PROCEEDINGS HELD BEFORE THE
BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION
(Special Work Session)
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

The following proceedings were held on this the 12th day of November, 2019, at the Baldwin County Central Annex, Conference Room, 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, Alabama, before Susan C. Andrews, Certified Court Reporter Number 287.

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APPEARANCE
2
    COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
3
         Billie Jo Underwood, Chairman
4
        Charles F. (Skip) Gruber
5
        James E. (Jeb) Ball
6
         Joe Davis, III
7
    ALSO PRESENT:
8
         Wayne Dyess, County Administrator,
9
             Administration Department
10
         Deidra Hanak, Director, Personnel Department
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
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21
22
23
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27
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SUSAN C. ANDREWS, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER NO. 287
2200 US HIGHWAY 98, SUITE 4, PMB 230, DAPHNE, ALABAMA 36526

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PROCEEDINGS
2
                     WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
 4
    Okav. We're all here. Let's call this meeting to
5
    order -- It's 10:49 a.m. -- the Baldwin County
6
    Special Work Session meeting agenda.
7
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Who do
8
    want to do the prayer and the Pledge?
9
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
10
11
    How about you do the prayer and Joe do the Pledge?
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS III:
                                           Thank you.
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    You're welcome.
14
15
                           INVOCATION
16
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Bow with
17
    me, please.
18
19
       (Commissioner James E. (Jeb) Ball led in prayer.)
20
21
                      PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Join me
    humble and proud in the Pledge of Allegiance to the
24
25
    Flaq.
26
             (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)
27
28
```

1 - INTERVIEW AND CHOOSE A CANDIDATE FOR THE APPOINTED 2 POSITION OF COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: 3 Okay. You wanted to say something? 4 MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Yes. So we have the one 5 candidate that is from Houston. 6 COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Uh-huh. 7 (Indicates affirmatively.) 8 MS. DEIDRA HANAK: And he was in town and 9 was supposed to fly home yesterday, but he changed 10 11 this flight and his rental car. And he asked if we reimburse him the difference, which is about \$329. 12 13 COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Well, why'd he do that? 14 MS. DEIDRA HANAK: So he could be here 15 today. 16 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: 17 It wasn't a requirement for him to be here in 18 person. He just happened to be in town already. 19 20 So he didn't make the trip to come for the interview; is that correct? 21 MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Correct. I think it was 22 23 just a different --COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: 24 25 That's just a different -- well, I mean, usually those are discussed ahead of time, so I don't think 26 that we would be obligated to be that, would be 27 my -- I know that we shouldn't make a formal -- I 28

```
mean, that could be a request that --
2
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: That's
    going to have to be a request, I think, if I'm not
3
    mistaken. We --
 4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    That would have to be a request that --
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
7
    could --
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
9
    UNDERWOOD: -- comes before --
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- put
    on something, and we have to vote on it?
12
13
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Well, I would be --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: In
14
    the past --
15
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I would put it on next
16
    week's agenda.
17
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
18
    they have done -- they have paid -- people like
19
    that, they have paid their -- their thing to come
20
    here. I mean --
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: In this case,
22
23
    we're not paying the flight. We're just paying the
    difference.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    We're just paying the difference.
26
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: We're just paying the
27
    difference in changing.
28
```

```
COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
1
2
    mean, in the past, we've paid it. I mean, you
    know --
3
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: And it's --
 4
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: What was --
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: -- offered --
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS III: Excuse me.
7
    What was communicated to all our applicants,
8
    whether they were out of town or not?
9
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Well, he was the only
10
11
    one that was out of town.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
12
13
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: And he just asked if we
    would be willing to. And so I had to bring it -- I
14
15
    was going to bring it up in the work session, but
    everything was moving so fast, so I just thought I
16
    would wait until -- until this.
17
        But y'all can think about it. And if y'all
18
    decide even towards the end that y'all want to do
19
    that, then I can put it on next week's meeting.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I quess my
21
    question was if he was the only one out of town,
22
23
    out of the county, what was told about coming to
    this interview? Was he told anything about
24
25
    reimbursement or anything like that?
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: No, sir. He just --
26
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: It was not --
27
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: -- asked.
28
```

```
COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- addressed
1
2
    at all?
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK:
                                Yeah.
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay. So it
4
    wasn't on the front end. He just asked?
5
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Originally, he asked if
6
    he could be interviewed on Friday. And -- and I
7
    told him that was not -- we were not able to do
8
    that. We have the open meetings act, you know, and
    we already had it advertised.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Advertised.
    Okay. And he was in the area, so this -- so he
12
13
    stayed over for the interview.
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Correct.
14
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: It's a little
15
    different than us paying his full fair from Houston
16
    or wherever.
17
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I'll let you talk about
18
    that, and I will bring in Mr. Cortinas.
19
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So -- so
20
    we're basically going to be running 30 minutes
21
    behind, 30 minutes behind on every one of them?
22
23
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: (Indicates
    affirmatively.) Have to get it zipped up.
24
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Okay.
25
    Not too bad.
26
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Unless we get it zipped
27
    up quick. We might be able to catch up.
28
```

```
1-A - INTERVIEW OF STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS
2
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: This is Mr. Erik
    Cortinas.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    Good morning.
5
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Commissioner Underwood.
6
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
7
    Billie Jo Underwood.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    Good morning.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Joe Davis.
    Good to see you, sir.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Jeb
    Ball.
14
15
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Good morning.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Thank you, Erik, for coming today.
18
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Thank you for
19
    allowing me to.
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
    Actually, I think we will just start down -- I have
22
23
    one question for each person today.
        Would y'all like me to ask my question first
24
25
    and then y'all follow me, go down the line?
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I've got one,
26
    maybe two.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
But first we want to let you tell us a little bit
2
    about yourself.
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
3
                                           Sure.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    Maybe about five minutes.
5
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Sure, I'm Erik
6
    Cortinas. I am the Building Official for the City
7
    of Fairhope. I have actually been in that position
8
    twice. I was in that position from 2000 to 2005.
    And then I worked -- went to work in private
10
11
    industry, and came back in 2012. I've been there
    since.
12
        One of the things -- work that I did when I was
13
    in private industry, I built a couple condos in
14
15
    Orange Beach, and then I was a contraction quality
    control manager for the Navy at the Pensacola Naval
16
    Air Station.
17
        If you work military construction, they require
18
    that position certification from the Corps of
19
    Engineers. And I was the QC manager for the
20
    National Flight Academy project, which is adjacent
21
    to the museum. And I did the hanger extension and
22
23
    the housing for Airforce personnel.
        And, you know, from -- from my side, it was
24
    good for me, professionally, because it gave me an
25
    opportunity to kind of sit on the other side of the
26
    table.
27
        Up to that point, with what I did, I'd been an
28
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```
engineer inspector. I'd been, you know, kind of
1
2
    over site. And it gave me a chance to actually
    understand what the contractors go through, kind of
3
    gave me some empathy for -- for what they deal
 4
    with.
5
        So it was -- it was great for my professional
6
    development. And it, I think, prepared me better
7
    for when I was -- when I came back to the position.
8
        I -- I can sit and talk to a contractor or sit
9
    and talk to a citizen. And I've been in their
10
11
    shoes. And that -- it's something that has been
    invaluable to me.
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okay. I'll just start out by pretty much -- people
14
15
    that were selected were -- had the basic
    qualifications.
16
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, ma'am.
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    So I'm not going to go over any that kind of stuff.
19
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
20
                                           Sure.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
    My question is a behavior-based question.
22
23
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Okay.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    And it's if you were to leave your current position
    today, is someone ready to take your place? And,
26
    if not, how are you preparing someone; and, if so,
27
28
    what process did you use to get someone ready?
```

MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: To get someone ready? I do have someone that can step in. They do not have all of the certifications that I have, but I have a tendency to try to work with people and -- and try to show them the things that happen.

Fairhope is kind of a unique situation. For years, we didn't have an engineering department. So, over the years, as a lot of new ordinances were written, they were deferred to the Building Official.

So I'm not just, you know, responsible for building. I -- I administer the right-of-way ordinance. I administer all the environment protection ordinances. We have a wetlands ordinance. We have a red clay and staining soil ordinance.

I was the one -- I know the -- the City is one of the municipalities that imposes impact fees.

And so I drafted the impact fee ordinance and dealt with the consultants through that process.

You know, I handle the dangerous building, the condemnations. And so there's a lot of things that go into the job in Fairhope that are maybe a little different than other cities.

You know, the Building Official is the chief code enforcement person for the City. So those ordinances had a tendency to kind of fall to the Building Official. So you've got to kind of be,

```
you know, a quasi expert in a lot of different
2
    things.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    So are you saying that if you were to leave your
4
    current position, there is someone in place? They
5
    could handle it? They just don't have the
6
    specific -- all the certifications? Which, now,
7
    you have more certifications than are particularly
8
    necessary for this particular job.
9
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, ma'am.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okav.
12
13
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                           There are
    other people that can step in. Like now we have an
14
15
    engineering department. So right-of-ways will
    probably go to the engineering department, which is
16
    where it probably should be.
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    And have you helped them, or is it -- Was it your
19
    process or not your process to helped them get to
20
    that point?
21
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, ma'am, it
22
23
    was. I'm -- I'm the one who brought it up.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Okay.
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: And I worked
26
    with our new department heads. And so we have --
27
    between all of those responsibilities -- It may be
28
```

```
different departments, but we have someone that can
2
    step in and handle those things --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    Okay.
4
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: -- if I were
5
    to leave.
6
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
7
    All right. Thank you.
8
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
9
    If I could. Share with me an example of a project
10
11
    or a program that you've had a part in making
    better. And it could have been something you did
12
13
    last week, but it also could have been something at
    your first job. So tell us a little bit about a
14
15
    project -- And you really -- it makes you proud to
    be a part of it --
16
17
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Sure.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- large or
18
    small.
19
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Sure. You
20
    know, there are -- I would -- I would tend to go
21
    more towards since I've been there since 2012,
22
23
    because I have specific experience in terms of
    getting out there and actually building the
24
25
    buildings --
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Uh-huh.
26
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
27
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: -- that I did
28
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not necessarily have before I did a lot of heavy
2
    commercial construction. And one of them was
    working with Vince Booth, when we did his mixed use
3
    downtown on the Objects Building.
4
        There was issues that came up on -- on code
5
    reviews. And I was able to look at it and help him
6
    find alternative ways to accomplish what we wanted
7
    to accomplish. It might not have been the method
8
    he was originally thinking.
9
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Uh-huh.
10
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
11
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: But being, you
12
13
    know -- having done the work and seen it, I had a
    perspective on ways I could give advise. You know,
14
15
    I think that's something a lot of inspectors don't
    really want to do --
16
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Uh-huh.
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
18
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: -- but if
19
    you -- if you can do it and you can enforce the
20
    rules at the same time, I -- I think that that's a
21
    responsibility. You know, you're -- you're the
22
23
    City's expert. And you should be able to help
    quide them in a way to help them accomplish what
24
25
    they need.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sounds like
26
    you try to figure out a way to say yes rather than
27
28
    just say no.
                  Is that --
```

```
MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
2
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- a correct
    statement?
3
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: You know, yes,
4
    sir. I've spent a lot of time in Fairhope kind of
5
    pulling people across the finish line.
6
        You have, you know -- a lot of code -- code
7
    officials kind of will push with you a code book.
8
    It -- it's a whole lot better circumstance and a
9
    better relationship if you take the extra time to
10
11
    kind of convince them this is why we have to do it.
    Let me help you find a way to meet these
12
13
    requirements. And that's something that it's, you
    know -- it -- it's something that I think I have a
14
15
    responsibility to do.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: One -- one
16
    last question, pretty broad brush, but what do you
17
    see is next in technology --
18
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Okay.
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- in your
20
    arena that will be able to enable you to move
21
    Baldwin County forward as we grow?
22
23
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Sure. I know
    of departments that have started using drone
24
25
    technology.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Uh-huh.
26
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
27
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
28
                                           That's
```

```
something that you could look at. There are --
1
2
    there are applications where that would be
    appropriate. There are some where it would not be,
3
    because you get into privacy issue when you're
4
    flying a drone over a group of houses. But there
5
    are things you can use that for to be able to
6
    verify that things are done correctly.
7
        I know other departments that are also using
8
    remote inspections. Some of them are doing it by
9
    video, if it's something that's minor, something
10
11
    that needs to be looked at quickly instead someone
    having to wait 24 hours to get an inspector back
12
13
    out there.
        There are -- there are ways that you could look
14
    at doing remote inspections, if you have a
15
    situation where you are so busy that you're
16
    delaying projects.
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Uh-huh.
18
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
19
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Having been a
20
    contractor, delays are money.
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sure they
22
23
    are.
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: And I know
24
25
    that we're not supposed to necessarily take that
    into account, but that also doesn't mean we should
26
    disregard it. Because these are expensive
27
               These are things that --
28
    projects.
```

```
COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sure.
2
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: -- they need
    to do. And having been a contractor, when you see
3
    work going on, I see paychecks. I see families
4
5
    being able a pay their mortgage. I see kids being
    able to go to school.
6
        So as long as it's done in a manner that --
7
    that follows the rules and protects the safely, I
8
    think that's something that should be considered.
9
    I don't think it should govern a decision, but I
10
    think it should be considered.
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you
12
13
    very much.
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
14
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you.
15
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: The only
16
    thing that I always add to -- to all this is just
17
    that, you know, I always thank you for coming and
18
    taking the time to interview and --
19
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
20
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- are
21
    also willing to want to do this job. It's unique,
22
23
    unlike any other jobs, same description --
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Uh-huh.
24
25
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- but
26
    the format that's laid out for your employment is a
27
    little bit different, because it's what's called a
28
```

```
contract.
2
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Of
3
    course, if you know, the guy you're replacing, he's
4
5
    retiring.
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                          Right.
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So he's
7
    been here quite a while. And it worked well for
8
    him. But I just always like to let the people know
9
    that's interviewing, that, you know, we're already
10
11
    a year into our term. We've got three more years.
    And I don't know if any of us will be sitting here
12
13
    in three more years. And if you get the job,
    the -- the other Commission that comes in could
14
    terminate your employment --
15
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Right.
16
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- if
17
    they see fit, with no cause or with cause. And I
18
    just didn't know how your feelings were. You
19
    wouldn't be here today interviewing if you have
20
    hesitation --
21
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
22
                                          Sure.
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- for
    that, I wouldn't believe.
24
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Well, I'm not
25
    going to say that it's not something that I've not
26
    thought about. But, at the -- at the same time,
27
    right now, pretty much all of us serve at the
28
```

```
pleasure of the mayor.
2
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: And we could
3
    be terminated at any time, depending on the
4
    circumstances.
5
        I -- I know Mike. I actually was working at
6
    Fairhope when Mike originally got the job. And I
7
    know he's been here, you know, a good bit.
8
        And Frank Santa Cruz, who was here before him,
9
    Frank actually was part of the reason I got into
10
11
    code enforcement. I went and sat with Frank when I
    spent ten years as an engineering inspector for a
12
13
    firm.
        And I asked him, how do you go about the
14
    process of doing this? And Frank was very much a
15
    mentor to me. He guided me through the process and
16
    helped me.
17
        And I know Frank was here 15, 20 years before
18
    that. So I know you don't have a history of
19
    replacing this position, but that doesn't mean it
20
    can't happen. And -- and I understand that.
21
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thank
22
23
    you.
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
24
25
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    question, I know you're -- I don't know -- you
26
    don't -- have dealt with a lot. You know, we've
27
28
    got the Coastal Management Program.
```

```
MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
1
2
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
    know, with the -- and it's very important to us.
3
    Because we have to work the Fish and Wildlife. And
4
    Fish and Wildlife is a different bread of animals.
5
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                           I understand.
6
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
7
    don't know if you've had any chance to work with
8
    them.
9
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: I have.
10
11
    have.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
12
13
    But, you know, they -- they're are very flip-flop.
    You know, and they kind of will make decision and
14
15
    drop on it. And then they'll say, oh, no, I
    mean -- this is a program that -- but we have to
16
    have it.
17
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                           Right.
18
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
19
    know, because, you know -- And we get paid to do
20
    it. So, you know, so we accept it.
21
22
        But that is a program, you know, that is very,
23
    very important to us. And, you know, all the
    changes that we make just -- You know, I didn't
24
25
    know how you felt, you know, about that.
        Because it -- it's a -- it's a big -- it's a
26
    great big thing. And I know you haven't had
27
    experience working with the coastal stuff with --
28
```

```
MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
1
2
    actually --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
3
    with, you know, the City of Fairhope. I know you
4
    didn't. But I know probably when you was dealing
5
    with the project with the -- the project at the
6
    Wharf, that was a little different, you know. But
7
    it still didn't consist, you know, of the offsets,
8
    the CCL line and all that other stuff, you know,
    that. --
10
11
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                          Right.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
12
13
    that -- that's required to maintain.
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
14
    Well, you know, Fairhope has both coastal and river
15
    flood zones. So I deal -- all of that stuff down
16
    by the bay is coastal flood zone.
17
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
18
    it's not -- it's -- you don't have a CCL line like
19
    Fort Morgan does.
20
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                           Right.
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
22
23
    mean, you've got the beach dunes and all. It's --
    it's a complete -- plus you're dealing with
24
    endangered species and all that other stuff that,
25
    you know, normally you wouldn't get involved in --
26
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Right.
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
```

```
but you -- you do with this, you know. Now, the
1
2
    turtles is another one. It's stuff coming out.
    So, I mean, it's going to be -- it's going to be a
3
    mess. It's going to be hard.
4
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
5
    Well, I -- I dealt with that to some extent when I
6
    was working at the Navy base.
7
        Someone was trying to donate a very large what
8
    they call flying boat to the Naval Aviation museum.
9
    The only way to get it on was to come on the beach
10
11
    and get it in.
        And I -- I dealt with US Fish and Wildlife on
12
13
    that, because there were habitats in the shore
    front that they would not allow us to do it. The
14
15
    Navy ended up having to turn down the vessel.
    that was something that I did get involved in.
16
        CCL works very similar, or to a large degree,
17
    to a limb wall line. And I had a conversation
18
    actually last week with a gentleman who's dealing
19
    with coastal flood zone on a limb wall line.
20
        It isn't anything that I can't learn to do if
21
    it is something I know very little about. I --
22
23
    I -- feel like I'm pretty good at adapting and
    being able to deal with other agencies.
24
25
    mentioned that they changed there tune regularly.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: All
26
    the time.
27
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
                                           That's the
28
```

```
United States Navy all day long. I -- I dealt with
2
    them with Facilities Command. And they love to
    sign a contract and then come back and tell you,
3
    well, that wasn't our intent.
4
        And so that's not -- that's something that you
5
    just have to be able to -- you have to have the
6
    personality to be able to deal with that. And I --
7
    I feel like I do.
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
9
    All right. Any other questions Mr. Cortinas?
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I don't
    have any.
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    All right. Well, thank you so much.
14
15
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Thank you,
    ma'am. May I say one thing?
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Yes, sir, please.
18
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: One of the
19
    things that I -- I wanted to -- you know, and I
20
    think most of you know that. With Fairhope, we
21
    permit in our police jurisdiction. Good or bad,
22
23
    right or wrong, that's the decision that the City
    fathers, you know, city council made years ago.
24
        So I am a county resident. I live in the
25
    un-zoned county outside of Fairhope. I deal with
26
27
    both your zoned areas in Fairhope and your un-zoned
28
    areas.
```

```
So I have a pretty good understanding. I have
1
2
    a lot of conversations with the county residents
    asking me why I'm coming to Fairhope.
3
        I deal with D. J. Hart and Linda Lee at
4
    Planning and Zoning all the time, because we
5
    enforce permitting in Point Clear and Montrose.
6
        So I'm familiar with your zoning. I deal with
7
    Bill Kelly and Kit Kaiser all the time over at the
8
    health department.
9
        So I -- I understand, I think, a little bit how
10
11
    the rural county is and how they feel, because I
    live right around a rural area in the un-zoned
12
13
    county.
        So being a county resident myself and -- and
14
15
    dealing with county residents pretty much on a
    daily basis with what I'm doing, I -- I think I
16
    have a pretty good understanding of what the County
17
    faces and some of your challenges and some of the
18
    dynamics that you have to deal with, with your
19
    citizens, because I am.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
22
23
    Well, you know, that brings up, you know -- being
    that you mentioned that, that does bring up, you
24
25
    know -- We have a lot of conflict with that part of
    it.
26
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
                                                      You
```

```
know, we see it. Our Building Official sees it,
2
    you know, trying to regulate stuff -- the City's
    trying to regulate stuff in the county that they
3
    have no business doing beginning with.
4
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, sir.
5
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
6
    mean, they cannot enforce city ordinances within
7
    the county, and they're doing it.
8
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Understood.
9
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
10
11
    And, you know, it's -- it's wrong. And I know they
    say there's an agreement, but there is no
12
13
    agreement.
                I mean, it was a -- something that was
    done with the sheriff many years ago.
14
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Uh-huh.
15
    (Indicates affirmatively.)
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    had nothing do with the Planning Department, but
18
    the Planning Department got pulled into it.
19
        But it's, you know -- what -- what's going on
20
    is totally wrong. And, you know, I don't know if
21
22
    you see that, but --
23
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Well, I --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
24
25
    it's -- it's -- as a -- like you said, you're a
    county resident. And you've got City coming out
26
    there telling you what you can do on your property.
27
28
    And you have no so-say whatsoever about the
```

```
government that's regulating your -- your --
2
            COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Who you don't
    get to vote for.
3
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: I understand.
4
            COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    think that --
6
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
7
    Professionally --
8
            COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
9
    UNDERWOOD: -- no one's challenged that yet. And I
10
11
    think that that's where we really need to look
    into -- we need to challenge the fact that
12
13
    Fairhope's doing a little bit of those things.
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS:
14
            COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    Seriously. I mean, you didn't make those laws.
16
17
            MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: No, ma'am I
    did not. I will -- I will say this. My job --
18
    my -- I'm a -- I'm a rule enforcer by
19
    profession. I'm a rule follower by nature.
20
    don't ask for favors. I don't ask to cut to the
21
    front of the line. I wait my turn.
22
23
        I have to enforce the rules and regulations
    that my employer, be it the City or the County, has
24
25
    chosen to adopt, without prejudice and without
    favor.
26
        So I -- the way that I operate, I tend to use a
27
    literal interpretation in the code. Because I
28
```

```
don't want to be sitting in the courtroom later on trying think about what I told somebody. I can tell you what I told them. I told them what was in the book.
```

1.5

Now, if there's a way to help them accomplish what they want to accomplish within the rules, then that's my responsibility.

But, regardless, that would be something that is above my ability to influence. So I enforce the rules that my governing body has chosen to adopt, regardless of personal feelings.

My personal opinion is irrelevant. And I don't give my personal opinion, because it can't help or -- you know, it can't help the situation one way or another.

There are things that we do that -- that are difficult. And I have to do them. That's my job. I can do it respectfully. I can do it politely and try to help folks accomplish what they want.

But, in the end, that is my professional obligation and that is my responsibility. And that's -- that's how I conduct myself.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: Well, to followup on that comment that you just made, sometimes responding politely, people don't take it that way, because they're not hearing what they want to hear.

MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Sure.

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    So I understand how you can be mis-taken. Because
    that is our position. We can be mis-taken as well.
3
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Yes, ma'am.
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Any other questions for Mr. Cortinas?
6
                          (No response.)
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    I -- I just want to thank you. Because you
9
    applying is a complement that you would want to
10
11
    work for us. So I appreciate that.
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Absolutely.
12
    Yes, ma'am.
13
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thank
14
15
    you very much, Mr. Cortinas.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you.
16
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Ma'am, it was
17
18
    a pleasure to meet you.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    Thank you.
20
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Good to see
21
22
    you.
23
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you,
    sir.
24
             MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Sir, I'll come
25
    around to you.
26
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Thank you very much.
28
```

```
MR. STEVEN (ERIK) CORTINAS: Thank you.
2
                 1-B - INTERVIEW OF LANCE JONES
3
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: We have Mr. Lance Jones.
4
    Commissioner Underwood.
5
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
7
    Hi, Mr. Jones.
             MR. LANCE JONES: Nice to meet you.
8
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Mr. Jones,
9
    Joe Davis. Nice to meet you.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Jeb
    Ball.
12
13
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Nice to meet you.
             MR. WAYNE DYESS: Wayne Dyess.
14
             MR. LANCE JONES: Nice to meet you.
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    Thank you, Lance, for applying.
17
             MR. LANCE JONES: Thank y'all for the
18
    opportunity.
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    Most of your skill sets was in your stuff, so
21
    that's not really the questions I'm going to be
22
23
    asking you.
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Okay.
24
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
25
    have -- I would like for you to just start off and
26
    tell us maybe up to five minutes of -- of about
27
28
    yourself.
```

```
MR. LANCE JONES: Okay. I'm a -- My name
1
2
    is Lance Jones. I'm a resident of Baldwin County.
    I've lived here 28 years.
3
        I've worked for the City of Gulf Shores for
 4
    14 -- almost 14 years now. I have probably 24
5
    years of construction experience. I started out in
6
    the field as a plumber, worked as an electrician,
7
    went on to become a carpenter foreman in there.
8
        I feel like I have a strong work ethic.
9
    Started out very young having to work to help
10
11
    support my family. And I go to church at
    Crossroads. I don't how deep on personal you want
12
13
    me to be.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    It's just whatever you want to tell us.
15
             MR. LANCE JONES: Okay. I go to church at
16
    Crossroads where I'm a member there. I've been
17
    married to my wife for 21 years this year. I've
18
    been with her for 26 years. We started dating when
19
    I was a freshman in high school.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Good.
21
            MR. LANCE JONES: What I'm trying to say is
22
    I'm dedicated. You know, when I commit to
23
    something, I don't look for something else.
24
25
    know, I stay focused on the task at hand and try to
    do it to the best of my ability.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    All right.
28
                Is that it?
```

MR. LANCE JONES: That's it. 2 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: Okay. Well, what we've done for everyone else, 3 we'll do the same thing, is we'll go down the line 4 and ask you questions. I have one question. 5 MR. LANCE JONES: Okay. 6 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: 7 My question is a behavior-based question. 8 MR. LANCE JONES: Okay. 9 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: 10 11 And I'll just read it to you. If you were to leave your current position today, is someone ready to 12 13 take your place; if not, how are you preparing someone; and, if so, what process did you use to 14 15 get somebody ready? MR. LANCE JONES: I do have someone that 16 could step up and take my place. He's been with us 17 18 for six years now. And that is one of the jobs that I'm tasked 19 with, is preparing the other inspectors. That way 20 the -- I'm not a Building Official, as you see in 21 my papers -- in my resume and all. Part of my job 22 23 is educating the other inspectors, preparing them. The way I look at things, to be a good leader, 24 you have to surround yourself with great people. 25 And so that's what I try to do every day. So I 26 believe probably at least two of them can step up 27 and take my place today. 28

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    Okay. Very good. Thank you.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: All right,
3
    Mr. Jones. Give us an example of a project or a
4
    program you had a part in making things better.
5
    And could have been back from your first job, or it
6
    could have been two weeks ago, but a project that
7
    you're proud of and that you felt that you were a
8
    part of marking it happen.
            MR. LANCE JONES: Okay. Okay. Something
10
11
    that's recent but very controversial in the City of
    Gulf Shores.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: We do deal
    with controversy from time to time as well.
14
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Familiar with that.
16
             MR. LANCE JONES: It's an apartment complex
17
    that's starting to develop. I was -- I did the
18
    plan review for that project. We get a lot of
19
    calls. You know, people don't like apartments.
20
    They live in condos, and they don't like apartments
21
    to be built.
22
23
        And so I got a lot of phone calls with --
    or about that with particular project. And so I've
24
    had to help educate the surrounding people about
25
    the project, the looks of the project.
26
        And it's actually taking off as we speak.
27
    They're coming out of the ground, you know, with it
28
```

```
now.
2
        So I'm -- and I'm over that project, basically.
    I'm doing all the inspections so far with that
3
    project. And so what I'm trying to say is I don't
4
5
    back away from the controversy. I try to help
    educate --
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: There you go.
7
            MR. LANCE JONES: -- you know, and --
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
9
    That's the one that's been in the press a lot.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah, oh,
12
    veah.
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    So you're the one responsible --
14
             MR. LANCE JONES: I have. I have, along
15
    with Brandan, you know.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Yeah.
18
             MR. LANCE JONES: I know he's coming a
19
    little later, so I don't want to build him up too
20
    much. But, you know, I am -- you know, I don't
21
22
    back away from it, you know.
23
        But I don't -- I listen to what people have to
    say and then try to help educate them, you know,
24
25
    moving forward. You know, the project is going to
    happen, so let's, you know, get it completed the
26
    best way we can.
27
28
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
                                            All right.
```

```
Let me ask you, what do you see -- what's next in
1
2
    technology in your area and in the area that you
    would be joining us that you think will help move
3
    Baldwin County forward?
4
             MR. LANCE JONES: I think we have
5
    implemented a computer-based system in Gulf Shores.
6
    All inspections, all planned reviews, all plans,
7
    everything is computer-based.
8
        So and I'm not -- I've done a little research
9
    on Baldwin County, but I don't think that they are
10
11
    there yet. And so I would like to see maybe the
    same concept, using a computer-based system.
12
        That way when we go -- when we out to do a job,
13
    that builder, he don't have to drive from Mobile
14
15
    down here to sign a piece of paper. He's able to
    see that inspection right then online.
16
        They can schedule their inspections online.
17
    They can e-mail, contact us with questions.
18
    Everything is done through that computer system.
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
20
             MR. LANCE JONES: And it's convenient for
21
    the contractors. It's convenient for the
22
23
    inspectors. You're able to see right then and
    there. You know, it's almost realtime.
                                              I would
24
25
    like -- It's helped us. And I would like to
    continue that.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    How long have y'all used that?
28
```

```
MR. LANCE JONES: We had that particular
1
2
    system probably five years now.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    Okay.
4
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
             MR. LANCE JONES: We was one of the ones
6
    they used as the quinea pig, so to speak.
7
    had to tweak it, you know, as we was going through.
8
    But I think we have it now where everybody can use
9
10
    it.
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: An additional
    sidebar from that question. Have you had any
12
13
    experience or do you see us moving forward with
    utilizing drones to do some things that otherwise
14
15
    takes the manpower and boots on the ground to do?
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               I do.
                                      We have actually
16
    had some drones. I know some people that use
17
    drones instead of having their employees crawl on
18
    roofs.
19
        You know, a lot of our structures are four
20
    stories plus along the beach. So they do use
21
    drones to inspect the roof, nail patterns, filling
22
23
    the roof decks, things of that nature.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
                                            Sure.
24
             MR. LANCE JONES: So I, you know -- I could
25
    see that being a real possibility.
26
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Good.
                                                   Thank
27
28
    you.
```

```
COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
1
2
    question to every candidate -- first of all, not --
    it's not a question, but just thank you for coming
3
    and taking the time to want to interview and take
4
5
    this job.
        The -- the thing is this is a unique position
6
    within our organization, because we have ten of
7
    these, and all are what's called contract.
8
        We're already a year into our term. We've got
9
    three more years left. And then, you know, all
10
11
    four of us could be replaced in an election at any
    given time.
12
13
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
                                                 Ιf
14
    that's the case, you know, sometimes the
15
    Commission, they may want to see change.
16
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
                                                 And your
18
    job is not quaranteed. And I just didn't know how
19
    you felt about that. Most of these guys that have
20
    been here are retiring.
21
22
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
    seems like the track record, if you do a good job,
24
    you know, you're pretty much -- It's hard to just
25
    go out and find Building Inspectors --
26
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
28
```

```
So I just wanted to know how you felt
    on the whim.
2
    about that -- that -- this position and how it --
    does it scare you, or you're okay with it?
3
            MR. LANCE JONES: Well, that is -- I mean,
4
5
    that is, of course, a concern. But, you know, if
    you look at it, the position I have, tomorrow is
6
    not quaranteed, either, you know.
7
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: That's right.
8
             MR. LANCE JONES: And that's the way you
9
    have to approach it. You know, you can't let fear
10
11
    run what you do. But, of course, it is a concern,
    you know.
12
13
        And I spoke with my wife about it, you know.
    She has a good career, you know. And it would be
14
    hard to start over, but you'll never get ahead if
15
    you don't try.
16
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: That's right.
17
    Very good.
18
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
                                                 Thank
19
20
    you.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
21
    Lance, I know you come from Gulf Shores, and you
22
23
    deal with the Coastal Management Program.
             MR. LANCE JONES: Yes, sir.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    you realize, that's a very sophisticated animal.
26
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
                                                      And
```

```
we do have a lot of problems, I hate to say it,
2
    with Fish and Wildlife.
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
3
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
4
    They'll tell us, well, this is fine. And then we
5
    go and do something. And then we turn around.
6
    Well, no, we're not going to do it that way. And
7
    it puts us in a bad, bad position.
8
             MR. LANCE JONES: Right.
9
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
10
11
    know, Mike had to go back a lot of times and get
    with those folks and make them come forward to do
12
13
    it. I don't know if y'all deal with that at Gulf
    Shores as much.
14
15
            MR. LANCE JONES: We do.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      You
16
    know, but -- you know what I'm talking about?
17
             MR. LANCE JONES: Yes, sir.
18
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
19
    know, it's -- it's -- it can get ugly.
20
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
22
23
    And, you know, we should get a way of working it
    out. Just, you know, the Feds, they just ain't
24
25
    going to do it.
             MR. LANCE JONES: Uh-huh. (Indicates
26
    affirmatively.)
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
```

```
They'll tell us, you know -- Well, piers are one
2
    big thing, you know, these dune walkovers -- They
    tell us one thing and then turn around one way to
3
    do it, well, no, we want it different.
4
5
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                              Right.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
6
    mean, and here you've got a person that's investing
7
    thousands of dollars. You know, now he's -- he's
8
9
    wrong.
            MR. LANCE JONES:
10
                               Right.
11
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    And, you know, we don't really get involved in it,
12
13
    but, yet, we don't issue the permits for the dune
    walkover, but we get involved in it because of the
14
15
    coastal management thing.
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                              Right.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    it makes it -- makes it tough for us. And I just,
18
    you know -- I don't know if you deal with it down
19
    there. I don't know if you have to deal with it
20
    like we have.
21
             MR. LANCE JONES: We deal with it on a
22
23
    daily basis. We covered the coastline up to, what,
    probable six years ago, I think? Gulf Shores had
24
25
    the building jurisdiction to the Fort --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
26
    Yeah.
27
28
             MR. LANCE JONES: -- Fort Morgan.
                                                 So when
```

```
I started with Gulf Shores, you know, we had the
2
    entire area.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
3
    Yeah.
4
             MR. LANCE JONES: And so we deal with it.
5
    Now, we do -- I hate to bring the City up. We do
6
    permit dune walkovers to make sure they meet the
7
    quidelines that are enforced by ADEM and the
8
    Coastal Program.
9
        We do work hand and hand, or I work hand in
10
    hand with Fish and Wildlife. I met with Bill Lynn
11
    numerous times on different projects with sea
12
    turtles, beach mice.
13
        You know, it's okay to build a new dune walk,
14
15
    but we can't elevate an existing dune walk without
    going through it.
16
        So it is complicated, you know, on their
17
    requirements. I've met with them for nearly
18
    14 years now. But, you know, I'm very confident
19
20
    that that would continue.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
    Okay. All right. Well, is there anything else
22
23
    you'd like to add?
             MR. LANCE JONES: How -- I guess, you know,
24
25
    I've known Mike for years. Are y'all looking to
    replace him --
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    He retiring. Yes.
28
```

```
MR. LANCE JONES: -- pretty quickly?
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Uh-huh. (Indicates affirmatively.)
3
            MR. LANCE JONES: Okay. And with -- I've
4
    looked at personnel, of course, with Baldwin
5
    County. If I were offered the job and step into
6
    the position, what am I getting into personnelwise,
7
    you know?
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    Well --
10
11
            MR. LANCE JONES: I've noticed that Kirk,
    you know -- I talked to him a couple weeks ago.
12
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: We
13
    have -- right now we have Freddy Homer, who is --
14
15
    you know Fred.
             MR. LANCE JONES: Yes, sir.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    He's our deputy director. We have one in Bay
18
    Minette, Ryan Stewart.
19
             MR. LANCE JONES: Uh-huh. (Indicates
20
    affirmatively.)
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
22
    takes care of everything. We have Claude, which is
23
    fixing to retire in January.
24
25
             MR. LANCE JONES: I heard.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: And
26
    then we just hired a fellow by the name of Lee.
27
    Lee is onboard.
28
```

```
MR. LANCE JONES: Okay.
2
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    We've got Rob Madison.
3
             MR. LANCE JONES: Okay.
 4
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
5
    He's -- he's got some certifications, but he's
6
    still young. We're in the process of hiring
7
    another person, you know, to fill some voids that
8
    we've had.
9
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                                Right.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                       So
    you're talking about coming into a staff that
12
13
    has --
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: We're in
14
    the building process.
15
             MR. LANCE JONES:
                               Right.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    Green.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    You'd be building --
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
21
    Claude had --
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    You'd be building --
24
25
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    the most experience of any. And you've got Freddy.
26
    And everybody else and brand-spanking-new.
27
             MR. LANCE JONES: And I'm used to that.
28
```

```
You know, like I said --
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    It's --
3
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
4
    It's a big challenge.
5
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    The department didn't blow up or anything. It's
7
    just --
8
             MR. LANCE JONES: Oh, I understand.
9
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
10
11
    UNDERWOOD: -- a lot of retiring out.
             MR. LANCE JONES: They've been here a long
12
13
    time. I've known them all for a long time, you
    know, and respect every one of them greatly.
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    Well, good. I just want to thank you for applying.
16
17
             MR. LANCE JONES: I thank y'all for --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    Commissioner Ball alluded to that already, but it's
19
    a complement to us that you would even consider
20
    working for us. And I've -- my brother is a
21
    builder in that area, and --
22
            MR. LANCE JONES: I know him well. Great
23
24
    man.
25
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Well, I think so, but I'm a little prejudiced.
26
             MR. LANCE JONES: Yeah.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
Well, thank you so much. Okay.
2
             MR. LANCE JONES: Thank you.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
3
    Thank you so very much.
4
             MR. LANCE JONES: Thank you for your time.
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you,
6
    sir.
7
            MR. LANCE JONES: Thank you. Thank you.
8
    Thank you.
9
10
11
              1-C - INTERVIEW OF PAUL ERIC BUTLER
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: We have Mr. Eric Butler.
12
13
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Hello, Commissioners.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    Hi, Eric.
15
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: Hello. How are you,
16
    ma'am?
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    Good.
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Eric, Joe
20
    Davis.
21
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Nice to meet you, sir.
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Jeb
    Ball. How are you?
24
25
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: Nice to meet you,
   Mr. Ball.
26
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
27
    Commissioner Gruber.
28
```

```
MR. ERIC BUTLER: Commissioner Gruber, nice
1
2
    to meet you, sir.
             MR. WAYNE DYESS:
                              Wayne Dyess.
3
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: Nice to meet you.
 4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Thank you for being here.
6
                              Thank you all.
7
            MR. ERIC BUTLER:
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you.
8
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Thank you for allowing me
9
    to interview for this position.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okay, Eric. We'll just start this out.
                                              We're
12
13
    doing the same thing for everybody. We'll start
    out by letting you give us about a five-minute
14
15
    review about yourself.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Okay.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    And then we'll go down the line. Each one of us
18
    will have a question or two; okay?
19
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Okay.
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
22
    All right. Thank you.
23
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Sounds great. Thank you
    all, once again, for allowing me the opportunity.
24
25
    If you don't mind, may I use notes --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Sure. Certainly.
27
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: -- little cheat notes
28
```

here in case a forget anything.

I've been in the building industry ever since I come out of high school. I started off with Brim Construction out of Mobile, worked as truck parts runner for them.

I became an apprentice very quickly. They taught me how to plumb, how to work commercial construction job sites, such as fiber. We run lots of plastics, lots of stainless steel, lots of different metals throughout that -- throughout that business.

I didn't see the benefits for a long-term career and family development within the construction industry, so I've moved over to take on some leadership roles with Home Depot.

I started as a master plumping specialist with Home Depot. They quickly promoted me to department supervisor and then to a key carrier.

While working at Home Depot as a key carrier, they left me in charge of the store for many hours at a time alone. I was essentially directly below the assistant managers.

I had a team of sometimes up to 12, 14 team members. I performed direct reviews, evaluations. I assisted with hiring. I assisted with development of these employees. I also had to assist with discipline.

There was a lot of development while dealing

with employees with Home Depot that's kind of steered my career the way it's going. I learned how to deal with people, people relationships, their struggles, their opportunities. I've learned how to speak and communicate with people to develop them and move them toward a career path that they enjoyed going toward.

I've developed quite a few people to do better than I have within the retail business. There are several guys that I look back and think, hey, these guys were brand-new when they came to me.

And I taught them, you know, how to manage people, how to -- how to deal with different -- different issues. And -- and they're store managers today.

I chose not to take that path, because retail is very strenuous on a family. You have to work weekends. You have to work holidays. You have to work all nights of the day, days and nights.

So I decided to get into the government field. Daphne, Richard Merchant over in Daphne gave me my opportunity to get into it.

Richard is a great guy. He pretty much wanted me to take his place the whole time I was there. Day one, he came to me and like, Eric, I'm retiring in five years. Can you -- can you take my Building Official spot, if given the opportunity?

So he started developing me. I did not stay

```
with Daphne long. I moved over to Foley.
1
2
    closer to home for me, better opportunity there.
        But they also had some people there getting
3
    close to retirement. And just as soon as I moved
4
    in with Chuck and Merriam, Merriam confronted me.
5
        Look, I'm retiring in a few years. Would you
6
    be interested in taking my place? So she started
7
    developing me toward the Building Official role.
8
        I'm scheduled to go to a class in December,
9
    which is a building official certificate, one of
10
11
    three, depending how this plays out. I'm scheduled
    to go. I'm going, as far as I know. So we'll --
12
13
    we'll play that by ear.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
15
    Okay.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               Thank you.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    All right. Well, then in all fairness, we ask the
18
    same question to everyone. So and my question is
19
    more of a behavior-based question, because I'm not
20
    qualified to select somebody on their Building
21
    Official skills.
22
23
        I take it that everybody applying has the basic
    requirements to meet the position, although I know
24
25
    there's a lot in place that I don't technically
    know about.
26
        But if you were it leave your current position
27
```

today -- And you've already alluded to this in your

28

```
past jobs. But if you were to leave your current
2
    position today, is someone ready to take your
    place? If not, how are preparing someone; and, if
3
    so, what process did you use to get someone ready?
4
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: No, there is not someone
5
    prepared to take my place, as we sit, in the City
6
    of Foley.
7
        The City of Foley is extremely busy. In the
8
    last fiscal year, myself, alone, I've done over
9
    3400 inspections. And I've done over 84
10
11
    residential plan reviews and over 20 commercial
    plan reviews.
12
        I have talked to Chuck and Merriam and let them
13
    know we're not meeting the deadlines for
14
15
    inspections. We're -- we're consistently over.
    need another inspector. We run a very small staff
16
    there.
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    So are you just three?
19
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Three, three inspectors.
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
22
    Okay.
23
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Yes, ma'am.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    So that answers that.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: I would -- I would love
26
    to tell, yes, I have someone --
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
But that's out of your --
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: -- ready to go.
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    Particularly, that's out of your hands.
4
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Yes, ma'am.
5
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    But you -- you're saying you have asked for --
7
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: Correct.
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
9
    Okay.
          Thank you.
10
11
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Yes, ma'am.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: All right.
12
13
    Let's talk about an example of a project or a
    program that you were a part of either early in
14
15
    your career or maybe recent that you really feel
    proud of being a part of making something work or
16
    work better than it used to. Can you think of an
17
    example of that?
18
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: Absolutely.
                                            There are
19
    several, actually. In my field, I look out for the
20
    safety of the homeowners and the community, number
21
    one. I work for the citizens.
22
23
        When I came onboard at Foley -- we've already
    covered how busy they are. And the busier you are,
24
25
    the easier it is to overlook major issues.
        There is an apartment complex that I was
26
    charged with COing. I was not part of any of the
27
    other inspections. I come in at the very last step
28
```

to CO this one.

And while walking these apartments, I noticed that the balconies did not look to be as structurally sound as they should. So I placed the Certificate of Occupancy on hold.

And I went to the office and I pulled up their plans. And I did find a major flaw in their construction versus what they had on their plans on this particular project.

The engineer engineered a six-by-six post in the middle to go from the floor all the way to the roof on the third level. The site superintendant allowed a screen company manufacturer to come in use an aluminum two-by-three post in that corner.

It took about three months of working with the engineers and the site supervisors and the superintendants to recognize that that was a major flaw and was putting a lot of people at risk and to change that design.

They wanted to go with the screen company's engineer. Well, the engineering of the building, he wouldn't buy off on it. He's got to buy off on it, because, structurally, it's his. He can't have someone come in below you and oversee what the main engineering has signed off on.

COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.

MR. ERIC BUTLER: So that is one of many of my accomplishes. I drive by there daily, and I see

the porches that I see people hanging out on in the summertime. And I feel that they are safer to have people on them.

COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good. Second question, now. What do you see as next in the technology arena that would affect your work and future work and the technology that help us as we grow make Baldwin County better?

MR. ERIC BUTLER: Within my direct contact, I see providing safer structures easier with technology. When I started off, I was going inspections on carbon paper, don't have any plans in front of me. I didn't have anything.

Now I can go out there with tablets. And I can -- I may not be an expert with structural design, but I can pull it up on this tablet, pull up the structural plans, and I can see, you know, what -- what we're supposed to have, where it's supposed to be.

COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Kind of a corollary question. Have you had experience or do you see the need for possibly using drones to do some of the things and making it more effective, more cost conscious?

MR. ERIC BUTLER: Absolutely. Absolutely. You can see things from above on tall structures that you can't see. You can get a quicker view. It's got to be cost effective.

```
You know, you don't want to risk your personnel
1
2
    from climbing up on unsafe structures. You can use
    those drones to get a visual on it.
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Are y'all
4
5
    using any now?
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               No, sir.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
7
                                                   Thank
    you very much.
8
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: You're welcome.
9
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
                                                 Thank
10
11
    you for being here today.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               Yes, sir.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I've got
    one question. I always ask people about their
14
15
    feelings of the job position, itself, because
    everything else is going to get covered by the
16
    other Commissioners here.
17
        This is what we call a contract position.
18
    we've already made it through one year of our term
19
    with our current Building Official, who is
20
    retiring.
21
        So the contract is good for another three
22
23
    years. And depending on how the election goes and,
    you know, that kind of stuff, we could all four be
24
    replaced, or all still be here again next time.
25
        So the contract employees are just as good as
26
    Commission is, which, I quess, in your situation
27
    working for a City is probably about the same
28
```

```
feeling.
2
        How to you feel about applying for a job that
    there is not a certainty of -- I guess anybody's
3
    job is not certain, but this one's for sure to be
4
    voted out, you know, with the change of the guard,
5
    so --
6
7
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               Right.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
8
            So how do you feel about that?
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: I questioned that
10
11
    initially. But looking at the person that's being
    replaced, he was there for 20-plus years. I think
12
    that -- that says -- that says a lot for the
13
    position.
14
        I believe that if you come to work every day
15
    and communicate with your leaders and do as great a
16
    job as you can, you don't have anything to worry
17
    about.
18
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: How do
19
    you feel coming into a -- a staff that you would be
20
    coming into that's pretty much all brand-new.
21
        That doesn't -- we're retiring out, how many,
22
23
    three, I think, out of that department altogether.
    So you're losing, I would say, a lot more than
24
25
    25 years of experience there.
        And we got all brand-new, green people in there
26
    that the new Building Official, who would probably
27
```

be a little bit new yourself, would somehow or

28

```
other have to team build and --
2
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Right. I see that as a
    benefit, really. When you come in with a whole new
3
    group of people, it -- it's easier to take and
4
    implement the vision with a newer group than it is
5
    what a more mature group, in my opinion.
6
        I enjoy working with people, teaching,
7
    training. I hope that anyone that works under me
8
    can do better than me every single day of the week.
    And I think that's a benefit with a newer group.
10
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thank
11
    you, sir.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Eric, I know you -- the City of Foley probably
14
15
    don't deal with the Coastal Management Program, you
    know, that we have here. You know, it's a very
16
    stringent program that we have to deal with, with
17
    Fish and Wildlife and everything down there in Fort
18
    Morgan.
19
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               Right.
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
21
    And, you know, they can be a little cantankerous at
22
23
    times, give us false information. I don't know if
    you want to call it false, but they'll give us
24
25
    information and then turn around and say, well, oh,
    no, that's not what we meant.
26
        That makes it hard on us, and it makes it
27
    hard -- it's been making it hard on Mike to make a
28
```

decision on what he can do. 2 And I just, you know -- It's one of the things, you know, that it happens daily. I just didn't 3 want you coming in blind sighted and find 4 something, you know, that's -- it's -- it's going 5 to make it that much harder. 6 Plus, you also have to have this certification, 7 which, you know, is -- I don't think you have that 8 one at this time. 9 MR. ERIC BUTLER: No, sir, I do not. 10 11 COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: then there's, you know -- I don't know if you have 12 13 your Building Official certificate, you know, Building Official, I don't know if you have that 14 15 one at this point. MR. ERIC BUTLER: No, sir, I don't. That 16 was given an opportunity, which I start in 17 December, that program. 18 COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: 19 But, you know, that's some of the things, you know, 20 that happen. And that's -- the coastal is one of 21 our -- that's where we get more stuff than anything 22 23 else, you know. That's one of our most senior people is 24 retiring. I don't know if you know Claude. 25 is retiring. And he's going to leave that with 26 somebody that is fresh off the green pasture. 27 MR. ERIC BUTLER: 28 Right.

```
COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
1
2
    I mean, it's going to be a great big challenge, you
    know, for whoever is selected for this position to
3
    deal with it.
4
5
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Yes, sir.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
6
    just putting that upfront --
7
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                              Right.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    to let you it's -- it's going -- it's going to be a
10
11
    big challenge.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               Yes.
12
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
13
    more thing. Do you have any experience with
14
15
    coastal floodplain management?
             MR. ERIC BUTLER:
                               I do. I don't have any
16
    documented experience. Within my reviews with the
17
    City of Foley, I've reviewed eight, eight or more
18
    residential homes that are in flood zones.
19
        Of course, I work with Chuck on a daily basis.
20
    I quess he was just nominated vice-president for
21
22
    the -- the floodplain association.
23
        So he's -- on a daily basis, he's feeding me
    flood certificates. Hey, this is what you look for
24
    on these certificates. When you look at this job,
25
    you know, you have to make sure that they're --
26
    they're all permitted properly.
27
28
        So -- so I do have some working knowledge with
```

```
the coastal flood zones, but there is a strong
2
    opportunity to improve that.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
3
    That's another thing that our -- Mike -- that's one
4
    of the things that -- he's the one that certifies
5
    all that stuff. Because he's the only one that can
6
    certify them.
7
        You know, it has to be the head official that
8
    certifies those. So it's important. It's very
9
    important. And we do deal a lot with them, too.
10
11
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Yes, sir. It is very
    important.
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okay. Do you have any final comments you'd like to
14
1.5
    make?
            MR. ERIC BUTLER: I would like to thank you
16
    all for the opportunity. I'm not a very good
17
    interviewer, so I hope my paperwork here kind of
18
    helps you guys make a decision.
19
        Thank y'all. And I know you guys will make a
20
    great decision moving forward. I'm looking forward
21
    to working with whoever you all put into place,
22
23
    even if I'm still in Foley or wherever I'm at.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Well, as you probably met some of the people in the
    lobby, a lot of people from Baldwin County are
26
    interested in this job. But I wanted to thank you
27
    for -- I take it as a complement that you would
28
```

```
even apply to want to work for us. And I
2
    appreciate you very much.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: You're welcome.
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Same here.
 4
5
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Thank you, sir.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
6
7
    you so much.
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Yes, sir.
8
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Have a
9
    good day.
10
11
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Nice meeting you.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you.
12
13
             MR. ERIC BUTLER: Great seeing you. Thank
    you ma'am.
14
15
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Thank you.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    Y'all want a five-minute break or keep going?
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Let's
18
    keep going.
19
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
    All right. Roll with it.
22
23
                 1-D - INTERVIEW OF EDWARD LOWE
24
25
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: This is Mr. Edward Lowe.
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Good morning.
26
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: This is Commissioner
27
    Underwood.
28
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```
MR. EDWARD LOWE: Hello.
2
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Hello. Joe
    Davis.
3
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Mr. Davis.
 4
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Nice to see
    you, sir.
6
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
7
    You'll be sitting over here.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    Commissioner Gruber.
10
11
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Nice to meet you.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Right
12
13
    here.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah. Right
14
    here.
15
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: The hot
16
    seat.
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: There you go.
18
             MR. EDWARD LOWE:
                               Thanks for having me.
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    I'll start out and let you know that we thank you
21
    for being here today. And each one of us will go
22
23
    down and ask a question.
        But we'll start out with you giving us a
24
    five-minute overview of what you'd like to tell us
25
    about yourself, whether it's about personal or
26
    business or whatever. It's up to you; okay.
27
28
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Okay.
                                       Sure.
                                              Well, you
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```
know, I've had a full career in -- in code
1
2
   enforcement and municipal government. Initially,
   when I got out of school, I worked for Delta
3
   Airlines, so in Birmingham, Alabama. Had a layoff.
4
   And I was building houses at the time and doing
5
   some construction. Owned my own business. And
6
   housing market slowed down.
7
       And the mayor at the time asked me if I would
8
9
```

And the mayor at the time asked me if I would be interested in -- in doing some work for the City. So I did contract work, some waterline installation and stuff and just kind of involved through the process to City Manager, which in a small town, like any rural community, you just -- you just gain hats.

You know, one day -- you know, I've done everything from catching chickens out of an intersection in the street to managing plan unit developments.

We built a new hospital recently. We've built a new college facility recently. And so, you know, I think that we're essentially a product of our environment. And I've had very interesting environment.

Also, I've worked for an elected body for quite sometime, so I'm sensitive to, I guess, what y'all -- what y'all experience in the process of managing the public and perception that we all deal with.

And -- and I think it matters. I mean, functionally and -- and factually, you know, I think all municipal employees do their job very well.

But the perception sometimes is, you know, there's some waste or some slack or whatever. And I'm sensitive to that. I think that's maybe something that I bring that -- that most of the other candidate may not have.

Just built a house out at Fort Morgan at Cabana Beach, been driving down here about every weekend for a year for that process. And I've enjoyed it.

I'm down to painting and doing some tile work on the porch, but I'm pretty close. And I might have took off most the summer to fish, but -- but, anyway, we're kind of back to finishing that up.

My wife and I, we're going to live in that area, regardless of the outcome of this process. You know, and I've built for my family a lot of houses, quite a few houses and houses for other people.

But it's different on the coast, you know. I was familiar with the -- with the codes. But every community, you know, has its own nuances of how codes are enforced and how some of the things that are more important to the code enforcement group and -- and some of the things that -- that they have to consider and the process of protecting

```
their communities.
2
        And I went through everything from ITP to the,
    you know -- to the wetlands permit and then setback
3
    variances. And so I have a good -- a good
4
    indoctrination, I guess you'd -- you'd say, to the
5
    process.
6
        And I appreciate it, though. I mean, I've
7
    gotten to know the community a little better. And
8
    I understand their vision and -- and the reason why
9
    these restrictions are in place.
10
11
        And it's a level paying field. You know,
    everybody has the same set of rules. So it's
12
13
    interesting. And it's different than what I do on
    a daily basis, so it's kind of like therapy for me.
14
15
        I'm blessed with two grown sons. They're both
    off the payroll. I got one that's a practicing
16
    attorney locally and then one that's a marking
17
    director for a company in Chattanooga.
18
        So they -- they kind of like the idea that
19
    we'll be at the beach, you know. Mom and dad will
20
    be a place to come and visit. That's, you know --
21
    that's kind of a quick rundown --
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okay.
24
25
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: -- of --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    All right.
27
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: -- what I do.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    All right. Well, then I'll start with the
    question. I ask a question. My question is more
3
    of a behavior-based question. I'm not really
 4
    technically qualified to know anything about the
5
    inner workings of a Building Inspector. It's not
6
    my profession.
7
        So my question is if you were to leave your
8
    current position -- And I'll back up. We ask -- I
9
    ask the same question to everybody.
10
11
            MR. EDWARD LOWE: Okay.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
12
13
    If you were to leave your current position today,
    is someone ready to take your place? If not, how
14
    are you preparing someone; and, if so, what process
15
    did you use to get someone ready?
16
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: The answer is yes, the
17
    short answer, from the succession plan.
                                              I have an
18
    agreement with the current mayor in this term.
19
    He -- he understood that I did not intend to stay
20
    another term.
21
        So we've got three options. And I guess it
22
23
    kind of goes back to the fact that I've gained a
    lot of hats through the years. But we knew that --
24
    that we needed to diversify the responsibilities.
25
    You know, I'm the airport manager, too, and -- and
26
    some other things.
27
        Essentially, we put three people in place.
28
```

```
We've hired a human resource guy who's a sharp
2
    young man. And I'm -- I'm certified public
    personnel. But, you know, he'll be doing the work
3
    now. He'll be able to take that part.
 4
        I've hired a young lady that's currently
5
    working on her master in public relations. We're
6
    going to -- we're going to divide -- She'll be the
7
    City Administrator.
8
        And I just recently have gotten one of my
9
    current Building Inspectors certified as a Building
10
    Official.
11
        So we've been in the process for this 36 of
12
13
    either promoting from within or hiring from the
    outside to help prepare for my departure.
14
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    So you're planning on relocated --
16
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Regardless.
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
18
    UNDERWOOD: -- to Baldwin County, regardless of
19
    this position?
20
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Yes, ma'am.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    This just happened to pop up; right?
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Yes, ma'am.
24
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
25
    All right. Well, thank you.
26
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
27
    And welcome to paradise. That's what I say to
28
```

```
everybody.
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    That's his --
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Give us an
4
5
    example of a project or a program that you've
    worked on either recently or maybe early on in your
6
    career that you're really proud of it making a
7
    difference.
8
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: I appreciate that
9
    question, because I am very proud of our
10
11
    association with Wallace State Community College.
    We, like a lot of small towns, have struggled with
12
13
    our downtown. You know, it just kept
    deteriorating. The -- the real estate values
14
1.5
    declined.
        We had -- at one time, we had 26 empty
16
    buildings. And we have just a five-block downtown,
17
    so we're not talking about a tremendous geographic
18
    size place.
19
        But the previous mayor, although he got sick,
20
    I -- I convinced him that college -- Because I was
21
    paying for two kids in college at one time.
22
23
    said, you know, look. There is a tremendous amount
    of money that flows with students.
24
        I mean, everybody has paid some amount of money
25
    towards an education. And we did not have a junior
26
    college located in town.
27
        And so I started soliciting different colleges
28
```

to put an annex or a satellite campus. But it's an economic development project, because I wanted to house it downtown.

So I got Wallace State to commit. And they said, look, we'd love to come, but we don't have any money to build a building.

And I'll try to streamline this. But I got Governor Ivey and I got a grant for \$2.3 million from Governor Ivey.

We built the -- First, we converted 18,000 square feet into a technical campus. And then we just finished 15,000 square feet in academic. And we've got plans for third phase.

You know, we can see the -- the tax collections improve. But I'll tell you what's the -- the most satisfying result, is seeing those kids downtown with backpacks.

And I say kids. They're -- they're students from 19 to 30. But we have -- we have some programs in place where we're training young ladies that are struggling being a single mother.

We're paying for the childcare. We're teaching them how to weld. And we're coaching them, giving them a little life coaching.

And that's probably -- And I've done a lot of stuff, but that's probably the most satisfying thing that -- that I've been associated with recently.

```
COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
1
2
    That strikes a cord with me, because I was a
    business manager at a tech college in Thomasville,
3
    Alabama.
4
5
             MR. EDWARD LOWE:
                              Okav.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: The smartest
6
    people I know know how build things, make things,
7
    repair things, and program things.
8
9
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Absolutely.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: And I applaud
10
11
    you for that. That's a great example.
             MR. EDWARD LOWE:
                               Thank you.
12
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Give me an
13
    idea of what do you see next in -- next in
14
    technology, in how it could help Baldwin County
15
    move forward with you as our Building Inspector.
16
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Well, I've looked
17
    geographically at Baldwin County. It's huge.
18
    mean, you know, I don't have to tell y'all.
19
        The -- the logistics of managing something like
20
    this, it almost is a necessity that you embrace
21
22
    some technology and -- and possibly some more
23
    modern -- I don't want to say not conventional work
    practices.
24
        But with this new generation, what I'm finding
25
    is they don't have quite the same idea of how work
26
    is done. And I don't want to sound like I'm
27
    detrimental, but they work different than we do.
28
```

```
I mean, you know, we probably all grew up 10,
1
2
    12 hours a day as the norm. They like -- they're
    task oriented. And they use technology very
3
    efficiently to accomplish a task, and they're done.
4
    I mean, you know, they wait for the next task.
5
        So I think technology is a key, especially to
6
               I know that there are satellite offices.
7
    this job.
    I know that there's a deputy building official in
8
    Fairhope. I haven't been to the office, but in
9
    that area.
10
        I think communication, some of the direct
11
    technology will make a huge difference in how
12
13
    efficiently -- how you operate that efficiently.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
14
    Have you had or considered around the area in
15
    utilizing drones for some of the inspections and
16
    that sort of thing? Do you have any experience in
17
    that?
18
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: We use drones in a couple
19
    different things. And I -- I do manage the
20
    airport. But we've got public safety drones, but
21
    we also -- we do have some -- we have tornadoes in
22
23
    North Central Alabama. So and I -- I am the cost
    estimator, so I do that by drone.
24
        Now, I have a -- I have a public safety guy
25
    that -- that I delegate most of the actual flying
26
    and producing that --
27
28
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
                                            Sure.
```

MR. EDWARD LOWE: -- to. But our ISO 1 2 rating is a four. And I'm sorry. I don't know what Baldwin County's is in general. I didn't have 3 time to look that up. 4 5 But part of that is because, as a Building Official, you know, I set aside some time to not 6 necessarily go behind these guys, but -- but just 7 involved in it instead of just being behind the 8 desk. 9 You need to get out there. And this is one way 10 11 I can get out there, technologywise, and see what they're doing. 12 13 Also, you know, we -- we have an appointed utility board. So we work very closely with them. 14 15 So when we're doing a subdivision application, you know, we map all of that with a GIS system. And we 16 fly the drone footage ourself. 17 COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good. 18 Thank you, sir. 19 COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: All 20 right. I've got a question. Yours is different, 21 because you said the reason for leaving work is 22 23 retiring, and you're applying for another job. one of my questions is, what, you just want to keep 24 25 doing something down here? MR. EDWARD LOWE: Oh, absolutely. I quess 26 maybe that's a misstatement on my part. I'm 27

retiring because I'm -- I'm soon to be eligible for

28

```
25 years with the state system.
2
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: And one of the things
3
    that interested me in the job is it's listed as a
4
5
    contract job.
        Now, I don't know the ins and outs of it, but
6
    my -- what I was hoping is that I could contract
7
    with Baldwin County and not be subject to the
8
9
    retirement system.
        You know, that may -- that may -- I may be
10
11
    wasting y'all's time. It may not be possible.
                                                      Ιt
    may be strictly just consultants are eligible to do
12
13
    that. But the retirement system, you know, said it
    depends on how the contract is --
14
15
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Drawn up.
            MR. EDWARD LOWE: -- drawn up. So I won't
16
    retire. I mean, I've been working since I was 11.
17
    I'll work 10 to 12 more years actively and then --
18
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
                                                 Well,
19
    that was my -- one of my other questions.
20
    contract position -- And we've got a Personnel
21
    Director over here. She can correct me if I'm
22
23
    wrong, or Commissioner Gruber, because he's been
    doing this a while.
24
        The contracted position is a legislative kind
25
    of appointed position that they -- they've created
26
    these ten slots for the Commission to oversee.
27
28
        And these are our direct points of contact that
```

```
we have for us, as Commissioners, to be able to
2
    either discipline, talk, guide. We have ten of
    these, and the Building Official is one of them.
3
        With that being said, just like you're already
4
    working with government now, your job is only as
5
    good as either the mayor or this Commission.
6
            MR. EDWARD LOWE:
7
                               Sure.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: And so I
8
    think you're -- you're -- you ought to be fully
9
    confident that you know that isn't promised the
10
11
    next go around, electionwise, because we all four
    could be gone.
12
13
        So I just wanted to know your feelings on that,
    which I think you already kind of explained that.
14
15
    But Deidra would be able to answer that question
    about the retirement.
16
        I think you are subject to the retirement
17
    system as a contract employee. And even if you --
18
    I don't think there is anything you could word in
19
    the contract differently.
20
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: It's not.
                                            There's a --
21
    there's a limit every year that you have -- that
22
23
    you -- that you can make, which, I believe, is
    31,000. And --
24
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
25
    You'd have to decide if you want to retire or not.
26
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: I'm
27
```

in -- I'm in that group.

28

```
COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So you'd
1
2
    be losing money.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I'm in that
3
    group.
4
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Well, to be honest, I
5
    would be losing money anyway. Because my current
6
    salary is $159,400. So, you know, that's a pretty
7
    good lick in itself from a business consideration.
8
        I'm -- I'm, you know -- I guess if there's not
9
    an opportunity to discuss a consulting contract in
10
11
    the same capacity -- And I've read the legislation.
    And, you know, then I may have wasted --
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    It's a very --
14
15
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: -- all of y'all's time.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    It's a very unique position. I would not say
17
    without an attorney telling me exactly. But it --
18
    it might be very -- you would be treated
19
    differently than any of the other nine. And I
20
    don't know --
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: That's right.
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
    UNDERWOOD: -- that that would be the -- the -- the
24
25
    desire. And I'm just speaking as one person --
            MR. EDWARD LOWE:
                               Sure.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
27
    UNDERWOOD: -- you know.
28
```

```
MR. EDWARD LOWE:
                               Yeah.
2
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: As it works
    right now, our compensation is such as members of
3
    Commission that I draw my retirement and this
4
5
    salary up until it reaches 31,000.
             MR. EDWARD LOWE:
                               Right.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: And then I'll
7
    go through August and December without getting,
8
    then start in January -- it runs with the calendar
9
    year.
10
11
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Uh-huh. (Indicates
    affirmatively.)
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: But you do
    have to factor that in to --
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    And that would drop off very much quicker with --
16
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: The salary,
17
    yeah.
           Sure.
18
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Well, there are other
19
    things. You know, I've got -- I've got ten -- when
20
    I came on in my current position, the contract
21
    allows me to accrue vacation instead of having a
22
23
    severance package.
        So I've got, you know, ten months vacation
24
    after 20-something years that would have to process
25
    through, too. But, I mean, you know, still, I hate
26
    that I've wasted y'all's time.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
No.
2
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: You've not
    wasted it.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    You've not waited it.
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: We look
6
    forward to having you in paradise.
7
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Well, I'm coming, you
8
    know, one way or the other. Probably would just be
9
    with a private entity at this point.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    All right. Well, I -- I just want to thank you.
12
13
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Sure.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    All right. And I take it as a complement that you
15
    would even want to work for us.
16
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: I appreciate your time.
17
    Absolutely. It is paradise.
18
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: That's right.
19
            MR. EDWARD LOWE: That's why I'm coming.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you,
21
    sir.
22
23
            MR. EDWARD LOWE: Absolutely. Thank you.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thank
24
25
    you sir.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you.
26
             MR. EDWARD LOWE: Nice to meet you.
27
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Nice to meet you.
28
```

```
COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Interesting.
2
3
                1-E - INTERVIEW OF EDDIE HARPER
 4
5
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Mr. Eddie Harper.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    Billie Jo Underwood.
7
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Eddie Harper. Nice to
8
9
    meet you.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Joe Davis.
10
11
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Nice to meet you.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: How are
12
13
    you doing, sir? Jeb Ball.
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Nice to meet you.
14
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
15
    Commissioner Gruber.
16
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Nice to meet you.
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: You need to
18
    be on the other side, the hot seat.
19
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Hot seat.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: There we go.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    First of all, Mr. Harper, thank you for applying
    for this position. We -- this is -- we do this the
24
25
    same way for each applicant.
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Okay.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    We'll start out with you giving us a five-minute
28
```

```
overview about yourself.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
2
                                Okay.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    Whatever you want to tell us, whether it's about
4
    the job, or personal, or why you want to be here,
5
    or your experience, or whatever.
6
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
7
                                Okay.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    And then we'll start out. We'll go down the line.
9
    I'll start off with one question, and then rest
10
11
    will have one or two. And then we'll wrap up;
    okav?
12
13
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Sounds good to me.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    Thank you very much.
15
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Okay. I'll start at the
16
    beginning then. It's a little bit personal.
17
    grew up in Meridian, Mississippi. I joined the
18
    military at 17 years old, then came back and was
19
    going to college, business degree, got activated in
20
    Desert Storm.
21
        So I went to that for about nine months, and
22
    then came back and fell in love and -- and started
23
    building my business at that point in time.
24
        I was -- owned my own electrical business for
25
    12-1/2 years. And then I owned my own contracting
26
    business for 12-1/2 years.
27
        And during that time, I got married.
28
                                                I have
```

```
two boys. I have two boys that are 18 and 21.
1
2
    Both of them are out of the house at this point, in
    college. So I'm an empty-nester.
3
        And did that until I get ready to try to move
4
    away from where I was at and moved to a community
5
    that I could try to start thinking about retirement
6
    in, you know, eventually.
7
        And I always vacationed here in Orange Beach.
8
    And so I decided to move here. And I've been here
9
    now five years full time.
10
11
        I applied for an inspector job in Orange Beach,
    got that. I've been doing that now for 3-1/2
12
13
    years. And another than that, just -- I was in
    politics for a while.
14
15
        I don't know if I put that on my application or
    not, but I was one of you guys, I guess.
                                               Ιn
16
    Mississippi we call them Supervisors --
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
18
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: -- County Supervisors.
19
    And I served during Hurricane Katrina. I served on
20
    the Commission, appointed by Hailey Barber after
21
    Hurricane Katrina to help rebuild Mississippi.
22
23
        And I was also involved in emergency management
    a good bit. So I'm NEMS certified. And, like I
24
25
    said, I understand the politics of -- of the job,
    because I understand that there is a code that we
26
27
    follow.
        And I understand that code is not always black
28
```

```
There is a lot of gray areas in there.
    and white.
2
    And that's where the politics comes involved.
    think that's a good experience that I bring to the
3
    table.
 4
        But other than that, I just -- I think the
5
    things I put in my application about my
6
    construction background, my political background,
7
    my emergency management background, certified
8
    floodplain manager background, I think that all of
9
    that will contribute to helping your job stay easy.
10
11
        Because of the Building Official's job should
    be to keep somebody in here complaining to you guys
12
13
    on what's happening on a daily basis out there in
    the field.
14
        I managed -- when I was on the Board of
15
    Supervisors, we had about 350 employees under us.
16
    And our budget was about $50 million. So I think
17
    that I've got that as a strong point, and just
18
    working with, you know, human relations and
19
    employee relationship. And understanding all that
20
    is a big deal.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    Okay.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: That's me in a nutshell.
24
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
25
                Thank you.
    All right.
26
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

I'll start out with even though I have mixed a little mud and struck a few joints in my life, I'm not technically -- don't know about much about Building Inspectors. So mine is just going to be a behavior-based question.

My question is if you were to leave your current position today, is someone ready to take your place? If not, how are you preparing someone; and, if so, what process do you use to get someone ready?

MR. EDDIE HARPER: Well, if I left today, if I did get the job and put in my notice, I would try to work with them as much as I could about how much time was needed for them to replace me. Then I would also work with you guys about how quickly you're wanting someone to come onboard.

As far as working, we have four Building
Inspectors that work for the City of Orange Beach.
And we have just added the fourth one, because of what's in the pipeline, because of how busy we are.

So right now we're a little bit overstaffed. In think that would be sufficient to be able to leave and give them time to hire somebody, post the job, and go through the hiring process of being able to find somebody to replace me.

But I don't think it would put them in a bind if I left, you know, just in the two-week timeframe.

But I have been responsible in my office for doing the training for the recent inspector we just hired. They ride with me every day. And I've been training him. We did that, now, maybe 2-1/2 months ago.

And I'm also over the process that we've just went completely digital in Orange Beach with our permitting. And I built all of that. So I'm responsible for training all of our inspectors on how to use the citizen serve software.

And anybody in our city limits now can be at their house, on their cellphone, anywhere they want to be and apply for a permit, pay for a permit, request inspections, do everything.

And I'm responsible for building that whole program, along with my office manager. She and I have been doing that for a little over a year and a half now.

So I think that, again, with the bringing someone onboard already, because of what we see in the pipeline, and getting -- going completely digital to make it easier and completely user friendly for the public, you know, and protect the files, you know -- because if a hurricane comes and we got blown away down there and we lose all of the paper files, and now everything is backed up on three different Clouds.

And so I think that's -- that would be what I

```
would think would be, you know, sufficient
2
    preparedness for me leaving my current position --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    Okay.
4
5
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: -- and bringing in
    somebody else to replace me.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Mr. Harper,
7
    give us an example of a project or a program that
8
    you've had a big part or a small part in that
9
    you're really proud of being a part of.
10
11
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Okay.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: And it can be
12
13
    recent, or it can be back earlier in you career or
    whatever. Give us an example of that.
14
15
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Can I give a couple?
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
16
                                            Sure.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                               Okay. The -- being on
17
    the Rebuild Mississippi Commission, we were
18
    appointed after Hurricane Katrina. I was real
19
    proud of that, about the new standards and
20
    everything, quidelines that would be required
21
    along, you know, the gulf coast and even into my
22
23
    area, which is Middle Mississippi.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
24
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: And we worked with FEMA
25
    and the Corps and everything else to come up with
26
    those guidelines that we wanted to implement. So
27
    that's one that I would be proud of.
28
```

```
The other is the citizens serve that I just
1
2
    talked about, is implementing, you know, going
    completely, you know, digital.
3
        And then, also, I worked with the CRS program
4
    in Orange Beach to where our Community Rating
5
    System -- you know, we try to maintain as -- as
6
    best we can.
7
        It's -- it's fairly easy for a community to
8
    come in at a seven or an eight to keep your
9
    insurance rates down. And I'm -- I'm responsibile
10
11
    for gathering all the information for CRS,
    repetitive loss, and things to make sure that our
12
13
    rating stays as low as possible.
        And we're actually on the verge of trying to go
14
15
    down one more level with our -- you know, with our
    outreach programs and activities and things like
16
    that that we're about to do. So I'm proud of that,
17
18
    too.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
19
    Super. And you almost answered my next question,
20
    because I'm about getting people to talk about
21
    what's next in technology.
22
23
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Uh-huh. (Indicates
    affirmatively.)
24
25
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: And it sounds
    like that you've been on the cutting. Is there
26
    anything in the -- in the future that you would
27
    like to see added to what you've put in place?
28
```

I'm very impressed with what you've put in place, but are there other things? What's out there? What's next?

MR. EDDIE HARPER: We are actually in the process -- My big boss just came to me and now he wants me to work on helping bring the Planning Commission onboard, because we've got the inspection process onboard.

So now we're going to go with the Planning Commission and the Planning and Zoning Department and bring it onboard with the applications and things.

And we also just implemented a completely digital files for our plans. All of our plans are completely digital. We have the big blue beam system that's in my office and all the markups for the plans.

And we need to bring on another one of those for our Planning Commission and then get the -- the whole process of -- from -- from somebody's thought process of wanting to build a business or a house all the way to the CO, when it's issued, to the CO.

And then also being able to -- we also have a backup plan that I've been working on that's with iAuditor that's on our iPads.

And it's not -- it's not internet based. It's completely on your iPad to where if you can -- if we have no cell service of any kind, we can still

```
do this.
2
        And it maps the location of where you're at.
    And you can go around, do the damage assessments.
3
    It's a special damage assessment program that I've
4
    been building.
5
        And you'll be able to map the damage of each
6
    individual property. And then when the online
7
    system -- online system does come back on, you'll
8
    be able to put that in an Excel format and ship
9
    that to FEMA. And they'll know what our damage is,
10
11
    how bad our damage is, and everything just
    instantly like that.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Okav.
14
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
15
    Thank you very much.
16
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
17
    Mr. Harper, my question is, is when you apply, I
18
    see that you probably studied the -- the contract
19
    term that's used to justify this employment.
20
        We have ten contract employees that work
21
    directly under the Commission's discretion. And,
22
23
    you know, those employment terms for -- usually, as
    you can see, our Building Inspector is retiring
24
    after 20-plus years. So he's made it through a lot
25
    of different Commissioners.
26
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
28
                                                 So I
```

```
think when people stay the course and do their job,
2
    usually those guys keep their job. But if all of
    us got voted out of office next go around -- Which
3
    I hope that doesn't happen --
4
5
            MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- but
6
    if it did, you'd have a whole new body that --
7
    that's in here. And they can -- they can rehire
8
    all ten new people --
9
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Sure.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL. -- if
    they wanted to. How do you feel about applying for
12
13
    a job that's not so certain? I mean, I'm sure you
    wake up every morning, and you're at the mayor's
14
15
    discretion of City of Orange Beach.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes, sir. Yes.
                                                  That's
16
    what I was going to say. He can pretty much do the
17
18
    same thing.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Right.
19
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: And, like I said, I've
20
    been in your position before. And we -- when we
21
    brought on several new members during different
22
23
    terms, you know, we did replace some people.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Right.
24
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: But I just think at that
25
    point in time, your job performance speaks for
26
27
    itself.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
28
```

MR. EDDIE HARPER: You know, and if you 1 have a good working relationship with the -- with 2 the people that are under you, the Commissioners 3 that served before you --4 COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: 5 MR. EDDIE HARPER: -- and, you know, and 6 then the citizens -- And I think the citizens will 7 have a big input in whether or not, you know, this 8 guy has caused more problems than he has solutions. Then you'll just go from there and just try to 10 11 make sure that you just present yourself to the best ability, you know, that you can, and let --12 let the Good Lord take care of it. 13 COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: How --14 how far would you be away from -- Have you ever 15 looked into getting your Certified Building 16 Official License? 17 MR. EDDIE HARPER: I have. I'm working on 18 my certification. I'm a master electrician. And I 19 just -- I just took another certification last week 20 and passed it. 21 And I don't know if this will come out right, 22 23 but certifications are one thing, and knowing what you're doing is other thing. 24 And my 25 years of experience being a 25 contractor brings me the experience that -- in the 26 field that you actually know what you're looking 27

28

at.

```
Anybody can go down there and take a
1
2
    certification. You can take that certification six
    times, back to back to back to back. And
3
    by the time you've taken it six time in two weeks,
 4
    you can pass it. But that still doesn't know --
5
    doesn't mean that you know what you're doing.
6
        And so I have been working on those
7
    certifications as I could, because I've been
8
    implementing the citizens serve software.
    that's been taking up more -- a whole lot more than
10
11
    my 40-hour week.
        So I just got the permitting software online.
12
13
    I had a break. I went and did another
    certification.
14
15
        But going to get any certifications that you
    guys would like me to have or that I think I needed
16
    would be no problem whatsoever.
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
18
19
    you.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
20
    know you're pretty well probably familiar with the
21
22
    Coastal Management Program.
23
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes, sir.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
24
    know, it's very, very important to us.
25
            MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Yes, sir.
26
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
27
28
    know, all of Fort Morgan is under that. And, you
```

```
know, they -- they, at times, have been very
    cantankerous --
2
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Uh-huh. (Indicates
3
    affirmatively.) Yes.
4
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER -- in
5
    giving -- I hate to say it -- in giving us false
6
    information and then coming back and saying, well,
7
    no, that's not what I said. And it makes -- and it
8
    makes it -- it's been making it hard for Mike --
9
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    to help him make decisions with false information.
12
13
    And then we have to go back and try to correct
    that.
14
            MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
15
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
16
    Okay. And it's -- that's similar to things, you
17
    know, that you would -- you would have to -- to
18
    look at, you know, if you were selected.
19
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes, sir.
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: Not
21
    only that, I don't know if you know it, but, you
22
23
    know, just about the whole staff is brand-new.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Okay.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    We're losing Claude January the 1st. He's gone.
26
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
```

```
That gives us basically one senior person that's
2
    got more than five years. And that's Freddy.
    don't know if you know Freddy.
3
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: I do not.
4
5
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    He's our deputy director. Then we've got Brian
6
    Stewart in Bay Minette.
7
            MR. EDDIE HARPER: Uh-huh. (Indicates
8
    affirmatively.)
9
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: And
10
11
    we've got Rob Madison. We just hired a young
    fellow by the name of Lee, who has not even taken
12
13
    his test yet. I think Rob has taken a couple of
    tests. And we've got another one we're fixing to
14
15
    hire, made an offer, but he has no experience
    either.
16
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
17
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      So
18
    you're coming into a completely new system.
19
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes, sir.
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
21
    Basically, you know, trying to get stuff.
22
23
    it's -- it's -- it's going to be a tough row to
    hoe.
24
25
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
26
    mean, you know, because there's going to be more
27
28
    put on you as the director to make sure that they
```

```
don't have the stuff -- somebody has to know what
    to tell these folks.
2
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
3
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: We
4
    can't -- we can't shut operations down.
5
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Right.
6
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
7
                                                       Ι
    mean, you know, so it's going to take a lot of
8
    knowledge. And, you know, I know it doesn't mean a
9
    whole lot, but a lot of these certifications do
10
11
    mean something. Because, I mean, that means you
    have that knowledge to -- to do these things.
12
    that's why we request that be -- have these
13
    things --
14
15
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Yes, sir.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
16
    you know, floodplain management, you know, you get
17
    into the floodplain down there.
18
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes, sir.
19
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
20
    know, and the Building Official has to signoff on
21
22
    every one of those things.
                                Yes, sir.
23
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      Не
24
    has to make sure, you know, that it's done
25
    properly.
26
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Yes, sir.
27
28
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                       So,
```

```
I mean, you know, it -- it's a big -- it's a big
2
    thing.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                Yes, sir, it is.
3
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      Ιt
4
         Just, you know -- that's just information, you
5
    know.
6
                                I think that, you know,
7
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
    a good leader, you know, takes his people that he
8
    has under him, and he finds their strengths and
9
    their weaknesses, and then he points them in a good
10
11
    direction that they need to be in. And he
    surrounds himself with the people that might have
12
13
    the expertise that he does not have.
        And then you also do that with -- I know that
14
    this -- this division is broken up into different
15
    satellites as far as, you know, Foley's satellite
16
    and the Foley and the Bay Minette.
17
        And so you take those -- you take and put your
18
    strengths in right places and you give them the
19
    training that they need.
20
        I'm big on training, big on classes. And --
21
    and, you know, I -- I did say, you know, I'm an
22
23
    empty-nester. So I'm a -- I live in Orange Beach.
    I'll be able to dedicate full time to being able to
24
25
    make sure that I'm where I need to be when I need
    to be and make sure that the people are getting the
26
    training that they deserve and that they need.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
Well, that's -- that's a good comment there.
2
    I just wanted to -- to wrap this up. If you have
    anything else you would like to say briefly to us.
3
        Or, if not, I just want to tell you that I take
4
    it as a complement that you would apply for this
5
    position and that you would want to work for us at
6
    Baldwin County.
7
        And I want to followup on a quick comment. You
8
    know, sometimes being able to walk into a
9
    department that -- that could be built up --
10
11
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Right.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
12
13
    UNDERWOOD: -- might be a benefit to anybody.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER:
                                It could.
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    So regardless of who gets this position, they're
16
    going to have to do the same thing.
17
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes. I agree with that.
18
    And I accept that challenge. I really do.
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    All right.
21
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Because it would be a
22
23
    challenge. I mean, like you said, you know, you
    need the people under you that -- that -- that you
24
25
    can trust and that when they bring you information,
    you can -- you can take that information as -- as
26
    knowledgeable. And so I think it would be a
27
    challenge, but I -- but I think it's something
28
```

```
that, you know --
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    All right.
3
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: -- it would be doable.
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Well, thank you.
6
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yeah. Thank you. But
7
    as far as adding anything, I wanted to thank you
8
    guys. I've been in your seat before, and I
9
    understand the -- you know, the process of how this
10
11
    goes.
        And I -- I respect each and every one of you
12
13
    doing what you do for -- for public office.
    don't think I ever want to hold public office
14
15
    again.
        That's one of the reasons I moved away, because
16
    I -- I just got the -- the -- the people walking to
17
    your dinner table and -- and in the parking lot
18
    and, you know, calling house your house at seven
19
    o'clock in the morning. I'll pray for y'all every
20
    day.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    Thank you.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thank
24
25
    you so much.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
26
    Thank you very much.
27
28
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Have a good one.
```

```
COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
1
2
    you.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: And thank you for
3
    service.
4
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Yes,
5
    sir. Thank you.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I grew up in
7
    Thomasville, and I know exactly where Meridian is.
8
    And Rush Hospital is building a hospital in
9
    Thomasville.
10
11
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yeah. I wired in Rush
    Hospital --
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Oh, did you?
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: -- back in my electrical
14
    days.
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    Thank you for service.
17
18
             MR. WAYNE DYESS: Pleasure meeting you.
             MR. EDDIE HARPER: Yes, sir.
                                            Thank you.
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
                                                        Ι
20
    need to take a five-minute break.
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: Can
22
23
    we take five minutes real quick?
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah, I think
24
25
    so.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Okay.
27
28
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Me, too.
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    Five minutes, Deidra.
3
                (A recess was taken at 12:22 p.m.)
4
      (The Baldwin County Special Work Session resumed at
5
                            12:27 p.m.)
6
7
                 1-F - INTERVIEW OF MARK SAVASTA
8
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Hello. How
9
    are you, sir?
10
11
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Hello.
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Mark Savasta,
12
    Ms. Underwood.
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    Hi. Billie Jo Underwood.
15
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Hi. I'm Joe
16
    Davis.
17
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Nice to meet you.
18
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Nice to meet
19
    you, sir.
20
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: James
21
22
    Ball. How are you?
23
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Hi.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
24
25
    Charles Gruber.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Hi. The phones are off.
26
    I was working out there.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
Okay, Mark. My name is Billie Jo Underwood.
2
    And thank you so much for -- for applying and
    coming to the interview. And we will do the same
3
    thing we did for everyone else.
4
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
5
                                Sure.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    We'll start out by letting you give us a
7
    five-minute overview about yourself, anything you
8
    want to tell us; job, personal, or anything; okay?
9
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
10
                                Okay.
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    And then we'll go down the line. Each of us will
12
13
    ask you one or two questions, and then we'll wrap
    it up. And you can give us a little -- if you have
14
15
    any final brief comments; okay?
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: All right.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
18
    Thank you.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: I'm originally from
19
    Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is actually my
20
    third career. I was in financial services in
21
22
    proprietary school business.
23
        When I left the -- I was between jobs in the --
    in Chicago, between career education corporation
24
25
    and Kaplan University. I -- Katrina hit. Excuse
    me. My voice is quivering, but I have a cold. I
26
27
    have a cold.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
                                                        Ι
```

understand. I took sinus medicine earlier.

MR. MARK SAVASTA: I came down and volunteered for Katrina. And that's how I ended up on the coast.

I stayed here for about a year after we were done working. I starting helping writing grants for people. And it was time to look for a job.

And there's just no universities down here that would be in the market of what I did. My last job was with Kaplan University. I was the vice-president of graduate admission for the graduate school course.

And so I looked into -- I've always done construction all of my life. Either I've owned the properties or rentals or I've built. So that was always my first love, but it was my second career.

And I applied for the Building Department in Pascagoula. And I didn't think I would get the job, simply because I was from out of town. No one knew me.

What I wasn't aware of was that I'd been in there so many times asking questions that they definitely knew me. So I got hired.

And, from there, I went to Southern University, Southern Miss, and got my construction engineer degree. When I do a job, I always try to gain as much education as I can. I also started getting certifications. That's where I think I got my

first three. 2 As you look at my resume, you'll see that I've really taken to getting the certifications that are 3 necessary for doing this job and just getting 4 overall knowledge of what you do. 5 Moved from there to Alabama, was there for a 6 year in Mobile County. I went to Longview for 7 2-1/2 years. And now I'm in Houston. 8 So that begs the question, if I were sitting on 9 your side, why would I want to move from Houston? 10 It's the forth largest city. 11 A lot of things happen there. We have 1300 12 people come in to our lobby a day to talk about 13 permits. We have just under 2,000 plans in que. 14 We do anywhere from 2,000 to 2500. I'm not trying 15 to sell you on Houston, by the way. Anywhere from 16 2,000 --17 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: 18 That won't happen here. 19 20 MR. MARK SAVASTA: -- to 2500 inspections. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I 21 hold my breath going through Houston. 22 23 MR. MARK SAVASTA: It is busy. I'll give you that. It's a job that fits me very well, but 24 25 it's not the gulf coast. So when I came down here, I fell in love with 26 it. My wife's from Pascagoula. And that's why 27 we're here. 28

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    Okay. All right. Well --
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: That the short version.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
5
    Okay.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
6
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
7
    And that's what we like today. If you -- if you
8
    were to leave your current position today, is
9
    somebody ready to take your place? If not, how are
10
11
    preparing someone; and, if so, what process did you
    use to get someone ready?
12
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: In my interview with the
13
    City of Houston, they asked me a similar type
14
15
    question. And I'll answer with the same type
    answer I'll give you. My first two top priorities
16
    are typically cross training and succession.
17
        So to answer your question specifically, we
18
    embarked on becoming an ICC preferred provider,
19
    which we are now. We started our ICC chapter. For
20
    whatever reason, the City of Houston never had one
21
    or had let it go.
22
23
        We've our HR department has partnered up with
    our -- with the building department. And we're
24
    working on a soft skills. Because a lot of times
25
    what happens is when someone comes out of the field
26
    and comes to the Building Department, they've got
27
    some rough edges.
28
```

```
So we got that going and had out -- outreach to
2
    Eastern Gateway Community College. And we're in
    the process, under handshake right now, of
3
    converting our -- And this will apply to your
4
    folks, too -- your certifications to college
5
    credits.
6
        So there will be, hopefully by next year
7
    sometime, a college -- an associates degree
8
    specifically for Building Departments. So that's
    how I'm preparing them.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
           Thank you very much.
12
    Okav.
13
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: You're welcome.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
14
    Share with us an example of a program or a project
15
    that you've been part of, a big part or a small
16
    part, that you're proudest of. And it may have
17
    been something you've done recently, or it could
18
    have been something from back in your career. But
19
    describe that to us, please.
20
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Are you interested in a
21
    construction project or just a project?
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: A project.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: What I'm embarking on
24
    right now, it would be that project, working with
25
    the Eastern Gateway Community College to get that
26
    degree program for ladies and gentlemen that are in
27
    the Building Department.
28
```

```
One of the problems that we have as a whole is
1
2
    that when we go -- what you're doing right now, you
    have to reach into outside sources, resources, I
3
    guess, rather than looking really hard at the group
 4
5
    vou have.
        Now, you may be. I don't know that to be true
6
    or not, but that is typically a problem. At the
7
    permitting center in the building code enforcement,
8
    which I am in charge of, I have just under 500
9
    staff. And they had go outside to get a Building
10
11
    Official. And I found that unbelievable.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
12
13
    That's amazing.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: So that's why I've
14
    embarked so heavily on that, is because that's part
15
    of the succession. I mean, that's just --
16
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sure.
17
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: -- that's a huge part.
18
    So that would be my crown jewel.
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
22
    Okay.
23
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
    All right. Second question.
24
25
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Yes.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Relative to
26
    what's next, and technology particularly, what do
27
    you see as something that you have either just
28
```

```
started or would like to start or could see
1
2
    starting that would make Baldwin County great if
    you're selected for this position?
3
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Well, I've gone through
4
    this twice with two other jurisdictions, going from
5
    100 paper to 100 electronic. And while it's a
6
    struggle for the staff and -- and everyone involved
7
    inside, it's just as hard for the folks outside.
8
        We've -- we've taken the time -- I also was in
9
    charge of the transition. And we've -- we've done
10
11
    outreach where we'll come to your company.
        If you have 30 or 40 people, we'll come to your
12
13
    company. And the small companies, we'll have them
    come the permit center.
14
15
        But if you have a company of that size, we'll
    come out to your company and train you one-on-one
16
    in a group. So I would say that moving -- unless
17
    you're already electronic. I wouldn't know that,
18
    but that --
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    I'd like to know that. Are we?
21
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: It would also be
22
23
    extremely helpful in the field for the inspectors.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: All right.
24
25
    Let me ask a question relative to have you had
    experience or are you pursuing in your department
26
    the utilization of drones to do some of the
27
    inspections and the --
28
```

```
MR. MARK SAVASTA: It would interesting.
1
2
    have to be honest with you. I can see the value.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III:
3
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: Absolutely see the
4
5
    value. We're looking at it now, but it's nothing
    that -- we have an election. So we're waiting
6
    until January.
7
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I understand.
8
    Got to wait to see who's who; right? I understand.
9
    Thank you very much.
10
11
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: My pleasure.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
                                                All
12
          So just a couple things. We appreciate you
13
    coming --
14
15
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: Thank you.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL -- down
16
    this way, a long way to -- to interview for this
17
    job. I don't know what I'd do if I had to go up to
18
    Houston to interview for a job. It would be kind
19
    of a culture shock for me.
20
        One thing is, is, as you know, we're an elected
21
22
    body by the people.
23
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: Uh-huh. (Indicates
    affirmatively.)
24
25
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
    each one of us run at large for our office. And
26
    this county is quite large. It's over 200,000
27
             So we -- we cover a lot of area.
28
    people.
```

```
One of the things that's unique about this
1
2
    position that you're applying for is it's one of
    ten what we call contracted positions that work
3
    directly under the Commission.
4
        With that being said, the job is, I guess, like
5
    any other job -- Every time I say this, if
6
    anybody's working in a government position, it's
7
    only as good as the four people sitting here.
8
        If -- if for some reason we all got voted out
9
    in three years, then you have a new four people
10
11
    sitting here that could -- with these ten people,
    they could change all ten of them --
12
13
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Uh-huh. (Indicates
    affirmatively.)
14
15
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- and
    have ten brand-new ones. That's kind of, you
16
    know -- it hasn't happened like that before, but
17
    I'm just saying it could.
18
        Usually -- Our Building Official that's been
19
    with us has been here over 20-plus years. So
20
    that's a good track record, because he's been
21
    through -- if you've been here 25-plus years,
22
23
    you've been through plenty of Commissioners.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                Right.
24
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: And so
25
    I -- I think this is position, once you, you know,
26
    you get in there and you -- you do the job and do
27
    it like it's supposed to be done, you're kind of
28
```

```
left alone for a little while.
2
        So but I just wanted to see how you felt about
    applying and taking a job that could, you know, not
3
    be there.
4
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Did I mention we're
5
    having an election in Houston right now?
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: That's
7
    right.
8
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Actually, we're all in
9
    the same boat over there. We're all -- from my
10
11
    position on up is executive positions. And should
    the mayor lose the race, the runoff, we stand the
12
13
    same possibility.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
14
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
15
    Okay. I know y'all -- down in Texas -- we have
16
    what we call a Coastal Management Program.
17
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Yes, sir.
18
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
19
    don't know if you're familiar with that. I don't
20
    know if they do that in Texas. But there's one
21
    that's, you know, got a CCL line, a construction
22
23
    line that, you know, we kept -- we've got to
    maintain. And it's got a lot of Federal
24
25
    regulations in it.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: The flood -- the
26
27
    flood --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
```

```
It's not flood. It has to do with the coast
    management. It's called a construction CCL line.
2
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: I'm not familiar with
3
    it.
4
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
5
    But, anyway, it -- it's -- it's a system that we
6
    have. We've got the beaches. You know, we can't
7
    let people build forward of the construction line
8
    and all this other stuff. So we have a lot of
9
    stuff we have to maintain --
10
11
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Sure.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
12
13
    to take care of it. And the problem we have a lot
    of times is with the Federal Government telling us
14
15
    one thing.
        Somebody comes to get a permit for like a -- a
16
    dune walkover. And they say, okay, yeah, that's
17
    fine, and then later on say, oh, no, that's not --
18
    so it's making it tough on our head Building
19
    Official, because he's the one that has to deal
20
    with it.
21
22
            MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                Right.
23
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      So
    now you've got to go back and try to work out
24
25
    something to get this corrected. Because, you
    know, they're not going -- they're not going to
26
    give you what you need.
27
        It's like the Federal Government.
28
                                            They change
```

```
their mind every time you turn around. So, I mean,
2
    that's one of the things, you know, that's --
    that's -- the Building Official has as one of his
3
    biggest things, is trying to work with these folks.
4
    Because they're not -- they're not consistent.
5
    And, you know, they're good people.
6
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Uh-huh. (Indicates
7
    affirmatively.)
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    But, you know, they have got -- we've got the
10
11
    turtle stuff. You know, there's stuff that's
    coming up, new regulations, you know, they require
12
13
    us, you know.
        And, you know, be able to get a Certificate of
14
    Occupancy, they have to approve it. And getting
15
    them to approve something is hard.
16
        And you've got a person here that's got a
17
    construction loan. And now he's got to come off
18
    that construction loan for a house. And, you know,
19
    what does he do, you know?
20
        And it falls -- it falls in the building
21
    department's realm to try and take care of all this
22
23
    stuff. So and the government was shutdown for a
    while. And we -- luckily we didn't have anybody
24
25
    that was that close to finishing a project, but it
    causes a problem.
26
        Not only that, our -- we had some senior staff
27
    here for quite a few years. And this year it looks
28
```

```
like, you know, they've all decided that, you know,
1
2
    they're going to retire.
        We lost our deputy director. We're losing our
3
    director. We're losing one of our senior personnel
4
    January the 1st. He's retiring.
5
        And so that leaves us with basically two people
6
    that have over five years experience. Freddy, he's
7
    our deputy director. He filled that slot.
8
    works out the Fairhope office.
9
        So and then we've got Ron Stewart, who works in
10
11
    Bay Minette. He has several years. These are all
    good people. And then we've got Rob Madison, who's
12
13
    been here maybe a year, a year and a half. We just
    hired a young person that's going through the
14
15
    course. He hasn't taken the first test yet.
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: Uh-huh.
                                          (Indicates
16
    affirmatively.)
17
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
18
    we just made an offer to another young gentleman.
19
    And he hasn't had the course yet. But trying to
20
    find Building Officials or Building Inspectors is
21
22
    just about impossible.
23
            MR. MARK SAVASTA: It's difficult.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
24
25
    It's a -- it's a field out there that's -- that
    nobody wants to touch. And I saw -- This is --
26
    this is -- I don't want you to think that, you
27
    know, you're coming in here and it's going to be --
28
```

```
It's going to be a struggle if you're -- you know,
2
    if you're selected. I mean, it's -- it's just
    something I think you need know about.
3
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Well, thank you. We
4
5
    have the same issue over there, believe it or not.
    We have 50 vacancies. And a lot of times, filling
6
    the vacancies that are very difficult would be the
7
    mechanic, the electrical, plumbing, and building.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    Because -- they're -- they're -- these trades are
10
11
    very, very important.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Sure.
12
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
13
    know, you're looking at putting people in houses
14
    that I say, yes, I'm certified. Yes, it's built to
15
    code.
16
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Uh-huh. (Indicates
17
    affirmatively.)
18
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
19
    if they don't know what they're talking about, you
20
    can -- you can evidently -- you know, if you're not
21
    certified to do that, it puts us in a position
22
23
    where we're liable.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Sure.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    And, you know, it's -- it's a cruel world out
26
    there.
27
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: And it's -- and it's not
28
```

```
only your -- your issue. It's a nationwide issue.
2
    Two or three weeks ago, I was in the -- at the ICC
    national conference.
3
        And I think -- And don't quote me on the
 4
    numbers, but they were in the hundreds of thousands
5
    of electricians, mechanical, plumbing, and builders
6
    that we just don't have them.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Technical skills is a trade now. That is -- this
9
    is -- that is an issue in all industry --
10
11
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                Yes.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
12
13
    UNDERWOOD: -- not just the building inspecting.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                That's right.
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    know that we have a lot of -- well, unemployment is
16
    at an all-time record low.
17
                                Right.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    But I want to say that I -- I feel confident that
20
    that wouldn't be a problem because of working in
21
    such a large area, that you are -- I know -- I will
22
23
    say this. At first when we posted this position,
    we weren't hardly getting any applications.
24
25
    then right toward the end, they all came in.
    I'll take it as a complement that you wanted to
26
    apply to work for us.
27
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Sure.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    So thank you very much.
2
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Thank you.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
5
    Okay.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Appreciate it.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Is that all?
9
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
10
11
    you have any questions for us that you would like?
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Who does the flood?
12
13
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    what?
14
15
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: The flooding.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
16
    That comes under the --
17
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: I'm already the
18
    floodplain manager.
19
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Yeah. And that -- and the Building Official, he
21
    has to signoff on every application that's --
22
23
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Right.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
24
25
    submitted.
            MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                Right.
26
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
27
    know, that's -- that's part of it. You know, we've
28
```

```
got -- we've people that do the paperwork and
2
    stuff.
        And, you know, it's -- you know, and they have
3
    to have the certificates and make sure they're --
4
    they're correct and everything else to do that and
5
    then, you know, matching up with the floodplain
6
7
    maps.
        And we just got a new set of maps just not long
8
    ago. You know, it took us, you know, six years to
9
    get what was supposed to have taken a year to get.
10
11
    And -- and it ended up six or seven years later, we
    got them.
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    All right.
14
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
15
    Actually, as a matter of fact, after Hurricane
16
    Katrina --
17
                                Right.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
18
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
19
    we were supposed to get ours redone.
20
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Uh-huh. (Indicates
21
    affirmatively.)
22
23
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      We
    just got then last year.
24
25
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                Wow.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    You know, in all fairness, with you not knowing as
27
    much about Baldwin County as maybe some of the
28
```

```
other applicants that have applied --
2
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
3
    UNDERWOOD: -- as far as I'm concerned, I -- I
4
    can't speak for anyone else, but I will tell you
5
    that the three here were just elected a year ago.
6
    Commissioner Gruber has been here a while. He was
7
    also a County employee for many years.
8
        But I've learned some things from these
9
    interviews about what's going on in -- in your
10
11
    arena and some of the arenas that maybe we're at an
    opportunity for this department to be at the
12
13
    beginning.
        So even though we're -- maybe have some
14
15
    inexperience at this point in time, it might be an
    opportunity to build something almost from the
16
    ground up that would be at an -- at an -- at an
17
    opportune time, when technology has afforded itself
18
    to make your job better for both the department and
19
    for the people.
20
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Well, I'm sure if I were
21
    your candidate, that's usually one of the things I
22
23
    do, is I'm always looking to improve the
    department. Like I said, my -- my interest was on
24
25
    the education side in Houston. And we'll -- we'll
    fulfill that.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    Well, thank you very much.
28
```

```
MR. MARK SAVASTA: Even if I'm here, we'll
1
2
    fulfill that.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: There you go.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
5
    Thank you very much.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA:
                                Thank you.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Any other questions?
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: Got
10
11
    anything of us?
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: No. I just -- in -- in
12
13
    closing, as I started saying in the beginning,
    I've -- I've doing this all life.
14
        But when I did start into code, I found out how
15
    much I really didn't know. That's why I went after
16
    the certifications so heavily.
17
        Because when you're out in the field, you tend
18
    to believe that I know how to do this. And when
19
    you get into the code. Oh, my gosh. Well, maybe I
20
    didn't know as much as I thought I did.
21
        I -- I -- I can tell you that regardless of who
22
23
    you pick, I think you'll do -- you'll do just fine,
    from seeing all those gentlemen out there.
24
        This is something that I don't like. This is
25
    something I love. This is something I'll do
26
    forever. So just -- just know that when I go in,
27
    I'm all in.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
    Thank you very much.
2
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thank
3
    you.
4
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
5
    Thank you so much.
6
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Thank you.
8
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Thank you,
9
    sir.
10
11
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Thank you.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Pleasure
12
13
    meeting you.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
14
15
    Thank you so very much.
             MR. MARK SAVASTA: Pleasure. May I leave
16
    this way?
17
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Oh, absolutely.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    You may. Thank you.
20
        One more.
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: One more.
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
                                                         Ι
    think, yeah.
24
25
              1-G - INTERVIEW OF BRANDAN FRANKLIN
26
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Mr. Franklin,
27
    Commissioner Underwood.
28
```

```
MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Pleasure to meet
1
2
    you.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Hey. Joe
3
    Davis. Good to see you.
4
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: What's
5
    up, buddy?
6
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Mr. Gruber.
7
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: We have you in the hot
8
    seat right here in the middle.
9
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: There you go.
10
11
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: I wouldn't have it
    any other way.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: There you go.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    Okay. Brandan, thank you for applying for the job.
15
    I'll tell you the way we've done these interviews.
16
    You're the last one; okay?
17
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Make a lasting
18
    impression then.
19
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    That's right. You'll get the opportunity. Okay.
21
    How we start is we'll give you like five minutes to
22
23
    give an overview of yourself. Talk about your --
    whatever you want to talk about; okay?
24
25
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    It doesn't matter if it's about the actual job
27
    itself, personal, anything. It's -- it's your five
28
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```
minutes, approximately. We don't have a timer on
2
    it.
        And then we'll go down the line and each one of
3
    us will ask you one or two questions. And then
4
    we'll come back at end, and if you've got any
5
    closing comments, and then we'll wrap it up.
6
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Sounds great.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Is that good?
9
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Sounds good.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    All right.
                Thank you.
12
13
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: So lifetime resident
    of Baldwin County. I was born and raised in Bay
14
15
    Minette. And until this past May, live there all
    my life.
16
        Grew up in a construction family. My mother,
17
    her father, and three brothers all were in
18
    construction. So I think was kind of destined for
19
    the construction industry, fortunately.
20
        At 12 years old -- Just a quick story. All
21
    my -- all my family relatives worked for my
22
23
    grandfather, you know, growing up.
        I'd always go -- We lived right down the street
24
    from -- Pawpaw, can I work for you? No, you're not
25
    big enough. 12 years old, never forget it.
26
    Pawpaw, can I work for you this summer?
27
        So he said, I'll tell you what. If you go over
28
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```
there in the corner of the garage and pick up the
1
2
    roll of roof and bring it to me, I'll let you work
    for me. Worst mistake I ever made in my life is
3
    picking that roll of roofing up.
4
        But, no, been -- been in construction for the
5
    majority of my life, doing things, you know,
6
    working for them, with the family.
7
        After high school, I got into doing electrical
8
    work. I used to wire all the Dobbins homes. And
9
    then went to work for some different contractors
10
11
    doing that, and all the while, trying to get to
    school and get my education as well.
12
13
        That kind of evolved. And I was doing some
    electrical work in Gulf Shores. And the Building
14
15
    Official at the time asked me, said, hey, you know,
    would you like a job? And I thought, well, he's
16
    got some electrical work he needs me to do.
17
        But, no, it was actually to be a Building
18
    Inspector. I never thought I'd be on this side of
19
    it. But I applied, got the job, 27 years old. And
20
    by 29 years old, I became the Building Official for
21
    the City of Gulf Shores.
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    When was that?
24
25
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    That was '03.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Okay.
27
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    2003.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    Just trying to get a timeframe on what was going on
    in Gulf Shores.
3
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: 2003, you know. I'm
4
    29 --
5
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    It was wide open then.
7
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: I'm 29 years old and
8
    the Building Official. I was just amazed. But I
9
    didn't have the job two months, and the City of Bay
10
11
    Minette called me and said, hey, we'd like to offer
    you the same position up here, same money.
12
13
        So I went to the mayor at the time. Mayor,
    they want me come to Bay Minette; same money, same
14
15
    job. And he said, well, congratulations. You'll
    love it up there, right there in your hometown.
16
        Dadgum it. It didn't really work the way I
17
    wanted it to.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    He called your bluff.
20
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: He did.
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Ended up
22
23
    taking --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Got to know Bodie.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Wow. But I did. I
26
    went to Bay Minette. And then Ivan hit, as we all
27
28
    know.
```

So right after Ivan, two months later, Gulf Shores called me and was like, we would love to have you back. Things aren't working out with guy who replaced you, and we'd love to have you back up here. We've got a lot of issues going on.

And so I did. I went back to Gulf Shores January of 2005. Best move I ever made. Gone through so much down there.

When I got there, FEMA was ready to strip the flood insurance program from Gulf Shores because of things they were doing. ADEM was ready to take the delegation away from Gulf Shores for the coastal program.

And I was able to mend those fence and take those responsibilities back, keep them with the City, and really develop some great relationships with the agencies involved there.

And -- and then just evolving through time and creating a resilient and sustainable community, what I'd like to feel like I've done in Gulf Shores, or had a big hand in playing there.

And that just kind of gives you an idea of where I come from and how got where I am today.

Now, I'm a big family man. I have a son that just started Auburn this past fall, a freshman at Auburn. I don't know if y'all are Alabama fans, which some of us are. You'll have to forgive me.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:

```
We won't hold that against. If you don't hold it
2
    against me, I won't hold it against you.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    That's right.
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Our oldest
4
    son graduated from Auburn. I went it Alabama, but
5
    that's another story. He went to the right place
6
    at the time.
7
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: So but I -- like I
8
    said, just moved to Gulf Shores recently. And, you
9
    know, this position came open.
10
11
        And it's like, wow, I drove back and forth from
    Bay Minette for almost 18 -- right at 18 years to
12
13
    Gulf Shores and finally get two blocks from city
    hall.
14
        But I felt like I was led to apply for this
15
    position, and, you know, having a role in seeing
16
    where the county is going and just knowing how fast
17
    it's growing and everything.
18
        And when I drive through Gulf Shores and look
19
    at all projects that's been constructed since I've
20
    been there, it gives you a sense of pride in
21
    knowing everything that's there.
22
23
        And being able to take that and apply that
    countywide and know that I have a role in that, I
24
25
    could have a role in that, I think that would be a
    great honor.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
```

Okay. Well, I'm going to ask you the same question

28

```
I asked everyone else. But I just have one more
2
    question before I get started with that one
    question, which is just a behavior-based question.
3
        The question is -- it's about compensation.
4
    Because there was a salary range listed, although I
5
    know it's not concrete. But you had put a minimum
6
    amount that is much higher than what our current
7
    Building Inspector is making, and also above the
8
    range. And I was wondering if that is negotiable.
9
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: I -- I don't think
10
11
    it would be.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
12
13
    Okay.
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: I really don't.
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    Well, that's -- I just wanted to know. Okay.
16
    Okay. So I'll ask the question then.
17
        If you were to leave your current position
18
    today, is someone ready to take your place? And,
19
20
    if not, how are you preparing someone; and, if so,
    what process did you use to get someone ready?
21
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: To get someone ready
22
23
    to take my place?
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Uh-huh. (Indicates affirmatively.)
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: I have developed a
26
    great staff. I surround myself with great
27
    employees. And I have been very fortunate.
28
```

```
And some of staff that have -- I have one in
2
    particular. I know he interviewed with you guys
    earlier today. I have always helped lead and guide
3
    him and always encourage him to, you know, advance.
 4
        And, in that, knowing that if I were to have
5
    this, I would not have one problem at all knowing
6
    that Lance Jones was ready to step into the
7
    Building Official position for Gulf Shores.
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
9
    Awesome.
10
11
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: And even -- even
    with that, if I'm not your person, I would highly
12
13
    recommend Lance Jones for this position.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    Okay. Thank you.
15
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
16
    My question, you've kind of answered it, but let
17
    this say it this way. Over your career, recent or
18
    things in your early jobs, give us an idea and a
19
    discussion about a project or a program that you
20
    were a part of doing that made things better.
21
22
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Several projects.
23
    One of the -- one of the biggest ones we just
    recently finished with the Gulf Coast
24
    revitalization.
25
        I had a huge role in that in developing the
26
    team in Gulf Shores with the oversight, working
27
```

with Fish and Wildlife, ADEM, the Coastal Program,

28

```
and taking away some parking places and helping
2
    negotiate with FEMA how we were able to swap
    some -- Basically it was land swaps to allow us to
3
    be able to build a new lifeguard -- I guess the
 4
    lifeguard station that we have, revitalize the
5
    restrooms, and even the restrooms on the east end,
6
    working with Fish and Wildlife specifically with
7
    the beach mouse habitat that we had to go through
8
    in that area and having that new restroom
    facilities but also public safety.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Really, I take pride
12
                  That was a huge complement to see.
13
    in that one.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Second
14
    question has to do what's next. What do you see
15
    what's next in -- particularly in the technology
16
    arena as we're getting bigger every day?
17
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Uh-huh. (Indicates
18
    affirmatively.)
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: What do you
20
    see that's on the horizon, technologywise, that
21
    will help Baldwin County prosper even more?
22
23
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: One of the things I
    was able to do in Gulf Shores, we've gone almost
24
25
    completely paperless. So I -- I was -- I did have
    a leading role in that. That was one of my main
26
    goals. Hey, if we can get paperless, this makes
27
    everything better.
28
```

We went from having three carbon copies, writing inspection reports and leaving it on the job site to now everything is e-mailed. So it's realtime.

All the contractors that's working on that project, they know exactly things -- you know, if it passes or fails at that point in time. They don't have to leave the job site. They don't have to make phone calls.

So with the amount of construction that's going on, and we're at -- you know, I don't know that we'll ever see the '05, '06 days, but it's really large right now.

I just take into consideration we did 262 houses, new single-family houses in Gulf Shores last year. That's not even counting the total commercial projects.

COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Right.

MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: But being able to submit the plans online and having everything digital, we're not killing near as many trees, being a whole lot more environmental friendly, but also just having that available at your fingertips with the software that we have. And it wasn't very expensive so.

COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: And you would consider that very customer friendly, I would assume?

```
MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    My permit -- my
1
2
    permit clerk hates it, but my building inspectors
    love it. And the contractors and owners absolutely
3
    love it, because there's so much available online
4
5
    that they can put up at any time.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay. Very
6
    good.
7
           Thanks.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Only
8
    point I make is when we're interviewing y'all is
9
    you know that we're an elected body, of course.
10
11
    Probably the same thing with your situation with
    the City of Gulf Shores. You've been there a long
12
13
    time. Mike's been with us a long time.
                                              But we all
    four might not be here in three years.
14
15
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Uh-huh. (Indicates
    affirmatively.)
16
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: It could
17
    be four different people. And we've got ten
18
    employees, Building Official being one of those
19
    employees, that are unique just to the
20
    Commissioners.
21
        And, you know, at any time, you know, if a new
22
23
    Commission took over, you know, or a partly new
    Commission, this -- this -- three new and one old
24
25
    or whatever, they could make the decision to
    replace those contract individuals. How do you
26
27
    feel about that situation?
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: So far I've been
28
```

```
fortunate to make it through three different mayors
2
    and administrations in Gulf Shores. With that, I
    think if you're doing your job and you're doing it
3
    well --
4
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
5
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- then I don't feel
6
    like you should have a problem. I think I've got a
7
    personality that I get along pretty well with my
8
    superiors, with the executive branch in Gulf
9
    Shores, and also developing that relationship
10
11
    inside the community so no one, regardless who
    runs, who takes their place, I feel confident.
12
13
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    know, you know the coastal situation better than
14
15
    anybody else does.
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    Yes, sir.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
17
    know, we deal constantly -- you know -- you know,
18
    you had Fort Morgan at one time.
19
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
21
    you know what we're going through with Fish and
22
23
    Wildlife.
               They are the most cantankerous people.
    You know, they'll tell us one thing and come back a
24
    little bit later and say, oh, no, that's not what
25
    we meant.
26
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: They never do that,
27
    Mr. Gruber.
28
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```
COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
1
    I -- I know that don't do -- do that. But, you
2
    know, I mean, that's one of the things, you know
3
    that Mike's had to really, you know -- And it --
4
    it's -- it's trying on him, you know.
5
        It's, you know -- the amount of construction
6
    that's going on down there and all the regulations,
7
    and, I mean, that's -- that's something -- you're
8
    aware of that. You've been there. It's -- it's --
9
    it's disheartening.
10
11
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir. It is.
    It is. And, you know, I -- I will say that working
12
    with Fish and Wildlife throughout this entire
13
    process, this is -- you know we started with beach
14
15
    mouse way back when.
        And we actually developed an HCP plan, worked
16
    with consultants. And right at the very last
17
    moment, Fish and Wildlife changed the rules to the
18
19
    game.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
20
    Uh-huh. (Indicates affirmatively.)
21
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: And that was so
22
23
    disheartening. Because I had spent a lot of time
    with Ms. Carolyn Doughty, when she was council
24
    person at the time. So I understand completely
25
    what you're talking about.
26
        But knowing that and knowing how they work and
27
    just the relationships that I have with all of them
28
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```
in the Daphne field office and knowing that
2
    changes, too --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
3
    Yeah.
4
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- you get new
5
    people in and new mindsets, new -- new ways of
6
    thinking.
7
        And that is something, just be able to adjust
8
    and being able to appease them, but yet there's a
    fine line there.
10
11
        I always call it a double-edged sword, making
    sure that we're following their regulations and
12
13
    quidelines, because everything they can control,
    but yet being able to work through it with
14
15
    homeowners and our contractors as well.
        It's been a difficult task. You are so right.
16
    But having the relationships that I have with
17
    everyone there, the new guys, Bill Lynn going in.
18
    And Shannon Holbrook, she's really pushing the sea
19
    turtle friendly lighting aspect.
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: And
21
    it's going to get worse. You know, and, you know,
22
23
    they have got the ability to hold up the -- the CO.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    know, because then they go down there, they have to
26
    signoff before you issue that CO.
27
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: And that has been an
28
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```
issue, because it was -- In Gulf Shores, we
2
    actually adopted sea turtle lighting once back in
    06.
3
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
4
    Uh-huh. (Indicates affirmatively.)
5
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    That's one of the
6
    things you feel like you're doing the right thing,
7
    being environmentally friendly and helping. And,
8
    boy, I wish that -- A lot of times, we end up
9
    enforcing their regulations. And --
10
11
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    That's the problem.
12
13
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- they're asking us
    to do their enforcement. And it puts you in a bad
14
1.5
    situation.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
16
    Yeah. That's what -- that's what we're getting
17
    into.
18
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
19
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
20
    know, we're enforcing their regulations. We have
21
    no control over their regs, but, yet, we have to --
22
23
    we have to make sure that they follow them.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    And, I mean, and -- and it -- it makes it hard on
26
    our Building Official, and it makes it hard our
27
    staff. Because they don't know, you know.
28
                                                 And
```

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they change their mind.
2
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: One week you may be
    doing something, and the next week it'll be
3
    completely different.
4
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
5
    Yeah.
6
7
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: You know, we're
    following our regulations, our ordinance to a T.
8
    And now they're coming back. Well, we prefer that
9
    they do more and go above and beyond.
10
11
        And it's hard. Whenever you have something in
    writing, it's easy to enforce. But when they
12
13
    prefer something --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
14
15
    Yeah, Yeah,
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- it's --
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    that the problem. They prefer a lot of stuff, but
18
    it's --
19
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
20
                                    They do.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: But
21
    they won't back it up with any regulations.
22
23
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir. It's a
    handful.
24
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
25
    another thing I want you to be aware of, you know.
26
    We're going to have a real young staff coming up.
27
    You know, Claude is retiring the 1st of January.
28
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```
MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
2
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    And -- and you know Freddy, don't you?
3
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
 4
5
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Well, Freddy is basically our senior person.
6
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Okay.
7
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      And
8
    then you've got Brian Stewart, who is in Bay
9
    Minette. I think you know Brian.
10
11
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
12
13
    then we have Rob Madison. I don't know if you know
    Rob. He's been here a little over a year.
14
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Okay.
15
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
16
    we just hired another person, who just hasn't taken
17
    any of his tests yet. And just hired another one
18
    that hasn't taken his test.
19
        So, I mean, there is a lot going on in the
20
    thing. So, I mean, it's going to be -- it's not
21
22
    going to be a -- a cake walk.
23
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    Riaht.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      Τ
24
    mean, it's going to be a lot more -- a lot of
25
    responsibility getting those folks --
26
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Ready.
27
28
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER --
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```
where they need to be, you know.
2
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: But that -- that
    could work for you and against you.
3
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: Oh
4
5
    yes.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                     It can.
6
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
7
           You know, you can build -- Sometimes you go
    Yeah.
8
    into a place, you know, that's -- the staff --
9
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
10
11
    Got their heels dug in.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER --
12
13
    you know, are pretty well set in their mind.
    They're going to do things they want. But if
14
    you've got somebody coming in that doesn't --
15
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: You can mold them.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    Mold them, yeah.
18
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: You're right.
19
    that's something, you know. One of my questions I
20
    may have. You know, if offered the position, maybe
21
    look at the Building Department budget just to see
22
23
    where the training and what's allowed in different
    aspects, because, just what you're saying, getting
24
25
    them certified and getting them in the right step.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
26
    Yeah.
27
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    Because there's
28
```

```
nothing worse than walking out on a job site and
1
2
    having somebody question your ability and being
    incompetent.
3
        When I first hired on at Gulf Shores, I was
4
    thrown to wolves. And -- and I found out just how
5
    important -- And I think if you'll look at my
6
    certifications, I've 13 or 14 certifications.
7
    most of them were taken in my first two years of
8
    employment --
9
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
10
    While --
11
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- because I wanted
12
13
    to --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
14
15
    UNDERWOOD: -- you were inspecting people.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: I wanted to back up
16
    what I was saying.
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    Right.
19
20
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: And so I find that
    very important.
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: It
22
    is important. Because, you know, you're -- these
23
    inspectors have to know what they're doing, because
24
25
    you're putting people in houses that you say is
    safe.
26
27
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Uh-huh. (Indicates
    affirmatively.)
28
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```
COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
1
    That's what -- that's what all building inspectors
2
    are saying, is this house is safe.
3
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, sir.
 4
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
5
    so, you know, and if he doesn't do his job and
6
    something happens, you know, it could be -- it
7
    could be a bad situation.
8
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Do not want that
9
    liability.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: And
    you don't want that liability.
12
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: No, sir.
13
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
14
    But, anyway, I appreciate what you've done. And I
15
    don't know if you've got any other questions.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
17
    just -- Do you have any closing remarks or -- I --
18
    I want to followup, because I did ask you the
19
    salary question.
20
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Yes, ma'am.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    Your current position, would it -- does it entail,
    though -- I think I heard you're also the EMA
24
25
    Director of Gulf Shores, or is that --
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                     I am.
                                            Tam.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    Whereas, this position wouldn't -- wouldn't have
28
```

```
that portion involved.
2
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                     Correct.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
          So is there anything you'd like to add on
4
    that?
5
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Salarywise, or just
6
    knowing that -- eliminating that EMA portion of it?
7
    I have thought about that.
8
        With the EMA position -- After the 2010 oil
9
    spill is actually whenever I took that on. And,
10
11
    Mr. Gruber, you know, I was basically -- we had an
    agreement with the County at that time.
12
13
    presented it to the County Commissioners to
    basically be their voice --
14
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okay.
16
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- for that area.
17
    And after that, I was given the EMA Coordinator
18
    position for the City.
19
        And that is something that I really like and I
20
    have enjoyed doing. But with that comes a lot of
21
    responsibility. You're either going to be the
22
23
    hero, or you're going to be the goat --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Right.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- one of the two.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    It's not about --
28
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```
MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    And, knock on wood,
1
2
    we haven't had a -- had a storm since. So it's
    just a matter of time before it comes.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    Okav. Well, as I told the other ones, I take it as
5
    a complement that you would even apply for the
6
    position to want to work for us.
7
        I have family member that work in your area
8
    regularly. And they speak highly of you. So thank
9
    you.
10
11
            MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    Well, I appreciate
           They are some of the finest.
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Well, I'm a little prejudiced.
14
15
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Laid the block on my
    house.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Hopefully he laid it right. Thank you so much.
18
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    But I -- I would
19
    like to leave you with this. Knowing that what
20
    position entails, knowing how fast this county is
21
    growing, knowing the different environmental
22
23
    aspects that you have, just what we're talking
    about, whether it's Fish and Wildlife, ADEM on the
24
25
    coast, but also taking that and applying it to,
    say, Little River, Fairhope, there's so many
26
    different -- there's a huge range.
27
        And growing up in Bay Minette and knowing the
28
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demographics there, knowing what you would apply
2
    there would be different from Gulf Shores, from an
    Ono Island, from a Fairhope area, you know, Point
3
    Clear areas of the world, I think that's why
4
    knowing my salary range and knowing -- knowing that
5
    if you work for one city, it's easy to apply
6
    ordinances, because you're within that one range,
7
    and knowing what all it's going to take and being
8
    able to take that into the future. I think you'll
9
    get your money's worth.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    And we serve at large. We serve at large as well.
12
13
    So I've had to learn about Little River, too.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Brandan,
14
    if you -- if you were to assume this position, you
15
    don't have a problem -- I mean, you already drove
16
    18 years. Could you get used to driving back to
17
    Bay Minette every day?
18
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Well, that was --
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    You don't have to --
21
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: -- that was one of
22
23
    the questions, office location.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
24
25
    Right now it's in Foley.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: It's in
26
    Foley. That's right.
27
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
28
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That's where -- that's the main office. We've got
2
    our --
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Foley
3
    and Fairhope.
4
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
5
    We've got our coastal program there and everything
6
    else. You know, and that's where -- that's where
7
    Mike has kind of made home.
8
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I was
9
    just messing with you Brandan.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: But
    he's got --
12
13
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Main headquarters
    and expectations and visiting each location. So
14
15
    that wasn't nice, Jeb.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: You
16
    know Kim? You know Kim, don't you?
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    mean, you can always evolve your -- your
19
    department. I've learned a lot from -- Okay.
20
    might have mixed a little mud and struck a few
21
    joints in my life, but I am not -- it's not my
22
23
    profession; okay? I'm a CPA. Numbers are my
    thing, not building codes. But I would just say
24
25
    that I've learned a lot from listening to all the
    different applicants today --
26
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sure.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
28
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UNDERWOOD: -- about opportunities with technology,
2
    different things like that. So I think that
    whoever gets this position has an opportunity to
3
    build this department the way they want, with
4
    having the -- the maybe lesser experienced staff.
5
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                    Okay.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: You set the
7
    new bar.
8
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Mike has done a fine
9
    job, but I really think --
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
           There's nothing wrong -- I'm not saying --
12
    Yeah.
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Taking it to
14
    a --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    Yeah.
16
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- new level.
17
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
18
    It's a new day. It's a new day.
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sure.
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
    It's a new day. Every day is a new day.
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: It is.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    We can't go back to yesterday, no matter what we
    want to do.
26
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: And that's --
27
    knowing that and just knowing what -- having that
28
```

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relationship already with the County and County
2
    employees and knowing the differences between the
    different departments and knowing some of the ideas
3
    you can bring into this is -- is -- it's exciting.
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Well, thank you so much.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Very good.
7
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Thanks,
8
    Brandan.
9
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Pleasure meeting
10
11
    you.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
12
13
    Nice to meet you.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
14
    Take care. Appreciate it.
15
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN: Thank you. Coming
16
    in last, I didn't know if it was good or bad.
17
18
    They're probably going to be hungry.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    I'm hungry.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Oh, yeah.
21
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: We've
22
23
    got 15 minutes to make another meeting.
             MR. BRANDAN FRANKLIN:
                                     Thank you.
24
             MR. WAYNE DYESS: Speaking of food, do you
25
    want us to get food for y'all before the next
26
27
    meeting?
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
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```
I -- I don't mind just --
             MR. WAYNE DYESS: We could go get some,
2
    bring in some Subway or something.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
5
    Bring us in, then we can finish this out, or do
    y'all want to --
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: We need
7
    finish it.
8
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah, we need
9
    t.o.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okav.
12
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah, that
13
    would be --
14
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
    would like a Zaxby's salad.
16
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: We've
17
    got a Chris Elliott meeting at 1:30.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    Well, if we're late, we're late. I mean --
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Where is that
21
    meeting?
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I don't
    want anything. Right here.
24
25
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    I'll go get my own food. Don't bring me anything,
27
    if they're not eating.
28
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COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah. Let's
1
    take a new minutes to do whatever we need to do.
2
    We have some scoring to do.
3
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Should
4
    we take Edward Lowe's name off the chart?
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah. Sounds
6
    like he, in effect, withdrew it. And I understand
7
    it.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: Who
9
    is that?
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: The guy,
    Edward Lowe, with the retirement thing.
12
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah.
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
15
    didn't even rate him because of --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
16
    Retirement is going to kill him.
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Reminder.
18
    We've got a special meeting at 10:30 today, and we
19
    have one at 1:30.
20
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Did you
21
22
    just now get that?
23
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I just now
    got that.
24
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: We just
25
    went to the one at 10:30.
26
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah, I know.
27
    But I thought it interesting that I just got
28
```

```
informed about it.
2
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So a
    reminder.
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah. A
4
    reminder vou're late.
5
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Going to go on the
6
    record to say that Edward Lowe asked me no less
7
    than 15 questions about the job, but not at one
8
    time did he ever ask me --
9
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: About the
10
    benefits --
11
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: -- about retirement and
12
13
    how it worked and subcontracting.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: That's
14
    what I was asking Commissioner Gruber. I was like,
15
    why didn't he ever asked that? It's crazy that he
16
    didn't think about it.
17
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: He asked me about County
18
    car. He asked me about Skyping. He asked me about
19
    bonuses or longevity.
20
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: And so
21
    we've giving you numbers on these?
22
23
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Yes.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So my
24
25
    numbers are --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    What's that I smell?
27
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Probably my lunch.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    Oh, no. It's the marker. I smelled a chemical.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
3
    numbers for Erik is a 31 overall. I don't think
4
5
    Joe has got his added up yet.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I haven't got
6
    mine. Give me a second.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    I'm not ready yet.
9
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Do you want me to go
10
    down the line for all of y'all?
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Okay.
12
13
    Lance, Lance 39. Eric Butler was a 31. Eddie
    Harper was a 39. Mark Savasta, a 29. And Brandan
14
15
    Franklin, a 42.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: Got
16
    yours ready?
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I'm
18
    done.
19
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
20
    Have you got yours ready, Joe?
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yes, I do.
22
23
    Let's do Lance Jones, I've got him at 42. Eric
    Butler, I've got him a 34. Eddie Harper, I've got
24
25
    him at 43. Mark -- Starts with an S, last name --
    32. I've got Erik, 35. And then Brandan Franklin,
26
    I'm pulling it, because of the compensation.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
```

```
Okay.
2
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: So I don't
    see us -- well, I won't say anything.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    Okav. I'm readv. Erik Cortinas, 37. Lance
5
    Jones -- wait a minute. I might have added this
6
                 32.5. Let me make sure I added that
    wrong. No.
7
    right. One, two, three, four, five, six.
8
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Sometime I do halves.
9
    Depends.
10
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
11
    Oh, I missed this last one. Hang on a minute.
12
    put the total in the last one, so I don't have one
13
    in this last one. It'd be 35. I didn't think that
14
15
    was right.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I'm just
16
    curious. How did you get a .5? Did you just think
17
    it was a .5?
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
20
    I've been doing a half.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Oh.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    Can you only do a whole?
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: No. You can do half.
24
25
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: You can do
    half. Sorry. I was just curious.
26
27
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Sometime I do it when
    it's more I'm a little -- not quite --
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
2
    Not quite a 3, not quite a 4.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I understand.
3
    I just had to ask.
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Did that help you out, Joe?
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: It did.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Eric Butler 31. Eddie Harper 38.5. Mark Savasta
9
    32.5. Brandan Franklin 36. But I'm kind of like
10
11
    Joe with the compensation. Okay.
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: All
12
    right. 22.
13
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Erik?
14
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
15
    Erik. 20, 20, 21, 28, and 34.
16
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: All right. I can't
17
    count this in my head if we want to be accurate.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
19
    think you need to be accurate.
20
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I can make -- I can give
21
22
    it a good go.
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: We need
    to -- I think we need to definitely have a
24
25
    discussion --
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: We do.
26
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- on
27
    the bottom one.
28
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```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    Okay. Let's have a discussion on the bottom one.
    His requested amount is basically $130,000 -- 129
3
    and some-odd dollars. And that would be the second
 4
5
    highest paid position in the County at this point
    in time.
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
7
                                                 Does
    that matter?
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
    Does that matter?
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Well, it matters to me as far as it wasn't what was
12
13
    even advertised.
        And I think that he sounds extremely happy with
14
    the job that he has in Gulf Shores right now and
15
    doesn't want to take less pay.
16
        But, at the same time, he would be willing to
17
    come here if he had at least equal pay or more.
18
    But I don't think that this job -- it's fair to
19
    this job to set this position up that much higher
20
    than -- than what we had conceptually thought about
21
    it.
22
23
        And -- the fact that he's doing more duties in
    Gulf Shores than he would be doing overall, I mean,
24
25
    being EMA Director, we pay EMA Director another
    90-plus thousand dollars.
26
        So -- so that's just why I asked the question
27
28
    going in.
               That faucet is dripping.
                                          That's
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bothering me.
                   Hold on.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Well, and my
2
    point is we advertised the job. We gave a range.
3
        Deidra did he reach out to you and ask you any
4
    questions about the range?
5
                                No, sir.
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK:
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: It's a little
7
    presumptuous, I think, that you can come in and
8
    blow people away to the point that you're going to
9
    go beyond your range.
10
11
        The range is reasonable. Then everybody else
    that's a contracted person -- I mean, we've got
12
13
    people that are under 100,000. They don't always
    have to be in the same nest.
14
        But it's a little presumptuous that you can
15
    apply for a job and then go in and ask for more pay
16
    than what's presented.
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
18
    our top jobs that he have our contracts, if we
19
    ranked them, would be our Highway Engineer and then
20
    our Building Official, and then they go from there.
21
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
22
23
    But, you know --
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
24
    and Mike's retiring. We're losing two more.
25
    boy right there at bottom has got more experience
26
    than any of those people combined up there.
27
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
28
                                                        Ι
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only --
2
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Well, not only that, I mean, you know, I looked at
3
    his experience with Baldwin County and --
4
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: He has a
5
    coastal community.
6
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER --
7
    plus this position has been underpaid for many
8
    years. And it's been discussed. And that's one of
9
    the reasons that Mike is leaving, is because, you
10
11
    know, he has people that come in that make -- that
    were given more money than he was given.
12
        And this is -- this is -- this is an
13
    important -- an important job. I mean --
14
15
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: They're all
    important. We shouldn't --
16
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
17
    We've got people that --
18
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- have them
19
    if they're not important.
20
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
21
    We've got people that depend on this. I mean, and
22
23
    I don't want to take this thing lightly as --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Well, okay.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So how
26
    can we even score Brandan then?
27
28
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      We
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can't.
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    We can't.
3
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Well, I
4
5
    mean --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
6
    that's -- that's a shame, to me. You know, I mean,
7
    looking at -- we're looking at, to me, one of the,
8
    you know -- what -- we -- three of us at least
9
    think he was a fairly top candidate. And then now
10
11
    we're just throwing him --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
12
13
    Well --
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER: I
14
    mean -- and, I mean, the -- the decision is what we
15
    want to do with the salary.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Okay. Well, it's obvious that he is Jeb's and
18
    Skip's top candidate. He was not my top candidate.
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: He's not
20
    mine, either.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    And so if you would like for Joe to score him, we
    can score him and do the totals. That's all I know
24
25
    to do. Feedback?
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: It can't
26
    be done like that, not in my opinion, because all
27
28
    you've got to do is some numbers up in your head
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and get him lower than everybody else. And then
2
    it's, you know --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
3
    Well, that can kind of work on any of them.
4
                                                   You
    can kind of make the numbers work on the one you
5
    want.
6
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Sure.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    You know?
9
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: How? I
10
11
    just gave you my --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
12
13
    I'm just saying --
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I gave
14
15
    you my --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    I'm talking about when you're ranking them, when
17
    ranking them. You have to somehow know that, you
18
    know, kind of in your mind which one was your top,
19
20
    you know -- I don't think it's a surprise when you
    get to the bottom which one comes out on top by the
21
    numbers.
22
23
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    Well, some of the top ones where they're ranked
24
25
    right now don't even have half the certificates
    that they need to be here anyway.
26
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
27
    Well, I think --
28
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```
COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Then we
1
2
    shouldn't have interviewed them if that was a
    requirement.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    Well --
5
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      Ιt
6
    is.
7
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: No.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
9
                                                      Ιt
    is.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: If we
    required them to have it all before we interviewed
12
    them, then we should have said so.
13
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
                                                      Ιt
14
15
    was -- it was -- it was in the job application.
    It's required that you have this. And we pulled
16
    out everybody that had the closest we could to
17
    having these -- most of these certificates. Am I
18
    not right?
19
20
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: The way that it's worded
    in the job description, the only requirement is the
21
    Building Official certification within the first
22
23
    year of employment. The rest of them, I had asked
    Mike of what the job needed to have, and the other
24
25
    ones are what he listed.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Well, he's not -- Erik Cortinas is not the highest.
27
    And he's probably -- out of the scores we have.
28
```

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But he has every certification that Brandan has,
2
    according to the spreadsheet that you gave us.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
5
    And so does one other person. I can't remember
    which one.
6
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: The one that --
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Mark.
9
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: -- pulled his thing.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Mark or --
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Lowe,
    Lowe had all of them.
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
15
    So --
16
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: All right.
17
    If you need me to put a number -- And I'm not going
18
    pull one out of the hat, because there's my form.
19
    It just happens to be my lowest score. It's a 30.
20
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: 30.
21
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: And there is
22
23
    it right there.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    And it was already written.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: It was
26
    already written down. But I pulled it because he
27
    says the only way he'd take it is us giving him
28
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```
more money. Okay. We may miss on him, but we may
1
2
    have lost him next year to something else. So I
    was not that impressed.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
5
    Well, it was also the same thing that happened when
    he left Gulf Shores, you know, the first time was
6
7
    about money. So --
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Hey, I
8
    understand you've got to take care of your family.
9
    But to apply for a job that you already knew you
10
11
    won't take the salary range, that was wasting his
    time and my time as far as I'm concerned.
12
13
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK:
                                Okay. So we have the
    total of the four. We have the average of the
14
15
    four. And then I took out the lowest and the
    highest. And this is what the average is in the
16
    green. And so Eddie Harper scored the highest on
17
    both -- No. Excuse me. He scored higher -- Am I
18
    losing my mind?
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    Got a regular calculator?
21
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: You know what? Y'all
22
23
    continue to talk amongst yourselves. Apparently I
    have --
24
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
25
    I'll help you out if you'll scoot over a little bit
26
    where I can see all the numbers. Thank you, ma'am.
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
28
                                               Tell me
```

```
that concept again, how you arrived at all that.
2
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Last time we had -- we
    took out the highest and lowest of each one when we
3
    did the Clerk/Treasurer to make sure --
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Well, the highest is 42. Okay. 42 and 30. And so
6
    you're getting an --
7
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: And so
8
    like on Lance Jones --
9
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
10
    35, what's your 35? What's that circled number
11
    mean?
12
13
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I was just trying to --
           So this is where I took out highest the
14
15
    lowest and I averaged these two.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Okay.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    So you averaged the two middle numbers?
18
    averaged the middle numbers?
19
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Yeah.
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
21
    Okay. Well, then that's correct. It is 35 then on
22
23
    the middle, the middle numbers, 36 and 34 at the
    very bottom. Okay. And then the middle numbers,
24
25
    the 43 and 21 on Harper?
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: So Franklin is out by
26
    just a little bit, by taking out the highest and
27
    the lowest, than Eddie Harper.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    38.75. Yes.
2
                  38.75. Yes.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: What's
3
    the --
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    Eddie Harper does get the highest.
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: What was
7
    the salary range, Deidra? I can't remember.
8
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I believe we posted it
9
    90 to 110.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Well, are we ready to make an offer or not today?
12
13
    In the past, we have.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I'm okay with
14
    it. But evidently some feel that --
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    Well, I think that probably two are and two aren't.
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
18
    I'm okay with it. If that's how it worked out, I'm
19
    okay with it. We've been okay every other time
20
    we've done this.
21
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
22
23
    Okay.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: The high -- I
24
    mean, throwing out the high/low, I mean, that's
25
    something I might have mentioned way back, but
26
    that's -- that keeps things from being unduly
27
28
    skewed either way.
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    True.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: So then you
3
    get the average of the other two. I'm okay with
4
    it.
5
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    Well, then Mr. Harper got the highest scores. Do
7
    we asked -- He's asked for a range between 90 and
8
9
    110. Anyone want to make a suggestion on a
    price -- I mean, not a price.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: What's
    he making now?
12
13
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah. Do we
    know his compensation now?
14
15
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: He gave me that.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    Well, if he said 90's good and he's still got to
17
    get his certification, do we want to give him --
18
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Well, that's
19
    another thing to consider. If somebody's got to --
20
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: The only
21
    certification he's lacking is Building Official.
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    That's it.
24
25
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
    That's the only one he's got.
26
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
27
                                                 No.
    That's the only one he's lacking.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
1
2
    The only one lacking. And he did make the
    explanation as to why he didn't actually have it.
3
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: That's right.
4
5
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: All right. So his
    salary -- salary request is 93,600.
6
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
7
    Well, do we want to offer him 93,600?
8
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Offer him 95.
9
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
10
    95?
11
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Without
12
    the certificate?
13
             COMMISSIONER CHARLES F. (SKIP) GRUBER:
14
15
    Without --
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Well 93 and
16
    then --
17
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Well, if
18
    we offer him 93 and --
19
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- when he
20
    gets --
21
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: -- when
22
23
    he gets the certificate, give him a boost.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: That would be
24
25
    good.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Okay. That would be good.
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Offer
28
```

```
him what he wanted.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
2
    Offer him the 93,600, you said?
3
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Uh-huh. (Indicates
4
5
    affirmatively.)
             MR. WAYNE DYESS: Now, did you say he had
6
    to have it before -- within a year?
7
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Within a year.
8
             MR. WAYNE DYESS: Is that just our policy
9
10
    or --
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: That's what the job
11
    description has.
12
13
             MR. WAYNE DYESS:
                               Okay.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
14
    Do we want -- is it -- would it be put in place
15
    once he comes -- or just give him his annual
16
    review?
17
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Do an annual review.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
19
    Okay. All right. He just has to complete it
20
    within one year anyway?
21
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Yes.
22
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Okay. All right. Well, okay.
24
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Do we know
25
    when these people are available and how soon do we
26
    need them available?
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I think
28
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he was one that gave two-weeks notice.
            MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Yeah, he said two weeks.
2
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: He's
3
    City of Orange Beach, so he's cut and dry.
4
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Oh, veah.
    He's as tech savvy -- He's the most tech savvy --
6
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
7
    yeah. He built that program and all that stuff.
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
9
    He's the one that went out on the job site and my
10
11
    nephew was using a drone. And we went back to his
    office and asked -- trying to figure out a way that
12
13
    they could use a drone.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: He is --
14
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
                                                        Т
15
    never met these guys before. Just because my
16
    brother works in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach don't
17
    have nothing to do with me.
18
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I don't know
19
    any of them and --
20
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
21
    never met one of them.
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
    he's -- I liked him. And he -- he did development
24
25
    a whole computer software system that made them --
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Very tech --
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
28
```

```
totally paperless.
2
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: So any
3
    way we advance our --
4
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
5
    You know, we probably wouldn't go wrong with
6
    anybody on that board.
7
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Well, I --
8
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
9
    You know what I'm saying?
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I'm not
    saying we would go wrong.
12
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
13
    But I'm just saying that, you know -- Okay. Do you
14
1.5
    want to --
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I'll call him and offer
16
    him the position. And then do we want to talk
17
    about reimbursing Mr. Savasta?
18
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL:
19
    decided to do that, I thought.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I think
21
    that'd be the appropriate thing to do.
22
23
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Right.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: He's not
24
    asking for transportation --
25
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    No. He was a --
27
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- to and --
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
2
    UNDERWOOD: -- very nice man.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- from.
3
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
4
    Very nice man.
5
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: He's
6
    asking for, what, $325?
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
8
    Very nice man.
9
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah, yeah.
10
11
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    Very, very nice man. Matter of fact, I learned
12
13
    something from him.
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Yeah. He's
14
    going move to paradise, too.
15
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
16
    That's right.
17
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I think.
18
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
19
20
    think that's awesome about the credits.
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Mr. Harper just sent me
21
    a thank you note for the interview.
22
23
            MR. WAYNE DYESS: That's good timing,
    wasn't it?
24
25
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Good timing.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
26
    Well, do you want to see --
27
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Do we
28
```

```
just --
2
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
    What's the protocol?
3
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I'm going to let y'all
4
    eat. And I'll go ahead call him, if you'd like.
5
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
6
    I'd like to get some food.
7
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Give all this
8
    back?
9
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: Yes, I need those.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: All right.
    I've got to say the conversation and the dialog
12
13
    that we've shared coming to this point stays in
                Is that --
    this room.
14
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: No.
15
    It's public record.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Public record.
18
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I mean, I don't discuss
19
    it.
20
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: Okay. Well,
21
    it's public record. So anybody -- any of the
22
23
    applicants can -- Okay. That's fine.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: I think,
24
    if they want, they can go back and look through
25
    their folders; right?
26
             MS. DEIDRA HANAK: I've never had anybody
27
    request to come and look at their interview forms.
28
```

```
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
2
    Well --
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I was just
3
    thinking Susan was one of the team. I didn't think
4
    about it. It was a stupid question, wasn't it? I
5
    just don't want to have to explain to any of them
6
    why they didn't get it.
7
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
8
    actually -- I -- I don't even know one of them and
9
    T don't --
10
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I don't know
    any of them.
                  That --
12
13
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD: I
    just know --
14
15
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- made it
    much easier --
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
17
    UNDERWOOD: -- his wife.
18
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- for me.
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
                                                        Ι
20
    just know his wife.
21
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Who's
22
23
    that?
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
24
25
    Eric --
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Are we
26
27
    done?
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO
28
```

```
UNDERWOOD: -- Butler.
1
2
                         2 - ADJOURNMENT
3
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Can we
4
    have a motion to adjourn this meeting?
5
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I make that
6
7
    motion.
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Ask that
8
9
    question.
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
10
    Will you make that motion?
11
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: I will make a
12
    motion --
13
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Second.
14
             COMMISSIONER JOE DAVIS, III: -- that we
15
    adjourn this meeting.
16
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
17
    Second?
18
             COMMISSIONER JAMES E. (JEB) BALL: Second.
19
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
20
    Got a motion and a second. All those in favor,
21
22
    signify by saying aye.
              (Commissioners say "aye" in unison.)
23
             COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD:
                                                      Undeword.
24
    Thank y'all for helping me out. I'm a little
25
    tired.
26
    (The Baldwin County Commission Special Morki Session was
27
                     adjourned at 1:33 p.m.
28
```

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ALABAMA)
BALDWIN COUNTY)

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing transcript was taken down by me in stenotype and the proceedings were transcribed by means of computer-aided transcription, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the meeting given by said parties upon said meeting.

I further certify that I am neither of counsel nor of kin to the parties, nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said proceedings.

SUSAN C. ANDREWS,

Certified Court Reporter,

Certification No. 287

Dusan C. andrews

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