

Ms. Mallo walks quickly and angrily off the dais. Slams down her supplies – phone? Notebook? – on the corner of the Board Planning Room closest to Dr. Martirano’s office.

I am second in and I go to stand against the side table across on the board room side by the printer. I lean against that table. As Jen slams her stuff down, she says something like “Now what? Something about being done with everything if that motion failed.” I don’t know if there was a “What the hell?” from her. Or “Now what are we going to do?” She is staring at me.

Kathy Hanks comes in. Stands opposite me by the door into boardroom.

Ms. Delmont-Small comes in with her laptop and other things and I say, “Wow, Christina, that’s a lot of stuff. Do you need it all?” She says something like “Never know when you’re going to need something.” She & Ms. Cutroneo sit down at the conference table closer to me on the Board Room entrance side.

Ms. Taj comes in and says something like “Kirsten, what was that?” Or “what are you doing?” Her voice is incredulous and “How can you do this?” Ms. Mallo says “We can’t move forward with anything if that fails. All these things are predicated on each other to work.” Ms. Taj says “Kirsten, that ruins West Columbia.” Someone, either Ms. Mallo or Ms. Taj says something like “without this, the plan fails.” Somebody may have asked “what would you do with Clemens Crossing? And I think I said something like “Clemens may be able to handle it.” I don’t know if that was my internal monologue and thoughts. But Ms. Mallo & Ms. Taj are only looking at me.

I say I’ll reconsider in a kind of quiet way. I say I know I have to do it if it’s going to pass. I can feel tears starting.

Ms. Ellis walks in and is trying to focus us and I’m behind her saying “I’m going to switch my vote.” Dr. Martirano comes in and says “OK, this is an Administrative session, I can talk to you but not answer any questions.” I reiterate my willingness to reverse.

Ms. Delmont-Small says “Stop bullying her.” I say “I’ve been bullied the entire time by both sides as everyone knows I’m the swing vote.” Ms. Cutroneo may have joined Ms. Delmont-Small in expressing the bullying sentiment as they were sitting next to each other.

But somebody else was talking as Ms. Delmont-Small made the bullying comment. I think Ms. Ellis? To try to quiet everyone down.

We all funnel back into the Board Room to resume and I’m teary.