

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
HELD ON JULY 15, 2010
AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 S.W. FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**Roll call was answered by:
Mayor Michael Mortell
Vice Mayor Carol Waxler
Commissioner James A. Christie
Commissioner Jeffrey A. Krauskopf
Commissioner Mary Hutchinson**

**Also present were:
City Manager: Dan Hudson
City Attorney: Paul J. Nicoletti
City Clerk: Cherie White**

Mayor Mortell delivered the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Commission.

DISCUSSION & DELIBERATION

County Commission Candidates Meeting

Mayor Mortell: "Those of us that are here know that we are here obviously know that we are here for the County Commission Candidate meeting, and I wanted to thank all of the candidates for coming today, and taking the time to meet with us in Stuart and express your opinions. We also hope that this gives you an opportunity to also get out your message. Procedurally a decision has been made that we thought we would do is give everybody up to 10 minutes, there is no reason to take the whole 10 minutes, we have read your responses, and basically we are looking for a brief introduction, your message and there maybe a couple of follow-up questions from members of the Commission and then, I had a discussion with the City Manager today about it. Because there maybe some questions related to one candidate or another that does not get asked of the other candidates, at the very end I am going to ask if there are any candidates that would like to just have a two minute comment on whatever that item maybe. There is no requirement that you comment on it, I just want to let you know that if there is something compelling and that you really feel you want to address something that someone else said, at the very end we are going to throw a two minute comments out." He then picked names out of a box in no random order, starting with:

John Yudin: "Good evening Mayor Mortell and Commissioners for the opportunity to be here this evening. As Commissioner Mortell said my name is John Yudin, I think you all know me by now. I am running for County Commission in District II, again I want to thank the Mayor and Commissioners for the honor and privilege of being here this evening. I want to just take a brief second at the beginning to explain, in case anyone in the audience doesn't know I am sure you all know.

I am the only candidate this evening that will not be on the August 24, 2010 primary ballot, I have qualified for the General Election, and I will be facing the winner of the primary between Commissioner Valliere and Mr. Fielding. I am the only candidate this evening seeking your support for the November General election. With that said, I am going to stand on the comments I have given you in writing tonight. I just want to take a couple of minutes to tell you why I am the best candidate for District II. I am going to be the best advocate for the City of Stuart because; I am the only person up here this evening to say the City of Stuart is my home town. I am the only person that can stand here tonight and say that I have lived in the City of Stuart for 15 years. I am the only person here this evening that has their wife and family living in the City of Stuart. I am the only person that will stand up before you tonight that owns their only home in the City of Stuart; my kids go to school in the City of Stuart. I am the only person here that will tell you that this evening. I am the only person that will come up here this evening that operates a business in the City of Stuart. My wife works in the City of Stuart, my daughter works in the City of Stuart, my parents live in the City of Stuart, and my sister lives in the City of Stuart with her family. I hope your getting the idea here. I am the only candidate here this evening that is connected to the City, I am the only candidate here with family roots here in the City , and I am the only candidate that will be most affected if there is not a good working relationship between the City and the County. That is not to say we are always going to agree on every issue that comes up, but I am the candidate that has the greatest motivation to resolve those issues, because any issue that adversely affects the City adversely affects me as one of your constituents.”

Commissioner Krauskopf: “Thank you for entering the race, and becoming a candidate. I know it’s challenging but we appreciate it as represented citizens and are able to hear everyone’s points of view. Part of what we hope to accomplish here tonight is also for candidates to understand some of the issues that we feel are important this evening, so we get a flavor for some of those things that are topical. One of the questions that I will ask all of the candidates that have come up is what are your thoughts about supporting the concept of a “Renaissance Fund”? With the counties apparent decision to relocate, that some of us feel is a major player in the downtown being the Constitutional offices. To an outer ring of priority although technically, in the county out. That we look at between an interlocal agreement, some form of, as new property is developed in outward concentric circles, that there is a fund that new construction would contribute too so that the center of Stuart doesn’t become a black hole, that has to be refurbished. We have done that in 1987, and we began the refurbishment that brought downtown up. As we see moving farther out, the concept, I am not sure exactly how that would be implemented. I believe West Palm Beach had a prototype for that. That would allow some funding for that re-nourishment, or bringing back to life some of the older core, in the downtown. I don’t know if you have any thoughts on that now briefly, everyone else has heard it, and they have time to think about it, so I understand if you want to think about that, and maybe at the end give some thought to it. That is one of the feelings that we have is, this is a big thing that happened, and for us to figure out how to reinvigorate, we need County Commission help in that regard so, I would appreciate any insight you have in that regard. I do have one other question, and that centers specifically (inaudible) a representative of the Business Development Board, and the BDB, and in that regard, we contributed this year to funds last year, specifically for small business incubator because, we wanted to help fill up store fronts.

It has been a challenge for us to be able to quantify as we go into this year's budget, and look at adding or maybe continuing that income stream. Quantifying what or where that has been successful for the City, and is that a good investment for us to continue? Those are the two questions that I have."

John Yudin: "Let me start with the second one first. The money I think you are referring to is \$25,000.00 that the City of Stuart contributed to attract the SBDC. Jack Burns is the Executive Director, or the Martin County representative of that. I know that he works on the average of 20-30 hours per week in Martin County. I know he meets with allot of people. By all accounts, I have heard he has been very successful in helping allot of small businesses. That is his forte, which is what the City of Stuart has right now is small businesses. I know GG Delgato, across from Duffy's, is one of the clients that consulted with Jack. Jack is doing what he is suppose to be doing, helping small businesses in the City of Stuart become more successful. I think that is a policy decision, and the City will have to make that decision whether or not you want to continue to provide that support for your small businesses in the City. I think you should probably talk to Jack Burns, and get annual report from him to determine what he has done. By all accounts; what I have heard, and I sit with him on the Board of the Jensen Beach Chamber as well. He is very successful and meets with allot of your local businesses, and he helps allot of your local businesses. I would tell you that for \$25,000.00, the City is getting allot of bang for their buck with that \$25,000.00. Going with a Renaissance Fund, in all honesty, I don't think you need to do such a thing. As you know, I am the Immediate Past President of the Business Development Board, and this is the kind of thing the BDB is trying to encourage the City of Stuart to do and get active and more proactive with. If we can start bringing business into the city, industrial and commercial, come in and pay taxes that will bring up your tax revenue, and would lower the tax burden for your citizens. So you don't need to create such things like Renaissance Funds or anything like that because, that money will already be flowing to the City because of the extra tax revenues you will be getting, and because of the extra taxpayers you're going to have in the City. As I wrote in my written responses quite frankly, the City has the most property, even more than the County has poised and ready for economic development. All it is going to take is a commitment on you guys part to send Ron out and start bringing some industrial and commercial clients, and locating them into the City."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "I just have one question. In your response to the first question regarding the Constitutional Offices, you did say that you support the City Center initiative. Is the City Center meaning in the downtown area or, the City in general?"

John Yudin: "The downtown area."

Commissioner Christie: "I have a question along the lines of Commissioner Krauskopf. There is one middle school in the City that is having improvements done, and the East Stuart revitalization effort is underway. There is talk of Amtrak coming our way, and the Transit Center, and all these things are a part of the revitalization of the City and downtown area. How do you see, from a policy standpoint the County supporting downtown Stuart?"

John Yudin: "As I put in one of my responses, I think the best way that the County can support the City is by supporting economic development in the City. There is no question about it. That is the way you are going to take care of your infrastructure improvements, it's the way, as Commissioner Krauskopf talked about. You're going to prevent your black hole from occurring in the City Center. Economic development occurring in the City is going to help everybody in the County, because there is the multiplier effect that happens when you have economic development. People have to go out and buy lunch, people have to go out and buy clothes to go to work. All this stuff is going to start happening when we start bringing businesses into the City. That is what we have to do. The most important thing is for the County to help the City with economic development, and you all are poised to do it, and as the Past President of the Business Development Board, and a resident of the City of Stuart, quite honestly, I am the best person to help the City do that."

Mayor Mortell announced the next candidate:

Don Pickard: "Mayor Mortell, Commissioners, I appreciate you inviting us up here for this discussion, and I look forward to doing it. I received your questions and you have my answers. I guess I will reiterate again rather than taking 10 minutes of your time. I would like to comment on the things that I added since I wrote those, just for a few minute. First is; on the government center, I really don't want to add anything there but I would tell you that, I had through the Martin County Taxpayers Association, I wrote the article where we endorsed the effort to plan for a Government Center in Stuart. Or, as the case maybe, dealing with the City of Stuart, and the School Board, and with the County. We were very much in planning such an arraignment. We felt now that with 150 less in county offices, it probably wasn't a push to get that. There was a lease involved, can't think of a better time to renegotiate a lease than right now. I would say we ought to plan it, do it right, and do it when the finance is available. On Impact Fees, I was Chairman of the Impact Fee Committee for Martin County. One thing, and I don't mean chastising, but we did not see much of representation from the City of Stuart on that committee. That is probably understandable because historically that committee sort of rubber stamped what the consultant wrote, and looked at the math for a few minutes, and went up and told the Commissioners, yes or no that we agreed with it or didn't, however I was chairman of that for 3 years, and what we did was try to broaden the scope of that committee, and I think it would really help if the City of Stuart made sure that they had adequate representation on that Committee. I think it would do allot of good because we discussed allot of items other than just the consultant's recommendation. Palm City Road, I took the time to download the goggle earth pictures, and drove down it the last couple of days to have a look. I understand the problem and I have a history especially on who owns the road, and some issues as to who would pay for what. First thought I had in mind was you have some speed tables in there maybe you could put some on demand stop lights not ones that are the very expensive items that you would have to put across, have them timed and indexed, but to have one that's only goes red on the main street, when people are having to backup, coming out of all those condominiums. I am not sure what else, and is probably an infrastructure issue that would have to be negotiated with the County."

I am sure it can be done if we put our minds to it. On Fiscal Equity, I was on the Board of the Taxpayers Association for 9 years, and president for 3 years. I am all for taking a look at how the County gets its revenue and how it spends it. I am certainly with you on that one. Airport authority; as I said I am all for maintain Witham Field as an engine, both for the City of Stuart, and Martin County. I also think there may be a good issue with a pay as you go Customs Office in, which might help certainly the marine industries who are interested in that. It may also bring in some additional traffic that might stop directly in here instead of landing at Palm Beach, and then coming over her. It might make it a little bit more attractive. Sailfish Ball Park; I was not really aware until I got this letter from you that you were thinking about decommissioning it, outside of the agreement that you were attempting to get with the County. Today's paper reflects one of my first thoughts is that it was drawing people in from outside, which was one of the things you wanted to do with the County buildings. Maybe there was some tradeoff there. I think there should be some consideration to equitable funding of regional parks inside the City. I think that is something we can talk about and negotiate. IQ Water System; I spoke with John Polly from the County, and I talked with Dave Peters from your staff, It seems to be mostly an infrastructure question, and basically who pays for infrastructure. The County golf course is right on the edge, where you could bring IQ water to it. I understand the county gets about .44 cents a thousand. That is again what I understand in the ball park of what you would be willing to sell it for. In about 2-3 years the county golf course is going to have to look at doing that anyway, and is certainly an item that can be negotiated. Urban Planning and sprawl; I really don't have anything else to say about that. We both have individual comprehensive plans, and its coordinated by the Regional Planning Council, and should be taken up within the framework. I can assure the City that when I am elected, I will do everything I can to facilitate an open honest dialogue and keep the communications open between the City and County. I think that is the key to most of the problems that are intimated at least in these questions. We need to be able to talk together; we need to be able to work together. My greatest asset, from my point of view, as I mentioned is; I have experience working with others, I have a long history of creating unity and achieving results over many years. Retired, 3 times, from 3 different operations, US Air force after 26 years, and I had a pretty successful career there. I went from a one striper enlisted guy in the Navy at 17 ½, and retired as Full Col. I went from a brand new Manager to Vice President of Lockheed Martin in 10 years. I also had two private businesses of my own that were pretty successful. I think I have a history of achieving things; I have a history of working with people to achieve those things. I am sure I can work with the Commission and the City of Stuart to solve any problems we come up with."

Mayor Mortell: "I wanted to follow up a little bit on the impact fee and Sailfish Park together. My understanding is, I might have the name wrong but; my understanding is the County had actually generated, and I don't know if it was through impact fees or through contributions from developers, but about \$3 million dollars for the development of the Grove Park in the Palm City area, and that was designed to absorb the people who would be playing baseball soccer ect, that were in the new homes built out in Palm City. In light of the fact that we have determined that over 90% of the users are actually those people from Palm City at the Sailfish Park. Do you understand why the County decided not to spend that money because they said it would cost too much to maintain that park?"

Don Pickard: “First; I have to say that the Impact Fee Committee doesn’t really designate within the Parks and Recreation, where any money goes.”

Mayor Mortell: “As you as a County Commissioner though would you instruct the County to build the park to provide the park services to those people in Palm City?”

Don Pickard: “I can’t say that without studying it, because I am not familiar with it. I would tell you that I would look at it honestly, and do everything to support what’s a valid requirement.”

Mayor Mortell: “So you’re not aware of the money for the park out there at all?”

Don Pickard: “No, I am not aware of it. At least certainly in the beginning, the Impact Fee Committee was to look at strictly the recommendation of the consultant, which breaks down how much goes to each function. We have broadened it out since then, and like I said, I just left that post when I started to run for office. I think the people that are now running that committee would be the very appropriate ones to take up that sort of a discussion. Again; I am not throwing any stones, and know you have one position and an alternate on that committee, I think it could be very effective if used.”

Mayor Mortell: “Just so were clear on it; my understanding is that the money was generated, in a trust account, there is about \$3 million dollars dedicated for Citrus Grove Park but the County Commissioners are choosing not to build the park because it cost too much to maintain, and there is no money set aside to maintain it. Of course that is where the City of Stuart comes in with the Sailfish Park issue, because effectively what we are doing is maintain the Citrus Grove Park!”

Don Pickard: “I understand what you are saying there. Given what you’re saying, I would probably try to spend the money, if we can maintain that. It’s got to be priorities, as you know the county has got some severe difficulties. Only about 28-32 % depending on who you believe of the budgets is going to be spent on anything other than emergency services.” Those have a priority and have to be worked severely. I don’t know where that would sit on a priority scale if had to sit down and prioritize it, but I would be willing to look at it.”

Mayor Mortell: “What about your comment with regard to the equitable solution to Sailfish Park, is that a priority?”

Don Pickard: “ It’s a priority, again I think the key were going to have to do for the next year or two is we are going to have to fund the things that are essential, try to be more efficient with them. Then we are going to have to do the things that we would like to do, desire to do, and we are going to have to list them and strike them off in a priority, and we will have to get a consensus of what is a priority among two other people besides myself.”

Commissioner Hutchinson: "I have a couple of questions. One of them is; one of the things you say you can bring to the table is communication, and coordination between City and County Government. You say that you would listen to the City, and unfortunately in recent years that communication, I can, I can't speak for the other Commissioners, and we don't feel like we have been listened to with regards to the airport. With regards to the consolidation of the Fore Department, the numbers changed all the time. We could not get numbers from the County, so we went to the effort of putting our own station North of the bridge, only to find the call volume isn't anywhere near the call volume that we were told by the County. Also regards to the Government Center, for those that are new to the area the Constitutional offices used to be downtown. They were part of our community and part of the Downtown Stuart area." In recent years we don't feel like we are being heard. What would you do to improve that relationship between the two bodies? This also stems, not even from Commission to Commission but also on some issues for staffing levels. How would you improve that relationship if elected?"

Don Pickard: "First thing I would encourage is staff's to get together. I was pleasantly surprised with your utilities from John Polly and Mr. Peters, that they both knew each other and talked together all the time, I found that interesting. Obviously your questions indicate there has been a problem in communications, inherent in the questions, at least the way I read them, and there is a major communication problem. In my experience I had command of a very large outfit, flying very large and loud airplanes, low over England, and I spent a good deal of time communicating with the City fathers for one reason or another. I have had allot of experience in New York, and I always communication and getting to know people, and different staff's getting to know people is the way to fix problems. I can't tell you how or what I would do now exactly to communicate with you better but I would certainly plan on trying to see you as commissioners as often as I could, and working with you, and encourage staff members in areas that you think are of concern to get together. I would make sure that would happen."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "My second question is in regards to the customs office that you brought up. I just want you to clarify, did you say you support the customs at the airport because it would increase air traffic."

Don Pickard: "No, I said I would support a pay as you go customs office that would support the marine industry, and the airport. I don't think it would enhance air traffic because people coming in here are not going one place or another. If there not coming here anyway, they're not going to be turned off by the issue. The main thing I understand is the Maritime folks, are very anxious to get a customs clearing facility so boats coming back and forth from the Bahamas all the time. I think there is something like 8,000 in a year coming back and forth through the inlets, that don't go to Palm Beach or Ft. Pierce, but could come through the closest inlet, which is ours, and would be an enhancement for the maritime folks."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "If it is for the maritime industry then wouldn't it be more inclined to put that customs office in a pocket or someplace where boats and is more accessible to the marine industry verses putting it at the airport?"

Don Pickard: “The only reason I would say the airport is because of the requirements of the building you have to build. I looked at that back some time ago, and would not want to try and do it off the cuff right now but, you have to have a jail cell, security, someplace where you can destroy classified material. There is a raft of things you have to meet, and a secure area like the airport maybe allot less expensive, and easier to do. I wouldn’t be opposed to it. I just threw that out because that is an issue that has been talked about from people in the last few weeks.”

Commissioner Krauskopf: “I am happy to hear that you took the time to look at the IQ. That has been very frustrating for the City, to get ready and to try and put together a number of plans over the years that have not happened in that you have the willingness to work with the County Golf Course group, and to see that when their permit expires, the City would be able to move water over there. To help recycle as the DEP and South Florida Water Management has encouraged us to do.”

Don Pickard: “As I understand the situation, I think both of County and City staff agree on the solution. It’s a matter of who does the infrastructure, and who pays for it, and what the rates for the water are. I did not see that the rates were that far out of line. I heard the estimate to be .50 cents per thousand verses, .44 cents per thousand. That sounds like a negotiation range.”

Commissioner Krauskopf: “What are your thoughts on a Renaissance Fund?”

Don Pickard: “I agree with Mr. Yudin and his comments. I think that Business Development Board. One of the reasons I mentioned and talked about the Impact Fee Committee is. That in effect is what you are doing. You are creating a separate impact fee of some kind to try and use and try to keep the City viable. I think that is another issue that could come up there. I do agree with the Business Development Board as a key player.”

Commissioner Krauskopf: “One of the items is what Commissioner Waxler has been involved in is the; ground that has been left when the homes were removed from around the airport. There is a revenue hole there. We hope no more are taken. Have you given any thought to how that revenue hole can be made up?”

Don Pickard: “The revenue can be made up, it’s a difficult issue. I worked the airport issue for the taxpayers. That is how I happened to get into that organization is they had me doing that. The FAA will not let you do anything with that area on 18th Street where those houses have departed. The houses that are being renovated and bought out right now are going to be sold again, and will become some addition to the tax base. I would think that if it were impacting the City of Stuart, that as you do any FAA grant money it should be taken up with the FAA, with the possibility of having some enumeration for the City of Stuart. I would support certainly asking the question and trying.”

Commissioner Christie: “Have you been through the City and vacant and underutilized land, and what is your position on growth outside of the urban service district?”

Don Pickard: "I think the Urban Service District is something we should maintain, however I don't think anything ever is absolutely set in concrete or stone. I think judgment has to apply sometimes. One of the things I have been pushing for is light clean industry. If that happens to be here adjacent to an Urban Services or it could be worked in order to get 100s of jobs in the area, I would certainly be willing to look at it. I think the Business Development Board has done a great job getting the foundation going for adding jobs to our community, and I think we need to do everything we can to help it that doesn't really impact our environment or our lifestyle."

Commissioner Waxler: "With regard to your answer to Commissioner Hutchinson's question with regards to the relationship between the City and County Commission, that was one of the questions I was going to ask. If your elected, I would hope that you would look at more than just lines of communication, because obviously we thought there was enough reason to get involved and have this quorum tonight, because there is an issue, and there is a problem. Since I have been on the Commission, going on my 6th year, there is definitely a lack of what we think is the County Commission paying attention to a respecting the position of the City Commission. Again, the airport, fire services, Government Center, ball fields. Those are pretty substantial issues, and we are zero for 5. If you do get elected I hope you sincerely look at improving the relationship of the boards because we should be partners in what we do, because we all have the same goals, ideals and objectives, and that being the betterment of the residents of the county and the city."

Don Pickard: "I agree with you. I am a resident of Hobe Sound but if I am a county commissioner the people of the City of Stuart are my constituents. I believe communication is the first thing you have to do. That is the first thing you have to do, and if you don't talk you can't achieve unity on anything. If you remember from a taxpayer's point of view, we were pushing hard, and Mr. Hudson knows. I have had several trips down here trying to get the County and City Fire Departments to find a way to do that, and unsuccessfully. We can always keep trying."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "I am sure in all your forums you had allot of input from various homeowners groups and if your elected to the County Commission, in your mind what is your first priority?"

Don Pickard: "First priority is to learn. As much as I know about it right now from all my volunteer work there is still allot of learning to do first day in there, and I intend to hit it and do an awful lot of learning, very quickly before I do anything I regret after I learn some more."

Mayor Mortell announced the next candidate:

Lee Webberman: "I want to talk to you about advocacy. Some of you may not know the actual reason I ran for County Commission back in 2000 was the mistreatment on a couple of issues by former Commissioners Gettig, Meltzer, and Wilcox. Some of you may remember the 1997 annexation lawsuit, which was a pretty pitiful exercise in intergovernmental coordination."

The County ended up losing 35 out of 37 decisions, costing taxpayer ½ million dollars. You also probably remember where the county took the Sewall's Point Fire Rescue away from the City and under bid it, and basically cut the legs out from the City of Stuart. As a staff member of the county at that time, I just didn't feel comfortable with those decisions, so I decided to do something about it, and have better treatment for the City representatives, and ran for office. I was lucky enough to win. I guess the County Commission is going back to those days of pre 2000, where the County Commissioners think they have some royal authority or hierarchy over the City and Constitutional Officers. I actually believe differently. I believe we are all equal partners. If you actually have elected officials that understand the roles of municipal government and Constitutional Officers, some of the problems the City of Stuart are having would go away. Going back to my focus, which is advocacy and my long record of advocacy for the City. Some of this advocacy goes back before I was a County Commissioner. When I was a staff member at the County for 12 years, you shouldn't be doing political advocacy, but it was still advocacy. It was management advocacy, liaison advocacy, and supervisory advocacy. How many of you remember Monterey Road and Dixie Highway, before it was a five leg intersection? Myself and Don Hollerman had allot to do with making sure that project went smoothly. How about the Wright Blvd Fork Road redesign? We took the connection right near the ridge and made an s kind of arraignment out of it. I wasn't totally responsible for that being successful, but I was an advocate. East Ocean Blvd, how many remember when it was two lanes instead of three lanes, and when it had the flooding problems. Same thing with Colorado Avenue, I voted for funding in 2003 to resurface and do some of those utility improvements for Colorado Avenue. Between Confusion Corner, and US1. The Ruhnke Street extension, I supported. The Interlocal Agreement purchases for bother water and sewer, and the great relationship both the City and County seemed to have on those water and sewer purchases. Remember when the DOT wanted to channelize East Ocean Blvd by the CED Development. They wanted to put some restrictive turn lanes there. I was one of the most adamant Commissioners basically against the DOT doing that. My point is I have a long track record of advocacy for the City of Stuart. I think all of you know me. It's kind of funny that as the Hobe Sound Commissioner I was actually viewed as the City's advocate, on allot of issues. Now I am going to bring up some of District 4 incumbent Commissioner Sarah Heard. I don't do this to be mean spirited; I am just trying to contrast us about lack of advocacy on City issues. When the Palm beach Road reconstruction was being approved for bids, I think those of us that were around then would remember, she was, I will be generous, less than enthusiastic. When there was the citizens alternative to the Indian Street Bridge. That wacky nonsense from Vermont about duel one way pars, which would have detrimentally affected about 100 businesses in the City of Stuart. I opposed that and she supported it. Willoughby Blvd extension from US1 to Monterey Road, I was part of those even those it was not formalized understanding from City Commissioners that once Green River Parkway and the Western Palm City corridor were built, we would focus on City projects. I don't know what has happened to that but it wasn't because of me, I was out of office. I will tell you that will be one of my focuses as an advocate, to honor the informal agreement we had. Green River Parkway, which takes traffic off US1, Commissioner Heard has never been an advocate for. School sitting Interlocal Agreements, which was key to the City of Stuart about making sure the City, was included in school siting.

Mrs. Heard voted against that twice. The Windermere signalization that is going in on US1, I would think that her advocacy would be less than special, most of that is Commissioner Doug Smith. The Kingswood signalization, where we failed to get DOT approval, to try and get a signal at Kingswood and Monterey Road. I will tell you that Commissioner Valliere returns or whatever happens in District 2, I would like to take another run at that for the Kingswood residents. Maybe we weren't that aggressive with the DOT as we needed to be about getting warrants approved. You have already mentioned the airport properties, for those of you remember when I was sitting on the Commission; I was a staunch advocate for not having detrimental impacts to the City of Stuart. I think you can categorize Mrs. Heard as being less than enthusiastic. The last one, and probably the most important one today currently is moving the Constitutional Officers. I am a staunch advocate that you have to respect the concept of the county seat. I will not, it's not I have to think about it or debate it, or evaluate it; I will not move the constitutional officers away from downtown. It's a fundamental guiding principle of mine that the constitutionals should be near the courthouse or downtown Stuart. Now I have heard some discussions that that is a done deal, and the ship has already sailed, I disagree with that. The due diligence on buying those building near Indian Street, and Willoughby, cannot possibly be done in the next six weeks, and the primary election. I will tell you, if I win the election the balance of power swings from a 3-2 vote to move the constitutionals back to a 3-2 vote to not move the constitutionals. This should be very important. So in summary; I wanted to go back and focus on the word I started with and Mr. Yudin used; advocacy. You can consider a person with a long history of advocacy for the City of Stuart. That's myself. You can consider a person with basically no advocacy for the City of Stuart, which is Commissioner Heard, or you can consider a person with no track record for the City of Stuart in district 4, that's Mr. Pickard. I don't know if you have decided to formally endorse candidates, or informally endorse candidates. I am personally hoping that you will endorse candidates, because if anything has been clear for the last two years, it's you have no advocacy on the County Commission. You will have it with me! Unequivocally, and my long track record proves it.

Commissioner Krauskopf: "The comment about the courthouse, can you give us your impression on how that vote would change?"

Lee Webberman: "It would be a 3-2 to investigate purchasing the buildings at Indian Street to a 3-2 vote against investigating of the purchase of the buildings at Willoughby and Indian Street."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "If you would to make that motion, who do you believe your second and third vote would come from?"

Lee Webberman: "I know Commissioner Valliere opposed it, and Commissioner Smith opposed moving of the constitutional officers, away from Downtown Stuart. I would hope that whoever ends up in District 2 of all the candidates, being that is the City's County Commissioner. I would hope they would be smart enough to be a vote to not move the constitutional officers."

I would say as I expanded in my questions, that if someone thinks commercial rentals for those properties need to be explored, lets re visit them. If someone thinks those rents are out of line, we have enough commercial properties in the downtown area, let's put it out to bid. The basic fact is the County seat should be where those constitutionals are. I would offer that if Ms. Pietruszewski wants to remain at Indian Street, we should not rock the boat, but now is not the time to move massive changes of the constitutionals, they need to be downtown."

Mayor Mortell: "I will ask you the same question I had for Mr. Pickard, and that is; are you aware of the Citrus Grove money that is set aside, and collected for the purposes of building parks for the Palm City residents?"

Lee Webberman: "I have kind of lost track of that a little bit. I think you're correct with your observation there was money there. I would make the argument that, before we would move to quickly into that. If this regional park concept is what this is about, Sailfish Park, the ball fields, are kind of centrally located. I don't know without talking with the City Commissioners, that I would be too thrilled in jumping out to build another park on the Martin St Lucie County line. That may not actually be the best place for a regional park."

Mayor Mortell: "What is your position to an equitable cost of maintenance for Sailfish Park?"

Lee Webberman: "As I explained in my answers, for the benefit of the public, I was working on a similar relationship with the Village of Tequesta. They asked us to contribute to Tequesta Park, and I was going to bring that to the County Commission and ask them to quantify the usage of the park between Palm Beach and Martin residents. The Village of Tequesta never followed up; this is almost an identical situation. There has to be some simple reasonable way that City and County parks staff can quantify City residents using the park and Non City residents, and from that point it is simply arithmetic. You come up with an interlocal agreement for fair share cost, because the City should not carry the burden for regional park activities."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "I think the specifics are during the interim or before it. Before a decommissioning happens, upon your election there is somewhere between \$90-128,000 dollars in actual cost. I think a current County Commissioner volunteered, or made that statement that; maybe those funds could be transferred to help allay the City's burden. I wondered how you felt about that."

Lee Webberman: "I think that is reasonable. As you know I have always been an advocate for the City. I think Ms. Kryzda has done a tremendous job as Acting County Administrator. I don't want to throw darts at anyone but some of the problems between the City and County, besides being at the elected level, may have been at the lower level. I think those problems go away with the way Ms. Kryzda is running the County. I know Mr. Hudson has a good relationship with Ms. Kryzda. To answer your question we can work it out, and quantify a fair interlocal agreement, that would be reasonable for both sides."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "What are your thoughts on the renaissance concept?"

Lee Weberman: "I would like to avoid it if possible. If I believe if I am elected the need for the renaissance fund goes away, if not, if we can't stop the purchase of the buildings at Willoughby and Indian, it's a reasonable way to equitably share philosophies and cost. I would hope it would go away though!"

Commissioner Hutchinson: "As you know, you can't get anything done with just one vote. You need at least 3 in consensus of a Commission to move forward and get ideas and projects to move forward. What are some of the things you would bring to the table to help the County Commission in that regard?"

Lee Weberman: "My institutional knowledge is unparalleled. I probably know more about County and City relationships, not to brag. Working relationships, Commissioner Smith Ditrellizzi and myself, and after I got to know Commissioner Valliere, we had a great working relationship. Maybe in the very end of my terms, and maybe this contributed to my leaving office, I may have gotten away from the skills that I have which is bringing innovative ideas forward, and trying to build consensus. Now, I won't say that because it sounds good, I say it because we accomplished a lot at the County, even going back to the days of Commissioners Armstrong, and Elmira Gainey. Although the press kind of gives us a bad rap of you know we were always combative, when I was part of the five members Board that is not true. I had the skills, knowledge and the willingness with the other Commissioners to make it work."

Mayor Mortell announced the next candidate:

Ed Fielding: "If you would like me to start off with a little background I will. My folks came down as a result of the first large urban renewal project that went through South Georgia. This burned everybody out so they came down to Florida, and we've been here ever since. I am a native Floridian. My work experience has been in finance, banking and forming. I am a Sr. Vice President with bank roots. My educational training has been at several venues but MIT was where I earned my Masters in Management. I think there are some decision systems components. I try to develop how to look at things rather than to see how fast I can draw a weapon. I think some components that are interactive here that are beneficial both for the City and County and not just beneficial but are vital is the Comprehensive Plan. Our Comprehensive Plan is essential to maintain the vitality of the economical base of the City. You all have asked that question, and there has been a lot of responses. Most of that response is words. What it gets down to, when projects come before the Council, they come before the Commission is how they vote. Most frequently is; how the votes go is, they vote to put things where land is cheap, and out beyond where services are already provided. What that does is bad for you and is bad for the County. Now there are some people that benefit but it's a very select small group. Sometimes it's rather interactive than beneficial. The County's Comprehensive Plan is essential for yourselves and the County to be economical and to be efficient is providing services."

Those were the types of questions I understood you would be posing. The vitality of Stuart is essential to the County. The County can't survive without Stuart being well and profitable. Stuart is the bases for the business, cultural, medical and residential. We can't move off and say; well let's just depend on Jupiter or well maybe we will look at Port St Lucie. We can't do that. It has to be that we promote the vitality of Stuart. The large portion of the County residents reside in the City so when we are talking about decisions that are beneficial to the County, well that is a major portion of how that is formed. I don't know if I am naive to suspect that people read what I wrote?"

The Commission: "We read it."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "I see you have a PO Box; do you live in the City of Stuart?"

Ed Fielding: I live on Linden, which is just outside off of Kanner. I have been in Martin County since 1983."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "In your response to the first question; in keeping the Constitutionals downtown, you had a response that said; to minimize any negative impact to the surrounding community, and neighborhood." Can you expand upon how you feel it would be a negative?"

Ed Fielding: "I am not saying that would be a negative to do that, what I am saying is what we do, that is how I look at any kind of a project, when there are several criteria I look at. I don't know if everybody looks at projects like I do. That is an important criteria, if we are saying we want to do something in a particular area, is we look at the effects, we look at what are the outcomes on those people that are in that area. We are hopefully looking at something that would be very beneficial. But we would want to do that so that it wouldn't impact residential areas. We want to do it in an area that is appropriate."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "Do you support keeping the constitutionals downtown, or do your support purchasing the property on Willoughby, or what is your stand on that?"

Ed Fielding: "I don't think it is an either or, I don't think if you mean downtown by the courthouse is the only location. I don't think that's the only location. There could be a good viable location that would be supportive. Here is what is happening, and Commissioner Krauskopf probably has allot of information on this too, but the commercial market looks like it is going to become more and more attractive to buyers. Over the next months, or year, year and a half. I would see that as being an opportunity to look for beneficial situations to develop."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "In the core of downtown or anywhere?"

Ed Fielding: No, I want us to pull things together but, I don't see something happening immediately, or at the courthouse. Not something immediately available there.

Commissioner Hutchinson: "So do you support keeping the constitutionals in the core of downtown? "

Ed Fielding: "Yes."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "As you know, as an elected official, sometimes you have to make decisions that you may not personally agree with because, there are codes and laws which we have to abide by. Are you able, if need be, put your personal opinions aside, and be able to follow the codes and regulations that exist in order not to get governments in trouble?"

Ed Fielding: Sometimes I disagree with myself. I will tell you how I see it more firmly. If the codes and rules are there, that's what I feel we should do. If we find them to be not as appropriate outcomes, as we like, then we need to move forward to change the rules or codes, but if the codes and rules are there then we need to follow them."

Commissioner Christie: "As far as the airport proposed expansion, how would you deal with that in terms of not having a negative impact on the City?"

Ed Fielding: "I have seen a lot of airports do many bad things to a number of communities. In West Palm it moved out a lot of my friends. In Ft. Lauderdale it destroyed many communities. We need to let the airport be something of a convenience to the community not be something that does damage to the community. We need to be very careful. Airports are hard to control, so we want to be careful about what types of services are allowed, because we know it is hard to control, we don't want it to be impossible to control. So we have to be very careful in the planning of what can be done. I agree with you, and with that scenario we need to be very careful. It affects a lot of people. It is not like automobiles, where you drive up. It is something that is going over, and perhaps may be doing damage to the environment with the fuel dumps and all those things. I do agree with you."

Vice Mayor Waxler: "What would you do to improve the relationship between the two Boards?"

Ed Fielding: "Do you think that it would be useful to have periodic meetings?"

Vice Mayor Waxler: "We do."

Ed Fielding: "I would see that as being the most expedient approach to handling those kinds of... (Inaudible) If we are all willing to be very open, and not try and position ourselves. We will just say, here are some problems we need some help. If we were able to work together we could resolve things. I see it that way."

Commissioner Hutchinson: "We do have meetings and at the last joint meeting that we had the City expressed concerns, and we brought up the subject regarding keeping the constitutionals in downtown Stuart. Immediately at the next County Commission meeting it was voted to move forward with the purchase of the property on Willoughby. How would you improve those relationships, we currently have those meetings but obviously that isn't working. What are some other steps you would take to improve the relationships between the two? Their minds were already made so how would you improve the relationships?"

Ed Fielding: "I am wondering if the meetings would be more beneficial if they were more focused, and were with more candid expectations of answers. If I said; I were to disagree with you, then I would just say that. If you said; here is what I need, and here is what I want, and here is what I think. If I agreed, I would say; yeah sure. Or I would say; no. I am going to always respond."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "What are your thoughts on a Renaissance Fund?"

Ed Fielding: "If we as a Commission were to be strong in upholding the comprehensive plan, and maintaining viability for the City and of the area, then I don't know there needs to be more than just that. What we are having a problem with, as I see. We are saying well but what if we have this really neat deal and we can put it out here, and it will create all these jobs and it would do all these kind of things then my response is; if you have a plan, and you change your plan every week it's not a plan. You can't plan long term if you're going to change every week because what that means to a person who has a financial interest is to do everything they can."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "So you feel that a much more (inaudible) interpretation of the Comprehensive Plan would be one way to help the City force development in the City instead of outside of it?"

Ed Fielding: "I would not say force I would say comply or direct. The whole purpose is to be economical and efficient. The more we do this other stuff that destroys the plan. That is anti taxpayer. And also it's a destruction of the City. If we have voids in the City, if our deal is, this shopping center is empty, but what we want is a new one over her. You know as well as I do, that is a horrible thing to do, and very destructive."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "Specifically, if elected, what is the first big thing on your radar?"

Ed Fielding: "I don't want to seem terribly naive, I think it's important to learn as well, but I think the budget is sitting there, that's something that's vital and has to be attended to. We, are as you, very aware of this. As these property values go down, and they are going down, that we have to recognize that. We have some fixed cost in here that we have to deal with, we have to pair. As much as we want to be more delicate about it, we just have to do that. The budget is most essential."

Mayor Mortell announced the next candidate:

Sarah Heard: "Thank you very much for inviting us here tonight. I did not comply with the written responses, so everyone gets to learn the responses as I prepare them for you. The first one, the Government center. My mind was not made up Mary. I of course want the City to remain vibrant. It's come a long way in 22 years that I have been here. It's a pleasure to come down here, and it's a pleasure to see it being vibrant, and we certainly want to continue to do that. We were presented with some options, and one option was to expand our constitutional offices in the courthouse area, or in the downtown area. Some suggestions were made, we put out an RFP, and we got some responses back. My responsibility is to make the best decision for the majority of Martin County residence, period.

That includes being fiscally responsible, socially responsible, responsible for traffic patterns and all the things that go into new development. The best deal that we got so far was the Willoughby deal. It's not a done deal. It is going to take, we are doing due diligence. I don't know if it's going to happen. For me the best option for the majority of Martin County residence was to do due diligence on that parcel, so we will see what happens. Impact fees; before I became a Commissioner, back when Dan was still at the County, I think we had 14 districts. We have Park impact fees all over the place, and they were dedicated. Where they were collected they were dedicated to be spent, which is certainly the most fair way to dedicate impact fees, not exactly the most efficient way too. So we decided we would quit doing that and instead, if you are judicious about the allocation of impact fees. If your good governors overall you should be able to distribute those impact fees fairly. I think that we try to do a good job, sometimes in the short term we do but over the long term, if we are good and fair and judicious they should be spread equitably throughout our system.

Palm City Road, you can have it tomorrow.

Fiscal Equity: I am not sure what I am being asked here. You want to do some sort of forensic examination of County revenue collection and spending practices to ensure that City taxpayers are getting a fair shake. I am not sure how you quantify or qualify that? I don't know.

Airport Impacts: We all felt like, we had egg on our face, I perhaps more than others, although this whole horrible airport thing happened long before I became a Commissioner. The lengthening of the runway preceded me by 4 years, so I am not going to take responsibility for any of that. I came in afterward and am trying to clean up a mess that was created long before I was holding this elected position.

We should have done a far better job, and we will do a better job now that we are aware of the negative impacts that we have on City residents, we will do a much much better job, which brings me back to another thing that preceded my position in office and that's annexations. I am in district four. District four has been very substantially impacted, targeted by the City for annexations, and the County doesn't get to participate in those divorce negotiations. We don't get to talk about who gets custody of the kids, or if we get to see them on the weekends. We just get handed the divorce papers after the City has made the decision to take property out of the county and annex into the City. I think that is something we need to work on too. Don't you think the County should be a part of annexation considerations, because we're not! It's not something that we ever get to participate in, and I think that it's something that we should."

Mayor Mortell: I think that is a State issue. It's state law not local law.

Sarah Heard: "Well than can we write an Interlocal that is stricter, more cooperative, and more negotiable than state law?" Do you think it's fair that we don't get to participate and ok you no longer part of the County the City has absorbed you?"

Commissioner Hutchinson: "The County is noticed on annexations, public notices are issued."

Sarah Heard: "I did not know that it was state law, and I am sorry for my ignorance of that but it would be good to know in advance that these talks are taking place."

Sailfish Ball Park: This sounds like tit for tat, and an eye for an eye kind of stuff. You know how many City kids play ball at Wojcieszak Park? I don't think that we want to get into this discussion about, oh the city kids are playing there, and there not paying the cost of the maintenance of that park. I don't know, I read in the paper that a Commission said that the county would participate in the maintenance cost of Sailfish Park. I don't know where we would get the money. We are going to start our budget talks on Monday. I suspect that we are going to be talking about closing parks rather than adding additional maintenance responsibilities for additional parks."

"IQ Water on golf courses and industrial uses. I would have completely supported that until the comprehensive plan amendments that were passed by the majority of the Board in April. You may or may not know that the majority board approved industrial commercial uses on at least 3,000 acres outside the urban boundary, far outside the urban boundary. We don't want to send IQ water to those properties. It would be disastrous for all of us. That would bust our comp plan, and our urban boundary. Maybe we can do that with the industrial, and our golf courses that are inside the urban service boundary. The other one bring to many scary prospects."

“Sound Urban Planning verses Sprawl, great idea. I have asked this question every year since I have been on the Board. I think that your suggestion is the same one I have been asking, and it’s a great idea.”

Mayor Mortell: “In just following up, and I asked Mr. Pickard the same question, and I am not going to get into the government center. I respect the fact that you guys voted and we will move on with those issues. As it relates to shared cost for the park. You mentioned that you have been here 22 year, I think. Were you aware that in 1990 the population in Palm City was between 2-3,000 people, in the year 2000 the population was about 22,000 people, and in my understanding in this year’s Census it’s going to come in at about 25,000 people. In comparison in 1990 the City of Stuart was 14,000 people, and the year 2000, it was 16,000 people, and in the Census coming up it coming up just shy of 18,000 people. But in fact in 1990 if everyone recalls in the newspaper as I read them talking about how they grew up playing ball in the Sailfish Park, it was because Palm City did not exist. It was a farm where people had horses and cows. In the last 20 years or so there has been a huge population shift. And it is my understanding that a significant amount of impact fees have been generated as well as contributions from Developers that put about \$3-million dollars in a trust account for a Citrus Grove Athletic Field. I understand your answer was that you made the decision for the majority of Martin County residents. Now along those lines does that mean that we will keep collecting impact fees for all new development, and use parks that we don’t have to pay for, or is it a situation that the County doesn’t even recognize the fact that we have added 20,000 people to Sailfish Park with no financial contributions? Do you see that as being in equitable to the Martin County residents that happen to live within the City of Stuart boundary’s that have been paying for the cost of that, but that didn’t get any of that impact fee money or any of that contribution for their park?”

Sarah Heard: “No, I don’t think that is equitable. It is also my understanding that one of the things we were going to do is pave the parking lot at the park West of Palm City Bridge, to make more parking spots for boat trailers. We were also going to do away with the soccer fields, and put new athletic fields over by Citrus Grove Elementary, and we ran out of money so all of our ambitious plans just went up in smoke. Don’t know what happened to that money, but we defiantly don’t have any money to construct or to maintain the new facilities that we were going to build, the pipe dream that we were going to build, next to Citrus Grove Elementary.”

Vice Mayor Waxler: “Along those lines you said that through the County’s Budget process you were considering closing parks. Don’t you think it is reasonable that the City of Stuart is also considering closing a park to help make its budget. You are doing it, isn’t it ok for the City to consider Sailfish Park?”

Sarah Heard: “Sure, I understand you’re going to have to make cuts someplace. I have been criticized by Lee Webberman for hanging on to district funds, which are collected in the district, and have to be spent in the district, and the reason I have saved them for years was because the prices were so inflated during the bubble, that things were too expensive, to spend money on.

I wanted to make wise use of money rather than pay inflated prices for goods and services, so I saved money and I have been able to use that money to keep my parks open. I have twin Rivers Park that's open, which is going to cost \$60,000 a year to operate and Peck Lake Park at \$10,000.00 a year to operate. Because I saved my money I am able to allocate 10 years worth of funding and operations of my parks from my district park funds in order to keep my parks open otherwise I am not certain that my Board of County Commissioners would vote to fund the operations and maintenance of those parks at all."

Vice Mayor Waxler: "The reason I brought it up is you mentioned that Sailfish Park was tit for tat. I am making the point that it is not tit for tat. It goes to the bottom line of our budget so what's good for the county as far as considering closing parks, were doing the same thing. It isn't tit for tat, were looking under rocks just like the county is to try and find money. When it came to our attention about the disproportion use of Sailfish Park, our residents pay county tax for county facilities and for county parks. That is the only reason and I wanted to clarify that."

Sarah Heard: "I just misunderstood, and I am sorry Carol, I thought that you thought if the County was using a disproportion part of any park."

Vice Mayor Waxler: "Not at all, because our residents pay county taxes. I knew the first thing that when we started going down this path is the County Commission would say, wait a minute the City residents are using oat ramps and libraries, and things like that. It is not a matter of that because the city residents pay for use of those facilities, and so it doesn't happen from the county side to support the disproportionate use of that. That is the only reason that's on the table. Quite frankly it only came to our attention when we started going down the path of the Government Center. We asked for information, and we didn't go in blind. We knew that Sailfish Park would be a hot button. Now we are under budget constraints, and that's the point that came up. You mentioned about you can do a better job, or you think you can do a better job going forth with the airport, what are some of your ideas?"

Sarah Heard: "Better communication, you sit on the ANAC and I think we have done a remarkable job of improving conditions at the airport. We have new departures, hopefully we will have a new arrival profiles soon, so there is more uniformity instead of flying over neighborhoods. We will be flying over water. The pilots will be setting their power settings at different settings to optimize the quietest departures that they can possibly make. I think we will continue to do those kinds of things, and also I think the customs office at the airport is incomprehensible to me. I have no idea. People are saying it is such a boom for maritime, customs clearing. Well then put it at Sand sprit Park, use the Coast Guard Auxiliary Building or something like that. I don't understand the wisdom of putting a maritime customs clearing at the airport. It would defiantly increase operations at the airport. Instead of going to Palm Beach or St. Lucie to clear, they would come here to clear. There not just prop airplanes, there are allot of jets too."

Commissioner Hutchinson: “In regards to the Government Center, and this is kind of is an accumulative question, since you are an incumbent. The City is kind of zero for five on issues that have involved County Government. I remember about three or four years ago about bringing the constitutional back into the downtown, the issue of well we can’t do that because the sewer treatment plant is there. At that meeting there was a question posed to the County Commissioners, do you support bringing the constitutional offices back to the downtown? There wasn’t a vote but we had a nod of heads, unfortunately we did not ask for a vote, as naive as we were at the time, but we thought that we had the County Commissioner’s word that they would work to move the constitucionals back downtown when the situation arose. From then the City moved forward in spending millions of dollars to improve the sewer treatment plant, we improved the intersection of MLK and Dixie Highway with the anticipation that when the constitucionals relocated someplace they would come back downtown, and you have since voted not to do that. Another situation was when the western corridor the City was asked to defer the Willoughby extension again with a gentlemen’s handshake, and now Willoughby extension is off the table. There have been numerous other things that have been along those same lines, if reelected how would you work towards a better relationship between the City and the County? The track record as of right now isn’t very good.”

Sarah Heard: “First of all; I voted against the western corridor, as often as I was given the opportunity to vote against it. I think that it would have been far more important to do the Willoughby extension. I was one of seven people on the MPO making that decision, and was out voted. On the expansion of the constitutional offices, I didn’t think the expansion was going to occur in the place where you thought the expansion was going to occur, which is next to the sewage treatment plant. I always envisioned that it was perhaps going to somehow be converted from the parking lots. I thought that was the natural place for it to be but it didn’t happen. Then your idea became that a conversion should be East instead of West, and it got to be expensive, very expensive.”

Commissioner Hutchinson: “How do you mean east to west?”

Sarah Heard: “Well, the last round of RFP that we had, to build new buildings, verses buy existing buildings. It became very expensive for us to consider building new buildings on City owned property around a Government Center.”

Commissioner Hutchinson: “According to your numbers it was..... My stance is that we had word from the County that they were going to move them downtown, and we made improvements to make that happen, and now as it stands it’s not going to happen. Do you feel not having the constitucionals downtown is a detriment to the City?”

Sarah Heard: “The courthouse is always going to be here. I don’t know Mary; I don’t know how much additional business, how much additional vitality those offices would bring. Maybe from 9-5, maybe it would. After 5 o’clock it’s anybody’s guess. All I know is with the choices I was given I made a decision that was best for all of the residents of Martin County, both in terms of money, and all the other issues, and that is the decision I came up with.”

Commissioner Krauskopf: "I had a couple. With Doug Smith and Susan Valliere saying that they would be in favor of all the constitutionals downtown would you make a vote to reconsider your motion?"

Sarah Heard: "Only if it made financial sense, only if I could look at all of the alternatives, and of that looked like it was the best alternative, yes I would! But I have to be able to look at all the alternatives."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "Are you willing to take the time and do a time out to be able to look at those numbers?"

Sarah Heard: "What numbers are you asking me to look at?"

Commissioner Krauskopf: "The ones for the relocation of it coming downtown."

Sarah Heard: "Are these numbers different then were given to us? Is that what you intimating? Do you have numbers that were different than I received? "

Commissioner Krauskopf: "No, I don't, I just like Mary felt, we proceeded on a certain basis and the train moved awfully fast. We have heard that Don said he is willing to do a time out, and maybe not be in such a hurry to move them out."

Sarah Heard: "I am not in such a hurry to move them out; I'm all in favor of doing what's right, and in no rush to do it. I don't expect that we are going to do this in one month; I don't expect that we are going to do this in 6 months. I also don't expect we are going to do this in a year for all I know. I don't know, I don't have control of that timetable. But certainly if you have any information you could provide me that would give me new information, I would be more than happy to review it, and study it carefully."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "Do you have an open mind that would allow you to make a motion to reconsider?"

Sarah Heard: "If I was given information that would indicate I should reconsider my vote, yes."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "I was happy to hear about the IQ, specifically we were looking at if local golf courses, part of the whole thing is recycling, and we've made a big investment in IQ, and we thought we had a deal down south. It's one of those deals that when you go into it, it's a win win for every jurisdiction involved. Somehow that flipped over. So then very clearly, for us IQ is important, and we need a user. We don't want to get rich, but we need a user and we need help with South Florida and DEP that when it comes time to connect that the answer is, yes, connections good. I am not talking about golf courses west of town."

You have your own IQ system that if you should decide to serve outside you can do it wherever that you can do it. What we are talking about are the heart of our plant and immediate adjacency so, that we can get out from under some of the erroneous requirements that make come upon us on where to put that stuff.”

Sarah Heard: “I would be happy to support you!”

Commissioner Krauskopf: “The last question I had is; the same one for everybody, what are your thoughts and feelings on a Renaissance fund? “

Sarah Heard: “I thought about that, what do you use your tiff fund for. Isn’t that what you use your tiff funds for? “

Commissioner Krauskopf: “That is within the CRA, this is in that accelerated concentric circles that go out.”

Sarah heard: “Well you know that it has to be legally defensible.”

Commissioner Krauskopf: “I wouldn’t put anything on the table that has not been flushed out. I just wondered what your thoughts were on it.”

Sarah Heard: “I think it is something we should examine with our, assume it would be an impact fee of some sort. Something that we should examine with our impact fee specialist, whose Dr. Nicholas, is he yours too? “

Commissioner Krauskopf: “No we use, Tishler, ok thank you.”

Vice Mayor Waxler: “Would it make any impact in your decision with regards to the government center if you were aware that if there’s Empirical data, with that or could be Empirical data, that the redevelopment of East Stuart would be accelerated by 20 years if the government center goes downtown, as opposed to

Sarah Heard: “That data would be valuable, but bear in mind I am representing what is in the best interest of all the residents of Martin County, but certainly that would be important data for me to review.”

Vice Mayor Waxler: “Is it all just money to you Sarah I mean is that what the bottom line is because you talked about money, so historical , county seat and the constitutional offices down there, that doesn’t factor in? That doesn’t play any part of your decision?”

Sarah Heard: “It does, but I listen to Vickie Davis, and I listen to Ruth Pietruszewski talking about how they love their facilities. One of the reasons that they love their facilities is because their users love their facilities.”

“The Tax Collector says to us, you know we have a community that has elderly people, and there intimidated by going to the Courthouse, and they are so thrilled when they can go to this facility which is real easy to get to, its un congested, we love coming here and getting our licenses and paying our taxes because it’s not intimidating for us. The same thing goes with the Supervisor of Elections. Those things are important, they have to be user friendly. We have to recognize that for allot of our residents, downtown Stuart can be a scary, congested, crowded place. Certainly there are fiscal considerations and also we have to make them easy to use for the people who are paying for them.”

Commissioner Hutchinson: “I know that our tax collector that moving them downtown would increase traffic but where we are talking about relocating them has many ingress and egress to that. You have MLK, Dixie Highway, Palm Beach Road and numerous other avenues to get to that location. I know that it has been said before that its only East Ocean Blvd, but that is an incorrect statement, there are many other avenues to get to that location. If we take the time to study it, then the study will either prove that what she saying is factual information or, no there isn’t a traffic problem and can work there. I think through this whole process there have been allot of things thrown out that may not necessarily be false but there not necessarily 100% true. I think that as a City we would like to take the opportunity to discuss those possibilities, because this isn’t a decision about Vicki Davis, this isn’t a decision about Ruth, this is a decision about the City of Stuart, and the long term, way after I’m gone because as soon as the property is purchased on Willoughby that’s not going to change at all. That’s why this is as important to us as Commissioners because this isn’t a decision about how much money were going to save tomorrow, this is long term decision that were looking at, so I just hope everybody looks at it in that regard and not to just whoever’s in office at this particular time.”

Sarah Heard: “Your wonderful advocates for the City, thank you.”

Mayor Mortell announced the final candidate:

Susan Valliere: “Thank you, it’s good to see you all. I am going to have to apologize in advance because I have a 7:00 p.m. speaking engagement at the NAACP, and I apologize for that, if I don’t get everything answered tonight I would be happy to meet with you individually, and try to get these things resolved. I have been a Commissioner in District 2 for 7 ½ years, and it’s been a wonderful experience, most of the time. It is certainly wonderful working with you. When I wiggle with these questions, first of all I want to say I only got mine over the weekend and there are some of these issues I didn’t have a chance, and wanted to explore. I didn’t have an opportunity to but I certainly will. I love the City of Stuart, it’s the County seat. I am concerned when I got these questions that I guess at a level of antagonism, and I know there has been some specific issues, and I’m certainly concerned about that. We really need to improve our communications. I am certainly willing to do my part to help improve that.

I think we need to have more meetings between the two Commissions, for when things like this come up so that we can get a real good meeting of the mind. There has been many issues that haven't been given careful enough consideration. The Government Center, I voted against going ahead with purchasing the property on Willoughby. I did so for three reasons, three Commissioners moved to go forward, I thought it was a mistake. Number one, now is not the time to purchasing commercial real-estate. I believe we should be re negotiating our leases at this time, taking a time out, and working with you. I believe the government offices do belong downtown. I was a little surprised when my opponent said that he was concerned about the negative impact it would have on the neighborhood, I am all about redevelopment. One of the points that I brought up was the positive impact that would have on East Stuart. I am a member of East Stuart Main Street by the way. I am fairly new, I have only been able to attend the nighttime meetings but the potential for redevelopment of the City of Stuart with having the government offices downtown would be absolutely good, I don't see anything negative about it at all. We need to work with you in every way possible to support the City of Stuart. Like I said you're our county seat. It's a beautiful City, want to keep it that way. We don't want to see blight going up and down US1, stores going out of business. We want our neighborhoods, we want it to remain the most beautiful city, and I want to do everything I can to help that. Palm City Road: I don't have a problem with that, I did make a comment that I would be concerned if it were completely closed off, and I think you took that off the table. But if you want Palm City Road, as far as I am concerned you can have it. The fiscal equity. To be honest with you, I have never had anyone, in the almost 10 years that I have been there, tell me that they didn't feel like they were getting a fair shake. That concerns me to think that that is out there. I want to know about it, so I want you to have a fair shake. The airport impacts. Does anyone here know how I feel about the airport and the impacts."

Mayor Mortell: "You can summarize it."

Susan Valliere: "I voted against the purchase, you know of the properties. One of the main considerations it was going to cause for the City. The big hole it was going to cause, and the blight it would create. I am not going to vote to take FAA money. We don't control the airport the FAA does. I could go on and on, absolutely no customs office at the airport. No way no how, over my dead body I will not approve that. If we need customs, for our marine industries, then we need to have a customs office located in a marine facility. It will bring more traffic I don't care what anyone said. That has to be the reason they are pushing for it, it's coming from FBO's so obviously they want more traffic. I want to stop the traffic and the negative impacts. I just heard someone say it is getting better. I think traffic may be down a little bit due to the economy, when that picks up it will get bad again. I am very concerned about the people that live around there and the Stuart residents. My most important priority, and what I am basing my campaign on is economic development for new jobs. I support the business developments boards' initiative. I think that will have a positive impact on the City of Stuart as well. Even if a business would locate in a non incorporated Martin County the trickledown effect will have a positive effect on the City. I can't foresee how it could not."

Mr. Webberman talked about the Kingswood facility, I am all for moving forward with that too. I think it is important to keep pushing with that. Willoughby Blvd. I can't understand and as important as the Salerno Gateway, I don't think beautification is as important as the Willoughby Blvd project, and I had a problem with that.

IQ water, I am all for it. I was taking it back as a requirement because I am not sure what you are expecting us to do there, but I am certainly going to work with you to get that done, and I think the golf course is a good place to start. We should be using IQ water and supporting the efforts that you've made to make it possible in any way we can.

I am not exactly sure where we stand on the park on Citrus Blvd, I don't believe we have the funding in place to put that park completely together. I really want to have something more centrally located, and I really want to work with you folks. I am concerned about this whole issue with Sailfish Park. I understand your position, and I want to work with you. I think what we all need to do is we all need to get in the same room with the little league too. I would be very interested in exploring ways to, cost of maintenance at that facility, because when I read about the electrical bill it came to about \$250.00 a day. I think we need to all get in the same room and make this work. You shouldn't be bearing the burden of it. I don't want to have problems, and I know City residents pay for our regional parks, and I don't want to have problems. The last thing I want is to have problems with you folks. I don't want to get into this about whose playing at parks. I want to avoid conflict but I want to work with you. The Renaissance Fund, I am not sure I fully understand what you're looking for Commissioner Krauskopf. I attended with the other candidates and I think with the job creation and the Business Development Board will take care of all of that. But anything you folks have an issue with I am going to explore, absolutely anything. Were family, were all in this together, and we will work things out together. I also wanted to mention that I did help out with my district funds for \$100,000.00 on the intersection of A1A and Martin Luther King Blvd. I was glad we were able to do that. I can't spend funds that I collect in District 2 with the City of Stuart, because there not collected there. I was glad I worked very hard to help out with that because it was a very important project and I was glad to work with you."

Mayor Mortell: "I just want to follow up, you addressed the newspaper the other day you made a comment relating it to Pineapple Park. Were you aware the City of Stuart had made financial contributions to Pineapple Park?"

Susan Valliere: "No, I am not, and I apologize, and if I spoke out of term without being aware I apologize, no I was not."

Mayor Mortell: "Did the County ever have Citrus Grove Money that was collected from the development in palm City?"

Susan Valliere: "I know they donated the land but I am not sure if we got dollars. I have to go back and do research on that because I am not sure what is in there for dollars, but they did donate the land."

Mayor Mortell: "Do you think it is equitable that since 1990 the County has added 25,000 people to the community that use the Sailfish Park but not a dollar to the use of it?"

Susan Valliere: "No, it doesn't sound equitable."

Commissioner Christie: "Is there anything that's not on this list, that you feel that you can help the City of Stuart with."

Susan Valliere: "I can't think of anything specifically other than to do a better job and encourage our staff to do a better job with communicating. Myself obviously to work and facilitate more meetings and do a better job. I need to know from you because your hearing from those folks. I am not hearing complaints from people in the City about being treated equitably, but anything we can do to help the City, you're the heartbeat of the County. That is what it is all about, working together."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "The Commission has focused on the constitutionals staying downtown, in your support, in your voting against moving them out of downtown, is it fair to say you support relocating all of the constitutionals downtown?"

Susan Valliere: "That would certainly be my preference, I can't, and it's in a very difficult position. We have a tax collector who absolutely adamant about not moving. I believe they do belong downtown."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "Would you make a motion to stop a freight train that is running to say that yes, I believe all constitutional officers should be downtown, and if there is a motion made to approve a relook at downtown, is that something you would support."

Susan Valliere: "A motion to relook at it, absolutely!"

" I voted against going ahead with the purchase. I think we should look at it. I think there needs to be allot more looking at it. I can't verify the numbers were thrown out about how much revenue was coming in or anything like that."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "I will be honest with you, my concern is that as District 2 Rep, if we really needed a cheerleader to keep all of the constitutional offices downtown, where were you?"

Susan Valliere: "I was probably not turning cartwheels, as is I probably should have been."

Commissioner Krauskopf: "Could we count on you to be the largest single cheerleader for us?"

Susan Valliere: “These offices belong downtown. That train did move awfully fast, and when you look at the numbers we need to take a better look at them. Even when you look at the numbers we were given we said wow. I want to get the offices downtown. Now whether we can get all of them downtown, I want to certainly maintain as much as we can downtown.”

Mayor Mortell as if any candidate wished to make a rebuttal statement for 2 minutes.

Don Pickard: “I would like to respond to what was said about my inexperience. I think my inexperience is the best thing I have going for me. I didn’t create the problems I hear around here, I saw them. As head of the taxpayers Association is why I am doing this. I am not committed to anyone, in anyway financially, in this area. I am going to give all residents a fair shake in my decisions, and I consider the City of Stuart as part of that. I have listened to Mr. Webberman be an advocate for every group we been before for the last five days. I remember him being an advocate for everything I supported that he turned around on me. I have also watched where my other opponent has not stopped some awfully bad things going, even though I agreed with her on the position. You have to be able to cultivate the two other votes to get anything done. I think my track record is as such, that I can do that. I will always be honest with you, and I will always be direct with you, and I will always brief, learned that from the military.”

Lee Webberman: “When we do these forums I am always surprised at things we hear. There is always something you don’t expect, and when I heard the comments that someone said; it’s terrifying and scary for elderly drivers in downtown Stuart, I couldn’t believe someone said that. I am just in awe. Apparently everyone going to the Lyric Theatre and the historical buildings, and all the facilities in the downtown, they must be the exception to the rule. Once again this meeting is about advocacy. My track record of advocacy for the City of Stuart is long standing. I don’t know if you’re going to endorse candidates or not, maybe your advocacy is personal advocacy instead of a group advocacy. These are going to be close elections. If you really want the best advocate for the City of Stuart in District 4, you really ought to consider taking a formal position, but if not, I respect what you’re doing. Thank you very much, I would hope Mr. Andreassi, please don’t print that in the papers, what a disservice to the City of Stuart, for someone to say, at a public meeting, “that it is terrifying and scary for elderly drivers.” I am still in awe.”

Commissioner Heard: “I just want to say in the spirit of cooperation, the only times that we meet is in the Blake Library, with the School Board, it’s extremely formal, we have television cameras there. Not really conducive for having discussions. I would like to suggest that we have workshop meetings where we can discuss these problems, much more fully. This setting was way more conducive to ironing out problems than Blake Library, with television cameras. We have a good workshop on the 4th Floor, and that is what we should do, or City Commission Chambers.”

Vice Mayor Waxler: “The City generally doesn’t have much input at those joint meetings, we just sit back and attend.”

Mayor Mortell thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT 7:29 P.M.

Cheryl White, MMC, City Clerk

Michael Mortell, Mayor

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission
Meeting This 9th Day August, 2010**