

CAPTIONING
DECEMBER 12, 2005
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

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***therefore, there may be additions, deletions, or words
***that did not translate.**

>>JAN PLATT: THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WILL PLEASE COME TO
ORDER.

WILL EVERYONE RISE, AS WE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND BOW OUR
HEADS.

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

LET'S BOW OUR HEADS FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THOSE WHO
ARE FIGHTING FOR US THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND FOR THEIR
FAMILIES.

[MOMENT OF SILENCE]

IN GOD'S NAME WE PRAY.

AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD CARE TO
SPEAK?

THE PUBLIC MAY SPEAK -- MAY SPEAK FOR THREE MINUTES.

IS THERE ANYONE IN THE PUBLIC WHO WOULD CARE TO SPEAK?

SIR, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY ANYTHING?

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THEN STAFF UPDATE.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: GOOD EVENING, MEMBERS.

YOU WILL FIND IN YOUR PACKAGE A COUPLE OF THINGS.

YOU WILL SEE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 1st AND
DECEMBER 12th.

YOU WILL SEE THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY EXPENSES ACTUALLY HIT
THE BOOKS IN OUR FAMIS SYSTEM YET.

POSSIBLY BY THE NEXT MEETING WE WILL HAVE THOSE REPORTS TO
YOU RELATED TO THE COST OF ADVERTISING.

DAVID.

>>DAVID STORCK: THE -- YOU HAVE A FIGURE ON WHAT THAT
ADVERTISING COST WAS?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: NO, I ACTUALLY DON'T.

I KNOW THAT IT WAS -- CAROL -- 1500 FOR THE FLYER, AND IT
SEEMS TO ME THAT THE LAST -- THAT WITH THE PREVIOUS TIME
THAT WE DID IT, IT WAS ABOUT 2,000 FOR THE TRIBUNE.

SO IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO COME IN SOMEWHERE AROUND \$6,000
TOTAL.

>>DAVID STORCK: WELL, I JUST FOUND OUT WE DON'T -- WE
DIDN'T HAVE A QUORUM LAST MEETING, SO WE DON'T HAVE
MINUTES, BUT DO WE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOWED UP
LAST MEETING TO COMMENT?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THERE WAS --
THERE WERE -- NOBODY FROM THE PUBLIC, ALTHOUGH MR. WHITE
STEPPED DOWN AND SPOKE AS A PUBLIC CITIZEN.

>>DAVID STORCK: SO BASICALLY, WE'VE SPENT \$3500, AND WE'VE HAD ZERO PEOPLE SHOW UP?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: YES, SIR.

>>DAVID STORCK: OKAY.

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW.

THANK YOU.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: YES, SIR.

YOU'LL ALSO FIND UNDER CORRESPONDENCE THAT MR. CRONK SENT YOU A LETTER.

YOU REMEMBER HE HAS SPOKE TO YOU ON EMINENT DOMAIN BEFORE. AND MR. WHITE HAD SOME HANDOUTS LAST TIME ON THE COUNTY MAYOR QUESTION, AND THOSE ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKAGE, AS ARE AN E-MAIL FROM MR. WHITE TO INCLUDE THE ITEMS THAT HE HAD REQUESTED FOR THE LAST MEETING, THE DISCUSSION OF SOME ADDITIONAL INVITATIONS, AND AN E-MAIL FROM RON WOLFE REQUESTING THAT YOU-ALL LOOK AT SOME OF THESE ISSUES AGAIN. THAT'S, I BELIEVE, ALL THAT IS IN THIS PACKAGE AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MEMO, WHICH I BELIEVE HE WILL ADDRESS.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

AND SO GERALD WHITE'S HANDOUTS HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER NEW BUSINESS, SO WE'LL DEAL WITH THOSE AT THAT TIME, AND I GUESS UNDER NEW BUSINESS, IF ANYBODY WANTED TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE THAT RON WOLFE BROUGHT UP, THAT THEY COULD BRING IT UP AT NEW BUSINESS TOO.

IS THERE ANYTHING UNDER YOUR AREA THAT NEEDS TO BE VOTED ON?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: NO, NOT AT THIS TIME.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

I NOTICE WE DON'T HAVE APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: WE DON'T HAVE THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

I BELIEVE THAT THE -- THE MESSAGE THAT WE RECEIVED FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE WAS THAT THEY'D HAD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE OUT SICK WITH SOMETHING THAT'S GOING AROUND AND HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE BIT BEHIND ON THOSE.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO BRING THOSE TO OUR NEXT MEETING?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY THEN.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. THROWER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE DID NOT APPROVE -- LAST MEETING WE DIDN'T HAVE A QUORUM, SO WE DIDN'T APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MEETING PRIOR TO THE LAST ONE EITHER, SO WE'VE --

>>JAN PLATT: AND I DON'T THINK THAT WE HAVE -- DO WE HAVE THOSE IN OUR BACKUP?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: NO.

>>JAN PLATT: SO I THINK ALL OF THOSE NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT MEETING'S BACKUP SO WE CAN APPROVE THOSE.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: WHATEVER WE HAVE WILL BE INCLUDED AT THE

NEXT MEETING.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I WOULD ALSO REQUEST THAT THE WEB SITE BE COMPLETELY UPDATED WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S AVAILABLE RELATED TO MINUTES, THE AGENDA, AND THE TRANSCRIPT.

SOME OF THEM IN SOME AREAS ARE MISSING.

I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I'M JUST -- WHEN I PULLED IT UP TO LOOK AT IT TODAY, I JUST NOTICED SOME AREAS ARE MISSING.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: MAYBE I COULD GET WITH YOU AFTER THE MEETING AND FIND OUT WHAT THOSE ARE, BECAUSE AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE HAVE SUBMITTED EVERYTHING.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, JUST LOOK AT THE WEB SITE, AND WHERE THERE'S A BLANK ON CERTAIN DATES, JUST, YOU KNOW, FIGURE OUT WHY THAT PARTICULAR INFORMATION IS MISSING.

IT'S JUST BLANK.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, JUST MAKE SURE WE'RE CONSISTENT.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: I'LL CHECK THAT TOMORROW.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT NOT NECESSARILY ADD ANY NEW THINGS THAT -- A LOT OF BUSY WORK.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: AND THEY -- AND SOME OF THOSE BLANKS MAY HAVE BEEN THOSE MINUTES THAT WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED YET.

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT IS THERE --

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: -- SO I'LL CHECK THAT TOMORROW MORNING.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE ANYTHING, THEN, THAT WE NEED TO VOTE ON REGARDING YOUR MATERIAL?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: NO, THERE IS NOT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THEN OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY, KEN TINKLER.

>>KEN TINKLER: GOOD EVENING, BOARD MEMBERS.

KEN TINKLER, SENIOR ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY.

THE ONLY THING I HAD FOR THIS EVENING IS JUST TO LET YOU KNOW THE LETTER WENT OUT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUESTING AN OPINION REGARDING THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S PROPOSAL.

THAT WENT OUT IN OVERNIGHT MAIL THE END OF NOVEMBER.

WE CERTAINLY HOPE TO HAVE A RESPONSE BACK HOPEFULLY BY YOUR NEXT MEETING, BUT CERTAINLY BEFORE YOUR TERM EXPIRES.

I'D BE CERTAINLY HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

THAT'S ALL I HAD THIS EVENING.

>>JAN PLATT: WHEN DOES OUR TERM EXPIRE?

>>KEN TINKLER: IT WOULD BE FEBRUARY 20th, I BELIEVE.

>>JAN PLATT: FEBRUARY 20th.

OKAY.

OKAY.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER -- ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

YES, MS. WILSON.

>>JANET WILSON: MR. TINKLER, THAT WAS A GOOD LETTER THAT'S IN THE PACKET.

IT SEEMS THERE'S A LOT AGAINST HAVING SOMETHING IN THE CHARTER THAT PREVENTS THE COUNTY FROM HAVING IMMUNITY TO TAXES THAT -- ON LAND THEY OWN.

WOULD IT BE NOT POSSIBLE TO PUTS SOMETHING IN THERE, THEN, THAT SAYS IF THEY MAKE A CONTRACT WITH SOMEONE USING COUNTY LAND, THEY MUST PAY THE TAXES?

>>KEN TINKLER: THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING I'D HAVE TO RESEARCH.

>>JANET WILSON: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: IF THE BOARD WISHES, I COULD CERTAINLY LOOK INTO THAT.

>>JANET WILSON: IT JUST SEEMS MORE SIMPLE THAN GOING THROUGH SEVERAL OF THE ITEMS THAT WERE MENTIONED IN THE LETTERS.

>>KEN TINKLER: OFFHAND, IT WOULD BRING UP LOTS OF LETTERS AS FAR AS CONTRACTING ABILITY OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

>>JANET WILSON: I THOUGHT IT WOULD.

>>KEN TINKLER: IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME ADDITIONAL RESEARCH.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>JANET WILSON: DID WE WANT TO KNOW THAT OR WOULD WE HAVE TO VOTE TO HAVE HIM RESEARCH THAT?

>>JAN PLATT: YES, WE'D HAVE TO VOTE TO HAVE HIM RESEARCH THAT.

>>JANET WILSON: I'D MAKE A MOTION TO HAVE HIM RESEARCH

WHETHER IT COULD BE INCLUDED, THAT WHOEVER IS MAKING PROFIT BY USING COUNTY LAND WOULD HAVE TO PAY THE TAXES.

I MEAN THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE CONTRACT OR IN THE CHARTER RATHER THAN ELIMINATING IMMUNITY.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE --

>>JANET WILSON: HIS LETTER SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF CASES AGAINST ELIMINATING IMMUNITY, AND IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM FAIR FOR TAXES FOR PROFIT-MAKING BUSINESSES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO CAN HARDLY PAY THEIR TAXES.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

IS THERE A SECOND TO THE MOTION?

>>GERALD WHITE: I'LL SECOND IT BECAUSE I NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S SAYING.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

NOW THE FLOOR IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION.

>>GERALD WHITE: CAN YOU -- CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'RE --

>>JANET WILSON: WELL, IN THE BACKUP, WE HAD ASKED HIM TO RESEARCH ELIMINATING IMMUNITY FOR PROFIT-MAKING COMPANIES, JUST -- I'M NOT USING ALL THE LEGAL LANGUAGE, BUT IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE COUNTY IS LEASING THEIR LAND TO SOMEONE WHO MAKES A PROFIT -- AND THEY MIGHT BE IN A BUSINESS -- SAME BUSINESS SOMEBODY ELSE IS THAT ISN'T ON COUNTY LAND -- THEN THERE'S IMMUNITY FROM TAXES FOR THAT BUSINESS.

OF COURSE, THE COUNTY DOESN'T PAY TAXES ON THEIR OWN LAND,

BUT WHY SHOULD ANY PROFIT-MAKING COMPANY HAVE A LEASE THAT MAKES ALL THE OTHER TAXPAYERS PAY THE TAX FOR THAT PIECE OF PROPERTY?

AND I WONDERED IF THEY COULD PUT IN A CONTRACT SOME WAY OR IN THE CHARTER THAT LAND LEASED TO A PROFIT-MAKING COMPANY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THAT COMPANY PAY THE TAXES.

AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE STADIUM.

THAT'S ALREADY DONE.

I WOULD THINK THAT WOULD BE GRANDFATHERED IN.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, LET ME ASK YOU, OUR RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT IS OPERATED BY A PRIVATE BUSINESS.

OUR LANDFILL IS OPERATED BY A PRIVATE BUSINESS.

THE COUNTY OWNS THOSE -- BOTH PROPERTIES.

DOES ANYBODY PAY TAXES ON THOSE PROPERTIES?

>>KEN TINKLER: THOSE ARE COUNTY PROPERTIES AND ARE IMMUNE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

SO THAT -- THE PRIVATE PARTY DOESN'T PAY TAXES AND THE COUNTY DOESN'T, BECAUSE --

>>KEN TINKLER: AND THE ISSUE WOULD STILL BRING UP THE FACT THAT THERE IS IMMUNITY ON THE PROPERTY.

THERE WOULD NOT BE TAXES TO PAY IF THE PROPERTY IS IMMUNE, AND YOU COULD CERTAINLY LOOK INTO WHETHER THERE'S SOME PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE REGARDS.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT IS YOUR INTENT, THEN, JANET, THAT THOSE -
- THAT THOSE TYPES OF OPERATIONS WOULD THEN PAY PROPERTY

TAXES?

>>JANET WILSON: WELL, I FEEL THOSE ARE PUBLIC SERVICES, JUST LIKE A SEWAGE PLANT OR -- JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HAVING SOMEONE ELSE DO THE SERVICE OR RUN IT IS DIFFERENT THAN A COMPANY MAKING A PROFIT --

>>JAN PLATT: BUT I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER EXAMPLES.

>>JANET WILSON: -- I MEAN THAT'S IN THE BUSINESS TO MAKE A PROFIT THAT'S NOT PROVIDING A SERVICE FOR ALL THE TAXPAYERS, LIKE PARKS OR ANYTHING.

JUST BECAUSE SOMEBODY MIGHT OPERATE THE RECREATIONAL -- IT WOULD TAKE A LOT OF CORRECT LEGAL WRITING, BUT IT CAN BE MISUSED, GIVING IT TO SOME COMPANIES THAT MAKE A PROFIT AND NOT OTHERS AND ARE NOT PROVIDING -- SUPPOSED -- THE -- FOR INSTANCE, THE PROPERTY APPRAISER HAS TOLD ME MANY PROPERTIES ARE LISTED AS 501(C)(3)s, AND YOU GO OUT THERE, AND THEY'RE NOTHING BUT A USED CAR LOT OR SOME OTHER TYPE OF ACTUAL PROFIT-MAKING BUSINESS, AND SO IT WOULD BE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN A COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SOMEBODY THAT'S BUILD -- JUST BUILDING CARS OR IN BUSINESS FOR A PROFIT THAT ANOTHER COMPANY IS DOING THE SAME THING.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT SEE, I DON'T KNOW OF ANY GOVERNMENT LANDS THAT ARE IN THAT SITUATION.

I THINK WHAT -- WHAT ALDERMAN -- WHAT ALDERMAN -- THAT'S TERRIBLE TO SAY --

>>JANET WILSON: TURNER.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT'S A TIME WARP.

[LAUGHTER]

A BIG ONE.

OUR PROPERTY APPRAISER --

>>RALPH FISHER: ROB TURNER.

>>JAN PLATT: I KNOW, ROB TURNER, THE NEW LIGHT IN -- I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT FOR ROB TURNER, BUT I THINK WHAT HE IS TRYING TO GET AT ARE THOSE SPORTS FACILITIES, AND I DON'T KNOW IF THOSE ARE LEASES OR -- THAT HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED ON THERE OR -- I DON'T KNOW IF THEY -- I THINK THAT'S HIS TARGET; IS IT NOT?

>>KEN TINKLER: RIGHT, AND -- AND PROPERTY APPRAISERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAVE HAD ISSUES REGARDING IMMUNITY VERSUS EXEMPTION.

THIS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING DEBATE AND ONGOING CHANGE IN CASE LAW.

I THINK THE REASON WHY WE WERE LOOKING FOR AN ATTORNEY GENERAL POSITION IS WE HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS ISSUE, HIS COUNSEL HAS ADDITIONAL OPINION.

BOTH ARE PERFECTLY VALID, THE CASE LAW IS NOT CONSISTENT IN THIS AREA, AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE HOPING FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO GIVE US SOME GUIDANCE ON THAT.

>>JANET WILSON: WELL, ISN'T HE ALSO, THOUGH, TALKING ABOUT IF MORE SPORTS COME IN OR SOMETHING, AND JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING DOESN'T EXIST NOW -- WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK

AHEAD, NOT JUST WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW OR WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE PAST.

THINGS ARE CHANGING SO, AND WE'RE GROWING SO, AND IF YOU GET A PRINCIPLE, IT CAN BE MISUSED.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. FISHER.

>>RALPH FISHER: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

I MEAN, THE REAL ISSUE HERE TONIGHT IS NOT THE FACT THAT THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OR WHATEVER ISN'T PAYING TAX.

THE REAL ISSUE -- AND, YOU KNOW, WE WERE ASKED, GO OUT -- YOU KNOW, ABOUT FOUR MEETINGS AGO -- AND FIND OUT WHAT PEOPLE ARE UPSET ABOUT.

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M HEARING THEY'RE UPSET ABOUT?

THEY GO AND SAVE THEIR MONEY AND PUT \$5,000 DOWN ON A \$200,000 HOUSE, AND THEIR TAXES ARE FIVE OR SIX OR SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR, AND ME, BECAUSE I BOUGHT MY HOUSE BACK IN 1994, I PAY A FRACTION OF WHAT THEY PAY FOR A HOUSE THAT'S ARGUABLY WORTH THE SAME.

I MEAN, THAT IS WHAT -- IF MS. WILSON WANTS TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING -- AND I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S FOR US TO DECIDE.

I DON'T KNOW IF THE COMMISSIONERS SHOULDN'T DECIDE THIS, BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DO WHAT ROB TURNER WANTS.

I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD MAKE A THEORETICAL TAX ON AN ENTITY THAT'S ALREADY IMMUNE FROM TAXATION AND THEN HAVE THEM PUT IT IN A CONTRACT BECAUSE IT'S JUST OUTSIDE OUR PURVIEW, SO I VOTE -- I SUGGEST THAT WE VOTE AGAINST

MS. WILSON'S PROPOSAL TO HAVE MR. TINKLER RESEARCH THIS, BUT, I MEAN, REALLY, EVERY ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM KNOWS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING PAYING THEIR TAXES BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BUY IN EARLY ENOUGH, AND I'M TELLING YOU, IF THIS BOARD DOESN'T DEAL WITH IT, ANOTHER BOARD WILL ON THE ISSUE OF UNFAIRNESS OF TAXATION IN THIS COUNTY.

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH, BUT NO, THAT IS ALL BECAUSE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT PASSED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW MANY YEARS AGO.

>>RALPH FISHER: IT WAS IN '92 OR '93, AND IT TOOK EFFECT IN '94.

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT DID EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

>>RALPH FISHER: YOU KNOW WHAT?

EVEN WITHOUT THAT AMENDMENT, THE FACT IS TAXES ARE OUTRAGEOUS.

THEY ARE OUTRAGEOUS.

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S NOT THE TAXES, IT'S THE VALUE OF THE LAND.

THAT'S WHAT THE PROBLEM IS.

>>RALPH FISHER: YOU KNOW WHAT, IT'S THE TAXES.

IT'S THE RATE.

>>SHARON MILLER: [INAUDIBLE]

>>RALPH FISHER: AND IT'S SO HIGH, FORGET THE AMENDMENT,

THE FAIRNESS FACTOR.

THEY ARE TOO HIGH.

WE HAD A MEMBER OF THIS BOARD, I THINK IT WAS MR. STORCK,
EARLY ON SAID HE PAYS MORE IN PROPERTY TAXES THAN HE DOES
IN INCOME TAXES.

AND HE'S A MAJOR EXECUTIVE.

THIS IS JUST SO UNFAIR.

I TELL YOU WHAT.

IT WON'T BE THIS BOARD, I DON'T THINK, BUT SOMEBODY --
ELECTED OFFICIALS OR SOMEBODY IS GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH
THIS ISSUE BECAUSE IT IS KILLING YOUNG FAMILIES.

I SEE THEM IN MY OFFICE EVERY DAY.

THEY'RE GETTING DIVORCED BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD THEIR
PROPERTY TAXES.

I MEAN, IT'S JUST SWAMPING -- AND SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE
TO SCREAM ABOUT THIS, AND I THINK WE'RE GOING TO END UP
CLEANING HOUSE TO GET IT DONE, BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME
WAY OF DOING IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

>>JAN PLATT: MS. WILSON.

>>JANET WILSON: WELL, I DON'T THINK THAT RELATES
PARTICULARLY TO THIS -- THIS MOTION, BUT I AGREE WITH YOU.
THERE ARE MANY REASONS THE TAXES ARE NOT FAIR.
THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

SOME -- AND THE -- THE OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT -- MANY THINGS.

THE WHOLE THING SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO.

AND WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES BEING MORE THAN INCOME TAXES, WELL -- OR INHERITANCE TAXES, THE KENNEDYS DON'T PAY BECAUSE THEY'VE GOT TRUSTS OR YOU'VE GOT BONDS OR YOU'VE GOT OTHER DEDUCTIONS THAT YOU CAN'T TAKE OFF OF PROPERTY TAXES.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. BALLARD.

>>TERRY BALLARD: YES.

I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS SOMETHING THAT MR. FISHER BROUGHT UP. THERE'S A MECHANISM NOW TO HANDLE THAT.

AS YOU INCREASE THE VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY, THE MILLAGES ARE SUPPOSED TO DROP BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND IT WILL, YOU KNOW, EQUAL OUT THAT WAY, SO AS THE PROPERTY GOES UP, THEN THE AMOUNT OF RATE -- AND WE ADDRESSED IT FIVE YEARS AGO -- IS LIMITING WHAT YOU COULD INCREASE, LIKE THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION -- OF GOVERNMENT, WHAT THEY COULD INCREASE EACH YEAR BASED ON THAT AND KEEP THE MILLAGE LOWER.

>>SHARON MILLER: RIGHT.

>>TERRY BALLARD: BUT THERE'S A MECHANISM NOW, BUT THE ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE TO STEP UP AND DROP IT.

MR. TURNER DOES IT, YOU KNOW, BASED ON THE VALUES.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT, BUT WHAT IT IS IS THE MILLAGE HAS NOT COME DOWN.

AND --

>>JAN PLATT: MR. STORCK?

WERE YOU FINISHED?

>>DAVID STORCK: I'M RIGHT THERE WITH MR. FISHER ON THIS. YOU KNOW, I SEE IT DAY IN AND DAY OUT, AND JUST TO MAKE IT A REAL SIMPLE EXAMPLE, IF YOU OWN A HOME -- IF YOU TAKE YOUR HOME YOU OWN RIGHT NOW AND YOU SELL IT, THE PERSON WHO BUYS IT, THEIR TAXES ARE GOING TO DOUBLE OR TRIPLE JUST BECAUSE IT CHANGED HANDS, AND I KNOW SOME OF YOU KIND OF SNICKERED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE CAUSE OF DIVORCES AND EVERYTHING ELSE, LISTEN, THE AVERAGE WORKING MAN OUT THERE IS PAYING A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TAXES.

MY TAXES WHERE I'M LIVING RIGHT NOW WENT FROM \$843 TWO YEARS AGO -- THIS IS JUST ON MY DOUBLE-WIDE TRAILER -- TO \$2400 THIS YEAR.

THAT'S IN TWO YEARS, AND, YOU KNOW, SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE -- AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE THE VALUE HAS WENT UP, AND WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, THE MILLAGE, THE MILLAGES ARE NOT COMING DOWN, AND THERE'S GOT TO BE A CAP SOMEWHERE.

I CAN TAKE YOU OUT THERE TO -- TO COURT, FLORIDA, AND I CAN TAKE YOU TO 60 ACRES THAT THREE YEARS AGO, THERE WAS \$700 IN PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED OFF OF THAT 60 ACRES, AND THIS YEAR THERE'S \$277,000 BEING COLLECTED OFF THAT SAME 60 ACRES, AND THERE HASN'T BEEN ONE DIME SPENT IN COURT, FLORIDA, THAT ISN'T ALREADY SPENT OUT THERE ON A DAY-IN AND

DAY-OUT BASIS, AND I'LL TELL YOU, YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. FISHER, THAT THE TAXES -- WE HAVE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO PUT THESE TAXES UNDER CONTROL, BECAUSE WHAT IF THE PROPERTY VALUES GO UP AGAIN NEXT YEAR, YOU KNOW?

IT'S JUST -- IT'S SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROLLING.

SURE IS.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

WELL --

>>DAVID STORCK: AND MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO AS A BOARD, I DON'T KNOW, WHETHER TO PASS A RESOLUTION.

>>RALPH FISHER: MR. CHAIR.

I'LL WAIT UNTIL DR. MILLER --

>>SHARON MILLER: GO AHEAD.

>>RALPH FISHER: IS THERE A WAY WE MAYBE CAN -- IS IT LEGAL, MR. TINKLER, FOR US TO HAVE A WAY TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF MILLAGE IN THE CHARTER THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO PAY?

>>KEN TINKLER: THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WRESTLED WITH THIS ISSUE IN LIMITING THE CAP AND BUDGETING INCREASE [INAUDIBLE] GENERAL OPINION AND FOUND THAT THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE STATUTES THAT EXIST RIGHT NOW.

THE STATE HAS ALREADY PRESCRIBED HOW THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL SET MILLAGE IN THE BUDGET AND THAT PROCESS.

THERE'S BEEN BILLS IN THE LEGISLATURE SINCE THEN, ESPECIALLY SINCE A MEMBER OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD SINCE

THAT TIME IS NOW IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND THAT HAD NOT PASSED AT THIS POINT, BUT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS DEBATED THE LAST COUPLE OF TERMS.

>>RALPH FISHER: THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

DR. MILLER.

>>SHARON MILLER: AGAIN, NOT TO BELABOR THE POINT, BUT I THINK ALSO WE MUST LOOK AT THAT STATE STATUTE THAT EXISTS BECAUSE I THINK THAT'S WHERE THE BALANCE IS STRUCK OR AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE APPRECIATION OF PROPERTY AND THE SERVICES THAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS AND THE GROWTH THAT'S GOING ON HERE. SO TRYING TO KEEP THAT BALANCE, HOW DO WE KEEP THAT BALANCE?

WE MAY TALK ABOUT THE NEED TO REDUCE TAXES, BUT HOW DO WE KEEP THE BALANCE SO THAT WE ALL HAVE EQUITABLE SERVICES IN THIS COUNTY?

>>DAVID STORCK: WELL, THAT'S MY -- THAT'S MY POINT EXACTLY.

I JUST SAID THAT.

THEY WENT FROM \$700 IN TAXES ON THIS 60 ACRES TO \$277,000 IN THREE YEARS, BUT NOT ONE DIME HAS WENT BACK TO WHERE THAT 60 ACRES IS AT.

THE DEVELOPER BUILT THE ROADS, PUT THE WHOLE SYSTEM IN.

THE COUNTY HAS SPENT NOT ONE DIME ON THAT AREA OUT WHERE I

LIVE, SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT \$276,300 HAS WENT TO, BUT IT WENT SOMEWHERE, SO MY POINT IS, IS IF THREE YEARS' TIME WE'VE HAD TO INCREASE SPENDING THAT MUCH -- I BELIEVE COMMISSIONER BLAIR HAS BROUGHT THAT UP -- THE GROWTH IN THE COUNTY HAS BEEN, LIKE, 22% OVER THE LAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS, AND THE GROWTH IN SPENDING IS UP, LIKE, A HUNDRED PERCENT, SO SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE YOU'VE GOT TO DRAW A LINE. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE DO IT, BUT I WANT TO MAKE ONE OTHER POINT.

IF THAT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT HAS CREATED THIS, THAT'S A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WHY WE'RE PUTTING WAY TOO MANY THINGS IN THE CONSTITUTION.

PEOPLE ARE VOTING ON STUFF THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS, AND WE'RE PAYING FOR IT IN THE LONG RUN.

>>JAN PLATT: WE'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE BIT OFF THE SUBJECT OF HER MOTION.

>>DAVID STORCK: YEAH, WE'VE GOT TO BE ON A SOAPBOX HERE.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT IT WAS A GOOD DISCUSSION.

IT WAS A GOOD DISCUSSION, AND WE ALL FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS ONE.

[LAUGHTER]

>>JANET WILSON: BUT IT'S A LOT MORE FUN.

>>JAN PLATT: TELL US -- I KNOW, IT IS.

MS. WILSON, REPEAT YOUR MOTION ONE MORE TIME SO WE ALL KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT.

>>JANET WILSON: WELL, IT'S JUST A LITTLE CHINK IN THE WHOLE PROBLEM, AND I MAY VOTE AGAINST IT MYSELF.

I CAN SPEAK FOR IT, BUT I CAN VOTE AGAINST IT, AND I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE ON THE PAGE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>JANET WILSON: WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT IS -- I AGREE WITH.

I MEAN, IT'S JUST ANOTHER FORM OF EMINENT DOMAIN.

THEY'RE TAKING THE PROPERTY AWAY FROM PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY CAN'T PAY THE TAXES, AND WHAT DO THEY DO WITH THE MONEY? NOBODY KNOWS, AND NOBODY GOES BACK TO THE FOUNDERS' IDEA OF THE TRAGEDY OF MAN AND HIS FOIBLES, AND WE HAVE MORE TEMPTATIONS IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY TODAY THAN EVER, AND SO YOU'VE GOT TO CUT SPENDING, AND, AS SHE SAYS, KEEP IT IN LINE WITH ACTUALLY PROVIDING THE SERVICE THAT'S NEEDED, SO LET'S JUST VOTE AGAINST IT.

I CAN'T SAY THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU WANT TO WITHDRAW IT?

YOU WANT TO WITHDRAW IT?

>>JANET WILSON: NO.

I WANT THEM TO VOTE ON IT BECAUSE IT'S ONE LITTLE NIBBLE IN MAKING IT FAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

ALL IN FAVOR --

>>JANET WILSON: AND I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO IT ALL AT

ONCE.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION, RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

IN FAVOR OF IT?

>>RALPH FISHER: YES.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU SPOKE AGAINST IT INITIALLY.

OKAY.

THEN ALL -- ALL -- ALL AGAINST THE MOTION, RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

SO THE MOTION FAILS.

>>DAVID STORCK: MADAM CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, YEAH, THIS IS A LOT OF FUN, AND FOR ALL THE FAMILY OUT THERE WATCHING, I APPRECIATE IT.

[LAUGHTER]

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, IT BROUGHT UP A LOT OF INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO THE PROBLEMS.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T SOLVE IT.

I THINK IT'S THE STATE CONSTITUTION -- THE STATE CONSTITUTION IN A WAY DID SOME OF THIS, BUT THE LEGISLATURE CAN HELP IT.

>>RALPH FISHER: THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF THINGS WE COULD DO. WE'D JUST GET OURSELVES IN BIG TROUBLE.

I MEAN, WE COULD CAP THE INCREASE IN THE COUNTY BUDGET ON THE PERCENTAGE BY PERCENTAGE YEAR.

I MEAN, WE COULD DO A LOT OF THINGS.

>>JAN PLATT: HE SAID WE COULDN'T.

>>RALPH FISHER: WE CAN SKIN A CAT A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS
IF WE NEED TO THAT ARE LEGAL.

BELIEVE ME.

WE DON'T HAVE TO JUST DO THAT.

WE DON'T HAVE TO CAP THE MILLAGE, WE CAN CAP THE BUDGET IN
THE CHARTER.

THAT'S LEGAL.

WE COULD REDUCE IT.

WE COULD DO AWAY WITH THE CONSTITUTIONALS.

I MEAN, MADAM CHAIR, WE HAVE POWER.

>>JAN PLATT: UH-HUH.

>>RALPH FISHER: AND YOU HOLD THE GAVEL.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, BUT YOU'RE THE ONES WHO CAN MAKE THE
MOTIONS.

>>RALPH FISHER: WELL, YOU DO TOO, MA'AM.

>>JANET WILSON: MADAM CHAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

LET'S MOVE --

>>JANET WILSON: NO, WE DON'T DO IT.

THE VOTERS DO IT.

WE GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE ANY OLD BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED?

IS THERE ANY NEW BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES, MADAM --

>>JAN PLATT: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: CAN I JUST TALK ABOUT THIS HANDOUT I GAVE OUT?

I GAVE OUT A HANDOUT.

I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH ON THE FIRST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, JUST SOME VALUABLE -- BRING YOU GUYS UP TO SPEED ON THE WORK OF THE FIRST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, WHICH HAPPENED TO BE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND I PASSED THAT OUT -- THE BACKUP NEWS CLIPS -- TO SAY THAT THE INITIAL CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION RELATED TO AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR POSITION.

THE MAJOR DEBATE AT THAT TIME WAS HOW MANY COMMISSIONERS, WHETHER THEY WOULD BE SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS OR AT-LARGE DISTRICTS, AND THE KEY ELEMENT WAS THE POWERS OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTED COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND UNDER MY RESEARCH, THE ONLY OPPOSITION FOR THE FIRST CHARTER THAT PASSED WAS THE NAACP, AND THE OPPOSITION WAS SINGLE -- THEY WANTED ALL SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS.

BOB GILDER CALLED FOR ALL SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS AT THAT TIME.

THAT WAS THE ONLY OPPOSITION -- PUBLIC OPPOSITION -- THAT -- THAT I CAN FIND THAT WAS AGAINST THE CHARTER.

THE CHARTER DID PASS WITH 12.5% OF THE VOTE.

AT THAT TIME, THE -- THERE WAS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED OR SO THOUSAND VOTERS, AND IT PASSED.

OKAY?

IT PASSED, AND SO I WANTED TO MENTION THAT, THAT THERE WAS NEVER REALLY ANY DISCUSSION RELATED TO ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR, AND I THINK THAT'S WHY THAT LINGERS ON TODAY, BECAUSE THE FIRST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD NEVER REALLY --

>>JAN PLATT: OH, THEY DID.

I SAT ON IT.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

WHAT WAS -- WELL, WHAT WAS THE FEELING OF THE ORIGINAL CHARTER REVIEW BOARD?

>>JAN PLATT: WE DID NOT WANT TO CONCENTRATE THE POWER INTO ONE INDIVIDUAL.

WE THOUGHT -- WE WANTED TO DISPERSE POWER.

FIVE -- THREE COMMISSIONERS HAD BEEN BASICALLY HAULED OFF, INDICTED AND PUT IN JAIL, AND THE THOUGHT WAS TO WEAKEN -- TO DISPERSE THE POWER AND -- SO THAT IT WAS NOT CENTRALIZED IN ONE INDIVIDUAL, AND THAT -- THAT WAS INTENTIONAL.

THERE HAD BEEN A CHARTER REVIEW BOARD BEFORE THAT, A CITIZENS BOARD, THAT SOME OF US HAD APPOINTED THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WHILE THE -- THE BAD GUYS WERE IN OFFICE, AND THAT GROUP RECOMMENDED A COUNTY MAYOR.

THERE WAS A BIG DISCUSSION ABOUT IT.

SO THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS GONE ON EVER SINCE -- EVER SINCE THE ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED IN 1972.

THAT'S BASICALLY WHEN THAT WAS PASSED.

A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE CREATED THAT.

PRIOR TO THAT, YOU HAD -- IN -- IN -- IN REALITY, A STRONG -- WELL, AN ELECTED PERSON WHO WAS THE -- IT WAS ELLSWORTH SIMMONS, AND I'M TRYING TO THINK HOW TO SAY IT. HE WAS THE ONE PERSON WHO CONTINUED TO BE THE CHAIRMAN, AND THE COMMISSIONERS DIVVIED THE DEPARTMENTS, AND HE WAS THE FIGUREHEAD THAT BASICALLY RAN THE COUNTY.

IT WAS -- HE WASN'T CALLED A COUNTY MAYOR, BUT HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR DECADES AND WAS SORT OF A DE FACTO UNOFFICIAL TYPE OF PERSON WHO EVERYBODY LOOKED UP TO AS -- AS THAT PERSON, BUT THEN ONCE THE LAW WAS CHANGED IN '72 TO CREATE AN ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THEN ALL THAT CHANGED, AND THEN THE SUNSHINE LAW CHANGED IT, BECAUSE, SEE, AGAIN, WHEN -- WHEN -- WHEN SIMMONS WAS CHAIRMAN, THERE WASN'T ANY SUNSHINE LAW, SO THEY COULD ALL MEET DOWN THE HALL, AND, YOU KNOW, BUT THAT WAS LEGAL AND THAT WAS HOW -- HOW IT WAS DONE, AND UNINCORPORATED HILLSBOROUGH WAS RURAL.

NOTHING WAS GOING ON OUT THERE TO SPEAK OF EXCEPT PEOPLE PLANTING CROPS AND THE PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY, AND THERE WASN'T ANYTHING GOING ON TO ANY EXTENT, SO ANYWAY, THAT'S A LITTLE BRIEF HISTORY.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

OVER THE YEARS --

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S BEEN DISCUSSED.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- YOU FEEL AS THOUGH IT'S BEEN ACROSS-
THE-BOARD FAIR DISCUSSION RELATED TO AN ELECTED COUNTY
MAYOR IN THIS COUNTY?

>>JAN PLATT: OH, YES, THERE HAS BEEN.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

THAT'S MY --

>>JAN PLATT: IT KEEPS COMING UP.

IT WILL OCCUR AND KEEP CONTINUING TO RECUR.

THAT'S MY POSITION.

>>GERALD WHITE: HERE WE ARE TODAY.

I CALL IT THE FOURTH WAY TO AMEND THE COUNTY CHARTER, WHICH
ANY CITIZENS CAN DO IF THEY GATHER THE SIGNATURES.

THAT'S MY CONCERN.

SO HERE WE GO.

WE CAN HAVE SOMETHING PLACED ON A BALLOT BY THE PETITION
PROCESS WHERE CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULDN'T
HAVE A ROLE OF WHAT GOES ON THE BALLOT, AND IT COULD PASS.
IT COULD AMEND THE CHARTER, AND SO BECAUSE MARY ANN STILES
HAS FORMED A COMMITTEE -- AND I PUT THAT INFORMATION IN
YOUR PACKET -- SHE'S FORMED A COMMITTEE, FILED IT WITH THE
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, I
WANTED TO GIVE HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME BEFORE THE
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

SHE DON'T HAVE TO, BUT I WANTED TO OFFER HER THAT

OPPORTUNITY.

NOWADAYS, YOU CAN GO OUT AND PAY PEOPLE TO GET SIGNATURES. IT'S NOT HARD TO GET 35,000 SIGNATURES AND PLACE A SERIOUS ISSUE TO CHANGE OUR CHARTER ON THE BALLOT.

MR. STORCK JUST SAID, PEOPLE DON'T READ, THEY JUST VOTE, YES, YES, WHATEVER.

SO THIS IS A SAFETY NET.

I THINK THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IS A SAFETY NET.

I THINK THAT WAS ONE OF THE SELLING POINTS -- ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE CITIZENS VOTED FOR THE CHARTER.

IF YOU LOOK AT YOUR BACKUP INFORMATION, THAT WAS ONE OF THE SELLING POINTS, THAT YOU HAD A CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND SO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD SITS HERE.

WE'RE -- WE'RE OPEN, AND THAT'S WHY -- SHE DON'T HAVE TO COME, BUT I WANT TO PUBLICLY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO MARY ANN STILES TO COME BEFORE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IF SHE HAS A CONCERN RELATED TO AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR POSITION, SEEING AS THOUGH THAT SHE HAS FORMALLY OPENED UP A COMMITTEE, AND IN HER DOCUMENT, IT SAYS THAT SHE WANTS TO AMEND THE COUNTY CHARTER TO CREATE AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR, AND, YOU KNOW, WE'RE OPEN, THIS IS GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE, AND I JUST WANT HER TO COME FORWARD AND --

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, IS THAT A MOTION?

I MEAN, YOU'RE --

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT'S MY MOTION, TO INVITE MARY ANN

STILES TO COME BEFORE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AT OUR NEXT MEETING AND --

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A SECOND?

>>SHARON MILLER: I WILL SECOND FOR THE SAKE OF DISCUSSION.

>>JAN PLATT: ALL RIGHT.

JUST FOR THE SAKE OF DISCUSSION.

YES, MR. STORCK.

>>DAVID STORCK: YEAH, I JUST GOT -- I JUST WANT TO ASK A COUPLE QUESTIONS.

MR. WHITE, JUST KIND OF -- CAN YOU BRIEFLY TELL ME WHAT WOULD BE THE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING A COUNTY MAYOR?

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, YOU KNOW, I DON'T -- I'M NOT IN SUPPORT OF A COUNTY MAYOR.

>>DAVID STORCK: WELL, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT ONE TIME.

>>GERALD WHITE: NO, NO.

I PUT A PROPOSAL FOR AN ELECTED COUNTY CHAIRMAN, BUT I AM NOT -- FOR PART OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY, BUT I HAVE NEVER COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR, AND BECAUSE OF THIS INITIATIVE PROCESS THAT ANYONE -- YOU KNOW, MARY ANN -- SHE'S A SMART WOMAN.

I SERVED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FLORIDA WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION OVERSIGHT BOARD.

I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH MARY ANN STILES WHEN I WAS CHAIRMAN OF -- THE WOMAN IS SMART.

SHE'S A BRILLIANT WOMAN, AND I BELIEVE SHE CAN GET THESE

NUMBERS, I BELIEVE SHE CAN GET THE SIGNATURES AND GET IT ON THE BALLOT.

I BELIEVE IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, I REALLY DO, AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO USE THE POWER THAT THIS BOARD HAS TO AT LEAST HEAR HER CONCERNS AND LET HER COME IN HERE AND TALK TO ALL OF US, TALK TO THE PUBLIC.

WE'RE OPEN, AND I THINK THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

>>SHARON MILLER: I'D -- I'D LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION, MADAM CHAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: DR. MILLER.

>>SHARON MILLER: BEING THAT YOU HAVE PROPOSITIONED US -- AND MAYBE THAT'S NOT THE CORRECT WORD TO USE -- TO CONSIDER AN ELECTED COUNTY CHAIR, I ASK THE SAME QUESTION THAT MR. STORCK JUST ASKED.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?

>>GERALD WHITE: ALL I WANT TO DO IS -- I JUST WANT TO INVITE MARY ANN STILES AT THIS OPEN --

>>SHARON MILLER: NO, NO, NO, I'M NOT SPEAKING TO MARY ANN STILES.

I'M SPEAKING TO YOUR EARLIER MOTION ON AN ELECTED COUNTY CHAIR.

>>GERALD WHITE: I DON'T SEE ANY ADVANTAGES AT THIS TIME IN THE HISTORY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY OF AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR.

I DO NOT SUPPORT THAT.

I THINK THAT WOULD TAKE THIS COUNTY TOO FAR.

IF THERE WAS A FIRST STEP TO TAKE, IT WOULD BE FOR AN ELECTED COUNTY CHAIRMAN TO BE A PART OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE'S AFTER.

>>SHARON MILLER: NO, I'M NOT ASKING FOR WHAT --

>>GERALD WHITE: THERE IS NO ADVANTAGE AT THIS TIME IN MY MIND BASED ON THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY -- THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE STUDY THAT I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN FOR THIS COUNTY TO HAVE AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR AT THIS TIME.

I DID NOT --

>>SHARON MILLER: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>GERALD WHITE: I DO NOT SEE AN ADVANTAGE FOR AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR, AN INDEPENDENT EXECUTIVE FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AT THIS TIME.

I DO NOT SEE THAT BENEFITING THE CITIZENS OVERALL.

>>SHARON MILLER: AND IF WE WERE IN A COURT OF LAW AND I WAS AN ATTORNEY, I'D PROBABLY CHARGE YOU WITH CONTEMPT AT THIS TIME --

[LAUGHTER]

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I'M A POLITICIAN.

>>SHARON MILLER: -- BECAUSE YOU'VE NOT ANSWERED MY QUESTION.

YOU'VE NOT ANSWERED MY QUESTION.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK GOD I'M NOT UNDER OATH.

>>SHARON MILLER: YOU HAVE YET TO ANSWER MY QUESTION.

OKAY.

THANK YOU.

[INAUDIBLE] POLITICIAN.

THANK YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: BASED ON A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY, THIS IS MY SECOND TIME SITTING ON THIS BOARD, AND I'VE LOOKED AT THIS ISSUE.

>>JAN PLATT: I'D LIKE TO -- I'D LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION TO MR. TINKLER.

MR. TINKLER, YOU HAD TOLD US THAT IF WE WERE CONSIDERING ANYTHING THAT DEALT WITH VOTING THAT IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THIS BOARD BY OCTOBER.

IS THAT -- BECAUSE OF THE TIMING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

EXPLAIN -- EXPLAIN -- IF -- IF THIS BOARD INVITES SOMEBODY WITH THE THOUGHT OF -- OF SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT, OF A MAYOR, IS THAT THE KIND OF AN ISSUE THAT WOULD GO TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE?

>>KEN TINKLER: YES, THAT WOULD BE A CHANGE AFFECTING VOTING.

>>JAN PLATT: AND TELL -- TELL ME, A LAYMAN, WHAT -- WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

THIS IS DECEMBER THE WHAT?

>>RALPH FISHER: 12th.

>>JAN PLATT: -- 12th.

WE END FEBRUARY THE 20th.

THE NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY THE 9th.

IF WE HAD MRS. STILES COME ON THE 9th AND IF WE -- ARE WE --
- YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU ASK SOMEBODY, IT'S BECAUSE YOU WANT TO
CONSIDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

TO ME, THAT'S IN GOOD FAITH, I MEAN, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE
POLITE AND NICE.

OTHERWISE, DON'T ASK THE PERSON IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO --
IN OTHER WORDS, I'M ASKING ABOUT THE TIMING AS IT DEALS
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND OUR -- AND IF WE WERE TO
ADOPT SOMETHING LIKE A COUNTY MAYOR, BECAUSE THAT COULDN'T
HAPPEN -- WE'RE GOING TO HEAR ON THE 9th.

IF WE SAID GO DRAFT SOMETHING, YOU'D COME BACK ON THE 30th,
THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING ON IT; RIGHT?

>>KEN TINKLER: TWO.

>>JAN PLATT: TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND THEN IT WOULD GO TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, AND THEN WE WOULD BE OUT OF
OFFICE FEBRUARY.

SO WHAT HAPPENS TO WHATEVER WE APPROVED OR -- TELL --
TELL -- JUST -- I'M BEING VERY PRAGMATIC ON THIS.

>>KEN TINKLER: I'D BE HAPPY TO.

>>JAN PLATT: SURE.

>>KEN TINKLER: THE REASON WE HAD RECOMMENDED OCTOBER, IF
THE BOARD WAS INTERESTED IN A CHANGE AFFECTING VOTING, IS
THAT GAVE YOU ENOUGH TIME TO GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE PROCESS,

HAVE THE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS, SEND THE ITEM TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND RECEIVE THE COMMENTS BACK WHILE YOU WERE STILL IN SESSION.

YOU CAN ACT UP UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF YOUR TERM.

YOU DO TAKE THE RISK AT THIS POINT THAT -- OBVIOUSLY, WE CAN ATTEMPT TO GET SOMETHING BACK QUICKLY.

THERE'S NO REQUIREMENT OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND ANY FASTER THAN THE 60 DAYS THAT ARE IN THE FEDERAL CODE.

IF YOU WERE TO GO FORWARD WITH AN ITEM AT THIS POINT, YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.

YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT THE MOMENT TO ACCOMMODATE THE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS AS WELL AS GOING THROUGH THE DRAFTING PROCESS, SO YOU'D PROBABLY HAVE TO SWITCH TO AT LEAST EVERY WEEK PRIOR TO THE END OF YOUR TERM AT THIS POINT.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT IF WE DID THAT AND THEN IT WENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WE WOULD BE GONE OUT OF OFFICE.

>>KEN TINKLER: RIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND WHATEVER IT IS THAT WE ADOPTED? WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT?

>>KEN TINKLER: IF THERE ARE ANY SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE ISSUE WOULD DIE AT THAT POINT UNTIL THE NEXT CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>JAN PLATT: OR IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS -- WHAT

IF THEY SUGGESTED CHANGES IN THE DOCUMENT?

>>KEN TINKLER: THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SUBSTANTIVE
OBJECTION IF THEY WANTED A CHANGE TO THE DOCUMENT.

IT WOULD ONLY REQUIRE SUCH A CHANGE IF THEY OBJECTED TO THE
LANGUAGE THAT WAS THERE.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COULD CERTAINLY PICK UP A
TOPIC OR THE INITIATIVE PROCESS, BUT THE CHARTER REVIEW
BOARD IS ONLY GIVEN A ONE-YEAR TERM BY THE CHARTER ITSELF,
AND UPON THE END OF YOUR TERM, ANY -- THERE'S NO BODY THERE
TO CHANGE WHAT YOU'D COME UP WITH.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

MS. WILSON.

>>JANET WILSON: I WANT TO ASK THE SAME THING -- I MEAN ON
THE SAME LINE, NOT THE SAME THING.

I -- I SHARE COMMITTEE MEMBER WHITE'S CONCERN ABOUT
SOMETHING BEING PUT BEFORE THE PEOPLE.

IF THE PETITION SUCCEEDS AND IS PUT BEFORE THEM, IT'S GOING
TO BE A DUEL OF ADVERTISING, AS IT PROBABLY WAS IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

THOSE WHO WANT TO CONSOLIDATE THE POWER AND CONTROL IT
PROBABLY HAVE MORE MONEY FOR ADS, BUT THERE'LL CERTAINLY BE
OTHER PEOPLE WHO GET TOGETHER, SURELY, WHO HAVE ADS, BUT
ABOUT THE PETITION, DOES IT HAVE TO STATE THAT EVERYTHING
THAT HAS TO BE DONE -- IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, TO CHANGE TO
AN ELECTED MAYOR, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE OTHER CHANGES

SAYING WHAT POWER THEY WOULD HAVE, WHAT POWER THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD HAVE, AND SO FORTH.

WOULD ALL THAT HAVE TO BE IN THE PETITION THAT SHE WOULD BE PREPARING?

>>KEN TINKLER: THE CHARTER OUTLINES WHAT HAS TO BE IN THE PETITION.

THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS HAS PUT TOGETHER A MEMORANDUM WITH OUR OFFICE THAT OUTLINES THE EXACT NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED AT THIS POINT.

>>JANET WILSON: NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT.

>>KEN TINKLER: RIGHT.

>>JANET WILSON: CAN THE PETITION JUST SAY WE SHOULD HAVE AN ELECTED MAYOR, OR DOES IT HAVE TO SAY WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COMMISSIONERS AND ALL THE OTHER CHANGES THAT WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH IT?

>>KEN TINKLER: I WOULD HAVE TO REFRESH MY MEMORY ON SECTION 8.03 OF THE CHARTER AT THIS POINT.

THE ONLY LANGUAGE WE HAVE AT THIS POINT IS OUTLINED IN THE CHARTER WITH HOW THE --

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>KEN TINKLER: [INAUDIBLE]

OUTLINES.

>>JANET WILSON: THERE WAS ANOTHER STATEMENT IN THE TRIBUNE ARTICLE THAT IT ONLY TOOK 8% OF THE VOTES THAT HAD BEEN CAST IN THE LAST ELECTION.

IF YOU HAVE 8.03 THERE IN FRONT OF YOU, I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORDING.

>>KEN TINKLER: IF YOU GIVE ME ONE MOMENT.

>>JANET WILSON: OKAY.

>>KEN TINKLER: YES, MA'AM.

>>JANET WILSON: IN NUMBER ONE UNDER 8.03, THE SECOND SENTENCE SAYS, EACH SIGNED NUMBER OF ELECTORS IN EACH OF ONE-HALF OF THE DISTRICTS IN ONE THROUGH FOUR.

IS THAT HALF OF THE VOTERS IN THOSE DISTRICTS, OR DOES THAT JUST MEAN IN TWO OF THE DISTRICTS?

>>KEN TINKLER: IT'S TWO OF THE DISTRICTS.

>>JANET WILSON: ANOTHER LEGALESE STATEMENT IN THIS.

>>KEN TINKLER: NOT ME.

>>JANET WILSON: I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT LAWYERS.

I'M TALKING ABOUT LAWYERS AND LEGALESE IN GENERAL.

THAT MEANS THEY COULD GET THE SIGNATURES FROM NUMBER ONE AND NUMBER TWO OR FOUR.

>>KEN TINKLER: THEY NEED TO MEET THAT PERCENTAGE THRESHOLD IN AT LEAST TWO OF THE DISTRICTS.

>>JANET WILSON: UH-HUH.

AND THEN THE TOTAL COUNT, 8% OF THE TOTAL VOTES?

>>KEN TINKLER: RIGHT, WITHIN AT LEAST TWO OF THE DISTRICTS.

>>JANET WILSON: SO DISTRICT THREE AND FOUR COULD BE COMPLETELY LEFT OUT?

>>KEN TINKLER: IT OUTLINES TWO DISTRICTS.

>>JANET WILSON: UH-HUH.

BECAUSE I INTENDED TO LOBBY TO HAVE NO ONE SIGN IT.

OKAY.

NOW, THEN, WOULD HER PETITION HAVE TO GO THROUGH TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE?

NOT HER, BUT A PETITION?

>>KEN TINKLER: ANY CHANGE AFFECTING VOTING WOULD HAVE TO
GO TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

>>JANET WILSON: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>KEN TINKLER: YOU'RE WELCOME.

>>JAN PLATT: HMM.

THAT'S INTERESTING.

MR. BALLARD.

>>TERRY BALLARD: YES, I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT WHY IT
PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE A GOOD REASON TO HAVE AN ELECTED
COUNTY MAYOR OR A CHAIRMAN.

THE -- AND IT'S BASED RIGHT NOW TO THE VOTING SYSTEM THAT A
MINORITY DISTRICT, THAT WE HAVE TO CARVE OUT -- AND, YOU
KNOW, WE TRY TO GET IT WHERE THEY CAN CARVE OUT AND HAVE A
MINORITY ON THE COUNTY COMMISSION BOARD.

THE -- ONE OF THE THINGS -- AND BY THAT POINT, THE MINORITY
HAS A CHANCE OF BEING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, JUST LIKE
TOM SCOTT, AND HE WAS A GOOD CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES, HE WAS.

>>TERRY BALLARD: BUT THIS OTHER MAY BE A REASON THAT WE CAN'T, YOU KNOW, GO TO THAT, SO I'D -- EVEN -- YOU KNOW, I WOULD WORK AGAINST THIS FOR THAT REASON, OF HAVING REPRESENTATION FOR EVERYBODY, AND SO, YOU KNOW, THAT WOULD BE THE POINT THAT I WOULDN'T LIKE ABOUT HAVING AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR OR CHAIRMAN, WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, YOU KNOW, THERE, AND -- BECAUSE OF THE -- KEEPING A MINORITY THAT WOULD BE ON THE COMMISSION PLUS A CHANCE TO BE THE CHAIRMAN.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. STORCK.

>>DAVID STORCK: YEAH.

MR. TINKLER, IF YOU COULD GO BACK -- COME BACK UP HERE A MINUTE, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF OTHER QUESTIONS I'VE GOT TO ASK.

FIRST OF ALL, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CITIZENS INITIATIVE ISSUE, SINCE THIS IS GOING TO DEAL WITH VOTING.

SO IF THEY PREPARE A PETITION AND THEY PUT IT OUT THERE AND THEY GET THEIR 35,000 SIGNATURES -- APPARENTLY THERE HAVE GOT TO BE SO MANY FROM CERTAIN DISTRICTS, SO ON AND SO FORTH, HOWEVER THAT WORKS -- IT GOES TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND THEY SAY, NO, YOU CAN'T SAY IT THIS WAY, DO THEY HAVE TO GO BACK AND GET ANOTHER 35,000 SIGNATURES WITH A RENEWED PETITION?

>>KEN TINKLER: WELL, THE FIRST THING I WANT TO POINT OUT

IS THIS HAS NEVER BEEN DONE.

THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME, IF IT'S SUCCESSFUL, THAT THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES THAT ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE CHARTER HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED, SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PAST HISTORY TO GO THROUGH WITH THE CHARTER ON THIS PROCESS.

THE CHARTER SIMPLY OUTLINES THAT THE COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT HAS TO BE WITH THE PETITION, SO THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE AN ARGUMENT IF THAT, THEN, CHANGES, THAT THERE BE -- THE PETITION ITSELF WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE.

NOW, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE DEBATED IF THAT THEN HAPPENS, AND, OF COURSE, PROBABLY BE LITIGATED.

>>DAVID STORCK: OKAY.

NOW, THAT COMES TO THE NEXT QUESTION.

LET'S SAY THAT THAT PROCESS GOES FORWARD AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT KICKS IT BACK AND SAYS IT'S NOT WORDED PROPERLY AND THEY HIRE LAWYERS.

THEN YOU WOULD HAVE -- OR YOUR -- OUR -- YOU, AS A LAWYER FOR THE COUNTY, WOULD BE REPRESENTING THE COUNTY IN THAT SITUATION.

IS THAT WHAT IT WOULD BE?

>>KEN TINKLER: WELL, IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION WAS FILED.

IF IT'S AN ACTION AGAINST THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, WE REPRESENT THAT OFFICE.

IF IT'S AN ACTION AGAINST THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS, WE ALSO REPRESENT THAT OFFICE?

>>DAVID STORCK: WHAT IS THEIR TIMELINE THAT THEY NEED TO HAVE THIS DONE BY?

>>KEN TINKLER: LET'S SEE.

THE PETITION PROCESS IS A 30-DAY PROCESS.

>>DAVID STORCK: 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION?

>>KEN TINKLER: 30 DAYS PRIOR TO FILING WITH THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.

>>DAVID STORCK: TO BRING THE PETITIONS?

>>KEN TINKLER: UH-HUH.

PETITION SHALL BE FILED WITH THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
[INCOMPREHENSIBLE]

THAT'S 30 DAYS TO CHECK THE SIGNATURES.

>>GERALD WHITE: SIX MONTHS.

>>KEN TINKLER: LET'S SEE.

SIX MONTHS.

[INCOMPREHENSIBLE]

SIX MONTHS FOR THE PETITION GATHERING AND THEN 30 DAYS TO RESPOND TO IT.

>>DAVID STORCK: I GUESS THE LAST QUESTION I WOULD HAVE -- AND I THINK THIS GOES BACK TO WHAT MS. WILSON ASKED.

OKAY.

IT'S REAL SIMPLE TO PUT AN INITIATIVE ON THE BALLOT.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A COUNTY MAYOR.

OKAY.

THAT'S A REAL SIMPLE QUESTION, BUT THEN IF THERE'S NO DUTIES OUTLINED FOR THAT PERSON, WOULD THAT -- THAT COULD ALL BE UP TO THE PERSON WRITING THE PETITION; RIGHT?

>>KEN TINKLER: WELL, THE PETITION GATHERER HAS TO HAVE THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT.

JUST AS WE HAD PROVIDED SAMPLES OF CHARTER CHANGES IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER THEM, THEY WOULD HAVE TO SHOW WHAT THEY WOULD AMEND AND ACHIEVE WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE, SO IT'S A REWRITE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECTION OF THE CHARTER.

>>DAVID STORCK: OKAY.

SO THAT WOULD ALL BE ON THAT PETITION, AND THE LANGUAGE --

>>KEN TINKLER: IT SIMPLY SAYS A COPY OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. PORTER.

>>JIM PORTER: YES, I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO THE MOTION, IF I COULD.

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR MS. BLOOD, IF SHE COULD COME UP TO THE PODIUM.

I GUESS THE QUESTION DEALS WITH WE'VE READ THIS ARTICLE THAT THERE'S SOME CITIZEN THAT'S INTERESTED IN AMENDING THE CHARTER THROUGH CITIZEN PETITION OR INITIATIVE.

THIS PERSON HAS NOT APPEARED TO MY KNOWLEDGE AT A CHARTER REVIEW MEETING.

THE QUESTION I HAVE FOR MS. BLOOD, HAS SHE CONTACTED YOU OR HAS ANYBODY BEEN CONTACTED BY THE PERSON?

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: I HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED NOR HAS CAROL BEEN CONTACTED.

IF ANYBODY ON THE BOARD HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY HER, THEY HAVE NOT SHARED THAT WITH ME, SO SHE HAS NOT REQUESTED TO COME BEFORE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>JIM PORTER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

I FIND IT VERY CURIOUS THAT SOMEONE WOULD GO TO THE EXTREME MEASURE OF TRYING TO GATHER 37,000 SIGNATURES WITHOUT FIRST COMING TO A BODY THAT WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO PUT SOMETHING ON THE BALLOT WITH TEN VOTES, SO I FIND THAT VERY CURIOUS, AND I THINK THAT NEEDED TO BE STATED FOR THE RECORD.

WITH THAT BEING SAID, I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO HER TO HAVE HER APPEAR IN FRONT OF THIS BOARD AND EXPLAIN HER REASONS WHY -- OR EXPLAIN HER REASONS WHY AN ELECTED MAYOR WOULD BE GOOD OR A POSITIVE THING FOR THE COUNTY.

IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE, SINCE WE'VE BEEN IMPANELED, THAT THE ISSUE HAS COME UP, BUT I HAVE NOT HEARD A COMPELLING ARGUMENT OR COMPELLING REASONS WHY THE CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED, NOR HAVE I SEEN, AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, A GREAT CITIZEN UPRISING DEMANDING IT, AND AS I'VE MENTIONED MORE THAN ONCE, IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE, BEING INVOLVED IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT, THAT WHEN THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY WANT A CHANGE, THEY KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO GET THAT

CHANGE ACCOMPLISHED, THROUGH LETTERS, THROUGH E-MAILS, AND THROUGH FILLING THIS ROOM, AND SINCE WE'VE BEEN HERE SINCE FEBRUARY AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT, COUPLED WITH NOT HEARING COMPELLING ARGUMENTS FOR A COUNTY MAYOR, I WOULD JUST BE INTERESTED IN HEARING WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT, BUT I -- I WOULD -- I'LL SUPPORT HIS MOTION TO HAVE HER APPEAR AND SEE WHERE THAT GOES.

>>JAN PLATT: MS. WILSON.

>>JANET WILSON: I DON'T SUPPORT HAVING SOMEONE COME TO PROPOSE -- TO ASK FOR A CHANGE IS ONE THING, BUT TO PROPOSE I'M DOING THIS FOR THIS REASON, THEN I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER PERSON ON THE OTHER SIDE SPEAKING AT THE SAME TIME. OTHER THAN THAT, I CAN'T SUPPORT IT.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. STORCK.

>>DAVID STORCK: WELL, I THINK, TOO, IT WOULD PUT HER -- IT WOULD PUT THINGS ON THE RECORD OF WHY SHE'S WANTING TO DO THIS AND FOR WHAT -- AND WHAT PURPOSE IT'S GOING TO SERVE AND HOW IT'S GOING TO BENEFIT THE TAXPAYERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, SO I WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT OF IT TOO.

YOU KNOW, HAVE HER COME HERE AND -- BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, ONE OF TWO THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN.

SHE'S EITHER GOING TO COME AND TELL US OR SHE'S GOING TO DENY THE REQUEST, WHICH IS POWERFUL TOO.

>>SHARON MILLER: I -- I HAVE A QUESTION, AGAIN DIRECTED TO MR. WHITE.

I'M NOT A POLITICIAN, SO I ASK VERY DIRECT QUESTIONS.
YOU CAME AND PRESENTED SUCH A VERY NICE BOOKLET THAT YOU'VE
PUT TOGETHER, AND AS THE QUESTION WAS ASKED WHETHER ANY OF
THE BOARD MEMBERS HERE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY MRS. STILES
TO COME -- I'M KIND OF CONFUSED.

IS THERE AN INVITATION VIA THE PRESENTATION HERE OR ARE WE
ASSUMING THAT AN INVITATION EXISTS?

I -- I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR AS TO HOW WE'RE TO REACT TO
THE STATEMENT OF YOUR WANTING TO INVITE MRS. STILES IF
SHE'S NOT ASKED.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, MAY I, MADAM CHAIR?

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: DR. MILLER, YOU KNOW, I BELIEVE IN FACING
REALITY, AND WE'RE -- WE'RE SITTING AS A CHARTER REVIEW
BOARD DOING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE CHARTER.

A CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTY HAVE OPENED UP -- STARTED A
COMMITTEE TO AMEND THE CHARTER.

THAT CONCERNS ME.

MARY ANN STILES IS A BRILLIANT WOMAN.

SHE HAS THE CAPABILITY TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

I WANT TO, AS A FELLOW CITIZEN, TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO
HER TO COME BEFORE THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I HAVE NOT SPOKEN WITH HER OR ANYONE ELSE.

I READ THE NEWSPAPER LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, BUT, YOU KNOW,
THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD SITS HERE.

THIS IS A PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT, AND I JUST WANT TO EXTEND HER AN OPPORTUNITY TO COME BEFORE THIS BOARD, AND THERE'S NO -- THERE'S NO -- I DON'T THINK THERE'S A BETTER BOARD TO TAKE HER -- TAKE IN HER CONCERN RIGHT NOW, ESPECIALLY WITH THE EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAVE IN COMMISSIONER PLATT.

I THINK IT'S -- IT'S THE PERFECT TIME FOR HER TO COME TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AND A PERFECT TIME FOR US TO HEAR HER CONCERN.

YOU KNOW, I REALLY BELIEVE AT THIS POINT IN THIS COUNTY THIS IS TRULY THE PERFECT STORM RELATED TO AN INITIATIVE LIKE THIS, AND I THINK -- I THINK WE WILL BE DOING THE CITIZENS A GREAT DEAL OF SERVICE TO EXTEND HER THIS INVITATION, AND I HAVE NOT SPOKEN WITH ANYONE CONCERNING THIS.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, YOU KNOW, I JUST AM CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST SAID, AND MAYBE I MISUNDERSTOOD IT, BUT YOU IMPLIED -- I -- I GOT AN -- IT SOUNDED LIKE THERE WAS AN IMPLICATION THAT WE WERE GOING TO DO WHAT SHE IS ATTEMPTING TO DO.

>>GERALD WHITE: NO, I --

>>JAN PLATT: YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING --

>>GERALD WHITE: I AM NOT --

>>JAN PLATT: -- BECAUSE YOU MADE THE COMMENT --

>>GERALD WHITE: NO.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU MADE THE COMMENT, AND SEE, THAT'S WHY I

INITIALLY SAID -- AND I ASKED THE QUESTIONS TO MR. TINKLER,
HOW PRACTICAL IS IT FOR US TO EVEN BE DEALING WITH
SOMETHING THAT IN REALITY, FROM A VERY PRAGMATIC
STANDPOINT -- IF -- IF TEN PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT
IDEA, THAT IT'S NOT PRACTICAL FOR US TO EVEN ATTEMPT TO
DEAL WITH IT, YOU UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE OF THE TIMING?
IT'S SO LATE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING --

>>JAN PLATT: BUT I GUESS --

>>GERALD WHITE: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

WE HAVE NO CONTROL OF THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: SHE CAN WALK RIGHT IN THIS ROOM.

WE'VE BEEN MEETING.

I MEAN, SHE KNOWS WHEN WE MEET.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED ALL THOSE ADS IN THE PAPERS, SO
THEY'VE BEEN THERE THAT SHE KNEW SHE COULD COME HERE AND
PROPOSE THAT TO US.

>>GERALD WHITE: THE DOOR'S OPEN, MADAM CHAIR.

I JUST WANTED TO EXTEND AN INVITATION.

THAT'S IT.

I DON'T HAVE AN AGENDA.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. PORTER.

>>JIM PORTER: NO, HE'S FINE.

>>JAN PLATT: MR. MANDT.

>>MARC MANDT: THE GREAT THING ABOUT THIS PROCESS IS IT'S

AN OPEN PROCESS, AND WE'VE BEEN MEETING NINE MONTHS NOW.
WE TALKED ABOUT THE ISSUE OF AN ELECTED MAYOR OR COUNTY
CHAIR, AND WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT FOR NINE MONTHS NOW.
SHE HAS NOT COME IN THIS OPEN PROCESS FOR NINE MONTHS NOW,
AND BASED ON PAST DISCUSSIONS OF THIS BOARD, IF THE BOARD
REALLY WANTED A COUNTY MAYOR, AN ELECTED CHAIR, I THINK
WE -- I THINK WE WOULD HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED IT FOR REVIEW
TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

I THINK IT'S -- I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A GOOD USE OF OUR
REMAINING TIME FOR US TO INVITE HER BECAUSE THIS IS
OBVIOUSLY A DEAD ISSUE THIS GO-AROUND.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU KNOW, LET ME JUST TALK ABOUT THE COUNTY
MAYOR, WHY I AM SO OPPOSED TO A COUNTY MAYOR.

THAT POSITION WILL CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT WILL SOLVE.
WE -- THE COUNTY IS AN ARM OF THE STATE.

YOU KNOW, I THINK SOME PEOPLE LOOK AT THE CITY OF TAMPA.
CITIES ARE FREESTANDING, AND THEY CAN BE STRUCTURED
INTERNALLY HOWEVER THEY DECIDE TO STRUCTURE THEMSELVES, BUT
THE COUNTIES IN THIS STATE, UNLIKE SOME OTHER STATES, ARE
ARMS OF THE STATE.

THE COUNTY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING THE JUDGES, FOR
PROVIDING FOR THE -- FOR THE PRISONS.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS ARE ALL INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED.
THEY ARE OF VARYING POLITICAL PARTIES.

WHOEVER GETS TO BE MAYOR, IF YOU HAD A MAYOR, MAY BE OF A

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PARTY, AND WHAT IS CRITICAL ABOUT THAT ONE ISSUE IS IS IT'S THE TOP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL OF THE COUNTY WHO PIECES TOGETHER THE BUDGETS OF ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, AND IN MY OPINION -- AND I'VE ALWAYS SAID THIS -- IS THAT THE MOST POWERFUL POLITICIAN IN THE COUNTY IS THE SHERIFF, BECAUSE -- HE IS.

>>SHARON MILLER: THAT'S RIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: BECAUSE HE'S GOT ALL THOSE DEPUTIES, HE'S GOT THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS.

HE -- HE IS ABLE -- IF HE DOES NOT LIKE THE BUDGET THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR -- WHOEVER IS MAYOR, WHOEVER -- IF HE DOESN'T LIKE IT, HE CAN PETITION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO GET THAT BUDGET CHANGED.

WE HAVE NEVER HAD THAT HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTY BECAUSE OUR PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO WORK THINGS OUT.

THEY'RE NOT SUBJECT TO THE SUNSHINE.

THEY CAN MEET UP IN A ROOM, AND THEY CAN ALL HASH IT OUT AND DIVVY UP THE MONEY AMONG THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, AND THE ADMINISTRATOR THEN PRESENTS THAT BUDGET TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WHICH IS THEN DEALT WITH IN THE PUBLIC, BUT IF THAT PERSON BECOMES ELECTED, THEN SUNSHINE WILL HAVE TO PREVAIL BECAUSE OF ALL THE OTHER ISSUES.

SO -- AND THEN IF YOU THINK ABOUT THIS TIME IN THE COUNTY'S

HISTORY, THE COUNTY IS REALLY BASING -- BASICALLY DEALING WITH GROWTH ISSUES, AND SO THAT PERSON IS GOING TO HAVE THE VETO POWER OVER ZONINGS.

IT WOULD PUT A WHOLE DIFFERENT COMPLEXION ON THE ZONING PROCESS.

AND THAT'S WHY IT'S JUST MY OBSERVATION, IT'S USUALLY THE DEVELOPERS WHO WANT THIS.

THAT'S JUST MY OBSERVATION.

THE ONES I KNOW WHO ARE SO STRONGLY FOR IT ARE THE -- ARE THE DEVELOPERS BECAUSE THEY WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL FUND THE CAMPAIGN.

IT WILL COST MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO WIN THE ELECTION.

SOMEBODY LIKE ME WOULD NEVER BE ELECTED TO THAT, AND YOU-- ALL WOULD BE VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT -- BUT WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IS THAT SOME CITIZEN KIND OF DO-GOODER, THEY'D NEVER GET ELECTED BECAUSE THEY COULD NEVER RAISE THE MONEY.

AND SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME SKILLED POLITICIAN, LIKE WE HAVE IN THE CITY OF TAMPA THAT ALWAYS WINS THE ELECTIONS, THAT -- AND SO IT'S REALLY GOING TO TAKE GOVERNMENT FURTHER AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE.

TO ME, THE GOVERNMENT WE HAVE RIGHT NOW IS THE CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE.

IT'S NOT PERFECT, BUT ANYWAY, THAT'S -- THAT'S MY -- AND I -- AND I HESITATE TO ACTUALLY INVITE HER BECAUSE TO ME, IT'S DOING HER A DISSERVICE BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR US TO CONSIDER IT -- TO PUT IT ON THE BALLOT IF WE THOUGHT SHE HAD A GOOD IDEA, SO WE'RE GOING TO BASICALLY, THEN, BE PICKING APART WHATEVER IT IS SHE SAYS, AND I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE TO DO THAT TO A CITIZEN.

AND SHE COULD COME IF SHE WANTED --

>>RALPH FISHER: I CALL THE VOTE.

>>JAN PLATT: SO GERALD, I UNDERSTAND YOUR INTENT, BUT I CAN'T GO ALONG WITH IT.

>>RALPH FISHER: CAN WE CALL THE VOTE, MADAM CHAIR.

>>GERALD WHITE: CALL THE VOTE, BUT CAN I JUST SAY THIS ONE LAST THING RELATED TO VOTING IN THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD. THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD VOTED FOR THE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER TO CREATE THE INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR AT THEIR LAST MEETING, AND, YOU KNOW, I STILL WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CITIZENS DON'T THINK THAT WE HAVE TO ACT IN A CERTAIN TIME.

WE HAVE THE POWER TO ACT UP TO THE LAST DAY, AND THAT'S WHY WE APPOINTED THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND WE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND WE DIDN'T HAVE PROBLEMS WITH OUR AMENDMENT AT THAT TIME.

I WANTED TO SAY THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: BUT THAT --

>>GERALD WHITE: AND LET ME CLOSE WITH THIS ON THIS ISSUE.

AND THE REASON I WANTED TO INVITE MARY ANN STILES IS BECAUSE I REALLY AM AFRAID ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE PROCESS BECAUSE I -- I -- I THINK THAT SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN TO THE CHARTER TO CHANGE THE POWER STRUCTURE IN OUR COUNTY, AND CERTAIN CITIZENS CAN BE LOCKED OUT PARTICIPATING AND CREATING AN AMENDMENT.

SURE THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON IT, BUT THEN THAT'S POLITICS ON THE VOTING SIDE, BUT THE ACTUAL LANGUAGE, THE INITIATIVE PROCESS, TO CREATE SOMETHING AND PUT IT ON A BALLOT -- PEOPLE CAN BE LOCKED OUT OF A CHANGE IN THE WORDING AND THE POWERS, THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

ONCE IT'S ON THE BALLOT, IT'S JUST -- IT'S JUST A FIGHT TO SEE WHO WINS, AND SO I JUST WANTED TO -- TO PUBLICLY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO HER TO COME TO THIS CHARTER REVIEWED BOARD AND AT LEAST HEAR THAT CONCERN OF MINE, AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU-ALL HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT CHANGING THE POWER AND STRUCTURE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, BUT I DO, AND AN INITIATIVE IS JUST THAT, IT'S AN INITIATIVE, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO EVEN BE INVOLVED IN, BUT IT CAN BECOME REALITY.

>>JANET WILSON: POINT OF ORDER.

DO WE HAVE A CALL FOR A VOTE OR NOT?

>>JAN PLATT: WE DID.

WE DID.

WE DID.

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT'S JUST A CONCERN.

I WANTED TO MAKE SURE --

>>JAN PLATT: YOU SAID IT.

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR, I WANTED TO MAKE SURE MY CONCERNS FOR A CITIZENS INITIATIVE WAS ON THE RECORD.

>>JAN PLATT: WE HAD A CALL FOR THE VOTE.

IT TAKES TWO-THIRDS TO CLOSE DEBATE.

IS THERE A SECOND TO CLOSING DEBATE?

IS THERE A SECOND?

>>GERALD WHITE: I SECOND IT.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WE'RE TRYING TO CLOSE IT OUT.

>>GERALD WHITE: NO, YOU AREN'T CLOSING ME.

I'M READY --

>>JANET WILSON: [INAUDIBLE]

>>JAN PLATT: WE DON'T NEED TO VOTE.

IF YOU SECOND IT -- LET'S JUST VOTE.

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION, RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

THE MOTION TO INVITE MARY ANN STILES.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THAT, RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

>>GERALD WHITE: OH.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

TWO.

ALL OPPOSED.

SO THE MOTION FAILS.

OKAY.

THANK YOU, MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I HAVE -- I HAVE MORE NEW BUSINESS.

>>JAN PLATT: WHAT IS IT?

>>GERALD WHITE: MADAM CHAIR, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION THAT THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY GO ON RECORD OPPOSING AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A SECOND?

>>JANET WILSON: I DON'T KNOW.

CAN WE DO THAT?

>>YVETTE MIRANDA-CHAPMAN: IS THAT A MOTION -- I DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON.

>>JAN PLATT: EXPLAIN -- EXPLAIN YOUR MOTION.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, SIMPLE.

I WANT THE CHARTER REVIEW -- THE MOTION IS --

>>JAN PLATT: TO BE ON RECORD?

>>GERALD WHITE: -- TO BE ON RECORD OPPOSING AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR INDEPENDENT OF OUR EXECUTIVE COUNTY.

ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR, THAT'S MY MOTION, THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD OPPOSING THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A SECOND?

OKAY.

THAT DIES FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

I HAVE ONE -- ONE MORE NEW BUSINESS.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: MY OTHER NEW BUSINESS, MA'AM, THE ONLY OTHER THING I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT IN THE CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS WAS THE CONCERNS ABOUT CITIZENS NOT HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHARTER VIOLATION OUTSIDE OF TAKING THEIR ISSUE TO THE COURT, AND SO I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT A GREAT DEAL, AND I HAVE AN IDEA, AND I WANTED TO -- UNDER -- UNDER OUR -- UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF FLORIDA, WE HAVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAS SPOKE ABOUT. THEY'RE -- THEY'RE OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY. THEY'RE CONSTITUTIONAL -- THEY CALL THEM CONSTITUTIONALS BECAUSE THEY'RE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, BUT THEY'RE COUNTY OFFICERS, AND MY MOTION IS THAT THE FIVE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SERVE AS THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER VIOLATION REVIEW BOARD.

THAT'S THE MOTION, MADAM CHAIR.

>>JAN PLATT: THAT THE CHARTER BE AMENDED --

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT -- THAT WE ADD -- I GUESS IT WILL BE A NEW LINE SINCE IT DOESN'T EXIST NOW -- THAT THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER -- THAT THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

CHARTER REVIEW BOARD CREATE A BOARD IN THE CHARTER, AND THE BOARD WILL BE TITLED THE "HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER VIOLATION REVIEW BOARD."

AND THAT BOARD WOULD BE THE BOARD TO HEAR ANY CONCERN RELATED TO A CHARTER VIOLATION, AND THESE WOULD BE YOUR FIVE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTYWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A SECOND TO THAT?

YOU KNOW, I'LL TELL YOU WHY I WON'T SECOND IT OR I WOULDN'T EVEN VOTE FOR IT IS BECAUSE I THINK -- I BELIEVE YOU OUGHT TO GO TO COURT AND HAVE A LEGAL -- IT'S A LEGAL ISSUE.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE IT HEARD BY POLITICIANS.

IT HAS TO GO TO COURT.

THAT'S THE LEGAL RECOURSE WE HAVE TODAY.

YOU'RE TRYING TO POLITICIZE IT.

>>YVETTE MIRANDA-CHAPMAN: I HAVE A QUESTION.

WHAT POWER -- WHAT WOULD THEY DO IF THEY FOUND THERE WAS A VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER?

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT WOULD BE UP TO THIS BOARD.

I WOULD AT LEAST LIKE TO GIVE THEM THE POWER TO JUST ISSUE AN OPINION.

YOU KNOW, IF THEY FELT AS THOUGH, THROUGH A MAJORITY VOTE, THAT THE CHARTER WAS VIOLATED, I WOULD LIKE FOR THEM AT LEAST TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT PUBLICLY.

THEY'RE COUNTYWIDE, THEY'RE ELECTED OFFICIALS, THEY'RE COUNTY OFFICERS, THEY'RE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE

OF FLORIDA.

I THINK IT'S THE PERFECT BODY TO -- TO HAVE OVERSIGHT OF
THE -- OF THE CHARTER RELATED TO VIOLATIONS.

>>JANET WILSON: I JUST DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN TAKE A
PERSON'S RIGHT AWAY TO GO TO COURT, WHETHER IT'S THE
CITIZEN OR THE OTHER SIDE.

>>GERALD WHITE: THEY'RE NOT LIMITED TO THAT.

>>JANET WILSON: YES, YOU HAVE.

THERE'S NO POINT.

THERE'S JUST ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY.

>>GERALD WHITE: SOME CITIZENS DON'T HAVE MONEY TO GO TO
COURT.

I THINK MR. WOLFE SPOKE, HE DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY.

THERE WAS A PROBLEM, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO GO TO
COURT.

>>JAN PLATT: THERE'S NOT A SECOND.

SO NOW IS THERE ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

WE'RE UNDER NEW BUSINESS.

IS THERE ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE US?

IS --

>>SHELLEY BLOOD: JUST WANTED TO CLARIFY ONE THING.

CAROL ADVISED ME ABOUT THE BLANKS THAT ARE ON THE WEB SITE.

THAT WAS FOR OCTOBER 27th, WHEN WE HAD TO CANCEL THE
MEETING BECAUSE OF HURRICANE WILMA AND OUR CONCERNS ABOUT
THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES, MADAM CHAIR.

I -- I WANT TO TRY TO FIND OUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO GO ABOUT -- I WANT YOU, AS CHAIR, TO START THINKING ABOUT OUR EXECUTIVE REPORT THAT WE HAVE TO COMPLETE TO PUT IN THE RECORD.

HAVE YOU GIVEN THAT ANY THOUGHT, HOW THAT'S GOING TO WORK? ARE WE GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY WHAT WE WANT IN THE HISTORIC DOCUMENT OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD?

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, I -- I WASN'T AWARE THAT WE NEEDED TO DO THAT.

I MEAN, TO ME, THE MINUTES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

I MEAN, I DON'T -- I DON'T BELIEVE IN EDITING OR REGURGITATING -- REWRITING MINUTES.

I MEAN, THE MINUTES -- I'M A -- I'M PRETTY MUCH OF A LEGAL KIND OF PERSON THAT THINKS THAT THAT'S THE RECORD.

IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

IS THERE A LEGAL REQUIREMENT, MR. TINKLER, THAT THERE BE AN EXECUTIVE REPORT?

>>KEN TINKLER: MADAM CHAIR, I THINK IT'S MORE OF A QUESTION OF TRADITION.

THE LAST THREE CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS HAVE ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE REPORT, BUT IT WAS PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

THE LAST ONE IN 2000 SIMPLY REQUESTED THAT THEIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PREPARE A SUMMARY REPORT, WHICH INCLUDED ALL THE MINUTES AND ALL THE DOCUMENTS THAT THEY HAD CREATED.

ONE THING THAT IS DIFFERENT THIS TIME IS YOUR WEB SITE HAS ALL OF THE MATERIAL THAT HAS GONE ON WHILE LAST TIME DID NOT HAVE ALL OF THE MATERIAL ON-LINE.

THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED IS AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE SESSION, AND THAT COULD CERTAINLY BE PREPARED AT THE STAFF LEVEL.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

AND I WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE OUR DIRECTOR AS WELL AS OUR ATTORNEY TOGETHER WOULD WRITE THAT REPORT.

>>KEN TINKLER: RIGHT.

WE PARTICIPATED LAST TIME.

>>JAN PLATT: DO WE HAVE TO MAKE A MOTION THAT THAT BE DONE, OR IS THAT JUST AUTOMATIC?

>>KEN TINKLER: IT'S PREFERABLY AN ACTION YOU TAKE AT YOUR LAST MEETING JUST ASKING THE DIRECTOR TO SUMMARIZE WHAT HAS OCCURRED AND INCLUDE ALL OF THE MATERIAL THAT YOU'D LIKE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

SO WE DO THAT AT THE END.

OKAY.

WELL, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THAT UP AND CLARIFYING THAT.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, HE RAISED ANOTHER POINT.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR US MEETING IN JANUARY?

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, BECAUSE AN ISSUE COULD COME UP, OR WE COULD DECIDE TO DEAL WITH AN ISSUE THAT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PRECLEARED.

THAT WHOLE -- YOU KNOW, YOU MENTIONED THE AUDITOR.

THAT -- THAT DID NOT HAVE TO BE PRECLEARED, DID IT?

IT HAS -- HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH VOTING.

>>KEN TINKLER: IT WAS THE OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT IT DID NOT HAVE TO BE PRECLEARED.

>>JAN PLATT: SEE, I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD.

>>KEN TINKLER: WE WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT IT ANYWAY, BUT THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT TO.

>>JAN PLATT: IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE CAN THINK OF THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE PRECLEARANCE, THEN THERE MAY BE SOMETHING THAT COULD -- WOULD COME BEFORE US.

THE ISSUE IS THAT PRECLEARANCE, WHICH IS THE BUGABOO.

>>TERRY BALLARD: WE ALSO GOT THIS OPINION FROM -- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION THAT WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH SOMEWHERE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

WELL, IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO COME BEFORE US, HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY, AND WE'LL SEE EVERYBODY JANUARY THE 9th, AND THE MEETING --

OH, I'M SORRY.

MR. STORCK.

>>DAVID STORCK: I JUST WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>>DAVID STORCK: THANK YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED.