes. Do you know what "this" money went for? This money went into Precinct 16 to fix an entire neighborhood with very many people in it, because they had potholes. This went to Precinct 7 to fix roads. This went to Precinct 8 to fix roads, and there's still money left over. But, you were gonna use it on your personal road, and by the way, Buckley Road, do you have a relatives living on Buckley Road?

Witt: Not uh, no, no immediate kin, no.

Flinn: Okay, but do you have a good friend....You have a good friend...*(Witt interjects - speaks simultaneously)*

Witt: I have lots cousins in Columbia County and if you go down.... and I would have...they may be 10th uh 12th cousin...uh yes.

Flinn: Well, I'm not going *(Witt begins speaking simultaneously)*.... to embarrass the gentleman on Buckley Road, but I know for a fact that you have a very good friend on Buckley Road. He's a good man, and I'm not going to embarrass him, but I do know for a fact you were doing favors for your

- family and your friends, and that's why you are out there and you are not here anymore. Because...
- Witt: Let me tell you something. I wanna ask you a question. Who was the person that said they didn't sign this? I think I should...
- Flinn: I am not going to embarrass those people.
- Witt: You're gonna have to be able to tell me cause, that uh..., they were all... I watched them all sign it.
- Flinn: They felt pressured to sign it. They have called me this afternoon. They wish to not be embarrassed in front of this Board, and I'm not going to embarrass them, because you came here to embarrass yourself.
- Witt: Well, I'm gonna tell you right now.....*(Flinn interjects)*...
- Flinn: I will tell you out of the public meeting, out of here, who those two people are if you wish to know.
- Witt: ....each one of these people signed this. I would like to know who they are.
- Flinn: I will tell you after this meeting, so as to not embarrass them publicly.
- Witt: I think it needs to come out in the public meeting, because I think it's public. This (the petition) is what I put out in public, and I think if you got anything else, it should be made public, and I don't think it should be hidden from the public. Nobody pressure anybody in signing this thing whatsoever. And, I think that uh.....
- Flinn: I asked these people to come, and they were in fear to come, because they felt that you pressured them.
- Witt: This...this...is something that ... *(Flinn interjects)*... You just (inaudible).....
- Flinn: The other eight are your family members.
- Witt: And also, what since you say embarrassing you, I wanna say this once and for all. I got people this afternoon call me and said that I said that you.... You not telling people that I said, that you said, that you was gonna pave the roads. I did not tell ....*(Flinn interjects)*.....
- Flinn: The campaign is over Mr. Witt. The campaign is over Mr. Witt. We don't need to re-hash campaign issues...*(Witt interjects)*...*(Chair signals for order with gavel)*.....

- Witt: This is Carl Wilson Road today...(Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Flinn: The campaign is order Mr. Witt. Thank you...(Witt interjects).....  
(Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Chair: We can...(inaudible)...but we can't...(inaudible)... (Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Witt: I would like for the Board to consider this thing, is what I'm saying. I would like the Board to take consideration, because this was not given when...at the time when you was told that you had a petition, and you didn't have one. It was got after the facts, and I think that that's something that Commissioner Flinn...she's wanting to embarrass me...she didn't have the facts when she come before y'all, and asked y'all to do it.
- Flinn: I did it with facts that you own one hundred acres that the Property Appraiser gave me. It's with exception of part of that that you have put to your relatives..... (Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Chair: Cease. Cease.
- Witt: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to come around get...uh...your attorney to clarify that I do not have the hundred, that I have sold part of it off, and it's been several years.
- Chair: Uh...We'll honor that request, and I'm gonna, I'm gonna make a decision; tell ya how we gonna handle this.
- Witt: Sir?
- Chair: I say Mar.... I'm gonna, I'm gonna honor that request, for Marlin to verify, do you, or do you not own the one hundred acres.
- M. Feagle: I'm looking at the atlas. I happen to have it with me tonight for another reason. You know what township and section you're in? I don't offhand know how much Mr. Witt owns.
- Witt: Twenty-six. I believe, or thirty-six. One of the two sections...(inaudible)
- M. Feagle: It's going to take a couple of minutes to find that, if the Chairman wants me to do that. This atlas is a couple of years old. It's the most current one that's available in Columbia County...
- Chair: Alright. While...while you're looking, uh... you don't have to do it tonight, but we'll make sure this get on this report that I want Staff

to do. Uh, since we have some discrepancies on who did, and who didn't sign, I'll authorize Staff to contact each Signee here, and I want you to ask them did they sign this petition, or do they want their names off of it.

Flinn: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chair: And, in that report also Marlin, will give us the owner of that piece of property that is in dispute.

M. Feagle: We can audit current acreage, but we need to go to the Property Appraiser's Office and....One thing that Mr. Witt was referring to that I can confirm, because I'm familiar with the title on the property is....There was some discrepancies in the legal description about...uh.. Amber and Donald Thompkins, the properties they owned, and I believe the Property Appraiser's records, because of the error in the legal description, shows that owned by Mr. Witt, when there had been recorded deeds to the other people. I...I think that's about five acres, or..

Witt: It's fifteen acres.

M. Feagle: Is it? Fifteen acres.

Chair: And Mr. Witt, the uh, the Board uh...Ms. Flinn uh... came before the Board and told us that nobody on the Road wanted it paved. So if you hear that nobody on the road want the road paved, then naturally you would say, nobody want it paved. Well, why pave it anyway? And that's what we was told, and that's how this Board based their decision. Am I right? Mr. Weaver?

Weaver: Yes.

Witt: Well this is the reason I'm coming back and seeing if the Board would reverse their decision after they got false information.

Flinn: Uh... That was not false information. Nobody on the road wanted it paved that was not a member of Kenneth Witt's family!

Chair: You didn't tell us that Ms. Flinn.

Flinn: No! I told you... yeah, we had the petition that Ormond Witt passed around. Yes, and it was everybody on the road...he has a petition, and that petition is coming around.

Witt: Well, Mr. Chairman, will you have her to clarify who signed that... It's all Ormond Witt's immediate family. His children and grandchildren.

- Chair: We'll get this situated so the record will be straight, whether the roads are paved or not, but we want to make sure that ....that everything is apples against apples, and not apples and oranges.
- Witt: This is all I'm asking for. For it to be put out... the facts. That's all I'm interested in. I have nothing to hide whatsoever. Everything I do, everybody can open this open for public record. I have nothing to hide. I can verify everything I'm talking about.
- Flinn: So for the four years you were in office, and you told everyone including Mr. Bidwell in the back of the room, "There's no money to fix your road," was that false information?
- Witt: Can I say something.... (Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Witt: I believe the road you're talking about...(Chair signals for order with gavel).....Can I.. Can I repeat for the road that she's talking about, I did pave it before I went out of office. It was paved a few days after the election, but it (inaudible)... in August of this past year (Flinn interjects)....
- Flinn: No, you did not.
- Bidwell: *(Speaking from the audience)*... No sir. You did not. (Flinn interjects)...(inaudible)... (Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Witt: Yes sir. But, it was authorized in August of last year. Uh, Anderson Columbia didn't do it. You can check the records. You don't have to take my word. (Chair signals for order with gavel).....
- Chair: We'll...We'll get to the bottom of it. I asked Staff to do what we need to, and then we'll get back. No use in point-counter pointing this all night.

**The discussion ended.**

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**XVIII. Citizen Input - Mr. Coy Williams**

Mr. Williams asked to share a few observations. He said as the County begins to struggle with the upcoming **2003-2004 Budget**, we are faced with Trickle Down Taxes instead of Trickle Down Economics. He explained that it's taxes put on the counties and cities that the Federal and State governments can't afford. He recognized the that the Commission had many hard financial decisions to make in the upcoming year, and asked that the Board only invest money in the essential needs of the county.

Commissioner Weaver responded, *"The theory is very good that the Federal Government can't pay for it, and they pass it to the State. The State can't pay for it, and they take it to the County. And then, we can decide what we want, and don't want. The theory is really good, but that's not the way it works. The way it works is that the State tells you that you "are" going to pay for it, and that you don't have any choice. You can't decide if you do, or you don't want to pay for it. Because with those programs, they tell you that you "are" going to pay, and then you're forced to cut out things like helping senior citizens."*

Commissioner Williams said along those same lines, *"To follow up on Mr. Weaver's comments, and what you said. One thing that you can be rest assured about, is that this Board won't raise the **millage**. We'll live within our means."* Mr. Williams responded, by saying he thinks that the Charter already imposed that. The response was that it wasn't imposed by the charter.

Mr. C. Williams expressed that he feels the Chair is following the proper procedure for appointments to the **Redistricting Committee**. Mr. Williams stressed to the Board that nothing should be considered in the **redistricting** except population. The Chair replied that that doesn't necessarily apply to Columbia County since there's a federal order with specific guidelines for Columbia County. Mr. Williams interjected that he was certain that the Federal Judge wouldn't overrule the Supreme Court Judge.

Mr. Feagle said that the order was entered in the 1980's and could not be discriminatory. Mr. Feagle said that the County must comply with the order issued in Federal Court from the Jacksonville Middle District.

Mr. Coy Williams said, *"I want to ask you a little bit about the **courthouse**, and the overrides there, and the time frames."* The Chair responded that there are no overrides. Mr. Williams asked if there were any time schedules and if there are penalties for not meeting timelines. The Chair replied, "We're (Columbia County) our own contractor."

Mr. Williams said he read in the paper that there was some overrides in the school property in Fort White, and that the cost was almost double the amount it was appraised at. Mr. Williams expressed that the county should be careful with this type of "thing". The Board responded that they are not familiar with the business of the School Board, and that they consult with the County Attorney with "things" they aren't sure of.

Mr. Williams said, *"Something that I've noticed in this county that you've got a lot of difficulty with is conflict of interest. These are some things you need to get some definitions on."* He expressed the Commission should also look at ethics and bidding. Mr. Williams was not altogether specific.

He also mentioned that he is hopeful someone is watching to make sure the County is following the **Charter**, and that he was encouraged about the increased number of citizens who are now attending Board Meetings.



## XIX. Jennifer Flinn - **Ormond Witt and Buckley Road (revisited)**

*Clerk's Note: Because several calls were made asking when the minutes would be ready, and that emphasis be put on certain sections of this discussion, a decision was made by the Clerk to transcribe this section in verbatim form.*

*Abbreviations Used: Witt (Kenneth Witt), Chair (Commissioner Ronald Williams), Flinn (Commissioner Jennifer Flinn), M. Feagle (County Attorney Marlin Feagle), Weaver (Commissioner Dewey Weaver), Bidwell (Citizen Timothy Bidwell)*

Chair: Anyone else?

Flinn: Mr. Chairman, I do have something. Because we... This is not going back to old stuff, but because we can only speak in the sunshine, and I will not violate the Sunshine Law, I do want to address one other thing with you Mr. Chairman, because of a comment that you made, and we need to address it in the meeting. Because we need to speak in the sunshine. Okay?

Um...the thing was that you said that in the last vote that the Board did not know, when they made that vote, that Kenneth Witt and his immediate family members, would not be for paving the road. I brought with me from Doyle Crews' office, I brought with me and it's in the minutes, the property appraised forms. I did my homework that day. Of all of the people who are on here (*Referring to Petition*) who are Kenneth Witt's daughter, son-in-law, wife, neice. Yes, I did. (*The Chair interjects*)

Chair: No-no. I did not say that... (*Flinn interjects*)

Flinn: I have them all at home.

Chair: I said that you told us, and the minutes will prove it, that no one on the road wanted the road paved. That's... (*Flinn interjects and begins speaking simultaneously with the Chair.*)

Flinn: And, and no one.....(*Finn continues to interject*)...

Chair: (*The Chair continues to finish his comment ignoring the interjection*).... I didn't say anything about the Mr. Witt's relatives... (*inaudible*)

Flinn: Did y-- However, Kenneth Witt we knew wanted the road paved, the commissioner--the former commissioner wanted the road

paved, because he allocated the money to pave it! Obviously, he wanted his road paved. And from the harassing phone calls, which I have on my answering machine from his (Mr. Witt) daughter Valerie Ryals, which I have saved just incase this comes up.... okay.... and we're in the Sunshine, so we need to discuss this.... *(The Chair attempts to interject)*

Chair: Well, I'm gonna... *(The chair attempts to interject)...*

Flinn: ....*(Flinn continues her comments ignoring the interjection)* You can cut me off Mr. Chairman, but I will finish...okay...

Chair: I'm through cutting. Finished! *(Signaled by the gavel)*

Flinn: That's the way you always play the game. "You" finish.

Bidwell: I'd like to speak. *(He speaks as he approaches the Board)*

Chair: Yes sir.

Bidwell: First of all, I know Jennifer that you're a die hard Ernhart fan. Make sure you claim this on your taxes. *(Bidwell jokes as he hands her a cap)*

Flinn: Thank you sir. I am.

Chair: That's... uh legal? *(The chair joins in teasingly)*

Bidwell: Here we go again. Timothy Bidwell; Mason City. And, I'm just here again in reference to.... what - my road. The money District IV. The phone calls that not only I've received, but now I hear that Mrs. Flinn's received. Now, let me tell ya. Since all this has been brought up tonight. Mr. Williams I have a taped conversation between me and you.  
*(The Chair interjects...)*

Chair: And I say what I said again... *(Flinn interjects)*

Flinn: Thank you Mr. Bidwell.

Bidwell: That's fine, but I'm gonna tell you just like I told you on the phone. I don't chew fat. I tell facts.

Chair: Me too.

Bidwell: Okay? Alright. I challenge you, and this whole Committee here, the Board of County Commissioners to show me the paperwork that Mr. Witt says he has - That he fought. Because, Mr. Witt not only told me every year that I lived out there in Mason City, on that crumby road that I never could get paved until Jennifer Flinn got into office. He

also sent a county worker out there. Now, I said it then, and I said it now; I'm not gonna go back on my word. I'm not standing up here, constantly coming up here saying the same thing. I think there's a rat in the woodpile. And if the rat didn't eat the papers, I wanna see em'. That's just the way I look at it. Okay, so how about us all just get together. Put the paper in Jennifer Flinn's hand - you mail it to me. I'd like to see this paper. Because personally, myself, I think it's hockey-pock.

Chair: Alright. Thank you.

Witt: (Speaking from the audience) Could I? If you could get Dale to get the papers and show it....

Chair: Well that's what he asked for.

Flinn: And Mr. Bidwell, could you clarify what that conversation was about before you leave. I'm sorry Mr. Witt (apologizing for the interruption). Your taped conversation on the telephone with Mr. Chairman. *(The Chair interjects)*

Chair: And, and I think it's illegal to tape a conversation without notifying the person that you.... *(Bidwell and Flinn interject)*

Bidwell: Look, first of all...*(Flinn begins to speak simultaneously with Bidwell)...* This is my home. This is "my" home!

Flinn: *(Flinn continues to speak simultaneously with Bidwell and the Chair)* I understand that.....

Chair: *(The Chair continues to speak simultaneously with Bidwell and Flinn)..... (inaudible).. the ..(inaudible) Sheriff...(inaudible).... he says.*

Bidwell: I don't care what the Sheriff says, he wants to come out there and come to my house, and go through .... *(inaudible)...* *(Bidwell continues to speak simultaneously with Flinn and the Chair)*

Flinn: Mine are on my answering machine. I didn't tape my harassing phone calls.

Bidwell: ...*(Inaudible)...**(Continuing to talk simultaneously with the Chair and Flinn)...*

Chair: *(There is a consistent banging of the gavel in an attempt to re-gain order. The Chair continues to take part in the heated discussion, while hitting the consistently)....(Inaudible)... and....*

Chair: ...*(The gavel continues to bang)...* and I will tell Mrs. Flinn what is said...  
*(Flinn interjects speaking to Valerie Ryals in the audience)*

Flinn: And I saved it Valerie!

Chair: "I" said to Mr. Bidwell. I called him and I said, "Mr. Bidwell, when you see Mr. Witt thank him for paving your road, because Ms. Flinn did not pave it." And he told..... *(Flinn interjects)*

Flinn: How unethical is that? *(The Chair continues to speak)...*

Chair: ... and he told me, I ...just what he just said then. "I don't care what you say, I know that nothing was done with my road, and I know road didn't get paid until Mrs. Flinn." Am I right?

Bidwell: You just simply amaze me brother. *(Bidwell laughed heartily)* Just simply amaze....

Weaver: Mr. Chairman... Mr. *(Flinn interjects)*

Flinn: Un-ethical!

Weaver: Motion to adjourn.

Flinn: Mr. Chairman...

Bidwell: Excuse me....

Chair: We have a motion to adjourn. Is there a second?

Bidwell: I'm not done. *(Bidwell and Montgomery speak simultaneously)*

Montgomery: Second. *(Montgomery and Bidwell speak simultaneously)*

Chair: We adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Ronald Williams, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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P. DeWitt Cason  
Clerk of Circuit Court