

Jack Smink interview notes

- 1) why best qualified? I ran 4 years ago as independent, NPA. At that time looked at position and felt my qualifications were good fit. Met with county manager and met with head of each department. he said no one had ever done that before. Met with each, to talk budget and develop relationship with county employees. Learned a lot from that process. Big part of why I feel I can do the job. My life experiences have led me to this - run a couple of businesses, worked with regional and national business. Good fit for job. Third generation brevardian. Love brevard and want to see what is best for it. Here to try to solve problems, as team, group.
- 2) What groups do you use for advice and counsel? As cc, advice come from staff and upper management at county level. Best resource for answers. Do my homework and make sure have every resource to do the job, and ultimately my job to decide.
- 3) Willing to build nonsense vs parochial issues? Thing that I do best. My ability to cohabitant with everyone from the constituents all the way to upper management and colleagues. Good priorities there. My goal is not to come in and upset apple cart. Goal into add to. I have certain style of approach that might be able to help give another angle how to fix some things. Not here with a know it all attitude. That only hurts in long run.
- 4) How improve county culture and staff so customer friendly? If they develop confidence in me. Married 39 years. Learned it is communications. Whether fiduciary, business or personal relationship, knowing you are forthright and honest is most important. County staff have best interest of people in mind.
- 5) What experience in budgeting project management, etc? At age of 23 ran own business waterproofing and painting. Big difference between business and government, is quality of life. Zero based budgeting approach is not great approach to government. Have to keep quality life in there as a factor.
- 6) research/background. Any issues? I haven't investigated my opponents. Too busy trying to prepare for the job. If they want to investigate me be prepared to fall asleep. I've reinvented myself a few times in my 61 years, even in entertainment world, I don't think my life was boring, but was always kept as a business. Priorities and vision of goals.
- 7) Priorities? Lagoon, is hot button issue. It is our economy, driver. Environmental right down the line is big interest of mine and approach. I'm all about growth, not against that. But listening to me might assume I am. But I am not. Need smart growth. sustainability. That brings property value up, and makes everybody happy. Look down the road at decisions, if sustainable. That is where we have probably missed the boat. Haven't measured twice and cut once. Look at every option, all info, decided on long term sustainability for this county.
- 8) Next 10 years, top 3 issues? Lagoon and sustainability. Of course environment important. Jobs and kind of jobs also important. Smart growth. Important issue to define our county/culture. Lucky enough to travel a lot, when you walk in a town or city, they get their culture and everyone is on board, with how their culture is define. It shows immediately. Makes people want to come and be a part of that adventure.
 - 1) Where do you put brevard on that scale of being aligned? I think business community gets it, for the most part. I see very active biz community like hoteliers. I don't always agree. Treble ribbon committee, I was the only guy that went to all those meetings. Heard all the rehtoric from the first meeting to the last, and it changed. Because they met with county staff and gathered information, they took that info and made their recommendations. Its amazing how approach and opinion changes when they get a little knowledge. Thats why I've gone again to meet with county department heads.... See if there was any changes, new staff, etc. most of the issues we were dealing with 4 years ago, still dealing with. The biggest difference today, is that 4 years ago parks and rec couldn't afford toilet paper for parks. Now we've got to really measure twice and cut once because monies are turning, and choices to be made. Always the pressure to want to do more, build

more. Not always the answer. Have enough confidence in business community want to see that done correctly. Not just always about money to them, although usually is. but they care about brevard county.

- 2) Follow up on blue ribbon- did you agree with findings? Gas tax, impact fees? Yes I did. If elected how would you deal with it. Look at infrastructure.... Still big issue. (Pressed on understanding). Would start with gas tax. That is most prudent and fair. I don't think will pay for everything.
- 2) Charter cap. Think we need to get rid of the charter cap. It is holding us back from doing real important things. End of day, citizens, no body likes to be taxed, but if they think money being applied where it should be, they will comply. Especially in brevard. People come here for low taxes. But at end of day got pay the bills.
- 3) How would you reduce the budget? Have to go line item by line item. For the most part our county employees are some frugal people, in my opinion would be very difficult to remove somethings you could call somewhat wasteful. In general our employees spend money wisely and make dollar go a long way. To take money away from them and reduce funding would be difficult.
- 4) EELS program. Big proponent of EELS. Big issue for me. Environment is number 1 priority and exceeds growth. Need to re think growth if it hurts environment. Example of north Merritt island. It s bowl. Those people get flooded when we have rains. The ability for water to go through ground and get to aquifer is impeded there. Even though quite bit of wetlands. Ways to get around that. Builders know those ways and we loose wetlands. Nature isa funny thing. If you destroy it, its coming for ya. But beautiful nature environment is what defines us. We don't want to become a common place.
- 5) What problems with IRL restoration how do we overcome? Try to find and discover things that might part of approach. Example Sykes creek muck removal. Originally going to truck muck out to landfil, changed and wan to pump to lowest part of north Merritt island. In the bottom of the bowl. Homes around will flood. Muck is 85% salt water so not a good plan. Company in second position, CSI, plan for filtration. More money, but that approach had more sustainability.
- 6) Position on CRA's - fundamental idea of them and how they came to be is wonderful. I am supporter of CRA's. One of first projects I took on, I ran for almost 2 years and prepared, I went to CRA's and learned about them. Can be very valuable. I think necessary. A little more accountability needs to be applied. Very easy to redirect money. Without negative argument, look at satellite beach. Apply accountability to CRA's. Can do great deal of community.
- 7) Support EDC. Get kick out of secret name.. county commission can't know everything. Situation of competitive intrusion, and everyone fighting for the business and secretive necessary to be competitive.
- 8) Do you support arts and culture? Support increase in grants program. That is what I make living. No one more artsy than jack. When dig into each city, find out they have their own identity. MI environment. Cocoa rich history. Would love to see vocational school in cocoa. Also has courses in business to show them how to start a business. Rising tide floats all boats, love to see the tide rise in cocoa. Has a lot to contribute to brevard.
- 9) Support TDC? Big fan of tourism, and to promote tourism. Big economic engine in Brevard. In past spent too much money on signs etc, we can do better smarter more efficient spending.
 - 1) Support using TDT to fund infrastructure projects to support IRL restoration? I know utilities department that is there purview, having said that that is something that would have to be dug into a little harder. I see some value in that approach, also see some issue in that approach. I can't give clear defined issue.
- 10) Why would endorsement be important to you? I know most of you, would be an honor if business community would have respect and high thought me. I believe you all here

want to improve our county, so want o sharpen the blade a bit. To be picked for that would be because you believe I can do the most good. Think I have done my homework, cares, and had good business background. It would be an honor. I won't take it personal if you don't.

- 11) In 2014, ran as I, now run as Dem. Where are you at with local Dems and that relationship? I'm a democratic. As far as relationship with people of democratic party. You have to go in and earn peoples respect. One thing helped me is fact I've lived in brevard my whole life. Their belief structure is same as GOP, have extreme arm in that, so can't please everyone all the time. Filed as GOP early in 2014 race, when I got in did my homework, found out, the establishment already picked barfield. And Hartman was running as tea party candidate. Harman told him he'd spend 85k of his own money. I knew I was in bad position as GOP in that race. Especially having never run before. So I said, strategically, I would run as NPA. Let them run their race. Then my hope was Hartman would win and establishment would have to back me. But he lost by 300 votes... My strategy was sound. Would do it the same way again. After that loss, I began going to democrat meetings and found a home there, and that's where I have camped. I do know the situation is different this time. There is no Michael Hartman, so strategy is different.
- 12) How much money do you need to raise? Ive lost almost 40 lbs in last few months from knocking doors. Going to get more intense. People who know me I have insane work ethic, according to one of the local city managers. No one will outwork me. Handed out 3k cards comes with a conversation.