

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND THE PORT ST. LUCIE CITY COUNCIL, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005.

Mayor Benton called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Upon Roll Call, those present for the Fort Pierce City Commission were: Mayor Robert Benton; City Commissioners Rufus Alexander, Edward Becht, Christine Coke, and R. Duke Nelson; City Manager Dennis Beach; and City Clerk Cassandra Steele. Those absent: None.

Upon Roll Call, those present for the Port St. Lucie City Council were: Mayor Robert Minsky; Vice-Mayor Patricia Christensen; Council Members Michelle Berger, Christopher Cooper, and Jack Kelly; City Manager Donald Cooper; and City Attorney Roger Orr. Those absent: None.

Upon Roll Call, those present for the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners were: Chairperson Frannie Hutchinson; County Commissioners Doug Coward, Christopher Craft, Paula Lewis, and Joseph Smith; County Administrator Doug Anderson; and County Attorney Daniel McIntyre. Those absent: None.

City Commissioner Nelson said before they start could he ask that they give a silent prayer to the people in the wake of the hurricane that is ravishing the coast of this nation.

Mayor Benton said they will have a moment of silence. They do wish those people good luck. Their prayers are with them because he knows after what Fort Pierce went through last year, they are having a difficult time. God be with them.

The first item considered on the Agenda was **Future Library - Port St. Lucie.**

Ms. Susan Kilmer, St. Lucie County Library Director, said for the libraries over the next couple of years, their main focus right now is going to be in Port St. Lucie. They have a new library that is going to begin construction hopefully by the end of this year, a 15,000 square foot facility on three acres adjacent to Windmill Point Elementary School. They have impact fees right now of \$2 million this year and they will have additional funds next year. They currently have a \$500,000 grant to help with that construction if they can get things going by the end of this year. The Friends of the Library have also made a commitment to helping them with some of the furniture and the equipment. That facility will be a one story facility. They have preliminary plans from an architect with the firm that they are going to be over their proposal tomorrow morning. They have a lot of work to do in order to get this ready to at least have some type of construction permits and everything by December, because that is what they need to have for their grant project. The next library they are looking at for any type of expansion would be the Hurston Branch Library on Avenue D and North 29th Street. That is projected in their long range plan for 2007-2008. After that they are looking at expanding the Morningside Branch Library, also another library in the City of Port St. Lucie in the year 2008-2009. That library is currently 20,000 square feet and has the potential of adding an additional 15,000 square feet. They have property on South 25th Street that is right in the City limits that is between River's Edge Elementary School and Southern Oaks Middle School that is right now in the

plans, it is supposed to have a library there and it could also have a park there. That would also be a library they were looking at having anywhere from 30,000 to 40,000 square feet. There is no funding for that, it is not in their five year plan right now. Other libraries they need to consider and need to think about of course now will be in the north County because of the growth they are experiencing. There were no plans when the library at Lakewood was built in 1989 for any type of expansion, so they certainly have to look in that direction. They also need to think about replacing the current Port St. Lucie Branch Library on Prima Vista Boulevard.

That facility has been there since 1971. It is 4,800 square feet and it is one of the heaviest used facilities in the entire system.

They are also looking at the possibility of a beach library, something they could try to do something with Martin County on. They also need to look at something in St. Lucie West because the library there right now is a joint use library between the Community College and FAU (Florida Atlantic University) and it doesn't have all the accrements they would have with a typical branch library. That is where they stand for library projects in the next five years.

City Commissioner Alexander said he heard Ms. Kilmer speak of north County. She has nothing in the budget for the north...?

Ms. Kilmer said the Hurston Branch Library they are planning to expand at least 5,000 to 10,000 square feet.

City Commissioner Alexander asked north County?

Ms. Kilmer said not yet, that is not in their current five year plan, but that is something they have to address very quickly.

City Commissioner Alexander said that is his point, very quickly.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he has one quick question he would like to ask. This is from a couple of years ago, but three or four years ago Commissioner Coward called him and he guesses he was on the Board, he doesn't know if he still is; and they were looking for a piece of property in western Port St. Lucie. To make a long story short, their City Manager went out. They had a developer over by Gatlin Boulevard. And that is where their current new Police Station is, but they offered that property, and the library folks turned it down. He just always wondered why.

Ms. Kilmer said at that time they didn't feel that was the best location for a new facility. They were looking for something that had existing need and that is what Windmill Point has right now, is existing need. It has the parks, it has the schools, it has the sidewalks, it has everything they need for a new community library and that is why they went to that avenue. That doesn't mean that they couldn't look that way later on. But the Windmill Point just seemed the better property for them in Port St. Lucie at the time.

City Commissioner Nelson said he missed the expansion square footage for the Hurston Library.

Ms. Kilmer said when they built that library, the intentions were 5,000 square feet addition, but staff is pushing for her to ask for 10,000 square feet to be a two story facility. But the original plans intended for that to go another 5,000 square feet, so there would be 10,000 square feet total. But because they have so much property, they can always look at making the expansion a two story

facility. But it is in discussion.

City Commissioner Nelson asked they are going two story?

Ms. Kilmer said that is just something staff has asked for. That is not something they have in the plans right now.

City Commissioner Nelson said but definitely 5,000 square feet.

Ms. Kilmer said definitely 5,000 square feet. That was part of the original design.

Mayor Benton said at this time he would like to ask Mayor Minsky if he or anybody from his Council who would like to add any items to the Agenda?

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said yes, he has a few things he wants to add to the Agenda. One is hurricane assistance. And two, he would like to see if they can set up a protocol for having these joint meetings insofar as communication goes, getting backup information, and who is going to host it and schedule it.

Mayor Benton asked do they want to start with those items? They might as well.

The next topic considered, which was not on the Agenda, was **Hurricane Assistance.**

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said one of the things he is looking at is, they all realize they got hit down in South Florida but it wasn't all that bad. What is going on with their neighbors up there in New Orleans, Louisiana, and probably parts of other states is really going to be devastating and catastrophic. He would like to see if they could put something together to get some help for those people. Also, he has to keep in mind that they have a long way to go in this season. So what he thought of and he spoke with Commissioner Hutchinson about it is, perhaps the Treasure Coast could get together and put together a combined package where each of the entities within the Counties can put something into it and no one entity is going to get stripped bare, because he doesn't think they could afford to strip themselves to the point that they can't take care of it if it them. But if they all got together, he thinks maybe they could put something together. He just wanted to know if the rest of them thought that would be all right. What he would do is give a call to Mike Busha (Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council) and ask him to, through the Regional Planning Council, contact everybody and have that put on their agenda and see if they can come up with something.

Mayor Benton said he thinks that would be a great idea, because he knows last year he doesn't know where they would be had they not had help from all over this Country and all over the world to come in here.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky asked so it is okay with everybody? He just needs consensus on that if it is okay to contact Mr. Busha and set that up.

Mayor Benton asked does everyone agree? (The Commissioners and Council members agreed.)

The next topic considered, which was not on the Agenda, was

Protocol for Joint Meetings.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said it is becoming pretty evident that they are going to be having more and more meetings. And this meeting here, he himself called up and said he would like some backup. He thinks he sent in about five requests. He didn't get anything. He spoke with Commissioner Hutchinson this morning. She told him this is mostly stuff they had already received in the past. But that is not the way to prepare for a meeting. He thinks they need to demand certain protocols, that within a timely fashion they have an agenda and that they have backup material to support that agenda so they have a little time to look through it and see what is going to be at the meeting, see how they can prepare for it. None of that has been happening on this. They have all been running around here. Nobody knows what some of these items are on the Agenda. He thinks from now on they ought to insist that, whoever is hosting this meeting or any future meetings, that they be responsible for putting out an agenda, be responsible to see that the backup material is distributed to all the parties involved, and that it be done at least with a week's notice so they all have time to look at it, ask some questions, maybe put some input into it. But the way this one came about, he thinks it put everybody sort of at a loss, and he just doesn't think it is the right way to conduct these kinds of meetings.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said Mayor Minsky and she did talk this morning when she called him about the comments that were in the paper to see if they could get to the bottom of it. As she mentioned then, she was under the impression that the City of Fort Pierce, being the ones that were hosting it, would be the ones preparing the Agenda. And it was late Wednesday afternoon before she saw their certain requested subjects came across her desk. So she agrees with him, if they could set some type of a protocol together and at least let the appropriate staffs know about it, that way they don't end up in this situation again. As he mentioned, some of the backup he received in front of him right this moment, much of this is paperwork she pulled together this morning very quickly after speaking with him and it is all ones they have discussed in the past and it is more just to give an update from the last time they met to today, if there were any changes and so forth. Personally she thinks this is something that Mayor Minsky and Mayor Benton and herself at this point - until she changes Chairs - could actually start addressing during their monthly luncheons that they do, that they go ahead and whoever is going to host the next one comes much more prepared for this.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said the reason he thinks it is important is because there are a lot of items on here. Even though some of this information might have already been copied to them, it probably came from different boards, it probably came to different people. But no one board had access to all this information in a format that they could make use out of it, and he thinks it puts them at a disadvantage when they sit down and have these meetings. So he is just letting everybody know that the three of them will probably be getting together and setting up some protocols they can agree on, bring it back to staff. He has a very simple feeling on it - no backup, no meeting. It is just going to be that simple as far as he is concerned because he thinks it is really a disservice if they don't do it that way.

Mayor Benton said he thinks also what did happen, a lot of this

came out of the joint meeting, the one they had last year through these three Boards, also the School Board. He thinks they talked about having partial Board meetings, which last month it was cancelled for whatever reason. A lot of times the issues that come out of those meetings would be followed up with them getting together, he believes twice a year is what they talked about doing last year. and he thinks with hurricanes and getting back on track really sent them all for a loop. And he thinks that is what they are doing now is trying to get back on track. So he thinks sitting down at lunch and coming up with some protocols, but also he thinks they need to include the School Board, like they talked about last year, in the future meetings. Does everyone agree there?

City Commissioner Alexander said yes. Just a little input on that subject as far as coming back with these agendas. He knows the last meeting they did set out a committee of three or more Commissioners and they were able to go and put something together then, maybe what they are bringing back. So maybe they can do that, instead of having a joint monthly meeting, they could have Committee meetings with three or more Commissioners and the School Board sits in those meetings; and then they can come back with some material they can be able to disburse to each councilperson and commissioner. It is just a thought on that. He knows they did a great deal of work, just those individuals. If they can set up other Committee meetings, that would be his suggestion.

Mayor Benton said he thinks those partial Board meetings, he thinks they had two of them which were very good for information. But it is just that last month it didn't materialize for one reason or another. Hopefully they will get things back on track. And with them having lunch, they can sit down and come up with issues, but also they are looking for issues from their boards to bring to lunch with them. He knows when he received the copy of the Agenda last week, he just felt there were some items on there that they had some unfinished business, especially with the County, that he felt should be addressed. One of the issues to him was a countywide issue, which they will get to.

The next item on the Agenda was Downtown Parking issues as it relates to the Clerk of Courts construction time frame.

Mr. Roger Shinn, St. Lucie County Central Services Director, said he will just give them a quick view of the County's plans to try to help alleviate some of the parking problems that they know is going to be created by the construction work they do downtown that will be starting in the near future. (Mr. Shinn displayed a drawing.) The green areas they see here are the proposed parking areas. This is the area they have now just behind the old hotel building. They have been leasing that for a couple of years now. That belonged to Vincent Lloyd. It has been sold to M.M.G. Holdings. They are currently in the process of trying to resell that property to be used for whatever, they don't know now. But they are on a month-to-month with them; and they are hoping that once it is bought, the County will be able to continue the lease agreement to continue to have this property until they come up with a purpose or intent for the building. This area here is the existing County parking lot they have just next to St. Andrews Church. They are going to be doing some renovation work to this area. This parking lot is going to be redone and revamped, which will add an additional 16 parking spaces to this parking area. This area here is some property the County just leased. They just entered into a contract with Willie Gary to lease that for the next two years. The County is in the

process now of trying to clean that up a little bit. They will bring in some hard top type soil and harden that up so they can have some reasonably fair parking there. Now this area here right now holds affords them approximately 65 spaces. They have 90 plus here and they are going to add an additional 16 spaces. In this space here, they have the numbers on that, that is just over 80 spaces that they will be able to take care of there. What they are going to lose under construction is this area here, approximately 50 spaces where the new Clerk of Court building will be going. They will lose 50 spaces; but once it is all done, they will be putting 34 of those spaces back. So in all they will lose 16 spaces, but those 16 spaces will be added back here. So they will lose 34 spaces during the construction. But at the same time - this is the parking garage - they are hoping to by the end of the project they will gain an overall net of 130 parking spaces to the downtown. That is kind of where they are at with that right now.

Mayor Benton said he knows they had some discussion the other night at the City Commission level. They were talking about a trolley service mainly to help people like jurors and judges and everybody dealing with the court system and the businesses downtown, to move them around. The County parking garage, when they put those additional two floors on that, is that garage going to be closed?

Mr. Shinn said yes.

Mayor Benton said that is what he thought. So what is the time frame on that, do they know?

Mr. Shinn said they are hoping this is all going to happen within the time frame of the building of the Clerk of Court building, which they are hoping it is completed by July of next year, so all that is going to happen in that time frame. He does know a little about what the Mayor is talking about. He wasn't at the meeting, but he knows they had talked about that a couple of years ago as a possibility for the parking problem is to be able to shuttle people in and out.

City Commissioner Coke said she guesses her question becomes, with their discussion last Monday night was, is the County going to look to perhaps have some temporary parking during this construction phase when the two story parking garage is being redone and across from St. Andrews is being redone? Are they going to look to utilize some parking down by the Veterans Park or the ManaTiki? Because the City is in the process now, in order to enable the County to move these people around and not have everybody yelling and screaming, they would like to set up now a trolley route that could pick people up and specifically take them from parking lots to the Courthouse. They are trying to anticipate and resolve the problem before it blows up in their faces. So that is, she thinks, the direction they are looking at to see if they can get some idea from the County. If they are looking, where are they are looking to accommodate the loss of parking during the construction phase? So they can amply plan to keep people happy downtown.

Mr. Shinn said they had tried to get the parking close enough to the building that they wouldn't have to transport people back and forth.

City Commissioner Coke asked how many parking spaces is that?

Mr. Shinn said this is approximately from 80 to 90 spaces, the best

they can figure.

City Commissioner Coke asked how many are they going to lose when they close down the two story parking garage for construction?

Mr. Shinn said that is 65 per floor, or 180 or so.

City Commissioner Coke said so they are going to have a deficit of 100 parking spaces. Plus the deficit of the 50 parking spaces for the courthouse. So they are going to be short over 100 parking spaces.

Mr. Shinn said he can't answer her question. He does know a year and a half or two years ago they were looking at going down to the Community Center on Indian River Drive and making spaces available there.

City Commissioner Coke said she doesn't think their concern is necessarily where. They just want to be sure that the City of Fort Pierce is ready and able to accommodate this problem. Once the County makes a decision of where they are going to put them, then the City can make arrangements for the trolley route so that it services that area.

Mr. Shinn said yes, he understands.

City Commissioner Becht said he thanks Mr. Shinn for being here today. Has he had a chance to talk to Mr. Recor, the Deputy City Manager, yet?

Mr. Shinn said no.

City Commissioner Becht said he placed a call to Mr. Shinn and Mr. Anderson probably a week ago or two weeks ago which followed a call to Ed Fry, the Clerk of Courts. He thought Ed Fry was the person to call to find out what was going to be done with parking for the jurors and the other people who use the court system. Ed Fry told him... Mr. Fry didn't say it wasn't his problem, he said he didn't know what the plan was, to call Doug Anderson. He called Doug Anderson; and not Mr. Anderson but someone in his office said Mr. Shinn is the man to talk to. So he doesn't know who they are supposed to talk to. What the City of Fort Piece is trying to do is to create a system that helps serve the court system which serves everybody, including Port St. Lucie, so when they come up from Port St. Lucie to use the court system they are not yelling and screaming about there is a parking problem up here. Who is it that they are supposed to talk to, to try and coordinate the problem that is going to be created by the shortfall of parking spots? Apparently it is not Mr. Shinn. Who do they talk to?

Mr. Shinn said probably he would need to meet with him. He is sorry, if Mr. Becht called for him, he didn't get that call. He apologizes and he will be willing to try to talk to him about it.

City Commissioner Becht said he doesn't know if it is Mr. Shinn or if it is Mr. Fry or a combination of Mr. Fry and Mr. Recor and Mr. Shinn. They are just trying to address the problem, but they don't know who to talk to at this point.

Mr. Shinn said he is right. That is what they are wanting to do is address the problem. They know there is going to be a problem. He can get with him. Like he said, this property here is the property

they have leased for about two years to take care of that juror parking. That is what that was originally leased for is for that problem.

City Commissioner Becht said they are using everything the County has, everything; and they are going to take away 100 to 150 spots. They are appreciative that the County is building and is correcting some of the problems that are downtown. But the City is trying to bid a contract for a trolley or bus service to help all of them with this problem. So if Mr. Shinn will work with the City staff, then they can bid the contract, fold it into what his plans are, so that the community at large is not punished for the construction.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said City Commissioner Becht mentioned they have Mr. Recor on the City staff. If he could meet with Mr. Shinn and at least bring something back to both of the appropriate boards.

Mayor Benton said he thinks it is mainly just keeping that open line of communication so when all of this construction takes place, including Indian River Drive, they don't want to inconvenience those folks any more than they have to.

The next item on the Agenda was Special Needs Shelter.

Mayor Benton said he sees Agenda Item #6 has to do with the County Special Needs Shelter, so if they want to wait, they can wait until they get to Item #6. Is that okay with everyone? (The Commissioners and Council Members agreed.)

The next item on the Agenda was Discussion of City of Fort Pierce interest in exchange of property with St. Lucie County.

Mayor Benton said this item is something he brought up to the City Commission. There is a map that came with some of the packets, he hopes everybody has this. This should be an issue for everyone up here, because he would imagine with all the people in Port St. Lucie maybe 10% or more at least have a boat and want to get to the ocean. They are very limited on boat ramps and siting of boat ramps. If they look at the map, basically it is showing them from the entrance to South Bridge to the existing Port facilities, from the Indian River on the east to U.S. #1 on the west. Over a year ago they had a developer coming in that was looking at purchasing all of that property. Needless to say there were some roadblocks.

Unfortunately that is probably one of the most blighted areas in Fort Pierce, but it is very interesting because it is on the water.

Their issue was with the boat ramps. The developer was willing to build a very nice boat ramp similar to Stan Blum or even better wherever they wanted it located at the developer's expense. The issue right now is, they have a facility that they can put two boats in the water at a time and they have some vacant land for parking which is right in the middle of that blighted area. He thinks from the letter (dated July 22, 2005) that went to the County is the City is very much interested in purchasing that property for potential development in the future. The property, he knows with many discussions with various groups in the County and when they had the Port Charrette, they looked at the western edge of the Harbour Pointe property adjacent to Cracker Boy as a great place to site a boat ramp. So this is for information. But he would hope that everybody looks into the number of boats. They have over 10,000 boats in St. Lucie County registered. And on any

given weekend they might be lucky if they could get 500 of them in the water and parked. Especially on holiday weekends they will see the places filled up and parked along the roads and anywhere they can park adjacent probably by 9:00 in the morning. So there is a need. He would just like to put this on the Agenda as an official request from the City to consider maybe transferring that property.

He knows the County has some interest in some City property that was stated in that letter.

City Manager Dennis Beach said the proposal, as the Mayor has indicated, is actually to exchange property that St. Lucie County owns near the Black Pearl Boat Ramp for some property that the City owns adjacent to the St. Lucie County Administration building and Civic Center. The County has been in communication with the City on a number of occasions about the possibility of acquiring that. They believe that is what they would like to explore. He doesn't know that they have the specifics to the point of knowing how much property the County is looking for for expanding parking at the County Administration Building, but it appears that they have enough to accommodate that if they can interest the County in this exchange. The exchange would actually occur between the CRA probably and St. Lucie County. Probably the most important decision he would ask the St. Lucie County Commission to consider is the future best use of this land and the properties surrounding that. All of them are familiar with Fisherman's Wharf, it was pretty much destroyed during the hurricane. All of those properties there are currently under condemnation and will all be coming down. St. Lucie County owns two very sizable lots in that vicinity that the City has had developers in the past trying to accumulate about 15 acres right there on the Fisherman's Wharf area. They quit moving forward with it when they realized there was County ownership involved and he thinks the County indicated that they were not willing sellers at this point in time. So if there is some way they can entice St. Lucie County to get involved with this, that would be very helpful.

Commissioner Alexander said looking at the map here, he is looking at two parcels of properties.

City Manager Beach said that is correct.

Commissioner Alexander asked what is the second parcel?

City Manager Beach said they are both County-owned and are used right now for overflow parking for the Black Pearl Boat Ramp.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said their Board has not discussed this in an open meeting, so she will ask staff to bring this to the County. But she will let them know that the land Mr. Beach had mentioned in the letter, the lot right next door to the County Administration building, she personally would not consider trading for these properties. The reason being, they are limited due to their Manatee Protection Plan on where they can and cannot site boat ramps. She has no problem with looking for lands that would give them access to put another boat ramp, but she personally would not be open to closing one to go inland without the ability to have an additional boat ramp for the public's use. So if there are other areas? He did say there may be other areas, and she would be willing to consider that one.

Mayor Benton said he thinks what they need to do, what they are trying to do is start the ball rolling that way. But maybe at one

of the County meetings, pull out the map and find out where they can, because it is going to take a while to permit. But it is just that this facility is hard to use, it is a very inconvenient place, and two boats at a time just really doesn't make sense. To site another place within a half mile of the inlet would be great. He knows there are several other areas. They have one on South Beach Causeway; but because of the current there, unless they go out on a very calm day at high tide in the summer, forget it, unless there was a breakwater. But because of the number of boaters in the County, he thinks it is time that they address it, because there are so few boat ramps. And as they know, throughout the area they are going to have more and more boaters every year. That is why people come here. He just noticed when they talk about road rage, they should see the rage at the boat ramp when a thunderstorm comes up and people can't get in or out, and there are problems. He just would ask everybody, he is just trying to start dialogue that they get going. When anybody gets a chance, just take a ride by the boat ramp on Saturday morning or on Labor Day weekend and see what happens.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said having said that, she would also invite the City of Port St. Lucie, they are also limited on a boat ramp access within the city's areas. But if there are ones that the City of Port St. Lucie too would like the County to look at, they would be more than happy to, if there is any interest.

Mayor Benton said he knows if there were boat ramps, he has used them in Port St. Lucie. If somebody wants to get to the ocean, they are talking a good hour or hour and a half if they are going south. It is just very convenient and he knows a lot of people from Port St. Lucie are using these ramps because they are within three minutes of the ocean and a lot of people from Port St. Lucie are going to be using these ramps in the future. So please, this is important to everybody in the County.

City Commissioner Nelson said he is not sure he followed through on what Chairperson Hutchinson was saying with regards to their letter of July 22nd. Are they going to respond in a fashion that they can address the swap of those lands that are owned by the City and the County in their respective areas? The properties that the City owns near the Civic Center he thinks is offered for swap for some land down by Black Pearl. The City certainly has some plans for the land in the area of the Black Pearl area. But do they have a potential usage for the land near the Civic Center the City owns?

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said there were plans in the Lawnwood Park Master Plan. It was phased in and there were ideas put forth for that corner, but they have not materialized at this point. They are still at the very early phases. The point she made was mostly, if she is going to be trading land that is now being used to access the waterways, she personally - again, this has not been brought to her Board at this point - but she personally would like to see like land in-kind to trade, not land on the inland that is not going to help their boating situation. That was just the way she was leaning.

City Commissioner Alexander said just one last thing on that. Trying to do a collaborative effort between the Cities and the County, surely they don't want the individuals from Port St. Lucie going to another county to utilize their waterways. So he questions along with finding properties for the boat ramp, the

question should be is a collaborate effort between the Cities and the County to put together something? Instead of swapping something out, let it be a joint venture. They need to have more of those in this County anyway, ventures.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she likes his idea much better.

Mayor Benton said the unique thing about this is, just like anything else, developers will pay for it. It is one of those where a lot of these people coming in here, one out of ten might be dragging a boat behind them.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said just to remind everyone and everyone knows that Port St. Lucie has no bridge to the Island. He is bringing that up because it is going to come back some day. They have no way of enjoying the beaches readily. Most of their people do go to Martin County like Commissioner Alexander said and they hear about it all the time. Their taxes go towards beach renourishment and everything else. He is not begrudging anybody. They also don't have any County land, maybe his Council members would know of it, but he knows of no County land on the river or anyplace that they could put any other boat access at all. But 80% or closer to 90% of their river property is in preserve, which they did along with the County in many areas. So he doesn't know how they would solve that. And they do use Martin County and Martin County doesn't like it. He guesses they do have to do something. But he just wanted to bring it back that fishing is important. And when they say 10,000 boats, he bets them the bulk of them are in Port St. Lucie, but they don't get to use it. When the bridge comes back, he wants everybody to remember how important this was today when it comes back.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said that is on their agenda for tomorrow, she understands, Martin County.

Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Christensen said she just wants to just add something Councilman Kelly may have forgotten. They do have a location for a boat ramp off of South End Boulevard. Unfortunately the funding is not available. So if the County wants to assist with the funding, unfortunately because of the mitigation issue, it is going to cost over \$1 million to do a very small boat ramp area. But they would be more than happy to discuss that.

Mayor Benton said he knows there is always money from FIND (Florida Inland Navigation District). That is one thing they are set up to do. So tap them when they can.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said obviously there is interest from Fort Pierce in looking at the possibility of finding future boat sites. So if the Mayor could direct his staff to find out where those location possibilities might be and then possibly bring them to the County or copy the County with them; and they would be more than happy to willingly work with both Cities on that.

City Commissioner Becht said since they are talking about it right now, as he would envision this, he doesn't think it is necessary to shut down the boat ramp. The problem is not necessarily the boat ramp. The problem is the trucks and trailers are two days a week occupying the County property. So he thinks somebody smarter than he is could come up with a plan where they keep the boat ramps

open, but the trailers and trucks are parked somewhere other than prime property in downtown Fort Pierce two days a week. They have all traveled to other places where they have boat ramps and they don't have the trailer parking immediately adjacent to the ramps. So this can be done and the ramps can be kept open with the property converted to a higher better use.

Mayor Benton said just like the ones at Moore's Creek that are closed six months out of the year, basically people quit using them. He thinks if they were to have another facility similar to Stan Blum, a very state of the art boat ramp where they could put 8 or 12 boats in the water at a time and parking, and basically they need to find a place with some large vacant land, then basically that will put that boat ramp out of business. They might have parking in the Black Pearl parking lot for maybe 25 boats and trailers and that is it. It is just convenience and another facility like Stan Blum.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Craft said looking at these two properties, he is assuming that the value of these are going to be a little bit higher than the value of the one at the Civic Center and over at Lawnwood. If they were able to make some sort of a swap that made sense and get additional funds from that, that they could then invest in the Port St. Lucie boat ramp down there, he would be possibly in favor of that. If they could just take a look in that direction, please.

Mayor Benton said through this discussion, what he is looking for more than anything is the developers he met with were willing to spend a lot of money. The issue was, they were not going to close that boat ramp until the new one was up and running, and it might take two years with permitting. That is why it is so important to find one, they have developers that are willing to pay for it. Let's make a convenient one to use. He thinks what happened was, when the developers talked to all the property owners and got a negative, they went somewhere else. So what they are trying to do is, he doesn't think the City wants to own that property, he thinks the City wants the ability to deal with that property. If the County would do that and use that as a leverage to build a better facility or more facilities in other places.

The next item on the Agenda was Update on Court Buildings - St. Lucie West Annex, Walton Road Annex, Renovations of the Old Courthouse, Parking Garage, Monumental Staircase, District Cooling, Clerk of Courts Building.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said this is just for background. A lot of this they have all heard in the past, whether it be under the title of different subjects. But this again is mostly just an update as to where the County is with the court system and the different buildings.

Mr. Roger Shinn, St. Lucie County Central Services Director, said he will just go right down the list. The first one is St. Lucie West Annex. The County is in the process right now of adding an additional courtroom down there along with the support staff space that is needed to operate the courtroom - the judges chambers and administrative staff. Walton Road Annex, they are currently in the process, they are working with C3TS, it is an architectural firm. They are putting together the bid documents for them now. They have roughly 4,000 square foot of space down at the new Walton Road building they have that they are going to go ahead and build that

out. They are currently going to put seven offices for the Public Defender in there. They are going to take care of the guardian ad litem program and they are also going to house an agricultural extension office down there along with a meeting room for their Commissioners. So that will be built out. They will start on that right after the first of their new budget year in October. The renovations in the old Courthouse, they are looking at putting that back as useful courtroom space as soon as they can. The first part will be the second and third floor. It is a four story building. They always say the basement is first floor, then second and third, so it is really a four story building. But on the second and third floor they will be putting courtrooms back in that area. The basement and first floor will be there for other court-related officials or support people. The first thing they will do on that project is, they hope to go in there and they are going to be putting in a monumental staircase. They will be replacing all the windows. They will be drying that building in, so when they do the renovation, they will have a nice dry building to do the work and won't have to worry about coming back later and taking care of that. Next is the Parking Garage. They are working with the City on that, they have approved funding for that. They are working through that issue along with they still have to complete the plans. They have an architect on that, but he has not completed the final plans for the addition to the parking garage. The monumental staircase, that is something they will be doing as soon as money is available. The District Cooling Plant is just north of the Courthouse Annex. That cooling plant, once it is done, it will cool the old Courthouse when it is renovated. It is also going to cool the new Clerk of Court building. And in a few years when the time comes and they need to replace the unit at the Public Defender's office, it also will be sized up big enough to take care of that.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said Mayor Minsky had a good question earlier today when they spoke; and that was in regards to... Could Mr. Shinn possibly explain, some of them may not know what a district cooling facility is.

Mr. Shinn said it is actually a chiller plant that chills water, cools down water. They already ran the piping part way for the new Clerk of County building. But what they have is chilled water pipes that run through each of these locations or each of these buildings. That chiller plant chills the water and circulates clear through their whole maze of piping they have set up and then circulates back and is cooled down again and again.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky asked a heat transfer system?

Mr. Shinn said pretty much.

Commissioner Nelson asked this monumental staircase, could Mr. Shinn explain what that is a little bit? He is not familiar with it.

Mr. Shinn said they have one entry into the existing Courthouse now, the Courthouse Annex. They have to pass through security where the guards check their belongings, they have to put them in a basket and get x-rayed through. That is the main entry point to the Courthouse Annex. When they renovate the old Courthouse and there are courtrooms in there, then they will have to do the same thing, they would have to duplicate that. What they hope to do with the monumental staircase is that is going to be one central

entry point for both of those buildings, so now they still just have the one security checkpoint that they have to do. Otherwise, the County would have to buy additional metal detectors, they would have to put more security people on. (Mr. Shinn displayed a drawing.) Actually this is the area they are talking about, the old Courthouse and the new Courthouse. It kind of looks like a V-shape in here. They will come in here and then they will have stairs that take them up both sides of the building, but it is one central entry point. They will have all their security and metal detection and all the guards will be here to check people through.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said this really came about due to the 9/11 security issues they had to do in their courthouses and it was a cost savings when they went back and looked at it.

Mr. Shinn said then there is the Clerk of the Courts building, roughly a 57,000 square foot building, five stories. They hope to have that and all the rest of these projects kind of hinge on that.

They are looking at a completion date... He is sorry, a while ago when he was asked, he said July of 2006. That is July 2007, not July 2006. He apologizes. But they plan on all these projects that he mentioned here being done within that time frame.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said going back to what Mayor Minsky said in the beginning of the meeting about protocol and backup. He had no idea what a monumental staircase was until just now, so he is glad Commissioner Nelson asked that question. He thought it was something in the Arts and Public Places, possibly a statue of Commissioner Duke Nelson. He didn't know, but it would have been nice to know beforehand. This is just an example. He is sure there are other people here too who didn't know what it was.

Mr. Shinn said actually, the ones they went to see are pretty grand staircases though.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he would like to know what it is before the meeting. That is all. Just a point.

City Commissioner Coke said just a point of clarification. She is going to go back to the same question she always asks. The parking garage downtown that they are putting the two floors on, he is saying now that is July of 2007?

Mr. Shinn said no, they are looking at a six month completion date once that is started.

City Commissioner Coke asked do they have a start date for that?

Mr. Shinn said no, they don't. They still have a funding issue which is CRA. Once they get that...

City Commissioner Coke said no, they already passed the funding for the CRA for that months and months ago. It is funded.

Mr. Shinn said he can't answer that question then.

City Commissioner Coke said so they actually don't have a start date for that parking garage, but it is going to take six months. She says this because she knows that a six month parking garage will proportionately extend like their 18 month parking garage is going to be three and a half years. So she is sure that a six month parking garage will be a year and a half.

Mr. Shinn said the bid documents are almost complete. They need to get those finalized. Once they have that though, they can get it out to bid; and once they get it out to bid and back, then it is a six month project.

City Commissioner Coke said so they are looking at six months for the parking garage once it gets started. Can he tell her the anticipated start and length of time for renovation of the old Courthouse as well as the Clerk of the Court building?

St. Lucie County Administrator Doug Anderson said on the old Courthouse, the estimated cost to renovate it and put all the new windows in and open up four courtrooms and office space is about \$7 million. To date they have been assured they are to get \$3 million from FEMA and insurance, which means the County still has to come up with \$4 million. Their hope is to use impact fees to pay that additional \$4 million. But that is where they are at today. They have identified the cost. They do have money set aside to go in and at least gut the building and get the new windows in. So they are not just going to wait until they come up with all the money, they are going to start construction at this point.

City Commissioner Coke asked could Mr. Anderson tell her the length of time the construction is going to take?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said it depends on how long it takes the County to come up with the \$4 million. He is not trying to be cute or anything, but that is just where they are at.

City Commissioner Coke said if they had the money today, is it a six month project, a year project?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said it is a 12 month project if they had the money today.

City Commissioner Coke asked what about the Clerk of the Courts building?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said the Clerk of the Courts building, they are out to bid for that now. The original cost estimate on the Clerk of the Courts building was \$6.9 million. The bids came in when they went out to bid at \$10.9 million. As they know, construction costs are skyrocketing for everyone. They have gone out, they have made some changes, modifications to the building. They are out to bid now. That bid opening is September 7th. Hopefully all the funding is in place. They are going to go to construction in November. They should be in that building in July 2007. On the parking garage, the reason Mr. Shinn hesitated is, some changes were made to the plans to enhance the outside of it a little bit. That additional cost he believes is \$30,000. They are going to get reimbursed by the CRA. They have all approved the total cost, it is in their total cost to CRA. What he is going to do is go back and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that the County fund the \$30,000 to be reimbursed by the CRA. And that will complete those plans, they are almost complete now. And then they could expedite that too. Their goal is to get everything under construction at the same time and as much of the old Courthouse as possible.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said if Mr. Anderson could just add on, the renovation of the old Courthouse, she thinks a lot of people have forgotten that they were very close to actually

going out for bid when they were hit with the hurricane which actually caused more damage which put them all the way back to square one and it actually increased the price.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said she is absolutely correct. A perfect example is, every window in that building has been loosened up, so the building is leaking. The architects and engineers are telling them every window has to be replaced. He believes there are 164 windows they have to replace. So there is a lot of additional work. And they had to go back and change their plans on the old Courthouse to accommodate for these changes.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said he is kind of curious. How much additional capacity is being built into that Courthouse as renovations?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said the new Clerk of the Court building is going to take care of Mr. Fry's office space and then some. That is 57,000 square feet. The old Courthouse is going to have four courtrooms and approximately 25,000 square feet of office space on the bottom two floors, which is close to 25,000 square feet of office space. At the same time, as Mr. Shinn said, and not to elude Mayor Minsky's question, but the County staff is at this point coming back to the Board of County Commissioners to award a contract for a space needs study for the County so they know their future needs and how long the space will last. That is under way. The proposals are in, the committee has met, and they are going to be making a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners within a couple of weeks. So they are going to do a total space need study. At the same time, in St. Lucie West they are going to move the guardian ad litem out of there, that is 19 people, to the Walton Road Annex. They are also going to be condensing some of the Public Defender's offices in Walton Road. At that point in time, Fort Pierce is going to be built out for the courts, with the exception of... When they built the Public Defender's building, they built it with the strength to hold two more floors. The cost to put on two more floors is in the range of \$4 million to \$5 million, which is not funded. But that is it for Fort Pierce. They are out of land. They can't do any more court expansion in the City of Fort Pierce, which means future court expansion will be in Port St. Lucie, it will be south of them. They are already addressing that with the expanding of the court needs at St. Lucie West and moving some of the court functions to the Walton Road Complex.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said his question was geared to the point when he read this, it said renovation of old Courthouse and it says they are going to use impact fees for it. Impact fees shouldn't be used for anything to do with renovations.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said that is correct. What they have done is they put money into the new Clerk of the Courts Building using impact fees, that is the expansion of the offices. If there are any impact fees that can be legally used for that building, they would use them, but not totally. They have other funding sources they put together - they have insurance, they have FEMA, and they are looking at others. But Mayor Minsky is correct. The only thing they can use impact fees is for expansion purposes.

City Commissioner Nelson said Mr. Anderson just mentioned the fact that they are running out of land in Fort Pierce. He knows from historical prospective, they use some land there on the corner of

7th Street and Avenue D, primarily the facilities is County utilized. He does not know who owns those properties. Is there any possibility of expanding that facility to accommodate some of their court needs as they are currently using some of that property now for court purposes? First of all, he is not sure who owns it.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said the County owns that. Staff has had some very preliminary conversations that have not been discussed with the Board of County Commissioners, what is the best way to utilize that property. That is also where they have their County record keeping. That is where the old jail is down in there. That building is built like a fort. And they need to expand their record keeping. He knows Mr. Fry is out of storage space, he has come to see him about it. They are looking at the best utilization of that property. Perhaps a two story building. That is something that will come out in their space needs study. That is why they need this so desperately, to determine what they need in space and where it should go.

City Commissioner Nelson said the City of Fort Pierce is getting ready, there are in the midst of getting a contractor to do major renovations to 7th Street from Delaware Avenue all the way to Avenue D. That is going to happen very soon. It would be a great benefit to all of them if they were to have a nice County facility to complement the Fire Station in that area. It once was a governmental entity in the past with the City courthouse there, the Supervisor of Elections office in the area, the Police Department in there. The history is there to warrant it; and of course, it would make it a tremendous addition to the Federal building, the Benton Building Complex across the street diagonally. So if they could incorporate some type of redesign in there to make that a more viable entity and more visible and attractive facility, he thinks the benefits for all concerned would be greatly appreciated because it obviously would attract more people to make more private developments in the area.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said yes, like he said, it is something they can discuss. They can discuss that in their space needs study. One of the issues over there that he is aware of at this time is that they do have a parking problem. They would have to figure out where they could park the vehicles. Maybe they could have an arrangement with the Federal Courthouse. It is something that could be explored.

City Commissioner Nelson said he is going to come see him about that.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said okay, he always does.

The next item on the Agenda was St. Lucie County TV (SLCTV) and Media Relations - Request to broadcast on Port St. Lucie Channel.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said they have an individual out sick today, so Shane DeWitt - their Media Specialist - is helping film this. By the way, he would like to thank the County's Media Department for filming this meeting. They have been over here working yesterday and today getting set up, so hopefully it comes out good. The request that Mr. DeWitt wants to make, and he supports this, is that they would like to be on a Port St. Lucie cable station, a city station, to be able to broadcast the Board of County Commissioners meetings and everything else they are now filming for the Board of County Commissioners. The Board approved

in the budget process they just went through the filming of Planning and Zoning Board meetings. They film workshops. They run special programming and on and on. They would like to be able to have access to a City channel. It is just something for their consideration.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said he would assume the first thing they would need is to have some sort of an estimate of how many hours they want to broadcast, what times, and then they would take a look at it. But also, he doesn't think they are going to approve anything that is going to take away Port St. Lucie's ability to broadcast to their people the messages they feel are important.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said he agrees with Mayor Minsky. They wouldn't be asking that. Let him get a report to him. He will run it through the Board of County Commissioners, the hours and time they are talking about, and see where they go from there.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said they will take a look at it. But until he sees it, his Board and him, there is just no way they can make any kind of decision on it today.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said they understand that. They just wanted to get it out on the table. That is all.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said they already have an Interlocal Agreement between their City and the County on the station. They broadcast the County's meetings and everything else all the time. Are they looking for another station or are they looking for more air time?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said additional programming time. He will be getting that to them.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said his only concern with that is, in the Interlocal Agreement it seems to be, and correct him if he is wrong, but he has never seen when he has been at County places and relative's houses, he has never seen a Port St. Lucie Council meeting on the County station. He is told it is played, but he is told it is played only on Sunday and he is told that it is played twice a week. Port St. Lucie plays the Board of County Commission broadcasts constantly, every day. There are differences of opinion and he would like to see both sides aired; and he doesn't think Port St. Lucie's gets aired all the time in the north County. People can dispute that, but he is pretty sure he is right.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said he will check into that.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said if she could just add, she sees Councilman Kelly's face on there all the time. She watches their City Council meetings.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said they will get a report to him of how often it is aired.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Smith asked just so he understands it, he believes it was Councilman Kelly who asked is the County asking for additional air time? Or are they asking for their signal to run within the City limits of Port St. Lucie on a separate channel?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said he believes they are asking for their signal to run on a separate channel. He thinks what is important, what the City is asking for, is what type of program would they be airing on that to support what their need is?

St. Lucie County Commissioner Smith said right. He had an opportunity to speak with Mr. DeWitt probably earlier last week at some point; and from their discussions - and Mr. DeWitt is in the back, so if he is wrong, he will tell him after this is over - what his understanding was that their signal, what runs currently, would also run in addition to the Port St. Lucie channel so that all their residents receive all of the information all the time. From that perspective, he knows they will get back to their colleagues in Port St. Lucie about the specifics. But he believes it is very important that they let everyone see everything. He knows just last evening he was watching, his parents actually, the impact fee meeting from May on Channel 13 here in Fort Pierce. So he does know it is airing. So Councilman Kelly, he has seen him as well. But they will just go ahead and continue to see how best they can continue to utilize that relationship.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said as he said, they will put together a proposal or whatever they want to call it, and then send it to the City and get their input on it.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he hopes they broadcast the other Council members, not just him, on this thing. He is not running for anything.

The next item on the Agenda was Update on the **Special Needs Shelter**.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said next on today's agenda is the Update on the Special Needs Shelter. Just as way of background, this issue was brought to the Board of County Commissioners at their last meeting, at which time Staff was asked to give additional information back to the Board. She believes it is for next week's meeting, is it not?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said September 13th.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said so what they see on this on their backup is mostly the agenda item itself from last week. She believes there is some additional information that they were receiving from the State that was coming in today that Mr. Southard will give them?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said yes, Jack Southard is here. Mr. Southard has been in communication with the State. The Board of County Commissioners directed Staff to get as much information as possible on a Special Needs Shelter, alternative locations, information from the State, cost, and just a list of things, which they are in the process of doing. They are not really ready to discuss it today. They are gathering information from a lot of different sources, but he thinks Mr. Southard has a quick update.

Mr. Jack Southard, St. Lucie County Public Safety Director, said they are working with the State on several issues. One is the scope of work on building a Special Needs Facility. The other is to come into compliance with ARC (American Red Cross) 4496. There

are some issues in there that the County needs to address with the State of Florida to be in compliance. That is in progress now. They are dealing with the State and they are trying to work through that between now and the next couple of days actually.

City Commissioner Coke said the City Commission has had several discussions regarding Special Needs Shelters. She knows there has been some talk at the County level or it was reported to her that there was, that they would build a Special Needs Shelter to serve the entire need of the County out by the Fairgrounds. She wants to tell them that she has some major concerns about that. They joked a lot about a Special Needs Shelter to house horses and cows. But that aside, the truth of the matter is that is not conducive for the citizens of either City, especially citizens with special needs. For people from the northwest community of Fort Pierce, to try to arrange for transportation to get to that facility is going to be next to impossible, the same as people in the south end of Port St. Lucie. They already have, especially during a hurricane or a storm season, a hard enough time moving around all the roads with the flooding and all the other problems they have. And she would hate to see them put the special needs shelter where it is not accessible to the people who need it. She thinks it would be much better served, even though she understands they would have to do some duplication of staffing, she thinks it would be a much better service to all the citizens to put one more centrally located for the citizens of Fort Pierce and one more centrally located for the citizens of Port St. Lucie than to build one out at the fairgrounds. She just thinks that is important that everybody look at all the needs before they go ahead and just make a decision about where it is going to be.

Mr. Southard said yes. And the Board of County Commissioners last week did ask them to go back, look at alternative sites, and come back with a report back to them, and they are doing that. Also they are looking at sites in Fort Pierce with Commissioner Nelson. They worked with Commissioner Nelson and City Manager Dennis Beach. They are looking at that building also. So they are going back and reviewing everything they have, they are reviewing all the circumstances, and then they will bring a report back to the Board of County Commissioners on September 13th.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said it would seem to him that about two-thirds of the total population of the County live in the urbanized areas. And sort of expanding on what Commissioner Coke was talking about, the further away that is from the majority of the masses of the people, the more difficulties are going to be encountered in trying to get those people out there. So he thinks really what should be looked at is a population density map and try to locate those things where they can serve the most people the easiest.

Mr. Southard said one of the problems they are dealing with in the State of Florida is the ARC 4496, which is the American Red Cross 4496 Guidelines. The State of Florida adopted those guidelines. \$2.5 million is coming from the State of Florida; and they are saying that one of the issues there is, they should not build the Special Needs Facility inside the ten mile emergency zone of the Nuclear Power Plant. Now they are dealing with the State of Florida on the wording of that issue. He is still working on that.

He was on the phone with them for two or three hours this morning and on the phone with them last week. That is an issue they have to overcome to come into compliance with the State of Florida.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said somehow from the first blush it does not seem to make too much sense putting it outside the ten mile area. It is going to be a hardened building, he assumes.

Mr. Southard said yes, it is going to be a hardened building.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said it being a hardened building, why put it so far out? It is like saying Palm Beach ought to build theirs here so it is out of their zone and St. Lucie County ought to build theirs down there.

Mr. Southard said he is working as hard as he can with the State of Florida on that issue.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said he has his sympathy.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Craft said he brought those points up, as well as he believes Commissioner Coward did, at their meeting when they discussed it. His point to the whole process is that if they have a nuclear reaction problem at the power plant, the way the facility at the Fairgrounds exists today, they could house and use that as a Special Needs Shelter. They have that ability today with the power plant. So what he wanted to do is look within the municipalities within their cities for those shelters. He couldn't agree with them more, they need to have them closer to hospitals, they need to have them closer to the core of the community as far as getting power returned. Sure they can have backup generators, but it costs money to run generators. The closer they are to a hospital or a government building, he thinks the more quickly the power is returned to that facility and that is a real important thing for him. So he couldn't agree with Mayor Minsky's statements more.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said they brought up at another meeting, when their City looked at it, they found out in those statutes that if they had an alternate site - and again, he agrees with Commissioner Craft, if they had a nuclear issue, if they had an alternate site, which they already have which is the old County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and they are talking about the Emergency Operations Center here especially - that they did not have to be outside the ten mile limit. No one has ever gotten back to them on that and verified that is true. But that is what they understand. Mr. Cooper is here and he is sure he can verify that.

That is what they came up with. If they have an alternate center. And he guesses they have two. They have a Special Needs Shelter and an Emergency Operations Center. There are alternates, so why couldn't they build within the ten miles?

Mr. Southard said speaking of the Special Needs Shelter, they do have the three metal buildings out there at the fairgrounds. Those were looked at. There are some issues there as far as restrooms and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). There are no restrooms in those buildings. Those are not ADA accessible. Right now they don't have the generators there. They do not have air there. Those will be worked on. Those are issues they are looking at. Right now if they had an emergency at the nuclear power plant, their Special Needs Facility patients, being a risk County, go north and go south. They do not house here in this County whatsoever right now. As far as the EOC...

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly asked is Mr. Southard familiar with that part of the Statute that says if they have an alternate...?

Mr. Southard said yes, he has a copy that he gave to Mr. Cooper which came from the State of Florida.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said so the money would not be in jeopardy then if they did build inside the ten miles?

St. Lucie County Councilwoman Lewis said she thinks they are talking about two different things. They are talking about EOC and Special Needs.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said they are talking about them at the same time.

St. Lucie County Councilwoman Lewis said but they are not. Because as she understands it, the Fairgrounds Special Needs Shelter would not necessarily be the EOC headquarters either. Not because she thinks they are going to solve anything today, but because she feels she needs to voice the opposition they heard at their Board.

For years there was one Special Needs Shelter in Fort Pierce and they managed to transport people. She believes Community Transit pitches in. They have most of these people, in fact all of them are supposed to be registered before the event, so they know who they have to move and where they have to move them. So while she agrees it is not terribly convenient perhaps for most of the folks to get there, she thinks that can be dealt with. She does have a problem with taking Special Needs to the Fairgrounds where they don't have facilities to deal with them. The last time they had perfectly healthy people out there. They had port-o-potties and portable showers; and that is not at all suitable when they are talking Special Needs. So they are still discussing it. But she also thinks they ought to look at the fact that they have \$2.5 million. They have been lobbying for five years in Tallahassee to get money toward this project; and she is really hesitant to do anything that is going to put that funding into jeopardy, because they will lose the whole thing if they do.

Mayor Benton said he thinks what both Cities would like is to have some input in where this facility or facilities are located. Because he knows after last year's storms, there were a lot of these special needs folks that are registered, but there are half of them that aren't. He thinks they were dumped on Port St. Lucie's doorstep at City Hall and some of them were dumped here at Fire Stations. So he thinks it is an issue that the whole County is concerned with, especially both Cities. So all they are asking, he believes, is to have some input. So when the information is brought back, please just don't make decisions without working with the Cities.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Lewis said she thinks they have had ongoing discussions. As Chairperson Hutchinson said, the next meeting is September 13th.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she thinks what needs to be pointed out too real quick is, she actually received a letter from Florida Department of Community Affairs as of today, it came in certified mail, that the County actually has until September 1st she believes it is to make a decision or they lose the \$2.5 million. That just became noticed to the County today. So it will be a decision that this Board of County Commissioners has to make very soon. She assures them that last week at their meeting they asked staff to go back, as she had already mentioned, and look at alternative sites, if there are possibilities. But she will tell

them personally, having lobbied for five years for that money, she is not turning it away now this late when they just got it handed to them.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he doesn't think anyone is asking them to turn the money away. It is where it is going. He will bring them back to the last meeting they had when they brought up Special Need Shelters and they talked about what they were doing in Fort Pierce. And even today they told him they are communicating with people in Fort Pierce. He doesn't know about Port St. Lucie, but when he asked the County Administrator back then, his exact words to him... He asked Mr. Anderson, what are they doing for Special Needs Shelters in South County? And his exact words were, they are counting on them. Does that mean Port St. Lucie is on their own or what? What does that mean? That is his concern.

Mr. Southard said he doesn't think they are on their own. And also, they will do as much as they can to help provide staff at that location. They have the Health Department that comes to their Special Needs Shelter. They also have the Fire District that helps them with that Special Needs Shelter. Those are both County Agencies in this County. They know how many people they can hold there. They have also asked the City of Port St. Lucie in the future, if they need some of the County staff, they will be glad to provide staff for them. No matter how many people they can hold there, they still need another facility. The conversation with the City of Fort Pierce came from the City of Fort Pierce asking them to look at a brand new building that they were building, what would it take to expand that building and to harden that building, and what would it cost? That was just a mention. Fort Pierce asked the County to look at it, they did look at it, and they are still looking at it.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he just wanted to remind them that 150,000 people live in Port St. Lucie, he is counting everybody in the City limits. And they don't have a Special Needs Shelter. They don't have anything with the County helping them with one right now.

Mr. Southard said his position with the County as a St. Lucie County Public Safety Director, he tries to look at the whole County.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said that is the answer he got from their County Administrator though.

Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Berger said just for a point of reference, she just wanted to ask the Fire Commissioner, the Fire District as far as she knows is not a County Agency, right?

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said it is a Countywide agency.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said it is a separate taxing authority. Yes, Councilwoman Berger is right.

City Commissioner Becht asked can Mr. Southard tell him how far the Human Development & Resources Centre is from the Nuclear Plant?

Mr. Southard said he believes it is right at seven or eight miles. Tom Christopher could answer that for him.

City Commissioner Becht said somebody has made a determination that it is within ten miles, so he didn't know who had done the checking.

Mr. Tom Christopher, Radiological/Special Needs Coordinator, asked are they talking about the facility at 29th Street? He chairs the Oversight Committee for Special Needs in St. Lucie County. He is also the Emergency Planning Coordinator for the County.

City Commissioner Becht said the question is, how far is the Human Development & Resources Centre from the Nuclear Plant?

Mr. Christopher said right at nine miles.

City Commissioner Becht said he has a follow-up question. In the material that the County has provided them, there is a statement that some unidentified architect has estimated the additional cost for the Human Development & Resources Centre at \$5 million. How many people does that contemplate? Are they going to house 600 people, 200 people, 400 people?

Mr. Christopher said that facility is for 500 special needs plus caregivers and staff.

City Commissioner Becht asked would that be for the entire needs of the County, the 500 people?

Mr. Christopher said right now, just to give him some back history.

City Commissioner Becht said hang on one second. He is sorry to interrupt him, but everybody up here wants to talk. So the question he has is, how many people were factored into the \$5 million figure?

Mr. Christopher said the special needs were 500 people plus caregivers.

City Commissioner Becht asked what are the County's needs?

Mr. Christopher said right now the County's needs are over 500 people right now.

City Commissioner Becht asked so where are the other people going to go?

Mr. Christopher said the 500 people includes the caregivers. Let him state that under the new State guidelines, they are asking for 60 square feet per special needs person.

City Commissioner Becht said they were told that. Again, everybody up here wants to talk. So he is going to say, they have 500 people, that is what this figure was based on. Port St. Lucie has a facility. Do they know how many people it would house?

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said they had 160 people in it the last time; and he will tell them, it was really stretched to the max.

Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Christensen said that was caregivers and special needs patients plus their staff.

City Commissioner Becht said his point is that the information that has been given to the County Commission appears to him to be

misleading. If they are using a dual system of having a Port St. Lucie facility and a Fort Pierce facility, the number wouldn't be \$5 million, it would be substantially less than \$5 million.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said the question also is, how many of the 500 people actually come from the two Cities?

City Commissioner Becht said his point would be, if they are going to do something in Port St. Lucie, they are not going to have all 500 people in Fort Pierce, they are going to put them in communities from which they come. That would make sense to him, rather than running them out to a cow pasture. He is sorry to be crude about it. But the Fort Pierce facility is nine miles from the nuclear plant; and he has to tell them, he doesn't care whether he is nine miles or ten miles, if they have a reactor problem, he is going to be hopefully out of town. So that just doesn't make any sense to him, but he doesn't have to work with the State. What he thought they were proposing was they were going to house some of the people in Fort Pierce that were convenient to their families so the families can visit them during the day and some of the people in Port St. Lucie so their families can visit them during the day, so they can get to their doctors in Port St. Lucie, so they can get to their hospital in Port St. Lucie, and not run them all the way out to the Fairgrounds. This just doesn't make sense to him.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said just for clarification, first off she is beginning to resent the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds being called a cow pasture. Commissioner Becht is right, at one time it was; but every resident in this County has put a great deal of money to make it what it is today and she happens to think it is a very good project that was a full joint project even with both Cities and their residents included. That being said...

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said it is still a cow pasture.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said it is his call, but it is not hers. If she could just finish addressing Commissioner Becht's comments. The Special Needs Shelter is not meant to house people while they run back and forth to doctors. She is not following what Commissioner Becht is saying on that. The purpose is to put them there during an emergency situation and keep them there until it is safe enough for them to go home to their own places.

City Commissioner Becht said these are people who have special needs; and while they can't get home, because they have no home to go to, they are going to be stuck there and they are going to have to go to the doctor. That is his point.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said he would like an opportunity to speak on this also; because he, like Commissioner Craft, was pushing that they consider alternative sites. He doesn't look at this just as a special needs issue, but this is an investment in a facility that could be used for other purposes throughout the year on a daily basis. and that is why he thinks this is a missed opportunity to build a 41,000 square foot structure in an agricultural area. Yes, there is a fairgrounds, but even the fairgrounds has an agricultural flavor to it, it really does. And they are talking about a structure that really fits more appropriately into an urban area. So when they are

talking about input from the Cities, he doesn't want the Cities to just react to what the County is working on. If the Cities have specific recommendations to the County about property and possibly funding that could assist with this or existing facilities that they could make the best use of that investment, he thinks providing that to the County would be useful at this time instead of just waiting for the County and then having to react. So to him, he would like to get more information from the State about how much flexibility they have, really push for that. They keep hearing about this ten mile zone. If they end up potentially partnering with both Cities to try to expand the Human Development & Resources Centre in Fort Pierce and possibly work with the City of Port St. Lucie on the Community Center in some fashion. He doesn't have enough details about how they do that. But he would really like to know what options are available to the County before they sink a substantial amount of money in a fairly remote agricultural area.

City Commissioner Nelson said he guesses he is the guy that stirred up all this mess and it didn't come from a cow pasture, he will tell them. He used to live, as a matter of fact his formative years he was brought up right out there off Shinn's Road and it is a nice area.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said it was actually really a grove.

City Commissioner Nelson said it was an orange grove. It is a nice area. The proposed Human Development & Resources Centre is designed primarily to meet a multitude of activities and needs. If they watch T.V. as of now, they see that they have the Super Dome in New Orleans and masses of people are going there for shelter. They are not all special needs type people. They have here in Fort Pierce a lot of people who are not going to be registered as special needs that don't have the ability to be picked up by a bus or get into a car to drive out that distance to that area. They don't want to be that far removed from their respective homes. The first thing they do when they run into an emergency situation, as they well know, they want to gyrate as close as they can to their home so they can protect what they have there and they don't want to leave too hastily because they have certain valuables they want to protect. He said that to say something they are overlooking. If they go out to that nice agricultural area out there, the humanistic elements that people have a tendency to cling to, they don't want to be deprived of their homes, their cars, their children, and their churches even. So moving that far removed from them and those type of activities is not in the best interest of the people they have to serve. The ten mile radius requirement they propose as a result of the nuclear power plant being located in their proximity, he doesn't know exactly where that comes from; but he does know, after working with the Federal government for a considerable period of time, that any regulation with the proper input to the proper sources can be waived, modified, or made exemption thereto. To what extent have they addressed the issue of trying to get a waiver on this distance? Of course, a logical thing with nine miles versus ten miles, it isn't going to make a whole lot of difference.

Mr. Southard said he worked on that for two hours this morning and he is still working on it, asking for that exemption or waiver or what do they need - what does the County need to do to look at having a waiver for that? He is still having discussion with them.

And the ones he is dealing with at DCA and so forth are going back to their respective offices asking what does the County need to do? So they are working toward that direction.

City Commissioner Nelson asked whose office is that coming out of in terms of that regulation?

Mr. Southard said it is coming from the Division of Emergency Management, Craig Fugate. The State of Florida (Department of Community Affairs).

City Commissioner Alexander said his thought of concern here is, they know they have a need in the countywide of 500 people. Are they talking about the Human Development & Resources Centre being hardened or expanded? This is his question. If they are going to hold only so many individuals, they are not talking about making it a larger building, they are talking about hardening the existing proposal they have, right?

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said that is kind of what they have asked staff to go back and bring back to the Board of County Commissioners. And next week's discussion was, are there alternatives and what they are? Along with finding out, can they ask for an extension now that they have a deadline on signing for that money, and what that monies can and cannot be used for. The way it is presently being read, her understanding is that those monies cannot be used for retrofitting or for existing buildings, it can only be used on new buildings. That the ones where they presently are, such as the shelters within the two Cities, the Civic Center and now over at Dan McCarty, and then of course the Port St. Lucie City Community Center, those are considered grandfathered in under the new laws. So that is again what Mr. Southard is trying to find out. What she would like to do is have that information, when they all are putting the package together for that agenda item, if Mr. Southard would be so kind as to send it to each one of the Cities so they too would have the entire backup so they too can review it.

Mr. Southard said yes.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Craft said he just wanted to make a point. Chairperson Hutchinson stated she did not want to waste the \$2.5 million that she has worked so hard to get. The only thing he has to say is, if they put the facility in the wrong place, they are wasting it, so it is really not a net gain. If they can put that money somewhere where they can have more activities there, they have a larger use for the facility as opposed... The special needs should be the secondary reason for the building. They should be addressing the primary need and what is the most important primary need, because they will use it primarily every day for another function as opposed to the...

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said in all due respect, in her mind having gone through the last hurricane and the needs of the special needs and watching the shelter go down, the special needs is more a priority in her mind than a secondary use.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said he has a few things. One is, they are using this figure of 500 people. Where did that figure come from and how long has it been in existence?

Mr. Christopher said it has been in existence for over five years.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said their population has doubled in five years.

Mr. Christopher said yes, and Mayor Minsky has a very good point. During last year's hurricanes, in the north shelter they had 330 people and in the south shelter 239. These are special needs. Today as they stand, their temporary shelter in the North County, which is Dan McCarty Middle School, band room and cafeteria, can only facilitate 249 people; and is almost the same number for the Community Center down in Port St. Lucie. As a matter of fact, the operating instructions the City uses down there is for 250 people.

That includes caregivers. They almost exceeded that during the last storm. They need to look ahead and they need to plan for their larger facility and accommodate more people. They are a growing County and the special needs population is going to grow as well.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said what he thinks first of all, and he is sure it is available and everything, but he thinks he as Mayor and hopefully the Board will agree, they would like a real strict definition of what qualifies for a special needs person, because a lot of them really don't know. Secondly, they only have a certain amount of capacity. If they exceed that capacity, they actually degrade the services they are going to give to the people who are there. They only have a certain capacity. What do they do for the people who still fit the bill, but yet they have no capacity for them? He thinks he mentioned this in one of the previous meetings. He thinks one of the biggest problems he has is, they are building a whole lot of governmental buildings that are single purpose; and he really feels that every governmental building should be built with the flexibility of being able to be accommodated for special needs or emergency operations. Building single purpose buildings to him is a tremendous waste of the taxpayer's money.

Mr. Christopher said he has to agree with Mayor Minsky on that as well. Right now this year, since the last storm, the Health Department has brought into the guidelines for admittance as a special needs shelter member to be allowed into the shelter has made the rules more strict. They have nine definite guidelines. And all of them are prefaced by, needing professional medical assistance. So when they are talking about residents who don't like to leave too far from their house because the shelter is going to be too far away, he doesn't care where they are going to put it in this County, these people don't have a choice. If they are going to be without power, they can't be without power for 8, 12, 15, or 18 hours. They must be some place where they can have electrical power and where they can be assured some level of medical care. And if the medical care is beyond what the Health Department can deliver or provide, an assured way of getting them to a hospital or to bring a higher care into the shelter, that is just the down and dirty of it. There is nine specific criteria. And they have done some leveling off from last year. They were letting people in the medical needs shelter who could probably get by fairly well in a regular shelter; but because they had some respiratory problems and there was no air conditioning at the schools that they use for public shelters, they were bringing them in because they have to every once in a while maybe need to use a nebulizer. They can't do that any more. They are short on space in this County for special needs, those people who really need

medical care in times of emergency when they don't have the infrastructure to take care of them.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said the hardest thing they are going to have to try to live with is, because a lot of these people wait until the last minute, somebody shows up knocking on the door and they have to make a decision. Even if they qualify, they have no place for them and they have no place to go. That is a tough call to make when somebody is sitting out there and saying they have nowhere else to go and yet they don't belong where they are trying to get into. He thinks they are going to have to make a tough decision saying they are sorry, that is something they should have thought of before. He doesn't know how else to handle it. Otherwise they are going to get flooded with a whole bunch of people and they won't be able to take care of anybody.

Mr. Christopher said that is right. That is why they triage at both shelters. They did it last year. They will do it this year.

As the people come in to utilize the special needs shelter, they are being triaged at the door. If they don't meet the criteria, the School Board has buses standing by to transport them to one of the regular shelters that are then open. They begin the transportation of these special needs early on. Their goal is to complete that transportation of all people who meet the criteria to get into the shelter is completed before the arrival of 40 mile per hour winds that are called storm force winds. That has been their goal in years past. They have met it with the cooperation of community transit and the ambulance services in this County. And as was mentioned earlier, they were doing transport to a single point before they were blessed to have the Community Center built down in Port St. Lucie and it was built within guidelines of 140 mile per hour winds. But they are getting to the point that they are running out of room even at that facility and they need to look ahead as to how large a facility they need to build. To accommodate what they have right now, what they have on place for this season, is barely minimal.

City Commissioner Nelson asked does Mr. Christopher have a working definition of special needs they are using now? Mayor Minsky asked for one. Do they have one that they have been working with all along?

Mr. Christopher said he has the criteria here and can read each one of them, but basically that is a resident in this County that needs medical assistance or is dependent on electricity in times of emergency. If they are going to stay at home and they can't have a home health agency come and visit them one time a day or twice a day and they can't during the storm, or if they are dependent on electricity to operate some of their support medical equipment inside the house, they need to leave and go to a special needs shelter. Basically that is the type of clients they are talking about.

City Commissioner Nelson asked they have a roster of all those people?

Mr. Christopher said yes. They send out twice a year a registration form for renewal for those who are already on their census. They give every home health agency that makes visits into their County a form. They fill it out. And if they so elect to choose to utilize their special needs shelter in times of emergency and basically they are focusing on hurricane. Commissioner Nelson

is right on one thing he said is the fact that there are some of those who will not take it until the very last minute. That comes with a very hard line where they are going to get to the point they turn them away or just pack them in a little more into the shelter.

City Commissioner Coke said she thinks they would all appreciate getting a copy of the exact definition to a special needs shelter. And also, she thinks everybody here would appreciate getting a copy of the rules and regulations about where the shelter needs to be built before any decisions are made. She doesn't really think they can go any further on this until they have the rules and regulations and an answer on when they have to make this decision, whether they can get a 30 day extension, etc. She thinks that is going to be their number one priority is to get copies of all that to each of them so they can examine it further and to get an answer to that question.

Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Berger said she knows this is a work in progress. But as they go forward and get the information back, are there any other agencies other than the Red Cross they could use to utilize their guidelines on where to place these structures? Does everybody use the ARC 4496?

Mr. Christopher said that is correct. Everybody utilizes ARC 4496, particularly public shelters. The State has adopted ARC 4496 for special needs shelters.

Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Berger asked in other states, do they use something else that they can use as precedent?

Mr. Christopher said he can't answer that question.

Mayor Benton said he just has one question when it comes to shelters in general. Do they have impact fees they collect for shelters? If they don't, he thinks after last year it is very important that they do ASAP.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said not yet. However, the Commissioners have asked the County to look into implementing a special needs emergency shelter impact fee. Their consultant is looking into that.

Mayor Benton said because he knows for him it is just shelters in general. He knows last year using the schools, it didn't work. So in the future, if it was something they start tacking on to all these hundreds of thousands of units that would be built here in the next 50 years, they could build some nice facilities to be used.

City Commissioner Alexander said one last thing. They are speaking about emergency situation for this County. One of the largest problems they had last year was communication. Have they included communication within special needs of this County as a whole?

Mr. Christopher said both special need shelters have ham radio operators. They are the last line of communications. Obviously, they are going to use phone lines as long as they are up and running. They also have an 800 MHz system with law enforcement officers who are at each of those two facilities. It also holds true for the general shelters as far as their local law enforcement. For each jurisdiction or agencies, they place law enforcement. So they do have communications.

City Commissioner Alexander asked so at no time did they have the lack of communication?

Mr. Christopher asked are they talking about the special needs shelter or the general shelter?

City Commissioner Alexander said he is just speaking of this County as a whole. At no time during the emergency situation even at the shelters, did they have a lack of communication? He heard someone was using ham operators or something?

Mr. Christopher said that is correct. That is protocol they use for a special needs shelter. They place ham radio operators in their facilities as well as their Emergency Operations Center, as well as the City of Port St. Lucie's Operation Center. They are their last link for communications.

City Commissioner Alexander said he knows there was something that was supposed to be statewide with the communication thing. Have they incorporated any of that into this County or have they come up with anything statewide?

Mr. Christopher said state is still working on their statewide communications. It is not completed yet.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly asked during the first four or five days of the first hurricane when they had the special needs shelter open in Port St. Lucie, did Mr. Christopher or Mr. Southard or Mr. Anderson, any three of them visit that special needs shelter?

Mr. Christopher said he did not visit any of those shelters, but he was given a very vivid description of what was happening down at the Port St. Lucie shelter as well as what was happening at the Civic Center at the time.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he doesn't remember anyone from the County. The entire City Council was there every single day, they were very aware of what happened. And he is being critical of the County here. He said it before, they were on their own on the second day. They were 20 minutes away from running out of diesel fuel. The County didn't have any to give them. The County had nothing to give them as a matter of fact when their City Manager called their Administrator. They were in just as deep dodo as Port St. Lucie was. They were on their own down there and those folks did not visit them. He will say it again, he gives credit where credit is due. The only one he saw - and again, he can't be everywhere every time - but he did see Commissioner Coward down in south County, he was there helping out. He did not see anyone else there. When they talk about what happened here, they did have 160 or 165 people. And he is going to what Mayor Minsky said. They fed about 330 people a day. Chris Cooper would know. Over 300 people a day they fed, right? Because Mr. Cooper was the one who helped procure, for lack of a different word, food for them. But there were many times they were out of things and they got no help from anyone, and especially from FEMA, just as the others didn't. But going back to what the Mayor said, 500 people is ridiculous. It is more like maybe 1,000 people or 1,500 people. They turned away people. Little did people know, but Lawnwood did have a special needs shelter open when they had no place else to go. He visited regular shelters, the schools, and had to call Chief Sizemore to have people picked up that were dumped off there to be brought up to Lawnwood. So there were special needs people dropped

off and just abandoned everywhere. It was quite a catastrophe. He doesn't want to see it happen again. He doesn't know who wasn't prepared or whatever. But he just wants it to be known that Port St. Lucie was on its own. He admonishes those fellows for not visiting south County. He is sorry to be critical. But he is telling them, he is a St. Lucie County resident and he thinks they should have been there. That is all he has to say.

Mr. Christopher said he appreciates his comments; but he wants to tell him that not only was the City of Port St. Lucie heavily impacted, but so was the City of Fort Pierce and so was the unincorporated area of the County. They were all working together trying to do the best they could with what they had left. He hopes they never have to face that again either. But they need to take a hard look at this new facility they are talking about; and not just plan on accommodating what they already have on the books, but they need to be looking ahead.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said he wants to thank their staff, Mr. Southard, Mr. Christopher, Mr. Daniels. They actually won a national award. They did an incredible job. That doesn't mean they can't do a whole lot better and are certainly interested in doing that. But he doesn't want them walking out of this room feeling like they are unappreciated because he thinks they did a fabulous job and he is very proud of the work they did.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she will follow up with that because just last week when she happened to be in the bank right before they weren't sure if the hurricane (Hurricane Katrina) was going north or south of the County as it was coming through, she had people actually asking her if they would have the same staff as they did last year and there was a sense of relief when she told them yes. She too would echo Commissioner Coward's comments in thanking their staff not only for what they did. They can't all be everywhere, but they were everywhere that was needed the most, so she thanks them for that.

City Commissioner Nelson said he is not quite sure he understands, but he certainly appreciates all the comments that were made relative to the special needs shelter. But he seems to be able to discern that there is an interest on the part of both the City of Fort Pierce and the City of Port St. Lucie that it wants the County to do something in a positive manner to put the special needs shelter, or at least a portion thereof, in each of their respective Cities. If it were appropriate that they could vote on that issue or make a consensus to that end, notwithstanding the fact that they have staff going forward with some effort to get more data. He would hope that they would opt to put a facsimile of a special needs shelter in both of the respective Cities. And if it could be voted upon, he would appreciate that. He thinks at this day and age with the perils that are going on right now in the Gulf area with that hurricane, it is imperative that they do something; and it might not be exactly what they all want, but it does identify the fact that there is a dire need to offer some level of protection for their citizens now for the next hurricane. He knows they can't build a building of 41,000 square feet in the next couple of days; but if they would have begun, it would show them in good stead with the people they represent, and he thinks they ought to move forward with it.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she can assure Commissioner Nelson that is what the Board was looking to do, is to

look at any alternatives available, the Board of County Commissioners when they asked staff. And that is what they have asked, is that any of the information the County has to make sure it is copied out to both Cities, just as soon as it is available.

City Commissioner Nelson said what he is looking for is trying to get the County and Port St. Lucie to agree with the City of Fort Pierce that they would certainly like to have them invest in a special needs shelter or some type of shelter in their respective Cities; and the County's staff and the City's respective staff go and do the necessary research to make that happen. Because what is going to happen is their staff is going to do what they tell them to do. And the need now is quite profound that they need to address it.

City Commissioner Coke asked was that a motion that the City of Fort Pierce request that the County consider that? And then perhaps if he would like to make that motion, she would be happy to second it. And then they will see if Port St. Lucie would like to make a similar motion.

City Commissioner Nelson said if he would not be ruled out of order, he certainly does make that as a motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Coke, to ask St. Lucie County and Port St. Lucie to agree with the City of Fort Pierce that they would certainly like to have them invest in a special needs shelter or some type of shelter in their respective Cities; and the County's staff and the City's respective staffs go and do the necessary research to make that happen.

County Commissioner Coward said under discussion, he knows he is not voting, but his vote is going to be contingent on whether they can make that happen, not only legally. But also, if the Cities are moving forward with monies to build a civic center, they can use that in conjunction with these dollars to pool those resources, that is the kind of thing that would really convince him. So he would like to get feedback from the Cities about what resources they have that they could pool together to really make this work.

City Commissioner Nelson said he is aware of the fact that they have right now committed \$3 million hard core money to put toward that Human Development & Resources Centre. That is already in the bank. He is also aware of the fact that from Tallahassee, the people he has been dealing with up there, they say once they start this Centre, the law allows us to allow them to complete it. So if they need additional monies they can get it there. Couple that with the monies the County has for a special needs shelter of \$2.5 million, he thinks they can build a Centre that both the respective Cities would be proud of and have them in their respective areas. It would serve their populous well, it will spend money wisely, and they would be viewed as prudent users and spenders of the taxpayer's money.

City Commissioner Becht asked would they clarify the motion please?

City Commissioner Nelson said the motion is to proceed with the allocation of funds necessary to do a shelter in each of their respective Cities. They will use monies they have available.

City Commissioner Coke said that is not it.

City Commissioner Nelson asked would Commissioner Coke rephrase the motion? She is better at that than he is.

City Commissioner Coke said the motion was that the City of Fort Pierce would like to request that the County explore all possibilities of putting a shelter in each respective City rather than building one in the unincorporated area of the County and that the Cities have input into the planning of these shelters.

City Commissioner Nelson said and to use some of their monies too, which he has no objection to.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said that would help influence his decision.

Mayor Benton asked in that motion they are going to include funding mechanisms?

Commissioner Coke said yes.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly asked they are not referring to splitting the \$2.5 million as the City sent the letter to the County asking to split that \$2.5 million? Are they talking about that?

Mayor Benton said he thinks it would have to be that way. He thinks what they are looking for is the City of Port St. Lucie to make a similar motion.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said he thinks they got the hint.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Smith said this is the issue for him and he thinks it is a philosophical issue and he thinks they are all trying to get to the same place. The problem he hears is that when the County Board discussed this issue, there were some leaning towards an interior urbanized area and some were leaning towards an area that is in the unincorporated area. He was leaning towards the unincorporated himself and he remains that way because he thinks they are looking now at today very much the way they looked at Port St. Lucie 20 years ago not thinking where there would be a place for that to be viable. Lets understand as they look at their western part of the County, that is a place where growth is going to occur. So what may look like today's fairground facility, cow pasture, whichever, will be part of tomorrow's hub for their community. He thinks they have seen that turn take place years ago when they saw the Sheriff's office move out there, they saw New Horizons move out to Midway Road. And the fact that they are offering a solution, saying moving a special needs shelter to Midway Road area as well, he doesn't think it is wrong, he just thinks there are different philosophies on the County's Board as well as the other Boards he keeps hearing. He heard Commissioner Coke's motion and he knows that is something that is going to be voted on in a few minutes, but he at least ask that they consider that part of it as well, that even though it is today in an urbanized area, if they were to look at the Nelson Center, as he calls it, on Avenue D and 29th Street, or if they look at continuing the Port St. Lucie Community Center, that today's center will not be where the population is tomorrow.

City Commissioner Coke said first of all, they are not calling that the Nelson Center, they can forget that. But if it is in the City

today, it can serve the needs of the citizens because it will have electric and water back up and running in a more timely fashion than if it were out in the middle of the country.

Mayor Benton said if there is a motion here, they need to vote on it, because Port St. Lucie has a meeting tonight and there are a lot of things on the agenda. Everybody knows what they are trying to get done here, so let's get the vote. Let's call the roll and get this out of the way.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Commissioners Alexander, Becht, Coke, Nelson, and Benton. Those opposed: None.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she is not even going to entertain or ask for Board of County Commissioner's vote because that is an issue that has already been said will be coming up on their agenda.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said they are already doing this, so he thinks it is good for the vote to reassure the County that is what the City wants them to do. But that is what they are doing, they are looking at other sites.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she thinks as far as from the Board of County Commissioners, she doesn't expect them to be taking a vote on it today.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky asked is there a motion by any members of the City Council regarding this issue?

Port St. Lucie Vice-Mayor Christensen said she has far too many questions before she is ready to vote on anything today. They have separate issues in Port St. Lucie. They have a special needs center that is ready to open if they need to. But for future special needs, as Commissioner Smith stated earlier, their population is moving west. If they are going to be looking for a new site in Port St. Lucie, they are not ready to even come up with a location today. They are talking about their Civic Center which is going to be in their CRA District, but it is east of U.S. #1 and it is a lot closer to the nuclear power plant. When they talk about special needs, they are not just talking about hurricanes, they are talking about nuclear disaster also. So for Port St. Lucie to consider that particular location as a special needs shelter, they don't meet the qualifications as far as what Mr. Christopher had explained earlier. So for Port St. Lucie to make that decision today, she is not prepared to do that.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he agrees. The motion from Fort Pierce is great, but it is a little vague for him. He agrees with Vice-Mayor Christensen, they need more information. They already asked for half of the \$2.5 million and they got turned down. They voted on that and asked for it and they are ahead of that curve. They have theirs, they bore the economic burden by themselves, but they would love to get some of that back. But there is no motion for him to make.

Port St. Lucie Councilwoman Berger said she would like to take the opportunity to thank the Commissioners who are currently supporting the initiative to bring the special shelters and structures to their City areas, to the urbanized area. She held herself back from smacking Commissioner Smith on the back of the head while he was talking, but she absolutely thinks there is a value in planning

for the future on going out west. But the fact of the matter is, right now their citizens need them and they need them to think of them when they are making these decisions. So if she can encourage them to think about people who are here currently and how they can provide their needs, she would like to do that.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward asked could he follow up on that comment? Because he thinks that is crucial that they deal with the existing urban area. The urban service boundary identifies growth for 30 to 50 years and they should be focusing in there. The site they are looking at with the Fairgrounds is outside of the urban service boundary. So if the growth that is coming in to the west is what they are trying to serve, why don't they have those large scale developers pay for the facilities that will be needed for that growth?

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said they just volunteered them to pay.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said no problem, they should be paying for it. He will do more than volunteer them if it was his decision, he would mandate it.

City Commissioner Nelson said he is concerned about Commissioner Smith's comments because he doesn't think they need to be addressing anything that is going to promote more urban sprawl at the expense of causing the inner cities to decay. What they are trying to do here in Fort Pierce, and they need the County's help, is to rebuild this City and make development of the future come inward, not go outward for urban sprawl. They have the resources here to do it. They have the inducement with that river and lagoon out there to make it happen, if they get the cooperation and support from his friends in the County.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson asked may she rudely interrupt him and say she thinks that is a discussion they can hold for another meeting. She does know the City of Port St. Lucie actually has a meeting tonight, so she would like to get to the rest of the agenda so they have time to not only get home, but at least get something to eat.

The next item on the Agenda was Update on Widening Midway Road. (U.S. #1 to 25th Street, 25th Street to Turnpike Overpass, and I-95 to State Road 70)

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she believes this is actually broke down into three sections. Who is doing this one?

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said in an effort to speed this up a little bit, he will take it if it is okay. Midway Road is broken down into three segments: U.S. #1 to South 25th Street; South 25th Street to the Turnpike Overpass; and then from I-95 out to State Road 70. Beginning with U.S. #1 going west to 25th Street, that is going through White City. There is a planning process going on with the White City representatives. At the same time, they have \$1.6 million allocated to that project from outside funds; and that project is being discussed as to exactly what is going to go in there. From South 25th Street going to the Turnpike Overpass, Staff would like to recommend to the County Commissioners that be four-lane. The estimated cost is \$15 million including improvements to the Selvitz Road and Midway Road Intersection. They have been hoping to use impact fees to widen that portion of the road. They are in the process now of obtaining right-of-way.

When they get to the bridge itself, on the east side of the bridge, it is two lanes now. They want to four-lane that. On the west side, it is four-laned. They received \$2 million from the City of Port St. Lucie from developers who helped them widen that area and they are four-laned all the way out to I-95. The bridge itself, he has been having discussions with Senator Pruitt, who is working with the Turnpike Authority and looking at options. One option would be possibly putting an interchange there, Sunpass Only, for the Turnpike. Another one obviously is replacing the bridge. Senator Pruitt is working with those folks on different options, trying to get the State to step up to the plate on that bridge because the replacement of that bridge is very expensive. From I-95 out to State Road 70, he had a meeting a couple of weeks ago with Mr. Cooper and some others on having developers or property owners pay for the widening of that project. They have given the County some options which he is going to be discussing with the Commissioners. The options include four-laning the road, six-laning the road, whether it should be an urban design or rural design, how the district should be set up, who should make the improvements, and things such as that. But the overall concept is that it needs to be four-laned or six-laned and that there is a plan to do that. That is a quick rundown on Midway Road.

City Commissioner Becht said he doesn't have a question specific to Midway Road. But the City of Fort Pierce is embarking on trying to address some of their road problems within the Fort Pierce area and part of the problem is trying to coordinate that with the County. The City staff is or maybe already has written to County staff requesting a list of projects that the County has within the City limits. If Mr. Anderson could facilitate that, it would help the City move forward with their planning.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said with projects within the City limits is on the Agenda today. What they have done is, in the entire County there are approximately 80,000 dwelling units either pending or approved, some will go forward, some won't. They are keeping track of those. They are pinpointing them on the Countywide map of where they are going to go and the number of units per development. They have brought that map with them today. What they will do is, following today, they will get copies to everyone in this room of that map so they can see what they are talking about, where the different development is coming into the County as best as they know today. And that would assist them with their roads, he is sure.

City Commissioner Becht said he doesn't know if he made himself clear. What he is looking for is a list of County projects for roads within the City of Fort Pierce, if there are any.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said that is their Ten Year Capital Improvements Plan.

City Commissioner Becht said right, so if there are any plans for County improvements within the City of Fort Pierce on roads, they would like to know what they are so they can coordinate that.

St. Lucie Administrator Anderson said absolutely. They have a ten year CIP Plan that is updated every year by the Commissioners.

St. Lucie County Councilman Coward said he doesn't want to start an argument here, but they need to keep in mind also that due to the size of the CRA in Fort Pierce, they are taking tens of millions of

dollars that would have gone to the County for various improvement projects. So he thinks there should also be an investment from the CRA itself in some of those infrastructure projects that the County would have otherwise undertaken. He knows that is what they are trying to do on the Sunrise Boulevard improvements is a partnership in that form. But he sees a loss of revenue from the County to the City, so he thinks it is going to be a dual responsibility of trying to achieve some of those infrastructure projects that would have previously fallen solely on the County shoulders.

Mayor Benton said he thinks they are starting on one very soon, Indian River Drive, he believes. Indian River Drive is a County road but CRA funding will help rebuild that road. There are several others in the works. But Sunrise Boulevard, hopefully through Community Development Block Grant money they can do some work there, because that is outside the CRA area.

St. Lucie County Councilman Coward said he doesn't mean that argumentatively, he means that as a reality. If the money is being taken out, the County no longer has those tens of millions to invest back into that same area.

City Commissioner Nelson said it is amazing at this day and age now that they have a CRA in place they are talking money being taken out. He has been here long enough to know that prior to the reconstruction of Avenue D, that during the 10 or 15 years prior to that time frame the County had invested virtually no monies in the interior roads of Fort Pierce. He thinks it was, if he recalls correctly, the revelation of that fact that allowed the Commissioners at that time to come in and say lets go ahead and do the Avenue D program. It is very important that the County recognize that Fort Pierce is a part of the County and the roads that are County roads within the structure of Fort Pierce require attention as any other road. He talked about it a few minutes ago, about the fact out on Shinn Road, he grew up in that area. He remembers when it was a dirt road, but now it looks like a super highway out there. But there are many streets within the City of Fort Pierce that are in dire need of attention and those have been neglected over the years. Sunrise Boulevard and Oleander Avenue is a prime example. And the beauty of it, the taxes prior to the CRA invention, was collected up and put in primarily the County. He thinks it is very important that they all in fact make a contribution back to the citizens of Fort Pierce who are in fact citizens of St. Lucie County and they beg them to do that.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said since he started this, he wants to follow up. He is one of the Commissioners who voted for the million plus dollars that the County, he believes, put into Avenue D. He is also a big supporter of both CRA's. His comments were not intended as disparaging comments toward the CRA. The point is, through the tax increment financing approach, they are already taking tens of millions of dollars from the County to do those projects, which he fully supports. His only point is, not anti-CRA, but if they take the money away from the County, they can't then come back to the County and ask for more for those very same areas. They are already making tens of millions of dollars of investment in those areas. Yes, the County does have some additional investments they have made. But he is purely making the broader point that the County is already investing tens of millions of dollars into those areas.

The next item on the Agenda was Update of the Indian River Lagoon.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said this was one that the Board of County Commissioners last week had actually passed a resolution, a copy of which is attached to their backup. They are presently going to and have plans on October 4th to go to Washington in conjunction with their Lee County counterparts. She believes Councilman Kelly too has made arrangements to attend that trip?

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said yes.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said what she would like to do is also extend that invitation to a member of the City of Fort Pierce and also ask both Cities if they would be so kind as to review the resolution and possibly vote on it at their separate meetings so they could carry that with them to Washington. So not only the County but the two Cities within their County also support the improvements to the Lagoon in regards to the Everglades cleanup.

Mayor Benton asked when is that trip to Washington?

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said October 4, 5, and 6, 2005, she believes it was. Again, it is just for information and if they can have each of their Boards review that Resolution and possibly get it agendad.

Mayor Benton said he would also like to ask, he noticed that the Martin County Commission appears to be looking to go to court.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she heard talk of that. She doesn't think they have actually made a decision.

Mayor Benton said he doesn't know how that will materialize, but to him he thinks everybody here should give their support to them. He doesn't mean financially, but any kind of backbone they can give them, because that problem originates in St. Lucie County, he should say part of it anyway. The answers to that problem are so deep, it is going to take years and years to fix, if they can fix it. After seeing green water and brown water like they did this year...

City Commissioner Becht asked would City Clerk Steele please put that on their next meeting Agenda?

St. Lucie County Commissioner Coward said before they leave the waterway issue, he wants to say he was pleased to hear Councilwoman Berger's suggestions on the North Fork. And meeting one of the Highwaymen painters, he believes the gentleman's name is Harvey. He has been trying to look more closely at the North Fork Greenway System as a County Commissioner. And they have been involved in preservation and environmental education and other issues for quite some time and would be very interested in trying to work with the City of Port St. Lucie to put together additional plans on acquisition or recreational use or trails, whatever it may be. But if there are things that the County Commission can do to help them further that, he would certainly be interested.

The next item on the Agenda was County Development within the Fort Pierce Utility Service Area.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said he doesn't know if they want to do that today or just send them a map of what the County is showing.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she thinks that would probably be best. In all due respect to the City of Port St. Lucie, she knows they have a heavy agenda for this evening.

St. Lucie County Administrator Anderson said what Staff will do is forward to both Cities their current map, which by the way they update about every three months, that shows the number of dwelling units throughout the County that are on the books either pending or approved or whatever. It is very interesting to see where the growth is actually occurring.

The next item on the Agenda was Questions and Comments.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said she would personally would like to, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, thank both the Cities, and the City of Fort Pierce for hosting today's meeting. They come in here sometimes thinking they are never going to get anything accomplished and then they walk out of here and realize that they do get a lot accomplished. Maybe not as much as some people want, but they do get things out on the table.

They learn new things from each other. She doesn't ever consider these meetings a waste of time, maybe a waste of length of time, but the actual meeting themselves are usually not a waste of time.

They will get better. Mayor Minsky, she hopes on doing a protocol, she agrees with him, that would be helpful. She thinks even the staffs would appreciate that.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Minsky said he will have his secretary contact Chairperson Hutchinson's secretary and start setting up the dates.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said it has been a while since they all met together, almost in excess of a year now. She hopes they can continue to do these on a more frequent basis and go back to the original thought of at least twice a year if possible.

She thinks that was the intent a while back.

City Commissioner Alexander said coming into this City Commission, before he came there was no such thing as meetings with the Cities and the County and he thinks that is something they ought to be proud of that they can accomplish these things. But he just wants to let Port St. Lucie know that he has the utmost respect for them as a growing population of this community. But he just wants them to remember that Fort Pierce is a County Seat; and like the grandparents, they may have many children, but they always know where they come from. He just says that in a joke, because he has the utmost respect for all the Council people in Port St. Lucie and he gets along very well with them. None of them have ever had a moment or word against each other between himself and them. But he just wants to thank them again for coming to this one horse town and lets help them get on board.

Mayor Benton said he just wants to say thanks for everybody up here. This is their second real meeting. But what Councilman Kelly was saying about the bridge over the river, they in Fort

Pierce need residents from Port St. Lucie coming to use the Fort Pierce beaches. They invite them to come to their beaches, to enjoy their restaurants, and use their boat ramps. Fort Pierce residents go to Port St. Lucie a lot to go golfing and do other things. But this is a St. Lucie County issue and they need help. They need Port St. Lucie residents enjoying Fort Pierce.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said he heard Commissioner Smith on the radio about a week ago. He heard what he said about how people are going to watch this. He knows he was a little critical of the County today on last year's hurricanes, but he thinks rightfully so, but that is still debatable. Anyhow, what Mr. Smith was saying on that radio show is that people would be amazed if they ever saw how they get along at other functions. Actually they are pretty good friends, all of them up here. But they are. They are on a first name basis. He thinks everyone up here and they all get along. If they saw them at a party or something, he is talking about something outside, they would never know it was the same. When they get up here, everybody puts on their respective hat and they go after every bit of money they can because that is what it is all about. Like the Mayor says, if it wasn't for money, they wouldn't have any problems at all. When people watch this meeting and think they are critical and they argue, that is what they are supposed to do, he thinks.

City Commissioner Coke said she thought they were well behaved today comparatively speaking.

Port St. Lucie Councilman Kelly said they were pretty well behaved, yes. Except, he wants to tell them right now though, they will be naming nothing in the City of Port St. Lucie for Duke Nelson.

City Commissioner Coke said the City of Fort Pierce has already told him that.

City Commissioner Nelson said he thinks before they go here, he saw in the paper where they had some people going to Washington to review some issues concerning Lake Okeechobee and the Indian River Lagoon. Is there an issue they need to all address at this moment regarding that?

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson said they just had that discussion. They voted yes on it. That is all he needs to know.

The next item on the Agenda was Public Comment.

St. Lucie County Chairperson Hutchinson asked do they want to go forward with that? She knows Port St. Lucie is needing to get out of here. Are there any members of the public who really need to come forward at this time? (No one came forward.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Adjournment.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER