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December 5, 1997

Public Service Commission  
Capital Circle Office Center  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

RE: RESOLUTION BY THE TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS FOR COUNTYWIDE EXTENDED  
AREA SERVICE WITHIN TAYLOR COUNTY

DOCKET NO.: 930235-TL

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed an original and a copy of a sworn  
examination for filing in the above entitled matter.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Conrad C. Bishop, Jr.

- ACK \_\_\_\_\_
- AFA \_\_\_\_\_
- APP \_\_\_\_\_
- CAF \_\_\_\_\_
- CMU Shelley <sup>CCB/kp</sup>
- CTR \_\_\_\_\_ enclosures
- EAG \_\_\_\_\_
- LEG 1
- LIN 3108
- OPC \_\_\_\_\_
- RCH \_\_\_\_\_
- SEC 1
- WAS \_\_\_\_\_
- OTH \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

12540 DEC-85

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: RESOLUTION BY THE TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS FOR COUNTY-WIDE EXTENDED AREA SERVICE,  
E.A.S., WITHIN TAYLOR COUNTY.

DOCKET NO. 930235-TL  
ORDER NO. PSC-97-137-PCO-TL

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The Sworn examination of **JACK R. BROWN**, taken  
on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1997**, beginning at 4:00 p.m.  
and concluding at 4:20 p.m., taken at the law office of  
Conrad C. Bishop, 411 North Washington Street, Perry,  
Florida, before Sonia Johnson, Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

A P P E A R A N C E S

CONRAD C. BISHOP, JR., ESQUIRE, 411 North  
Washington Street, Post Office Box 167, Perry, Florida  
32347.

SONIA JOHNSON, COURT REPORTER  
P.O. Box 483, Mayo, Florida 32066 904/294-3263

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

12540 DEC-85

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1 TAYLOR COUNTY  
2 TESTIMONY OF JACK R. BROWN  
3 BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
4 DOCKET NO. 930253-TL  
5 DECEMBER 4, 1997  
6 SWORN EXAMINATION  
7 BY MR. BISHOP:  
8 Q Would you please state your name?  
9 A Jack R. Brown.  
10 Q And, Mr. Brown, what is your business  
11 address?  
12 A It's 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry,  
13 Florida.  
14 Q And what is your profession, sir?  
15 A I'm the County Coordinator for the Board of  
16 County of Commissioners, Taylor County, Florida.  
17 Q Would you give us a brief background of your  
18 educational background and work experience, sir.  
19 A Sure. I graduated from the University of  
20 Florida in 1978 with a Bachelors Degree in Business,  
21 and I obtained a Masters in Business Administration  
22 from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1989. I  
23 also have a Masters Degree in Strategic Planning  
24 achieved from the Navy War College in '93. And in '94,  
25 I achieved another Masters Degree in Operational and

1 Strategic Planning through the Command and General  
2 Staff while I was in the Army.

3 Q And you have been in the service before?

4 A Yes. I was a Strategic Planner for the  
5 United States Army. I was one of the lead planners for  
6 our operation with NATO in Bosnia. I was hired as the  
7 County Coordinator upon my retiring from the Army, and  
8 I've been with the county now for a year.

9 Q What briefly is your job as County  
10 Coordinator for the Board of County Commissioners of  
11 Taylor County, sir?

12 A Well, I'm responsible for the day-to-day  
13 operations of the County. The interface of the County  
14 Staff with the Board of County Commissioners and the  
15 public at large.

16 Q Does your job as County Coordinator encompass  
17 you being in contact with the citizens of Taylor  
18 County?

19 A Yes, it does. On a daily basis, I'm in  
20 contact by telephone, and also face-to-face  
21 coordination with various civic groups and individual  
22 citizens that might have issues that they want to  
23 address.

24 Q Is Taylor County a rather large county with  
25 regard to area? In other words, land area?

1           A     Yes. Well, we have a small population,  
2 roughly twenty-one thousand. We are one of the largest  
3 land mass counties in the state.

4           Q     Have you ever testified before this  
5 Commission?

6           A     No, I have not.

7           Q     And what is the purpose of your testimony  
8 here this afternoon?

9           A     The purpose of my testimony is to address the  
10 issues identified in Docket No. 930235-TL.

11                   Those issues include whether a sufficient  
12 community of interest exist between the pocket of  
13 customers served by the BellSouth Exchange of Cross  
14 City located in Taylor County, and the GTC Incorporated  
15 Exchange located in Taylor County, to justify the need  
16 for local service throughout the county.

17           Q     Have you or anyone from your office done any  
18 surveys with respect to what those needs are?

19           A     We have not been able to conduct a scientific  
20 survey, due to the small staff that we have. However,  
21 in the last several years, this subject has been  
22 approached in no less than fourteen County Commissioner  
23 meetings.

24                   I have received during my tenure here in the  
25 past year numerous calls complaining that citizens have

1 to pay long distance charges every time they try to  
2 coordinate any type of county business, or when they  
3 call the high school, or conducting any business with  
4 any of the elected officials.

5 Q Is Steinhatchee an incorporated area, or are  
6 they unincorporated?

7 A Steinhatchee is an unincorporated community.

8 Q And how far in distance is it from the County  
9 Seat of Perry, Taylor County?

10 A Steinhatchee is approximately forty miles  
11 away from the community of Perry, which is the County  
12 Seat.

13 It's the second largest municipality,  
14 unincorporated. It's the largest unincorporated  
15 municipality in the county. There's only one  
16 incorporated municipality, and that's Perry.

17 But this problem tends to polarize  
18 Steinhatchee with the county government, because they  
19 feel like everything that they try to coordinate with,  
20 they have to expend extra funds, such as long distance  
21 phone calls, driving, et cetera, to effect coordination  
22 with the County Seat.

23 Q On the other hand, does it also affect our  
24 citizens who live, say, in Perry in doing business with  
25 the folks in Steinhatchee?

1           A     Yes, it does. One of the other problems is  
2     that local contractors who want to do business in  
3     Steinhatchee have to pay long distance rates for an  
4     area that is in the county.

5           Q     And then is also the same true with family  
6     members just visiting over the telephone?

7           A     Yes. It makes every facet of coordination of  
8     day-to-day life in the county more costly to the  
9     average citizen.

10          Q     In Perry, in Taylor County, there's also  
11     unincorporated areas that are north of Perry, are there  
12     not?

13          A     Yes, there are.

14          Q     And those areas are like Shady Grove --

15          A     Eridu.

16          Q     -- Eridu?

17          A     Right.

18          Q     And those areas are a good distance, are they  
19     not, from Perry?

20          A     Yes, they are.

21          Q     Shady Grove being at least twelve miles?

22          A     Thirteen miles.

23          Q     And then Eridu is even farther, is it not?

24          A     Right. We have other areas that are to the  
25     west that are even farther that are, if you look at

1 Nut-All Rise and Econfina, it is almost as far as it is  
2 to Steinhatchee, yet they have local phone service.

3 Q In other words, we can make a local phone  
4 call from Perry to Nut-All Rise and to Lake Bird and to  
5 Shady Grove?

6 A Shady Grove and Eridu, but not to  
7 Steinhatchee.

8 Q So the Steinhatchee area is the only area in  
9 the county that's not covered by local phone service?

10 A Correct.

11 Q And this has been for a considerable period  
12 of time, has it not?

13 A Yes, it has.

14 Q In your opinion, based upon your testimony  
15 that you've given today, could you just reiterate for  
16 the Commission what benefit you find, as the County  
17 Coordinator, and also for your bosses, the Board of  
18 County Commissioners, what benefit it would be to have  
19 the local service to Steinhatchee?

20 A For one, it would be a lot less costly for  
21 the local government to conduct day-to-day business and  
22 effect coordination, and the same is true for the  
23 average citizen.

24 It would help, I think, also to bring the  
25 community closer together. And, you know, it's seems



1 to me that it is only fair that the citizens in  
2 Steinhatchee are provided local phone service to their  
3 County Seat.

4 It's in Perry where you have all the schools  
5 and all the facilities.

6 Q Hospitals.

7 A Hospitals. The vast majority of contractors  
8 all come out of Perry.

9 (AN OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WAS HAD.)

10 BY MR. BISHOP:

11 Q Mr. Brown, are there other areas that local  
12 service would help with regard to, say, fire protection  
13 or police protection of our county, or the citizens of  
14 our county?

15 A Yes. The critical functions that the  
16 government provide, such as fire protection and law  
17 enforcement, would be enhanced by this.

18 Right now for 911 service, our 911 calls are  
19 routed through Dixie County, and then back to Taylor  
20 County. The Sheriff's Department has an 800 number,  
21 but it's very costly for them to maintain that 800  
22 number.

23 Q Is that about it?

24 A That pretty much sums it up.

25 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, sir.

1 (AN OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WAS HAD.)

2 BY MR. BISHOP:

3 Q Just another question.

4 What effect would having this local service  
5 have, all the way down to Steinhatchee, and with all of  
6 the coast lines of Taylor County, versus not having it  
7 within these areas along the coastline?

8 A Well, Taylor County is considered by FEMA  
9 (Phonetically) one of the most dangerous coastlines in  
10 the United States for storms.

11 Currently being divided by two area codes  
12 complicates our ability to be able to respond to all of  
13 the residents of the community in case of a natural  
14 disaster such as the terrible storm that we went  
15 through in 1993 that cost many lives in the community.

16 Now, this would help streamline our ability  
17 to respond in a timely and efficient manner to protect  
18 lives and property in such a disaster.

19 Q Okay. Now that finally concludes it, right?

20 A Right. I just wanted to double check my  
21 notes.

22 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, sir.

23 (WHEREUPON, THE DEPOSITION OF JACK R. BROWN  
24 WAS CONCLUDED AT 4:20 P.M.)

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA       X  
                                   X  
 COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE   X

I, SONIA FAYE JOHNSON, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to attend Conrad Bishop, on December 4th, 1997, at 4:00 p.m., to report the statement of JACK R. BROWN.

The witness was sworn by me as to the truth of the statement which was in question and answer form; and I further certify that the within transcript, pages 1 to and including 9, is a true and accurate record of my stenographic notes taken at that time.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, Mayo,  
 State of Florida, this 4th day of December, 1997.



*Sonia Faye Johnson*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SONIA FAYE JOHNSON, Court Reporter  
 COMMISSION # CC 343424  
 EXPIRES: February 26, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
DOCKET NO. 930235-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of  
the foregoing was served by U.S. Mail this 5th day of  
December, 1997 to the following:



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GTC, Inc.  
c/o St. Joe Communications, Inc.  
Mr. Bill Thomas  
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Steinhatchee Community Projects  
Board, Inc.  
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