

Highlights of the May 16, 2012 COBWRA Meeting at Banyan Springs

State Legislators Report

Senator Maria Lorts Sachs, District 30, spoke to the Delegates on a new law that affects homeowners associations. Starting July 1, 2012, this law, passed as HB1013, **removes implied warranties** for structural defects for any community property outside of the unit owners' homes. Sen. Sachs is disappointed the bill she and Rep Berman sponsored to **ban guns in day care** centers and all government buildings was not supported. She could not support the budget with education cuts. She pointed out that most of her **bill ideas come** from constituent's questions so she urged people to talk to her or her aides on our requests for changes and new laws.

Representative Lori Berman, District 86, said she could not support the budget because of the cuts to higher education. **FAU must** close campuses, eliminate majors, cut classes and make some students take more than 4 years to complete their degree. The **bills to expand gambling** did not pass but she is certain they will come back next session.

Representative Dr. Steve Perman, District 78, also did not support the budget because of cuts to higher education, especially cuts to the **Bright Futures Scholarship** Program. He did not support the proposed changes to lower the risks of Citizens Property Insurance by moving people into "surplus lines" insurance companies who are not regulated in Florida. He stated the bill that passed at the last minute to improve PIP auto insurance is flawed. Language that required companies to reduce premiums if the new PIP rules reduce their costs was stripped before it passed at the last minute.

Representative Bill Hager, District 87, stated that Florida has the fifth **lowest taxes in the nation**. There is no personal income tax, no estate tax, no capital gains tax and no inheritance tax. We are taking the business taxes down to zero and are about half way there. We are doing that to create opportunity. **Florida Medicaid** is unsustainable. In year 2000, Medicaid was about \$7B, about 15 % of the state budget. In 2010, Medicaid was \$21B, a third of the budget. Under the expanded health care plan, in 2020, we expect Medicaid to cost Florida \$35B. To control costs, all Florida Medicaid patients will go under managed healthcare plans.

Questions asked by the Delegates:

- Why did you approve \$300M for a new university and cut funds to all state colleges and universities?
- Are you going to revise the "Stand Your Ground" law?

Officials' Reports

Commissioner Burt Aaronson reported that the Florida Supreme Court ruled that **term limits** for charter counties, like Palm Beach, are legal. Therefore he must step down in November. He thanked his aide, Mary Lou Berger, for her hard work in his office over 20 years.

Captain Marty Bechtel, District 6, PBSO, reported the crime stats for District 6 in April. PBSO investigated:

- 14 stolen vehicles & 224 accidents
- 6 business burglaries & 66 vehicle burglaries
- 44 residential burglaries & 5 robberies
- 16 DUI arrests and 130 domestic cases
- PBSO responded to 410 false alarms

The Sheriff's Office is offering a **Youth Citizens Academy** July 9-13. For details, call PBSO at 357-7000. **Chief Todd Blake, Fire Rescue Battalion 4**, reported 8,108 calls for service the first quarter of 2012.

COBWRA Reports

Growth Management. Chair Gerry Morrison reported on two proposals. The first is **Allegro CLF** on the east side of Hagen Ranch Road a half mile south of Woolbright Rd, across from Valencia Lakes. The facility will offer luxury assisted living with a memory care wing. It was approved for 135 beds in 2010. A new owner is requesting an increase to 140 beds and presented an improved site plan. The Delegates voted without opposition to recommend approval as presented with the condition that the colors on the monument sign be consistent with nearby community signs.

The second proposal is **Toscana Isles**, an MUPD previously approved in 2010 for 414 units. This property is on Hypoluxo Rd a half mile west of Military Trail. The developer is requesting a Development Order Amendment to add 45 units, increasing the density from 5.9 units/acre to 6.5. The developer also presented an improved site plan with the buildings next to Hypoluxo Rd set back further and turned 90 degrees so the ends face the road. The motion from the Executive Board is to recommend approval of the new site plan with these conditions: Keep the density at 5.9, raise the berm along Hypoluxo Rd from 3 to 6 feet and add architectural features to the north faces of the buildings on Hypoluxo Rd. The motion was defeated and therefore **COBWRA will recommend denial of the petition** at the BCC Zoning on May 24. If the county denies the petition, the plan reviewed in 2010 will remain approved.

Future Meetings (Open to the public)

June 4, 7:00 pm: Evening Meeting "Foreclosure Crisis Update" Hagen Ranch Road Library. Speakers: Sharon Bock, PBC Clerk & Comptroller and Roy D. Oppenheim, Attorney on foreclosures.

June 5, 6:30 pm: Growth Management, PBSO District 6

June 20, 9:30 am: Delegates at The Grove (Boynton Beach Blvd west of Hagen Ranch Road.) Speaker: Gary Nikolits, Palm Beach County Property Appraiser.