

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**APRIL 22, 2014**

A BCC Sales Tax Workshop was held at the Murdock Administrative Complex, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Members present were: Chair Doherty, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Duffy, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Sandrock, County Attorney Knowlton, Deputy County Administrator Shoemaker, and Minutes Clerk Greene. The following members were absent: None.

**The meeting was called to Order at 2:30 pm**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker provided an overview of the Agenda.

**1. Gun Range**

David Milligan, Director of Facilities Construction and Maintenance, detailed discussions with the Sheriff's Office regarding the Gun Range, noted accommodations, advantages, and disadvantages of an indoor gun range, stated an indoor gun range would be acceptable to meet training needs, and indicated sniper training may be slightly affected if changed to an indoor range.

**Commissioner Duffy** questioned if the proposed indoor gun range would be on the same piece of property as the existing outdoor Range. **Commissioner Deutsch** asked if the outdoor Gun Range was used during evening hours, questioned what is precipitating the discussion of an indoor range, and inquired what would become of the outdoor range if the indoor range was pursued. **Chair Doherty** requested details of the Airport Master Plan relating to the Gun Range.

Mr. Milligan affirmed the proposed indoor gun range would be built on the existing Airport Annex Property, noted some sniper training may be affected as the Range transitioned to an indoor facility, commented that lighting scenarios can be simulated with an indoor range, said the current outdoor range is not deficient to the Sheriff's Office needs, explained the status and projected plans of the Airport Annex Site Master Plan, indicated the Master Plan included development of a District Three (3) Headquarters, stated the Master Plan is included in the upcoming year Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), and advised that the outdoor Gun Range would ultimately be abandoned in the proposed indoor range scenario.

**2. South County Library and Archive**

Deputy County Administrator Shoemaker stated the Board requested staff work together to provide figures relating to operating costs based upon the functions of the Englewood Library. Tommy Scott, Community Services Director, provided a listing of costs required to operate the Library in addition to existing expenses.

**Commissioner Duffy** commented on the proposed costs, questioned if the costs were more due to the larger size of the facility, mentioned past discussions that the South County Library would not be as large as a regional library, spoke to the size of the Port Charlotte Library, inquired if the functions of the Bayshore Road Historical

Center functions would be moved to the Archive portion of the proposed South County Library, requested research conducted for renovations of the existing Punta Gorda Library Building, and asked if the concept of utilizing the existing Punta Gorda Library as an Archive has been explored by staff. **Commissioner Constance** requested a further breakdown of the salaries and wages listed, commented on the number of employees required for Library operation, questioned the current operating costs of the Mid County Regional Library, asked for a breakdown of the Mid County and West County Library operating costs, inquired how staff quantifies the usage of the Punta Gorda Library, spoke to the population density surrounding the Port Charlotte Library related to the number of annual transactions, and opined there is no space for expansion of parking spaces for the current Punta Gorda Library site. **Commissioner Deutsch** questioned the square footage of the proposed Archive, opined the Archive is too small for the amount of material needing to be stored, requested a comparison of the Punta Gorda Library transactions to the Englewood Library, asked if the South County Library proposal would be similar to the Englewood Library, and commented on the size of the proposed South County Library. **Chair Doherty** spoke to the utilization of the Punta Gorda Library Building as an Archive location, and opined the finished floor elevation is too low for archival purposes.

Mr. Scott spoke to additional personnel costs equating to \$258,000 for operation of the proposed facility, affirmed he would provide a breakdown of all County library operating costs, indicated the size of the South County Library would be smaller than a regional library but would include the Archive spacing of 1,000 square feet, explained the function of the Archive, noted the Archive would not diminish the Bayshore Historical Center purpose, clarified items for the Archive go through an intake process and would be stored appropriately, provided statistics related to the annual number of items used per County library, highlighted the issue of parking with the current Punta Gorda Library, detailed staff exploration of the Punta Gorda Library renovation, and stated research has not been conducted for additional Archive locations. Anne Shepherd, Division Manager of Library and History, responded to Board inquiries related to the number of full and part time employees, described how the number of visitors are quantified for the libraries, and noted the Punta Gorda Library is exponentially busier than the Englewood Library. Jackie Brown, Historian, differentiated items for archive purposes and museum objects which have a need to be stored.

### **3. Placida Bunkhouse**

Deputy County Administrator Shoemaker noted the Board requested specific information related to the estimates provided for the Placida Bunkhouse, mentioned approximately twelve (12) to fifteen (15) volunteers have been actively involved in attempts for preservation, and indicated the group is not yet a 501c(3) organization. Mr. Milligan stated an extensive review was conducted of the estimate, indicated two (2) staff members reviewed the inflation, explained that approximately \$30,000 was reduced in inflation costs, and advised he was not comfortable with bringing forth different estimated costs. Ms. Shepherd commented that the Charlotte County Historical Board has conducted a Community awareness event at the Placida Bunkhouse inviting people to work with them. Ms. Brown stated the Charlotte County Historical Board has been appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and have been working hard to get this Project completed.

**Commissioner Duffy** expressed her reservations regarding the Project, questioned who would staff the Bunkhouse, asked if there would be an admissions charge, and commented that all Projects on the Sales Tax List should be thoroughly reviewed. **Commissioner Constance** opined the importance of preserving historical items

and archives, indicated the need for an economic generator, and stated relevance needs to be programmed into the projects. **Chair Doherty** requested to meet with the organization pushing the Project completion, questioned the budget encompassment, and asked that the additional information be provided. **Commissioner Truex** commented that information is needed related to the future use of the Bunkhouse, expressed concern with the Project timeframe, indicated the building is unprotected and will wither away, opined the Bunkhouse would never be self-sustaining, and asked how the Bunkhouse could become a tourist destination.

#### **4. CR 771 (next phase)**

Dan Quick, Public Works Director, provided an overview of Scenarios One (1) and Two (2) related to the next phases of CR 771.

**Chair Doherty** stated he requested additional information on the topic due to Mid County and South County having Sales Tax Infrastructure Projects opposed to West County, indicated he speculated that a road project of CR 771 magnitude would be costly, expressed concern with the hurricane evacuation route of the Cape Haze Peninsula, and questioned if the Project should be considered if additional funding is received. **Commissioner Duffy** opined there may be less of an issue with hurricane evacuation in the area due to the retirement age of the Community and their tendency to evacuate sooner. **Commissioner Truex** questioned specifics of the proposed Road improvements, commented on the number of vacant lots that will eventually be developed on the Cape Haze Peninsula, inquired of possible savings for the design of the Project, and stated the Project may fall into a category other than Tier One (1) and Tier Two (2) Projects. **Commissioner Deutsch** opined the Project is complex because the bridge would then require lane widening. **Commissioner Constance** stated his agreement and spoke to concurrency on the maps provided.

#### **5. Justice Center Discussion (Continued from April 22, 2014 Regular Meeting; Commissioner Comments)**

**Chair Doherty** indicated he would be meeting with the County Administrator the following day to discuss the matter, questioned if the Justice Center spatial requirements and implementation schedule were identified, inquired of the primary deficiencies in the current space, requested sequencing specifics required for the improvements, noted the importance of cash flow due to the interconnectedness of the upgrades, mentioned the need for options to review for the May 13, 2014 Public Hearing, and stated the Justice Center Project may need to be integrated into the Sales Tax Project List. **Commissioner Constance** commented that expansions of the Justice Center are needed due to population growth, questioned when the building was constructed, noted past sentiments that the building is too large, opined purchasing the land abutting the Justice Center for parking spaces would be less expensive than construction of a parking garage, inquired if estimates could be reworked, and spoke to stormwater drainage. **Commissioner Truex** provided details of his tour and meeting the previous day at the Justice Center, noted all needs have not yet been identified, indicated the storage space on the first floor comprises of approximately 16,000 square feet, commented on the ability to destroy a number of documents that have been scanned and stored electronically, mentioned space is still needed for documents unable to be disposed of, spoke to the State Attorney's Office challenge with requiring additional staff with space limitations, stated the Public Defender's Office wished to remain within the Justice Center, advised that the walkway could be enclosed to provide the security screening process, questioned if space transitioning qualifies for utilization of Sales Tax dollars, and opined the Probation Department is in need of an updated

facility including secluded restrooms for urine testing purposes. **Commissioner Duffy** questioned if the walkway portion of the Justice Center could be built out, suggested the possibility of moving the Probation Department to another location, inquired if CareHere could provide resources to conduct the Probation Department's urine testing, asked if efficiencies in departments have been researched to keep the number of employees required for operations down, and expressed concern for taking other projects off of the Sales Tax List to accommodate the costs for Justice Center renovations.

Mr. Milligan responded to Board inquiries related to the Stakeholders original study, deficiencies including the Public Defender and State Attorney Offices, sequencing of the interrelated plans, expressed agreement that the documents should be removed from the Justice Center first, affirmed the estimates could be reworked to include the hypothetical purchase of the land and construction of parking spaces, noted the Conceptual Plan includes the enclosure of the walkway, indicated the Project is scheduled for completion in 2022, and stated efficiency efforts include going paperless. Deputy County Administrator Shoemaker explained additional information could be found within their Sales Tax Project List binders and stated the Justice Center was constructed with 1994 Sales Tax Revenue. County Administrator Sandrock suggested as in the past; bundling the Projects together and increasing the millage rate for those types of Projects.

Deputy County Administrator Shoemaker provided an overview of the process for the May 13, 2014 Public Hearing related to the Sales Tax Projects list, noted the length of the referendum, and project marketing pieces. County Administrator Sandrock questioned if the Board would consider an eight (8) year referendum. Board discussion ensued related to the length of referendum, upcoming meeting format, the Sales Tax Project Ordinance, and ballot language. Assistant County Attorney Daniel Gallagher advised requirements related to the Sales Tax Project Ordinance and Ballot Language.

**Commissioner Duffy** stated the Board should decide whether or not to spend money fixing the Stadium parking lot and stated her preference to use remaining funds for construction of a splash pad. **Commissioner Constance** said Sales Tax Revenue may not be needed for Stadium parking lot repairs due to the increase in Tourism Tax dollars.

**ADJOURNED: 3:49 pm**

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**Ken Doherty, Chair**

**DATE ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**  
**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK**  
**OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND**  
**EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD**  
**OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_