

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

1:00 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, met in special session on February 5, 2015 at 1:00 PM in the Government Center Commission Room, Building C, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida.

**CALL TO ORDER**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Robin Fisher	Chairman/Commissioner District 1	Present	
Jim Barfield	Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 2	Present	
Trudie Infantini	Commissioner District 3	Present	
Curt Smith	Commissioner District 4	Present	
Andy Anderson	Commissioner District 5	Present	

**ITEM I.A. HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services Director, stated the Housing and Human Services Department is recognized for providing citizens with human service opportunities to achieve success through collaboration with community partners; and the mission is to contribute to Brevard County's quality of life by assisting citizens to meet their health, social, and housing requirements. He went on to say the Department provides multiple community based services throughout the County; they primarily focus upon services to extremely low, low, and moderate income individuals and families; they are dependent upon revenue resources; most services require third party verification of income and security for assistance; and security is often in the form of a lien or other encumbrance. He stated it is a staff driven Department; the budget development begins with an estimation of all revenue streams by establishing grant constraints, labor distribution estimated and reconciled with actuals several times during the course of the year, project planning, and operating needs are addressed after staffing requirements; and all line items are reviewed annually as part of the budget process. He advised the Board the total revenue is \$17,170,714; and it is \$5,254,528 or 30 percent in General Fund transfers, \$1,095,533 or six percent balance forward, \$311,289 or two percent charges for services; \$10,401,604 or 59 percent by grants, \$177,900 or one percent by fines and forfeits, \$108,815 or one percent by other transfers, and \$280,462 or one percent in miscellaneous revenue. He noted the General Fund transfer is \$5,254,528.

Commissioner Infantini stated the Medical Examiner's Office is a mandated service; and she inquired if it is mandated how much the County pays to the service or is it just mandated that it offers that service. Mr. Golden replied it is not mandated the amount that the County pays; as the Board looks, and staff has actually done a study of salaries across-the-State in numerous other counties, there are a lot of different funding mechanisms and ways that they pay for it; some of the counties the Medical Examiner's Office is actually a department of the County like Brevard; it is a part of the budget where his salary is a County employee; and other counties have the Medical Examiner as a contractor, and he gets the funding and pays his staff. He pointed out other counties contract the service and pay per cases; and there are a lot of different avenues how that is paid for. Commissioner Infantini stated that may be an opportunity to save some funds if the Board decided to look at how it is currently done. Mr. Golden stated he thinks what the Board will find in looking at the other counties that the Board would actually end up paying more; and the reason he says that is as the Board look at the different salaries across-the-State, Brevard County's Medical Examiner in like size counties with approximately

February 5, 2015

the same number of employees and cases make \$20,000 to \$30,000 more than the current Medical Examiner in the County is paid.

Chairman Fisher inquired if the Medical Examiner is the only salary in there. Mr. Golden responded he thinks there are 11 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees or so in that program; there is a Medical Examiner, Associate Medical Examiner, Investigators, Technicians, and Support Staff.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, noted the cost savings he has seen are with the counties that actually share the services, and he thinks there are more than a few counties that actually contract with one entity for their Medical Examiner.

Mr. Golden stated the expenditures for compensation and benefits total \$4,595,772 or 26.8 percent; operating, including housing projects at \$8,508,472 or 49.6 percent; Capital Outlay at \$3,000; Grant and Aid at \$2,601,345 or 8.5 percent; and CIP at \$1,462,125 or 8.5 percent. He pointed out the Community Action Agency (CAA) is a mixture of Federal, State, and local funding with direct services to low and moderate income individuals and families within the County; it assists with electric, water, gas utilities, self-sufficiency, mortgage and rental assistance, and medical and dental assistance, including prescriptions; there is specific eligibility criteria and limits upon assistance; and the CAA is responsible for oversight of several State Mandates, such as indigent burials, cremations, and HCRA.

Commissioner Barfield inquired how the people come in to meet Housing and Human Services employees. Mr. Golden replied they actually go out every year in March to do outreach to the community for these different programs under CAA; LIHEAP the energy program, staff targets the elderly, disabled, or families with children under five; for that in March they actually go out to assisted living facilities where people are renting their own apartments; and they are making sure they are reaching out to that population. He went on to say they reach out to the community partners and make them aware of the application; and information about all these programs are on the website, as well as staff goes out to a lot of the community meetings over the year.

Mr. Golden went on to say the Criminal Justice does circuit probation services defendants as ordered through the court system; they have oversight and management of inmate population in coordination with Brevard County Sheriff's Office, State Attorney's office, Public Defender's Office, and the Court system; and they identify and address conditions which lead to jail overcrowding through the Jail Population Oversight Committee, Jail Re-Entry Task Force, Juvenile Justice Circuit Board, and the Public Safety Coordinating Council. He noted the School Crossing Guard program services unincorporated elementary schools within the County; there are 23 schools, 55 crossing locations, and 3,000 per day; and they have intervened and prevented several child abduction attempts. He advised the Board some of the discretionary grants and programs to address community needs are Juvenile and adult drug courts, safe havens and supervised visitation, Juvenile Assessment Center, and Teen Court; over 6,000 eligible households were assisted through the Community Action Agency during FY 2013-14; there were 200 successful terminations from Felony Pre-Trial Release; there were 400 successful terminations from Community Supervision; there were 132 Jail inmates released into substance abuse treatment; and 154 clients were served through Drug Courts.

Commissioner Smith inquired how the grants are solicited. Mr. Golden replied staff partners with the community agencies; they come to them and say they want to partner with them when a particular grant comes out; staff acts as the fiscal agent for some of the grants; and there are other grants they need the County to sign off on or provide letters of support to go after. He pointed out staff reviews them after the community agency writes the majority of the grant.

February 5, 2015

Mr. Golden noted some of the revenue sources are balance forward, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), charges for services such as probation, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), fine and forfeits, such as School Crossing Guards and Driver's Education, General Fund, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), miscellaneous revenue, such as interest, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and other transfers, such as Court Administration.

Commissioner Infantini inquired if when Housing and Human Services had a grant writer, was he or she successful in obtaining grants for the County for services. Mr. Golden replied he believes they were; the grant writer was looking at what the Department was focusing on; what the Community Advisory Boards are focusing on things that were specific, for example Together in Partnership focused on issues around children and families; and those are the grants they were looking for. Commissioner Infantini stated she spoke to someone in County Finance at one time who pointed out to her that there was so much funding available; to apply for grants is one way of doing some of the projects the Board thinks are very important; and it almost seems like in some cases maybe the Board could cost share having a grant writer with Housing and Human Services Department and the fire department, where there is a certain amount of funding. Mr. Golden stated he agreed with Commissioner Infantini that it may be something to look at; and the County cannot use grant dollars to pay for the Grant Writer so they would have to look at other avenues to fund that.

Mr. Golden stated aid to private organizations are General Fund supported; Community Based Organization Funding, such as Meals on Wheels, Domestic Violence, and Mobile Health Care leverages \$956,100 in additional State and Federal Funds; Health Department funding leverages \$1,217,690 in Federal funds; and there are five special needs shelters in the County; Housing and Human Services are responsible for operational oversight; and the Health Department is responsible for medical oversight. He stated the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal Mandate; and other Mandates are Medicaid, Department of Juvenile Justice, Baker Act, Arrestee Healthcare, and Child Protection Team. He noted included under community resources is the infrastructure program; this is funded through CDBG dollars; there are seven areas across the County that staff has targeted; they make sure the individuals meet the eligibility requirements; those areas are the Clear Lake area in Cocoa, Micco, Mims, Sharpes, Tropical Park, West Canaveral Groves, and West Cocoa; and what they are able to do with this funding is to go into low-income communities. He pointed out the areas have to be at least 51 percent below area median income. He stated they can also do services based on individual benefits, in which case every individual that is served has to meet that income threshold. He went on to say some of the projects done in the past is they worked on Wiley Road in Mims doing drainage improvements and sidewalks because there were issues of flooding. He stated additionally under this tied to some of the CDBG rules, but not part of the annual CDBG allocation, is Tropical Storm Fay/Disaster dollars; in 2008 Tropical Storm Fay came through and it caused tremendous flooding in some areas; in 2010 the Feds put some dollars out through the State and they were able to apply for an additional \$6.5 million to address those specific infrastructures; and they actually had a process where they worked with Advisory Boards and it brought the final product to the Board to approve with staff actually submitting the application to the State to address these needs. He stated later there were additional disaster recovery funds that were available and that was another \$2 million; they partner with City of Cocoa and City of Melbourne to address these issues of flooding; part of the dollars had to be set aside, 14 percent, to do mitigation and hardening of affordable housing; and they put it in an RFP and had agencies apply for that. He pointed out for community resources they had multiple funding sources, CDBG, Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund (DREF), General Fund, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and Tropical Storm Fay. He provided the Board with a breakdown of the revenue for this area at a total of \$4,967,038; with grants totaling \$2,972,321 or 56 percent; and the General Fund transfer totaling \$2,143,333, or 41 percent. He provided the Board with the expenditures by category;

February 5, 2015

Compensation and Benefits at \$1,236,811, or 24.9 percent; Operating at \$746,688, or 15 percent; Capital Outlay at \$3,000, or 0.1 percent; Grants and Aid at \$1,518,414 or 30.6 percent; and CIP at \$1,462,125, or 29.4 percent. He noted the next item is Housing, which encompasses many of the different housing programs; and each one of them have different eligibility requirements. He stated they do provide purchase assistance for first time home buyers, hardest hit, which helps people stay in their homes and avoid foreclosure, rehabilitation and replacement housing, and acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction; they also have a weatherization program, which unlike all of the other programs, they actually put a second mortgage on a person's home to secure the dollars that are put into the home; and it maxes out at about \$6,000 per home.

Commissioner Infantini inquired what the eligibility requirements are for the weatherization program. Mr. Golden responded like LIHEAP, they have very specific eligibility criteria; there is a waiting list of probably 200 people; there is a score sheet they go through every one; and it depends where a person falls on that score sheet. He went on to add, particularly they are looking at elderly, over 60, the disabled, and home's that has children under 12 years old; and for each one of those criteria on the score sheet a person gets a score.

Mr. Golden pointed out for every dollar put into affordable housing, the County gets approximately \$7 back; for the \$4.6 million in housing dollars put out onto the street, it has an economic impact of about \$35 million; that includes the salaries that the contractors pays their subs, the purchase of materials at the local Lowe's and Home Depot, and those type of things; and those dollars just ripple out and have a huge impact in the community. He advised the Board staff does not do any of the work themselves; and all of the dollars go back into the street through either a bidding process or RFP process so they can look at making sure these dollars go out to local contractors and developers.

Commissioner Smith inquired what the return is. Mr. Golden replied approximately \$7.66 for every dollar put out. Commissioner Smith stated he is having a hard time wrapping his head around that because if that works, then the government should just go into the business of giving away money and it will be a never ending supply. Commissioner Infantini stated she loves having a team mate up there. Mr. Golden noted he is not saying that is the return on everything the County does; what he can speak to is the University of Florida did research through its Shimberg Center and looked at all of the data they could to get to that number; and he can provide the Board the article that is based on and data if it is interested.

Commissioner Anderson stated he is active in the Homes for Warriors Program; and he inquired if the County has reviewed getting involved in a similar program for that or doing anything in that area. Mr. Golden responded from what he understands, that program they utilize some of their NSP dollars to purchase foreclosures; when the County sat up the NSP Program, one of the things identified was to set aside 30 percent of the funds to make sure that impacts Veterans; and so they have met that either through rentals or homes that were purchased. He stated in addition, they partner with other Veterans Services Agencies to create and support additional housing that is still ongoing; the Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless work with Vets; and George Taylor's up north they work with as well. Commissioner Anderson stated the only reason he mentioned that was they get a lot for their dollar for that because it is mostly volunteers; he thinks they have one FTE; he guesses he is going to get an assistant pretty soon; and the rest of the work they have done is with volunteers and donated materials. He noted that program is such an example of how to leverage that funding and get more for less. Mr. Golden advised unfortunately the County's dollars cannot be used to pay for their administration; and the Housing and Human Services really deals with the construction side. Commissioner Anderson stated he is very fond of getting those free foreclosed houses and then renovating them, because all of the houses were donated by different banks and then renovated to the NSP Program.

February 5, 2015

Chairman Fisher stated he is not sure if the numbers are seven times, but he thinks kind of the way they do the accounting of the impact is they make an assumption if a house gets painted, a painter is hired, a painter hires an employee to help him, that employee buys food, insurance, and whatever, and that is the trickledown effect. He noted in the economic world, there is a trickledown effect by being able to hire someone and then they spend money in the community, and it helps to create those values. He stated at the end of the day if he can sell an insurance policy, he has to have an employee who works for him; he pays him or her; they go buy a house and groceries; and then the grocery store hires someone to serve them. He stated there is some benefit to it.

Mr. Whitten stated it is a direct economic impact, it is the secondary impact, and it is the same thing the economist at the colleges would tell the Board; that is how economic impact is measured; it is not the one dollar that employees the painter, it is the painter spending it on bread at the grocery store; and it is consistent from all of the sources.

Commissioner Smith stated what he is having difficulty with is the multiplier effect; if he has \$5 to pay five different employees, they each get a buck; and he inquired how that gets to be \$35 bucks. Commissioner Infantini stated welcome to governmental accounting. Mr. Whitten pointed out that is not accounting it is economic theory; it is how to measure the impact of a dollar in the community; and it is that person taking their dollar and spending it on a day at the movies.

Commissioner Barfield stated it is a compounding effect because there are a large amount of people, not just the one-to-one; and if a lot of people invest in something, it is worth more money.

Commissioner Anderson stated he is involved in the City of Palm Bay Program; there was a vacant foreclosed home that is now a nice fixed up home; it improved the property values of the neighbors; and that is an aspect to take into account.

Mr. Golden provided the Board with pictures of homes that were fixed up in the community.

Chairman Fisher stated an example is if he had a house that cost \$100,000; there is someone laying the concrete, someone to lay block, someone to put windows in, and many other things; there are 20 different trades working on that house; he is spending \$100,000, but those 20 different trades are getting a job; and they will go buy something in the market for their family.

Commissioner Anderson inquired if staff gives referrals from City and County Code Compliance Officers. Mr. Golden replied affirmatively; he stated weatherization is one of the few programs that actually is entirely Countywide; some of the other projects, because the cities get their own dollars, they do not do them within the boundaries of the cities; and he reiterated weatherization is Countywide.

Mr. Golden stated some of the revenue sources associated with the housing is balance forward, HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Miscellaneous Revenue, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The Medical Examiner is responsible for determining cause of death in certain circumstances, such as criminal violence, accident, suicide, when in apparent good health; he approves cremation requests and burials at sea; and he is seeing in his program an increase in services. He noted the Medical Examiner has some revenue sources in addition to the General Fund; he is almost fully supported by the General Fund; the majority of his funds are for operating and benefits; and he has to pay a separate lab for testing. He stated Brevard County has the 7th largest Veteran Population in the State of Florida; and thanks to the Veterans Service Office, Brevard County has the third

February 5, 2015

highest amount of pension and other benefits coming to its Veterans in the State of Florida; and this Program is 100 percent supported by the General Fund.

Commissioner Anderson stated they are pretty busy all of the time; and he inquired if there are still interns working there. Mr. Golden replied affirmatively; he stated they have not had as many interns lately; there have been longer wait times; and there have been so many people come in. He advised sometimes when they have medical issues, the wait is a problem; the office has been made more comfortable due to that reason; but in reality they could use another Veterans Service Officer. Commissioner Anderson stated this office is a savior for a lot of Veterans; and he would encourage the Board while going through the budget to try to get that additional Veterans Service Officer. He stated some of the additional functions that the Department does are in support of the different grants that come down; they have certain monitoring requirements; not only is the County audited by every different one of the funding sources, but they in turn monitor everything they do; and when they have that second lien on someone's home for 15 years, there is someone pulling data from the Property Appraiser making sure they filed for homestead exemption. He went on to say each one of their funding sources has different reporting requirements; and they also have their finance team. He stated they have a couple advisory board's that are mandated by the State or federal funding sources, the Affordable Housing Council and the Community Action Board; and they have four community advisory boards, Commission on Aging, Community Development Block Grant, homeless Coalition, and Together in Partnership to address the ongoing needs of different populations. He concluded by saying they are seeing an increase in the number of people coming in seeking services; the available funding has decreased over the past three fiscal years; a Medical Examiner needs to be hired; and there are Capital needs at the Medical Examiner's Office.

Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Golden to provide the Board a chart with information on the number of claims for the Veteran's Service Office, along with the cost, the benefits and pay, for an additional Veterans Services Officer. Mr. Golden advised between email, telephone, and in person had over 17,000 contracts. Commissioner Anderson inquired if they track that. Mr. Golden replied affirmatively. Commissioner Anderson noted volunteers flip a lot, and there is no consistency with it.

Commissioner Barfield stated it is a tremendous relief to have the volunteers. Commissioner Anderson agreed with Commissioner Barfield, but he still thinks there needs to be another Veterans Service Officer.

\*The Board recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 2:18 p.m.

#### **ITEM I.B. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Commissioner Infantini stated someone called her on the telephone during her the break; they pointed out something about that whole economic theory about how money expands if it is taken and put out there; and if tax money was not taken from an individual, how much more would it have expanded had that one individual been able to keep that dollar.

Commissioner Smith inquired what the great University of Florida has to say about that. Stockton Whitten, County Manager, taxation is what great societies are built on.

Commissioner Infantini stated New York State is advertising if a person will brings their business there, there will not be income taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes; and there is some reason why they are advertising. Mr. Whitten noted in marketing that is called a bait and switch.

February 5, 2015

Kimberly Prosser, Emergency Management Director, stated according to Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, each County must have an Emergency Management Agency and a comprehensive emergency management plan consistent with the State's plan; each Emergency Management Agency shall serve an entire county; each county must have a Director of Emergency Management, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners or the County Manager; the Emergency Management Agency must coordinate for use of School Board resources during local state of emergencies; and each Emergency Management Agency must review all health care facility plans within the county. She went on to say each county must provide a primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and secondary centers as needed; each county must establish and maintain a Special Needs Registry; and each county must coordinate sheltering of special needs clients with the health Department. She noted there are County employees that are involved with that as well. She advised the Board that county emergency management agencies serve as liaisons for municipalities' requests for State and Federal assistance; counties must have a comprehensive emergency management plan, and cities may have; and counties are responsible for providing for evacuations, shelters, including general population, special needs, and pet friendly, post-disaster recovery, alerting and warning, and exercises. She pointed out Emergency Management's mission is to provide Brevard County residents, businesses, and industries, non-profit organizations, and local government the education and support necessary to reduce the loss of life and human suffering; to minimize property damage; and to protect environmentally sensitive areas from all types of disasters through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazard emergency management program. She noted Emergency Management has three divisions; they have Emergency Operations; they have 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System; and they have E-911 Administration and Address Assignment. She stated in emergency operations they provide information and resources as needed. She stated with the shooting incident at the Merritt Square Mall recently, they provided disaster mental health support, as well as canteen support, through the local Red Cross; with the 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System, they provide the system that provides law enforcement and fire fighters the ability to talk with each other; and with E911 Administration and Address Assignment, they provide the systems that ensure the 9-1-1 call goes to the correct agency and that the squad care, fire truck, or ambulance goes to the right address.

Chairman Fisher inquired of the new 800 MHz system up in Melbourne. Ms. Prosser replied she will get to that.

Ms. Prosser provided the Board a chart to show that in a declared state of emergency with the EOC, the different types of support services that they provide assistance for. She stated 44 percent of the emergency operations budget is restricted; the majority of that is through the Florida Power & Light Company grant, Emergency Management Performance Grant, Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant, as well as Homeland Security Grants through both the Regional Domestic Security Task Force and the Urban Area Security Initiative; and a good portion of the General Fund dollars is to match the Grants. She advised the Board some of the services provided by Emergency Operations are they create and manage the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), continuity of operations plans, information-sharing among all partners, four phases of emergency management (preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation), exercises and drills, and SARA Title III compliance. She stated no county in Florida has more hazards than Brevard County, so they have to keep track of what all of the hazards are and to make sure they have plans for them. She went on to say with shelter coordination they handle coordinating the shelters for both disasters, post-disaster, and cold weather sheltering; they have 13 primary shelters; there are three pet-friendly shelters, which will soon be expanding to four; and they have five special needs shelters. She stated they provide the Emergency Management training for all partners; they coordinate the Brevard Operations Base (BOB) SharePoint System for information sharing in a disaster; they are responsible for alerting and warning; and that includes the Emergency Alert System, FirstCall, social media, and texting

February 5, 2015

for ways to alert and warn people. She pointed out they are responsible for coordinating exercises and planning with regard to the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant, along with the four other counties in the area that would be affected; the plan for space launches with radiological sources; and they management the Local Mitigation Strategy, which identifies and prioritizes projects which when completed will reduce disaster risks. She added they do emergency plan reviews for all healthcare facilities, including hospitals, assisting living facilities, adult day cares, ambulatory surgical centers, and nursing homes; they do about 100 plan reviews per year; they manage the Special Needs Registry; currently they have just under 2,000 people on that Registry; and that is for people with specific healthcare needs or disabilities. She stated the budget for the 800 MHz Radio System; 89 percent is restricted; and that is 3.4 percent General Fund to cover the non-billable items. She stated as tower leases are expiring, they are reviewing the amount that cell carriers have been paying and adjusting that to today's market values; the 35 percent on the right of the chart shows the 800 MHz's backbone maintenance; and they have an annual contract that is paid for through annual billing to users. She noted Tower Rental Revenue is used for equipment repair and replacement to the infrastructure of the system. She stated the 800 MHz Radio System, the radio system used by all public safety agencies, the Sheriff's Office, Brevard County Fire Rescue, and every city fire and police departments; they have user agreements and accounts for 56 different agencies; with the expansion of the system, radio coverage will be expanding via new towers in Scottsmeer, Indian Harbour Beach, and Cape Canaveral; they are replacing obsolete equipment; and by moving to a digital system, it will improve capacity and capability, as well as regional interoperability. She explained to the Board everything that is in the black writing on the slide is what has been completed, what is in the blue writing, which is the Cities of Rockledge, Palm Bay, and Titusville towers are being enhanced; the Indian Harbour Beach site is being developed; and the north area simulcast system is being implemented right now. She noted once those are completed, they will be moving to the green items.

Chairman Fisher inquired if the new 800 MHz system has been implemented in the Melbourne area. Ms. Prosser replied once they have the north simulcast system implemented, and once the Indian Harbour Beach tower is up, they will be able to work towards the south area simulcast.

Ms. Prosser stated four towers is where they started and at the end of the project they will have nine towers; they will have digital voice and encryption at dispatch level and Countywide; and they will be eliminating interference from other counties on that radio system. She stated they had a very unbalanced traffic load as far as people having to wait and being able to talk on their radios, so agencies will be working out of their geographical areas and the load will be more balanced; they will have more up-to-date building codes, which is better for the structures; and they will have much better coverage north/south beach and east/west corridor. She pointed out they will be moving to a P-25 future ready platform; and that is a new standard that has been put out by the FCC so equipment does not have to be purchased from one particular vendor, but all of them are compatible with each other. She stated for E-911 and Address Assignment, 91.81 percent of those funds are restricted; and they get a small General Fund allotment to cover Address Assignment that is unrelated to the E-911 system. She stated E-911 and Address Assignment is guided by Florida Statute 365, as well as other State and Federal rules; they have one point of contact regarding any fiscal, technical, operational, and strategic planning issues with the E-911 System; it is operational Countywide, so all agencies are using this system; and they are a little more advanced than the surrounding counties. She went on to say they not only have the basic systems, but they have E-911 Wireline, which means it goes to the correct agency and it tells the 9-1-1 operator the address, E-911 Wireless gives a location for the telephone, and the i3Platform, which is Internet based; they ensure there is the appropriate technology for the 11 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the County; and they are also responsible for the E-911 fund distribution to all those agencies that handle the 9-1-1- calls. She advised the Board they ensure the E-911 database is accurate as far as the

February 5, 2015

correct telephone numbers; they provide training for the Public Safety Telecommunicators, which there is a State standard for that now; they provide GIS and electronic mapping to those PSAPs for accurate dispatching; and they also provide that for the EM operations side for response and recovery coordination. She stated the Address Assignment assigns addresses for new development or redevelopment for streets and subdivisions; and they ensure streets and addresses are not duplicated.

Commissioner Infantini inquired if at some point in the not-so-distant future if she has an emergency, she would be able to send a text message instead of talking on the telephone. Ms. Prosser replied affirmatively; and she stated it is not in place yet.

Ms. Prosser stated the 800 MHz division will manage the County's cell towers and leases; the E-911 division is taking on address assignment for several municipalities; and the DHS resiliency assessment for local Defense industrial Base sector, which will improve national security. She stated they need a new EOC and communications center; their current facility is 11,000 square feet; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommendation is 57,960 square feet; and spatial needs analysis that they had done by an architect group recommended 61,943 square feet. She went on to say by way of example, Building D at the Government Center is just over 50,000 square feet. She advised the Board the EOC is the most activated EOC in the State; they have had over 100 activations in the past five years; and they activate for every space launch. She noted the EOC in Brevard County is the second oldest in Florida; and Brevard County's EOC is one of the few in the State without space for municipality representation. She pointed out no county in the State has more hazards than Brevard; Brevard County also has the highest number of high likelihood hazards; and they have unique hazards associated with Kennedy Space Center/Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Patrick Air Force Base (PAFB), Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Port Canaveral as the fastest-growing port in Florida, and Barefoot Bay as the second largest manufactured home park in the United States. She stated it is good timing for a new EOC because of the 800 MHz upgrade as the current upgrade and expansion of the System to P-25 compatible will be complete in one year; when that happens city communications centers will need to purchase new radio consoles; and cities considering co-location of their dispatchers with Brevard County Fire Rescue, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, or contracting for those services would likely prefer to make that decision prior to purchasing new radio consoles. She stated as more people eliminate landlines, and cellular providers decline to charge a monthly 9-1-1 fee, revenues decrease; a major priority of the State's 911 Grant Program is consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points; four of the County's 11 PSAPs are located on barrier islands; and funds will not be available to replace them following a disaster.

Commissioner Infantini stated she thinks there is an increase in revenue for the 911 because people went from having one phone line to now one for every family member; a person may have dropped a home phone; but now everyone has their own personal phone. She stated at some point it will level off, but she thinks they are still on the incline. Ms. Prosser noted that is what they have experienced so far.

Commissioner Anderson stated a big part of that was the prepaid cell phones; the Florida Association of Counties it was a big topic; big retailers were circumventing the system; and if someone had a pre-paid phone, he or she did not have to pay the 911 fees. He inquired when to expect to see those revenues off of the new legislation. Ms. Prosser replied sometime this year.

Ms. Prosser stated one of the things that Palo Alto task force report noted, is that when public safety facilities decline into substandard or unsafe conditions, both those who use them and the community that depends on them are in jeopardy.

February 5, 2015

Commissioner Smith stated he is amazed that Baker County with a 2,600 population has a 58,000 square foot EOC.

Commissioner Infantini stated the County should get buy in from the municipalities before it builds something, because what if the municipalities do not come. She stated the four municipalities that have their own dispatch center, perhaps the County could get buy in from them that they would like to have it centralized. Ms. Prosser stated she is meeting with the Space Coast League of Cities on Monday.

Commissioner Smith stated Sheriff Wayne Ivey said he has met with the Space Coast League of Cities, and everyone he spoke with thought it was a great idea. He stated his one concern was how difficult it would be if a plane flew into the building; and if everyone was in one building what the risk was to have a total blackout. Ms. Prosser advised there would need to be a backup center.

### **ITEM I.C. LIBRARY SERVICES**

Jeff Thompson, Library Services Director, stated the mission of Brevard County Libraries is to enable people of all ages to improve their quality of life by providing information and enrichment through traditional resources and new technology. He stated Brevard County had five libraries from 1900-1959, City of Cocoa, City of Cocoa Beach, Eau Gallie, Melbourne, and Titusville; in 1959 they decided to operate these libraries jointly; Brevard County paid one-third of the cost to operate the libraries; and the libraries served all Brevard County residents. He went on to say in the 1960's, four new libraries were added to that system, Merritt Island, Satellite Beach, Cape Canaveral, and Meadowlane, which is now the West Melbourne Library. He stated because of the tremendous growth in the County, they decided to create a Federated Library System, which is the beginning of what the County has today; in 1972 the cities all gave their libraries over to the County, and the County created a Library Tax District; the County created a Library Board; it was the beginning of the Countywide library service; and since 1972, eight more libraries have been constructed, the last one was built in 2002. He pointed out there are 17 libraries across the County; there is one very large central library in Cocoa; four large libraries in Titusville, Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, and Franklin Degrout; there are four medium libraries in Merritt Island, Suntree/Viera, Eau Gallie, and Satellite Beach; there are four small libraries in Port St. John, Dr. King Library, Melbourne Beach Library, West Melbourne Library, and South Mainland in Micco; and there are three satellite libraries, Mims/Scottsmeer, Cape Canaveral, and the Palm Bay Library. He stated the number of PC sessions, when someone uses the computer, was 376,980 in 2004 and 464,712 in 2014, which is a 23 percent increase; the number of hours of meeting rooms being used is 50,303.31 the reference transactions in 2004 was 676,066 in 2004 and 1,139,684 in 2014, which is a 69 percent increase; and programs for adults were 2,401 in 2004 and 26,768 in 2014. He went on to say the libraries have youth services; in 2004 the number who attended the youth service services was 1,277,154 and 1,875,164 in 2014, a 47 percent increase; in 2014 the programs for children was 2,909 and the attendance was 89,064; the mobile library visits in 2014 was 791, with attendance at 5,914; the talking books for the handicapped is serving over 2,000 citizens; and in 2012 Library of Congress awarded Brevard County's Talking Books Library as the Sub-Regional Network Library of the Year.

Commissioner Smith stated his love for books, but he does not have the time to read; and he enjoys the talking books. He stated *A Land Remembered* is a phenomenal book, and he inquired if there is an audio book for that.

Mr. Thompson stated Deborah Martin handles this by herself. He stated the libraries have 1,184,819 books in collection; the circulation in 2004 was 4,500,469; and the circulation in 2014 was 5,059,874, for a 12 percent increase. He stated they have had eBooks since 2011; they

February 5, 2015

have been so popular the circulation rises; the circulation is over 17,000 a month; and if were to be made into a library branch, it would be third from the bottom in circulation.

Commissioner Anderson stated the upside is a person does not pay fines for EBooks.

Mr. Thompson stated libraries has over 71,000 volunteer hours for 2014, which is equivalent to 34.14 Full-Time Equivalent people; there are 17 groups called Friends of the Library who are citizens who do things like conduct book sales to raise additional funds for the libraries; and the Advisory Boards that provide oversight and community input. He stated the Brevard Library Foundation was founded in 1999 to seek private sector support for the County library system; they buy books for children; they operate a café in the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center; they are giving an award for the best writing in Brevard County, Patrick D. Smith Award, to encourage the literary efforts among the community; and the other project they are working on is the Creative Lab where people can come and work on various kinds of technical projects. He noted there will be a 3-D printer, computer with software that does engineering and 3-D design; it will be a multi-purpose space; classes for children will be done; and there will be a photo lab, video lab, and audio lab. He stated the idea is to let young people discover naturally if they have an interest in technical arts. He advised the Board that some of the partnerships with the libraries are Guardian Ad Litem, Supervisor of Elections, Space Coast Area Transit, United Way, Brevard Cultural Alliance, Literacy for Adults Brevard, and AARP for tax help.

Alvin Hill, Library Services Finance Manager, stated the majority of the libraries expense are relatively fixed, operational costs of the 17 different library locations; they perform trend analysis of past expenses in order to forecast future expenses; they can do a short-term view as far as 3-5 years; and during this time if possible, they use those dollars towards the libraries capital needs. He went on to say the tax revenue is basically from ad valorem taxes; they receive zero dollars from the General Fund; and he provided the Board with a slide showing the tax revenue and millage rate from 2005-2015.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated the uptick is new construction, primarily the Florida Power & Light Company plant.

Mr. Hill stated their overall budget is \$21,538,576; their number one expense is compensation and benefits at \$9,553,724; they have 296 staff members; and that equates to approximately 213 FTE's. He stated the operating expenditures is \$6,163,725; the Capital Outlay is \$2,098,784; their Operating Reserves are \$1,699,652, and Restricted Reserves \$425,172; and the Transfers were \$1,597,519. He concluded by saying the areas they are focusing on are facility maintenance and repairs, which is \$712,242 for roof and air conditioning; technology replacement at \$370,576 for replacing servers and PCs that have reached end-of-life; and they would like to invest \$1.7 million for library media-eBooks and books.

Mr. Thompson stated they are attempting to make the best use of the dollars they have; they have been working on repairing the stucco; it will probably be well over \$100,000 to do that; and the Mims Scottsmoor Library floor needs to be repaired. He stated the air conditioner in his office was manufactured on October 1989; and the air conditioners on the buildings need to be fixed. He stated the challenges are lack of pay increases and increasing costs of benefits; the increasing demand for the internet bandwidth; the increasing demand for electronic materials; and public service needs are evolving. He stated some of the trends there are increasing demand for E-content and streaming, mobile device applications, and large print materials and assistive devices; there is a continuing demand for meeting rooms, physical books, and reading and study space; and there is a growing interest for new technologies, such as 3-D printing and local history. He concluded by saying the libraries need to catch-up on deferred maintenance; they need to adjust services to keep pace with evolving community needs; they want to maintain sufficient reserves to cover infrastructure emergencies; they want to implement technologies

February 5, 2015

that save costs; and the want to continue and strengthen community partnerships so they can do more with what they have.

\*The Board recessed at 3:29 p.m. and reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

#### **ITEM I.D. UTILITY SERVICES**

Robert Adolphe, Utility Services Director, stated the Utility Services vision is to set new standards of customer service and environmental sustainability through efficient management of infrastructure and optimization of financial and technological resources; the mission is provide quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services to their customers; and the values are quality, respect, trust, accountability, and leadership. He went on to say the service area stretches the entire length of Brevard County, from Mims to Barefoot Bay and San Sebastian; there are 70,500 wastewater equivalent residential connections; and there are 8,236 water equivalent residential connections. He stated they take no tax dollars as it is an enterprise organization, it is all customer fees; they are highly regulated by government entities; they have to comply in water/wastewater areas; they take hundreds of samples every day for laboratory analysis and testing; they have consumptive use and wastewater permits; and there is stormwater regulations, monitoring wells, chemical compliance and handling, and diesel tank compliance. He pointed out the County water and wastewater revenues are \$79,528,327; water and wastewater service fees are at \$30,117,278; water and wastewater connection fees are at \$1,900,000; interest revenue and miscellaneous revenue at \$183,618; and bond proceeds and balance forward at \$47,327,431. He advised the Board the County water and wastewater expenditures is at \$79,528,327; compensation and benefits at \$9,076,767; operating and maintenances are at \$10,290,328; Capital Outlay is at \$1,977,542; CIP is at \$29,943,968; Reserves are at \$26,609,946; and the transfers are at \$1,629,776. He stated the Barefoot Bay Water and Wastewater revenue is at \$6,624,560, which include water and wastewater fees, water and wastewater connection fees, grant revenue, interest revenue and miscellaneous revenue, and bond proceeds and balance forward; and the expenditures are at \$6,624,560, consisting of compensation and benefits, operating and maintenance expenses, capital outlay, CIP, debt services, reserves, and transfers. He provided the Board with a slide showing the expanded version of the previous chart for revenues and expenditures. He noted the big deal is \$134 million capital improvement program over the next ten years; the design and construction of the South Central Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion; and they are pursuing additional grant funding to supplement budgets for inflow and infiltration reduction Countywide, additional sewer force main under the Merritt Island Barge Canal, sewer line expansion on North Courtenay Parkway, and the West Cocoa collection system rehabilitation. He inquired how they are going to spend the \$134 million in the next ten years; he stated wastewater collection/lift station rehabilitation at \$61 million; they are spending for the Central Wastewater Treatment/Disposal Plan \$32.5 million, including the design; wastewater treatment and disposal is at \$23 million; other projects are at \$8.7 million; water treatment and supply \$.3 million; and water distribution at \$2.4 million. He explained to the Board that the Mims Water Treatment Plant is 35 years old; they will be replacing asbestos cement lines with PVC; they will be rehabilitating and cleaning water wells; they will replace and upgrade water plant controls and computerization; and they will install new lime softening equipment. He noted capital improvements for the Mims Water System in the next 10 years will be \$9.5 million. He stated the North Brevard Wastewater System plant is 27 years old; they are replacing sludge centrifuge; and they are rehabilitation two life stations. He pointed out the system will cost \$5.1 million. He advised the Port St. John Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system is 35 years old; they need to do a total rehabilitation of the existing plant; and they want to upgrade the master lift station, at a cost over 10 years of \$6.6 million. He noted the Sykes Creek Treatment Plant collection system is 28 years old; they are replacing headwork's and screening replacement; and they are replacing sewer lines, at a total cost of \$18.1 million. He stated the

February 5, 2015

South Central Wastewater treatment plant is 27 years old; it needs 50 percent plant expansion by 2018 to support growth; grease-seepage pre-treatment system under design is needed; Lift Station T16 and T25 are entering design; and lift stations and the entire West Cocoa collection system is in poor condition, and \$4 million will be designated this year. He advised the Board the South Beaches Wastewater treatment plant is 44 years old; it is a highly corrosive environment; they are going to make upgrades to odor control, grit removal, and treatment process improvements; and repair seven lift stations, force mains, and gravity sewer rehabilitation, at a total of 27.4 million. He stated they plan renewal and replacement of inflow and infiltration due to leaking and causing higher flows; they are upgrading in 80 lift stations the lift station telemetry; and they are upgrading 24 lift station control panels.

Commissioner Anderson inquired how many of the lift stations have generator backup. Mr. Adolphe replied they have 10 generators planned to purchase this year; the master lift stations have generators; but he would like to get to the point where all of the larger lift stations have in ground generators; and as for the smaller ones, they have pigtailed that they can plug in and run them for a while.

Mr. Adolphe stated they will be replacing an estimated 100 force main valves, at a total cost of \$12.5 million. He concluded by saying the capital improvements for the Barefoot Bay Water System is estimated over the next five years at \$1.4 million.

Commissioner Barfield inquired if all the work is done with contractors. Mr. Adolphe responded they bid it out; there is work they do in house to a small extent; and they have people who are innovated. Commissioner Barfield inquired if they purchased the parts and materials and then let the contractor do the work with that. Mr. Adolphe replied with the major components they do get a tax advantage; he asked him previously if they pre-purchased motors for lift stations; the reason they do not do that is lift stations have what is called a power curve on them; there is an impeller; and those match the profile of that lift station, so they cannot be pre-purchased as they are specified individually during the design. Commissioner Barfield inquired if they do purchase motors. Mr. Adolphe replied if it is a large enough item. Commissioner Barfield pointed out it would save on taxes. Jim Helmer, Assistant Utility Services Director and Finance Manager, noted he does not think there is a specific threshold; they try to do it every opportunity they have; and they pull off those things they can purchase they are confident will save money. Mr. Adolphe stated they do strive to get tax savings

#### **ITEM I.E. FIRE RESCUE**

Interim Chief Mark Schollmeyer, Fire Rescue Department, introduced to the Board Fabiola Mundo his right hand person who will answer all the Board's questions. He stated their mission is to meet and exceed the needs of the community through the highest level of emergency response and prevention services. He went on to say there are 32 stations located throughout Brevard County; five stations are single unit engine houses; six stations are stand-alone ambulance stations, which house a fire engine and ambulance together; 17 stations are dual houses; and they have some municipal co-habitation locations. He advised the Board they have 693 personnel consisting of field personnel, inspectors, office/support staff, fleet, and Ocean Rescue full time, plus seasonal; and they have 29 ambulances, 18 fire engines, six ladder trucks, 21 brush trucks, and one HazMat trucks. He noted they suppress structure fires, wild-land fires, vehicles fires, trash fires, smoke investigations, and vehicle accidents; they run Countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS); there are 46,000 patient transports per year; they handle cardiac, falls, trauma, breathing distress, drowning, et cetera; and they have EMS contracts with Patrick Air Force Base and Stadium Medical. He pointed they do fire inspection services, there is public education, and a Juvenile Fire Starter Program; they provide services in the unincorporated area of the County; but they do have contracts with Towns of Palm Shores,

February 5, 2015

Melbourne Village, and Grant/Valkaria. He stated Ocean Rescue protects the beaches in the highly populated areas; and they were 2013 Beach Patrol of the Year. He stated they do have a hazardous materials and technical rescue response team; they provide services in the unincorporated area; and they and provide mutual aid to the rest of the County. He stated Emergency Vehicle Dispatch dispatches over 84,000 calls a year; and they do dispatch for the Cities of Cape Canaveral, Palm Bay, Rockledge, and Malabar. He went on to say they have their own fleet services; they do the maintenance of the vehicles; they also do fabrication; and they do major and minor repairs. He explained to the Board the funding sources for Fire Rescue are Multiple Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), Fire Assessment, grants, and EMS, fire prevention, dispatch, and Ocean Rescue has charges for services. He stated the bulk of the revenue comes from the Fire Assessment, charges for services, and Ad Valorem Taxes; the \$13.5 million of balance forward, the bulk of that is Reserves; the bulk of their expenditures Countywide are compensation and benefits; and very little of it is CIP. He stated the Fire Operations is funded with Ad Valorem Taxes to the tune of \$10.8 million, and the Fire Assessment at \$21.8 million; and the rest is the balance forward and departmental transfers. He stated the Board saw the write offs they incur with EMS to the tune of about \$13 million; they take in about \$15.8 million in revenue from ambulance service fees; but they bill much more than that. He noted to make up some of that loss revenue, they take in about \$7.7 million to EMS from the General Fund; and the total revenue is \$22.3 million. He stated their Dispatch is a very small part of the pie; Dispatch gets transfers from EMS and Fire Operations; and the total revenue of \$2.9 million. He pointed out the large transfer from EMS on the Dispatch revenue side is EMS makes up the bulk of their call volume, so EMS transfers more money to Dispatch than Fire Rescue. He went on to say the Fire Prevention portion of the budget the revenue is \$403,000 in Fire Prevention fees; and on the expenditure side, compensation and benefits makes up a huge portion of their expenditures. He noted they currently have 593 positions, including the 33 Safer Grant positions from last year; it is 693 total, including the seasonal lifeguards; temporary full-time equivalents are at 25; at some point the fire assessment will have to be addressed; it continues to be under funded; and they are using Reserves for operation expenses. He went on to say they continue to defer the Capital Improvement each year; Capital Outlay is a modest improvement but is not at a sustainable level; the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is inadequate; and the facility is unreliable. He stated they are in ongoing wage negotiations with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); Ocean Rescue is the lowest paid in the region; and they are having difficulty filling those positions. He stated they have deferred their ambulance purchase to a later date; the ambulance fleet currently is around 16 ambulance with 235,000 miles on them; and their fire apparatus is with someone who is no longer in business, and replacement parts is difficult. He stated there is a challenge in maintaining service levels without increasing operating costs. He stated on the EMS revenue, patient billing revenue is flat; and they have not adjusted billing rates since 2009. He noted Senate Bill 516 is going to further limit the reimbursement for EMS transports; that means insurance companies will limit how much is paid to them; and if the transport bill is \$627, they will pay what Medicare pays. He pointed out they are station sharing with the Cities of Palm Bay, Satellite Beach, Rockledge, Cocoa Beach, and Cape Canaveral; they have improved automatic aid agreements with them; employee recruitment and retention, they are losing employees to other counties; wages are a critical factor; and affordable healthcare Legislation is having an impact on part time and seasonal employees. He advised the Board the Reserves continue to be used to meet operational expenses relating to Fire Assessment Fees. He stated the CIP is a lifeguard deck at Paradise Beach and storage shed at Lori Wilson Park, totaling \$70,000. He stated they are installing a fire station alerting system to help reduce response times and improve data and feedback on dispatching process; they have implemented an incident command structure of how they communicate on the radio and with other jurisdictions; and there have been improved paramedic skills through realistic training of critical patient care interventions. He stated they have a critical need for equipment; and the dispatch center has issues such as subpar electrical and inadequate space. He noted efforts continue with the Cities of Melbourne and Titusville to expand automatic aid response times. He stated the FY

February 5, 2015

2015 budget increased by 0.38 percent as compared to FY 2014; through operating expenditures rose 3.89 percent; the FY 2014 to FY 2015 budget used \$1.7 million of Reserves for FY 2015 operating costs; and he reiterated wage negotiations are continuing with IAFF.

**ITEM III., OTHER BUSINESS**

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated he wants to remind the Board what is coming up on its schedule; next week it will have Public Works; and then the Transportation Impact Fees will be discussed. He went on to say staff is presenting the report from the consultants. He stated the discussion will be limited next Thursday to just Public Works and Transportation Impact Fees. He pointed out February 19, 2015 Planning and Development Department will give the Board the rest of the Impact Fee Study; on March 12, 2015, the Board was originally scheduled for Tourism Development Workshop; that will need to be moved because that is Tourism Week in Tallahassee; and on March 12, 2015, they will finish out the rest of the Department presentations minus the Tourism Development portion. He stated he needs to reschedule the Tourism Development Workshop; and he wants a wrap up session with the Board.

**ITEM IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pam LaSalle stated talking about the business impact of the dollar sent; the concept of that is velocity of money; two days ago she read the velocity of money is at a 55-year low; and she thinks that is attributable to the public realizing that economic recovery went to the banks and not to the public, and unemployment is much high than the government reports. She stated as she listens at all this people talk about how they are putting off things they feel they need to do their jobs and that this has been going on for a long time, she thinks they are entering a phase where maybe the public is more aware of things that the people who run the government. She stated she thinks they are in for another duration of an economic down turn that is going to be more significant than people realize. She stated as the Board is looking at the budget and feeling like it wants to spend money and help people do the things they want to do, the public are going to be the ones who get the bill. She noted she read last week that the Feds are not going to be supporting state and local pensions that collapse; and from what she has read most pensions are going to fail within 10 years.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

ATTEST:



SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK



ROBIN FISHER, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

As approved by the Board on 3-17-15