Mayor Cubillos: All right, good evening everyone. I'd like to go ahead and call our-- on Tuesday, April 24th meeting to order. Today, again, is Tuesday, April 24th and it is 7:00 PM. If I could please have a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under god, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Cubillos: All right. Madam clerk, may I please have Roll call.

Clerk: Roll call, Mayor Cubillos

Mayor Cubillos: Here.

Clerk: Vice Mayor Nickerson

Nickerson: Here.

Clerk: Council person Mathis, not here yet. Councilperson Dreher, not here yet. Councilperson Roman?

Roman: Here.

Clerk: You have a quorum. Also present for the record, Yenise Jacobi, Village Clerk, Christia Alou, Village Manager and all Norman Powell, interim Village Attorney, Irwin Williams, CFO.

Mayor Cubillos: Alrighty, thank you. At this time, I get a motion of approval of the agenda.

Nickerson: Motion to approve.

Roman: I second.

Mayor Cubillos: There is a motion to approve the agenda as is. This was made by Vice Mayor Nickerson, seconded by Councilperson Roman. All in favor, signal by saying "Aye".

Council: Aye.

Mayor Cubillos: Any nays? Alright, hearing none, our agenda passes. At this time, do we have a motion to pass the minutes from our March 27th regular council meeting?
Roman: I'll motion.

Mayor Cubillos: There is a motion made by Councilperson Roman. Is there a second?

Nickerson: I'll second.

Mayor Cubillos: There's a motion made by Councilperson Roman, second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. All in favor, signal by saying "Aye".

Council: Aye.

Mayor Cubillos: Any opposed? At this time, we have our [unintelligible 00:02:40] Pinsky here, thank you. We also have the PBA, represented by Cristina Escobar, thank you. My husband is here as well, thank you. I believe our interim Chief Hufnagel is also here, thank you. At this time, anybody for Good and Welfare? This is the time to come up and have three minutes. I'm stalling a little bit because I see that Councilperson Mathis just pulled in.

Okay, hearing on the first item on the agenda is PBA contract. Our PBA contract is a contract that we do every three years. I'm going to go ahead and not only ask Cristina Escobar to come up and speak on behalf of the PBA but then I'm also going to ask our manager and our attorney to go ahead on behalf of the village. I want to ask the council to make sure that you all-- Councilperson Mathis, we're going through the PBA contract. I'm just trying to stall a little bit here. Do you all have the contract in front of you? Have you had the time to review it?

Councilperson Roman: I reviewed it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I reviewed it.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay. Any questions to our council for the PBA, for their council or to our manager and attorney? I think the attorney might want to go over a few things with regards to the ordinance that we may have to-- no, we will vote on today, but I thought, maybe, if the manager could go through also the changes that were made compared to the other contract because the council probably did not have both contracts to compare to. It would be important if they would just point out the changes and the raises what they're getting. Then, of course, if the council has any questions for either the PBA or our attorney or our manager.
Village Manager: Good evening. Yes, we do have some changes to the 2014 PBA or collective bargaining agreement that we came up with with the representatives of PBA. Most of them are helpful to our officers and we hope you will agree with that. We did increase their uniforms to include more comfortable uniforms, like a polo-style shirt and shorts. We also increased salaries, that was the big item. The salary increase is 7% across the board for starting employees or starting police officers who are making now $35,000 which is our base salary as of the ratification of this contract, as well as all of our other officers who make more than 35, will be also getting a 7% increase on year one.

Year two will be a 3% increase and year three will be another 3% increase. Just so you're are aware of COLO or the Cost of Living Increase is 2%. We are trying to get on par with other jurisdictions so that we can appeal to new officers right out of the academy as well as retaining officers that we have. We also have an option for re-opener in one year to discuss cars and other matters related to step increases and retention plan for our officers. There are some other things in here, I can't think of them right off the top of my head. Perhaps, Cristine, you can? Did I cover most of this?

Cristina Escobar: A few things you mention. Accrual of sick leave vacation increased a bit and also regards to accrual of comp time increased a little bit, but, besides that, I think you've covered everything.

Village Manager: Okay.

Cristina: Perfect.

Village Attorney: There's only one other important item to point out. We will have a re-opener in about one year to address two open items related to promotions and with cars.

Cristina: Step increases.

Village Attorney: The staff increases, potentially car allowance or take home car for certain promoted or high-ranking officers. In addition, we're supposed to be having for first reading, an ordinance today that would repeal an antiquated section of the code that left it to the village council to direct or appoint the sergeant which would be in conflict with the collective bargaining agreement and just pretty much general practices as they exist today. I believe that some of the general is on it. I didn't see the final version, so I'd like to get that from the clerk.
Clerk: The ordinance, can the attorney-

Village Attorney: It's simply repealing that section of the code that applies to the position of the sergeant.

[background conversation]

Mayor Cubillos: The ordinance has to go through two readings. One of the things is that--

Cristina: It's, obviously, not ready to be adopted this afternoon, we'll move that to the next commission meeting. That will give the clerk an opportunity to put the ordinance in the proper fashion. It still does not affect what we're going to do here tonight. It will still be consistent once we adopt it.

Female Speaker: I'd like to take the opportunity, if I may, Miss Mayor, council members, village manager and Mr. Attorney.

Village Attorney: Mr. New Attorney.

Cristina: Powell. Mr. Powell. First of all I want to thank everybody, especially Miss Manager, Miss Alou for everything in regards to our negotiations. I think this is a step in such a great direction. We're really pleased to see how the administration this time around really came forward and came through for the officers which I know the community really values. We really, really appreciate everything that you are doing and everything that you have done, with the assistance of Mr. Powell. Thank you so much on behalf of the PBA, we really appreciate it.

Village Manager: Thank you Cristina.

Mayor Cubillos: As I said when Councilperson Mathis-- this is the time to ask of course, our manager, our attorney or their attorney, any questions that you have with regards to the contract. I have asked them to differentiate what we changed or added compared to the former contract because I didn't you all probably even had it readily available and they pointed out the specific differences. If you have any questions, this is the time to ask.

Councilperson Mathis: I already spoke with the manager with regards to this matter.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, no, I don't have any questions. I think it's great with the 7% increase. I think it's great going to the 35,000. I know that was something that recently you had a discussion with an officer about, so that was big in my mind. I know that in a year when we come back, I know that the take-home cars thing is always an issue, every time that we do this. That'd be good to cover that in a year from now.

Mayor Cubillos: Keep in mind to the council that this is a contract that was supposed to go into effect October 1st, so this is retroactive back to October. Any questions before I ask for a motion to approve the contract?

Councilperson Roman: No.

Mayor Cubillos: Any questions with regards to the ordinance for the attorney?

Councilperson Mathis: None.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay. Hearing none, is there a motion to approve the 2017-2020 PBA contract?

Councilperson Mathis: I move to approve.

Mayor Cubillos: Motion has been made by councilperson Mathis. Is there a second?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Second.

Mayor Cubillos: Second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. I'm going to close the council meeting, open up a public comment. Anybody in the audience who has a question with regards to the PBA contract? Hearing none, I'm going to close public comment and open it up back to the council. Before I call for a vote, any questions to the manager or the PBA? Okay. Hearing none, madam clerk, may I get a roll call?

Madam Clerk: Roll call. Councilperson Dreher, not here. Councilperson Roman?

Councilperson Roman: Yes.

Madam Clerk: Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Mathis: Yes.
Madam Clerk: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Madam Clerk: Mayor Cubillos?

Mayor Cubillos: Yes.

Madam Clerk: Motion passes, four to none.

Cristina: Thank you so much, everyone.

Mayor Cubillos: Thank you, Cristina.

Village Manager: Thank you.

Cristina: You'll call on this tomorrow?

Village Manager: Yes, we'll call this tomorrow. We'll be here all day.

Mayor Cubillos: Great, thank you. At this time, we have the ordinance that we just discussed. I don't know if the attorney, you want to go ahead and read it to the record or you want the first reading to moved over to May?

Village Attorney: Yes, I think we need to move it over because that would give the clerk an opportunity to put it in the customary fashion.

Mayor Cubillos: Keep in mind that the first reading doesn't have to be publicly noticed and it always has to go for a second reading.

Village Attorney: I can appreciate that but it doesn't have references to the ordinance number nor is it in the form that's--

Mayor Cubillos: No problem. Is the counsel okay with that?

Counsel: I am.

Mayor Cubillos: Perfect. Let's go ahead to the first resolution 2018-08, PACE. Attorney- or who's going to read it to the record?
Village Attorney: A resolution of the village of El Portal, establishing a Property Assessed Clean Energy program within the corporate limits of the village approving the interlocal agreements with the Florida Green Finance authority, the Florida Resiliency and Energy District and the Florida PACE Funding Agency; to which the entities will administer voluntary non-ad valorem financing of qualifying conservation and energy efficiency, renewable energy and wind resistance improvements; authorizing the mayor to execute said agreements. Providing for the use of the village's logo and providing for implementing administrative actions, [unintelligible 00:13:09], conflicts, severability, and effective date.

Mayor Cubillos: Thank you. As we know, we discussed this at committee level and we have Miss Pinsky to tell us a little bit more about it. If you want to come up and the Council has any questions before I call for a vote. Did I call your name correctly Miss Pinsky?

Miss Pinsky: Yes you have just fine. Thank you, Attorney Powell and congratulations Village Manager over your-- now you're official village manager. Thank you, Council for having us here tonight to approve this resolution. As you know, we already have a resolution in your city that allows for the PACE program. As we told you at your P&Z meeting previously, this just adds to the other PACE providers that are authorized in Florida to-- PACE plays where there's competition, we like to say it's having more than one bank in town. If you have any questions, otherwise, I'm here.

Mayor Cubillos: Thank you. Yes, as you mentioned, we do have the resolution in place with Ygrene and we're going along with what other municipalities' member of the community have done, we're aligning so that we open it up to all the competitors. Any questions from the Council?

Councilperson Mathis: Do we have a Ygrene ticker on the website?

Mayor Cubillos: No.

Councilperson Mathis: Should we put one on?

Mayor Cubillos: We can. Absolutely. It's a great idea. Absolutely.

Miss Pinsky: We can provide you a link to put on your website, all providers can do that. You just click on it, make it easy for your constituents.
Mayor Cubillos: Now we have a Dropbox with all other departments, so we can put it--what, in P&Z or Public Works? The clerk will now put the reso up in the-- open [crosstalk]

Madam Clerk: We can put it in both too.

Councilperson Mathis: PNZ.

Mayor Cubillos: Not a problem, we'll do that. If you could send our clerk that, we'd definitely, it's a great idea.

Miss Pinsky: Thank you very much.

Mayor Cubillos: No, you're welcome. Thank you. Any questions? Hearing none, do we have a motion for resolution 2018-08 PACE?

Councilperson Mathis: I'll move.

Councilperson Roman: Motion.

Mayor Cubillos: Motion's been made by Councilperson Roman, seconded by Councilperson Mathis. Any further discussion? Hearing none, Madam Clerk, may I hear a roll call?

Madam Clerk: Roll call. Councilperson Dreher is absent. Councilperson Roman?

Councilperson Roman: Yes.

Madam Clerk: Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Mathis: Yes.

Madam Clerk: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Madam Clerk: Mayor Cubillos?

Mayor Cubillos: Yes.

Madam Clerk: The motion passes.
Mayor Cubillos: Thank you. Congratulations. Thank you, thank you. Definitely, don't forget to send us that link. Alrighty, look at that, we're already in reports. I didn't think I was going to be here to give my report but I'm going to speak briefly. Before I do head out, I want to thank the attorney and the manager for the process of the PBA. It was my third one that I went through and it was definitely enjoyable, successful and I do believe there was a sense of camaraderie where we're trying to definitely work together for the greater good and that's the village, of course.

I want to command Ronnie Hufnagel, the manager has transitioned her from acting to interim chief with an agreement of six months and thereafter they will decide how that is going to work out. I want to congratulate you. Good luck, work hard, and lead the department in a prouder way that we can be very proud of. Congratulations. I also want to congratulate, we--

[applause]

Mayor Cubillos: I also wanted to congratulate, we have a new officer. It's unfortunate that officer Blackwood left to move to Kansas with his wife. How dare he, right? Just in time, we had hired a part-timer, Officer Rivero. He has joined our team in a full-time basis and I'm going to ask that in May he can be sworn in as an official, full-time officer, I thought that would be nice. I want to congratulate him and thank him. He also was a part of our village-wide clean-up that we had last Saturday, which I want to thank every police officer that was there.

I want to thank the manager for being there, I want to thank Councilperson Roman for being there, and I want to thank the residents, there were definitely several residents that came out. It's just one of those events that you go out and build a community and public trust with the kids and the police officers and to me, that's incredibly important so that was very nice. Thank you. Please, do not forget you have the Little River clean-up on Saturday. I will not be here but I ask each and every single one of you please be there. I know my husband will be there, he has already ordered his canoe and kayak. It's hands down another just fantastic event for the village but I will not be there and I will definitely miss it.

I'm excited to announce that I am actually flying out this evening. I have the opportunity to represent Florida and El Portal at the Southern Municipal Conference where all of the southern states' leagues come together to really go over issues and issues that pertain the southeast quarter, which is us and I'm representing Miami-Dade County and Florida as well.
It's not an expense to the village of El Portal, it is paid by the Executive Committee for the Florida League of Cities.

I also want to remind the Council, we have two important dinners coming up. Part of serving in this office is to able to represent El Portal at functions that represent us as a whole governing body and builds, again, that camaraderie. We have the Miami-Dade League of Cities, which is May 12th, I hope to see each and every one of you there. We also have the Police Benevolent Association Ball, that's May 19th, which is literally the week after. We have a very busy May and I hope to see everybody at least in the El Portal office there.

Please, RSVP to the clerk so that if you don't use your tickets, we can make sure that the tickets go to good use, whether to police officers or a staff, please.

That really concludes my report, I have so much more to say. I apologize I did not give a report last month, my computer completely went in the fritz. The clerk was kind enough to-- I got it replaced. I'm giving my manager report for last month and this month to the clerk, hopefully, by these minutes come in from this meeting. Again, there's a lot more to go but I really want to-- I do not want to miss my flight. I want to, again, thank the manager for the PBA contract, congratulate interim chief Hufnagel. Vice mayor, it's all yours.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** I'll do you proud.

**Mayor Cubillos:** Okay. The last thing before I forgot this, Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce had a golf tournament where El Portal was represented. It was an incredible day, it was very hot but our team was Vice Mayor Nickerson, Councilperson Roman's husband, Nariman, my husband Noel Pace and a resident Calixto Navarro. Councilperson Mathis could not be a part of the tee. Norman Powell was already in somebody else's tee, how dare he, but that's okay.

[laughter]

**Mayor Cubillos:** We had a great time. All the pictures will be put on the website, that and the Easter ones we've put up, they're probably by next week but it was so much fun. Definitely something that I think we need to do again next year and it was-- El Portal did so well, we came in last but we always get recognized everywhere we go but we finished.
Councilperson Roman: I think we sent a woman's team last year.

Mayor Cubillos: Yes. It was a lot of fun. It was a lot of fun. I want to thank Vice Mayor Nickerson for spending the whole day. We were out there all day in the sun but Miami Shores, I've gotten four or five emails thanking me. They thought it was great that we were there all day, they were really impressed with the mayor, vice mayor, was there all day on a Friday. It was a phenomenal time. We were recognized for honesty for coming in last.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Everybody else was cheating, so at least we were honest.

Mayor Cubillos: We came in last. That concludes my appointment. I wish you all a successful council meeting. Wish me a safe trip, I am back late Saturday. Thank you.

Councilperson Mathis: Have a great trip.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Have a very safe trip.

Councilperson Mathis: And safe.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Appreciate it. Thank you very much everybody for being here. Take care now.

Mayor Cubillos: Don't change the charter on me while I'm gone.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: We were recognized for our honesty. We did come in last but that is because the vast majority of the other teams weren't that really honest with their score because there was nobody watching everybody but we decided to be honest with our scores and they were looking around at us so we were recognized for that. That's good. El Portal, a place of honesty and integrity.

You guys, we're going to move on to the manager report. I would like to ask the manager, Miss Alou, before we get to her report if we could possibly go through the budget because he's been sitting here, he's not on the agenda. He's not here into the end of the meeting. Irwin, is that okay? That's okay. Okay. Thank you very much, Miss Manager. Irwin, if you want to go through that here?
Irwin: The first one is a summary of our budget cut for the period of March 31st 2018, if you look at the top on the third column you can see that right now we're 49.86 through the fiscal year. [unintelligible 00:23:03] If you look down the revenues, especially on the expense side, if for the part that it's under that 50% threshold then we're not over-budget in that department.

What we're going to have to look at is at Public Works, we're at 525% of budget right now and basically all of that is because of the Hurricane Irma. The page following, you will see one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, there's seven pages which will detail that the expense so far is $2.2 million on the Hurricane Irma plan. Now, if you look on the next page, you'll say, "Okay. We're going to have to spend $2.2 million." The next part is going to be how much cash we have in reserves to pay that obligation.

On the next page, you'll see what our cash balances are as of March 31st, it's the section right after the $2.2 million. You can see that as of March 31st, we have basically $1.4 million available in the general fund which is comprised of our payroll and our reserve accounts for the payment of that debt. With a debt of $2.2 million, obviously, as of March, there's not enough funds in the bank to cover that obligation.

On the next page, you'll see a projection that says based on where we are in the year, what receipts we're going to get in until the end of November-- I picked the end of November because that's when our next ad valorem replenishes again, where our money starts coming in again. I showed you all the receipts coming in and then what the projected disbursement are to the end of that period, you can all see that.

That will leave us with a negative cash balance of $831,000 as of the end of November. Obviously, that would put us in the position where we couldn't pay the vendor because we owe the vendor $1.7 million at this point, that's the unpaid balance. What we have done is we have applied to our bank, the Florida Community Bank for a line of credit. Initially, it's going to be $1.25 million and if that gets approved, we're going to ask them for the additional citing our non-equitable and revenues against any additional balance.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: What was the amount again? One point what?

Irwin: I'm sorry?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: What was the amount again?

Irwin: It's 1.25 on the initial and we're really going to ask for $2.2 million total if the 1.25 will get approved. Now, of the debt we're paying of that $2.2 million, we are going to be reimbursed from FEMA, that becomes 75% to 100%. Let's say, most of it is between the 80% and 90%, there's a small portion of 75%, there's a small portion of 100% but the bulk is at 80% and 90%.

What that's going to mean is if even if we get reimbursed, it's still going to impact our general fund by $250,000 to $300,000. What that's going to do to our fund balance, we're going to repay the line obviously but what that's going to do our fund balance is going to significantly erode our fund balance and we're going to have to look at other measures to raise funds at the end of this year.

That means we're going to have to look at other things like an additional build rate, doing the special assessments which they don't want to do, or some other means to raise revenues to offset that deficit because if our fund balance is down to about $200,000, one more storm and we're done. We really have to try to replenish that fund balance as quickly as possible.

We had a professional group that did the submission for FEMA for us to ensure that we get the maximum reimbursement. [unintelligible 00:27:04] for FEMA so that we know that we have the highest probability that we're going to get reimbursed quicker than if we had in our own and obviously, we've done it before, we make mistakes, it gets sent back and you're in a loop for several months past then. We don't know how long they were going to take to repay us. Typically, it will be six months to a year, it could be less, it could be more. Questions so far?
Vice Mayor Nickerson: Not necessarily. I just remember going over this at the town hall and in that regards, not a surprise. I do remember that because of the work by the manager, the mayor, interim chief, and the [unintelligible 00:28:04] we used that everyday we're keeping great notes of everything so that we should get a lot of that from FEMA. It's just these hurricanes, it's a lot of money.

Irwin: Imagine if it'd been a direct hit. This wasn't even a direct hit.

Councilperson Roman: When is it that you said we need to look at raising some other funds, by November?

Irwin: Yes. Because in November, the ad valorem for next year will start coming in. Again, if we don't raise the ad valorem, we get $1.1 million coming in in November. That will help replenish and we will then take that money and repay whatever the FEMA we didn't cover, whatever that portion we have as part of that, now you have to refund that portion.

Councilperson Roman: We're estimating, we're hoping that we'll know by November, what FEMA is going to reimburse us?

Irwin: Well, we don't know. The submission works, typically, it could take six months, it could take longer. It all depends on their backlog, how quick you get the invoices into them and if there's no technicalities with anything, it was strictly done. We did hire [unintelligible 00:29:16] quite a bit to handle for us, we were hoping that being done properly in the right format with the right forms submitted properly will get the reimbursements back quicker.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Mathis?

Irwin: Just one last thing, we owe the bank, what they reward us would be great if it gets approved because they've agreed that the pledge for the line will be the future FEMA reimbursement. That way, it won't impact our general fund revenues in a way. Okay. I got a call from Rafael this morning from the bank, he says we should have an answer by tomorrow afternoon.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Miss Manager, do you have anything you want to add?
Village Manager: No, just that we're gearing up for a hurricane. It's hurricane season this year.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: That's right.

Irwin: It's coming up again?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: They're coming up again.

Mayor Cubillos: Councilperson Roman, anything else you want to add?

Councilperson Roman: No.

Mayor Cubillos: Mr. Turner?

Irwin: No. Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Sure. Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Mathis: No.

Mayor Cubillos: Madam Clerk, anything else?

Irwin: The only other line that was over was on public affairs, but remember we have revenues on the other side that offset the expenditure, so it's fine. Everything else is under-- The percentage used year-to-date is right in line.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Irwin. Appreciate it. Take care. Have a good night.

Irwin: Sorry?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I said take care and have a good night.

Irwin: You too.

Mayor Cubillos: All right.

Irwin: Thank you.
Mayor Cubillos: Thank you.

Councilperson Mathis: Thank you, Irwin.

Mayor Cubillos: Madam Manager, whenever you're ready. We'll move on to your report.

Village Manager: Okay. Thank you. Good evening again. I'm going to make it as quick as possible. I just want you all to be aware that we are moving forward with the interior upgrades and updates. I showed Vice Mayor Nickerson today.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: They're very nice.

Village Manager: The conference rooms' already been started. Unfortunately, we had to--we fumed the clerk out of her office today, but hopefully we'll be back in there tomorrow or the next day. At least it will be a pretty entrance too.

Village Clerk: Yes.

Village Manager: We're making some other strides for the improvement and the livability of the Village Hall itself and the offices. Our vendors are working well. The cleaning crew, cleaning services, working three days a week, has been excellent. I can say the Village has not been cleaner since I've seen it. We're working on more deep cleaning and we will have the floors redone on the first weekend of May. We are not scheduling any activity in here because of reconditioning and redoing the terrazzo, as well as the carpets.

We did have a hurricane preparedness and public safety town hall meeting on the 14th--I'm sorry--yes, I think it was the 14th of April. It was well attended. Lots of questions and answers were given as they relate to Hurricane Irma and the reimbursements and just what best practices we have for the next time around. Happily, DPNO, our consultant, did put together a checklist for our residents to get them ready for hurricane season. We will be working on a guide as well to get ourselves ready. Again, we learned from the year before, but I think we're very ready now.

We will also be putting out an RFP for a cheaper, or less expensive I should say, local vendor who will do the tree trimming and the call out. At the time, we didn't have anyone and we had to work with what we had to work with. We did have the "piggyback" contract to defray some of the costs from the last time around. Again, we are working on that, so hopefully that'll be less next time around and hopefully we won't have that next time around.
Yes, we did do the PBA contract. We're happy with those results and I hope that our officers see that we are committed to them in improving our police department. We are working with our new interim chief. I'm happy to say that Ronnie Hufnagel did accept the position and we will be working with her. I ask that all of you work with her as well in ensuring that we allege her and the position and her staff to make this as a good department and to really gain that respectability so that we can recruit other officers and retain the officers that we do have so that they are proud to work here as well.

We did have a speeding, an aggressive driving campaign that was supposed to start this morning, but due to a lack of participation from the other jurisdictions, something happened with EPDoT and they couldn't get the officers here. We rescheduled it to our May date and hopefully we will have that in place. We didn't have it unfortunately, but we will do something. We're looking forward to that.

We'll move on to the quick things. We have an employee, Ms. Daisy Hyzert. She's a building clerk position right now. We are also reviewing the contract we have with CAP Government which expired in 2005. I will be working on a new contract with them because clearly that's too long to be outdated. We need to review our services because there have been some gaps in things that we need and reporting that has costs in delinquency. We are behind a number of years on some reporting that is crucial to our funding. I will be working on those things in the coming weeks.

On a good note, we are finally in compliance with Miami-Dade County transit for our bus shelter reporting and our standard operating procedures for that. That's in good standing right now. Our next order of business is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit that I'm speaking about, that we need CAP to assist us with. We are hiring a new Public Works part-time staffer. His name is Robert Echeverria and he is doing his fingerprinting tomorrow. Hopefully if all goes well, he will be starting and filling in where Mr. Douglas left off. That will be a lot of our outdoor Public Works activities. He will be part-time for now until we start ramping that position up if we need to.

Councilperson Roman: What's his experience?
Village Manager: His experience is that he has worked in businesses. He works for MetroPC— I'm sorry— I think Metro right now. He's a young gentleman who has ideas. He says he can do this very easily, so we want to give him the opportunity. He came highly recommended by someone else who does this kind of work elsewhere. He came with a recommendation. That concludes my report for now.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Roman, do you have any questions for the manager?

Councilperson Roman: No.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Mathis, any questions?

Councilperson Mathis: No questions, but I did get a text earlier today. Can we have someone go by— several of the street signs and stop signs are covered by trees and you can't see them so if we can have someone trim those or do something.

Village Manager: Yes, we can do that. We have been doing that. If you could tell us where they are. We could go through the village.

Councilperson Mathis: Okay. I'll collect them and get where they are.

Village Manager: But we will go through the Village and look for those as well.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I don't really think I have— Our Code Enforcement Officer—

Village Manager: Carlos Garcia.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Carlos, yes. Is he still the Code Enforcement Officer?

Village Manager: Yes, he is.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Okay, because I remember at one point, he was being pulled away from that to do some public work stuff, but now that I heard about the Public Works individual, so now he's— Okay.
Village Manager: If I may. Carlos Garcia expressed disinterest in being the Public Works full-timer. He will do just a few Public Works items, but he wants to stay with code enforcement. He will supervise this part-time staffer who will come in. Because he's out in the community, he can do that. We will see how that goes for now and if we need to ramp up the responsibilities of Public Works, we can consider that later.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: All right. Okay. Thank you very much. I'll ask him about that but I'll just leave that for now I think. That's it for now. Anybody else with a matter? No? Okay, let's move right along. Let's go onto the Committee Chair reports. The remarks, it says here the Chair reports and let's go to the first one, the distinguished one, the one and only, Mr. Harold Mathis. You're up.

[laughter]

Councilperson Mathis: As the mayor noted before she left, we have the Little River clean-up this weekend and I will be there in a canoe.

[laughter]

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Do we know what time that we should all report?

Councilperson Roman: It's seven.

Councilperson Mathis: Seven o'clock.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Seven it starts. We should probably get there earlier though.

Councilperson Mathis: It's on the website.

Councilperson Roman: It's not necessary,

Councilperson Mathis: But I hope all council members will be there.

Councilperson Mathis: I remember the first couple of times I did it. It sounded like the sun wasn't up yet. I was up in full pyjamas.

Councilperson Roman: It's actually 8:30.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: 8:30, okay.

Councilperson Roman: Yes. seven o'clock is when the people that are setting up are going to be there.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: That's what I figured. I kind of thought 8:30.

Councilperson Roman: 8:30 to 1:30 is the program.

Councilperson Mathis: Thank you, Councilperson Roman, I appreciate that.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much councilperson.

Councilperson Mathis: My love is coming up. It's the 10th Annual Armed Forces 5K. We've just about covered everything. There's still a little fundraising to do. The medals, we need to order the medals. I need to make a decision on the T-shirts and since it's the 10th annual, I went kind of big. I wanted the council as a whole to see what my concepts and designs were and you all can make a decision on what you'd like to see on the front of the shirt.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Whatever you guys pick man. I'm easygoing, I'm down for whatever.

Councilperson Mathis: You can register on the website, it's ready and remember it's for a good cause, majority of the proceeds go to Wounded Warriors. Let's get out there. You can walk, you can run, you can skate, people bring their dogs, it's just a good time to congregate and it's for a good cause and I doubt this year that I will be singing the national anthem.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: For the fundraising, is there an amount that you need or it's just anything that comes?

Councilperson Mathis: Whatever comes in.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Is there a goal here you're looking at, that you're short of?

Councilperson Mathis: No. We're pretty comfortable but you never know. I'm still waiting for the food provider to tell me if they're going to donate the food again this year. If that's done I think we're pretty good. Yes. That concludes my report for Public Affairs.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: Does anybody have any comments or questions for Councilperson Mathis?

Village Attorney: That's it. What is the track for the run?

Councilperson Mathis: It's a certified track. We'll have-- It should be posted on the web page, but I will make sure that you get a copy of it so you can see it. Basically it's a run through the beautiful scapes of El Portal.

Village Attorney: Okay.

Councilperson Roman: Yes. Did you reach out to Orangetheory at all?

Councilperson Mathis: I actually sent an email today but I haven't heard. Do you have a contact person?

Councilperson Roman: Well, I reached out to them on our behalf a couple months ago and I didn't hear back because I go there.

Councilperson Mathis: Okay.

Councilperson Roman: I was trying to-- Sonia is their manager.

Councilperson Mathis: Sonia. I was told-- I didn't send an email to Sonia, I sent it to Mike I think it was. mike@orangetheory or something.

Councilperson Roman: No. I'll get the names, I'll forward the clerk the email that I sent.

Councilperson Mathis: Let them know that Empower is donating.

Councilperson Roman: Oh, are they donating?

Councilperson Mathis: Yes.

Councilperson Roman: I think the biggest thing with them is for them to-- if they want to come out of pocket or whatever, is to promote it because although-- you know there's a bunch of runners there and I know there's a lot of El Portal residents that are runners that go there, because I see them in the classes.
Councilperson Mathis: I'll actually go do a face to face.

Councilperson Roman: Yes.

Councilperson Mathis: I'll go do that. The people that I-runner helping out, timed events.

Councilperson Roman: They work together a lot with I-run. Maybe you mentioned that to them. I think that would be a good idea and I like this one.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I like that one.

Councilperson Mathis: That concludes my report. Councilperson Dreher is not here, the Vice-chair of Public Works. We're still dealing with the whole phase one of the septic to sewer which a resident stopped me in Publics today and I didn't want to talk about it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Be careful in Publics.

Councilperson Mathis: We are moving forward. I'm glad we're doing this project and I think it's going to be a good thing for us all. Just that one, everybody likes that one? This one? Okay. That one it is. And that concludes my report for Public Works.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Any comments or questions for Councilperson Mathias on public works and with the sewer or anything like that?

Councilperson Mathis: We are going to have another town hall workshop. One more.

Councilperson Roman: Do you have a date?

Mathias: No. Councilperson Dreher is going to--

Councilperson Roman: Could maybe the clerk reach out so that we can try to get a date as soon as possible, so we can try and put it on our calendars. Haven't been able to--

Mathias: I think he mentioned June because May was stacked but--

Councilperson Roman: Okay. The sooner we can get a date that would be great.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Any more comments or questions, [unintelligible 00:45:03] attorney? The group? Madam Manager?
Village Manager: I have no questions.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Roman?

Councilperson Roman: No.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Madam Clerk? No?

Village Clerk: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Okay. Moving right along. Public safety, Mayor Cubillos, of course is on her way to represent our city and our state at the Southern Regional Conference, so she's not here for public safety. Public safety, the Vice Chair is--

Councilperson Mathis: You.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I'm the vice chair for Safety?

Councilperson Mathis: Yes.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I want to once again congratulate, Ronnie Hufnagel mfor going from acting to interim chief, appreciate that. Also, let's say congratulations to the new officer coming in who will be sworn in at the may full council meeting. I want to say also that thanks to the manager and the attorney for dealing with the PBA contract and the mayor, that's always an interesting negotiation when it comes up. Unfortunately, not more than one councilperson can be in there at one time, so, I always hear the after effects of every city.

It's good to have our village and our officers work together. It's good to see the raise they got, 7% and it will be interesting to revisit the steps and especially take home cars which is always an issue every time we had this. With that being said, we're going to move on. The next is code enforcement. That's actually-- does anybody have any more questions for Public Safety? No? Next is Code Enforcement. That's actually--

Village Manager: You are the chair.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I am the chair of that, for Code Enforcement. Something good from Code Enforcement. There are a couple of things I'm working on, but I'm going to keep that off for now. Does anybody have any questions about--?
Councilperson Roman: The only thing I have on Code Enforcement is that we have the homes that were awarded for March, I'm waiting for the committee. They've been really busy, but they meant to send that over to me so that we can post them on the website. I was hoping to bring it here and announce it, but unfortunately I don't have it yet. I know that I was part of the nominations but I don't know exactly--

Councilperson Mathis: For March or April?

Councilperson Roman: For March and then April is coming up now. April's literally happening now.

Councilperson Mathis: Okay.

Councilperson Roman: We'll be basically announcing, I guess, both at the same time.

Village Manager: Anybody can make a nomination. Last month I asked the police chief, the chief of police, to ask the rest of the staff to see if they had any help homes they wanted to nominate and they did nominate, I think I got one or two from them. Then I just sent a bunch of text messages to residents that I know asking them for nominations because committee had not received any. But yes, anybody can nominate and yes, there's a lot of beautiful homes.

There's a lot of people that are working on their homes currently, so, those are good to recognize. One of the things that I've asked the committee to do is just to double check that the house is occupied by a resident and it's not an investor or-- we don't want to put a sign on a house that's not really occupied. That's it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Congratulations on your nomination. I'm rooting for you, sister. All right, so here we go. Anybody else? Any questions about Code Enforcement or Councilperson Roman's great idea in recognizing their homes. No? Okay, moving right along. Let's go down to Planning and Zoning. Our mayor is the chair, I know I'm the vice chair of this because it's Planning and Zoning which all of us sit on for any-- I don't know if the mayor wanted to bring up anything in particular. I don't really have anything particular to bring up. I'm going to go to you guys next.

Village Manager: No. I meant for Planning and Zoning, just to remind everyone from the committee, we're supposed to be sending in our or bringing our ideas of what we should be working on as our priority for P&Z for the next meeting.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: Right. Yes, very true. I know it's there, there's something at the back of my mind, but I can get it right now.

Councilperson Roman: You also have to be looking at the plans for the center.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: That's what it was. That's what it was. The plans for the center.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I knew it was something in my mind, the plans for the sanctuary yes. That's what it was. We were supposed to be looking at the plans for the sanctuary. It had the questions ready, that's what it was for the main meeting. Besides those two things and thank you for the first reminder, I wasn't thinking about. Councilperson Mathis anything else for Planning and Zoning?

Councilperson Mathis: No.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Village attorney, anything for Planning and Zoning or Miss Manager anything you want to say for Planning and Zoning? Any questions or comments you might add for Planning and Zoning? Madam Clerk?

Village Manager: You run a nice meeting.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, sometimes you want to say. We're moving on therefore to Councilperson Roman and she is the chair of Administration and Finance.

Councilperson Roman: I don't have a lot for Admin and Finance but I do have some reminders. If you haven't sent in your [unintelligible 00:50:56] advice staff recommendations to the manager, if you could please do so so that we can start reviewing those. I also spoke to the manager about putting together strategic planning and operating operations planning meeting.

She's going to be looking at some dates and sending them out. Something similar to what we did I think last year where we came together and put together priorities. I'm going to be sending her the notes that I have from that meeting but if any of you have notes or anything that you want to share with her please send them to her.
The reason I've put them together is because just as with [unintelligible 00:51:40] they basically went over in the future what it will look like, what the village, if we had the development of the trailer park and then the sanctuary and what additional staff would we need in the village in order to operate. They're still working on the employee handbook and they're also going to be putting together a police department handbook just because there's different items that fall under that. I talked about strategic planning meeting and I think based on the manager's comments, we're set with the fingerprints. Are we [unintelligible 00:52:28] I just saw you report today.

**Village Manager:** Yes. Everyone has been fingerprinted. Our new person Robert Echeverri will be doing it tomorrow but our cleaning lady as well as consultants Robert Juano and I know that the clerk said she did get her fingerprints done as well.

**Councilperson Roman:** Okay, so we're just waiting on getting the results from everybody. Good, we're moving forward. That concludes everything that I have for Admin and Finance.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** I don't want to bring this up now but I have one question about -- I don't want to cause any waves but I have one question about the fingerprint situation. With the crew, we have working at night time. We have at least three young ladies. I was here a couple of times towards the end of the day and there was six, seven o'clock. There was a crew of women cleaning.

**Village Manager:** The cleaning women?

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes.

**Village Clerk:** That was just a one time. That was them doing the deep cleaning but now we have a regular person who comes Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Okay. I saw that and I didn't know if the women crew was on-call like we have to keep their finger-- because they were cleaning all over the place.

**Village Clerk:** No, they were escorted as well. [crosstalk]

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** There wasn't all of us around that day.
Village Manager: We have someone watching.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, I didn't want to get rid of them so I didn't bring this up.

Councilperson Roman: No, it's good.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I didn't know they were one time. Thank you very much for that. I appreciate. Thank you for the deep cleaning. Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Mathis: No, the gentleman Mr. Echeverri, we're just waiting on his fingerprints for him to start. When would he be starting? What would his days?

Councilperson Roman: We don't know yet. Actually, he has a full-time job, so he was clearing that also but we were going to get him two to three hours a day but up to 39 hours and he can't go more than that for part-time but he is willing to work. He says he can only do set up and clean up, empty the trashcans, help maintain the bus shelter. There are lots of things he's willing to do. I understand that we had someone who here doing that full-time, but it's not a full-time job.

Councilperson Mathis: No, the reason I asked because I drove by and some of the garbage cans were full and I was like--

Councilperson Roman: Because we don't have anyone doing that right now and Mr. Garcia expressed a disinterest in doing it.

Councilperson Mathis: Okay, I'll take care of it to over here. I'll do that.

Councilperson Roman: Hopefully he'll start as soon as his fingerprints-

Councilperson Mathis: Okay.

[background conversation]

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Still for Administration and Finance, Madam Clerk anything you want to add?

Village Clerk: No thank you.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Okay. Councilperson Mathis, you're good?
Councilperson Mathis: No, I'm good.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Miss Manager. I mean Mr. Attorney?

Village Attorney: Yes, and thank you. I'm just going to do the highlights. We've been through a busy week, busy month I should say. On April 10th the mayor had a round table here with myself and all of the village's consultants which I thought was a great idea. We met for about two hours so I could get an overview of where things are with certain of our projects.

We discussed the sanctuary project, the septic to sewer issues concerning planning and zoning. It was very informative to have in a short period of time just a quick snapshot of things that we need to get done and since then we've actually embarked on getting those things done. I've also drafted the procedures I mentioned at the last meeting and forwarded them to the manager and to the mayor.

It will be presented at the appropriate committee in May, so I look forward to everyone's comments in committee to streamline our meetings. In addition to that, we've worked -- we had a meeting last week with the consultants for the [unintelligible 00:56:57] agreement, for the connection for the septic to sewer project. As you heard, we finalized the agreement this past month.

With that, financing, as to how we're going to deal with line on credit once it comes down. We met with our bank counsel last Friday for about an hour or so discussing how the loan agreement and note should be adopted appropriately by the commission. Those are just the highlights but there were some various other questions that were answered throughout the month. They also proposed the retirement, at Councilman Mathis's suggestion, a policy concerning retired officers which was discussed in committee.

Councilperson Mathis: Thank you, I got that email today. I was happier than a kid in a candy store.

Village Attorney: That's fine. Those are just the highlights. I'm trying to chuck off all the things that have been pending as we move forward.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: Thank you Mr. Attorney. Is there any questions or comments for the attorney? Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Mathis: I do have two more items that I want to sit down and talk with you about regarding ballot measures.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Anything else Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Mathis: That's it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Roman, questions or comments?

Village Attorney: Just as a general thought and this is not something that's just today, it's going to be down the road, the charter really needs to be revisited, as with the ordinances. In dealing with the PBA agreement and questions that have come up in just the last month. It cries out for updating. As we move forward I'm certainly going to suggest to the Council updating the code provisions that are antiquated and then maybe sometime in the next year or so looking at doing a charter committee with the residents and certain councilpeople can sit down and look at bringing the charter into this century.

Councilperson Roman: Thank you, that's a great idea.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: For sure. Code Enforcement committee will try to see how we can attack in a lively way.

Village Attorney: I guess since you've tossed, I think one of the easiest way to do it would be to put together a charter advisory committee and you can compose it however you all decide the model charters that we can start as a template so we don't reinvent the wheel. There are a lot of revisions that certainly need to be looked at and they can just have a road map.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes. We'll get to that.

Councilperson Roman: I know there's a lot of residence that would be an interest. I know of a lot of residents, in particular, that will be interested in participating in that, know that that needs updating.
Village Attorney: Yes, it could be a process that we can get started then have whatever recommended committee recommendations ready for the general election for 2019, so that would be on the ballot then or the year after depending on what you ask for.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I remember years ago. Councilperson Mathis, remember when we were doing the ALE? I remember the residents got together and they updated a lot of the codes.

Councilperson Mathis: We did. Each committee took a part of it and addressed it in the committees.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: The committees, right? It's just, we should stay on it. It's a lot. Especially when you have people volunteer their time. It starts and everybody starts. Starts with them. Like the third meeting, there's like a little bit less and on the fourth meeting, they're like that. We just have to stay on top of it and continue to do it. Madam Manager, any questions or comments for the attorney?

Village Manager: No. Not at all.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Roman, no are we good? Councilperson Mathis? Madame Clerk?

Councilperson Mathis: No.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Okay. Moving along. I see right here, saying a legislative update for Senator Campbell. I don't think that--

Councilperson Mathis: Tried to text when I saw it on the agenda, she's out somewhere but--

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No problem.

Councilperson Mathis: Let's move along.

Councilperson Mathis: I just came back from vacation.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: How was Cuba?

Councilperson Mathis: I was in Cuba and it was--

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I text you, you never text me back. I said, have a good trip.

Councilperson Mathis: Do you know how much it takes you to text me?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I was wondering about that, now.

Councilperson Mathis: AT&T has a plan for you calling there or I have a plan for you calling back. It was a wonderful experience. The Cuban people are strong people. I have lots of pictures and I liked it so much. I'm going back for my birthday at the end of the month.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: End of the month [laughs] Look at that.

Councilperson Mathis: I had a really good time.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: That's really good. Also want to say, man, I appreciate Councilperson Mathis. Who went to the parade, right? The Gay Pride parade. Myself, Councilperson Mathis, Interim Chief Hufnagel, the mayor, Mayor Cubillos, we went there. We had a great time, representing El Portal to the fullest. Councilperson Mathis was our point person, right? He got us in there. He's got us breakfast.

Councilperson Mathis: Then they left me.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: [laughs] He set us up really, really nice. A bunch of wonderful people that we met there. Organizations that we met while we were there. I was so proud to be a part of that. I had been a part of it in the past but not for many years, so it was really good for me to get back into that. We had many discussions while we were in the actual parade. Myself, the mayor, Councilperson Mathis, also the chief and what we need to do-- a couple of things came from that actually.

The first thing is that we want to have an even bigger footprint in next year's parade. Where [crosstalk] exactly, a float or something that we can get residents to come out and actually hold a banner and with a float behind and things like that which would be great. On top of that, I brought up to-- I think, the interim chief would remember this-- I brought up to the mayor. I said, "Mayor." I said, "You know what, We have such a vibrant LGBTQ community here in El Portal--" I said, "-- Well, why don't we do something. We don't have like a day or like why don't we do like anything like a celebration type of thing coming up next year, whenever like to celebrate gay pride. Whether it's-"

The mayor said, "Yes, maybe we can have like a karaoke night. Invite, like even drag queens to come out or something like that but anything." I think that having that specific part of-

Councilperson Roman: Are you serious?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: A big part of our community like that that we should have some type of celebratory day. In some way of doing something like that. I think going forward we should look into that also.

Councilperson Mathis: Thank you. Well on May 19th, I will not be attending the PBA gala. I'll be attending the LGBT community gala. It's the Ruby Ball.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: There you go [crosstalk]

Councilperson Roman: I also will not attend the PBA gala. It's my brother's 40th birthday.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Okay there [crosstalk] This is what we'll do.

Councilperson Roman: We will attend the Florida League of Cities.
**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes, but in the morning. On May 19th in the morning, we'll all get together and we'll run or walk the 5K and then from of that exercise that we have, that night we're going to different events to where we can eat and not feel guilty. See there you go because we all exercised that the morning. There you go.

**Councilperson Mathis:** Some people would be hurt and say it was my idea to eat.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Is all good. [laughs] We run in the morning and we eat that night. Okay, there we go.

**Speaker 4:** I know, at least you do email, okay, so you have four tickets to get three officers maybe. I haven't been able to get tomatoes but I did go-- so you have four tickets. [crosstalk]

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Okay, no more Good and Welfare? Anybody else? No? Hearing non, do I have a motion to adjourn?

**Councilperson Roman:** Motion

**Councilperson Mathis:** Second.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Motion to adjourn by Councilperson Roman, seconded by Councilperson Mathis. This council meeting for April will be adjourned at 8:06 PM.

**Councilperson Roman:** That's a great thing to do--