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Woman1: You know [00:00:20]

Woman2: Yes, do you have any insight as to why that was?

Man1: [00:00:24] people were in the room and he kind of made an ass out of himself the previous time, it was the second time it went before the commission and the first time [00:00:34].

Woman1: Yes, that was shameful.

Woman2: That's kind of normal.

Woman1: It was funny though too because when the vote went five to seven, he was going, five seven, five seven! But then he realized that he was assuming that...

Woman2: I'm going to go watch this now, now you guys are making me want to go watch this.

Woman1: I don't know if I ever watched it, but we were there. The funny thing about the first time, I mean he was really Braddy was really obnoxious, and there were young people there who had never been to board meetings before and so you know a couple of people made some unfortunate comments [00:01:15], but Brady goes on, he basically tells the whole group that these really important things, but what about you know, you set your [00:01:37] for the people of Alachua, what about the starving children, this is too dangerous. Is it because, and there was a young African American there who had spoken, he said, is there [00:01:52] they look like you?

Which was [00:01:55] but he said that public comments wouldn't let me speak, but I gave him the evil eye while he was up there. So then we went to an RUC meeting and he was there and I [00:02:10] what we were doing and I left the guys to follow me out and I'm like, whatever, and he proceeds to talk to me about finding some space, why he reacted the way he was and I told him exactly what I thought, and he was kind of apologetic which I was amazed and I was just surprised at why he came and wanted to talk to me and [00:02:35] I think that his pride had been dented.

Woman2: What's interesting is he, I mean you never really know, but my own personal opinion is that if Currie had not got a DUR right in the middle of the election, I don't think he ever would have been elected. I think that at this point he's really attempting to reach out to constituencies that he's historically been really very possible to and I mean my own personal opinion is that those constituencies are never going to vote for him, but I think, and I mean he's up against, I mean he's up in March [00:03:23] that's presidential prime area and I was on two primary presidential ballots in '96 and in 2004.

The turnout is more than twice what it would normally be and generally higher turnout in Gainesville is better for Democrats so I think that he's in trouble. His

personal life is a screaming mess, unbelievable. There's a potential he's going to get caught up in, there's an ongoing FDLE investigation having to do with the president of the police union for embezzlement. He embezzled like three hundred thousand dollars from the police unit, from his peers and he was this close with Brady.

But what he was doing was mis-spending on the police union's credit card and he and Brady had a very social, personal relationship and so FDLE is investigating whether he spent money on Ed Brady, which is a crime because you can't spend money on a public official if you lobby this public official, which of course, the police union lobbies the city of Gainesville more than anybody else, literally...maybe the Chamber... But I mean they're right up there with those organizations that lobby the city. So FDLE are actually investigating this, so time will tell.

Woman1: Well if Brady didn't know what money he was using, or is it just the lobbying part, not the spending part?

Woman 2: No, no there's actually an allegation that Brady solicited, you know he has a very bizarre set of personal circumstances and he has the allegation which is in writing that he was paying for Brady's hotel rooms to have liaisons. I mean it's very well known that he has many women at one time.

Woman1: Which is just, I mean he's not an appealing man so I don't know what these women are thinking.

Woman2: Anyway, he's a piece of work.

Woman1: He certainly is, and I think it's been so detrimental. The first two years he had, he did not provide any leadership, he enjoyed giving full rein to that one very vocal misinformed group led by Jim Conish and Nathan Skop[00:05:57] and I think the damage that's done...

Woman2: Oh it's terrible.

Woman1: To our opportunities to help GRU morph into a twenty first century utility and to do right in this community. We were ten years ahead and now they're just [00:06:18].

Woman2: Well and unfortunately I think a lot of the talent has left too. I think a lot of good people have flown the coop since, I mean some were just natural retirements.

Woman1: But to be treated the way that people have been treated from staff, not just with GRU, but I've seen it in other recruitments, and look at the calibre of what they're...

Woman3: That's been going on for a long time I think, from personal experience.

Woman1: I know, but the contrast between here and Martin County where I was active before, it's just insane the calibre we have here and how we abuse our squad leaders here and it hurts.

Woman2: Yes, I agree, I think those are real valid comments. I mean hopefully, I think you never know what's going to happen in this election, although I think the general, that I've seen, I think all three of them are good solid candidates and I think that they all have different pros and cons to them, and I think actually, I mean I've served with Scherwin supporting Yvonne, I did not realise she didn't do well on this issue, but...

Woman1: But you convinced her that it would hurt her constituents, because she

Woman?: [00:07:39] since the election cycle she has [00:07:43] leadership, it seems [00:7:58]

Woman2: And Goston is just terrible, I mean he's the one I think if he were elected that would be real bad news, but I think that either Scherwin or Yvonne would be fine and I think that the general election, I mean I'm personally supporting Adrian, but I think that the other two are both okay.

Woman1: What do you think of Keith Perry as being a danger to our...

Woman2: Oh it's a terrible bill, although I will say, the good thing is that ultimately they cannot take GRU from Gainesville citizens now, the voting electorate, and the way it's written today is that it's written, I haven't read the most recent version to be honest with you, but last year he had something goofy that it wasn't all citizens voting, it was according to whether you have a utility account. It's very [00:09:01].

Woman1: He's changed that and he got rid of the clause in this bill that [00:09:08] is gone, that if this referendum occurred, if it passed, then whoever were currently hiring GOs would lose their job because that charter office would go away, and they would not be allowed to apply for one within the next GO and so...

Woman2: You know what, this is all about Skop wants to be the head of GRU, but he can't hold a job, I mean he's been fired from every job he's ever had.

Woman1: It's been written with [00:09:46]. It's written [00:09:45] Jim Konish

Woman2: Yes, it's Konish is definitely one of the authors, that's what I first thought.

Woman1: And they've sculpted this [00:09:56] that it would [00:09:58].

Woman2: Nobody would hire him.

Man1: [00:10:03] well but the difference is [00:10:10]

Woman1: All the citizens who showed [00:10:15].

[inaudible]

Woman1: Now I'm really glad I'm fired so that [00:10:34] I'm going back and I'm going to push this and the only thing GRU is supposed to be doing this providing electricity. That is their job, that's what they're supposed to do.

Woman2: Actually, they do water, waste-water, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications.

Woman1: [00:10:57]

Woman2: Well you know the thing actually I'm upset about is with the bill. I heard that Craig Carter was the first one to speak and said he started going through the bill and trying to fix things and then it was only a few pages in before he said, this is un-fixable and that's what I was talking about.

Woman1: I hope the attorneys see every single line.

Woman2: And then I was talking to a member of the GRU staff who shall remain nameless, but this person said the same thing, he said that, well, it was a he, said that GRU was contacted by Perry's office saying do you have amendments you would offer to this and I mean again this just shows this lack of political acumen that the GRU staff would never say, oh let us help you with your bill. I mean, even if they agreed with it, they wouldn't do it because it would be inappropriate, right?

But they actually said, internally, there's no way that this is, it's just too screwed up, but the thing [00:12:17] about Keith Perry though is his twelve million dollars request for the lake he lives on, but with no science, no engineering, no endorsements from anyone, no regulatory approval or plan. Twelve million bucks out of air. I mean [00:12:34]. Bivens Arm.

Well the other thing, I personally think that Biven Arm does need to be cleaned up, but one wouldn't ordinarily come up with a plan for how to do that, but the thing that gets me is I was of course working on that campaign and I never listen to the radio life is too short for that, but I have two close friends who do, Hutch and Jeanna Mastrodicasa who always let me know when they're talking about something that they think I should tune into, which sometimes I do, sometimes I don't, but Gina texted me and said, Keith Perry's on the evening show talking about Biven Arms.

So I turned on and he was contending that there was no plan for land [00:13:24] in Florida. Well actually, there's this thing called the Arc Commission that has a ten million dollar list of properties prioritised, you know and by the way Water Management districts has a process, the florida communities has a process - they all have scientifically sensible and appropriate people surveying on them. I mean I was actually asked by the Scott administration to serve on the Florida's community Trust for community

stress so I mean I said, well you don't have any money so I didn't apply, but long story short, of course there's a well-established program that we've implemented for twenty years in this state and the fact that you don't know that doesn't mean that there's no plan.

Then, on top of that in the delegation, we're going to get to you. At the delegation discussion that you have, they have a seven thirty in the morning meeting, they do [00:14:16]. Anyway, he said that Nathan Crabbe, he's a editorial writer asked a question, is the legislature going to misappropriate funds and Keith Perry said, that is a media fiction and then he puts in a twelve million dollar request for a lake outside his bedroom window with no background on it whatsoever and I'm like, you are ridiculous.

I don't think in four years, I don't think he's done any legislation, I don't think he's, you know, and again this literal [00:14:49] you want people to say [00:14:50]

Woman1: I know somebody who used to work for him and she is like [00:15:04].  
inaudible

Woman2: That's what I think, I said actually, I think he's

Woman1: He lives in our neighbourhood, right?

Woman2: Well he lives over in the duck pond.

Woman1: Oh does he?

Woman2: Yes, but I was told that he abused his first wife and by someone who knew her well and actually offered her shelter after. Yes I'm actually afraid of them both. Scott tailgated me, this far off my bumper, I was this close to slamming on my brakes because you know, he'd be charged and [00:15:44].

So where are we at?

Woman1: Well before you go into that, the thing which is Jim Konish obviously, is that there would be no charitable things in the bill. I mean it's very important, that there would be no charitable things and if someone couldn't pay their bill it's turned off period, no charitable programs.

Woman2: Why would they do that?

Woman3: [00:16:11] because you're interjecting values.

Woman3: That came straight out of Jim Konish [00:16:17] Hes trying to destroy the Grace Marketplace.

Woman1: And all the [00:16:24] programs and all renewable energy it's now eco-fossil fuel and that's all you're going to get.

Woman2: Well again, this is what I started to say there is that my reading of the bill is that the next primary election, which would be the presidential primary in '16, again a couple of good things about that. One is, it's going to be higher than normal turnout, two is, it's got the mayor's race on it, so you know we can be turning out people for two good things and apparently, I've heard through the grapevine – who did I hear this from? - , I heard that Braddy is not happy about Perry's bill because he doesn't want a bunch of environmental activists turning out to protect a utility and vote on the mayor's race on top of that, it's just like an additional organizing tool to get rid of him. I can't remember who told me that, but somebody [00:17:24]. He's actually perfectly intelligent, his problem is he's evil.

Woman1: I agree.

Woman2: Actually I have a friend who's a PhD psychologist and I said, what is wrong with him anyway and she goes, sociopath, and narcissist, like she'd already thought about it, a sociopath and narcissist. So I think that...

Woman1: I think when you know [00:17:48].

Woman2: Yes, wouldn't that be something? Well I think actually [00:17:52] I mean Craig Carter is a little...

Woman1: Actually I'm, when I first found out really upset and I was encouraged and I went to meet with him and I got really upset and then I went and listened some more and I went to meet with him again, and now I'm like, oh my gosh this guy is actually trying to work.

Woman2: Yes, I think he is, I think he's a decent guy

Woman1: He's much more open minded

Woman2: He is, he's much better, and he doesn't have some sort of severe personality deficiency as the other two do as far as I can tell and I think he's genuinely trying to get some stuff done, which I think the other two are mostly just trying to ?get spots on media?[00:18:31], and he's working hard with Lawrence Springs.

Woman1: Well also the affordable housing, I mean we were at the community development office and he brought Bruce Jones, who's [00:18:44] and he was, I mean you could tell from his comments that he's digging into things [00:18:50], he's like, we're not going to make a decision until we get everything together.

Woman2: Yes, I think he's much better than I anticipated to begin, so I think five of the seven are perfectly fine, it's just the two who are really off the deep end, and the problem is that they both have kind of bullying personalities so the rest of them sort of sit back and let them.

Woman1: There was that [00:19:19]. You don't do this, it's not in your being thank heavens [00:19:29] the whole space, especially when they're confident and just really [00:19:41].

Woman2: The good news is I think that it'll ultimately come to a vote, you know five to two would be unusual, but at least four on three, so we'll see. So where are we at?

Man1: So we've never really been totally single with focus, I mean the mountain top [00:20:08] was the easiest thing to gather most people around [00:20:12] and working on energy efficiency from the beginning too and so as I mentioned I think that you know Karen and I in particular and some other folks have been working on PACE, getting PACE passed.

Woman2: Yes, definitely, and we're getting close on that. [00:20:30].

Woman1: It's getting a little advice. Its getting a little dicey, a little strange.

Woman2: Why is that?

Woman1: Well some people, well a few people, including the Florida Bankers Association whoever they happen to be, which I'm not sure, filed saying it's unconstitutional because the assessment has a superior link to the mortgage rate and they do have some points, not that it's unconstitutional, but they have some points about its political centre. So that's I think their argument, I believe in June or July, the Supreme Court will decide if it's constitutional or not. I feel quite confident that they're going to say it's constitutional. The country attorney advised that they don't move forward until that [00:21:18] day, and that's not the only, I think there's a couple, at least one other case, but I think that's the most important one.

Woman2: Well you know, I'm familiar with subordination issue, what I'm kind of interested in though is even if that prevailed which I'm optimistic about that. I'm wondering even if it failed, couldn't they do a private PACE program for properties that aren't mortgaged, because I think some substantial percentage of properties don't have mortgages on them.

Woman1: Well it's not the residential, the residential that is another issue so what we had proposed was that they started commercial, all those couple of commissioners that were in favour of PACE would like to see it residential as well, and you're exactly right, you can do a lot of things, but then the bank's concern is, ok I don't have a mortgage so I do this, can I sell my house?

Woman2: Can I sell it, rights with the property, I hear you.

Woman1: Right, it's just that's going to be resolved but that's just going to take time so the idea is to start with commercial. Well, I talked to Don Davis and he helped me to understand what the Bankers' Association is talking about. There's two things that they're especially concerned about, one is obviously this superior lean and someone told the blog, guess it was the property appraiser - that the

banks, the mortgage companies have never liked the fact that taxes are superior, but there's nothing they can do about that, and of course we have solid waste assessments and these others that are all superior too, so I think they want to stop it.

But the big problem is, I didn't realize this, commercial properties can get mortgages without an escrow, and they used to generally not do that, and Don said that when the whole [00:23:06] everything that a lot of the banks got burned by that and so they're starting to require it. He said there are two things that would help the bankers be more comfortable, one is to require that they have to have escrow if they had a PACE assessment and the other one is the twenty percent statute, that you can do an assessment – you can do a PACE assessment for up to twenty percent of your just value, not taxable, just value, so he said some of the commercial organizations are at ninety percent.

So if they have a fairly new mortgage, they've got a ninety percent mortgage and then they add without the mortgage company having a say, add a twenty percent on then they're very concerned about that so he said if they could even say, I don't know if they could, if they could make that local parameters, but if they could say ten percent without a commission to the mortgage company, that and that they have to have an escrow, so that would make them more comfortable. So and when Don was out of town...

Woman2: Can that be required by ordinance do you know? I mean if the county adopted a PACE program that simply required that if there was a mortgage there be an escrow for the taxes and the PACE program.

Woman1: Well there would be for residential, but for commercials, that's what we don't know, the attorney would have to say that, but I spoke at that commission meeting and I said that Don wasn't able to be there, but my understanding of what he said was then I explained because they were talking about less buckets and parameters, they had gotten some of the same comments from people, the commissioners, and they were saying there should be a credit check and there should be a certain amount of equity. Now how much again, the attorney has to say how much they can put in the parameters you know that differs from statute, so that we don't know but I would think that they should be [00:25:03].

Woman2: I know them, he actually [00:25:19] for the county too and they used to be the city's bond counsel [00:25:20]

Woman1: Well they were also the county's and also Stewart was actually on the brief with Sarah Blakely from the firm. They were successful consultants, I worked closely with first Reagan and then Sarah on all the assessments and we did it all, the roads [00:25:38]. I like what they wrote about, first of all they don't have standing. There was public hearing and they never came to the hearing so they didn't comment?

Woman2: The bankers didn't?



Woman1: No, and then they filed after it, so clearly [00:25:56] then say, if they had standing, even if they had standing, this is it, they [00:26:05] even if this is not, so I feel that it's not, and I told them that, I didn't say that, but I just said, and I mentioned the fact that [00:26:21] were experts.

Woman2: Well to be honest I would envision the county commission having at least [00:26:31] and probably [00:26:31]. I mean I think Ken is really good on these issues but he is a realtor [00:26:38] so he probably has.

Woman1: He was the favourite.

Woman1: Yes, I think he's one of the one that were like that we need to do something, Ken was talking to some people, so he was saying, we need to take a look at [00:26:48] and had also obviously been in contact with them and Byerly and was likeumm he just wanted to go forward.

Woman2: I mean I would expect Byerly and Hutchto be the most solid and then I mean I would think then Ken, and I mean I think Chuck and Lee should be persuadable.

Woman1: Well they, we had then, we had unanimous, well when Susan was there it was up in air and she was more [00:27:16] but we had either unanimous or four out of five before the court case.

Man1: So I think what we're probably going to push for with this is that rather than the county just sitting on its hands until the big court decision that they go ahead and that they start making some steps moving forwards, putting in an RFQ, and really starting to vet the different PACE providers around the state so that when the Supreme Court decides the right way, the next day we can start.

Woman2: I mean there are some [00:27:46] county have a program and Tallahassee has one and there are.

Woman1: fourteen counties [00:27:57].

Woman2: How great is that?

Woman1: Where the dog walk came from.

Woman2: Oh that's good. I think Lee's is very good on these issues.

Woman1: She was kind of embarrassed at the previous meeting when someone said, Marion County[00:28:06] and weren't you there? And how did that happen?

Man1: So I think we're going kind of double back and have more conversation folks to make sure that this is still moving forward.

Woman1: Definitely.

Man1: While the Supreme Court figures stuff out, and really this conservation ordinance, I don't think any of us really envisioned something like this happening until after somebody like PACE is in place, because there needs to be available financing to [00:28:32]. PACE works really well for multi-family in particular, so we are like wanting to share this with people and get feedback and stuff like that and in the median term. We Just gave a presentation to E-Pac this week and I'm actually at a follow up meeting with Mary Alfred to [00:28:50].

Woman2: That's what Thomas sent me a text, his parents said, E-Pac? I'm like, I don't know.

Woman1: I wouldn't put them on E-Pac?.

Woman2: It's really weird, I don't like that. [00:29:01]

Man1: In general though we got [00:29:09]. Mary Alfred.

Woman2: Mary is solid. Mary is solid, he said that [00:29:15] Saive was dominating the the meeting.

Woman1: Who was the one at the end? That was JP something, that wasn't him was it?

Woman2: No, he's a [00:29:27] guy.

Man1: You know Thomas wrote this basically?

Woman2: Yes.

Man1: So you worked with him and some folks over at PRAC and I didn't print out the entire thing because at the end there's a lot of cases from other cities and it just made the document [00:29:38]. Basically we're wanting to solicit feedback from people, a wide variety of stakeholders, landlords, and that sort of thing, [00:29:50] obviously and just really have a conversation over the next several months, while stuff unfolds. So we'd love to get feedback and if you can think of any other folks that would talk to us, that would be fantastic and then I'm also thinking on Sunday we're all going to meet, I think we're going to go ahead with launching an online petition against Perry's bill, so really rally up some community support so I don't think that it will pass, but to me it's a good opportunity to show Perry the ass that he is, and really like, because you know I mean just if nothing else just that democracy [00:30:25] they aren't doing anything [00:30:27].

Woman2: Well the other thing, I mean I haven't recently, but I used to on a regular basis, go look at the rate compares, which again the reason the GRU does not make sense is because our average usage is less than eight hundred kilowatt hours per month and theirs are up at eleven hundred, but for some period of time, Newberry had higher rates than Gainesville did. I mean, and during this whole conversation, like six months ago. Now I don't know if they do today, but its like, are you trying to make everybody crazy? Are you trying to take over

dues? And then the example that I use, it's like it doesn't make anything worth paying for, can anyone name a single member of the board of Duke... of Clay....

Man1: Really? JEA is that what they're modelling after?

Woman1: I was encouraged at the workshop because even Chase and Brady were saying, oh the Lakeland Model, we could look at the Lakeland Model. I'm sure it's happened because Chase was just for JEA because it's doing it like business, like it's supposed to be, right?

Woman2: Yes, but JEA has had some serious problems in the last couple of years as well.

Woman1: They were doing pretty well.

Woman2: Well, here's a thing that I think is kind of interesting and it's gets way down into the weeds of [00:31:50] a lot of people are not able to absorb, but the, I don't know if you guys have paid attention and I don't know how the court challenges on different things or how they'll play out, but under the clean power plan, which is the Obama administration's efforts to comply with the carbon rules through the Clean Air Act, which is a Supreme Court decision, GREC has actually viewed very favorably so I do anticipate that when those come into full implementation, things will sort of even out some.

The other thing is, you know we have met the mercury rules and I mean they're, what's interesting with these guys I think, I don't know if you were to ask Brady or Chase, I don't think that'd understand anything about [00:32:39], but the reality is that we are further ahead regulatorily than you know, any of these other counties. I'm actually, in my free time I want to make up a chart of you know comparing utilities, I mean the rate compares are the only things we don't compare favourably on. I mean every other, I mean environmental regulation, even things like salaries and benefits because we have very, the city of Gainesville is very good with benefits, and very competitive salaries, and you just go down a line, it's like if all you care about is bills for the top fifteen percent of users or whatever.

Woman?: When we went out and we did a tour of GREC [00:33:27] well he explained to us because of taxes or something, they really aren't showing that properly, because they're doing, what is it? It's the way they divide up the rates with the fuel charge, instead of, anyway they're not really doing it accurately. It doesn't show the true picture and so it's because of taxes, that's why the city or GRU decided to do it.

Woman?: Right, because they're saving a lot in taxes by putting it in their fuel adjustment [00:34:06] and not in base .

Woman?: Right, that's what it is, yes.

Woman2: Who was this? Don Ruckland? See that's another thing too is that we really, first of all going back to your point Jason, to have a petition, I mean I think at some point we need to start a political action committee [00:34:24] and we need to raise and spend money. ultimately if the bill gets through the legislature and onto the ballot, we need to defeat it and the reality is that the good thing is that defeating the ballot measure is relatively easy.

Passing a ballot measure may or may not be easy, but defeating one, I mean all you really need to do is seed doubt into the minds of people that this is bad for x, y or z reasons and in general people like to be able to vote for appeal. I mean every time I served on the county charter commission fifteen years ago, there was discussion about, why was the clerk of the court and the supervised elections and the share of the elected appointed officials, and the bottom line is because people want to vote for whoever they can vote for. I mean, even if it's the same person twenty five years in a row, they want the opportunity to vote for that person and so I think this whole idea that we should appoint people, who are these people?

Who are these experts? I think that's what's particularly toxic about that bill which I frankly [00:35:35] that a few of us including myself, Craig, Ed Reagan and you know, you name it. If you had ever worked for or served on the board at a utility, you're ineligible to serve. I mean what's interesting to me, I mean I used to inspect GRUs facilities before I was ever elected to office and then I spent twelve years on the board, I have a Master's degree in Engineering and a PhD licence, but I'm not qualified to serve on a board of directors. I mean really? That's outrageous.

Woman1: The whole bill is.

Woman2: Yes, the whole bill, there are so many aspects of it that are outrageous that I think again it's kind of easy to be.

Man1: Well what I'd like to do is I want to send you the draft language I have for this petition next week and then what I'd like to do is sort of collect letters from, because I really think I try to draft the language in such a way that even people who are out like banging their heads against the wall at GRU or don't like GRU could still support the language because it's basically just about keeping governments here.

Woman2: Yes, it's in line with GRU.

Man1: And so I want to try to get a wide range of people from the area to write short little brief things on why they oppose the bill and then start rolling those out.

Woman2: I was told that chamber is opposed to this bill.

Woman1: Really?

Man1: Well they, what's his name, Denslow?

Woman2: Yes, Denslow.

Man1: He had a letter published recently in the Sun, that's sort of said the data points, He didn't say to me, I didn't read it, that he was opposing it, but he did say that these things have to be changed.

Woman2: He actually believes in changing the governance of the utilities because thanks to Perry's bill, it's a nightmare, but you know it's interesting, I actually presented to the chambers governance committee, which for whatever it's worth, I mean I know who was on the committee, they have twelve appointees on this committee, nine of the twelve are not residents of the city of Gainesville, nine of the twelve, and several of them, Mike Giampetro was one of the key leaders on it, he used to run Cox Cable at one point and Cox sued GRU and was a fight for years over the communications system. So there's one.

The guy with Perry-Parrish PPI, they were madder than hell over the city choosing Skanska to build the eastside operation centre instead of PPI. There's another axe to grind. I mean I could just go through them, there are several people with some kind of axe to grind against GRU. OH - Infinite Energy, I mean they want to buy and sell natural gas and then don't feel that [00:38:14] GRU has been open to their - opening up the market for that, so I could just go on, it's bizarre that all of these people sitting on there with some kind of axe to grind, but to me I can send you all the PowerPoint that Thomas and I are actually did it together, but at the end of the day my own personal baid is that that if people just feel like the current governance structure is bad, for whatever their reasons, what I personally would advocate is a system similar to the library and I served eleven years on the library board.

The library board is three city commissioners, then two county commissioners, then we added one school board member, so you would need a school board member. But if you had three city commissioners and two county commissioners, then the county residents who are impacted but GRU would have some representation on the board and it would select for the better of the city commissioners because not all of really know or care anything about utilities, but some of them do. It would still be directly elected officials, you would still, you wouldn't have some group of people who you're not sure exactly why are they doing this, what is their, whatever, and you could end up with some longer tenured people because the county doesn't have term limits So that's, if it had to be changed that's what I would do, but it would still need to be advisory to the city commission, because the city commission sets the transfer and the rates, all those kind of things.

Woman1: And that's kind of what came out of this meeting is that Mr Poe[00:40:01] and both presented ideas, and so they're going to meet together, thank heavens Dustin was there for GIO, that [00:40:16], I'm Dustin and I'm from Gmac [00:40:19].

Woman2: Well that's the thing is that Gainesville has had an energy advisory committee for thirty years.

Woman1: He said, it would be really nice if you invited Gmac[00:40:33] to this meeting about the whole advisory committee issue and they all went, oh yes.

Woman2: Well it's interesting.

Woman1: So anyway, and they all were talking about the Lakeland Model which I think has too many [00:40:50] about fourteen, and it has the three city, two county and then it has a diversity because they want to make sure they have gender and race and all this diversity, but I'd rather see things like because we are multi-faceted that we had a water expert, a waste expert.

Woman2: Water, waste water, telecommunications?

Woman1: Yes we don't need all Nathan Kops on there[00:41:16], anyway, but they are going to have a meeting, it would be nice if a few of us could be there just to hear what they're talking about and where they want to go because they have very responsive to all the criticisms of the Chamber, I think too much so, they have kind of acquiesced. [00:41:42].

Man1: That's what Rob suggested too, he suggested that when we roll out this petition and rally people against Perry's bill that we also create a forum for constructive ideas so like water issues people are talking about that actually would like to address some people's concerns and suggest changes to GRU without throwing the baby out with the bath water [00:42:02], and that's a good direction to go in.

Woman1: People really need information. The rate piece I'm putting together, I would love to get your expertise on it.

Woman2: Go ahead and send it to me. Yes, Tom has written a piece that I think Nathan Crabbe actually sent some response back. Nathan is contending that one of the reasons our rates or our bills are lower or our usage is lower is because of UF students and he said so many that live alone and I'm thinking, most UF students, A; do not live alone, B; are particularly not really not conservative with utility use.

Woman1: Even if they are, their apartments, we've got an intern who's like, you know there's nothing I can do on bill day, its way too hot because their apartments are not energy efficient.

Woman2: Yes, my nephew lived in a fourth floor of that one on southwest second avenue, it's actually owned by Nathan Collier and all of the heat goes rising up to the fourth floor, and it was just like a hotbox up there.

Woman?: [00:43:11] and after five minutes of no furnace working, it was getting cold so there is a need to insulate [00:43:33].

Woman2: Well it's poor construction among other things.

Man1: That's one of the things we're trying to do with the energy efficiency center is to identify areas that have been left out in terms of the position of really great energy efficiency efforts in this community, like small commercial and multi-family rentals have been totally left out of it and so we feel like that between the PACE and then something like this, we could really go back and hit t, because that's what a lot of the political conflict is. The people with lower bills, versus the people that never got those efficiency upgrades and do have really high bills [00:44:08] and really the answer to that is not lower rate, it's more efficient billing, so that's what we're trying to do. We've really been pushing and trying to steer this conversation away from rates and towards bills because that's ultimately, as long as this community is dependent on [00:44:25] that has to be the answer.

Woman2: Have you guys been to meet with the editorials at the Sun?

Woman1: I really want to go there. Jason has. I haven't been, but I want to.

Woman2: I bet it was focused on Gainesville Loves Mountains [00:44:41] more so than the actual efficiency and rate related issues because I do think in relatively short order it would be beneficial to kind of make the presence known that this is not, there is a thoughtful, engaged group of citizens who believe that many of the things that happened around efficiency, around solar, around renewables, they were done knowingly, they were done with beneficial outcomes, and there are you have just described, there are gaps.

There have been places that have been maybe consequences either that were unintended or just, this as you know, you probably know, we came very close to adopting an energy efficiency code that would have effected multi-family housing and we should have brought it back up, because I think that after Jack was re-elected he probably would have gone right back to being in favour of it, but it was literally right amidst all the election he was nervous about it, he didn't feel comfortable about pressing forward on it, so it's not like we never thought about it, so we didn't [00:45:57].

Man1: We went back and looked at that when we were working on this.

Woman2: Because that was actually, GRU was perfectly comfortable doing that and supportive of it.

Man1: Yes, and I initially presented this idea to the RUC when Susan Bottcher was [00:46:14] the chair and she was interested in the idea and had GRU come back and kind of vet what I has said, and so I believe it was Amy Parkis who did a presentation on what something like this would look like and their figures on how much it would save and things like that were more ambitious than what I had said initially, so the only thing they said when I talked to Jerry is that you don't want to be [00:46:34] this, but in general it really does hit some of these gaps. And this is definitely significantly more ambitious than the insulation standard, but this is also for us more of a conversation starter than anything so if we were to give the folks at RUC, you just said, you know, give us a wish list of what these requirements would be and have our starting

point and obviously whatever's going to happen will happen to it. This is definitely a long term conversation, but an important one.

Woman?: When it has been done in the cities, you can see that they have really responded so there is that to show [00:47:19].

Man1: Boulder in particular is the most impressive one, they sort of instituted this double thing. They've got the energy conservation units on one hand and on the other hand have started an internet smart program which is sort of a one stop shop where you can go to get energy audits, free retro fits, access to contractors, access to rebates and incentives all in one place, and so they did those two things side by side and they gave a window by 2019, all of their rental units have to be in compliance and of this year, which is still four years out from when it's required, already like over six thousand have been brought into compliance.

Woman1: Of seven thousand, less than eight thousand.

Woman2: They have less than eight thousand rentals?

Man1: No, no they have twenty thousand total rentals. They had seven thousand that they brought into the program already, of which six thousand have already come into compliance. So that's a really impressive program, and they've had the benefit of, you know they're the most recent community to do an energy proficient statement and they look at how it's played out in all these other communities, so something like that , I mean that's the other reason that we want to do this long flow because we want to have some sort of incentives and finance opportunities available for landlords and ideally have as many conversations with landlords as possible before this comes forward so that it's not us against them because I don't think that's necessary.

Woman2: Now explain to me, this is a very elementary question, but if you do a PACE program for landlords and they have individual utility accounts for their units, is there a way of encouraging, I mean is there a way of sort of making that work or is it really primarily on beneficial for those permanent complexes that have a unified utility account and they have a single, like you pay these together?

Man1: Talking about PACE?

Woman2: Yes.

Man1: Well to me.

Woman2: Because the landowner pays the property taxes, I mean they do pass it on, obviously, but.

Woman1: This is the split, it's not for the [00:49:23], this is a split incentive issue, which is very important, but there are again, Krakis has done this and he's in Orlando and there have been some other studies done which have shown not only did it



lower the tenant's bills, but had a lower maintenance cost, so that [00:49:42], they even quantified, which is, so that, I can't remember how much, but they quantified the cost of turning over an apartment.

Woman3: Eighteen thousand dollars, something like that.

Woman1: And so they showed a financial benefit to the property owner of doing it, so you have to make that clear to the tenant, it helps with their bills, so there are advantages.

Man1: And even if it does raise rents to some degree, which I don't think it probably would, the idea is that lower total housing cost, so really having these conversations about what our total housing cost, rent and utilities is lower, because that's really what we want to achieve.

Woman1: and comfort too, and health.

Woman4: I remember having a student [00:50:36] from [00:50:39] and I'm sure the rent maybe [00:50:46]. [[inaudible]]

Man1: If you're poor and you're living in sub-standard housing and you have to move because of utility bills, it may not be your choice as far as where you're going to move and you move somewhere else that's going to have high utilities.

Woman2: Yes, I found that, I mean I wonder if there's a source of this data like through the census or something, but I'm curious as to of the rental housing in the GRU service territory, do we have a sense of what percentage is students, versus market rate non-students, versus lower income related, or affordable, accessible?

Woman4: I know somebody [00:51:26].[[inaudible]]

Woman2: Is that Frank, Frank Linderberger?

Woman 4: Yes.

Woman2: Yes, I know Frank well.

Woman?: Frank would know how to [00:51:38]. This was from the study for energy efficiency leader QT report in 2007 from the GRU website and it says not everyone classified as low income is in need, so it was northeast and southeast, so I'm assuming that there was some studying done. [00:52:05]

Woman1: Grec has, not Grec, Geac has people working on it, other than that I don't know, but they have maps of where the cut-offs are, and it's pretty much a low income neighbourhood, southwest and some of the others, and so there is quite a bit of data that we have been questioned whether they have been broken down and advised [00:52:31].

Woman2: Well and actually the thing that Frank Lamberger has been trying to figure out, and he's gotten a huge data dump from GRU on it, is to what extent are the cut-offs actually associated with non-payment of the bill versus what are sort of the natural courses of having fifty thousand students and you're giving [00:52:58], what's interesting to me is I know a number of people who have had their utilities, because they would call me, that were what I would described as upper income people who don't have good control of their lives. I mean there are a lot of people, I mean my bills are all on automatic pay, because I travel, I have three small kids, I work full time, but a lot of people don't do that and then they let their bill go, and then their utilities are cut off and then they call me, but if they know my number, they're not generally a wildly disadvantaged person.

Woman3: I've had clients like that, I mean they're professional, they're doing well, but they don't have it on auto-pay and they forget, and they [00:53:41].

Woman?: They don't pay on time, you pay one day late, and.

Woman2: Well the reason is cause you're well, I mean, they bill in arrears, they bill like thirty days in arrears and then there's twenty one days to pay the bill and then they do send in a cut-off notice, they will send you a cut-off notice.

Woman1: So you're over a month behind.

Woman3: Initially I thought that a bill would come in by the second, but no it's every twenty eight days, so you would think that.

Woman2: Yes, so it's not the same as a mortgage, it's a little bit different than that.

Woman4: So you need to pay attention.

Woman?: Exactly. I really wonder about electricity because we do lump all these different things together, what is actually electric and what's water, does that really matter because I think that people ask that. I've had people come over and offer to help do dishes, we don't have a dishwasher, and they just turn the water on and start walking around the kitchen, and I'm like, no! And then people if they've sprung a leak, or they have a constantly running toilet, or a water leak somewhere, or they turn on the hose to wash the car. So how much water use and how much is electric.

Man1: Well with water you're paying twice too, that's the thing you have to remember.

Woman2: Water and waste water.

Man1: So water is a significant contributor to the bill.

Woman3: And I would wonder that because when I talk to people, it's GRU bill, and I wonder how many people are locking the electric part where all this hullaboo

which is the electric, but they're not looking at the electric is more than fifty eight dollars out of my hundred and seventy dollar bill.

Woman2: Well one thing that Frank actually did learn in looking at all of this stuff is that, the, I've lost my train of thought, sorry, had to do with the cut-offs and the.

Woman4: [00:55:57]

Woman2: No, I don't think so, he's on the Sierra Club [00:56:01] and I mean he can't stand Ed Brady is part of his table, so he's constantly trying to sort of put a [00:56:10]. He said something about, there's something he said that I want to know, yes, there was something interesting that Frank discovered about the data. Oh, I know what it was.

Woman3: People are paying just because they're.

Woman2: Well Konish has been standing for this but I mean I can't watch the city commission meetings, I mean it's too much, really, it's too much, but Konish has been standing up and saying the costs have gone up since GREC came on board and that's not true, they're actually down from 2010.

Woman3: Okay.

Woman2: I mean, this is according to Frank Lynbergger, I went through the data myself, but what I said to Frank was, I would make sure that you understand, I mean 2010 was obviously the height of recession and so it's also you have to sort of have to keep various things in mind, but the other thing I suggested he look at was whether or not the cut-off policy has changed at all because that is a kind of policy issue that the commission could say, you know you have to be more than x amount and I mean it wouldn't stand up for a staff representation [00:57:12].

But if they've changed the cut-off policy since 2010, they should be cautious about making sweeping statements, but he says that they're down substantially since 2010. This whole notion that we are all being killed by Grec, the other thing that Lauren Poe told me is that eighty six percent of residential users remain at that lower two tiers, and the thing that's [00:57:43] me is that I need to go find that document online, but the thing that's interesting to me is that in Rob Brinkman was always sort of.

Woman3: Its eighty eight point seven are residential and eighty six percent of residential are under a thousand, I think it's seven

Woman2: Is it under a thousand?

Woman3: No, I think the average was.

Woman2: Yes, there are three tiers.

Woman3: Seven eighty four is my recollection

Woman2: Yes, it's under eight hundred.

Woman3: I just wrote to GRU to get that information and they sent me this very convoluted answer because I wanted to check Lawrence and my numbers because I had seven eighty four and he had eight twenty three, which is what.

Woman2: Well see this is the other thing I think we ought to get if we don't have it already and kind/.....Lauren made reference to the base rate committee which he serves on and it was a document that was provided to the base rate committee so I'm sure it's on the city's website, but the thing that I'm interested in is how has energy use changed over time. I mean is it, I mean my perception of it is, it is going down, and you know firmly it is, because we acted, and here's the other that's interesting.

The other thing I'd like to look at is, you guys may know this, your first number of years, starting in about 07 up through after I left in 2010, we were giving out very substantial commercial incentives, matched one for one- up to fifty thousand dollars per site, so there are plenty of and commercial businesses. I mean, Florida Food Service was one example which I know for sure had a fifty thousand dollar grant from GRU, so and then obviously their usage went down, but I would be kind of interested, and this was actually something I really thought I'd do, at the end [00:59:45] people that came in, what would be the commercial rate for a business like that in Jacksonville, or in Orlando, and then you think fifty thousand dollars on top of that, because that's a substantial chunk of change.

The other thing I'd really like to look at is sort of the all in cost of like businesses in different jurisdictions and the one that pops into my mind, because you know there are some in every one of these cities, Publix. If you found, say you found, five Publix's, or just one in Gainesville, one in Orlando, one in Lakeland, one in Tallahassee and one in Jacksonville.

Woman3: That's brilliant, I love it.

Woman2: But you need to look at you need to find like size, a hundred thousand square feet, a hundred and fifty thousand square feet, whatever they are, and look at their all in cost, their utility bill per year, their water, waste water, property taxes, if there's a solid waste assessment or a fire assessment and compare what the Publix in each one of these five jurisdictions pays at the end of the year, because I damn guarantee you [01:00:56] it's not that much different. I mean it can't possibly be, and then what're the costs of running Publix?

The big cost is labor, so the nation that love their twenty seven percent, I mean I know that Tallahassee did what was called a cost of service study a number of years ago, but at that time, and it may have been at the height of the profit of natural gas, totally on natural gas. Actually I have a meeting with one of the city commissioners later to Skype about our solar fuel program, because they're going to try to increase their solar deployment in Tallahassee, , which I

will come back to in a moment, but anyway I think that would be a really valid thing to do, is to look at the all in cost of local government services plus utilities in each of these five cities.

And I don't think, because they're all public utilities, it's all publicly accessible information, you'd just have to go on the property appraisers [01:01:55] website and find a like sized Publix in each one of these jurisdictions and then put in the public records request form. I mean their property tax bill should be on the county website for each one of these counties, but the other things, like full in costs of utilities, you'd probably have to go and do a public records request.

Man1: Well that story about the commercial rebates hasn't been adequately told. They sent me just a couple of case studies that they had, and it was incredible like you said the amount of incentives that were available and the savings that they made, and that story hasn't been told.

Woman2: They have, a complete, because I used to have it, unfortunately I don't anymore, but they have a complete spreadsheet of everybody who's got an incentive and for how much.

Man1: I have a couple of like, I haven't seen a spreadsheet like that, I've seen a couple of case studies but its very limited and to me that story being more widely told would also be a little back to like the chamber and what not about all this stuff about you know GRUs rates and [01:03:04] governance and stuff like that is like there's been some pretty incredible incentives given to the private sector and to [01:03:12] and stuff like that.

Woman2: So I want to go back solar [01:03:17] just for a minute and you know my own personal bias for whatever it's worth is that, you know, if you look back with twenty twenty hindsight, I think that the feed in tariff rates were set higher than they needed to be set, but it's still a good and valid program and it's unfortunate that the city has put it on hiatus. I mean are you guys working on solar? I mean I think energy efficiency makes sense, I mean you should work on energy efficiency before you work on solar, but I think that we can gain so much ground in the solar market now.

Woman3: They have instituted a change in the net metering program also that kind of, so now you're, cause we net metering people and not supporting the group property so we need to be paying so instead of, what are they doing now, they're giving me some kind of credit for going forward on my bill.

Woman2: Yes, I have net metering. Actually I have both net metering and feed in tariff in my house and I really follow the whole net metering thing. I mean Barry Rutten...Barry Ruttenberg?? Barry Jacobson ] sent me an email about it so I could look at it but, I know it was a less impeding, wasn't as bad as a bad policy as they thought about, it was a moderate policy compared to what they were, but actually I mean according to Barry Jacobson [01:04:50] which you know he claimed what they initially proposed was against FLorida law. They still backed off of that [01:04:59]

Woman3: [01:04:58] which sounded like those [01:05:06] bills all over the country which are doing the same, creating the same issue [01:05:12]. I think with any, with the feed in tariff what bothered me about it was not having a local preference, as well as individual I forget now because I haven't looked at it for so long.

Woman2: That was a challenging issue. But to mean to me there were a couple of error made, one of them as I said, i think the rate was set too high, and continued to be set too high, I think that, and I want to think, Fort Collins, Colorado and Paulo Alto, California, I actually went and spoke to those communities about our feed in tariff and they did ultimately adopt feed-in tariffs and they both set rate lower than what would have been recommended according to traditional analysis of that tariff rate and they both had substantial uptake in their programs, and Gainesville's program, I mean the first number of years were far so over-subscribed that actually shows you from a market perspective that they set the rate too high [01:06:22], right?

And actually the stand had originally suggested a lower rate, but then the solar companies came in and argued that it should be higher. So there was that. The other thing is that I think it was a mistake to, I think smaller systems, less than ten kw should have had to compete initially up against these you know, one megawatt objects on the best buy, - that was just stupid - but they did ultimately do a residential survey on all of them, which I think if that got fully subscribed or not, I think it did, but to me, I would make it that any residential house or system of less than ten kw, it doesn't make sense .... shouldn't have to compete against a commercial sized system and they should be basically unlimited, because you're never going to get that high.

But, those are our customers, you know those are our leaders those are the people you know and it distributes the load across the grid, so there's that distribution benefit but I honestly I need to get it explained to me again, I had another friend try to explain to me last week, but it's sort of a combination of tax law, but I've been told that after you fully depreciated the capital on your solar system, you're better off doing net metering than doing feed-in tariff because you're not paying the taxes for the income coming in for the feed-in tariff and so I think it's possible that at some point in the lives of these feed-in tariff systems they should be converted to net metering unless they make the net metering laws so unbeneficial.

Man1: Customers that need an incentive, they have the option to change over to net metering in exchange for a better tariff than a feeding tariff and in a way I do think it could be designed a little better, but it kind of did what it was supposed to do. If you look at the cost of solar [01:08:31] online, now we've got probably a more thriving solar industry here in Gainesville than anywhere else in the state.

Woman2: Without a doubt.

Man1: So the cost of solar's coming down dramatically, we have strong [01:08:42], and to me at this point [01:08:47], and that's another thing that's really

encouraging about PACE[01:08:52] and it not only PACE, but it's valid and it's coming online in 2016. I'm not the biggest fan of solar leasing, but it does open the doors to a lot of [01:09:01].

Woman2: No doubt, people who can't do it because of the [01:09:02] costs, that's right.

Woman1: I wonder how public [01:09:05] financing this, I know GRUs looking into community solar and some other programs that they're going to present to RUC in April and then they're going before the commission in May and they're trying to revive things.

Woman2: That's good, I mean I actually do think.