

FLORIDA TAXATION AND BUDGET REFORM COMMISSION

IN RE: COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2007

TIME: COMMENCED AT 1:07 P.M.
CONCLUDED AT 1:42 P.M.

LOCATION: KNOTT BLDG., ROOM 412
TALLAHASSEE, FL

REPORTED BY: LISA D. FREEZE, RPR
NOTARY PUBLIC

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

HOYT "BARNEY" BARNETT
MARTHA W. BARNETT
ALLAN BENSE
R. MARK BOSTICK
TALBOT "SANDY" D'ALEMBERTE
MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
MIKE HOGAN
JULIA JOHNSON
BRUCE KYLE
CARLOS LACASA
PATRICIA LEVESQUE
ALAN LEVINE
GWEN MARGOLIS
ROBERTO "BOBBY" MARTINEZ
JACINTHA MATHIS
JOHN M. MCKAY
ROBERT "BOB" MCKEE
LESLEY J. "LES" MILLER, JR.
RANDY MILLER
JADE THOMAS MOORE
FRANK PETERMAN
NANCY J. RILEY
DARRYL E. ROUSON
RAY SANSOM
JAMES "JIM" A. SCOTT
SUSAN STORY
WILLIAM GREGORY "GREG" TURBEVILLE
KENNETH "KEN" WILKINSON
BRIAN YABLONSKI

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN BENSE: HOW ABOUT IF WE ALL TAKE A
3 SEAT AND LET'S GET STARTED.

4 IT'S GETTING AWFUL NOISY DOWN THERE TO THE
5 RIGHT.

6 OKAY. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, GOOD AFTERNOON.
7 THANKS FOR COMING HERE TO TALLAHASSEE FOR THE
8 MEETING OF THE TAXATION AND BUDGET REFORM
9 COMMISSION MEETING. AND, NANCY, CAN YOU CALL
10 THE ROLL, PLEASE?

11 MS. FRIER: YES, SIR. COMMISSIONER BARNEY
12 BARNETT.

13 MR. BARNETT: HERE.

14 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MARTHA BARNETT.

15 MS. BARNETT: HERE.

16 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER BOSTICK.

17 (NO RESPONSE.)
18 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE.
19 MR. D'ALEMBERTE: HERE.
20 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER HARIDOPOLOS.
21 (NO RESPONSE.)
22 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER HOGAN.
23 MR. HOGAN: HERE.
24 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER JOHNSON.
25 MS. JOHNSON: HERE.

4

1 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER KYLE.
2 (NO RESPONSE.)
3 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER LACASA.
4 MR. LACASA: HERE.
5 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER LEVESQUE.
6 (NO RESPONSE.)
7 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER LEVINE.
8 MR. LEVINE: HERE.
9 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MARGOLIS.
10 (NO RESPONSE.)
11 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ.
12 MR. MARTINEZ: HERE.
13 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MATHIS.

14 MS. MATHIS: HERE.
15 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MCKAY.
16 MR. MCKAY: HERE.
17 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MCKEE.
18 MR. MCKEE: HERE.
19 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER LES MILLER.
20 MR. LES MILLER: HERE.
21 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER RANDY MILLER.
22 MR. RANDY MILLER: HERE.
23 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER MOORE.
24 MR. MOORE: HERE.
25 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER PETERMAN.

5

1 (NO RESPONSE.)
2 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER RILEY.
3 (NO RESPONSE.)
4 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER ROUSON.
5 MR. ROUSON: HERE.
6 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER SANSOM.
7 (NO RESPONSE.)
8 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER STORY.
9 MS. STORY: HERE.
10 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER TURBEVILLE.

11 MR. TURBEVILLE: HERE.

12 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER WILKINSON.

13 MR. WILKINSON: HERE.

14 MS. FRIER: COMMISSIONER YABLONSKI.

15 MR. YABLONSKI: HERE.

16 MS. FRIER: VICE CHAIR SCOTT.

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 MS. FRIER: CHAIR BENSE.

19 CHAIRMAN BENSE: HERE.

20 MS. FRIER: YOU HAVE A QUORUM.

21 CHAIRMAN BENSE: OKAY. FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T

22 ANTICIPATE THIS WILL BE A LONG MEETING. WE CAN

23 DEBATE OR TALK ABOUT ISSUES IF YOU LIKE, BUT THE

24 REAL WORK WAS DONE TODAY IN COMMITTEES.

25 WE HAVE -- THE FIRST FIVE PROPOSALS HAVE

6

1 BEEN REFERRED TO COMMITTEES. AND COMMITTEES,

2 YOU CAN BEGIN HEARING THESE AT YOUR NEXT

3 MEETING, WHICH WOULD BE ON NOVEMBER THE 30TH,

4 HEAR THEM WHEN YOU FEEL FREE, WHEN YOU'RE

5 READY.

6 WITH RESPECT TO OTHER PROPOSALS, YOU KNOW,

7 WE'VE TALKED ABOUT A LOT OF ISSUES THAT ARE OUT

8 THERE. IT IS PROBABLY -- IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING
9 THAT YOU'RE BURNING TO MOVE FORWARD, LET'S TRY
10 TO GET THOSE PROPOSALS IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

11 FROM A TIME PERSPECTIVE AS WE MOVE
12 FORWARD, I WAS VISITING WITH MR. GOODLETTE AND
13 MS. SKELTON EARLIER. I SEE THAT IN DECEMBER
14 WE'LL PROBABLY MEET, I THINK ONCE OR TWICE --
15 ONCE? JUST ONCE. BUT BE PREPARED IN JANUARY
16 AND FEBRUARY TO REALLY MEET, BECAUSE AT THAT
17 POINT IN TIME MOST OF THESE PROPOSALS WILL HAVE
18 BEEN PUT FORWARD. I WOULD ENVISION DURING
19 JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SOME BLOCKS. WE HAVE TO
20 SPEND A COUPLE DAYS AT THESE MEETINGS.

21 I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND A
22 COMMITTEE MEETING OR A COMMISSION MEETING,
23 PROBABLY FROM HERE ON, THAT YOU CALL IN BY
24 TELEPHONE, BECAUSE WE'RE GETTING READY TO GET
25 INTO THE ISSUES. AND JUST AS A REMINDER, YOU

7

1 CAN VOTE BY PHONE IN COMMITTEE VOTES. WE ALL
2 DEBATED THIS. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO COMMISSION
3 VOTES, YOU HAVE TO BE HERE IN PERSON. THAT'S
4 JUST A REMINDER.

5 BUT AS WE MOVE FORWARD ON ISSUES AND --
6 AND TO BE FRANK WITH YOU, A LOT OF THE VOTES
7 THAT WE'VE HAD IN COMMITTEES SO FAR HAVE BEEN
8 FRIENDLY AND NICE. AND IT'LL GET A LITTLE
9 TESTY AS WE MOVE FORWARD ON ISSUES THAT ARE
10 VERY PERSONAL TO SOME OF YOU FOLKS. SO LET'S
11 GET READY, AND I CERTAINLY EXPECT THAT WE WOULD
12 MAINTAIN THE DEMEANOR THAT WE HAVE PUT FORTH SO
13 FAR IN THIS PROCESS. BUT IT'LL GET A LITTLE
14 MORE TESTY AS WE GO FORWARD.

15 AGAIN, THAT'S JUST SOME SORT OF AN
16 OUTLINE. JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WILL BE VERY,
17 VERY BUSY MONTHS, BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCH A SHORT
18 TIME FRAME. WE'VE ALL TALKED ABOUT THE FACT
19 THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OUR FULL COMMISSION
20 VOTES BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY AND FINISHED IN
21 MARCH SO WE CAN GET THE STYLING AND DRAFTING IN
22 ENOUGH TIME TO GET TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S
23 OFFICE.

24 ANY COMMENTS ALONG THOSE LINES? ANYONE
25 HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, MOVE

1 FASTER, MOVE SLOWER, MEET TEN TIMES DURING THE

2 HOLIDAYS. I MEAN, IT'S JUST OUR SCHEDULES.
3 WE'VE ALREADY POLLED SOME OF YOU FOLKS FOR
4 DECEMBER. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S VIRTUALLY
5 IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE OR TWO
6 MEETINGS AT THE MOST. SO ANY SUGGESTIONS?

7 (NO RESPONSE.)

8 OKAY. WE ALSO APPOINTED IN OUR LAST
9 MEETING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BALLOT SUMMARY
10 ISSUES, WHICH CONSISTED OF FOUR PRESIDING
11 OFFICERS OR LEADERS CONSISTING OF FORMER SENATE
12 PRESIDENT MCKAY, FORMER MINORITY LEADER LES
13 MILLER, FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT JIM SCOTT, AND
14 MYSELF TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE. WE WILL BE
15 MEETING BY PHONE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH. I
16 THINK YOU'VE ALL BEEN NOTIFIED. I THINK YOU'VE
17 NOTIFIED THE MEDIA, THAT SORT OF STUFF. NOT
18 YET BUT WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF -- WE'LL BE
19 DOING IT TODAY. JUST A HEADS-UP.

20 SO LET'S MOVE ON TO REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.
21 HOW ABOUT IF WE START WITH CHAIR SUSAN STORY OF
22 FINANCE AND TAX.

23 MS. STORY: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. THE
24 FINANCE AND TAX COMMITTEE ACTUALLY HAD A

25 CONFERENCE CALL ON NOVEMBER 5TH, AT WHICH POINT WE

9

1 HAD POLLED THE MEMBERS ABOUT ALL THE TOPICS; AND
2 WE WERE LOOKING SPECIFICALLY AT ANY TOPICS WE
3 WANTED TO DEBATE FOR POTENTIAL COMMITTEE PROPOSALS
4 THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD VOTE THROUGH AS A FORM OF
5 PROPOSAL IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS DOING
6 THAT.

7 AT THAT MEETING, AT THAT CONFERENCE CALL,
8 WE AGREED ON FIVE AREAS THAT WE WANTED TO
9 DEBATE AND VOTE ULTIMATELY ON WHETHER WE WANTED
10 TO INTRODUCE PROPOSALS. THOSE AREAS WERE
11 PROPERTY TAX, AND IN THE AREAS OF PROPERTY TAX
12 WE SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO LOOK AT PORTABILITY,
13 REPLACEMENT FOR RLE, FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN THE
14 TAX SYSTEM TO INCLUDE THE HIGHEST AND BEST USE
15 ISSUE.

16 THE SECOND AREA IS SALES TAX EXEMPTION
17 REVIEW. THE THIRD AREA WAS STREAMLINING, WHICH
18 DEALS WITH A COLLECTION OF SALES AND USE TAXES
19 ON INTERNET SALES, SPENDING/REVENUE CAPS, AND
20 SALES TAX EXCLUSION REVIEW. AND WE DID
21 SEPARATE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS REVIEW AND SALES

22 TAX EXCLUSIONS REVIEW BECAUSE OF THE MAGNITUDE
23 AND SCOPE OF THOSE AREAS.

24 TODAY -- THE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THOSE, BY THE
25 WAY, WE PARTICULARLY AND SPECIFICALLY DID NOT

10

1 WANT TO ASSIGN A LEAD PERSON TO WORK WITH STAFF
2 TO DO THIS WHO WHAT WE HAD -- WE SAID HAD A
3 VESTED INTEREST OR WHO, YOU KNOW, HAD A
4 PARTICULAR POSITION. SO WE ACTUALLY MADE
5 ASSIGNMENTS FOR OUR COMMITTEE FOR -- AND THE
6 ASSIGNMENTS WERE KIND OF DIFFERENT.

7 FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX
8 PORTABILITY, COMMISSIONER MCKAY IS GOING TO
9 WORK WITH THE STAFF TO LOOK AT CONCEPTUAL
10 ISSUES AND WHAT WE NEED TO DEBATE AS A
11 COMMITTEE.

12 REPLACEMENT FOR RLE, COMMISSION WILKINSON.
13 FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN THE TAX SYSTEM,
14 COMMISSIONER BARNEY BARNETT. SALES TAX
15 EXEMPTION REVIEW, COMMISSIONER MARTHA BARNETT.
16 STREAMLINING, COMMISSIONER JULIA JOHNSON.
17 SPENDING/REVENUE CAPS, COMMISSIONER BRIAN
18 YABLONSKI. AND SALES TAX EXCLUSIONS,

19 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA LEVESQUE.

20 SO TODAY WE ACTUALLY ADDRESSED TWO OF
21 THOSE. ALSO, WE KNOW THAT THERE WERE A COUPLE
22 OF AREAS WERE THERE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS THAT
23 APPEARED TO BE SIGNIFICANT CONSENSUS TO THE
24 POINT THAT EVEN THOUGH THEY WEREN'T IN THESE
25 FIVE BROAD ISSUES, ONE BEING SOME ISSUES

11

1 BROUGHT UP BY COMMISSIONER YABLONSKI PREVIOUSLY
2 ON CONSERVATION TAXING DISTRICTS, AND WE ARE
3 GOING TO PURSUE THAT FOR A COMMITTEE
4 DISCUSSION.

5 THE SECOND WAS POTENTIALLY PROPOSALS
6 SENATOR MARGOLIS HAD BROUGHT FORWARD, BUT SHE
7 HAS SINCE INTRODUCED AN INDIVIDUAL PROPOSAL ON
8 THAT, SO WE DID DISCUSS THAT SOMEWHAT.

9 TODAY, THE FINANCE AND TAX COMMITTEE, WE
10 REVIEWED THE STREAMLINING ISSUE AND THE SALES
11 TAX EXEMPTION REVIEW PROCESS. THE F AND T
12 COMMITTEE DID VOTE UNANIMOUSLY IN BOTH CASES TO
13 INTRODUCE PROPOSALS AS COMMITTEE PROPOSALS TO
14 BE NUMBERED AND GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE
15 REFERENCE PROCESS, AFTER WHICH WE EXPECT TO SEE

16 THEM BACK AS NUMBERED PROPOSALS FOR FINAL
17 CONSIDERATION BY THE TAX AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
18 BEFORE GOING TO THE FULL COMMISSION.

19 ON THE STREAMLINING PROJECT, WHICH AGAIN
20 DEALS WITH COLLECTION OF REMOTE SALES AND USE
21 TAXES, WE BASICALLY APPROVED FOR INTRODUCTION A
22 PROPOSAL THAT IS POTENTIAL LEGISLATION, AND WE
23 ALSO PASSED A SHELL CONSTITUTIONAL WITH THE
24 IDEA BEING WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS ACTUALLY
25 LEGISLATIVELY IF IT GETS THROUGH THE PROCESS BE

12

1 DONE IN TIME TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2008
2 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

3 THE SECOND AREA WE HAD SIGNIFICANT
4 DISCUSSION ON WAS A SALES TAX EXEMPTION REVIEW
5 PROCESS. COUNSEL FOR STAFF HAD PRESENTED
6 SEVERAL DIFFERENT OPTIONS. AT THE END WE DID
7 VOTE FOR INTRODUCTION OF A PROPOSAL THAT
8 PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE
9 TO GO THROUGH A LIST OF EXEMPTIONS AND VOTE ON
10 EACH ONE, EXCEPT FOR LIFE NECESSITIES. WE ALSO
11 AGREED THAT -- AND THAT'S IN THE FORM OF A
12 CONSTITUTIONAL AREA, BUT WE ALSO PASSED A

13 LEGISLATIVE SHELL, STATUTORY SHELL TO CONTINUE
14 IN THAT VEIN.

15 WE ALSO ASKED THE STAFF AND COMMISSIONER
16 MARTHA BARNETT TO CONTINUE LOOKING AT POTENTIAL
17 AMENDMENTS WHEN THIS COMES BACK TO US THAT
18 RELATE TO AN AREA OF SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION AND
19 DEBATE, WHICH IS ANY TYPE OF SUNSET PROVISION,
20 AND DIFFERENT OPTIONS, FOR THAT TO BE
21 CONSIDERED DOWN THE ROAD.

22 SO WITH THAT, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE THEN ARE
23 GETTING READY ON NOVEMBER 30TH TO DISCUSS THE
24 OTHER MAIN AREAS, PROBABLY PROPERTY TAX AND
25 SALES TAX EXCLUSIONS REVIEW AT THE NEXT

13

1 MEETING, AND THEN IF WE HAVE TO HAVE A NEXT
2 MEETING, WE WILL THEN LOOK AT SPENDING REVENUE
3 CAPS AS WELL AS CONSERVATION TAXING DISTRICTS.

4 CHAIRMAN BENNE: OKAY. ANY QUESTIONS OF
5 CHAIRMAN STORY?

6 (NO RESPONSE.)

7 JUST TO REFRESH MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
8 AS WELL AS THOSE PARTICIPATING ON THE PROCESS,
9 WHAT CHAIR STORY'S COMMITTEE IT DOING IS

10 PUTTING FORTH WHAT THOSE OF US IN THE
11 LEGISLATURE USED TO CALL PROPOSED COMMITTEE
12 BILLS, PCBS. AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THESE
13 PCBS WILL RUN ALONG PARALLEL LINES WITH
14 PROPOSALS THAT MEMBERS HAVE PUT FORWARD AS
15 WELL.

16 IN THE PROCESS THAT CHAIR STORY IS GOING
17 THROUGH, WHEN SHE IS COMPLETED OUTLINING WHICH
18 PCB SHE WANTS TO PUT FORWARD, THOSE WILL BE
19 FORWARDED TO ME AS CHAIRMAN, AND IT WILL BE
20 FORWARDED TO ME WHEN THEY'RE IN BILL FORMAT,
21 THE DRAFTING FOLKS HAVE DONE A -- WILL HAVE
22 DONE A JOB ON THAT. AND AT THAT POINT I REFER
23 BACK TO THAT COMMITTEE.

24 AND I TELL YOU THAT TO SAY, DON'T GET TOO
25 UPSET IF IN FACT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WAS NOT

14

1 SOMETHING YOU LIKED. FRANKLY, I THINK IF WE
2 ARE GOING TO ERR, I WOULD RATHER ERR ON, LET'S
3 SEE AND PUT IT IN PROPER FORMAT AND THEN LET'S
4 TAKE IT TO A -- IN A PROPOSAL FORM, LET THE
5 COMMITTEE LOOK AT, THEN LET'S LOOK AT THE
6 AMENDATORY PROCESS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

7 SO THOSE ITEMS -- JUST SO YOU DON'T GET
8 TOO UPSET, THOSE ITEMS WE VOTED ON LAST WEEK
9 AND THIS WEEK IN CHAIR STORY'S COMMITTEE WERE
10 SIMPLY TO MOVE IT FORWARD. THE ULTIMATE DEBATE
11 AND THE ULTIMATE -- THE REAL DEBATE AND THE
12 REAL EXPERTS AND SO ON WILL SHOW UP AS THAT
13 PROPOSAL IS BROUGHT UP BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.
14 IT'S JUST A HEADS-UP.

15 AGAIN, REMIND YOU OF THE PROCESS. IF
16 THOSE PROPOSALS AS AMENDED CLEAR THE COMMITTEE,
17 THEY ARE THEN READY TO BE HEARD BY THE FULL
18 COMMISSION AT THAT POINT IN TIME.

19 ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT? I
20 JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS UP TO SPEED.
21 COMMISSIONER ROUSON?

22 MR. ROUSON: YES. I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT
23 YOU'RE SAYING, BUT I WANT TO UNDERSTAND. IS THERE
24 A MECHANISM FOR FELLOW COMMISSIONERS TO CO-SPONSOR
25 OR TO JUMP ON A PROPOSAL THAT MAY BE COMING OUT OF

15

1 A COMMITTEE BUT IS NOW BEFORE THE FULL COMMISSION?

2 CHAIRMAN BENSE: YES, I THINK AT THE
3 COMMISSION MEETING YOU CAN DO THAT.

4 MR. ROUSON: OKAY.

5 CHAIRMAN BENSE: BUT WE'RE JUST CAREFUL. YOU
6 CAN'T TALK TO THEM, AS YOU KNOW, BEFORE.

7 MR. ROUSON: THAT'S WHY I WANT TO RAISE IT
8 NOW. I MEAN, HOW -- WE GO THROUGH STAFF OR
9 SOMETHING LIKE THAT, OR WHEN IT'S BEFORE THE FULL
10 COMMISSION BEING DEBATED, WE AT THAT POINT
11 ANNOUNCE THAT AS A COMMISSIONER, YOU KNOW, I WANT
12 TO BE NOT ONLY SUPPORTIVE OF THIS, BUT I WANT TO
13 BE A CO-SPONSOR OF THIS AS IT'S BEING PROPOSED.

14 CHAIRMAN BENSE: I'LL LET MS. SKELTON ANSWER
15 THAT, BECAUSE SHE'S DONE A LOT OF RESEARCH INTO
16 THAT.

17 MS. SKELTON: MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONER, AT
18 ANY POINT IN A PUBLIC MEETING, WHETHER IT IS A
19 COMMITTEE MEETING WHERE A PROPOSAL IS BEING HEARD
20 OR AT THE FULL COMMISSION MEETING, IF A MEMBER OF
21 THAT COMMITTEE AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING OR A
22 MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING
23 WANTED TO BE CONSIDERED AS A CO-SPONSOR OF A
24 PROPOSAL THAT HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD AND NUMBERED,
25 YOU CAN MAKE THAT DECLARATION AT THE COMMITTEE

1 MEETING OR THE COMMISSION MEETING.

2 I WOULD LIKE TO BE A CO-SPONSOR OF PCB
3 XYZ, OR I WOULD LIKE TO BE A CO-SPONSOR OF
4 COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE'S PROPOSAL ON WHATEVER
5 IT IS. AND THAT WAY THEN YOU CAN BECOME
6 OFFICIALLY A CO-SPONSOR. BUT BECAUSE OF THE
7 SUNSHINE LAW, IT HAS TO BE DONE IN AN OPEN
8 MEETING AND HAS TO BE DONE IN THAT FORM AS
9 OPPOSED TO WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE IN A LEGISLATIVE
10 PROCESS WHERE YOU FILL OUT A FORM AND WRITE A
11 NOTE. BECAUSE, AGAIN, REMEMBERING, WE DON'T
12 WANT TO COMPLETE THE CIRCLE OF COMMUNICATION BY
13 MISTAKE, SO IT HAS TO BE DONE IN AN OPEN
14 MEETING.

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: ANY MORE DISCUSSION OF THE
16 PROCESS? I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL UP TO
17 SPEED ON THAT PROCESS.

18 WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER COMMITTEES, FOR
19 EXAMPLE, CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ IS PUTTING FORTH
20 REPORTS SIMILAR TO WHAT CHAIR STORY IS PUTTING
21 FORTH. AND I WOULD ASSUME, CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ,
22 THAT THOSE REPORTS WILL BE CONVERTED TO
23 PROPOSALS IF IN FACT THAT'S THE WILL OF THE

24 COMMITTEE. IS THAT CORRECT?

25 MR. MARTINEZ: MR. CHAIRMAN, GOOD AFTERNOON.

17

1 CHAIRMAN BENSE: GOOD AFTERNOON, BOBBY.

2 MR. MARTINEZ: WE'RE GOING TO BE MEETING ON

3 THE 29TH AND --

4 CHAIRMAN BENSE: WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND

5 GIVE YOUR REPORT WHILE YOU'RE AT IT?

6 MR. MARTINEZ: ALL RIGHT. WELL, LET ME TELL

7 YOU WHERE WE'RE AT. THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS I'VE

8 BEEN WORKING WITH STAFF AND WITH DUDLEY GOODLETTE,

9 REPRESENTATIVE GOODLETTE. IT'S GREAT TO HAVE HIM

10 AS PART OF THE TEAM. AND WE'VE BEEN DRAFTING A

11 NUMBER OF REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

12 EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS, ON

13 HEALTH AND AGING, TRANSPORTATION, COURTS AND

14 WATER.

15 AND THE GAME PLAN IS TO HAVE THE -- THESE

16 ARE REPORTS THAT ASSIMILATE FOR THE MOST PART

17 THE PRESENTATIONS MADE AT THE PRIOR MEETINGS OF

18 THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE. THESE

19 REPORTS, EXCEPT FOR THE CASE OF EDUCATION, WILL

20 BE -- THE GAME PLAN IS TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE

21 MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK,
22 ALL OF THEM EXCEPT EDUCATION.

23 THE EDUCATION REPORT IS A LITTLE BIT MORE
24 BULKY AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE. THAT'S GOING TO
25 TAKE A LITTLE BIT MORE TIME TO FINALIZE. BUT I

18

1 ANTICIPATE THAT WILL BE DONE AND READY TO SEND
2 OUT TO MY MEMBERS ON THE 26TH, MONDAY BEFORE
3 THE MEETING.

4 THE REPORTS WILL NOT HAVE AT THIS STAGE
5 ANY RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY WILL HAVE A SUMMARY
6 SECTION AND FINDING SECTIONS, AND THEN WE WILL
7 TAKE UP THOSE REPORTS AT OUR MEETING. WE'RE
8 SCHEDULED TO MEET ON THE 29TH FOR A FULL DAY
9 AND APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS ON THE FOLLOWING
10 DAY. I BELIEVE WE HAVE A FULL COMMISSION
11 MEETING, SO IT WILL BE BEFORE THE FULL
12 COMMISSION.

13 AT THAT POINT IN TIME WE WILL BE VOTING ON
14 THOSE REPORTS, AND WE'LL ALSO BE CONSIDERING
15 ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ANY OF THE MEMBERS OF
16 OUR COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

17 AND, ALLAN, IT'S MY HOPE THAT WE'LL BE

18 ABLE TO CONCLUDE SUBSTANTIALLY THE WORK OF OUR
19 COMMITTEE BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

20 CHAIRMAN BENSE: GREAT. THAT'S GOOD. ANY
21 QUESTIONS OF CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ? ANY QUESTIONS?
22 (NO RESPONSE.)

23 OKAY. HOW ABOUT CHAIRMAN LEVINE OF THE
24 GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES AND STRUCTURE
25 COMMITTEE.

19

1 MR. LEVINE: WE'RE NOT MOVING QUITE THAT
2 FAST.

3 CHAIRMAN BENSE: I'M IMPRESSED.

4 MR. LEVINE: TODAY WE HAD A PRESENTATION ON
5 KIND OF OUR LAST -- WE'VE HAD -- THROUGHOUT THE
6 COURSE OF THIS, WE'VE HAD A LOT OF PRESENTATIONS
7 AT ALL OF OUR MEETINGS ABOUT VARIOUS TOPICS AND
8 REALLY AT THE 30,000-FOOT LEVEL. TODAY IT WAS
9 SORT OF THE FINAL PRESENTATION. WE TRIED TO HEAR
10 ALL SIDES OF SOME OF THE HOT ISSUES. TODAY WE HAD
11 A DISCUSSION ABOUT SCHOOL CHOICE.

12 WE'VE HAD A LOT OF DIALOGUE DISCUSSION
13 ABOUT SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS, THE ISSUE OF
14 TAXING DISTRICTS, THE NUMBER OF THEM, THE

15 BREADTH OF THEM, THE SIZE. I KNOW THERE'S BEEN
16 SOME INTEREST OF AT LEAST ONE OR TWO OTHER
17 COMMISSIONERS.

18 TODAY WHAT WE AGREED TO DO IS HAVE A
19 CONFERENCE CALL. EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE
20 IS GOING TO BE SUBMITTING TO STAFF THEIR LIST
21 OF ITEMS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO GET CONSIDERED
22 AS PCBS. WE'LL HAVE A CONFERENCE CALL SOON
23 AFTER THAT.

24 WHAT STAFF IS ALSO DOING -- AND BY THE
25 WAY, I HAVE TO GIVE CHAIR STORY CREDIT FOR

20

1 THIS. WE STOLE THE IDEA FROM HER. BUT WE'RE
2 GOING TO GO BACK THROUGH AND SORT OF COMB
3 THROUGH ALL OF THE PRESENTATIONS WE'VE HAD, PUT
4 ALL OF THOSE IN A LIST FORM, AND THEN HAVE THE
5 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SORT OF TRY TO NARROW
6 IT DOWN, LIKE F AND T DID, TO PICK THOSE FIVE
7 OR SIX ISSUES THAT WE WANT TO LOOK AT AS
8 POTENTIAL PCBS.

9 WE DID HAVE FIVE BILLS OR MEASURES
10 REFERRED TO OUR COMMITTEE, I BELIEVE, AND WE'LL
11 BE LOOKING AT PUTTING THOSE ON THE AGENDA FOR

12 THE NEXT MEETING, OR SOON THEREAFTER.

13 AND WITH THAT, MR. CHAIR, WE'RE READY TO
14 GO. I MEAN, WE'RE TEED UP.

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: ANY QUESTIONS OF CHAIRMAN
16 LEVINE?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 JUST AS A REMINDER, TIME IS GETTING SHORT.
19 YOU MAY HAVE TO PACK IN A COUPLE MORE MEETINGS
20 IN DECEMBER IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE -- YOU
21 KNOW, ONCE MEMBERS HAVE SUMMARIZED WHAT THEY
22 INDIVIDUALLY WANT TO SEE, THERE'S A LONG WAY TO
23 GET FROM THERE TO A, YOU KNOW, FOUR OR FIVE
24 RECOMMENDATIONS, SO -- BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO BE
25 CONVERTED INTO BILL DRAFT LANGUAGE AND THINGS

21

1 LIKE THAT. SO JUST A HEADS-UP.

2 CHAIRMAN LACASA OF THE PLANNING AND
3 BUDGETARY PROCESSES COMMITTEE.

4 MR. LACASA: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. I'M
5 GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO FOLLOW CHAIRMAN STORY WITH
6 THAT REPORT. WE TOO ARE AT THE 20,000-FOOT LEVEL
7 AND HAVE NOT HAD AS MUCH DETAILED WORK AS CHAIRMAN
8 STORY'S COMMITTEES HAVE.

9 TODAY WE HAD A PRESENTATION BY CHIP
10 MORRISON, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE
11 OF CITIES ON THE LEAGUE OF CITY'S PERSPECTIVE
12 ON RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROPERTY TAX
13 REFORM. WE HAD A PRETTY THOROUGH PRESENTATION
14 FROM HIM ON THAT, SOME RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH
15 WILL BE POSTED IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
16 AVAILABLE TO ALL THE MEMBERS ONCE THEY'RE
17 DRAFTED.

18 THAT WAS THE ESSENCE OF THE MEETING. WE
19 HAD OPEN DISCUSSION, BOTH IN THIS MEETING AND
20 IN OUR LAST ONE, WHERE THE MEMBERS WERE EACH
21 GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ISSUES OF
22 CONCERN TO THEM, IDEAS THAT THEY WANTED TO SEE
23 PUT FORWARD; AND WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO
24 HAVE THOSE DISCUSSIONS AS WE GO.

25 CHAIRMAN BENSE: ANY QUESTIONS OF CHAIRMAN

22

1 LACASA?

2 (NO RESPONSE.)

3 AGAIN, I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN
4 RECORD, BUT IF THERE IS AN IDEA THAT YOU WANT
5 TO PUT FORWARD, THE CLOCK IS TICKING. AND

6 JUST, IT'S -- GET WITH STAFF, THEY'LL HELP
7 DRAFT THE BILL FOR YOU AND THINGS LIKE THAT,
8 BUT IT'S -- TIME IS RUNNING OUT. I THINK
9 THAT --

10 MR. LES MILLER: MR. CHAIRMAN? BEFORE YOU
11 THINK ANY FURTHER ...

12 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER MILLER.

13 MR. LES MILLER: I KNOW THE TIME FRAME FOR
14 SUBMITTING ANY PROPOSALS TO HAVE STAFF DRAW THEM
15 INTO BILLS IS THE END OF THIS MONTH; AM I RIGHT?

16 CHAIRMAN BENSE: IT'S A SOFT DEADLINE, THAT'S
17 CORRECT.

18 MR. LES MILLER: SO IT'S A SOFT --

19 CHAIRMAN BENSE: IT'S A SOFT DEADLINE.

20 MR. LES MILLER: I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE,
21 BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE SO MANY STAFF, AND ALL OF A
22 SUDDEN WE GET A RUSH OF MEMBERS AND THEIR IDEAS,
23 WE'LL HAVE A PROBLEM TRYING TO DO THAT BY THE END
24 OF THE MONTH. JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE.

25 CHAIRMAN BENSE: IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF

23

1 WE COULD BE COMPLETELY DONE BY DECEMBER, BECAUSE
2 IN JANUARY THE STAFF THAT WE'RE CURRENTLY

3 BORROWING IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE, THEY'RE GOING
4 TO GET BUSY. I MEAN, THEY'RE GOING TO GET BUSY
5 WITH THEIR REAL JOBS. SO DECEMBER AS WE ALL KNOW
6 IS TYPICALLY A LITTLE BIT OF A LIGHTER MONTH FOR
7 STAFFERS, SO IT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL TIME FOR YOU
8 TO GET YOUR PROPOSALS COMPLETED.

9 OKAY. THE GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
10 WILL MEET HERE IN TALLAHASSEE, AS CHAIRMAN
11 MARTINEZ SAID, ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, FROM
12 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. IN ROOM 301. THE OTHER
13 COMMITTEES AND THE FULL COMMISSION WILL MEET
14 HERE IN TALLAHASSEE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH,
15 WITH TIMES AND LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

16 HOWEVER, I CAN TELL YOU I THINK MOST
17 COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT MONTH OR SO
18 WILL PROBABLY BE LIKE THIS ONE, VERY SHORT, AND
19 I'D LIKE TO GET YOUR FEEDBACK ON SPENDING THE
20 DAYS THAT WE'RE HERE VIRTUALLY ALL DAY IN
21 COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

22 IS THERE ANY OBJECTION TO THAT?

23 (NO RESPONSE.)

24 AND LET'S DO OUR HOUSEKEEPING ON THE
25 COMMISSION. THERE WILL BE SOME HOUSEKEEPING TO

1 DO -- IF NOTHING ELSE, JUST TO GET EVERYBODY UP
2 TO SPEED ON WHAT EACH COMMITTEE IS DOING AND
3 WHERE THEY ARE AND SO ON.

4 IS THERE ANY OBJECTION TO THAT? ANY
5 THOUGHTS?

6 (NO RESPONSE.)

7 THAT MEANS EVERYONE AGREES.

8 ALSO, WE HAVE -- ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER
9 THE 5TH, WE HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING IN NICEVILLE.
10 IF YOU -- STAFF CAN OUTLINE TO YOU HOW TO GET
11 THERE. IF YOU WOULD LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE
12 GOING TO MAKE IT OR NOT. THIS IS ONE THAT GOT
13 RAINED OUT. IF YOU COULD MAKE IT THAT WOULD
14 BE -- THAT WOULD BE GOOD.

15 SUSAN, DO YOU WANT ME TO GO THROUGH THESE
16 POSSIBLE MEETING DATES?

17 HERE'S WHAT WE'RE LOOKING -- JUST
18 TENTATIVELY, IN JANUARY. POSSIBLE JANUARY
19 MEETING DATES INCLUDE -- I KNOW THIS IS
20 EARLY -- JANUARY 3RD AND 4TH. THE REASON FOR
21 THAT IS THAT'S A THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. A LOT OF
22 FOLKS MAY STILL BE TRAVELING. THESE ARE --

23 IT'LL PROBABLY BE TOUGH FOR MOST OF YOU.

24 THE WEEKS OF JANUARY 14TH -- 14TH, 15TH,
25 16, 17, 18. THOSE ARE GOOD ONES FOR US TO LOOK

25

1 AT. THE REASON SUSAN HAS THOSE OUTLINED IS
2 THERE ARE NOT COMMITTEE MEETINGS GOING ON UP
3 HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE AT THAT TIME SO WE DO
4 HAVE OFFICE SPACE THAT'S AVAILABLE.

5 POSSIBLE FEBRUARY MEETING DATES ARE THE
6 WEEK OF THE 11TH AND 25TH. ONCE AGAIN, THOSE
7 ARE DRIVEN BY THE AVAILABILITY OF OFFICES HERE
8 IN TALLAHASSEE.

9 SO JUST BE LOOKING AT YOUR CALENDARS, AND
10 WE'LL BEGIN WORKING ON NOTIFYING YOU, OR AT
11 LEAST POLLING MEMBERS AS TO WHEN YOU CAN MEET.

12 SAY AGAIN, REPRESENTATIVE MILLER.

13 MR. LES MILLER: DO WE HAVE A DEFINITIVE DATE
14 FOR THE DECEMBER?

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: 14TH. OH, IT'S A -- I'M
16 SORRY. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. FRIDAY,
17 DECEMBER 14TH.

18 AGAIN, I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT MEETING --
19 THAT DAY WILL BE SPENT WITH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

20 MORE THAN COMMISSION MEETING, UNLESS THERE'S AN
21 OBJECTION TO THAT.

22 I WILL TELL YOU THAT --

23 (BRIEF INTERRUPTION.)

24 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER MCKAY, YOU'RE
25 RECOGNIZED.

26

1 MR. MCKAY: I'M SORRY. I COULDN'T QUITE HEAR
2 YOU OVER THE -- THAT TELEPHONE INFORMATION. DID
3 YOU SAY WE'RE GOING TO BE HERE THE 14TH OF
4 DECEMBER?

5 CHAIRMAN BENSE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.
6 THAT'S CORRECT.

7 MR. MCKAY: THANK YOU, SIR.

8 MS. JOHNSON: MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE A
9 PROCEDURAL QUESTION.

10 CHAIRMAN BENSE: SURE. COMMISSIONER, YOU'RE
11 RECOGNIZED.

12 MS. JOHNSON: EARLY ON, DID WE MAP OUT A
13 SERIES OF FRIDAYS ALL THE WAY THROUGHOUT 2008?
14 ARE WE TRYING TO STICK WITH THOSE?

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: WE'RE TRYING TO DO OUR BEST.
16 THE THIRD FRIDAY IN DECEMBER, I THINK, IS GETTING

17 CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS. BUT I WANT TO -- IF WE CAN,
18 DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY -- WE DID NOT KNOW
19 WHEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE GOING TO BE IN
20 JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, SO WE HAVE TENTATIVELY
21 RESERVED THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

22 WHEN DOES THE -- THE JANUARY THE 18TH? IS
23 THAT THE THIRD FRIDAY? IT IS THE THIRD FRIDAY,
24 SO THAT'S PRETTY CONSISTENT. AND WHAT WE'RE
25 ADDING, I GUESS, IS IN FEBRUARY. IS THAT THE

27

1 15TH AND THE 29TH, ARE THOSE THE -- WHAT FRIDAY
2 IS THAT? THE 15TH IS THE THIRD FRIDAY, SO
3 WE'RE KEEPING -- WE'RE JUST ADDING MORE TO IT.

4 MS. JOHNSON: OKAY. WHICH WORKS FOR ME,
5 MR. CHAIRMAN, AND PROBABLY EVERYONE ELSE, BECAUSE
6 WE'VE AT LEAST BLOCKED THOSE OUT, SO TO THE EXTENT
7 WE CAN KEEP THOSE OUR VOTING DAYS --

8 CHAIRMAN BENSE: YES.

9 MS. JOHNSON: -- BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE RELIED
10 UPON THAT TO SET 2008 CALENDARS, SO WE WANTED --

11 CHAIRMAN BENSE: I THINK AT A MINIMUM I WOULD
12 COUNT ON MEETING DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14TH
13 THROUGH 18TH. I THINK -- UNLESS THERE'S AN

14 OBJECTION, SINCE EVERYONE DID HAVE THAT IN THEIR
15 CALENDAR. IS THERE AN OBJECTION TO PUTTING THAT
16 IN THERE?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 THEN LET'S GO AHEAD AND SET UP A MEETING
19 AT THE MINIMUM ON THE 18TH OF JANUARY, WHICH IS
20 THE THIRD FRIDAY; AND WE MAY WORK BACKWARD TO
21 MEET ON A WEDNESDAY AND A THURSDAY AS WELL IF
22 THESE COMMITTEES GET BACKED UP, SO BE PREPARED.

23 MR. LEVINE: MR. CHAIRMAN?

24 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER LEVINE, YOU'RE
25 RECOGNIZED.

28

1 MR. LEVINE: JUST A PROCEDURAL QUESTION,
2 ACTUALLY A RULE QUESTION. IF -- ONCE WE GET OUT
3 OF THE COMMITTEE PROCESS, THINGS ARE AT THE
4 COMMISSION LEVEL, IF THERE'S AN AMENDMENT, AT THAT
5 STAGE WE CAN STILL AMEND, CORRECT?

6 CHAIRMAN BENSE: OH, ABSOLUTELY.

7 MR. LEVINE: IF SOMETHING IS AMENDED OR IF
8 SOMEBODY ATTEMPTS TO AMEND SOMETHING WITH AN IDEA
9 THAT HAS NOT BEEN HEARD IN A COMMITTEE, IS THAT
10 ALLOWED, OR IS THERE A TWO-THIRDS VOTE, OR IS THAT

11 THE -- NEW IDEAS CAN STILL COME FORWARD?

12 CHAIRMAN BENSE: ABSOLUTELY. MR. GOODLETTE
13 AND MR. CIBULA, CORRECT?

14 MR. GOODLETTE: CORRECT.

15 MR. MCKAY: MR. CHAIRMAN?

16 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER MCKAY, YOU'RE
17 RECOGNIZED.

18 MR. MCKAY: THAT BEGS THE QUESTION. IF WE --
19 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT HAS TO PASS BY
20 TWO-THIRDS VOTE. CAN WE AMEND THAT CONSTITUTIONAL
21 AMENDMENT BY A MAJORITY VOTE?

22 CHAIRMAN BENSE: I THINK IT IS A MAJORITY. I
23 THINK IT'S MAJORITY.

24 MR. MCKAY: AND I BELIEVE -- AND ONE OTHER
25 CLARIFICATION, MR. CHAIRMAN.

29

1 CHAIRMAN BENSE: SURE.

2 MR. MCKAY: I BELIEVE THAT WE AGREED IN A
3 PREVIOUS MEETING THAT IF A PROPOSAL FAILS IN
4 COMMITTEE, IT CAN STILL BE BROUGHT FOR THE FULL
5 COMMISSION, DIDN'T WE?

6 CHAIRMAN BENSE: I DON'T KNOW. I THINK WE --
7 IF IT FAILS -- ALL BILLS, WHEN THEY CLEAR A

8 COMMITTEE, EITHER PASS OR FAIL, GO TO THE
9 COORDINATING COMMITTEE. I THINK WHAT WE
10 ESTABLISHED IS BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE
11 COORDINATING COMMITTEE, THAT IS THE ONLY WAY A
12 FAILED BILL IN COMMITTEE CAN MOVE FORWARD. IF
13 I -- ISN'T THAT CORRECT?

14 I SEE -- I THINK THAT'S WHAT WE ENDED UP
15 DOING. IS IT -- AT LEAST IT GIVES IT ANOTHER
16 CHANCE, AND IT'S SORT OF THE WAY IT WORKS IN
17 THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. IF A BILL FAILS, AND
18 I THINK IT WENT BACK TO THE SPEAKER -- SENATE
19 PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, AND IT
20 COULD MYSTERIOUSLY ARISE AGAIN, AS YOU AND I
21 BOTH KNOW.

22 (LAUGHTER.)

23 I KNOW LES KNOWS THAT.

24 MS. BARNETT: I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED ON THAT
25 ISSUE MYSELF, MR. CHAIRMAN. I WOULD LIKE TO MAYBE

30

1 HAVE OUR SPECIAL COUNSEL GIVE US THE RULING ON IT,
2 OR LOOK AT THE RULES. I THOUGHT THAT THE PROCESS
3 WAS THAT IT WOULD GO FORWARD WITHOUT THE
4 RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE, BUT THE FULL

5 COMMISSION WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO
6 WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO WITH IT. BUT IT WOULD
7 COME WITHOUT THE -- OR WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF
8 THE COMMITTEE THAT IT NOT BE APPROVED.

9 CHAIRMAN BENSE: I THINK YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE
10 BEEN AT THE MEETING WHERE WE APPROVED THE RULES
11 THAT DAY. IT WAS IN ORLANDO, IF I RECALL. AND WE
12 HAD A LOT OF DEBATE ON THAT ISSUE. I THINK IT
13 TOOK UP PROBABLY A GOOD 15, 20 MINUTES, AND WE
14 WENT BACK AND FORTH.

15 AND MR. CIBULA, YOU WERE THERE, OR
16 MR. GOODLETTE. I'LL LET YOU SUMMARIZE WHAT WE
17 FINALLY ENDED UP ON THAT. WHO WANTS TO GO?

18 MR. CIBULA: IF YOU CAN GIVE ME JUST A
19 MINUTE. I'VE GOT THE RULES. I WANT TO MAKE SURE
20 I GIVE YOU CORRECT INFORMATION.

21 CHAIRMAN BENSE: YOU WANT TO WAIT?

22 MR. CIBULA: IF I COULD. JUST GIVE ME A FEW
23 MOMENTS.

24 MR. HOGAN: I HAVE A COMMERCIAL.

25 (LAUGHTER.)

1 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER HOGAN, YOU'RE

2 RECOGNIZED. WE'LL GET YOUR ANSWER BACK,
3 COMMISSIONER BARNETT.

4 MR. HOGAN: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. I'M THE
5 CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES TASK
6 FORCE, WHICH MARK MAHON SAYS IS AN OXYMORON, BUT
7 NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE BEEN --

8 CHAIRMAN BENSE: JUDGE MAHON.

9 MR. HOGAN: YES, JUDGE MAHON. EXCUSE ME. I
10 HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER MEETING, BUT
11 BECAUSE SO MANY MEMBERS -- IN FACT, ALL THE
12 MEMBERS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE ARE
13 ALSO MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION. I'VE TRIED TO
14 AVOID ANY CONFLICTS, BUT WE'RE RUNNING INTO
15 TIMING. AND SO I WOULD NEED SOME INFORMATION FROM
16 THOSE MEMBERS AS TO WHEN THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO
17 MEET IN JANUARY AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD LIKE
18 TO DOVETAIL THOSE MEETINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
19 MEETINGS THAT YOU HAVE SCHEDULED.

20 CHAIRMAN BENSE: YOU MAY WANT TO MEET IN
21 DECEMBER. IF YOU WANT TO DO IT BY TELEPHONE, I
22 THINK PEOPLE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE TIME IN ON
23 THE TELEPHONE. I WOULD DO IT SOONER THAN LATER.

24 MR. HOGAN: WE'LL BE GLEANING SOME OF WHAT

25 THIS COMMISSION COMES UP WITH, PERHAPS, AS FAR AS

32

1 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE. BUT WE COULD
2 HAVE A TELEPHONE MEETING.

3 CHAIRMAN BENSE: IF YOU'LL GET WITH
4 MS. SKELTON SHE COULD WORK ON THE TIMES AND MAKING
5 THE PHONE CALLS TO THE MEMBERS AND THINGS LIKE
6 THAT. IS THAT OKAY?

7 MR. HOGAN: SURE.

8 CHAIRMAN BENSE: HOW WE COMING BACK THERE,
9 MR. CIBULA?

10 MR. MCKAY: MR. CHAIRMAN?

11 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSION MCKAY, YOU'RE
12 RECOGNIZED.

13 MR. MCKAY: IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, COMMISSIONER
14 MATHIS HAD VERY STRONG OPINIONS ON THIS, AND SHE
15 WAS LEADING THAT CHARGE. AND PERHAPS SHE CAN
16 REFRESH OUR MEMORY IN ABSENCE OF A RULE SPECIFYING
17 IT.

18 CHAIRMAN BENSE: HOW ABOUT THIS, FOLKS. I
19 WOULD -- AND, COMMISSIONER MATHIS, YOU'RE
20 CERTAINLY WELCOME TO -- WE'VE CAUGHT STAFF OFF
21 GUARD. HOW ABOUT IF -- STAFF, I WANT THIS TO BE

22 RESEARCHED WELL SO WE KNOW THE ANSWER TO IT. AND
23 HOW ABOUT IF THEY RESEARCH IT AND SEND US AN
24 E-MAIL IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS OUTLINING WHAT THE
25 RULES SAY?

33

1 MR. YABLONSKI: I SECOND THAT.

2 CHAIRMAN BENSE: CAN EVERYONE WAIT? IS THAT
3 OKAY? I DON'T WANT TO --

4 MR. ROUSON: I SECOND THAT EMOTION --
5 EMOTION.

6 (LAUGHTER.)

7 CHAIRMAN BENSE: ANY OTHER ITEMS TO COME
8 BEFORE THIS COMMISSION? ANY OTHER ITEMS,
9 COMMENTS? COMMISSIONER STORY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

10 MS. STORY: I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MENTION
11 AGAIN, THE STAFF HAS DONE AN AMAZING JOB. WE
12 ACTUALLY HAD DRAFTS READY TODAY AT OUR FINANCE AND
13 TAX ON EVERYTHING WE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING
14 MR. CIBULA ACTUALLY HAD OPTIONS ON THE SALES TAX
15 EXEMPTION REVIEW; AND I KNOW THEY HAVE PUT IN
16 LONG, LONG DAYS, LONG HOURS. AND I JUST WANT TO
17 AGAIN THANK THEM AND RECOGNIZE THEM FOR THE
18 INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF WORK AND THE QUALITY OF THE

19 WORK THAT THEY'RE DOING.

20 CHAIRMAN BENSE: OKAY. I WANT TO LEAVE YOU
21 WITH ONE LAST THOUGHT. THIS COMMISSION WAS
22 ESTABLISHED IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, AND AS PER THE
23 FLORIDA CONSTITUTION, IT CAN RUN THROUGH JUNE OF
24 2010.

25 HOWEVER, FOR THE COMMISSION TO OPERATE,

34

1 YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME DOLLARS TO GO FORWARD, SO
2 I WANT YOU TO BE THINKING ABOUT HOW -- IF IN
3 FACT WE'RE DONE IN MAY, WE'RE DONE, IT'S FINE
4 WITH ME, OR IF THERE'S SOME OTHER CONCEPTS OF
5 PICKING IT BACK UP ON CERTAIN ISSUES LATER ON
6 OR WHATEVER. I THINK WE'RE GIVING A LOT OF
7 THESE ISSUES QUITE A BIT OF ATTENTION. OTHERS
8 OF YOU MAY FEEL THAT WE SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME
9 ON THE LARGER PICTURE ITEMS THAT WE CAN'T
10 SQUEEZE IN BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH.

11 SO GIVE THAT THOUGHT ABOUT THE FACT THAT
12 AS PER THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION, THIS
13 COMMISSION RUNS THROUGH JUNE OF 2010. AND --
14 COMMISSIONER LEVINE?

15 MR. LEVINE: MR. CHAIRMAN, I'M GLAD YOU

16 BROUGHT THAT UP, BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, FOR ME
17 PERSONALLY, I HAVE BEEN -- WE'VE BEEN SORT OF -- I
18 KNOW, I CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR ME, BUT I'VE BEEN
19 WATCHING THE LEGISLATURE. AND I'VE BEEN TRYING
20 TO -- TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, I SORT OF FELT
21 HANDICAPPED BY THE FACT THAT WE COULDN'T REALLY DO
22 MUCH OR SAY TOO MUCH BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO
23 INTERFERE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

24 I KNOW FOR ME PERSONALLY I DIDN'T WANT TO
25 SAY MUCH; I JUST WANTED TO SIT ON THE

35

1 SIDELINES. SO I FEEL LIKE WE SORT OF LOST A
2 LOT OF TIME, AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO START
3 MOVING AT WARP SPEED, AND I DON'T WANT TO FEEL
4 LIKE WE'RE RUSHING ANYTHING. BECAUSE SOME OF
5 THE THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT REALLY DO
6 FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF
7 GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, OR AT THE
8 LOCAL LEVEL.

9 AND TO, YOU KNOW, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT
10 FOR US TO MOVE RAPIDLY, BUT I ALSO THINK WE
11 HAVE TO BE PURPOSEFUL. I'M NOT SURE SOME OF
12 THESE THINGS CAN BE PROPERLY VETTED, DEBATED BY

13 MARCH, PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
14 THE MAJOR STRUCTURAL ISSUES TO STATE AND LOCAL
15 GOVERNMENT.

16 THAT'S NOT TO SAY IT CAN'T BE DONE; THAT'S
17 JUST HOW I'VE KIND OF FELT ABOUT IT. AND I
18 STILL FRANKLY DON'T THINK I'M FULLY DONE
19 WAITING FOR THE PROCESS UNTIL JANUARY 29TH, TO
20 SEE WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE TAX AMENDMENTS.

21 CHAIRMAN BENSE: WELL, AS WE ALL KNOW, EVERY
22 MEETING THAT WE'RE IN, EVERY SINGLE MEETING THAT
23 WE'RE IN, YOU KNOW, WE REMIND FOLKS THAT PROPERTY
24 TAXES ARE THE ONES, YOU KNOW, BUT EVERY MEETING,
25 EVERY SPEECH I GIVE, EVERY EDITORIAL BOARD

36

1 MEETING, 95 PERCENT OF THE TIME GOES TO AD VALOREM
2 TAX. I MEAN, WE KNOW IT, BECAUSE IT IS A HOT
3 ISSUE.

4 AND I JUST WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT. I
5 THINK BY MAY I WILL HAVE HAD ALL THE FUN I CAN
6 STAND WITH THIS, AND MANY OF YOU -- AFTER
7 YOU'RE DONE MEETING IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY,
8 YOU MAY FEEL THE SAME WAY. AND IF IT DOES GO
9 ON, I SEE MUCH LESS INTENSE -- MAYBE LOOK AT

10 FOUR OR FIVE HUGE AREAS THAT REALLY REQUIRE A
11 LOT OF THOUGHT. AND I'M NOT SAYING DO IT. I'M
12 JUST SAYING, IF YOU WOULD, PUT THAT IN YOUR
13 THOUGHT PROCESS.

14 ANY MORE COMMENTS?

15 (NO RESPONSE.)

16 OKAY. COMMISSIONER ROUSON MOVES WE RISE.

17 (THE PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 1:42 PM)

18

19

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21

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23

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25

37

1

2

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3

4

5

6 STATE OF FLORIDA)

7 COUNTY OF LEON)

8

9 I, LISA D. FREEZE, NOTARY PUBLIC, CERTIFY

10 THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED TO AND DID STENOGRAPHICALLY

11 REPORT THE PROCEEDINGS HEREIN, AND THAT THE TRANSCRIPT

12 IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE RECORD OF MY STENOGRAPHIC NOTES.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NOT A RELATIVE,

14 EMPLOYEE, ATTORNEY OR COUNSEL OF ANY OF THE PARTIES,

15 NOR AM I A RELATIVE OR EMPLOYEE OF ANY OF THE PARTIES'

16 ATTORNEY OR COUNSEL CONNECTED WITH THE ACTION, NOR AM I

17 FINANCIALLY INTERESTED IN THE ACTION.

18 WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 16TH

19 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2007.

20

21

22

23 _____
LISA D. FREEZE, RPR, NOTARY PUBLIC
24 2894 REMINGTON GREEN LANE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308
25 850-878-2221