



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Minutes to Approve

D.1.

4/7/2026

Subject:

Minutes for Approval: January 12, 2026 SOIRL Workshop #2, January 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Fiscal Impact:

Dept/Office:

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Requested Action:

Minutes for Approval

- January 12, 2026 SOIRL Workshop #2 Corrected
- January 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Updated
- January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Updated

Summary Explanation and Background:

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*Commission Chambers, Building C
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940*



Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:00 PM

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Workshop #2

City of Palm Bay Council Chamber

A. CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM

Present: Commissioner District 1 Katie Delaney , Commissioner District 3 Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 4 Rob Feltner, and Commissioner District 5 Thad Altman
Absent: Commissioner District 2 Tom Goodson

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Altman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C.1. Presentation - Natural Resources Management Department - Virginia Barker

Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director, stated she has been tasked with explaining what the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program is doing, the progress it has made, and the Lagoon's response so far; she will start with the ballot language from 2016; what the voters approved was to restore the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) through projects and programs designed to improve water quality, fish, wildlife, and marine habitat; remove muck, and reduce pollution requiring deposit of all revenue to a SOIRL trust fund solely for such projects with citizen committee oversight and annual independent audits; she will focus her presentation on the projects and programs designed to do these things for the Lagoon; the second speaker, Vinnie Taranto, is going to talk about the role of the Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) that also reviews the annual independent audits; and the other four speakers are going to give a broader context around community interest and perspective. She went on to say broadly, the SOIRL Program is structured around four Rs, reducing the amount of excess pollution going into the Lagoon, removing the amount of pollution that has already entered the Lagoon from decades of excess pollution, restoring the natural filter feeders that help rebalance things, after-shocks are constantly out there doing their work, and then responding to new information, new opportunities, and amending the project plan annually based on that new information; the program was tasked with winning a race to save the Lagoon, but the little life raft, talking about the slide on the screen, is sinking, so when one is in this kind of situation, he or she cannot keep paddling as that is not going to win the race, there has got to changes made; one of the first things that has to be done is to stop too much water from swamping the boat or stop the excess pollution from going into the Lagoon; one also has to frantically bail excess water, excess pollution out of the boat; ideally, one would be able to restore those filter feeders that function like a little bilge pump, maintaining balance in the boat, a dry bottom; and then, every now and then take a look around for new problems, new opportunities, maybe adjust some of the duct tape and respond accordingly. Displaying a pie chart, she continued by saying this pie chart shows that over half of the money goes to reducing the amount of pollution going into the Lagoon; a little over one-third of the money is going to projects that remove pollution that is already accumulated in the Lagoon; a small sliver, two percent, is going to restoring those filter feeders that provide the bilge pump; two percent to that annual process of reviewing opportunities and successes and adjusting the plan accordingly; on the right side of the slide is a summary of what has been spent, almost \$100 million, of the SOIRL tax dollars; and they have also secured over \$100 million in grants and spent about \$64 million of that \$111 million in grants. She stated right now they are managing over \$300 million in projects that are either in design, in permitting, in bidding, and construction, so there is a lot of work underway; when combining the spent and in progress that adds up to \$430 million of SOIRL funds of the \$496 million that had been collected; by the time the tax expires in December 2026, they expect to collect \$586 million; the delta between the \$431 million that is spent or underway and the \$586 that is expected to be collected, those dollars are all allocated to specific projects in the plan; and those projects just have not started yet. She explained the graph on the left, the green

represents how much tax has been collected so far of the 10-year program; they are at about 85 percent collected; the pie chart on the right shows that for every dollar paid in half-cent sales tax by residents at the register, they are getting a lot more dollars going towards projects; because this is a sales tax, it is paid not just by the residents but also by the tourists that are visiting here, shopping and spending money in the community; every dollar that the residents pay, they are gaining about another \$0.26 from tourists; they are so far gaining on average \$0.24 from grants; then there are these fantastic community partners, both municipalities and nonprofits, all sorts of different organizations that are working with SOIRL; and this money helps them get these projects across the finish line. She stated on the left is a map of the 119 projects that have been completed so far and where they are located; one can see they are distributed from the very north end of the County to the very south end of the County, they are on the mainland, they are on Merritt Island, and they are on the barrier island; the list on the right shows those fantastic partners and how many projects each of them have worked with SOIRL to complete; on the bottom right one can see they have worked with over 2,200 individual homeowners to improve their septic or sewage situation; how SOIRL picks the projects and who gets how much money, the first thing is one has to understand the sources of pollution going into the Lagoon; each of the bars represents a major source of pollution to the Lagoon, the biggest bar is that black bar almost in the middle and it is from muck decaying in the Lagoon releasing nutrients into the water column above and feeding algae blooms smothering the bottom, using up oxygen that the fish need to breathe, and it is the biggest source of pollution in the Lagoon right now; if SOIRL focused all the money on that and still continue to put too much into the Lagoon, it would never fix the problem; they have to also address some of the other sources; these little green bars represent how the funds are distributed; one can see they are roughly proportional to the source of pollution; however, the orange is the septic systems and one can see a disproportionate share of the funds are going to address septic because there is a lot of interest, and grant funding available, so they just need to do it. She mentioned there are over 400 projects in the Lagoon plan; this phonebook size thing is 350 pages and she is not going to walk everyone through the 400 projects this evening; those projects do fall into these 14 project types, so each of the rectangles on this document, and there are copies outside on the tables, provides a summary of what these 14 major project types are, how much funding is allocated to those project types, how many projects of that type have been completed, the load reduction benefit, how many projects are underway, how many are left to go, and a lot of people say they are not seeing anything; these projects, for the most part, are almost invisible because they are largely underground or under water whether it is a stormwater baffle box, a septic upgrade, a sewer line installation, or digging muck off the bottom of the Lagoon, they are not very visible to those people driving by or walking by, but they are happening; she will now walk through a few examples, not all 14 types, but the ones that they receive the most questions about; and she will start with one of the toughest ones, preventing sewage overflows. She stated these graphs represent the data from four different sewer lift stations; the sewage comes out of the house, goes into the sewer line and flows to the nearest lift station, then pumps at that lift station push that sewage the rest of the way to the wastewater treatment plant, and what the graphs show, because the lines are trending up to the right, is the more it rains, that is rainfall across the bottom axis, the longer those pumps have to run to push all that volume to the wastewater treatment plants; that means rainwater is getting into the system and it is that excess rainwater that exceeds the capacity of the sewage system to hold everything and that is what leads to overflows; this problem was not part of the original 2016 plan, but in 2017 there was Hurricanes Irma and Matthew; there were overflows, people were furious wondering why this was happening, and the County's utilities had just invested over \$140 million in lining the pipes, replacing sewer pipes to try to prevent this problem; nonetheless, there were still overflows during those hurricanes; and SOIRL had asked utilities why this was still happening when it just did all these major repairs and upgrades, and they were told that utilities only has the responsibility to maintain what is in the right-of-way, what is in public ownership, people own the pipes from

their homes, across the yard to where it ties into the public system. She mentioned those pipes are as old as the houses and all that development that went in with the space race, all older development and pipes, some is cardboard some is clay, it is old, tired, smashed, filled with tree roots, and is leaking out some of the time and leaking in some of the time, and a major contributor to these overflows; Utility Services said that they could do smoke test and try to find those leaks, so they smoke tested over 50,000 homes and found over 1,200 leaks; they have repaired almost all of those leaks; there are a few holdouts that they are doing Code Enforcement proceedings on; one can see the orange lines show the post repairs and the run times are basically constant; no matter how much it rains, those run times stay the same; that shows they have significantly reduced the rainfall infiltration system; and the bottom right graph is a different situation and she will show the red line is actually higher with the same slope so what happened there was at same time they were smoke testing and doing those repairs, they had lots of development going on like this senior living facility was constructed so there was more sewage every single day going to the lift station and having to be pumped to the wastewater treatment plant. She continued by saying in the headlines and the media people hear a lot about failing septic systems, but it is not just failing septic systems that are the problem, when one flushes the toilet in the house, the stuff goes to the tank, the solids settle to the bottom, the liquid goes out of the tank over to the drain field, seeps through the perforated pipe, through the sand to make room for the next flush; everything that is in that liquid is going down through the sand into the groundwater and moving laterally to the Lagoon; whether it is waste, chemicals, cleaning chemicals, pharmaceuticals, or whatever it is that is leaving the house it is getting into the groundwater and moving towards the Lagoon creating pollution; the map on the left shows they went through an exercise of estimating the load of pollution impact of every individual septic system in the County, over 62,000 of them in the Lagoon watershed; they were color-coded with the hot colors being the ones that are polluting the most and they look for clusters of those hot colors; seeing those big yellow clusters in the middle of the slide identified about 100 clusters, then it was calculated to what it cost to connect that neighborhood to sewer, what the load of pollution reduction benefit be, and they would be able to come up with a cost per pound of each of those clusters of septic systems; then they were sorted by cost per pound and for each region of the Lagoon they came up with the highest priorities; and those were the ones that are funded in the plan. She went on to say, they have installed groundwater monitoring wells as they wanted to be able to document whether these projects were working and the sources of pollution; they have installed some wells in natural areas, the EELs conservation lands and one can see the green bar which represents the concentration of nitrogen pollution in natural areas; then they put in wells in about a dozen wells in septic communities; one can see very polluted groundwater; they have also installed a dozen or so wells in sewer communities; and one can see that they are much cleaner than the septic communities, but they are still polluted; why they are still polluted when they are not getting sewage dumping from the drain field and the septic tank is because it is the fertilizer, pet wastes, car wash water, and all the other things that people are doing at their homes that are adding pollution to the groundwater; when people are converted from septic to sewer, there is more waste going to the wastewater treatment plant; the wastewater treatment plant treats that for pathogens and other contaminants; and then the clean water that comes out the back end of the wastewater treatment plant to conserve water, a lot of that is sent back out to be used as reclaimed water for irrigation, so when the County installed wells at people's yards that were on sewer, but were getting reclaimed water, one can see that it was just as polluted if not more polluted than the septic communities. She added, four septic produced enough waste for one sewer to get reclaimed water, so there is still a net benefit, but they can do better than the purple bar, so they put money in the plan to upgrade the wastewater treatment plants to improve wastewater plants. She stated the first one that was completed was Titusville and this is what the water quality looks like in those Titusville yards after the upgrade; one can see it is equivalent to the sewer service area; they can absolutely do better; once they had the data they added more funding to upgrading wastewater treatment plants; they went from two projects in

the plan to 10; also, based on the difference between the red bar and the blue bar move more funding to septic to sewer projects since that is a highly successful way of reducing pollution; the same theory that is used for identifying the best wastewater projects are also used for identifying the best stormwater projects; there are over 1,700 outfalls to the IRL carrying draining stormwater and flood waters to the IRL; each of those outfalls drains a specific land area and one can look at that land area and look at the development in that land area, is it septic or sewer, what is that development, how much impervious area, is it old development that did not have to have any stormwater treatment when it happened, is it new development that does have stormwater treatment, and based on that they can estimate the amount of pollution from each of those areas; and they prioritize the ones that are most polluted, and that is how the funding is allocated in the plan. She continued by saying for muck removal there is all this excess pollution that has been going into the Lagoon for six or seven decades now and it accumulates in the deep pockets of the Lagoon; that means that they can find it easily, go in and vacuum it up; when that is done, it improves the water quality above, and not just above the muck but also up to a four-mile radius; as one can see in the Water Management's data, improved water quality up to four miles away, and not just next week or next year, that benefit is being seen three to five years out after the project has been completed; and this is graph for the Eau Gallie River muck dredging, one of the first projects completed. She mentioned one can see what the level of blooms were, they were being fed by nutrients being released from the muck as it decays, whether it was before in the brown or after in the blue; next, for the little filter feeding bilge pump, that gets two percent of the money; most of these projects are built by Brevard Zoo and they contract with the University of Central Florida to provide independent monitoring of the success or the performance of these projects; they initially used the State criteria for how to design these and based on State-wide statistics, they did not work very well here, so they got to the old-timers that used to be oyster-men, and clam farmers in the Lagoon, and talked to them about how to redesign these projects; and they have to go through individual permitting now, it is a bit of a beast, but now they have 100 percent success in the last year or two with these projects. She explained this graph shows the sum of nitrogen reduction from all of the projects completed so far; one can see that each year they have been able to reduce more of the pollution; the first five or so years, the bars are very short, it took years to get these projects designed, engineered, permitted, bid, and constructed; one does not actually see the nitrogen reduction in the Lagoon until the project is done; for the last four or five years, one can see that they have made major strides in reducing that pollutant load; and it was four and one-half years of just running but not seeing progress and then the last four or five years beginning to see those results. She mentioned on the left of the slide is a map of harmful algae blooms that one can see from space; this is satellite imagery from satellites flying over several days per week and one can actually see from the color of the water where blooms are, how extensive they are, and how intensive they are; they went back all the way to the beginning of the program in 2016 and mapped the bloom levels in different portions of the Lagoon; that graph shows each region of the Lagoon, the blooms got worse from 2016 blooms with the fish kills to the 2018 brown tide to that peak in the middle which is the 2020 blooms that happened between Thanksgiving and Christmas which resulted in large fish kills; and then things calmed down and that calm period correlates with when they really got the wheel going fast delivering project results. She went on to say they are finishing projects, reducing pollution, and reducing harmful algae blooms, but does that mean that the Lagoon is healthier; this shows another line of evidence, seagrass data collected by the Water Management District; the green bars represent the area of seagrass mapped from aerial photography from airplanes; they interpret what is the area of seagrass and it shows it peaked in 2007, 2009, and then it declined after that all the way to 2021, following that 2020 bloom; the green, they only do that every other year, it is expensive, and it takes a long time to process that data; the black line and dots are based on surveyed transect lines that the Water Management District's staff swim every single year; they crunch those numbers very quickly to report how things are going; she is going to zoom in from the peak in 2007/2009 to the decline seen in the 2011 super bloom, the

2016 fish kill, and 2018-2020 the bottom levels out in 2021, and since then, during this calm bloom period when the projects are getting going, they are seeing the transect length is increasing and the longer the transect length probably the more seagrass there is; and in fact, those transect lengths in 2024 and 2025 are longer than they were back in 2016. She went on to say the blooms were increasing, the seagrass was continuing to decline, when the blooms decreased, the seagrass began to recover; there is a long way to go, but progress is being made; where that seagrass is recovering is largely in the very shallow water, less than two feet; this matters because seagrass is like the underwater rainforest; there can either be an underwater rainforest or an underwater desert; the more seagrass, the more fish, up to 40,000 fish per acre; seagrass also provides food, habitat, and oxygen; the Lagoon is this ideal environment for seagrass, it is shallow, protective, expansive, and it is that huge expanse of seagrass that makes the abundance, the diversity, that makes this place so special and was once a sport fishing capital of the world; and that is what they are trying to recover. She noted she will close with the projects are working, but restoration takes time, and hope is on the horizon.

C.2. Presentation - Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen Oversight Committee - Vinnie Taranto

Vinnie Taranto stated Ms. Barker mentioned the Ordinance from back on August 23, 2016, that was approved by the Commissioners; he had the greatest honor to serve the entire County by being a member of the Citizen Oversight Committee (COC); he was one of the original members, served eight years, and was the immediate past chair; this slide is what was in the Ordinance and was the actual ballot language; when people went to the polls to vote yes or no, this is exactly what it said; circled here it says citizen committee oversight; the residents who voted for the sales tax knew they were going to get oversight from a citizen committee; to dig deeper in the Ordinance one will see this is the Ordinance language, and Section 17, there are two things he wants people to remember in this presentation, the first, it stated the oversight committee will recommend updates of the project plan every year, annual project plan updates, recommendations; and the second thing he wants people to remember is it says provide public oversight and a transparent process. He added annual updates and a transparent public process to make the project more efficient. He noted Morris Richardson, County Attorney, often talk about Ordinances being made up of letters which then together form words, which then form sentences, paragraphs, and so on, and they end with an intent; what he is going to talk about today is the implementation and the brilliance of that implementation; he once heard the COC described as the best thing since sliced bread, he likes bread it is good, so go ahead as a scientific process and evaluate that; what is the structure of the COC, first off it is even areas of expertise; his area of expertise was technology; there is one voting member and one alternate member; that is seven areas of expertise with two members, that is 14; half are appointed by the Space Coast League of Cities, those are the municipality leadership; and the other half are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, two-year terms with a possible reappointment up to eight years. He went on to say remember the two things he wants people to remember about the Ordinance, the changing part, this was not original; the original Ordinance did not have a term limit but as somebody who has served eight years and who now watches the meetings, he is glad to hand that baton off; the second thing is there are two emeritus nonvoting members that have that institutional knowledge of what was done two years ago and what was done six years ago; this is something new that is now part of the Committee; the COC meets the third Friday of every month in Viera at 8:30 a.m. and it is also broadcasted live on Space Coast Government Television (SCGTV), Brevard County's website, the Facebook page, and the YouTube page; he counted and there are 14,445 minutes of meetings on YouTube; and 84 meetings, that is a lot of meetings. He inquired if people remember the first thing he asked them to remember on the Ordinance, public and transparent process, and he noted it is all there; he mentioned what the COC does every month is they take the latest

science through expert presentation, and here is a list of presentations through just the first four years, compiled by Dr. John Windsor, every month they receive a list of expert presentations and also hear about new technologies, as Ms. Barker mentioned, like satellites so they can see where the blooms are and are able to track them; this is his favorite, this is a wind model; the Lagoon is 72 miles long, and if one thinks about other impaired bodies of water, Chesapeake Bay, their tidal flow, tide comes in and tide goes out; the IRL is so long that they are wind driven and this is a model that a doctor had put together and it had all these crazy colors and lines going all over showing how the water moved throughout the year; and that is part of the new technology to better understand the Lagoon and how to fix it, that is the latest science. He stated the next thing is SOIRL and the Natural Resources Management staff come in as advisors and give the COC project progress and funding information; they have a monthly revenue chart showing how much has been collected; there are also quarterly project reimbursements; one of the things real quick on that monthly project chart that Ms. Barker mentioned, every dollar is allocated, even the dollars that have not been collected, the dollars they are projecting to collect, because they want the train moving fast and they do not want it to stop; they actually have all of those projected dollars set to projects; and the quarterly project reimbursements, they look at the projects where they are and the ones going out, and the quarterly grant acquisitions, they have been able to take the half cent sales tax and apply for State grants with a 50/50 match. He added they look at how the grant progress is going and the quarterly project progress to see how the projects are moving, and lastly, the yearly audit. He went on to say the audit looks at the entire project from beginning to end; they look at the entire process to make sure that it is being done and as efficient as possible; the last component is to take citizen input through public comment and also the fact that they are citizens, so the bylaws state public comment to be heard on a proposition before the COC; when he was chair, he took public comment on the approval of the meeting minutes, approval on the Agenda; he wants to hear from the community; he is there trying to represent them and so he is asking for the input; there is public comment on all propositions; and they also have a general public comment session. He noted for those on the COC, the last meeting went four hours and 45 minutes; that is a good meeting; he is going to represent the public and needs to hear from the public; then the citizens part, it is citizens talking to citizens; this patch was from a gentleman who was very passionate about the Lagoon; he spent 100 hours with him outside of the meetings; he talks to many people in the community and wants to share with the information that he has and he wants them to tell him what he is doing wrong; they want to make the projects better, so he always carries this, it is in his car right now; and it is a reminder of who he is doing this for and who he is representing. He continued by saying they take all of that information, tie it up in a nice bow, and they come up with a yearly project plan update; every year they ask if there are any new projects, new project types, or new ideas, and request they be sent to them to see if they are more efficient; they will swap out projects; they come up with an update and provide it to the Board of County Commissioners and they decide; the COC is an advisory committee, an oversight committee; the COC gives advice and then the Board decides what it would like to do; and one will see that arrow between the yearly project plan and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) it is a double arrow and it goes both ways for a very good reason. He continued by saying in 2019 through public comment and science reimbursements were reallocated towards septic; looking at the plan on the left, it was the original plan and gray was the muck dredging and 66 percent of the dollars; in 2019, they sent the plan to the BOCC and it was said why they do not look at reallocating some more to septic and so they took it back and they did; the one on the right is the plan after and the one that was approved; there is a lighter gray and that is 13 percent for interstitial water treatment, treating the water going back into the Lagoon so even if one adds up that 13 and 30 for muck, it is still left with 66 percent; new project examples that Ms. Barker mentioned, the lateral smoke testing, they were able to come up with these ideas in technology and science and provide them; the last thing, the project plan which provides long-term funding, does change, it is brilliant; and like he said earlier, the COC is the best thing since sliced bread and the reason he heard it was because he

said it and it is true. He noted it is not because he stated it is because of the people, and those on the slide are the people that he had the honor of serving with who have represented the people, and spent those 14,000 hours; these are the Committee members; and there can be misinformation online, so reach out and talk to these people, they are citizens too.

C.3. Presentation - National Estuary Program, Dr. Duane De Freese

Dr. Duane De Freese stated he is honored to be there and his history with Commissioner Altman goes back to the very beginning of the EELs program when Commissioner Altman was a County Commissioner; he has been in Brevard County as a resident for 47 years, 10 years as the National Estuary Program (NEP) Director; he has two highlights in his career and that was the first, the EELs program for Brevard County; the second is actually being able to work with this team; he gets to see NEPs all over the nation, in fact there are 28 who are dedicated by Congress in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act; there is a new one coming on board as soon as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers it up in the panhandle, Pensacola; when he gets a chance to talk to all 28 of those NEPs, they are all basically directed by Congress, inside the Clean Water Act to actually work as non-regulatory science-based community-driven programs; and they are all different, but none like Brevard County's and none have County partnerships like this NEP has with the County and the other four counties along the Lagoon. He went on to say looking at the slide, to the right, there are a couple things he wants to mention, what makes them nationally significant is not just the biological diversity that Ms. Barker mentioned, but it is also the human and public built assets; just in Brevard County, two national wildlife refuges, a national seashore, and Kennedy Space Center which for seven decades had been the launching space of America and what is coming is making history again; there is also Port Canaveral the largest most active cruise terminal in the world; and all of that comes together in an interesting connection to a Lagoon that is narrow, shallow, wind-driven and not tidily-flushed as mentioned by Mr. Taranto; one thing he had not mentioned at the Titusville meeting that is really important, the County is compartmentalized by causeways and bridges; what used to be a wind-driven system of 156 miles, they are now really having to manage this system causeway to causeway; what is happening in Titusville, \$1 billion could be put there and solve every problem, but probably is not going to affect Indian River County or even southern Brevard; and that makes it both a challenge and a different perspective on how to manage Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, or Chesapeake Bay. He continued to say in 2015, after 25 years of being administered in the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), six counties came together in a county collective and they were under the gun at that time; there was a massive harmful algae bloom in 2010 and 2011; there were discharges from Lake Okeechobee and the counties really felt that they needed more representation; the five counties came together with two water management districts; Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) said to reorganize under an Interlocal Agreement that created the IRL Council, an Independent District of Florida, the only authority they have as a collective governance model, is to administer and be the fiscal agent for the National Estuary Program; they do not have regulatory authority and do not engage in regulatory authority; at the last meeting in Titusville, someone had asked why he was not in the meetings for zoning, and he advised they do not do that; and they are working at a much higher level and they leave the local governance and the regulatory side to the water management districts, the counties, and the cities. He mentioned the other point that happened is that they went from largely Federal funding, which is an appropriation each year, to having this support from the five counties in the interlocal and the two water management districts, and the base funding is quite limited, but they leverage it out in a big way; the other mandate in Congress is to assemble stakeholders and not a small assembly; this is a network or collaborative governance model and they now have over 100 scientists, citizens, industry leaders, community leaders, resource managers, and they work collectively and coordinate and communicate with the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) program; his staff is either in the

room for every one of those Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) meetings, which Ms. Barker has presented at many times, and gets a little bit of jealousy with the other counties, because they do not have this program, this level of investment, and they see how much work is being done; also all of the meetings are in the public sector; they do that all in a single week; and their policy board is much like the Board of County Commissioners, the final decision is really from the policy board, which right now is represented by Commissioner Adkinson, and previously Commissioner Feltner, and they really work closely with the Board to make sure they are in alignment. He stated they had realized early on that this was not about how much science or technical knowledge, that if they did not work together in a super region that they were not going to be able to move this forward because one county cannot do this alone; the partnerships of the Federal government and Federal funding, State funding, and working together among the counties gives a fairly significant clout on the political spectrum; they too have a 10-year Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and Ms. Barker has walked everyone through this long process of concept to delivery; he wanted to mention how important it is to have a priority list of projects; in the middle, he explained, one can see the most recent plan for SOIRL; on the lower right of the screen is a plan for stormwater projects that was just done in 2024 by the water management district; and it is those lists that allow them to go to Washington, Tallahassee, and even some private sector partners and say that they have a project that needs funding, and that is a powerful place to be. He continued by saying this is what it has looked like over the last 10 years; to highlight, they have funded with IRL Council funds, 248 projects at \$24.9 million and that is like half of what the County has to work with on an annual basis; they fill the gaps and right now the small grants program is active so if anyone is listening and they have a small grant between \$500 and \$5,000, they can really make a difference, where the County is doing these large infrastructure projects, they can fill the gaps in science, technology, some of the really high-risk stuff and also leverage their position for Federal funding; this slide is the distribution, as everybody wants to know how much their County got over the 10 years; it is a fairly even distribution; he tells this to all the counties to look at Brevard County, if one does not ask it does not get; and every year people are in Tallahassee, in Washington, and leveraging the power of the SOIRL program because they come to the table with money on the table and projects lined up with priorities. He commented the Federal government has been really important to them for the last eight to 10 years; the infrastructure investment and jobs act brought \$909,800 directly to the IRL over the last five years; to give an idea, half of those dollars were used to create seagrass nurseries which are helping to support the work that is being done; there is a \$9.4 million National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant and the EPA funding has allowed them to do some things that they had wanted to do but could never afford it with their annual dollars; and of course next week, the State of Florida starts session and some know who has been up there beginning to talk about budgets, the Governor has \$100 million in his budget for a combination of the IRL Protection Program and Biscayne Bay, which he hopes gets support this year so there will be another year of significant funding from the State for infrastructure projects. He stated they are also able to cobble the EPA money and the Federal dollars from NOAA to complete a pretty comprehensive economic analysis of the Indian River Lagoon and one will notice the numbers are large, \$28.3 billion in spending output; that is the direct, indirect, and induced value that the Lagoon brings to the table; 128,000 jobs, the number that he was interested in as a scientist is what are the ecosystem services; he thinks Commissioner Delaney was talking about flooding the last time; when one looks at a wetland, it has birds, fish, and all sorts of critters; that is a value; when that wetland is storing the stormwater so an area does not flood, now that is a co-benefit; and when looking at all of those co-benefits across the real estate, the boating and fishing that is looking at a \$10 billion value ad. He continued by saying NOAA says it is giving \$9.4 million, looking back to 2016 in the NOAA proposal there were 15 different sites, 10 different sub-awardees, multiple subcontractors and contractors with these sub-awardees; there is a 2,000-acre restoration at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge where the dyke top was completely taken down by SJRWMD and that project came in at half

the budgeted cost because of new technology; that is doubling the value; looking at some of the bar graphs, that particular project is generating a benefit cost ratio of over \$50 for every dollar spent; he would caution that one looks at the difference of each of these and thinking about why one is more or less, a lot of it has to do with how much it cost; seagrass restoration is pretty costly; the bigger the project, that benefit cost ratio goes down; clams are relatively inexpensive, but big delivery; the average of all of those projects was 24X; what is interesting to him is back in 2016, the Board of County Commissioners had a contractor look at the first SOIRL project and he went back to look at the very first report, and the projection for return on investment on the County project plan was 22:1; at the same time, they were doing a large regional effort with the regional planning councils and also what is now a Florida Commerce and they came in at 33:1; and when looking at today and looking at 10 years ago, return on investment has been relatively stable even though everything has gone up in value and cost. He mentioned he will leave with the thought that they are building not just a public workforce when they do this restoration, but a private sector workforce; he does not know how many contractors that Ms. Barker has deeply embedded within all of those projects, but the NOAA project alone has 16 private sector companies who are employed as part of that \$9.4 million, along with academic institutions, nonprofits; the bottom line is that Brevard County is a remarkable place, probably one of the only places in the world that have the assets that are here; there are lots of challenges as it is growing quickly, but this takes time; it took 60 to 70 years to hit that tipping point and it is on year nine moving into year 10 on the SOIRL program; it is in the beginning of restoration of the Lagoon and not at the end; the ability to restore quickly, effectively, and efficiently is really going to be the telltale on where it is 10 years from now; they are anchoring and leading this effort at the local level, and they will need that leadership again for the next 10 years; and it takes resolve. He added it is not easy, it is like a combination of science and farming; at times one looks out the window and hope not to have a tornado; they have got to be not risk-adverse, but risk tolerant that some of this work is not going to deliver exactly what people thought, but there is evidence with seagrasses and water quality that they are making progress; and he thanked everyone.

*The Board recessed at 5:53 p.m. and reconvened at 6:03 p.m.

C.4. Presentation - Business Community - Laurilee Thompson

Laurilee Thompson stated this picture looks different from the first time National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) revealed a view of Florida's night sky from space; there are a lot more lights in the landscape now; that tiny black gap along the coastline, the one with the yellow arrow, that very special area is the northern Indian River Lagoon (IRL), except for the extreme northeast corner of the State, this is the only place where one can stand on the west shore of an eastern Florida Estuary and look towards a barrier island and not see the lights from houses, hotels, and condos; before spaceships and cruise ships made their way to the community, citrus and fishing were Brevard County's biggest industries; net fishing was a profitable enterprise; in 1922, the Indian River fishing industry was bigger than that world famous Indian River citrus industry; and the region thrived on both commercial and sport fishing. She continued by saying numerous fish houses and tackle shops operated along the river; by the 1950s pier fishing had become a major activity for tourists as well as locals, and every coastal town had a fishing pier; her Thompson grandparents operated the Titusville fishing pier and her family had the great fortune to live right next to it; a pioneer in the fiberglass boat building business, her dad built his first 16-foot T-craft runabout underneath the apartment where they lived; there was a small basin by their house, when the wind blew out of the east, big mats of seagrass drifted in; and then the Manatees would come, they could sit on the dock, and touch the backs of the grazing Manatees with their bare feet. He went on to say they welcomed the summer when clouds of moon jellies floated into the basin, sometimes there were so many moon jellies that it seemed like one could walk on them as they filled the

water column from the bottom to the surface; Bottle-nosed Dolphins fed outside the entrance to the basin every evening; they could see the Dolphins tossing fish in the air and leaping after them; watching the Dolphins from the pier was better than being at Marineland because the Dolphins were in the wild, in their home in the river; on summer nights the bioluminescence was spectacular; and staring into dark waters was like peering into a fairy land, as tiny luminous creatures scattered through shimmering seagrass like flickering stars. She mentioned when she was 11, her grandfather had told her something that was so profound, she has never forgotten it; they were standing on his fishing pier looking down the river at the cranes, barges, and the dredges used for building the NASA bridge and causeway; he told her that all the new development was going to kill the river; her grandfather only had a seventh grade education, yet he knew that the causeways and growth was going to be very bad for the Lagoon; that was about the same time that her father built a push net and started dropping her, the net, and a rowboat off at Haulover Canal, on summer days she they could catch shrimp for her grandfather to sell at his pier; and like many kids from families who made their living from the river she was expected to work and it suited her just fine because all she ever wanted was to hang out on the river and fish. She stated later she built 150 crabtraps and she started running them every afternoon after school; when she was 17, her grandfather co-signed for her first bank loan and she bought 500 yards of Gillnet and a bowrunner boat so that she could fish for Mullet; there were massive schools of Mullet back then; the same school of Mullet could pass under her grandfather's pier for more than 20 minutes; she made a lot of money as a teenager fishing for Mullet; being on the river was a magical time for her; the water was crystal clear and close to shore the bottom was carpeted with rippling and waving seagrass; a walk along any shoreline revealed Fiddler Crabs as far as she could see; when she approached they raced toward their holes, and the motion of hundreds of Fiddler Crabs running for cover looked like water parting as she moved along the shore; and with the coming of spring, hordes of bigger Crabs made their presence known, as any sandy beach with a hard onshore wind was covered with spawning Horseshoe Crabs. She went on to say flocks of hungry shorebirds feasted on their eggs, gaining weight for their long distance flights to the arctic tundra to nest; she did not know it then, but she was experiencing the end of the grandeur of the IRL before her grandfather's prophecy came true; the 2000's were a period of intense focus on the Indian River as a world class fishery, particularly for its abundant prized Red Fish; anglers came seeking the high quality of the fishery, particularly for sight fishing opportunities in clear shallow waters; the area became a premier destination for competitive angling; it was a regular stop for the professional fishing league Worldwide Red Fish Tour and prestigious local events such as the red bone large celebrity tournaments; guides who consistently performed well in these tournaments gained recognition and some ended up with their own television shows and a large platform for conservation messaging and promoting the Lagoon; and regardless of whether a fishing tournament is a local event or a major professional tour, fishing tournaments are a big business for the hospitality industry, as hotels and restaurants fill to capacity for days as anglers scour for the best fishing spots. She noted the economic worth of unpolluted water through the creation of jobs and fishing, tourism, recreation, and other industries is well documented; these assets make it easy to attract a good workforce for the economy; people come here to enjoy the same magical experiences she had while she was growing up; bioluminescent kayak tour operators put hundreds of people out on the water every summer night relying on schools of mullet for their guests' experience; Manatees often swim right up to the kayaks and fishing is a widespread activity; popular past times for visitors and residents include birding and wildlife photography; without a healthy Lagoon, the unique nature would not exist; it has been shown time and again, property values increase in direct proportion to their proximity to clean water; and a huge portion of ocean seafood relies on estuaries, and their salt marshes, with estimates that over 70 percent of the U.S. commercial catch and 80 percent of recreational catch depend on these vital nurseries of the sea for critical life stages. She mentioned generations of her family and many others have depended on a healthy Indian River to make a living; this map of Florida salt marshes shows the critical importance of the Mosquito

Lagoon and Space Center salt marshes as recharge areas for fisheries; very little salt marsh acreage exists along Florida's southeastern coast below Kennedy Space Center; she knows that the Lagoon is getting better, the water is clearer and algae blooms are generally spotty, smaller, and do not linger as long as earlier blooms; there is a lot more bait now and fishing continues to improve; seagrass has started coming back strong in the southern Mosquito Lagoon in 2022 and in the northern Indian River in 2024; in 2025, this year, it has expanded south into the basins between the Titusville railroad bridge and NASA Causeway; and with better water quality, it should continue its southern movement. She commented one way to measure the character of a community is to look at what one protects, one protects what it values; the IRL is more than a beautiful body of water nestled inside coastal barrier islands, it is one of the greatest estuaries in North America; its diversity of life is unmatched and its total annual economic value is more than \$28.3 billion, a staggering economic impact that affects communities and economies throughout its entire length; everything about the way of life here in Brevard County is enhanced and given greater value due to the influence of the Lagoon; she still likes to fish, but she does not keep them to sell any longer, she throws them back so others can catch them too; due to development and a growing population, the Indian River will never again be wild and free like it was when she was a kid; but it can be brought back to a condition where people's children and grandchildren can enjoy it as much as she did; it needs to be treated like it is a giant aquarium that is always going to have to be managed; and there is still a long way to go, but it is the responsibility of the people to leave a restored IRL and a funding source to keep it healthy as a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

C.5. Presentation - Municipal Perspective - Frank Catino

Frank Catino stated he would like to share a little about himself because they said municipalities but it shows up there as captain Frank Cantino; he went to jury duty one time and the judge looked at him and said he always wanted to meet the guy whose wife had the real job; that is part of his life, the other part, he has been involved with the City of Satellite Beach for about 45 years; he had the great opportunity when he was much younger to serve on a lot of the boards and then serve on City Council as the longest running elected official; it taught him a lot; and he would like to thank the County Commissioners and Ms. Barker for working with the municipalities. He continued by saying he really thinks working together with a half-cent sales tax brings in more recurring dollars, where grant dollars are available to municipalities to do and complete more projects; these funds are being used for meaningful projects that directly benefit the Indian River Lagoon; none of this would be possible without the tax and the strong collaboration among the County and participating cities; people must remain committed to work together to continue advancing these critical projects; while there is still much work to be done, funding is often the key factor that determines how quickly progress can move forward; and the bloom and a half-cent sales tax has brought together the County and municipalities along with community organizations to help educate the ever-growing population for a better environment. He went on to say years ago he was doing that job and was in the middle of nowhere, a place Aaron Adams told him, "until we went there with the airboats, humans might never have walked these flats"; and he is walking with a gentleman complaining about the IRL and he really thinks the man just wanted him to shut up so he could fish, and in doing so he said, "I'm going to tell you the problem, how to solve it, very easy, just tell people to go home and look in the mirror", and that was one of the things that really changed and also one of the things that he wanted to thank was the growing population and the National Estuary Program (NEP), Brevard Zoo, Indian River Coalition, and the cities that have created the sustainability boards to educate the public; all those dollars can be put out there, but if people do not do a better job on how they live daily, it is wasting the money; and to him the education has been important and he thanks those groups for it. He noted the fund, to be honest, is really a partnership; the citizens are not paying it all; yes, the citizens pay a good portion of it, but there are tourist who pay, there are grants because the County has this fund, and the

County is partnering with people to put the dollars together to get more bang for the buck; he thinks people have to realize that in 1955 there were only 25,000 people living in this County, there is over 650,000 people now; the municipalities and County infrastructure is aging and as a society people cannot go back and live the way they have lived in the past and expect the environment to change; and he thinks working together is a critical factor in making the dollar go more. He stated the cities have worked closely with the County to complete important projects funded by the tax; one project is septic to sewer and other projects are trunk line replacements for stormwater and retention ponds along with muck dredging; it is not over and he does not believe it is ever over; as municipalities in the County and the general public, they must always work towards a cleaner environment; one thing he thinks people need to realize, he knows everybody is in a hurry, but it is important that they spend the dollars wisely and do not waste; Chesapeake Bay took 40 years, Tampa Bay was about a 30 year project, and none of those projects are stopping; Brevard County is in a very different system; it needs to use the best technology and remember tech has a lifespan and will need to be upgraded someday when better technology comes along; and he can say when Satellite Beach back in the 90s, St. Johns River, Marty Smithson came to them and wanted to put baffle boxes in; they were pretty progressive and buying up most of the beach, and wanted to get into this program, so they put the baffle boxes in; and today those baffle boxes are no longer there. He went on to say in that short period of time, they lived their life and better technology came along; they have to reach out to this technology and keep using newer technology, especially in stormwater ponds and stuff that is going to help; when one looks at population growth, one could sure live fine with 25,000 people, but 650,000 when a lot of the cities were built back in the 50s and 60s, and have a hard time changing their makeup because there is no more land to do it; people would never build the beach towns the way it was done in the 50s, if it were being built today; and he is going to tell a story. He stated a few years back Dr. Duane De Freese came to him and said he wanted him to go out with this guy named Grant Gilmore and that it is going to be really cool, they will listen to fish talk to each other, he thought this is really going to be good, two doctors trying to get him to go out there, as he goes out there every day to try to catch fish and they do not love him, but now they want him to listen to these fish talk; well it was one of the couple things that really changed his thinking; the one that the gentleman told him to just go home and look in the mirror, he has a small company called Patagonia, the person who said that, and this day he went out that night and fish do talk to each other, it was amazing; but he said something that night that he looks back on and it came true; he said something about the river dying bad and that no one believes him; this river system has been dying for a long time, way before the bloom; and he says this not in a sarcastic way, but the bloom in the long run might have been Mother Nature's wakeup call to everyone. He continued by saying he thinks until the fish washed up in people's backyards and floating in the river, he is not saying people did not care, but out of sight out of mind; people did not see it, who were not on the Lagoon; the commercial fishing guides were saying it for years, scientists; the mass public did not see it until this happened; on this slide, believe it or not this little guy swam around Melbourne Beach and many years ago there were giant ones; this is just a little one that swam around not too many years ago; here is another picture of the Lagoon before the algae bloom; this picture he wants people to keep a remembrance of because he is going to show it again in a second, the grass and the little fish, it was amazing fishery; then comes this, an aerial of the algae bloom, and remember the spot he asked everyone to remember, this is it after the bloom cleared and the grass is gone and is just sand; here it is a year and a half ago, starting to come back in about 20 feet of that same spot; and there it is today. He stated the sales tax and the hard work from the County and the municipalities are starting to show, they cannot quit; 10 years is just a drop in the bucket into making this better; and he thanked the Board for its help.

C.6. Presentation - Economic Impact of the Indian River Lagoon - Chris Peterson, St. Johns River Water Management District Member

Chris Peterson stated he was introduced as being from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), and he is the secretary of the SJRWMD governing board, but tonight he is not here speaking on their behalf, he is there speaking as a citizen and a Brevard County business owner; he wants to talk a little bit about the money of water; he expressed his appreciation to everyone for the opportunity to speak about one of the most important issues facing Florida, the health of the waters; from the Everglades to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), from the springs to the St. Johns River basin, the story of Florida is the story of water; and today he would like to share what is being done by the legislature, the Governor, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), SJRWMD, and importantly Brevard County to restore and protect these vital resources. He went on to say first he would like to explain why this means so much to him; he loves natural Florida and spends his time boating, fishing, and it is more than a past time, it is a way of life; he has been so passionate about it that he built his career around it; today he has the privilege of serving as President of Hell's Bay Boat Works where they build the finest shallow water skiffs in the world right here in Brevard County; according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, saltwater recreational fishing alone generates around \$9.2 billion of economic impact that supports about 88,000 jobs in Florida; when combined with freshwater fishing, the total estimate is \$13.8 billion and supports about 120 jobs here in Florida; this is why he feels it is so important to spend valuable resources on fixing the water and saving the Lagoon; but here is the truth, without clean water there are no healthy estuaries, and without healthy estuaries, there is not any good fishing, and without good fishing nobody needs the world's finest skiff which means all the families that depend on Hell's Bay Boat Works would be impacted. He continued by saying clean water just is not about environment it is about people's livelihood, their heritage, and their future; in this year's 25-26 State budget, it includes almost \$1.4 billion dedicated to restoration and water quality; the same budget declares that since 2019 Florida has invested nearly \$9 billion in restoring and protecting the State's waterways; in the 205 Governor's budget it includes \$600 million for targeted water, quality improvements, and spring protection efforts; in that same budget \$25 million was allocated for the IRL protection and for priority water projects; and that budget also has \$382 million of a larger chunk that is set aside for expanded water quality improvement projects, including wastewater, stormwater, and septic conversion. He mentioned closer to home, the State has also recognized the crisis in the IRL; since 2019, nearly \$390 million has been invested in lagoon restoration and \$100 million set aside for water quality projects with the IRL basin, from septic to sewer conversions to wastewater treatment upgrades and stormwater retrofits; people know the Lagoon cannot be saved by just one project or one-year funded, it takes consistent, long-term commitment and that is exactly what one can see; long before the State level commitment, Brevard County voters took a very bold step in 2016, approving a half-cent infrastructure sales tax specifically dedicated to restoring and improving the IRL; this half-cent sales tax referendum, often called the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) program was designed to raise approximately \$586 million over 10 years to fund local restoration efforts; and through this tax so far Brevard County has already planned and implemented hundreds of projects or put them into progress. He stated they were all designed to reduce and remove excess nutrients and pollution that undermine the health of the Lagoon, to reduce and prevent nitrogen and Phosphorus from entering the Lagoon with projected annual pollutant reductions already measured in hundreds of thousands of pounds once all of these projects are completed, supported upgrades to septic systems, stormwater improvements, sewer expansions, and innovative approaches like the new science to reduce the pollutant inputs; some of the standout projects funded through this tax include projects in partnership with Brevard County, one of them being the Crane Creek M1 Canal flow restoration project; right here in Brevard County, the Crane Creek project is now complete; for decades the M1 canal sent polluted water east into the IRL; today with a new operable weir, pump stations,

and treatment, wetlands west of I-95, the flow has been redirected; the project will prevent over 24,000 pounds of nitrogen and 3,100 pounds of phosphorus from entering the Lagoon each year; and it restores up to seven million gallons per day of fresh water flow back to the St. Johns River and away from the IRL. He noted that is seven million gallons per day of fresh water that is badly needed over in the St. Johns River and is not needed in the IRL; another set of projects making a difference are living shorelines; instead of hardened seawalls, they are building oyster reefs, planting mangroves, marsh grasses, and using nature to stabilize the coast; Brevard County alone helped fund oyster reefs and living shoreline projects that stretch for more than 2,300 feet filtering water, reducing erosion, and providing much needed habitat; the Titusville causeway project is a standout, there are over 650 wave attenuation devices installed, four acres of seagrass restoration and millions of clams, they are very important and the zoo has done clams and others; he thanked them for clams; and mentioned none of these efforts would be possible without partnerships through the cost share programs, local governments, and utilities bring projects forward and the State helps fund them. He continued by saying this model stretches taxpayer dollars, rewards innovation, and ensures that both State and local priorities are met; these projects not only improve water quality, they support the economic and recreational value of the Lagoon, strengthen property values, protect livelihoods of the residents who depend on clean water for tourism, fishing, and people's quality of life; also all of these dollars have been reinvested here and everyone has helped build these things, contractors, neighbors, all benefit from these and there is always an economic multiplier to that where they spend their dollars; and hopefully they will buy a boat, he will. He went on to say the synergy between State funding and local investment represents a powerful model for environmental stewardship; the State of Florida's historic water budget brings broad strategic support to communities Statewide; local investments like Brevard County's half-cent sales tax provide targeted community-driven action where water issues hit home; the combination of State leadership and local initiative is what makes Florida uniquely positioned to tackle the complex water challenges from nutrient pollution to water sustainability, and ecosystem restoration; as the SOIRL sales tax approaches its sunset this year, the community faces important decisions about extending and refining this successful local effort; public engagement and support will be crucial as the community continues to confront legacy pollution and build on the progress that has already been made; and some of that progress has been seen tonight in some of the slides. He added they are making progress and that is a great thing; together with these partnerships between the State, the County, the national government, cities, scientific experts, and engaged residents, they are setting a new standard for water stewardship in Florida, one that protects the waterways today and preserves them for generations to come; but one point is very important to understand, local investment is not separate from the State funding, it is the key that actually unlocks it. He stated across Florida, vast majority of water quality grants, restoration funds, and infrastructure programs operate on a cost share model; that means that State dollars are awarded competitively and require local governments to bring real funding to the table; in Brevard County that half-cent sales tax, not just a local commitment, is the financial foundation that allows Brevard County to compete for more and to secure State funding; because of this investment, Brevard County has been able to meet the required local match thresholds, often well over 50 percent or more for State water quality grants; projects funded through the SOIRL program are structured to align with State priorities making them eligible for funding from FDEP in the water management districts; and every dollar invested through that half-cent sales tax has been leveraged to attract additional State dollars multiplying that impact well beyond what local funding could ever achieve. He went on to say without this dedicated local funding source, many of these projects would simply not qualify for State assistance, regardless of how urgent that need may be; in practical terms, that means that this half-cent sales tax turns local dollars into matched State investments, allows Brevard County to move projects forward years sooner than waiting for State funding alone, and ensures that State funds are also spent on shovel-ready, engineered, and accountable projects rather than just sitting idle; this partnership model is intentional; the State of Florida has made it clear

communities that invest in themselves rise to the top of the funding list; by approving the half-cent sales tax, voters send a strong signal that this community is very serious about restoring the IRL; and the State responded by becoming a partner in that effort. He continued by saying the success that is being seen today, cleaner water, nutrient reduction, major infrastructure upgrades, is not a result of one funding source alone, it is State dollars, local investment, scientific planning, and public accountability; that is how real restoration happens and why it is maintaining strong local funding commitment remains essential, not just to continue the work that is already underway, but to ensure that Brevard County remains competitive for future State grants and cost share opportunities; when one steps back and looks at the big picture, the message is clear, Florida is investing in water like never before; the legislature, government, water management districts, and local governments like Brevard County are backing it up with billions of dollars, innovative science, and real results on the ground; however, the money and the projects alone are not enough, the success requires continued community support, tough choices, and a shared vision for the future because whether it is the Everglades, the springs, the St. Johns River, or the IRL these waters do not belong to any one person, they belong to everyone. He stated the IRL is the lifeblood of Brevard County; it fuels the economy, supports a way of life, and defines identity as Floridians; thanks to the half-cent sales tax, thousands of pounds of harmful nutrients have been removed, converted septic tanks, restored oyster reefs and clams, installed living shorelines, and begun to reverse decades of decline; if people want strong property values and a healthy future for Brevard County, it must keep that half-cent sales tax; he advised to keep pushing forward together to ensure Florida's waters are clean, abundant, and alive for generations to come; in Florida the water is the golden goose that drives the economy; and the water is its soul.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Altman stated he thinks people can see what an amazing team they have between the Federal government, State, local government, water management district, community leaders, and businesses, it is a really remarkable group of citizens that are doing remarkable things; and he would like to open it up for public comment, there are about 25 cards.

Commissioner Delaney stated before public comment she would love if people could also add into their comments what they would be interested in SOIRL 2.0 looking like; at the last workshop a lot of people came up with support, but not really what their vision was for the future; and she would love to hear that if people have thoughts about it.

John Nico stated he lives in the north end of Brevard County; his background is in urban planning and he moved to Brevard County about four years ago from Winter Park, Florida; he is a Florida native and he chose to move to Brevard County because he realized quickly that this area has the potential to be one of the most spectacular places to live in the world; in many ways it already is, but there is still important work that needs to be done; and he expressed his appreciation to the Board for its commitment, hard work, and leadership that has brought everyone to this point. He went on to say people are here today because they know the work and research that is being done to restore the Lagoon is effective in showing real measurable progress; one can see from both the research and the projects, the results are trending up and stabilization is occurring up and down the County, 72 miles of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL); there is sea grass returning, fish habitats beginning to form, shellfish are starting to spawn, and the shorelines are beginning to stabilize; in just a short time since he has lived here, he can genuinely say his quality of life has improved and the Lagoon is a big reason why; and he believes one day, if the hard work continues, the Lagoon could give back to the communities the abundance and the sustenance that it once provided 60 years ago. He went on to say this is why the half-cent sales tax matters and is so important; if it does expire Brevard County will lose \$58 to \$60 million every year that is currently being dedicated to restoring and protecting

the Lagoon; the big picture here is that the funding for sewer conversions, stormwater treatment, muck removal, and habitat restoration will all lapse, and the progress that has been made thus far will eventually decline; the County would be putting millions, if not billions of dollars in tourism, and the quality of life for the residents at risk; property values would decline; and the diverse economy would be compromised by cutting these funds dedicated to a healthy Lagoon. He noted protecting the health of natural resources is one of the strongest economic drivers; people come to Brevard County and keep coming back because of the water, the wildlife, the recreation, and the quality of life that nature provides people; as a resident and someone who shares this County with millions of visitors each year, he is proud to pay a half-cent sales tax to ensure that Brevard County has a healthy, vibrant, and living estuary for generations to come; to be clear he is not asking for an additional tax, he is asking to keep the one that is already in place; it is a tax that is working; and thanks to Save our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) and many other partner organizations working toward restoring the Lagoon, real progress is being seen in a relatively short period of time. He added the Lagoon is the crown jewel of Brevard County and it is the residents who should have a chance to vote again on the referendum and decide whether to protect it.

Robert Rupe stated he was talking to some people in the past and they said SOIRL is not really helping or doing that much, so why keep it; the only thing he ended up thinking in the past is what is basically slowing the County down as far as fixing the Lagoon; the only thing he can think of is the Board and the City Commissioners who are basically allowing development, yeah they fixed the Lagoon, now let them develop; there have been loads of development lately, last three or four years; he wonders why the County has to do all the development without doing things like Low Impact Development (LID), basically make sure to keep all the stormwater on the property and not allow it to go out to the Lagoon; if there was something like that, hopefully if all the cities and County would end up doing that it would help a large part, as far as making SOIRL look like it is doing a lot better job than what a lot of people might think; and he knows it is doing good, but it could definitely be doing better.

Robert Pickert stated he is a longtime Brevard resident, a sailor, IRL supporter, career environmental professional, and environmental health and safety manager for Wakefield Biochar; he has provided previous comments on proposing the beneficial reuse of IRL muck amended with biochar and other Brevard natural resources for a local industry to produce a slow-release fertilizer and soil amendment; he stands by his previous comments that the sale of this material could replace or supplement the SOIRL tax with \$20 to \$40 million of annual non-tax net proceeds to fund the SOIRL program including muck dredging; and today he would like to take a little bit of a different tact and emphasize the SOIRL health benefits for restoration of the Lagoon. He went on to say he first wants to make it clear that these are his comments and his alone as a Brevard resident, and based on the limited muck analysis that he has seen; Wakefield Biochar has been supportive, but the restoration of the IRL is not in the company's business plan; in fact, the County could produce all of the biochar that it would need; the Solid Waste Department is developing a plan to manage woody waste from the curbside yard waste collection program and storm debris; the Director of Solid Waste has advised him that the Solid Waste Department has no interest in a commercial venture in which it is attempting to sell a product; his three-minute pitch to the SOIRL COC was not enough time to educate the committee on the uses of biochar to support the restoration of the Lagoon; and he hopes the COC invites him back for a more thorough presentation on the properties and relevant applications for biochar. He continued by saying the original SOIRL Ordinance and Comprehensive Management Plan requires the SOIRL COC to not only allow, but to foster tools and techniques for restoration of the Lagoon and to identify and develop long-term funding sources to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the IRL system; on to SOIRL health, in all of the IRL restoration projects discussed, there seems to have been some precious little focus on SOIRL health; as he looks at Ms. Barker's slide on pollution sources versus fund allocations,

muck flux and stormwater treatment account for over 50 percent of pollutant sources; he sees an additional 26 percent where SOIRL health is critical to the success of the Lagoon, including miscellaneous base flow, atmospheric deposition, and lawn maintenance; biochar provides habitat for beneficial soil microbes, absorbs water, and absorbs nutrients in a way that makes nutrients bio-available to plants and less leachable to groundwater and the Lagoon; he recommends the SOIRL program convene a group of SOIRL health experts and stakeholders to evaluate the benefits of muck biochar-based fertilizer SOIRL amendment appropriate for Brevard County's sandy soil; and this effort could support a public SOIRL health information campaign and become a galvanizing message for SOIRL health in Brevard, but first, additional testing of the dewatered muck from each of the dredged dewatering sites and an inventory of muck is being stored or land applied must be completed to properly manage the muck. He noted biochar would help address 77 percent of IRL pollutant sources and could serve as a long term funding source for the Lagoon, making biochar something of a silver bullet; and he supports the reauthorization of the tax and as a supplement and/or transition to more sustainable funding.

Milo Zonka expressed his appreciation for this workshop and the wonderful presentations that have been heard; he stated he is in attendance on behalf of the East Coast Zoological Foundation, which the Board may not be as familiar with, but it is the parent organization for the Brevard Zoo, and the soon-to-be parent of the Bowen Aquarium, and also partner with the County through the Restore Shores program which provides a lot of the staff and volunteers for a significant number of programs that go on to help with the oyster beds, seagrass, and some of the other projects that happen; he went back and looked at the data of population in this County and going back to 1850, the first census, there were 139 people in what was St. Lucie County, which then became Brevard County; today he thinks the projection is there will be 681,000 residents of this County this year; and as the old earth day poster cartoon talked about meeting the enemy, the enemy is the people. He commented for everyone in attendance this evening, the people are the problem and potentially the solution; he thinks as people sit and look at the science and the results of the efforts that have gone on with SOIRL and all of the programs that are in work, that continue to give fruits to the labor, the question being talked about is, and people can talk about blame, the people did this to themselves, people can pat themselves on the back, they started doing some great things, but what do the people need to do next; he thinks the challenge is if there is a good collection of science, good programs, what people would ask for is to place it on the ballot and let the population of this County decide; and that is really the only question in front of this Board; the people are not asking the Board to decide for them, they are asking the Board if it is a worthy question to place on the ballot for the voters of Brevard County to decide; and if the residents decide yes, the people will tax themselves and visitors to help participate in righting some of the wrongs, that just the presence of population has created. He noted people are not evil and do not have any ill-intent, they just want to live in Brevard County; he was thinking about Mr. Taranto's question of where people were on August 23, 2016, and he was at his son's football practice, looked at his phone, he does not remember that day particularly, but his son and his family are hopefully the growth; and so the people want the County to grow, for people to live here, thrive here, and families to grow here. He stated the people need to make the investment to protect themselves; the mission of Brevard Zoo is to share the joy in nature so that wildlife and people can thrive; he thinks that is a fundamental challenge that everyone wants to have, look forward to, and fight for; and ask the people the questions and let them vote on it in November.

Fred Goldstein stated he is a resident of Merritt Island and also a member of the COC, but he is speaking on behalf of himself; yes, the Lagoon is an economic engine, but he is going to focus on an area not spoken about as much, health and healthcare; from the time he was a young kid, he wanted to study sharks; ultimately he received a degree in zoology focused on marine biology; sadly studying sharks was not to be, but his career went into a world full of

sharks, healthcare; for the past 12 years he has had a consulting firm in population health; population health is an area that studies, measures, and develops programs to improve the health of communities or individuals living with various disease and conditions; in population health they look at the inputs to our health this way, genetics is the deck one is dealt, healthcare is the repair shop, but per the National Academy of Medicine, the environment where one lives, works, and breathes is what drives 80 percent of the health status of individuals; and it is not the healthcare system as most believe. He went on to say to talk about the environment, on the positive side there is research on what are called blue spaces; these are areas near bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, and coastal communities; research has shown that people who live near the coast and saltwater typically live one year longer; living there is associated with positive impacts on their health such as lower rates of depression, improvements in health indicators such as lower cortisol levels, reduces cardiovascular disease, and improved mental health; this is not to scare anyone or to let the fear-mongers run wild, but to discuss what was impacts, and how it is getting better; and in Brevard County, the blue space became a polluted space. He noted he will highlight a few potential health issues; studies have detected toxins from blooms in the nasal swabs of residents; now that may be due to the body eliminating them; another study found that toxins from blooms in the IRL were associated with causing Alzheimer's like brain damage in dolphins; they do not know if or how either of these may impact people; while exposure to some toxins and pollutants may result in short-term health impacts, others may take years and years to develop; and as former hospital Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) executive, he also looks at the total cost of care. He noted when the IRL is polluted, they are not just losing seagrass, manatees, and more, they are potentially increasing the rates of preventable hospitalizations, ER, and doctor visits for various conditions; now for the good news one heard this morning, over the past few years, they have experienced fewer and smaller blooms; things are getting better; turns out the Lagoon is also critical for one's health; and to leave everyone with one final thought, people's health and the health of their children is tied to improving the blue space.

Bill Debusk stated he is in attendance as President of the local Sierra Club; he has seen some comments on social media and they are not really positive for this half-cent sales tax and that is not great; renewing the half-cent sales tax is the best and most proven tool to improve the health of the IRL; it will only pass with overwhelming voter support and that support depends on trust; the residents must see their leaders fiercely protecting the Lagoon every single day; people remember how horrible it was back in the day with the fish kills, algae blooms, and starving Manatees; the County cannot afford to go back to these days; the IRL is crucial to the economy, without a healthy Lagoon, it risk losing the very foundation that makes this County a desirable place to live, work, and visit; but placing the half-cent sales tax on the ballot is not enough. He went on to say elected officials in Brevard County must insist on strong measures that mitigate the harm caused by a rapid population and construction growth; there needs to be stricter regulations on runoff, smarter development factors such as LID, and innovative solutions to prevent nutrient pollutions from seeping into the Lagoon; the citizens of Brevard County must see the local officials actively participate in stopping the flow of pollution into the IRL; the Board recently provided two great examples; one, when it called for an in-person public meeting on Blue Origin's wastewater permit; they want to dump a bunch of wastewater into the Lagoon; the Board stood up and had a public meeting; two, the Board recently voted to make homeowners along the Lagoon eligible for at least \$6,000 of financial help for septic tank upgrades; and those are the types of actions local leadership must continue. He mentioned the IRL can be saved, however, it will require ongoing proactive leadership of the elected officials meaning taking decisive actions to tackle pollution at its source, enforcing smarter growth standards, and preventing new threats from undermining the progress; only through this visible commitment will the citizens gain the confidence that renewing the absent sales tax is not merely a temporary band-aid over an endless stream of pollution; and the citizens need these

visible commitments to embrace the vision that the half-cent sales tax is a vital investment for fully restoring and protecting this priceless Lagoon for generations to come.

Maryann Civil stated she lives in northeast Palm Bay and has been lucky enough to live on Turkey Creek for 35 years; she was also lucky enough to marry into a commercial fishing family from Florida and he is still commercially fishing, Blue Crabbing at 76, and he loves it; the reason she is in attendance tonight is not only to thank Ms. Barker and her crew because she thinks they are doing an excellent job, they are on the Lagoon two to three days per week, and they have noticed there is a lot of oyster recruitment going on in the Lagoon which can do nothing but help the water quality; she also spent almost 30 years as a professional geologist in the State of Florida working on projects of groundwater and soil contamination; one of the basics of those projects is starting at the source of contamination and moving outward to clean it up; and Turkey Creek has always been a little bit of a problem because there are over 200 miles of canals that dump into Turkey Creek. She noted St. Johns, Brevard County, and the City of Palm Bay have worked hand-in-hand along with Melbourne Tillman Water Control District to improve conditions on the creek; she has noticed since the MS1 structure at the C1 canal, is a top-flowing structure that was retrofitted approximately 15 years ago, that there is a lot more floating vegetation coming down the creek; when there is high flow conditions, like September, October, and November, every year there are tons of floating vegetation; in Ms. Barker's slide show, approximately 40 percent is due to muck accumulation, and as far as the contamination, he recommendation would be to look at the source where all that vegetation is coming from, and she knows on Turkey Creek a lot of it is just west of this top-flowing structure that is not being contained and managed properly. She added maybe if the Board could partner with Melbourne-Tillman to get that vegetation during high flow conditions under control, the County will not have to dredge as much; as she stated she has lived on Turkey Creek for 35 years and there have been three dredging events that she is aware of; and she thanked the Board noting she in favor of the half-cent continuation and to please put the word out.

Vince Lamb stated he is long time Merritt Island resident and a past Chair of the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition; last week he expressed broad support for what the SOIRL program has accomplished and he certainly supports it renewal; tonight he wants to specialize a bit and focus on basic septic systems; he thinks basic septic system removal should be a main emphasis on the SOIRL program moving forward; an estimated 60,000 septic systems currently exists in the IRL watershed in Brevard County; the basic septic systems are high among the sources of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution into the Lagoon; during the first nine years of the SOIRL program, almost 1,000 septic systems have been removed with either sewer connections or upgrades to advanced septic; and this pace needs to increase to support the legislative mandate that basic septic systems in the Lagoon watershed be removed by 2030. He continued by saying removing the basic septic systems is complicated; sewage processing capabilities must be increased and lines extended into chosen areas; in low-density areas where this sewage service is not practical, advanced septic is the best alternative; each one requires custom engineering work and a permit process; grants are needed to reduce the burden on the property owners; reducing and removing the basic septic systems is a key component of many water body restoration efforts, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; the Florida Keys serve as a role model that the last septic system was removed from the Florida Keys a few years ago after a 25-year program, that included County, State, and Federal funding exceeding \$1 billion; and the Keys have less septic systems than Brevard County. He went on to say he wants to encourage the Natural Resources Department and the COC to examine the progress of the last nine years and devise a plan for moving forward; should Brevard County place an emphasis on the septic systems that are close to the Lagoon and where should the new sewage lines be planned to reach more neighborhoods; if the SOIRL plan renewal includes a bold commitment to removing basic septic systems near the Lagoon, the referendum will be more compelling to the voters; clearly this is just one component of the

SOIRL plan, but this one has high visibility; and he thanked the Board for hosting the event and providing people the opportunity to speak.

Barbara Wall stated it is nice to see everybody and nice to have such a positive group presenting everything; she has learned a lot; she is on the COC, but not representing them this evening; she is there to thank the Board, Ms. Barker and her incredible team; she hears presentations at the COC once a month and it does last for many hours sometimes; they are all wonderful, exciting, educational, and informative; she would recommend that anyone that questions what is happening on this SOIRL group to come to the meetings, see what happens, listen, and learn; she also wanted that the IRL to her is a legacy; she just became a great grandmother which means that four generations of her family are here; and most of them are not living on the Lagoon, but enjoy it every day. She mentioned she has not only seen the cleanup which has been wonderful, she sees the fish jumping, the birds feeding, the Dolphins, the water getting clearer all along the shoreline, which is beautiful; she also sees the beach cleaner; she used to do a lot of beach cleanups all the time and there is not much to cleanup because everyone is taking their own responsibility; and that leads her to her last point which is information, talking to everyone new coming into the community is the best source of keeping the river, the oceans, and the environment clean, it is up to everyone to promote that positive attitude and inform those people.

Cammie Donaldson stated she has lived in Brevard County since 1962; she came as a toddler with her parents; her first recollection of the Lagoon was about age four watching fireworks at the Eau Gallie Causeway and seeing what they called phosphorus, not knowing what it was, it was the bioluminescence in the water; of course, as a child, that is a magical looking thing; her parents could not explain but everyone thought it was really cool; in a few years, her father was able to through his business, Southern Gun Exchange on US1 serving the hunting and fishing community, were able to move to Indian Harbor Beach; and from the age of six on, she grew up on the IRL. She mentioned when she was little, one could walk the shoreline and it was filled with fiddler crabs, and people could see Needlefish on the water surface all the time; she fell off the dock at the age of seven and cut her feet all up on all the oysters; 10 years later all those oysters were gone; they used to take the garbage can out to the end of the dock, turn the light on, and they could fill that garbage can with Blue Crabs in an hour at night under the light; one could shrimp, they put out shrimp traps; it was a very lively Lagoon; they saw the Horseshoe Crabs that Ms. Thompson talked about; it was beautiful; and yet she is almost 20 years younger than her husband and he tells her stories of the things he saw in the Lagoon that she never got to see. She continued by saying when she was in her 20s as a young adult, she was already seeing that she was no longer seeing those things; the Needlefish were gone, the Fiddler Crabs were gone, the oysters were gone, and people were building sea walls; things were happening in the Lagoon; she 100 percent supports the sales tax; and she knows as a business person, the inconvenience of discretionary sales tax, every time she does the book keeping; but she thinks it is great and wishes she could do more. She went on to say two years ago, she now lives in downtown Melbourne, as an adult she cannot live on the Lagoon on her money, and they did the septic conversion through the City of Melbourne where she got money through all the stuff that was just learned; her husband spent a lot of time talking to all the neighbors; thankfully the new construction people are having to hook up to sewer; she was actually astounded to find that in downtown Melbourne there was still septic; but they did it and they are so proud and happy that they were able to do that because they are on a very ordinary income and would not have been able to do it without help. She noted she will second what Mr. Lamb said about the septic; it could be streamlined because it is too complex for the average person; needs to be a little more streamlined so the County could get a bigger bang for the buck; she asked the Board to please keep the sales tax.

Spence Guerin stated he is the husband of Cammie who just spoke; he would like to thank Mr.

Lamb for speaking up about septic tanks; as was just said, they benefitted from that change over; it took a long time and the City had turned down all kinds of requests from people in the area to get them off of septic tanks; consequently some people invested in high end septic tanks and they are still on septic tanks; they are not going to leave because there is not enough financial incentive for them to give up their invested septic tanks; there are problems in that program that need addressing; not everybody in the area opted to get off of septic tanks; and there are some problems in that area that he would love to pass on to the capable team that is heading up this whole effort. He mentioned, as Ms. Thompson suggested, how bountiful the Lagoon was, he would like to add to that; when he was kid before the high-rise bridges, a lantern would be held over the bridge at night and the water was alive with shrimp, crabs, and all kinds of fish; one could see way down in the water, there were Trout, and they were attracted to all the activity around the light, and it brought all kinds of things; the water was very alive; and if one hung the lantern over the water tonight at the causeway somewhere, one would probably see nothing; the changes are just huge; and people who move here from outside the area, there is always stinking and rotting fish, but the Lagoon always looks beautiful, and they can see sunsets and sunrises, therefore, everybody loves it, but they do not know what they do not know. He noted it takes education beyond the effort that is currently being made, in his humble opinion; it is very difficult; that is an ongoing long term effort; he has had efforts regarding that in the past which unfortunately he failed; the need is there on educating the general public, they are huge and ongoing and will ever be ongoing; he thanked the Board for what it is doing, he is glad to see the progress being made; and he mentioned there is a long way to go.

Jim McKinney thanked the Board for its service and the progress it has made; he stated he grew up in South Florida on Biscayne Bay in the Florida Keys; when he got ready to retire, he said he was coming back to Florida where he can fish every day because ice fishing is an unnatural act as far as he is concerned; if he cannot feel his feet, he does not know why he is there; he is a conservation coordinator for a local chapter of a fishing club by the name of Salt Strong; he thinks Salt Strong has 50,000 members in several states; they are really concentrated in Florida where there are 450 members just in Brevard County; they have monthly meetings; and as Conservation Coordinator he is always looking for volunteers to go out and work with all of the groups; and he knows a lot of people in this room who have spoken this evening because he sees them at those things. He mentioned the goal is conservation, community, and education; those are the things that he is really invested in as a native Floridian, it matters a lot; he has a big passion for this, it is important; he thinks everyone here this evening is because people care and he thinks it is the people's job to educate others; he goes to meetings and hears people question progress and saying there is a lot of seagrass; he sees the changes are dramatic; they are making progress, but without an ongoing source of funding, projects fail because they are not being maintained; one can spend millions and millions of dollars, but the maintenance of that has to continue, it does not just happen; and that is why people will say, 'they did this thing and spent all this money and it is back to the same problem again' and that is why it has to continue. He stated they are on the path; and he thinks they can get there, but it is going to take a lot more time, effort, and education.

Judy Trandel thanked the Board from having this in Palm Bay; she stated she is there to ask the Board to fix the problem, to protect the Lagoon; the question is not whether the Lagoon is worth protecting, it absolutely is, the question is how to protect it in a way that actually works; the request of the half-cent sales tax deserves support, but only if it focuses squarely on fixing the pollution at its source; the Lagoon has been dying because for decades, pollution has been flowing into it every single day from three primary sources, aging stormwater systems that were never designed for today's development or rainfall patterns; these systems funnel fertilizer, oil, heavy metals, and bacteria straight into the Lagoon; outdated sewage infrastructure, including leaking pipes, lift stations, treatment facilities that release nutrients and pathogens during failures and overflows, and thousands of septic systems many decades old, that leech nitrogen

into groundwater, which ultimately ends up in the Lagoon; common sense says this, do not keep mopping the floor while the pipe is still leaking, fix the leak; extending this sales tax makes sense if and only if it is used to fix these core problems first, updating stormwater systems, replacing failing sewers, infrastructure, and converting septic systems to central sewer where it makes the biggest impact; when the damage is stopped at its source, restoration efforts will actually work; and water quality improves, seagrass returns, fish and wildlife recover, and taxpayers see real measurable results from their investment. She mentioned the half-cent sales tax, which actually costs taxpayers a full cent because there are no half-cent denominations, spreads the cost fairly across residents, visitors, and seasonal users while keeping property taxes lower; but with that investment comes responsibility; voters deserve transparency, accountability, and a clear commitment that infrastructure fixes come first; saving the IRL does not start in the water it starts underground in pipes, pumps, and storm drains; and if the problem is fixed first, the Lagoon can heal, and this tax exemption can be a true solution, not just another temporary patch.

Joanie Regan stated she lives in Cocoa Beach and retired from Cocoa Beach a few years ago after managing the City's stormwater utility for over two decades; they put in many stormwater projects that greatly reduced the volume of runoff to the Lagoon; most projects built native landscape bio-retention gardens while reducing impervious coverage, basically reducing the asphalt footprint along the roadway corridor; a great example was the Minute Man Corridor LID project which included raingardens, permeable pavers, street trees, and underground percolation chambers; once SOIRL was established, the support for these Lagoon projects was greatly improved through funding and coordination, and the projects became more meaningful because the pollutant reductions were better documented from a watershed perspective; it also allowed the opportunity to leverage grant funding more effectively and put the County and the cities on the same page, the same Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP); and Ms. Barker and her team have put together an amazing program that systematically crunches the pollution reduction and cost data and monitors Lagoon improvement all through outreach with a diverse COC. She commented as for what she thinks for the future of stormwater, she thinks the County needs to move to LID methods for stormwater management, low impact design and low impact development which minimized impervious surfaces which generate the huge volume of runoff and also exacerbates flooding in the low lying areas when the Lagoon is at its highest elevation in late summer and fall; LID methods put rain into the ground close to where it falls so the freshwater input to the Lagoon is much reduced; when reducing the volume it is also reducing the pollutant input; and freshwater in huge volume is a pollutant itself. She went on to thank the Board for this opportunity to support great cost-effective Lagoon restoration; and she noted she is very much hoping to see this on the ballot in November.

Anne Conroy-Baiter expressed her appreciation for the Board's work associated with this; she mentioned it is a lot of information and she thinks the information so beautifully presented by Ms. Barker and the other speakers need the light of day; she is the president and CEO of the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida Space Coast and also a resident of Cocoa Beach; she has gotten to witness the changes on the Minute Man Corridor and what a wonderful effect that project has had on Cocoa Beach's economy; as a chamber CEO, she wants to be clear, a healthy IRL is not just an environmental priority it is an economic one as well; the business community depends on a strong quality place to attract and retain customers, investment, talent, and visitors; and that is why the chambers supported the SOIRL initiative when it was first proposed and why it continues to support it today. She continued by saying this program has produced real measurable results, so much data, hundreds of community and homeowner projects, completed major reductions in nitrogen and phosphorus, and a growing pipeline of infrastructure improvements that address pollution at its source; the data backs it up; a healthy Lagoon supports tens of billions of dollars in annual economic activity, including tourism, recreation, marine trade, so much fishing, and even aerospace; and it contributes \$28 billion in

regional GDP and supports more than 128,000 jobs; it is not an either/or choice between economic growth and environmental stewardship, they are directly linked; she also wants to commend the County Commission and staff, this program is widely recognized as a model of successful voter-approved government initiative, one that is transparent, adaptive, and grounded in science and outcomes that matter to the business community; and the chamber believes strongly in letting voters decide. She went on to say the role is not to dictate the outcome, but to ensure the community has clear, factual information about what is working, what is at stake, and why this matters to a shared economic future; Commissioner Delaney asked what the speakers are looking for in the next stage; as she hears, one of the things that stuck in her head tonight was the baffle boxes are gone; this program is so flexible and everyone is living in a time of such rapid escalation of technology and the fact that this program allows for the adoption of technology as it develops is an amazing thing; and she thinks that is going to be the key to the future of it. She commented a thriving Lagoon supports thriving businesses; they are proud to stand behind a program that proves progress is possible; the Melbourne Regional Chamber believes that protecting the IRL and strengthening the economy go hand-in-hand; and it is committed to ensuring its economy has the facts, the voice, and the opportunity to shape its future for the long game.

Lynda Weatherman, Economic Development of Florida's Space Coast, stated the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and the IRL National Estuary Program (NEP) have worked closely together with many of the communities and business partners to integrate the plans to restore the health of the IRL, urging clean water and habitat restoration, innovation and technology development, cultivate workforce development, and protect the nature-based economy and quality of life; the partnerships can include marine industries, recreational boating, ecotourism, water quality initiatives, and water dependent businesses; from a business perspective, the Lagoon helps reduce risks, supports reliable operations, and enhances the overall attractiveness for the community; when managed strategically, it provides benefits similar to transportation and utility infrastructure while also strengthening quality of place; water quality initiatives and partnerships continue between the NEP and EDC as it will deliver economic return for protecting this very important critical asset; and she would encourage all interested parties to review the NEP's IRL economic valuation study which includes an economic impact and eco-system valuation, recently released in September 2025. She continued by saying the report finds 28.3 billion annually and 8.3 of that is wages and 124,000 jobs, which have been referenced in the past; additionally, the economic services amount to an estimated \$1 million annually; these are products, services, and recreational opportunities derived from the IRL; these services reflect activities including recreational fishing, boating, shoreline activity, habitat quality, water quality, flood risk mitigation and coastal protection, and commercial fishing; the message today is simple, the IRL is not just an environmental asset, it is an economic driver for Brevard County; in regards to the EDC's economic strategy, the IRL assists and supports our efforts in an area attraction of talent for workforce and retained workforce; Brevard County competes for talent, particularly in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, technology, and the IRL plays a significant role; access to waterfront recreation and natural beauty influences where professionals and families choose to live; and the Lagoon strengthens the County ability to compete with skilled workforce and supports the lifestyle expectation of today's workforce. She noted finally, some evaluations just cannot measure; she knows there are numbers today, but some cannot measure, for example how does one measure the enriched quality of life and the pride and pleasure the Indian River Lagoon affords the community, the citizens; leveraging the Lagoon is not a single project, it is an ongoing strategic priority that supports long-term prosperity; and when investing in the health of the IRL, it is investing in the strength and competitiveness of Brevard County for today and for generations to come.

Captain Alex Gurichky stated he is a lifetime resident of the Brevard County area, lifetime lover

and enabler of all his knowledge in the Lagoon; he is a 20-year fishing guide and commercial fisherman who has now converted his business because there was no other choice, to working originally to advocate, but now in the past five to seven years as hands-on, boots-on-the-ground restoration effort work, as much as he can between his fishing, at this moment in time; he works with everything from clam restoration project with Clair Wiggins and UF where they have been able to put in millions and millions of wonderful calms that he gets to work with on a daily basis; he also works with mangrove restoration; he is also part of an environmental outreach arm of a large boating and fishing industry conglomerate, Starbrite, in their project sea safe initiative; he works with their conservation director who is also a local resident to get involved in as many of these projects as he possible can; and he does that because it has been his life since he was a child. He went on to say he watched all of the glory of the late 80s and early 90s and into the heavy grass growth of the early 09s; he also sat there on his boat with clients and watched the devastation unfold on a daily basis; it was not a long-term watch, it was over months from beautiful to dead brown and no grass; he was actually pretty instrumental in stopping an ill-thought-out train across the Banana River on yet another dirt causeway out of the port; that was about 10 years ago; and it kind of reshaped how the port looked at their cargo. He mentioned he wants to the Board know because he has been here since some of the first meetings of this plan, that some of this stuff is absolutely working; the amount of grass that one can see, the grass is real and he sees it on a daily basis being on the water five to seven days per week; that is all of his time, he has no more time to be on the water; the way he thinks can be better with this plan moving forward, hopefully not just 10 years but 20 or 30 years as those other areas that have done their due diligence and worked on their plans that are decade plans, is flushing; not an inlet, because everybody thinks an inlet is a fix, but actual studies that can show people this is how it can be done, because there are some ways that flushing can be done; another big one is visible, in neighborhood stormwater retention projects, it is a huge thing; and the muck problem is not a temporary problem, it does not need piece-meal, dredge here, dredge there, 10 years ago when he stood at the dais and said the County should have a Brevard County Division of Dredging and start at the north end of the County to 15 to 20 years later at the south end and turn them back around and re-dredge everything because it is a reoccurring problem that will never be fixed unless there is a reoccurring fix to the situation.

Mary Bowman stated she lives in unincorporated Indialantic; Commissioner Feltner knows how much she does not want to do this because they talked about it at the Zoo; she wants the Board to know how much she supports this and how important it is; her sister just reminded her that in 1970 they were forced by their father to dig a ditch to hook up to the sewer in Satellite Beach so that he did not have to pay the fee; and children do not have to do that any longer if people save the tax. She went on to say there is nothing political where one gets collaboration, cooperation, the working together; if one had every problem that the Board has to face have this much support, the Board would not have a job and it would be amazing; she does support this, she supports Ms. Barker, Dr. Duane De Freese, and the amazing people who work with them; they do not have turnover; these people are passionate and they are doing a good job; and she supports them.

Meghan Murphy stated she prepared her remarks this time, but then an off-the-cuff question was asked do she is going to deviate a little bit; she is in attendance to encourage the Board's support for the IRL, but also for something just as critical, public trust, education, and meaningful community engagement; specifically, she would ask the Board to place the issue on the ballot and let the people decide while continuing the many successful partnerships and projects described tonight; and she would also encourage the Board to focus more than ever on helping the residents to understand why the SOIRL program matters so much, and help people understand how they can all be a part of the solution. She continued by saying she recognizes and appreciates the essential large-scale infrastructure projects that were described here that

the County was doing and no one disputes that there is more work to be done; she would encourage the Board to focus on more robust community engagement; in order for this ballot initiative to be successful, people need to understand also how the impact fees from development helps to mitigate water quality impacts and how the County intends to hold large-scale industry accountable for their role; and she asked the Board to not let social media disinformation undermine this valuable work. She added it really is important. She stated now she is going to deviate; she is somebody who lives in a neighborhood who started to recognize the degradation or decreased quality of the landscape in her community, and she comes from a nice community, and people start to work on those things and she has called every single department, County, State, and local and she has had such positive experiences; people have come out and spoken, literally last week someone from Brevard County Natural Resources came out to speak to the HOA board to talk about what can be done about the aging infrastructure, how to protect the ponds while learning to develop plans to improve water quality; they are adopting better management practices, but how do they hold vendors accountable, how do they get homeowners to change the way they view the landscape, and how do they reduce the number of herbicides that are being sprayed and sold to individual homeowners; and she does not know the answer. She mentioned she thinks there are 50,000 homeowners associations in Florida; she thinks there are something like 70,000 stormwater ponds and that number is increasing all the time with development; that cannot be changed, but people can change the way they manage the landscape; she knows in Brevard County that the number one expense for any homeowners association, on the water or not, is landscape; they need vendors to understand that they cannot get away with mow, blow, and go, spray herbicides and destroy the environment any longer; in order to make informed decisions the HOAs need the County to continue to partner with them; and for all the people here supporting these big projects and these big things, every little moment, every little interact, and every opportunity that people have to impact the way that individual residents in this County spend their dollars makes a difference and everything that one is doing means something to them, good job.

MJ Waters expressed her appreciation to the Board for holding this and listening to all the wonderful people saying great things; she stated she moved to Palm Bay 40 years ago and she is still in Brevard County; she first experienced the IRL with a friend of hers who had a boat, they went out to the Lagoon and slipped in the water and this giant beast came at her and scared the bejeebers out of her; it was a manatee and she had no clue what that was; after she retired in 2014 she went to volunteer at the Brevard Zoo and Mr. Winsten put her in the little place they have about the Lagoon, which she knew nothing about, really; she was there for a few months and he came by one day and said he needed to talk to her; and that is when the Brevard Indian River Coalition was forming to try to pass the half-cent sales tax; a lot of those people are here today, who were involved; it was a really small motivated group; and so they got together and got a whole lot of other people involved, spent a lot of time educating people about what they wanted to do, Ms. Barker put together a great plan, and she wanted to remind everyone that that sales tax initiative passed in every single precinct in Brevard County, even the people way out west of I-95 wanted to support it. She mentioned there is a big basis of support because people move here because they love nature, the Lagoon, biking, and everything else; that is a real positive thing; the one thing she wants to say about the plan is that a lot of the plan is focused on getting the bad stuff out, which is really important; there is a lot of innovation and creative people in this community and she thinks those people need to be pulled in in terms of things like what one can do to make development safer and better for the Lagoon because there has got to be ways to do that; technology is changing all the time; a lot of people mention stormwater, but how do people make that more effective; how does one stop getting more septic or go about getting fewer or better septic systems because to her stopping the bad stuff from coming in is equally as important as getting the bad stuff out; and people can tell she is a real scientist by the way she talks about this. She commented the other thing she

thinks is sewage treatment plants; there are a lot of leaks that go on every now and then with sewage plants throughout the community and it is a real challenge to upgrade a big sewage plant, but that does not mean it should not be taken; and that maybe something that is not necessarily part of the SOIRL Plan, but definitely Brevard County has a role to play in that with the water treatment.

Craig Wallace stated he would not normally be one of the citizens that would be expected to come to a Commission meeting and speak about things like this; he is a scientist, an electrical engineer that knew nothing about the Lagoon until he came to Brevard 10 years ago; he will address Commissioner Delaney's question in a second; his perspective on this, he came here to retire and not be standing here speaking to the Board, however, he got caught up in the fish kills and trying to figure out the problems behind it; he is a firm believer in science; he went to Ms. Barker's presentations back when this program started and he was enthralled with all the good information he did not know before; and he continued on going to the COC meetings, and he learned a lot. He mentioned he felt like he was taking a college class on the Lagoon; he stated he would encourage everybody, especially those people that are not here tonight to come to some of those COC meetings and engage and start working with the Zoo on some of these projects that are going on because that is the way one learns about the Lagoon; the first project he did was growing oysters in the backyard, he is fortunate enough to live on the Lagoon; he got engaged from that because it was cool to see oysters grow; his grandchildren would come and see it; and these are the ways to engage people in understanding the Lagoon, and if one does not understand the Lagoon he or she will not vote for the sales tax. He added unfortunately there are people that just do not know about it; there have been surveys done; and to Commissioner Delaney's question of what one would do differently it is more of the community engagement, and if that is not done, like Captain Catino mentioned about looking in the mirror, the people are the ones who are impacting the Lagoon; and if people learn and understand about the Lagoon better, they will do a much better job in supporting these efforts. He went on to say the other thing is science; he is a true believer in science and when he looks at some of the stuff they have come up with and the continuous improvements to the program, that is critical to have that ability to bring in new science, new ideas, and incorporate that into the program every year; and he asked that the Board please not to do away with that because it is critical.

Sarah Rhodes-Onodi stated she is the community stewardship coordinator for the sea turtle conservancy at the Barrier Island Center in Melbourne Beach; Brevard County has invested this half-cent sales tax quite wisely by creating a Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) project plan; the plan is multifaceted and includes muck removal, habitat restoration, stormwater, sewer and septic upgrades, nutrient removal, and a large component of public education; it lays out priorities based on which projects are shovel ready and which will make the most impact; the plan's progress can be monitored by a very impressive user-friendly ArcGIS map; and if one has not checked that out yet, it is amazing, she has never seen that level of accountability in any project like this before. She continued by saying that quantifies the nutrient removal expected by implementing every project; the long-term effects of these investments will restore the health and biodiversity to the Indian River Lagoon, sustain wildlife, and economic value of the IRL, but the SOIRL program needs more time; there are a lot of projects on that map, they are just getting started; as an ultimate testament to the efforts of the SOIRL program and their partners and collaborators, seagrass is returning, and in some areas of the Lagoon it can be seen, and improved water quality and expanded seagrass is critical to the health of the Sea Turtles that reside in the IRL; juvenile Green Turtles live in this critical IRL habitat year round; and they spend six-plus years there before migrating to the ocean as adults. She mentioned Green Turtles are herbivores and feed primarily on seagrass; without seagrass, Green Turtles will not have the food they need to survive; about 50 percent of the Sea Turtles encountered by the University of Central Florida Marine Turtle Research group have fibropapillomatosis (FP) a

tumor causing disease caused by a virus that is linked to human-caused degradation of the environment; the effects of the disease for Sea Turtles can range from annoying to fatal; Sea Turtles show high sight fidelity to their forging grounds in the IRL, and remain in the region despite the seagrass die-offs and poor water quality conditions and are highly likely to benefit from the ongoing habitat restoration efforts and improved water quality conditions; the Sea Turtle Conservancy at the Barrier Island Center is the official nonprofit friends group partner of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) program; and they are committed to continuing to support the efforts of the Brevard County SOIRL program from many years to come, by offering those critical hands-on stewardship workshops, getting the community actively engaged, which many are saying they need to do more of. She noted they are offering staff and interns to engage the local citizens in habitat restoration and to educate the public about they can do to help restore this vital estuary and protect endangered and threatened species.

*The Board recessed at 7:52 p.m. and reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

Sharon Noll stated she is there as a Brevard County beachside resident, a waterfront property owner, an avid boater, environmentally-concerned citizen, and she is not speaking on behalf of any organization; for those who know her in her personal efforts to improve the IRL understand that she places strong emphasis on personal action and responsibility alongside government participation; she does not believe in waiting for government to act when there are things, even small actions, that she can do herself to protect the waterways; she believes the half-cent sales tax is one of those small actions that have large impact; and as it has been said numerous times this evening, the IRL did not decline overnight, more than 60 years, a combination of governmental decisions, some good some not, and some simply necessary to support an aging infrastructure, along with everyday residential practices contributed to the challenges that are being seen today. She continued to say for that reason, restoration will also take time, consistency, and sustained effort; from her vantage point, the SOIRL program is addressing these problems at their source; stormwater improvements, wastewater upgrades, septic to sewer conversions, muck removal, and habitat restoration are not flashy projects, but they are the unglamorous work that will improve the water quality, reduce algae, and help seagrass recovery; if anyone understands doing unglamorous work, it is her; these are long-term solutions not quick fixes; in balance, however, even with the amazing challenges that have been seen in the river, the program is not perfect, it does not always have the desired results, but progress requires commitment, funding, accountability, and an engaged community, which can be seen tonight. She mentioned frustration and anger are understandable within the community, but that should motivate people; every citizen should be motivated to become properly informed, positively involved, and part of the solution; and to Commission Delaney's questions, if there could be an increase in funding for things like baffle boxes, maintenance of the baffle boxes, and the filters that go around them to stop the muck, trash, oil, and debris from going into the river, that would be fantastic; beyond that she trusts Ms. Barker and her team implicitly.

Gina Lindhorst stated she has two items to briefly comment about; first of all, all over Brevard County there are unplanned overflows and frequently related to regular rains; rainy days like unnamed storms for eight to 10 hours of rain causes severe flooding and rainwater excess collection; this is primarily from high density developments, and climate yes, but primarily high density developments; there has been a lot of building and that affects the collection of rainwater; these are infrastructure issues; sewage plants are addressed by impact fees and they need to be maintained; impact fees will help everyone; and she asked what should be done with all the planned development that cause frequent overflows or unplanned dumping of sewage when there was just a rainy day. She noted SB 180 does not control local development projects, it controls regulations, therefore there is control over local development and how high

density happens in the area; people notice most all developments are approved according to zoning change requests and that is not helpful or necessary; the second item she would like to say a little about is SOIRL must approach good neighbors like for-profit industries for funding to undo what they are contributing by infusing damaging fresh treated water; there are several organizations, companies that have industry that generates a lot of treated fresh water that is damaging to the Lagoon; and they should be asked to match or double the half-cent sales tax revenues, they have been and they can afford that; they have been causing damage last year and expects to do so indefinitely; there are at least two different companies that she can think of; and she supports continuation of the half-cent sales tax to address some of the IRL pollution problems. She asked the Board to please allow residents to make a choice about their taxes.

Peter Mannina stated he is the 2026 Board Chair for the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce; when talking about workforce people often focus on skills, housing, and wages, those are critical, but workforce is also about where people choose to live, work, and raise their families; the health of the IRL is essential to that decision; a restored Lagoon strengthens the community in ways that directly affect workforce recruitment and retention, much to what Linda Weatherman shared earlier; it supports outdoor recreation, youth activities, and access to nature, things that matter deeply to families, young professionals, and the next generation of talent, such as his two boys who are 13 and 11, growing up in this community; and for many residents, the Lagoon is not a luxury it is part of their daily lives, culture, and even sustenance. He went on to say from a business standpoint, companies want to locate in places where employees can thrive; a clean accessible Lagoon enhances quality of life, supports tourism and small businesses, and reinforces pride in place; these are the intangible factors that increasingly drive workforce decisions; what is especially powerful about this program is that it engages the whole community, homeowners, students, volunteers, businesses, and local governments; thousands of residents have taken direct action through Lagoon Loyal; septic upgrades, which have been heard a lot about tonight and restoration projects; that level of civic participation builds ownership and long-term stewardship, as Chair Altman said in the spirit of this meeting of this tonight; if looking ahead, Lagoon restoration is also about investing in the youth; it creates pathways into environmental science, skilled trades, marine industry, and public service careers that will shape the future workforce of the Space Coast; and in short, a healthy Lagoon supports a healthy workforce. He added it strengthens the community fabric, fuels economic opportunity, and ensures that the Space Coast remains a place where people want to build their lives and careers; and the Melbourne Chambers is proud to stand behind a program that proves progress is possible. He commented about 10 years ago as he was preparing to move, 10 months prior, was March of 2016; he remembers living in Orlando hearing the news about the fishkill and the bloom, not yet being a resident of this community, wondering how something like that could happen so close to home; and since then, he has literally talked to hundreds of people in this community who have been here their entire lives and have told him stories about what the Lagoon represented to them, before he came to know it as a resident nine years ago; this presentation tonight, and much of what was heard, has helped to educate him in ways that he quite honestly was not before, except from those firsthand testimonials from lifelong residents; and he hopes the word continues to be spread like this. He reiterated on behalf of Melbourne Chambers, they deeply support this being on the ballot.

Kimberly Newton stated she serves on the SORIL board in the education outreach and advocacy seat; she has heard a lot tonight about the need for more education outreach and advocacy; she definitely agrees and they will work hard to make that happen, the County staff is amazing, but personally out in the field, as well as at events; she looks forward to seeing how that can be grown if given the opportunity; she expressed her appreciation to the Board for holding this event and actually listening, that is apparent by the feedback and by initially doing this, and the residents that showed up this evening to listen to one another and share their

experiences and ideas; and she stated she would like to invite anyone that would like to follow up further after this meeting to feel free to reach out to her and give her some ideas for the outreach and education pushes for the County's environmental office, they are great with correspondence, but give them a minute because they are constantly bombarded, but do great work with all requests. She went on to say now speaking as a resident, environmental educator, and a naturalist, to her addressing the SOIRL 2.0 looks like continued community education needs, eliminating all biosolid spray, and source points for the pollutions; it cannot be cleaned up if people do not stop putting it in; responsible development, implementing low impact design and best LID practices; there is a wealth of information here in the County to educate Commissioners and developers; she is a former chair of the US Green Building Council; it is in 172 countries, plus they do great work, and she is still loosely affiliated with them; and she is happy to answer any questions on how to educate developers and correspond on how that would go for making those procedures mandatory, but encouraged, and provide information so that they choose to make the right decisions.

Doug Hook stated he is the father of a seventh generation Floridian, himself being a sixth generation Floridian; he wanted to talk not only as a citizen, but also as the eyes and ears of multiple organizations; he is representing the Florida Native Plant Society's Conradina Chapter, the Port Malabar Garden Club, and also Palm Bay's Sustainability Advisory Board; he could go on and on about how important this half-cent sales tax is; everybody else has told its benefits and the positive impacts that it has had on the environment in the area; talking back to SOIRL's Arc map, there are seven projects that are happening in or around Palm Bay, that are going to positively affect the Palm Bay community; and he appreciates the Commission and the SOIRL team for being focused on Palm Bay as well. He went on to say as Commissioner Delaney has said, what would he like to be done in the future, he thinks one of the things that has been brought up tonight is the septic-to-sewer conversion; he knows that tonight in the City of Palm Bay they are looking forward to having a big push by the end of the year, on trying to help connect some Palm Bay citizens from septic-to-sewer; he thinks the timing of that lines up perfectly for them to have an opportunity to lean on SOIRL and use that as a way to increase the visibility and impact that this upcoming vote is going to have; having that kind of coincides with a push towards septic-to-sewer right in front of the election cycle is definitely something to consider; and one of the other things that has been brought up and he is glad to have it brought up because there is a lot of things that SOIRL does that people do not know about, and that the half-cent tax does, there has been a lot of talk about people not knowing why they should continue doing things when they do not see the positive impacts. He noted it is one thing to talk about mowing, about water quality, and it is another to talk about all these scientific measurables that people can see and prove what is happening, but it is another thing to get up in front of citizens, engage them, and tell them this is where his or her money is going, this is how they can teach people, this is how they can improve someone's yard, someone's life, and someone's family; something to keep in mind along that line is to continue using funds or potentially use funds in the future for SOIRL, to build partnerships with local municipality sustainability boards, build partnerships with the Florida Native Plant Society's different chapters throughout the area, build partnerships with the Garden Clubs; there are numerous garden clubs that service Brevard County; also reach out to the partners that are not necessarily part of the community themselves, such as the Marine Resource Council (MRC) and Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA) down in Vero Beach; and these partnerships can help develop and build these educational projects that the County is looking for in a low cost and effective way. He noted he knows from his perspective on the Sustainability Advisory Board, he is constantly looking for new projects and new things to champion; and that would be a great way for the County to bring in partnerships with local municipalities and increase that visibility.

Jim Burney stated he is there to express his gratitude for the achievements of the SOIRL

program through the years and also the County Commissioners that have supported this program; he is a Brevard County Lagoon-front property owner, third generation Floridian, environmental services business owner, biological sciences UCF graduate, professional wetlands scientist certificate holder, and an EEL Selection Management Committee (SMC) member; he and his wife are also Bowen Aquarium founding members who have a strong commitment to the community; he is also there to express his support for the proposed half-cent sales tax referendum to provide continuing funding for the SOIRL program; previous experts and he is sure some of the following speakers illustrate the overwhelming environmental public use and economic benefits of the program provided by the Lagoon protection efforts, so he will not belabor those established points; but unfortunately, with urban development encompassing the Lagoon in Brevard County, the system may off-handedly be described as a massive retention pond, or as Dr. De Freese described, a series of; since one cannot reverse human development to date, he feels it is everybody's fiscal, ecological, and moral obligation to mitigate further water quality degradation and continue critical research and habitat restoration efforts to offset decades of urban impacts; and the priorities as he sees them using his professional experience, personal observations, and media to scratch down what he sees as priorities, starting with some of the infrastructure, would be invest in domestic wastewater plant improvements, or the wastewater stream to eliminate accidental or other discharges into the Lagoon, invest in public stormwater management projects to reduce nutrient loads and other pollutants into the Lagoon, continue septic to sewer conversions, and finally to conduct canal dredging to reduce existent nutrient recycling and release native sediments; and having scratched those downs and listening to presentations, they are pretty eerily similar to what is already being done by the plan. He mentioned, as far as research and habitat restoration priorities, those go hand-in-hand, one cannot have the project without the research; seagrass establishment is a base community, oyster bar and clam bed restoration and establishment, mangrove and living shoreline expansion, native sand exposure due to the dredging operations, and then as an SMC member, the two programs that go hand-in-hand with EEL conservation lands, conservation buffer property preservation by acquisition and easements in order to retain what kidneys the County does have; and lastly is the public education outreach side of things. He went on to say public education programs and events and community involvement projects are crucial to keep this thing going; and he reiterated his appreciation to the program leaders, staff, volunteers, amazing people, and the County Commission.

Dr. Chris Edwards stated the last time he spoke with the Board he said, the elephant in the room was development and he thinks that is the biggest challenge, the amount of population that is increasing, unless there is the infrastructure in place, the County should limit development; that might seem like a tough challenge, but that is how he really feels; the real elephant in the room tonight is collaboration; just like Chair Altman said, the energy and the love in this room and the amount of organizations; he has a list of like 15 organizations that committing their life to saving this Lagoon; and this Board is a part of that success. He went on to say the tip of the spear SOIRL and COC; without that, how can this energy keep going; to speak to Commissioner Delaney about what he would like to see, he would like to see less toxins; he is naturopath by training; he knows a lot about toxicity and it is a problem that is faced by humans; in the world people live in today is toxicity; people want to get it out of the Lagoon; it might want to consider banning glyphosate in this County, it is a cancer-causing chemical; he supports low impact development; the County should ban grass, no more grass and have native landscaping; he also supports technology and science and he thinks that SOIRL gets really high marks because that is what they are using; maybe biochar is something that should really be looked at; and the last thing that he might recommend is septic inspections. He noted a lot of places in this country one has to have his or her septic inspected; maybe someone could come up with a law that says if anyone sells a house that has a septic system it needs to be inspected, that would be a good start; obviously, the County wants to get

rid of all septic systems; and he wants to commend all the Commissioners for opening this up to the public, he really has not heard a lot of negativity.

Stuart Nicholson stated he is a resident of Palm Bay; unfortunately, a year ago he had to replace his septic system; his street is on the septic-to-sewer plan and even listed as funded; when he finally got through to the Palm Bay utilities department he learned that they had not written the grant yet to get that; he said basically, it would be years before he could hook up with the grant, the plan, the approval, and the work; his point really is there is still plenty of funding needed to get these programs through; and he will leave it at that. He noted the Board has heard a lot tonight about it, and his final point is to thank the Board for the challenging job it has and giving up its nights for attending and host things like this.

Commissioner Delaney asked Ms. Barker if the Board just voted on something that people who paid for their septic tank can now apply for up to \$6,000 or something like that; she advised Mr. Nicholson to reach out to Ms. Barker because that just happened like two weeks ago or something.

Mr. Nicholson stated what turned out to be the case is that his street is septic-to-sewer, and the way the law was written he could not also apply for the advanced septic system.

Commissioner Delaney responded okay.

Keith Winsten stated he was there with the Board a week ago and mentioned he was there to listen and hear what people had to say; last week he was charting responses and last week 18 out of 19 were pro-SOIRL; they had great recommendations, appreciated the science, and appreciated public transparency; tonight 30 out of 30 who spoke tonight were in favor of SOIRL; he thinks the Board is hearing the community loud and clear; he admires the Board for what it has done from north to south County; and he wanted to respond to what Commissioner Delaney had said, he listened today and kept hearing people talk about a few things, one was engagement and education, how to focus, also a realization that everyone is in this game forever. He went on to say pass SOIRL 2.0 and when it is done there will be other issues to deal with; he is going to do some shameless self-promotion and say there is an infrastructure project that can be invested in once and it will be sustainable after that; in fact, it will pump \$500,000 or more back into the IRL every year; it is adoptable and will reach 600,000 people in the first year, that is the Bowen Aquarium; and an investment in the Bowen Aquarium will do so many of the things that he has heard tonight in perpetuity and it will be self-sustained and reach tourists and locals in large numbers. He mentioned tourism has committed \$15 million to this; he would love to see the environmental side; just one example of that, there was a conversation tonight and the speaker talked about FP turtles which are the little Green Turtles in the Lagoon, which they treat primarily at the L3 Harris Sea Turtle Center at the Zoo; at the Zoo people cannot see it because it is behind the scenes; at the Bowen Aquarium they are blowing that inside out, people will see the treatment happening, see those turtles going home, and it will be real for everyone who visits; and as looking at SOIRL 2.0 if the Board wants to push the boundaries a little bit, do something unique that is a one-time investment that will carry this community forever, as the Zoo is 30 years old and the Board knows how it has grown, he is going to ask that that it consider if there is a way to fund the Aquarium, accelerate the construction, and have that feed off and that payoff forever, and that public peace besides all the research and all the work they do with the sea turtles and everything else. He noted they will take those 600,000 people out over the Lagoon to see what is being done; he thanked the Board for holding the workshops; he stated he has learned a lot; and he appreciates the openness to hearing what else can be done to SOIRL as well.

Nicholas Frank Sanzone stated he does sit on the COC as well as many other boards; he is not

representing any of them today, he is there as an individual, as a resident, and as a person, just like the Board with lots of choices; the Board has a choice and that choice is to give the community a choice; he hopes that is thought about long and hard; and he will tell the Board a little story about himself. He went on to say he was a Brevard County resident, a seven-year old little boy on the Lagoon on a field trip doing the stingray shuffle, which many of the Board has probably done before; touching the water and being involved with a master naturalist, walking the paths down at the Barrier Island Center as a kid, it changed his life forever; he went to school, learned environmental science, soil and water science and how they interact; what he learned was that people are an important part of that equation; then he began educating, after college he needed a job so what did he do, he was a tour boat captain, well actually a first mate; the narrator would go on to talk about all the things and learn and share with groups of people all over the world; and Disney Cruise Lines would come to the Lagoon and they would want to know what is this beautiful place, so-called one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, an economic driver, a home, a place where people can raise children, share stories, and share something sacred beyond oneself that existed before people were ever here. He mentioned he got to be part of that first half-cent sales tax when he worked at the Marine Resources Council; it was amazing, all of those people coming together sharing their stories and wearing those blue shirts, attending those meetings; he imagines everyone remembers that pretty well; today a lot of these faces when looking out into the crowd, are very familiar to a lot of others because they spent a lot of time together, a lot of hard work, and a lot of volunteer hours; he has been privileged to work with and lead volunteer groups in the Lagoon planting seagrasses, oysters, clams, and when someone sees somebody's life change by being involved with a program that he or she did not know about a week ago, it is astounding; there was a young woman who volunteered with him planting seagrass and clams who went to Rome to talk about her seagrass work that she did; and it warms his heart to know that all the work that people do to keep the Lagoon healthy keeps the community healthy; he asked again for the Board to think about it, take its time it has a choice to make whether or not to give the residents a choice to make; and he really hopes the Board decides to do that, and he thinks the rest of the people here do too.

Dr. Chris Edwards asked why the Board does not do this for 20 years, why in 10 years will the Board have to do this again, can the Board not consider going ahead and proposing it for 20 years; and he noted he meant to mention that in his allotted time.

Chair Altman stated as the Board moves forward in this process there will be more and more public hearings, start writing the ordinance, and those options will be weighed, this is just the beginning.

Isiah Mayers stated he likes the IRL, the animals that live in it, and all the people are kind of stupid, but he likes them too; just like a previous speaker stated, the Board has to give the people a choice; tell them what is happening and if they care about it, then they will show up, vote, and actually do something; the right questions have to be asked; and people have to partake in things like this.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wants to thank everyone for coming out and sharing his or thoughts, support, and ideas for the future; she thanked the presenters and staff for their involvement; one of the things a speaker brought up was impact fees and she just wants it to be known that the Board had passed going out for an impact fee study months ago and that will be coming back, which is the first step in possibly raising the impact fees, which has not been done in some cases for over 30 years; that will be coming up in a few short months; she does not want to take the positivity out of the room because it has really been an incredible night, but she has been looking at some feedback, not just from people showing up to these meetings but also people who have reached out personally and she has looked on social media, she has put

out some articles asking for responses back from the public, and she really wants to try to put out the best work going forward as she is sure the rest of the Board does also, and some of the feedback she has received is obviously infrastructure; people want to make sure that the infrastructure gets fixed, but also some things like herbicides that has been heard tonight, microplastics and testing of the water; and she does not know if SOIRL is the appropriate place for this to be brought in, but also expanding the conversation to getting the space industry partners to contribute to this. She noted she is sure they do contribute in some capacity, but especially with the permits that Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has brought to light, it is not just Blue Origin, it is all of them; they are all using the resources that the Lagoon has; she thinks that is a broader conversation that she would love to look into; she feels like it is not just about nutrients but also true, clean water; the point of this is to pursue clean, safe water for the community to enjoy because that is the way to truly help heal the Lagoon from E-coli, Per- and Polyflouroalkyl (PFAS), and countless other toxins that she does not know the names of; Low Impact Development (LID) was brought up a lot tonight and that popped something into her mind that she learned from the Eastern Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) and that was that Volusia County gave a presentation on what they do and they almost like a menu that developers can kind of pick from and incentives for the developers to incentivize them to make better choices; and she thinks that could be a cool thing to look at in the future, especially since the Comp Plan is being brought back to the table once all the legislation gets hammered out. She went on to say some more of the feedback that she has gotten, there has been a lot of talk about community engagement and participation in the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) meetings, and something that has been brought to her attention is that public comment is at the end of the SOIRL meetings and maybe that is something the Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) would consider is allowing a public comment portion at the beginning, even if it was said one can only speak during one of the public comment sections, that way if people do not have the time to stay for a two to four hour meeting, they could still come and speak; she knows there has been talk about having more meetings, but she is wondering if the County Manager, County Attorney, or Ms. Barker could lay it out for the public a little more of exactly how this process is going to go as far as more public meetings to talk about the ordinance, the what, when, where, and how of all of this because she thinks the public is wondering and she is also wondering.

Commissioner Feltner stated he thinks he said earlier that the County has to get the referendum language to the Supervisor of Elections in August; that is the latest the Board can get that done; certainly he thinks the Board will take that up beforehand; he might suggest that there be some budget workshops coming up and probably after that would be the best time for the Board to take the issue up in light of other budget constraints, concerns, and goals that will be flushed out in the workshops; and he asked if that is going in the right direction.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated he was going to go through it like he did at the last meeting, the Agenda Item approved by the Board, because he wanted everyone to know the five steps; approve legislative intent and that is permission for staff to start working on advertising the ordinance for voter referendum, renew the half-cent infrastructure sales tax for the SOIRL program, return to the Board for public hearing in April or May, and then direct staff to work with municipalities amend the existing tax use and interlocal agreements; step three is to work with municipalities and the community on a project plan that identifies the most cost-effective pollution reduction opportunities, unfunded needs for restoring health to the IRL ecosystem to be implemented with funds or leveraged by extensive sales tax if renewed by the voters, solicit public input to be considered during development of the ordinance, which is being done today, ballot language, the SOIRL project plan, and to direct staff to develop that ballot language for the 2026 November election; there will be some steps working with the public and getting some input; and when the public gets the opportunity as it goes to the Board for adoption of the ordinance and the ballot language, that will be done at a public hearing at a

Board meeting in Viera. He added that is also an opportunity for the public too. He noted he knows the Natural Resources Management staff seem to go out to a lot of public meetings and different associations; and they get asked a lot, so they go out there quite a bit.

Commissioner Adkinson expressed her appreciation to the presenters, staff, and to those who are still in the room; she stated there was talk about the need for education and the desire for education, and it is her understanding that the County cannot do a whole bunch of promoting of passing this tax; that does not mean that the County cannot say what good has been done with the money from the last 10 years; the people can go out into their communities and say what they have heard and encourage people to look at the County's website and find some information, facts, not just hearsay; and she thinks that is the biggest thing that can be done tonight. She commented she thinks the two biggest things the Board is supposed to get out of tonight is hearing the people if they want the Board to put this on the ballot, and she is going to do it every time; the other thing is for staff to hear some of the public's suggestions and it did and it will continue to go out and gather more thoughts; the biggest thing to be done is to go out into the community and for the residents to tell people what they think about this and how they think others should vote on this, tell them why, tell them about this meeting; and the next time there is one, help spread the word so there are more people showing up.

Commissioner Feltner expressed his appreciation; he stated when he first came up with this concept and he called each one of them he said they would not just do a presentation, but they would each do it in two places at two different ends of the County; they were all very gracious and agreed to it; he appreciates all the staff coming down here; he wants to thank the cities of Palm Bay and Titusville for their hospitality and for making their chambers available to the Board; he appreciates the public that has come out and shared their thoughts at both events, it is great to hear from the public; he heard some things tonight, how can the public participate more, there are a lot of groups here tonight so when leaving talk to others and find volunteer opportunities before making it to the car; and he has been out with many of the groups and he really appreciates the people who go out and help clean things up, it is a very humbling thing to go out there and try to clean up the waterways and there are a lot of passionate volunteers who do that every day. He went on to say he has heard a lot about discharges, leaks, and some other things; people will see some additional infrastructure in the future; the engineers who work for the County are thinking about these kinds of things and how holding vessels can be made to handle that when there are sudden surges that come, or a pipe that breaks; it is a lot of infrastructure to manage; they are working on some of those things; he has heard a lot about low impact development, he really appreciates that; he thinks he heard someone say ban grass and he has told people for many years that someday he aspires to live on a parcel of land with two Pigmy Goats and to let them eat everything; and he appreciates the sentiment. He commented he thinks it is an interesting thing as people get older and things change, even in the landscape, he sees more and more people planting things and having larger beds and such so there is less grass to take care of; he is thinking about that too at his point in life; he thinks one will see a lot more of those kinds of things happening, sort of organically; he had a lot of takeaways from these two meetings; and he really appreciates everyone coming out.

Chair Altman stated he just wants to thank everyone for their incredible input, their wisdom, and insights, they are guiding stars along with this staff that is a bedrock of what the Board does; he has optimism; and he leaves this meeting a lot more optimistic than when he came in.

Mr. Liesenfelt expressed his appreciation for everyone coming out and to the City of Palm Bay for hosting the Board; and he noted for everybody, this is not being live-streamed, but it will be on the County's YouTube channel tomorrow.

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wants to give a plug for Speak Up Brevard, it is open

right now so if there are any great ideas about what the Board can do to make the government more effective or efficient, check it out on the website.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

THAD ALTMAN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

DRAFT

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*Commission Chambers, Building C
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940*



Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

5:00 PM

Regular

Commission Chambers

Present: Commissioner District 1 Katie Delaney , Commissioner District 3 Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 4 Rob Feltner, and Commissioner District 5 Thad Altman
Absent: Commissioner District 2 Tom Goodson

A. CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 P.M.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Delaney led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E.1. Resolution, Re: Naming March 21, 2026, Space Coast Day

Commissioner Delaney read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 26-001, designating March 21, 2026, as Space Coast Day.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

Mr. Anderson expressed his appreciation to the Board, even Commissioner Goodson who is not present, and especially to Commissioner Delaney for kind of falling in love with this idea last year; he advised he actually has been working on this for four or five years trying to get this done, so he appreciates this kind of the beginning of something that he envisions in the future; he does not know if the Board is familiar with Tampa, but they do a Gasparilla event every year, they do pirates, and they do pirate ships; but the County is going to do space-themed because Star Trek said that space is the final frontier; and Brevard is going to have parades, but not with pirates. He pointed out the County is going to have space men, Martians and all kinds of space-themed projects; they really want to get the School Board involved with this as well; he envisions that a few years from now this is going to be a really big deal; some people think that it is not; he knows the Chambers of Commerce should run with this; he thinks the Tourism Development Council should kind of help push this forward; he thinks this is a very big deal for Brevard County; and he is very thankful for the Commission having them tonight.

Janet Petro, Director of the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), expressed her appreciation to the Commissioners, and in particular Commissioner Delaney for inviting her her tonight to support; she stated she is very honored to be here to support this Resolution recognizing the 21st of March as Space Coast Day in Brevard County; and she is honored to be here and add her voice to this proclamation, and celebrate the unique and vital ties between the Space Coast and the advancement of space exploration over the last several decades. She continued by saying her legacy with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began long before the first day that she went on to KSC; she is a local girl who grew up here in the early days of America's space race; her father moved their family down from Michigan to the Space Coast where he worked out at the Center for Mercury, Gemini, and the Space Shuttle Program; she grew up watching launches from the beaches, and she still vividly remembers one of her college spring breaks when she came home and saw the Space Shuttle roll out of the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) towards the pad for the very first time; she knows this is her story, but she knows that it resonates very deeply with many people here on the Space Coast; and one would be hard-pressed to find anybody in Brevard, and even beyond, who does not have a personal story connecting them with the Space Program and the inspiration that the nation's Space Program has brought them. She noted more than 60 years ago, the KSC was

established to meet the goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth; in the decades that followed, the KSC served as a launching point for some of the agency's most impactful missions; a daring pursuit to launch a man into orbit made way for the more audacious goal of sending a man to the Moon; a simple orbiting laboratory paved the way to an international collaboration that enabled continuous human presence for more than a quarter of a century this year; their achievements are many, but they are not meant to be celebrated and tucked away into the history texts; and these bold endeavors serve to remind people of what is possible when he or she dares to dream, innovate, question, and push beyond the boundaries of what one knows. She mentioned in the coming weeks, if the Commissioners do not know, the Space Coast once again, is going to be the focus as the eyes of the world turn to watch a historic launch of Artemis II, which is sending humans back to the Moon's pole for the first time in more than 50 years; this crew test is going to build on the success of Artemis I, but this time there will be four astronauts on top of it, so the excitement in this County and on the Space Coast is going to be unparalleled; while Kennedy might be synonymous with accomplishments of the past, they are looking ahead to ensure the legacy they have built will last long into future; for the first time in the Center's history, Kennedy, along with their other Space Force partners, launched more than 100 missions from the Space Coast in 2025, which was a historic record; while impressive, this number does not just represent their highest launch cadence to date, it reflects a specialized support that is unique to the Center, providing millions of cubic feet of gaseous commodities and hundreds of thousands of gallons of liquid propellant, coordinating thousands of transport actions, executing hundreds of partnership agreements while meeting the Agency's mission supporting national security launches and enabling an ever-growing commercial demand for access to space is something that can only one place on Earth, and that is right here at the KSC; as they celebrate in the United States 250 years of daring, exploring, and pioneering spirit from which the nation was born, Artemis is going to serve as that big, beautiful candle that illuminates the strength, innovation, and perseverance for which America is best known; and as Florida celebrates the establishment of 321 Day in recognition of the Space Coast's beautiful history, she invites the Board to join her in the anticipation, excitement, and celebration of the new chapter of space exploration being written together as they go back to the Moon and beyond.

Chair Altman advised the other Commissioners should come down; he is really honored that Ms. Petro would be here as the Center Director, Brevard's leader who is, as she said, the NASA Administrator; she ran all of NASA, and he expressed his appreciation for her public service in the Army serving as the NASA Administrator; and it is good to have her back as the Center Director.

D.1. Minutes for Approval

The Board approved the October 28, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Seconder: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

E.2. Presentation, Re: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Chemicals in Drinking Water

Commissioner Delaney stated she has a companion Item for this, but she asked the Board's guest to come today because Stel Bailey is a globally recognized Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) advocate and cancer survivor who has played a role in securing the first

ever national drinking water standards for PFAS and millions of dollars for military veterans, firefighters, and communities impacted by contamination; her work has been nationally-recognized for advancing environmental health transparency, accountability, and for turning personal experience into meaningful policy change; and with that she would love to ask Ms. Bailey to come and give here presentation.

Stel Bailey asked if this presentation is timed.

Chair Altman asked what she is looking for in terms . . .

Ms. Bailey replied five to seven minutes at most. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for allowing her to come and do a presentation on PFAS also known as Forever Chemicals, what they are, and why they matter to Brevard County; PFAS, also known as Forever Chemicals, one might hear that there are over 12,000 identified compounds globally; for instance, one may see his or her Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS), and Per- Polyfluoroalkyl (PF), and it just goes on and on; people think it is just one chemical; on a national level, there are standards set for PFOA and PFOS which have a lot of studies behind it; they were designed to repel heat, stain, and water; and that is what made them useful, but it also made them dangerous. She explained what makes PFAS so different from other chemicals is the bond that holds them together; the Carbon-Fluorine Bond is one of the strongest bonds in chemistry; that bond is why PFAS resists heat and breakdown, persist in groundwater, and accumulate in human blood and organs; and PFAS is not naturally occurring, it is a manmade chemical. She asked where PFAS enters drinking water; she explained they were used for decades in things like firefighting foam, industrial fluid, landfills, pesticide containers, waterproof fabrics, and are in biosolids; over time, those chemicals washed into the ground, slowly moved into groundwater, the same groundwater that many communities use for drinking water; places with airports, military sites, farming, landfills, or advanced manufacturing tend to see more PFAS in groundwater because those activities used PFAS for many, many years; what is seen today though is usually not from something happening right now, it is known as legacy contamination; it is older pollution that has been moving underground, also known as a plume from a long time ago a/k/a legacy contamination; and one can do source tracing, but in the meantime, the first and foremost thing that can be done is to inform communities about PFAS, what it is, to help them make informed decisions on their drinking water. She went on to say why PFAS is not just another chemical is most chemicals degrade or leave the body; PFAS persists and accumulates over time, meaning it builds up in one's body; even small exposures contribute to the total body burden; drinking water creates continuous exposure; what the science shows is that PFAS is linked to kidney and testicular cancer; she reiterated that this takes time, long-term exposure, it does not happen tomorrow, it happens over time as one drinks their water over years and years when one has it in his or her water; thyroid disease, immune system suppression, that part is really important because that can lead to cancer, elevated cholesterol, pregnancy impacts, low birth weight, developmental effects; she pointed out that the most vulnerable are pregnant women, infants, and children, because PFAS interferes with the developing systems; and these health effects show up after long term exposure, not right away, but over time. She stated understanding the numbers, one is going to frequently hear parts per trillion is just a drop in an Olympic-sized pool, but she wanted to reiterate again that it may sound tiny, but that is because PFOS is biologically active at extremely low levels; PFOS causes harm at levels too small to taste or see; one cannot see it, taste it, which also makes it extremely worrisome and concerning for people; risk come from years of exposure, not a single glass, and standards exist because the science shows harm at these levels; and she is talking the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Academy of Sciences, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), as the science backs it up. She

mentioned the reasons why Brevard County should care about the PFAS issue is the people do live in the aerospace of Brevard County, in the nation, the County should be leading these things with technology; states like Michigan test all of their public water systems and share their results online to be a lot more transparent with their community; Brevard County relies on groundwater sources for their drinking water; the population growth increase actually increases water demand, so aquifers are becoming depleted to the point where they are starting to see conversations about turning sewage into drinking water; that should be a concern for everyone; long-term planning reduces future costs; and of course, water quality affects public trust. She stated again, the other communities across the United States, cities like North Carolina and Colorado test and disclose, plan long-term infrastructure solutions, communicate clearly with residents, and avoid costly emergency reactions later; these are some of the things they want to see happening because it is steady improvements and clear communication; it is really as simple as that because they have to go back to the fact that this is legacy contamination that is mostly being seen; Brevard County has always been known for leading in aerospace technology and innovation; managing modern water challenges is part of the same tradition; and understanding PFAS and planning ahead helps keep Brevard a place people want to work, live, and invest.

Chair Altman advised he has attended numerous workshops, hearings, lectures, and sitting on the Florida Military Defense Support Task Force with all of the military bases having such PFAS challenges, probably the most depressing issue of all; it is easy to develop a sense of hopelessness because the solutions are so difficult; and he asked if Ms. Bailey believes it is possible for the County to get ahead of this problem and fix it.

Ms. Bailey replied she does, because drinking water is a source of exposure that is worse than dermal exposure right now; she thinks Brevard can combat that at the bare minimum; then source detecting can be done in figuring out where the sources are and combat that; it will be a long-term issue the County will continuously be combating; but at the bare minimum the County needs to be protecting people's drinking water and making that a priority.

Commissioner Delaney expressed her appreciation to Ms. Bailey for coming today; she stated she wanted to kind of give this topic some air time because she really feels like the County is in a unique situation as it has all of these talented and smart people here; she believes when the County brings everybody together on a topic like this, innovation and talent, everybody cares about public health; she is encouraged that this conversation is going to continue, and to work with the County's partners in order to hopefully get these technologies going, figuring out the sources, and figuring different technologies to get it cleaned up, because this is not something that is a Brevard County problem, this is everywhere; she really believes in being a leader in this topic; and she appreciates Ms. Bailey, not only for what she has done for the community, but for the country. She pointed out Ms. Bailey did not talk a lot about the things she has accomplished; and Ms. Bailey was at the table when these discussions nationally were going on, getting a national rating for PFAS.

Ms. Bailey noted national drinking water standards, a Superfund designation, and millions of dollars to the Department of Defense (DOD) to clean it up.

Chair Altman stated it is billions.

Ms. Bailey agreed that it is billions.

Chair Altman expressed his appreciation to Ms. Bailey in helping bring more attention to this incredibly serious challenge the County has.

The Board acknowledged presentation regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals in drinking water.

F.1. Final Plat and Contract Approval, Re: Del Webb at Viera Phase 5B, Developer: Pulte Home Company, LLC

The Board, in accordance with Section 62-2841(i) and Section 62-2855, granted final plat approval; and approved and authorized the Chair to execute the final plat and Contract for Del Webb at Viera Phase 5B – Developer: Pulte Home Company, LLC, subject to minor engineering changes, as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all other necessary jurisdictional permits.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.2. Acceptance, Re: Binding Development Plan with Michael S. Palo (25Z00029)

The Board accepted and executed Binding Development Plan with Michael S. Palo (25Z00029), for:

PARCEL 1

BEING A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 37 EAST, SAID PARCEL BEING A PORTION OF THE DONALD R. PALO AS TRUSTEE PROPERTY RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2606, PAGE 272, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHERLY CORNER OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA PROPERTY RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 4521, PAGE 1804, TRACT 100, SAID CORNER LYING IN THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NUMBER 5 (ALSO KNOW AS U.S. HIGHWAY 1), PROCEED THENCE WITH SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE N 23°17'18" W, FOR A DISTANCE OF 199.90 FEET TO A NEW 1/2" REBAR (PSM 6431) IN THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TRACT WHICH THIS IS A PART OF AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE WITH SAID SOUTH LINE S 66°32'19" W, FOR A DISTANCE OF 675.42 FEET TO A NEW 1/2" REBAR IN THE WEST LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 4; THENCE WITH SAID LOT LINE N 00° 01'57" W, PASSING THROUGH THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 4 AND THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3 AT 54.60 FEET AND CONTINUING WITH THE WEST LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 3, A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 326.10 FEET; THENCE N 66°28'10" E, FOR A DISTANCE OF 114.70 FEET TO A POINT IN THE WEST LINE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA PROPERTY RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 4521 PAGE 1804, TRACT 102; THENCE WITH SAID WEST LINE S 01°40'21" E, FOR DISTANCE OF 107.75 FEET TO AN EXISTING 5/8" REBAR (FLORIDA DOT) THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TRACT 102; THENCE N 66°28'10" E WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF TRACT 102, FOR A DISTANCE OF 471.66 FEET TO A NEW 1/2" REBAR (PSM 6431) IN THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NUMBER 5; THENCE WITH SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE S 23°17'18" E, FOR A DISTANCE OF 199.88 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PARCEL 2

BEING A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 37 EAST, SAID PARCEL BEING A PORTION OF THE DONALD R. POLO AS TRUSTEE PROPERTY RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2606, PAGE 272, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHERLY CORNER OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA PROPERTY RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 4521, PAGE 1804, TRACT 100, SAID CORNER LYING IN THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NUMBER 5 (ALSO KNOW AS U.S. HIGHWAY 1), PROCEED THENCE WITH SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE N 23° 17'18" W, FOR A DISTANCE OF 199.90 FEET TO A NEW 1/2" REBAR (PSM 6431) IN THE SOUTH LINE OF THE TRACT WHICH THIS IS A PART; THENCE WITH SAID SOUTH LINE S 66°32'19" W, FOR A DISTANCE OF 675.42 FEET TO A NEW 1/2" REBAR IN THE WEST LINE, OF GOVERNMENT LOT 4; THENCE WITH SAID LOT LINE N 00° 01'57" W, PASSING THROUGH THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 4 AND THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3 AT 54.60 FEET AND CONTINUING WITH THE WEST LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 3, A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 326.10 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING WITH SAID LOT 3 N 00° 01'57" W, FOR A DISTANCE OF 89.35 FEET TO AN EXISTING 4"X4" CONCRETE MONUMENT, THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT WHICH THIS IS A PART OF; THENCE WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID TRACT N 66°31'52" E, FOR A DISTANCE OF 111.89 FEET TO A NEW 1/2" REBAR (PSM 6431) IN THE WEST LINE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TRACT 102 AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 4521, PAGE 1806; THENCE S 01° 40'21" E WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID TRACT 102, FOR A DISTANCE OF 88.16 FEET; THENCE S 66°28' 10" W, FOR A DISTANCE OF 114.70 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.3. Final Plat and Contract Approval, Re: Adelaide Phase 7, Developer: The Viera Company

The Board, in accordance with Section 62-2841(i) and Section 62-2844, granted final plat approval; and approved and authorized the Chair to sign the Final Plat and contract for Adelaide Phase 7 – Developer: The Viera company, subject to minor engineering changes, as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all necessary jurisdictional permits.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.4. Approval, Re: Contract for Sale and Purchase from Robert H. Deal, as Trustee of the Deal Family Trust u/a/d September 18, 2008, for the Purpose of Flood Storage Preservation - Tax Account 2300792

The Board accepted and authorized the Chair to execute the Contract for Sale and Purchase from Robert H. Deal, as Trustee of the Deal Family Trust u/a/d September 18, 2008, for the purpose of flood storage preservation – Tax Account 2300792.

Result: Approved
Mover: Kim Adkinson
Seconders: Katie Delaney
Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman
Absent: Goodson

F.5. Approval, Re: Interlocal Agreement with the City of Palm Bay for Babcock Street Reconstruction and Resurfacing Between Weiman Road and Willowbrook Street

The Board approved and authorized the Chair to execute the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Palm Bay for the Babcock Street Reconstruction and Resurfacing Project; authorized the County Manager to execute any necessary agreement-related documents, such as amendments, and conveyance documents, contingent upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary Budget Change Amendments (BCRs).

Result: Approved
Mover: Kim Adkinson
Seconders: Katie Delaney
Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman
Absent: Goodson

F.6. Approval, Re: Apply for the Florida State Revolving Fund (SRF) for Utility Services Projects

The Board approved the Utility Services Department to apply for SRF funding for the Utility Services projects outlined within the Agenda Report.

Result: Approved
Mover: Kim Adkinson
Seconders: Katie Delaney
Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman
Absent: Goodson

F.7. Approval, Re: Updated 911 Addressing Interlocal Agreement

The Board approved and authorized the Chair to execute the updates 911 Addressing Interlocal Agreement between the County and each municipality to ensure the continued accuracy and reliability of addressing data used by 911 systems; and authorized the County Manager to execute and submit all necessary budget amendments (BCRs), as well as any administrative updates, modifications, or amendments to the Agreement, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney's Office and Risk Management.

Result: Approved
Mover: Kim Adkinson
Seconders: Katie Delaney
Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman
Absent: Goodson

F.8. Resolution, Re: Adopting and Executing the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management

The Board adopted Resolution No. 26-002, adopting the updated Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA); and authorized the Chair to sign the Agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), and all future Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements as approved by the County Attorney's Office.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.9. Approval, Re: Budget Change Request

The Board reviewed and approved the Budget Change Request.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.10. Approval, Re: FY 2024-2025 Merritt Island Public Library Tax District Board Annual Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Merritt Island Public Library Tax District Annual Report.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.11. Appointment(s)/Reappointment(s), Re: Citizen Advisory Boards

The Board appointed/reappointed **Clifford Barber** to the Contractor's Licensing Board, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Anne Conroy Baiter** to Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, with term expiring December 31, 2026; **Jane Beach** to the Historical Commission, with term expiring December 31, 2027; and **Peter Fusscas** to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizens Advisory Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2026.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.12. Approval, Re: Resolution and Real Estate Contract for Sale of Property to ETA Space, Inc. in County-Owned Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville

The Board approved and adopted Resolution No. 26-003; authorized the Chair to execute Real Estate Contract permitting the sale of approximately two and one-half (2.5) acres of land in the County-owned Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville for \$162,500 (or \$65,000 per acre) to ETA Space, Inc.; and authorized the Chair to execute all related documents, upon the County Attorney's Office and Risk Management approval.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

F.13. Acknowledge Receipt, Re: Bill Folder

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Bill Folder.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gerhard Claassen commented he is going to ask the Board to justify increasing his property tax by 7.08 percent last year at his house; that is all; he is not going to fight; and he asked the Board to justify that.

Chair Altman asked Mr. Claassen to repeat what he said.

Mr. Claassen advised his property taxes increased from \$4,882 to \$5,228 last year, which is an increase of 7.08 percent; he asked why the County had to take 7 percent more of his money; the County took it from him; and he asked the board to justify it.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, explained the County cannot give an answer without knowing the parcel and what . . .

Mr. Claassen interjected by asking again why the County had to take 7 percent more of his money in property taxes at his house last year is all he is asking.

Mr. Liesenfelt pointed out property taxes are more than just the County; there is city, School Board, St. John's . . .

Mr. Claassen interrupted by saying the only people who takes his property taxes is the County.

Mr. Liesenfelt stated there is also School Board, so it depends on what the, there are multiple tax rates, so some go up and some go down.

Mr. Claassen inquired if the County Manager was not going to answer him.

Mr. Liesenfelt stated he cannot give Mr. Claassen an answer because he does not have the information.

Chair Altman asked if Mr. Claassen could give the Board a copy of his tax bill.

Mr. Claassen replied no, sir, he does not want to get off track here; he wanted to know if the Board could justify it; and he can see it does not want to justify it. He mentioned he owns a house in Merritt Island and that is where the County took his interest rate by 7 percent; he also owns a commercial property, which he is unable to use because of the County is keeping him from doing it; but be that as it may, it is a different story; and he asked where his tax increased by 8 percent to justify that difference, why 7 percent for his house and 8 percent for his commercial property. He stated he thinks he is owed that answer.

Chair Altman advised if Mr. Claassen can provide the Board with his tax information, it could give him more; and if he gives them a parcel number or his address, it can be looked up.

Mr. Claassen noted he can tell the Board why . . .

Chair Altman asked how much of it was . . .

Mr. Claassen continued by saying the County's budget went to \$2.5 billion dollars that is why, from 1.404 10 years ago, 140 percent increase, while the population increased by 18, the County increased his taxes and everybody else's taxes by 140 percent; and he asked the Board to justify that.

Chair Altman stated the Board will do that, it will be looked at; he will look up his taxes . . .

Mr. Claassen stated publicly please.

Chair Altman remarked the Board will do that at the next meeting; staff will get the information so Mr. Claassen will have the best answer; and he appreciates his concern.

Sandra Sullivan stated at the last meeting, there was a conversation on the same Agenda Item that the Board gave to a Community Redevelopment District (CRA) that had no debt that it could close; the County gave them \$12.1 million; meanwhile, on this same Agenda Item, the Board talked about raising taxes and doing away with the three percent tax cap; she understood from that meeting that the Lagoon Workshop was going to discuss moving monies to stormwater flooding and sewage to kind of take preventative action to not raise the people's taxes; and she was very disappointed by the dog and pony show the people got for a sales pitch. She went on to say even worse, they came to find out that one of the Commission offices spent \$1,100 and change for one of the presentations here to do a sales pitch; she did a records request with Florida Technology; the County is paying them money for muck research despite the fact that the grant ended in 2023; the County has \$168.5 million unallocated and a lot of money not spent; she asked why the new 2026 draft plan address the issues of infrastructure; and she pointed out, the County has an infrastructure crisis. She commented South Beaches, from the County's budget last year, \$50 million just to bring it up to speed to Association of Water Technologies (AWT) and another \$30 million for the deep injection well, because Brevard has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where the deep injection well comes up to the groundwater; it is only funded by \$2.4 million in Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL), which is why when the contract was awarded in 2022, nothing has been done; the County has had millions of gallons dumped, consent orders, because it is supposed to not dump anything that is not AWT to the river, but it dumps to the river; this is 21 million gallons in 2022, 2023, dumped to the river; and the County is to have consent orders

because its plants are not up to AWT but not adequately funded by SOIRL, which was a promise to the taxpayers. She added, the taxpayers were also promised to match the State funding, the County got \$12 million from the State in 2022, so that is not happening; she looked at the muck numbers, and the County awarded the Eau Gallie Muck Project, which is for another day to talk about; the National Aeronautics and Space Association (NASA) project in the last plan was \$250 million for the Banana River PFAS contamination; in the chart she presented, she advised in there it is only for \$10 million; all of the muck projects have been devalued so low that the numbers are not even realistic in the plan; and the taxpayers got mucked.

J.1. Approval, Re: Contract for Sale and Purchase from Brookside Development LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, for the Lift Station B-06 Relocation Project

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, advised this is a contract for sale and purchase from Brookside Development LLC for the Lift Station B-06 Relocation Project, located on the corner of North Riverside Drive and Third Avenue, Indialantic, and located in District 5; it is in support of Utility Services; and the sale price is \$495,000

The Board accepted and authorized the Chair to execute Contract for Sale and Purchase and Addendum from Brookside Development LLC, a Florida limited liability company, for Lift Station B-06 Relocation Project.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

J.2. Approval, Re: Contract for Sale and Purchase from Evans Wickham, LLC for Future Enhancements to the Brevard County Utility System

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, commented J.2. is a contract for sale and purchase from Evans Wickham, LLC for future enhancements to Brevard County Utility System along North Wickham Road in District 4; and the price would be \$745,000.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Eddie Fontanin, Utility Services Director, would mind sharing with her a little bit about what Utilities Services intends to use this property for; and can he give some explanation about, on the Agenda Item it says Public Works Department is in control of this Item, and can he walk her through who pays for this, and that type of stuff.

Mr. Fontanin explained he will answer her second question first, and with Mr. Bernath being here, he hopes he says it correctly; all Departments, when doing land acquisition, the Land Acquisition group falls under Public Works, and that is why it falls under a Public Works item; and with regard to the payment, the Department, in this case Utility Services, upon approval, would be sending this to the title company, at which point it gets distributed to the homeowner.

Commissioner Delaney asked if it is out of Utilities budget.

Mr. Fontanin replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Delaney asked and then the property.

Mr. Fontanin responded the property is attractive because along Wickham Road, which literally goes from the treatment plant all the way south of Pineda, that is a major force main transmission line; this property sits approximately in the midway point; and as they are looking for opportunities for improvements with the hydraulic performance of that force main, but also adjacent, this would be the location that would be utilized for that.

Commissioner Delaney asked if that would give some protection if there was a backup or Something, that it would not be in the streets basically.

Mr. Fontanin responded every project done on the improvement of hydraulics lowers the probability of backups occurring.

Richard Heffelfinger stated he had some questions, but he thinks his Commissioner kind of answered it; this is being paid for by Public Works, or that money comes out of General Fund; and he asked if that is right. He stated essentially it is funded by Public Works.

Mr. Fontanin replied this is a Utility Services project, so this would be funded by Utility Services.

Chair Altman advised utility fees.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked if this would qualify for Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) matching.

Mr. Fontanin responded this project is outside of the Indian River Lagoon basin, so the answer would be no.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated but it is an infrastructure improvement that would keep water from the Lagoon; and he asked if that is not true.

Mr. Fontanin replied as projects are developed associated with this they will also be reviewing avenues for funding, whether it is SOIRL, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), or other sources; step one is to acquire the land; and step two is then to develop projects that would be applicable for grants and funding.

Mr. Heffelfinger remarked the reason he asked that is SOIRL does get, has a purpose, as previously stated by the previous speaker, to improve infrastructure, which would take the burden off of the utilities; but if that was thrown into the pool, he thinks they have more money than maybe Public Works does to support this; if the land is being bought for that reason to help with drainage, because all of the sewage is a threat to that Lagoon; water processing overflows; the more it is done, it qualifies for SOIRL; and if there is extra SOIRL money that has already been collected, that would be a good reason to save some of that other Public Works so his taxes are not increased by the County on his real estate, and that is all he is trying to defend. He stated that is the only questions he had; it is interesting that, although he looked up a little bit on it, they approached the County about the sale; that looks like they are wanting to get rid of it; and he hopes they are not going to profit too much.

Sandra Sullivan stated the issue she has with a couple of the Agenda Items is just a lack of transparency for accountability; it would be a lot easier if there was some attachments to some of the documents, which there is not; the big picture from the budget workshops is the County does not have enough money for infrastructure, but here it is taking on more obligations; it is quite interesting, the County is acquiring this one, but it just sold a piece on Barnes Road, that was on the main road; and the same justification could be used there, putting in a lift station. She mentioned she thinks there is a concern of the County's sewage treatment plants being at

or near capacity, and having all of this growth; she asked how the County is going to pay for it all; she noted this will come out of Utility funds to pay for this; there are restrictions on utility land; at the end of the day, the County sits on it; but she asked what it is doing to address the fundamental issue of the County having such a fiscal crisis with so much growth, more growth, and many mandates; how does it plan to manage the growth for the can that has been kicked down the road for so long without raising taxes.

Commissioner Feltner advised he is going to make a motion on this; one of the things, he appreciates that the County is here, there is a very limited opportunity on Wickham Road to put a lift station, a tank, anything for reuse, and retention; it is tough along there in that corridor, especially Suntree; there is not going to be this opportunity again; and he appreciates that the Board is doing this today to get this done.

The Board accepted and authorized the Chair to execute Contract for Sale and Purchase from Evans Wickham, LLC for the future enhancements to the Brevard County Utility System.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

J.3. Approval, Re: Use the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the Utilities Services Department's Capital Projects Identified

Sandra Sullivan commented again, this is an Item without any details; just for anyone listening, a construction manager at risk is someone, it is a design build, so they design it and then they built it; it is the way that things are done today; it is a very sensible way to go about the County's Utility Services; it takes a load off of the County to where it is not doing all of the design; but it probably raises expenses a bit, so they come to the Board to know who are the vendors, because she does not see a corresponding, if the County went out to bid for somebody in vendor link; and she asked if this relates to an existing set of vendors who are doing types of services already for utility Services, so she would like to see some clarification on that. She continued by saying this says for capital projects identified; the County has lots of capital projects identified and it does not have enough funding for, so according to vender link, there is an intent to go out this year and do debt; and she thinks a little bit more explanation is in order.

Edward Fontanin explained just a quick overview of what a construction manager at risk is, these are all projects staff identified what they are looking at for the time being; what the idea of this is they do a Request for Qualifications (RFQ); the reason there is not anything on what vendor link is, is because they wanted to get the Board's approval before proceeding in that direction; when doing a RFQ for a construction manager, staff is looking at contractors that have expertise in utility projects, specific to the ones listed; the advantage of this is they engage with the contractor during the design phase; there is already an engineer procured; but what the County is getting is a few of the advantages, which is identifying lead times on critical items that can be pre-purchased in order to make the job shorter in terms of the construction; staff gets costs, not cost estimates, of actual construction costs versus an engineer's estimate that provides a variance of plus or minus; and as they proceed into debt service or even grant applications, they will have a more precise number of what that is. He went on to say the other added advantages by having the contractor engaged during the design phase is that any items that are identified in the construction phase but were visible during the design are not eligible for change orders; and they greatly reduce change orders, any questions about the design or

constructability and the construction phase, so it really is a more streamlined process to get these critical projects going.

*Chair Altman passed the gavel to Vice Chair Adkinson.

*Chair Altman's absence was noted at this time.

Vice Chair Adkinson expressed her appreciation to Mr. Fontanin; she advised she is just going to take over for a little bit; and she asked if there are any questions from the Board.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to mention something that Mr. Fontanin said to her in her briefing yesterday and that was doing it this way also stops the ability of change orders: the price that they give the County is the price they give it; and a lot of times when going out for an Request for Proposals (RFP), the County will get a price, then six months down the line, once they are in the project, they say they actually have to spend this money, so on, and so forth, so this will lock into a price.

Mr. Fontanin advised that is correct.

The Board approved utilization of the services of a CMAR firm(s) for the Utility Services Department's capital projects identified in the Summary Explanation and Background section of the Agency Report; authorized Purchasing Services to competitively solicit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the services of CMAR firm(s) for the identified capital projects; and authorized the County Manager to execute contracts, contract amendments, and any contract extensions, Budget Change Resolutions (BCRs), change orders, and any documents or other administrative actions related to CMAR contracts within the Board's approved budget for each identified capital project.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Seconded: Thad Altman

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, and Feltner

Excused: Altman

Absent: Goodson

J.4. Rescheduling, Re: Budget Workshop from January 22, 2026, to March 19, 2026

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated staff is asking for a request to reschedule the January 22, 2026, workshop to March 19, 2026, that is a budget workshop; the Board already has one scheduled for January 29; staff is asking to do this because of some scheduling issues; and they are just asking for approval. He continued by saying once it is approved by the Board, staff will get the calendar and websites updated.

Commissioner Feltner asked if Public Works is going to go first, or is this moving Public Works to that date.

Mr. Liesenfelt replied he does not have the order off of the top of his head; the four subjects for the first workshop are annual color of money, showing the General Fund; and Public Works, Utilities, and Stormwater are the three departments that will be presenting.

Richard Heffelfinger stated he does not want to make this long; he is concerned that in the past the citizens have been caught with his or her pants down about time to digest the information; he was a little concerned, or he could ask, why did it have to be moved all the way to March,

because if those are important Departments and maybe the Board, he does not know what Departments were being pitched, on the second week, but that is more time the citizens do not have time to look at them; he asked why not come up with an agreement to kind of help him out a little, for the County to post the presentations early but delayed the presentations; in other words, would it possible to post the Departments that are going to be pitched on the Legistar on the date the meeting was going to happen; and that way at least the public gets time to look at it because it is already pretty difficult for the citizens that the County gives them, typically the meetings are Tuesdays, and they see them Friday, although he thinks this Agenda was out on Thursday, and he was shocked. He reiterated it does not give the public time to look at it; he would like have time to look through the material, ask questions, so he does not blindsides the Board with questions when he comes to a public meeting; he appreciates that the new Chair is actually addressing and taking on some of the questions; he does not like blindsiding the Board; in the past, he has tried to do that when the time did not seem to be used; but he knows some of the Commissioners look at these issues and say, this guy may have a point and the Board should answer those questions; sometimes Legistar is seriously underused where the County has the opportunity to put more information up there, and he will address that as one of his later items, but that resource is really for the Commission he assumes to bring all of that information together, and mostly for the citizens, they get to see the visibility; the Board has heard these people's cry for public records; and if it is put up there, he bets the County's cries for public records would go way down. He pointed out that would hurt the County financially because it charges money for public requests; but he thinks the use of the Legistar, and if the Board could maybe possibly commit to putting that stuff up a little earlier because the workshops are a waste of time if the population does not get a chance to engage, unless that is the intent; and that is all he is asking for is compromise to get those pitches up earlier so the public does not have to wait all the way to March.

Commissioner Delaney asked if she could clarify one thing, she stated she just wants to make sure she is not confused about this, and if the 29th is still happening and that is when the color of money, Public Works, Stormwater, and Utilities will be.

Commissioner Feltner replied correct.

Sandra Sullivan commented she is vehemently opposed to a delay in the budget; there was a statement made the other day at the workshop for Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) that suggested that was going to be moved pretty quickly and get it out there early; the two conversations are intertwined, because by State Statute, Brevard County is only allowed one infrastructure surtax; the County had a \$2.2 billion budget as of last year's budget that equaled the amount of the entire budget for the County; the entire County budget went up to \$2.8 billion, so who knows what that one is; she provided a chart showing the Board where the analysis was in the pink; and she stated for these other counties is an infrastructure surtax that they are using to meet their crisis in roads. She went on to say the County seriously has to look at restructuring the infrastructure surtax to also handle sewage infrastructure, all aspects of infrastructure; the County is spending that on grass clipping, marketing, which is not even a capital expense, and she would allege not legal under the muck tax; the bottom line is the County is looking at raising people's taxes, it was said at the last meeting, to address the flooding, existing flooding, existing sewage, plus it has a crisis on roads; and the infrastructure issue is because the Commission for 25 years kicked the can down the road and did not update impact fees, so the County is in the crisis now, the crisis needs to be fixed, the County cannot keep just waiting, and then raise the taxes as the Board mentioned at its last meeting. She noted major new projects underway, showing the Board on the document just sewage infrastructure at \$431 million; SOIRL, by comparison, is \$585 million; she asked how the County is going to pay for that; she advised there have been projects that have been contracted since 2022 for South Beaches, it is not the money to fund it; the Commissioners are

not fiscal conservatives if he or she is talking about raising people's taxes when it has a tax source available and stop the waste; and the County needs to Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) SOIRL.

*Commissioner Altman's presence was noted at this time.

The Board approved the rescheduling of the Budget Workshop from January 22, 2026, to March 19, 2026.

Result: Approved

Mover: Thad Altman

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

J.5. Discussion, Re: 2026 Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard Workshop for Commissioners to Hear Citizen Effectiveness and Efficiency Recommendations

Commissioner Delaney asked Don Walker, Communications/SCGTV Director, to come up to give the Board a short overview of the Citizens Effectiveness and Efficiency Recommendations (CEER) Program

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, advised if it is okay with the Board, as this is a Commissioner's Agenda Item; staff did not put the presentation into the package or anything; Mr. Walker has a presentation prepared; but if the Board wants staff to present it, they can do an overview of the CEER Program.

Vice Chair Adkinson noted she is happy to hear an overview; and she asked if any of the Commissioners have any thoughts.

Commissioner Feltner stated he is fine as well.

Mr. Walker stated just a quick brief on this; the County Charter Commission put together the CEER Program, based on public comment and added it to the Charter in 2010; it was basically meant as a model for people to contribute efficiency and effectiveness ideas to help the County save money; the County Attorney has spoken about this in the past; it was during the time of recession; and they were doing furloughs with the County, and it was just trying to look for any type of money-saving and effectiveness ideas that the County could incorporate into its day-to-day operations. He continued by saying just over the past 10 or 12 years the County has gotten roughly 253 CEERS; the majority of those have come in just within the last couple of years; of those 253, about 160 of those just in the past two or three years; some of the examples of some of the CEERs that have been approved, last year they did the American Disabilities Act (ADA) swing for Rotary Park; there was a lot of low impact development ideas that were contributed last year; and he guesses the Commission is looking for ways to incorporate some of those ideas into future legislation. He commented for the first time ever, the County had a Speak Up Brevard workshop on March 3rd of this past year; on September 3rd, the Board voted 4:1 to make no changes to the CEERs program just to keep it as it is; just in preparation for this year's CEER Program, which runs from January 1st to January 31st, the County ran a press release on December 19th letting citizens know that this was opening up; the program runs from January 1st through the 31st every year; previously it ran during December, so last year it was added, or moved to January; a press release was done on December 26th; and citizens were basically given two heads up that this was coming, and it was also posted on social media in advance of January 1st. He stated once all of the CEERs

are received by January 31st, the Charter gives the County Manager 90 days to work up recommendations, review all of those CEERs that are received; staff does quite an extensive review of all of those; a lot of work is put into the preparation of the recommendations; then, once those recommendations are together, they are presented to the Board; and he thinks last year it was sometime in April. He mentioned the Charter gives the County some options; it can recommend that the CEER is approved by the Board, rejected by the Board, or it may be a recommendation that while the entire thing cannot be incorporated because some of it may be being done already, there may be parts of the recommendation that can be incorporated, so the Board has the option to accept that recommendation with revisions; once the County receives the recommendations, everyone that puts in a recommendation provides an email address or home address, their name, they give the County an idea what they want it to look into, and they are notified in advance when the Board is going to take up those recommendations for scrutiny and approval or rejection; and one of things that are done, as far as transparency, is all of those CEER recommendations are posted on the County's webpage, they are searchable, and everyone that puts in a CEER recommendation can see what other people are putting in. He pointed out the County has options to determine if some of the recommendations received are out of the County's jurisdiction; obviously, there are Constitutional offices, the Sheriff's office who is over Animal Services, and last year it received a lot of Animal Services recommendations; those are not ignored, as they are ultimately brought before the Board, but what is done with those when they are received they are submitted to the Sheriff's office; the County does not tell the Sheriff what to do, but tells him that those have been received as part of the program, and if the Sheriff decides to take action on it, that is his prerogative; but regardless of what the Sheriff does, when the Board receives whatever staff recommendations are brought together after 90 days, those will still be included in that; and the Board will still have a chance to look at all of those once all this is done. He stated service requests are still received as part of the recommendations, such as there is a pothole in someone's driveway that has not been filled in two months, and if the County can please send somebody out to fill it; that is not really a CEER recommendation, that is a service recommendation; what has been done this year, the County did not change anything in the Program, but in the write-up in what needs to be done to submit a CEER, some caveats have been added, and if this is a service request, this is where he or she needs to go to put that request in; if this is something that maybe does not involve the County per se, but is some type of a County office or something, tell the submitter he or she may want to consider doing this instead, or if they had contacted their Commissioner about this; there are other ways that citizens can provide the County feedback any day of the year, including here at the lectern; the County wants people to be aware that those options always exist, not just from the days of January 1st through the 31st; and that is pretty much the program.

Commissioner Delaney expressed her appreciation to the County Manager's office, Mr. Walker, and his team for the amount and press and preparation they had for this year's CEERs program; it was great to see so much out there on social media and getting the words out to the public; she appreciates that, she sees that change, and that was really great; she wanted to mention, as the Commissioners know, someone in the community was lost that she calls the citizen ambassador for this program; and she is requesting that if the County goes forward with this workshop, she would love to honor Susan B. Connolly and name this workshop after; she was just an incredible person that was very passionate; she went all over the County speaking on this program; and many emails were received for a lot of people. She noted this particular email really stood out; she read a small excerpt from it, "In speaking with Ms. Connolly, one of the things she was most passionate about was the Speak Up Brevard Program and allowing the public more access to local government. She was a huge proponent of the project, and if she were still here with us, no doubt, she would have been in attendance for today's discussion regarding Speak Up Brevard. Although I'm not able to attend in person in her stead, she wanted to reach out to all of you to state how important it is that the Speak Up Brevard

workshops are for the community. Ultimately, we are beholden to the communities that entrust us as public leaders giving the public a forum to express their concerns and ideas in an open and meaningful way only serves to strengthen the bonds with those communities and garner ideas that matter most to them;" she stated with that, she just wanted to play a short video of just some of her words that, she believes was one of her last times here in this chamber talking to the Board; it just happened to be on this program; and her heart was so invested in this program.

A video of Ms. Connolly was provided to the Board.

Ruth Amato mentioned she does not think she could say anything better than what Commissioner Delaney said; she thinks it would be a true honor to name the Speak Up Brevard workshop after Ms. Connolly; and she worked so hard for it, she had such spirit for it, and it would be amazing.

Stel Bailey stated she strongly supports this Item and respectfully asks each Commissioner to say yes; this year's workshop carries even deeper meaning because it honors Susan Connolly who was tragically lost in a fatal car accident; Ms. Connolly devoted years of her life to this County; she believed in citizen involvement, civic engagement, and making local government better through participation, not exclusion; this program reflects her values, her dedication, and her tireless work; voting yes today is more than approving a workshop; it is honoring Ms. Connolly's legacy; and it is saying the citizens voices matter. She asked the Board, in memory of Ms. Connolly and in respect to the citizens it serves, to continue her legacy of civic engagement in this County, and to please vote yes.

Traci Robinson stated she passed.

Sandra Sullivan stated Ms. Bailey said it perfectly, and she urged the Board to honor Ms. Connolly for this year as she was so passionate on this program; she wanted to give a brief moment on some background; back in the early 2000s there was a group called the Brevard Coalition, mostly from South Brevard; they did amazing work; and it is their work that got this into the Brevard Charter, so if the Board has not read it, it can be searched on Google under Brevard Charter to read some of the things that are in there. She went on to say CEER was basically DOGE before DOGE was coined; this is an opportunity for the citizens to put their comments in there; she has done it she thinks three years now; she just wants to say she is grateful for the change this year to put it into January; it was such a hardship in previous years to have it in December with the family activities, kids out of school, and all of that; and she just wanted to thank the Board for that. She remarked she has a Facebook page called Speak Up Brevard, and she encouraged anyone who wants to join it to collaborate, or if they have questions, as it is essentially the digital version of the Brevard Coalition from years ago that allows people to collaborate and ask questions; and if people can collaborate together, they can better those ideas and work together as 'we the people' of Brevard.

Commissioner Altman stated he knows in the legislature this is done a lot, naming programs and even laws after individuals that are just exemplary who really embody the spirit of what the County is doing; he would be supportive of, and naming, this program permanently after Ms. Connolly, Susan Connolly Initiative, Speak Up Brevard, or whatever; to him, that would be an inspiration; and it would motivate him to value this more and even work harder, putting this remarkable lady in history as an example of why the County has this program, so he would be willing to do that.

Commissioner Delaney advised she loves that idea.

Vice Chair Adkinson stated she thought Susan Connelly was tremendous, she came into her office a lot; one of the things that people do not say about her, and she is not sure why, is that she was very professional when she spoke to her, and one wanted to hear what she had to say; she was not the kind of person who a Commissioner would cringe when he or she found out she had made an appointment with him or her; she was one of the best at getting her point across and making a person want to agree with her even sometimes when they did not, so she has no problem naming the program after her. She continued by saying her concerns are she is not in favor of having the Speak Up Brevard citizens come to the podium until after staff has had the opportunity to narrow the field; for her, it is very important that staff have a look at these things so they can say what the Board can do and what it cannot; she is not sure that February is good timing, that is kind of the most important thing for her; she reminded the Board that the last time that this was discussed, it was voted on, and the Board decided not to make any changes to the way it current does CEERs, because it is transparent, it does have it as part of the Charter; she thinks sometimes transparency is confused with activism; this County does a very good job of being transparent; and that is her two cents.

Commissioner Altman stated Ms. Connolly spoke with authority, in a way that was powerful, impactful, and her commitment was so remarkable; and in a way, she gave her life for this program because he thinks she had her accident coming back from one of the meetings.

Commissioner Delaney noted she did.

Commissioner Altman reiterated she literally gave her life for this program.

Commissioner Feltner pointed out Ms. Connolly was a lovely lady, and he thinks there is universal agreement in that; he enjoyed meeting with her in his office; she is missed, a good citizen of Brevard County, and a great example of how it is done; he thinks there are a couple of things going on here; they can all agree it could be called the Susan B. Connelly Speak Up Brevard Program; it could be done as its own motion; regarding the issue of a workshop, there might be an order of operations thing here; it would probably be better if that was brought back for consideration after the date has closed, know how many there are, and to an earlier point, some of the things that are State issues, Constitutional office, and Dan Newland ads; and he may agree with that person, but it is not part of what the CEER Program could do. He went on to say he did not mind the workshops, as he thought it was a very positive experience; he does not have any bad sort of takeaway from that; he is going to say it again because he is consistent on this issue, but a Commissioner can be petitioned and he or she can take anything out of the CEER Program to work on it; a Commissioner is free at any time to say that is a good idea, to work on it with his or her staff first, and then bring it to the Board, that is always an option available; many of the things he has brought to the Board as District 4 Items; and some of them even started as a conversation in a grocery store where someone stopped him saying they wanted to fix this or that thing. He remarked what the Board should do tonight is to rename it; and he is fine if Commissioner Delaney wants to bring this back after the program.

Commissioner Delaney commented she would love it if the Board could talk about dates tonight, because she feels like she has to do this a lot; she understands what the Board is saying about the Program closing and whatnot; but it does not really take a whole lot of research to know, most of the time, what is within the County's jurisdiction or not, so January 31st to the end of February is quite a bit of time; she is not expecting staff to have their recommendations back to the Board; this workshop is really for the citizens in her vision; and it was such an incredible experience at the last workshop, it was so well-received. She advised the feedback she got from it was actually finally something the Brevard County Government did for the people; for her it was like, wow, what a moment for the community to get this moment where the citizens and Board are not at odds, working together towards a common goal, the

positivity, ideas, and innovation is just flowing; it was just such a beautiful, perfect example of how she would love to see the government run; she picked these dates because the Board has a lot of budget workshops coming up; and these two weeks are pretty clear for the Board as far as the Commissioners schedules, so there are no extra things going on during these two weeks. She stated while she appreciates the comments about the staff recommendations and whatnot, and being kind of close to the ending of, because it ends on January 31st, she feels like it is more about the citizens getting to share with the Board; and it is more about that than what the staff recommendations are.

Vice Chair Adkinson stated Commissioner Feltner's idea of breaking this into two is probably a really good idea, so she would not mind entertaining a motion on the first part.

Commissioner Feltner stated he thinks all of the Commissioners are there on the Susan Connolly part; as far as the workshop is concerned, he thinks that is a separate issue; and he feels like he would like to see all of the submissions before talking workshop.

Vice Chair Adkinson asked the Board to take the first part.

The Board approved permanently renaming the Speak Up Brevard Program to the Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard Program.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

Vice Chair Adkinson asked when does the County, time-wise, have all of the submissions in, and staff enough time to get through it.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, replied the submissions are due at the end of the month; under the BCC Policy, within 90 days of the filing date, County Managers shall evaluate and comment on each CEER; last year, they got done a little bit earlier; and he does not know, April 20th, April 25th, something like that is sticking in his brain.

Vice Chair Adkinson stated for her to be able to support something like this, it is going to have to be after staff narrows the field; she appreciates everyone coming and being able to say what he or she has to say, but again, the difference between transparency and activism is what is being talked about; and some of the things that people might come up to talk about are not just something that the Board can do anything about.

Commissioner Delaney asked what kind of effort would go into a basic look through all of the submissions, because the Board could even honestly start this now because she thinks at this point the County has about 23 submissions; and what would it take, or how quick of a turnaround does he think it would be to just see if they are within the County's jurisdiction.

Mr. Liesenfelt responded he does not know if he can give Commissioner Delaney a good, honest answer; they are coming in right now; staff is working on the budget workshops; that is kind of the focus at the moment; and he assigns them to Departments when there is a chance, and then bring them back.

Commissioner Delaney asked as Mr. Walker goes through them, the Commissioners kind of know if they are in his or her jurisdiction.

Mr. Liesenfelt replied if there are obvious ones like Dan Newlin.

Commissioner Delaney noted or if it is to a Constitutional Officer or something like that.

Mr. Liesenfelt mentioned it still takes a little bit of time to go through them all; and generally, a lot of them roll in on the last couple of days, they go all the way to midnight.

Commissioner Delaney stated she guesses what she is asking is that it is not going to take until April to distinguish if it is within the Board's jurisdiction or not.

Mr. Liesenfelt explained it depends on what the CEER is; staff has had a couple that they have had to go back and the County Attorney at the time took about 60 days to determine because it involved lawsuits and stuff like that, so some of them get complicated; and it turned out it was not under the County if he recalls right.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, one last year involved like three different types of All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), golf carts, and motor bikes, all implicated different areas of Statute, all have different preemption rules, so that is not as simple as looking at it, a full-blown response to even determine what was possible for the Board to address because of State preemption and things like that; and they really vary from CEER to CEER.

Commissioner Altman commented he thinks it is important that the Board give as much respect to the due process of all of these requests; by rushing staff's time to come up with the recommendation may hurt the process; the Board should make sure it does due diligence to give it the due process it needs; he supports keeping the timeframe the way it is; secondly, County staff has a significant role in dealing with life, safety, and public welfare and they just cannot drop everything they have to get all of these answers to do the proper review; it does not mean he is not supporting it or giving it due diligence; he thinks this year the Board should go ahead and go with the process, not knowing how many requests are going to come in; and he reiterated he is fine leaving it the way it is from the timing point of view.

Commissioner Delaney asked if he would be able to propose some dates in April.

Vice Chair Adkinson stated she does not know, and asked if the other Commissioners had his or her calendar available; and she stated unfortunately, she does not always have her calendar, she means she cannot at this moment.

Commissioner Delaney stated this Board does this a lot.

Commissioner Feltner noted he thinks this could be brought back in short order; it could probably be done in a couple of weeks; he is not against Commissioner Delaney on the workshop; he thinks the win is something that can be discussed more; he is going to throw something out there to consider; it has been talked about staff paring stuff down, the Board could try to find a way to help staff time-wise; he thinks that would be very meaningful, so if working toward a workshop maybe ended up, just ponder this for the next meeting, somehow the Board get a list that says here is the top 20 of 77 submissions that the Board thinks collectively ought to be staff time . . .

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying workshopped.

Commissioner Feltner stated to go through and actually invest the legal hours and all of that; the others, they can come and speak, they could do that; but the staff time would maybe not be

invested; he could get there if she would ponder that for another Agenda Item; and he thinks in the great irony of things it would help the efficiency of it all if it saves staff some time.

Vice Chair Adkinson asked if Commissioner Delaney would like to make a motion or bring it back to the next meeting.

Commissioner Delaney advised she will bring it back to the next meeting.

Richard Heffelfinger asked if the Board is or is not going to have a workshop; he stated he was under the impression they were going to have something; he understands from the presentation earlier that if he submits a CEER, the County Manager still has the right to gun it down, that he will get an email; and he asked if he understands that right. He inquired if he has any right to respond to that email, because he guesses that the reason for the workshop is that he could come and say he got gunned down and would like a little more information, or maybe staff did not understand what he was trying to say; and could that communication be continued without that workshop.

Attorney Richardson replied all of the CEERs that are submitted, even the ones staff determines the County does not have jurisdiction, every one of those, by Charter, has to come to the Board for a final action, so these are all going to come to a regular Board meeting regardless of any of those issues; and he will absolutely have the ability to come up and have public comment and speak to his CEER issue at a public meeting held by the Board.

Mr. Heffelfinger inquired if when Attorney Richardson says the public meeting if he means a regular meeting or one just about CEER issues.

Attorney Richardson responded a regular meeting, because that is the only meeting the Board can take action, and the Charter compels the Board to take action on each of these and take a vote; and votes are not taken at workshops.

Mr. Heffelfinger mentioned he was wondering if he was going to get an email saying he was shot down, if the workshop would allow him to maybe fight his case a little better, or that is not what is going to happen.

Commissioner Altman advised the meeting should give him that, he can actually appear; the Board has to have all of the requests, and if some are not approved or shot down, that has to be addressed in the public hearing; he will have the opportunity to speak, to get more information, or to challenge; it is possible, not inconceivable, that the Board would agree with him; and it is definitely something he would have time to respond to, he is not going to just get an email.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated he is still a little confused; he asked if he does not get a workshop . . .

Commissioner Altman interjected by saying it is even better than a workshop, because in a workshop action cannot be taken, it is going to be a regularly scheduled County Commission meeting; and that is to the citizens' advantage.

Mr. Heffelfinger remarked now he is confused; he asked why he would want to have a workshop, because he does not want to cut the ability for him to, if he has a really strong feeling that he wants that item and maybe the way he wrote it up, or the way staff looked at it was not what he thought and he received an email, he would like to have the ability to come back and say there was a miscommunication and if the Board would please reconsider.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out that is her intention for a workshop that the citizens can get to the staff and explain their item more before their full recommendation comes back to the Board, because sometimes things can come out in writing differently than it comes out when one is verbally explaining something; that is her intention with a workshop for the citizens to get the chance to come before the Board and speak, that way staff has the opportunity to hear it before they finish up their recommendations so they can have a more holistic idea of what the citizens are bringing forward; that way the Board can get the best product coming back to it at the Commission meeting; but she just wants to also say that the past two years, one year while she was a citizen and one year as a Commissioner, both times this item has been pushed to the end of the meeting; the first time she did not even get to speak as a citizen because she had to leave for work; last year, it got pushed to the end; there were people who left because they could not stay the whole time; and it was so rushed and uncomfortable as she was flipping through her binder, when she was promised the Board would have a full, robust discussion, and she was literally the only one who spoke. She stated this is not about activism, it is about getting citizen involvement into the government; this is the way it is supposed to happen; the County is supposed to have people coming to the meetings, being involved, getting responses, having collaboration and work between the Board and staff; staff does a great job, but no one is the kings and queens and rulers, all are public servants; if there is not a working relationship with staff and the Commissioners, then there is a broken system; that is the whole reason why the people who founded this program brought this to the County Charter Review Commission, because the system was so broken that they could not get their input heard; and this is a program that should blossom. She went on to say there are all of these people in the community with so much experience and thought, but a lot of times people have come to her and asked why should they waste their time; she keeps imploring to them that she is working for them, passionate about building this bridge between the community and the government, so people are starting to get engaged; it is why in the past two or three years there has been an uptick in this program, because her, her chief of staff, and others in the community have spread the word about it; when they hear about it, people are so encouraged because they are getting a full, robust response, it is talked about, and there is conversation; and she reiterated it is not about activism, it is about building a bridge.

Mr. Heffelfinger remarked as long as he gets the ability to come back; he does not know if that is a workshop, or more focus during the meeting; and he asked if they are going to get blasted with all the declines at the end.

Commissioner Altman stated he thinks the timing can be talked about and the Agenda; and if the Board wants to have it sooner, it will have an opportunity.

The Board reached consensus to bring back to a future Board meeting, consideration of hosing a Workshop.

*The meeting recessed at 6:34 p.m. and reconvened at 6:46 p.m.

J.6. Board Direction, Re: Notification to Residents Ref: Disclosure of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contaminant Levels in Drinking Water

*Vice Chair Adkinson passed the gavel back to Chair Altman.

Commissioner Delaney explained she became aware of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in 2018; as a parent, when she started looking into it, she became concerned and she made adjustments to protect her own family; as a County Commissioner, she is concerned about all of the residents and families; after learning, this was being studied, she requested a meeting with their Utility Director to go over the Jacob Study, 249 pages, and she has attached

that to the County's online Agenda Items; and that way residents can find it on the County's Legistar easily. She continued by saying in that meeting she was informed that the County will not be able to implement the County's Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant for at least four years in North Brevard; that made her nervous, she felt like it is imperative to notify people of PFAS contamination so that they have the opportunity to make those choices for their families if they want to get a filter for home or whatever they would like to do in the intermediary; while researching this, she found after a quick search that there are other counties in Florida that are doing some notification to their residents; and she asked Space Coast Government TV (SCGTV) to put up the Orange County page. She pointed out this is actually a webpage that Orange County put together; this page basically shows all of their data and the ND means not detected, and it is because they have an RO system in place, which is what District 1 is working on getting in its community; the results of this report were concerning to her, as she believes Stel Bailey mentioned earlier, the standard is four parts per trillion; this document goes back to 2023, with the newest update being August 13, 2025; they have a lot of data here that shows the sampling from the wells; it is concerning because some of the results are anywhere from four, five, six, upwards in the Barefoot Bay area to 56 parts per trillion, which was extremely concerning to her; and she wanted to bring this forward, not only to the Board, but to the public because she really feels like this is something that people need to know. She stated she would not go as far as saying it is an emergency situation, but she thinks that it is something that if people who choose to, they should know; as government officials, she thinks that the Board should be the ones letting people know what this is; she asked what the possible affects are; what are the same results of the County's wells; what are some possible things that they could be doing according to the different agencies across the country that are studying this; and she advised like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for instance, have a whole website that is dedicated, or she should say a whole section, of their website that is dedicated to what PFAS is, what the nation is doing to improve the health and water of the country and its citizens, and what can people do in the meantime. She mentioned there are filters and things like that; she is by no means an expert, but she definitely wanted to bring this forward; she asked Kristin Lortie, her chief of staff, to provide the Board with a slide; she stated another type of notification that she found was basically a letter that was sent out to the users of the water over in Temple Terrace that just shows the results; it gives an explanation of what is being done, what she should do, the possible health effects, more information, and it gives some city representatives that the public could reach out to, and a section for more information about these substances and where to go on the EPA website, so on, and so forth; the cool thing about Orange County and Gainesville was that they periodically update their website; and when they get new results, they update it so people can continually be aware. She advised that is what she is proposing, bringing forward to the Board, to get Board support on notification to these areas in North Brevard, Barefoot, and Sebastian to notify the users of the County's utilities of the results and what they can do if they choose to; she stated she has this information as well if SCGTV wants to put it up on the projector; it is a simple one-pager that gives notification to the public, because like what was presented to the Board earlier, this is something that is not an overnight thing, this is something that as it accumulates in one's body after years, he or she can have some pretty severe medical issues that come up; and she just feels passionate about making sure that the public is notified, just like if there were lead or whatever other substances, that the County let them know that some high results are in some of the County's wells, not all of them, and she reiterated just so people can make those decisions for themselves.

Commissioner Feltner asked if the Board is going to do questions first or cards.

Chair Altman replied up to the Board.

Commissioner Feltner noted he might have a few questions; and he asked if that page that Ms.

Lortie was showing there is from a website.

Commissioner Delaney responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Feltner stated he supposed when talking about creating a website, he does not think it is very expensive; probably the easy part of it is, and he thinks staff said this about creating it, it is the maintenance of it going forward will be the more time consuming part of it; and he asked if Commissioner Delaney knows if there is a template or anything like that, he knows the front end of it is being discussed, but is there anything like that the County can borrow from its friends in other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Delaney advised she has not reached out to Orange County or Gainesville, those are the two websites that she found after her quick search, but from her experience so far on some of the regional boards, people are usually very collaborative; and she would be happy to reach out to them and see if they would be willing to help, share their process.

Commissioner Feltner commented he thinks it is probably cheaper to borrow from ones friends if they have already done the work of putting something together; and he guesses just best practices of what they think is working in another area.

Chair Altman stated he has a question as he is curious because he knows they were finding PFAS in the recycled water in Cocoa Beach; and he asked if the County has tested the recycled water it has right here in Viera or anywhere else in the County.

Commissioner Delaney remarked she would like Edward Fontanin, Utility Services Director, to answer if he could.

Mr. Fontanin asked if Chair Altman is talking about the reuse.

Chair Altman advised yes, the reuse water.

Mr. Fontanin replied the County has not done any testing in the reuse.

Chair Altman pointed out that might be something the County may want to think about.

Commissioner Delaney stated definitely.

Commissioner Feltner asked if when talking about reuse it is about irrigation for landscaping, and is that what Chair Altman means.

Chair Altman responded yes, the wastewater treatment plant has extensive reuse.

Commissioner Feltner noted he thinks there is an expectation because there are still products out there that have Teflon and those sorts of things, and that is being put down the drain; and that is different than some of the other ways that it ends up in a waterway.

Chair Altman stated if the Board does the RO eventually, that is going to reduce the volume of PFAS going into the reclaimed water, so it has a double effect.

Commissioner Delaney stated she is totally all for the County's RO; she thinks Mr. Fontanin's plan moving forward is great, that the County is working towards that, but it is still a few years out, so her concern was in the meantime, she would just hate for people to unknowingly be ingesting this, especially when the Board has this knowledge; the Board knows that it is there;

some of the levels are really high, like she said up to 56 parts per trillion in Barefoot Bay; it is in some areas in the 20s in North Brevard was some of the highest; that is four years of ingesting that; and she asked if that is four years at a minimum until the County gets to the RO system.

Mr. Fontanin stated in the affirmative.

Chair Altman asked relating to the RO, what they do with the brine; he stated obviously, if there is PFAS in the water, they are removing it with RO, it is going to be in the brine; and he inquired if there is any disposal process or where does it end up.

Mr. Fontanin explained as part of the RO plant, the County also has to design two deep injection wells for redundancy, so they will get injected down to the lower Florida aquifer.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Mr. Fontanin would mind explaining that a little bit, the different aquifers.

Mr. Fontanin advised to give clarity regarding the potable water in Brevard County, and on occasion he has seen people discuss, and he will dive into the aquifer, discussion about toilet water or wastewater converted, that is a common language that they are asking in water supply plans that will not apply toward Brevard County; the rationale about that is in Brevard County and for most of the coastal regions, there are three aquifers; one is called the surficial aquifer, which is described as for those that have their own private well, whether it is irrigation or potable; depth can range anywhere from around 35 to 150 feet deep; this is what is called like the sweet water; now the Water Management District is really emphasizing, this is across Florida, if one is in a region where there are upper Floridian well; the upper Floridian well, and he does not want to get into distance/depth, but there is a fairly thick rock formation; and once getting through the upper Floridian aquifer, that is what is brackish water. He added, to give the Board an idea, the salinity in the ocean is around 13,000, 14,000 parts per million, brackish water in the upper Floridian is around 6,000, 7,000 thousand, one cannot drink it raw; whenever hearing of a coastal region doing RO, that is the well that is being pulled from; the Water Management District encourages that because it is plentiful; the only drawback is reverse osmosis would have to be done; but the benefit of reverse osmosis, it will remove any contaminant, so it is literally the best technology in order to get that; after the upper Floridian, there is another thick rock formation, he apologizes for not having distance, but in the spirit of people will gravitate toward what he says, he would rather it be factually correct, then one gets down to the lower aquifer, lower Floridian aquifer; and anyone that has a deep injection well, that is the aquifer where that stream is introduced to.

Commissioner Delaney noted the reason why she asked for Mr. Fontanin to explain that is because she just wanted to make it clear that it is not the same place where Brevard would be pulling its water from.

Mr. Fontanin advised not at all; there is significant geohydraulic modeling that has been shown; and they have even done testing, so correct.

Commissioner Feltner asked for his own education, if the reverse osmosis plants is typical to do with the brine, the leftover.

Mr. Fontanin replied affirmatively.

Ruth Amato stated the health effects from having PFAS in the water have already been covered; what she is going to tell the Board are the recommendations for clinicians; when one goes to the doctor, if he or she has under two parts per trillion, they say that one can just have

regular medical care; between two and 20, they tell a person that they need to reduce exposure, monitor for high cholesterol, hypertension, pregnancy complications, and breast cancer; and her 13 year old daughter is in that category, lifelong Brevard resident, because nobody warned them to drink what they call potable water. She asked her daughter, the children, her nieces and nephews, if there is any wonder that they have so many reproductive problems here in Brevard County; she pointed out it is because the County is poisoning the children without people's knowledge before they ever get a chance to thrive; she expressed her apologies; but she advised, it is personal; it is so personal, that is her mama sitting back there who just got over colon cancer; and they do not talk about what the future holds for her because of what the treatment did to her. She commented it is not this Board, but the previous Board, knew this was in their water when it joined the lawsuit two to three years ago, and notified no one, it just let people drink it, let the children play in the bathtub and the previous Board did not care; she thanked Commissioner Delaney for being brave enough to bring this forward and protect her residents, because they deserve nothing less; if someone is going to hang their hat on the fact that it is not required, she would say they are not required to die for his or her silence either; their children are not required to suffer because no one told them what is in their water; there is a thing called ethics, ethics over requirements, people over this; North Brevard, South Brevard, deserves better; and people deserve to be treated like human beings and like their lives actually matter and for keeping this under wraps for so many years. She asked what happened to the money that came back from that lawsuit; does any of the Commissioners know if it went to the systems that are going to protect the residents; she stated she can probably guarantee it did not; maybe that is something that should be looked into because that report specifically says that those wells in high amounts should be decommissioned; and there should be something in place in the interim until that RO plant can be put into place, but there is not a plan, only the courage of one person to bring it forward so at least people can protect themselves when their County did not protect them.

Richard Heffelfinger commented he does not know much about PFAS, but he knows a lot more tonight than he did before; he lives in Cocoa, so he gets his water from the City of Cocoa; he asked if they are required to test for PFAS; will they alert him when he gets a flag on PFAS levels, is it four; but he will not get a flag from Cocoa in their water test.

Commissioner Delaney advised she would ask for one.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated he has not gotten that little thing that says everything is okay, drink it, it smells bad, it looks a little weird, but drink it; he asked if he gets a notification from Cocoa and if it is what she is asking for; he would think that if there is something that was identified by the experts and it flags, they should be testing for that; granted, they cannot test for everything, but if this PFAS thing, which looks like it is becoming more in the Brevard area talk about PFAS contamination; he understands there is a muck problem too; he does not know if that is true; but that stuff is being spread around on the ground. He noted if Cocoa is not notifying him when it triggers, he is a little concerned about that because half the time it says everything is okay, or it is going to be a little weird because they are going through a bromine cycle that is coming up, so he gets those notifications; he asked if that costs the taxpayers anything to push that on their water, a requirement; he stated just add it to the notification they have now; he assumes that everyone that gets water from a water provider gets a notice of compliance; if all the people are asking for is to get that added, he does not think it costs anything; and he asked if that is true or not. He stated when these things come up, they always ask how much it is going to cost; he would hate to think that if it is important enough; he asked if one could just call Cocoa and ask if they are testing for that; he stated if it tags, it will trigger it; the EPA does not have their stuff together, because she thinks the EPA requirements would drive them, so he does not know what exactly is being asked for; if PFAS flags in his water, he would think know that he knows what it is, and he would actually honor his wife's request to get a filter because

before he just said, oh, honey, come on, there is nothing in it, to look at this report; he is not spending four grand; and he thinks after this, he might reconsider.

Chair Altman stated he just Googled it, the City of Cocoa Beach; this is Cocoa Beach; the Board needs to answer that question, it is a good question; the City of Cocoa Beach has conducted testing; and it will be looked up.

Commissioner Delaney added, it is a requirement that everybody tests; all water providers have to test; the notification piece does not start until 2027; and she asked if that is right. She went on to say starting in 2027, the County is going to be required to notify, but right now it is not.

Chair Altman inquired if one asked his or her water provider, will they tell them.

Commissioner Delaney replied affirmatively; and she stated one will probably have to go through a public record request.

Chair Altman asked if one can call his or her provider and ask them if they have PFAS.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out if one can get ahold of them.

Stel Bailey commented she grew up in Brevard County, right here, and what flowed through her taps became a big part of her story; in 2013, everything changed; she watched her uncle die of cancer, her family dog riddled with tumors, her little brother was diagnosed with cancer, she was diagnosed with cancer, and then her father was diagnosed with cancer; this was all within the same year; and they had to become caregivers and cancer patients within the same year, multiple cancers, one family, and one hometown. She went on to say every doctor asked them the same question, where they grew up; when they said Brevard County, their faces would change; genetic testing showed that they had no mutation genes; her medical records actually document this as environmental exposure because it was so unusual; when she went into remission in 2014, she made a promise to herself that she was going to find out why this happened to her family; that is when she found out about PFAS chemicals, the so-called forever chemicals that moved groundwater and underground plumes from past industrial and firefighting use; they quietly enter drinking wells decades later; they do not disappear when the source stops; and they stay in water and in the body. She pointed out she had her blood tested and her PFAS levels were higher than the health agencies considered safe; she is still living with that exposure and what it did to her to this day; her family was never given the power to simply know what was in their drinking water; she promises the Board, as a mother herself, if her mother and father were told that they were these chemicals that build up in ones children's body as they drink more than adults; they are being fed formula, they are drinking more water, and they are developing; this crosses the placenta in pregnant women; and it is impacting growing children. She stated that is why she has spent the last decade helping communities across this country fight for science-based drinking water protections and accountability; that is why she is currently in the Federal court fighting against this current administration on the current national drinking water standards to ensure that they keep that low amount; she is not asking the Board to solve PFAS tonight, she is asking it to one simple thing and that is to tell the truth to build trust between a government and the people; and she promises the Board if it does not, she will end up sending postcards, and they do not want to hear from her. She asked the Board not to make her do that; and she is asking it to be the bridge, to be collaborative, and to show people that he or she can trust the Board.

Chair Altman asked where Ms. Bailey where she got her drinking water; and what the water supply was that her family had.

Ms. Bailey responded Cape Canaveral is where she was, the City of Cocoa, and then Mims; her dad lived in Mims; and her parents were divorced.

Elizabeth Baker explained she, too, was going to go through some of the health effects of PFAS, but she thinks the Board is pretty clear on that; she was actually really thrilled to hear the Board's response to Ms. Bailey's presentation; she has family members in Brevard County, a cousin that she lost from Port St. John who was 55 years old, completely riddled with cancer; it started in her bladder and moved through her whole body; and she left behind three children. She went on to say she has a family member in Titusville; her drinking water was tested at 176 parts per trillion; she is one of the lucky ones because she found out and installed a reverse osmosis system; by telling people, it gives them that ability; not all RO systems are \$4,000, some of them are just a couple of hundred dollars; and they can be used just for one's drinking water, which really reduces people's exposure. She advised it is important that is done; the way she looks at it is they live in a 'stand your ground' state; the people have the legal right to take someone's life if he or she feel threatened physically; by not telling people what is in their drinking water if it could harm them, one literally takes away their right to defend their physical body, and it is not okay; people have to be able to do that; and if the Board really thinks about it and gives people the opportunity to do so, a lot of people here in Brevard will probably spend that money and put those RO systems in their homes. She pointed out by doing that, the County is reducing the amount that goes back into the system, it is a win-win; the County looks good, it is the hero, and it reduces what is going back to the system from the citizens; and she asked the Board to do the right thing.

Kimberly Benton stated she apologizes for her appearance; she does not regret her vote, Commissioner Delaney, at all; in fact, she wants to be the uncomfortable truth that the Board looks at today, because everyone is clear on the problem and knows that it is there; she has called Cocoa a number of times about the water supply; number one, dumping fluoride in the water is a neurotoxin, so that needs to be cut; she has been calling Cocoa for a number of years bugging them about the water; everyone here can look up the environmentalworkinggroup.com, put their zip code in and get all of those little numbers; she is slit from here to here; she woke up in a VA Morgue in Nashville in 2012 due to the irresponsibility of the government to take responsibility for the water at Camp Lejeune; she was there in 1997 and she wants the Board to know that there is still a 12-foot fence around that base and the doctor at ASTRD; and if the Board wants to know what special diseases awaits he or she that have been here forever unless it stands up and makes the change, there is a whole list there. She went to say her story is her bile ducts filled with tumors because the water was so toxic; she fought; as a single mother, with a son, served a full term; she is eight generations in the service; she is a direct descendant of General Claypool; her family has served the Space Center; her grandfather on her maternal side paved US 1; paternal grandfather wired up that damn Shuttle Launchpad, they are smart; her cousin owns a business that still works out there; her dad had cancer twice, one kidney, prostate is gone, the man is still kicking, because they are just too salty to lay down and die; and then her first cousin who lives in Satellite Beach in the hot zone over by Gleason Park, the Board all knows about it, a double mastectomy, they are gone. She commented talking about people's healthcare, healthcare needs some work, be honest; that is a subject for another day, but people know there is a problem; she wants to commend Commissioner Delaney for being responsible, taking accountability; she likes Chair Altman's attitude as well; she asked Commissioner Adkinson to please be more compassionate; she noted she does realize commerce is a big deal; it is not so much about being an advocate as safe water is an important issue for everybody, and there is an opportunity for innovation here; the Board knows how the County got the algae steamboat that cruises down the Lagoon converting the nitrogen; she has a solution for every problem; chief operating officers like Chipotle can filter some of their salts; the County has mushrooms; look up Paul Stamets the Host Defense Program; Smallpox, Agaricus, mushrooms from the old

growth forest that will grow and clean up these oil and toxic spills; and there have got to be grants out there. She asked people to just put those RO systems in.

Sandra Sullivan explained she would like to see a commitment, in addition to transparency, in disclosing this to the people drinking the water; to also make a commitment to spend the 3M settlement for PFAS contamination to addressing these problems; from what she looked up, if the Board remembers, Commissioner Feltner, on December 5th 2023, an Agenda Item proposed a 3M Corporation class action settlement for District 1, and from what she understands, the County has already received one payment and there are some additional payments coming; and she would like to see a motion tonight that the Board commits to spending that money to go towards treating the water to make it safe for people. She went on to say from what she read, it can be spent on a couple of categories within the water system, but not necessarily to fixing PFAS; she thinks that is a reasonable expectation to make a motion that when the Board gets that settlement that it will go to making that water safe; she lives in South Patrick Shores; she lives in close proximity to Patrick Space Force Base; in 2018, she was very happy, never went to a Commission meeting, and did not know what a Commission meeting was; she was just home-schooling her kids and having a great time, and pinching herself every day of how blessed she was where she lived; then she found out about the cancers beachside, all of the women with breast cancer, brain cancer, and other cancers affecting young people 17 or 18 year old brain cancer patients losing their lives; a student who played football with her son who had lung cancer and testicle cancer; and it is the young people it is affecting. She advised she does not appreciate that the remedial investigation from Patrick was done in 2014; it was hidden from them; it was not until this cancer hit a big thing that they even found out about it in 2018, four years after the remedial investigation; the County has right now a vendor link for a vendor to put the muck on agricultural land; the County has in their liability immunity for putting this on agricultural land; if one is looking at the news and looking at the cattle, the cattle are being put down because they are being poisoned by PFAS; it is irresponsible for this County to not test the muck that it is dredging and then putting it on agricultural land; and she believes the muck tax, in response to the remedial investigation that came out from Patrick in early 2015 because the language in the newspaper says it is not legal to use it for muck dredging, that law was never changed. She pointed out it was called the muck tax in the beginning; PFAS is a very mobile chemical, it spreads, it is in the groundwater; the EPA came out with a study that it is a semi-volatile organic; it comes up into people's homes beachside, which is a conversation for another day; but people are being exposed to this from multiple ways. She noted Ms. Bailey's study that she did with the University of Florida (UF), some of the most contaminated places in Brevard is its sewage waste systems; this is why AWT, and for the reclaimed water, is so incredibly important to address; the health study that was done did not address breast cancer, brain cancer, some of the cancers that have been tied to PFAS; to be honest, it looked like a cover up; she still lives there and fights for the people who live there; she fights and stay on this issue and has come to these meetings for seven years; she lives on top of a military dump in addition to it; and the Corp of Engineers put monitoring wells all through that. She stated the Board can vote at the next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, which is coming up in a couple of weeks, to support her in a vote for Patrick to do testing in those monitoring wells; they are already in, the expense is done, to work towards solutions; the incineration, called Plasma Incineration, there are technologies that can reduce this and make this safe; and the technology is there now.

Commissioner Adkinson asked who tells the County when to test and how often do they tell it to test.

Mr. Fontanin replied the EPA gives directions to the FDEP; the County does it quarterly, but then there is also supplemental testing done at the request of the EPA; those are sporadic; but when the County is notified, it does that immediately.

Commissioner Adkinson asked what the County does with those results.

Mr. Fontanin responded they are included in the County's report, it gets reported back to the FDEP on the results; and those results get sent to the EPA for statistical analysis or whatever they do.

Commissioner Adkinson inquired if Brevard County puts them out on its website anywhere; and are they available for the public to see those reports.

Mr. Fontanin replied currently no.

Commissioner Delaney asked if the County has looked into the sources of the contamination.

Mr. Fontanin responded as an entity of Brevard County Utilities, no.

Commissioner Delaney inquired what the process would be to do that, and if the County instructs its consultants to do that, or would the Board have to give direction asking Mr. Fontanin to . . .

Mr. Fontanin replied he thinks that is more of the State level because the source is multitude; going back to what he described was the surficial aquifer, Commissioner Delaney asked him to explain the aquifers, the same aquifer that he described, which is the 35 to 150-foot deep, that aquifer goes through Central Florida and he believes it stops short of the Georgia border and central; and he is not aware of the State, they may be already doing some form of analysis, the water management district are, he thinks it is a much more holistic item to tackle.

Commissioner Delaney noted when she looked at how that goes about what came up on her search was PFAS fingerprinting; this is something that all of the different types of PFAS, it has its own unique makeup; it literally describes it as fingerprinting because each chemical is so different; and depending on what it is from, where it is made, and all of that, it is unique, it has a unique compound. She mentioned the research that she has done, which is not crazy extensive, but it is a little bit; this is already used by state agencies and utilities to assign responsibility, and that is one of the things that she is thinking about if there are industries or if there are polluters out there that are polluting the County's wells, they should be paying for the County's RO system, not the ratepayers; there is also total precursors, the Total Oxidizable Precursor Assay (TOP); it says that some sources release precursors that do not show up in standard tests, so this TOP testing identifies specifically industrial or landfill derived contaminate contamination and it can distinguish firefighter foam from manufacturing waste, which she thought was really interesting; and also groundwater flow and plume modeling can also help find where this stuff is coming from and where it is going to, because one of the things that she saw in this study was that some of the County's wells had next to no PFAS and then other wells could have had quite a bit. She stated it is not a stretch to say that there is a possibility that the County could possibly hold some people responsible for this contamination; she also found that this is a pretty standard practice in super fund investigations, cost recovery and litigation cases, and State enforcement actions; this also says that PFAS patterns typically increase closer to the source; that can also give the Board an idea and it changes composition as they migrate, so this allows the investigators to draw a contamination gradient pointing upstream, which will help one zero in on where it is coming from because some people have put out there that, the County already knows with the military there is a lot of PFAS that has come out from military bases; the County has a whole advisory board that has been established because of the contamination at one of the military bases; and if the Federal government has contributed to some of this they should be participating in this cleanup and she knows that they are sort of to an extent, when the Army Corps came and gave it that presentation, she will not

say what she really thinks, but it was not enough; and then when they went out and dug in people's yards, she has had constituents come to her and said they literally told the Army Corps that they were digging in the wrong spot, there is no stuff in there. She continued by saying the Army Corp insisted on digging where they were going to dig, so even that data that they bring back to the Board is not going to be truthful; it is not going to be full and unbiased; it is going to probably show something, but it is not going to show the extent; if they used the County's money wisely and instructed its consultants that the County is already paying to do some of this work; the County can have RO systems for the whole County if it can pinpoint where this stuff is coming from; the current technology that is out there it can narrow sources to small defensible set of things and it can eliminate unlikely contributors; basically, it can narrow the field of what could be contributing to this problem; and it can support regulatory or legal action. She advised some of the things that are happening elsewhere are testing is being done now, but running TOP tests on select wells, so maybe those wells that are higher in the study, performing fingerprint analysis, map concentrations and groundwater flow compared to known source signatures, identify probable source zones, and engage regulators and legal counsel; she feels like these are some of the steps the County could be taking along with notification to its residents; there is so much information out there on these technologies on the EPA website; there is a PFAS source tracking and forensic system; the Iowa Department of Land and Soil PFAS Sampling and source ID guidance, SLR Consulting PFAS fingerprinting and source; and basically, there are all these things out there so she is just wondering if maybe in addition to notification the Board could get a task force together, or do something to try to battle this thing head on, and maybe even see what some other areas are doing to combat this issue, because like she said earlier, this is not a Brevard County problem, this is an everywhere problem.

Commissioner Adkinson stated clearly the Board knows that PFAS is horrible, that is not a question; if the Commissioners make it look like he or she are experts, she is not talking about just putting out the results of the testing that might be done, but if somehow people got the idea that whatever is put on this website was the truth of the matter, is the County opening itself up to any kind of legal problems; she stated she does not want the County to put itself out there as an expert and then being wrong because people did or did not get cancer and just got scared; and she inquired what are the County Attorney's thoughts on that.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, responded as long as the County only published data from the testing and does not make representations about the meaning of that data, it can publish the data, as well as the established standards by EPA for example, then there is no liability for something like that.

Commissioner Adkinson asked publishing the testing, the results the County gets, is not a problem.

Attorney Richardson replied the County does something similar already with all kinds of other things in a water quality report, it is just that the various PFAS contaminants have not been part of that historically, those are going to be phased in to water quality reports going forward.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out that the Temple Terrace example that she put in the attachments, it gives basic information to queue people over to where they can find out more information, and she would hate for the County to put out blind information that nobody knows what any of that means; the EPA has standards and there are countless organizations and health organizations out there with information that shows that with certain amounts of this in people's systems, different health effects could very well come; she cautioned the County to just put out numbers, because the masses are not going to know what to do with that; she feels like neighbors around the State have put out this information, she is sure they have great legal teams just like the County does, and she cannot imagine they would be putting something

out that was going to open them up to legal liability; and she cautioned the Board not to be too cautious at the expense of not truly notifying the public of the steps they could be taking to protect their health. She noted this one says somewhere that one should always contact his or her doctor for any kind of medical advice, so on, and so forth; she would never pretend to be a medical expert; and people should talk about this with their families, doctors, and whoever else they need to talk to about it to make a decision about their health

Commissioner Feltner asked to Commissioner Delaney's point, links going from a County website to what, the EPA, and is that the standard, because obviously, the County does not want disinformation or misinformation here either; he noted he does not think that is going to help anybody; and he inquired if that is part of this.

Commissioner Delaney responded exactly; she mentioned she will pass this down as it was what was on the projector earlier; it does not have to be exactly that; and she wanted to bring forward some examples so everyone could see what some other areas are doing.

Mr. Fontanin stated just going a little bit by what the Commissioner is saying, the conversation of PFAS is very new; he has gone on websites; some of them look reputable, some of them if one reads some of the information, he thinks it is kind of misleading sometimes with recommendations; for an example, a person is going to put a private RO system in; in order to know the functionality of the private RO, it has to be tested; it is a question if one is going to believe the brochure, just to put a blanket thing that the solution is an RO; the factuality, the data, EPA right now a lot of utilities that he talked to with other utility directors, they are all going through this, right now where they feel comfortable right now is with FDEP and EPA; and they are buffering that.

Commissioner Feltner asked if the website Commissioner Delaney is proposing only going to EPA; he stated he thinks in the early stages of whatever the County would do, that would . . .

Commissioner Delaney replied her initial thought for the website was a basic what is PFAS, which can be gotten from any reputable sources, EPA, whoever, then put the County's results, and then maybe a prompt that says, 'If you have any concerns, consult your medical professional', or something like that; the two websites that are in the Agenda Packet show slight variations of that; and honestly, if the County gets anything out there to the public to start and then it can be massaged from there depending on everybody's comfort level, she would be happy with that.

Commissioner Feltner stated he thinks tonight the Board is only giving direction to staff to look at what would go into a website, and then bring it back to a future date; and he asked if that is right.

Commissioner Delaney responded correct.

Commissioner Feltner mentioned he thinks as part of a motion, it is for the next discussion goes to a governmental website and not to something that would mislead the public.

Commissioner Adkinson stated along that kind of line, the County is already paying a consultant to do this for it; and she asked if that consultant could make cliff notes that are more understandable that can be posted on this website.

Mr. Fontanin explained the simple what is it questions, those are provided by EPA, and staff can obviously cut and copy that; and the data that was already received could be tabulated and put on there.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, mentioned staff will come back, depending on Board direction; he thinks staff would be more comfortable having a link or copy off of the EPA or whatever the recommendation is; many years of government, the easy part is putting a list together or a database; the hard part is making sure it is up-to-date; he is a little nervous to say, and he is making up a number here, the standard is four divided by 10; if all of a sudden the standard is three and a half divided by 10, he would rather have that link to who is making that standard than the County, because it may miss it by a month or two, and may not catch it up; he reiterated it is hard to make sure the data is up-to-date; he is sure staff can cut and paste the EPA questions in general; but if there are some ways the County can link this so people can get the data from the EPA or FDEP, it would be a better way to go. He noted the results would be Brevard's numbers, some standard what ifs, or FAQs that are from the Feds, State, or whatever it is, then the County can provide some links somewhere, and rely on the experts to make sure they have the data up-to-date, not necessarily the County.

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying she is also requesting some kind of notification to go out to the users relatively soon, because the County has had the results since August, and something like that one-pager from Temple Terrace or whatever else the Board feels comfortable with, but something relatively soon that could maybe be put into a water bill or something like that, or she knows the Board has an email system that already notifies people of boil water notices and things like that; and she asked if the City of Titusville because, if she is correct about this, gets two-thirds of their water from the County or Mims.

Mr. Fontanin responded they have wells that are outside of their city limits, but they are their wells.

Commissioner Delaney asked so it is totally through their water system, not through the County's.

Mr. Fontanin replied correct.

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wanted to make sure that any of the County's users would get notified even if it is through a municipality, but if it is through their systems their government agencies have to deal with that, not the County; anybody who is listening to this meeting, definitely should contact whoever his or her representatives are to find out this information so that they can be notified and be prepared for their families; and she loves the idea for staff to come back with website recommendations, but she was hoping the Board would make a decision tonight about sending some kind of notification out to its users so that they can be aware of these results relatively quickly.

Commissioner Feltner noted he would play devil's advocate here; he asked if Commissioner Delaney knows the scope of that or the cost of any of those; he pointed out if it goes in the water bill, there is going to be some printing and something there; he does not think that is huge money that is already going out, he will give her that.

Commissioner Delaney stated or like in the email system.

Commissioner Feltner stated that is cheap; he does not know what other agencies in the County or other related offices, the kind of email list that they maintain.

Commissioner Delaney asked to blast an email to the County users through Utilities, is that just making a template and then pressing the send button.

Mr. Fontanin replied pretty much.

Commissioner Adkinson advised she is not sure how she feels about the user notifications, but she would not be opposed to asking staff to check into it and see what it would look like.

Mr. Fontanin explained if the Board is not opposed, he would just like the opportunity to kind of visit that idea and see what staff can come up with, because he would like to consult with EPA and FDEP on some suggestions they may have to make sure it is being done factually correct.

Commissioner Feltner asked if they could come back with a notification when they come back with the website.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to make a motion to direct staff to come up with an email that the County could notify its users within the next 15 days.

Commissioner Feltner asked if that is even workable; and he stated it is easier for the Board to say that but it is not going to be sending it.

Commissioner Delaney advised the County has had this information for years.

Commissioner Feltner noted he is just working the problem, and that is all.

Mr. Fontanin remarked staff could do something, but he does not know if it would appease the level the Board would want; again, this is a relatively new topic with regard to PFAS about Federal legislation; and he would like an opportunity to consult with the State to make sure the County is doing this correctly and factual.

Commissioner Feltner asked if there is maybe another municipal government that has done that.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out she gave the Board one.

Commissioner Feltner stated he only wants to get it right rather than rush it.

Mr. Fontanin advised staff will contact them.

Chair Altman asked if there is a second to Commissioner Delaney's motion. Motion died due to lack of a second. He stated perhaps the Board needs to direct staff to come up with a report, something more comprehensive, taking a look at what other local governments are doing, and kind of move from there; the County is moving ahead in that direction, but it is not just operating blindly; and he thinks that meets the intent of what Commissioner Delaney wanted to do.

Commissioner Delaney stated with all due respect Chair, there are two members of this Board that have been here for four years and known this information it is not new, public health is being talked about here.

Chair Altman explained the Board is talking about trying to come up with a solution; and it wants to give staff the time to do it.

Commissioner Delaney noted she gave the Board three examples of this; and she asked Mr. Fontanin two weeks ago to look and do this research in preparation for this meeting, which she is guessing he has not done because he left that question out of the email.

Mr. Fontanin advised when staff saw this Agenda Item, they obviously wanted to get an

opportunity to get feedback from the Board.

Commissioner Delaney stated but she asked him to do the research two weeks prior to that. Chair Altman asked if there is a motion.

Commissioner Feltner stated the Board can deal with the website issue; he asked if Commissioner Delaney wanted to make a motion; and he stated steps can be taken tonight.

The Board directed staff to look into the feasibility of a website or web page on the County's website to provide information to the public about the results received from the PFAS testing and links to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other credible sources to help fully inform the public, and to bring that back to the Board at its February 10, 2026, Board meeting.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to give the Board a heads up that she will be reaching out to her constituents and the constituents in Barefoot Bay before that meeting, unless Commissioner Adkinson chooses to do so; and that way she can sleep at night.

J.7. Legislative Intent and Staff Direction, Re: Preparing a Resolution to Reinstate the PACE Program for Residential Properties

Chair Altman advised he asked to place this on the Agenda; PACE has been something that has been around for quite some time; it is an opportunity to give consumers the ability to provide capital improvements; and he asked if they are able to buy RO water systems with PACE, and have they ever done that.

Chris Peterson, with FortiFi, stated that is a good question; these improvements ladder up to public policy issues, so, if not, then it should; he can certainly look into that; obviously, it is a very serious issue that he appreciates the Board taking seriously; they went to Tallahassee; on July 1, 2024, they passed Senate Bill (SB) 770, something both Chair Altman and Commissioner Goodson both voted for in the legislature, comprehensive PACE bill with a host of consumer protections that addressed issues that they had seen in the market, pain points that they needed to rectify; they are going to go through those in a little more detail; and he knows he has had time to speak with each Commissioner on this issue, so for the benefit of the public, they will go through this presentation as quickly as they can.

Chair Altman asked Mr. Peterson to give a general description of PACE, a refresher.

Mr. Peterson stated absolutely; the point of PACE is there is a gap in the market; folks that have been responsible homeowners, they have maintained equity in their property, they have made all of their mortgage and tax payments on time, they are on active bankruptcy, but maybe they have other challenges credit wise that kind of prohibit them from getting an equitable rate to make critical home improvements, such as new roofs, impact windows and doors, HVAC units, and more recently, septic to sewer, septic to septic replacements, and seawalls; again, these are not vanity improvements, these ladder up to very specific public policy issues mitigating an insurance crisis, keeping people in their homes, and being able to get that new roof at a rate that, right now it is at seven to eight percent, which is much better than what one can get without a credit score; this is a voluntary program; he wants to make it clear, there is no

government money, no public or taxpayer dollar involved in this, this is completely private capital; there is a zero fiscal impact to the County; and he reiterated it is voluntary, and if one does not want to use it, then do not use it. He continued by saying if one read a story in 2018 that said it was bad, then that is fine, that is one's choice, as this is about private property rights, folks being able to make their own decisions about how they want to finance these critical improvements to stay in their homes and to protect their primary asset from wind events; it is a voluntary non-ad valorem assessment, and it is paid back on the property tax bill; the only way they can offer a competitive interest rate without a credit score is by putting it on the tax bill; if there was a better way to do this, they would not be here right now; this is the option that folks have wanted to use; 1,865 residents have reached out to the Florida PACE Funding Agency asking when Brevard County will have this program back; he has every one of their email addresses and names; and he is happy to provide that information as long as he is not violating a Potential Legal Issue (PPI). He mentioned it is attached to the property, not to the property owner's credit; however, one needs to be prepared to pay this off at the time of a sale or refinance transaction just like a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), it is a lean on one's property, just like a mortgage is a lean on one's property, so is this, it is a record of a transaction that will need to be satisfied before the Board moves forward with a property sale or with a refinance transaction; people say it is a lean on one's property and property taxes go up; yes, it does go up, because he or she are paying back a loan; and this is how it is paid back, how one is able to get that interest rate. He commented one's property taxes go up, but that does not mean the County did that, it does not mean there is a new tax, it means that a person chose to repay it in this particular form; just like a person's credit card balance goes up when one uses the credit card, there is no difference; it is a fixed-term and a fixed-interest rate; they do not give different interest rates to different folks; whatever their published rate is at the time one applies is the rate one is going to get; if the rate goes down before moving forward, he or she will get that better rate; and if it goes up, they get to keep the rate that it is at, just like when one goes to get a mortgage. He added the term does not exceed the useful life of the improvement, it is a 20-year max; that used to be 30 years, but they have dropped that down to 20; a person cannot get an HVAC for 20 years, because that exceeds the useful life of the product that they are installing; roofs, impact windows, and doors are going to have a higher term; HVAC systems are going to have a lower term; it could be paid off at any time; and although the 20-year max, their average assessment life is seven and a quarter years. He stated most people are refinancing or they are moving; during that time if one is refinancing or moving during that time, it is very rare to see that go to term; again, these are paid back on the tax bill; applying for PACE, to sum it up, they do not have door knockers, they do not go and have aggressive marketing tactics, that is not how they operate; contractors, on the other hand, oftentimes have those types of marketing; they are not just offering PACE, they are offering unsecured, how is one going to pay for this, and they have sometimes have their own in-house, sometimes they have other vendors they work with, and PACE is an option, one of several options that property owners have when they decide to finance these types of home improvement; and he reiterated, it is an option. He advised impact windows and doors, roofing, HVAC; solar is one of those divisive ones; some counties have chosen to not have solar, they think if one is going to have to use PACE for solar, then maybe one should not be getting solar; he is not going to say he disagrees with that, that is one of the great things about having Home Rule is if one decides that this is not what one wants to do, then a person can say he or she would like to do this program, but they are going to omit solar; and he knows Hillsboro County did that just recently. He mentioned others want to have that opinion, just depends on what the Board's constituents want, what the County feels is best; they did have a couple of new improvements with the new SB770 and the host consumer protections they did, they added septic to sewer and septic replacement; again, these are public policy issues, red tide mitigation is something that is very important, so being able to offer PACE for that, in conjunction with other County programs, has been very successful; and flood mitigation is also another, a new improvement, as well as seawalls and generators. He pointed out they do cover

up to 100 percent of the upfront costs, it is not credit-based, that is the way this program is intended to work; again, interest rates are based on the selected repayment term; actually, that is not even really right, it is just the same term; it is one interest rate regardless of one's term; they used to have a fluctuating, like a five-year term versus a 20-year term, there might be a better interest rate; they do not do that anymore; and it is just one interest rate, so he apologizes for the outdated slide. He explained one can combine this with utility, local, Federal, incentive programs are already available commercially here in Brevard County; they are here to talk about residential; he used this program when he bought his house in Sarasota; they had outdated windows and doors; where he was in Sarasota, 175 mile per hour is what they needed to have; he got new impact windows and doors; he secret shopped his own company, he did not tell them he was doing it; he had a great experience; his payment ended up being \$185 a month, which he was able to add to his escrow payment; and he was able to escrow that, add it to his impact account. He stated when he notified his insurance company, and his insurance rate dropped \$100 a month by putting in all those new impact windows and doors, 27 impact windows and doors; that was a net of \$85; that was pretty darned reasonable for what he got, which by the way it looked beautiful and increased the value of his property; and that is not necessarily going to happen to everybody, but that was certainly his experience. He noted one must be current on property taxes for the last three years, current on mortgage, not active bankruptcy, no involuntary liens on the property, and max funding of just 20 percent of just value; that is set by the Property Appraiser and not some model they use internally to determine one's home value; they just use the published rate that the Property Appraiser uses; an ability to pay test is one of the biggest improvements that they have on the heels of SB770; again, before July 1, 2024, it was not required to have the ability to pay test, which seems crazy, and frankly, maybe it is; but here they are today with the new ability to pay test; it has to be verified by a third party, they do not accept stated income as one's ability to pay test; and he reiterated, they have to verify that. He stated there are several different ways, commercially available ways, to verify that; if it cannot be verified commercially, it is document collection like if one gets a HELOC or mortgage; to him, one of the best consumer protections they have is during the application process, when one is applying for financing, they will actually call each and every applicant, and they go over every single term of the contract, if they understand it is going to go on their property taxes, that this amount is going to be added to one's property taxes, the amount annually, semiannually, and monthly, if one chooses to escrow that, here is what that monthly is, here is the documentation one will need to get this added to their escrow account, if they understand that they will need to be prepared to pay this off in the event of a sale or refinance transaction, do they understand it is a lien on their property like a HELOC or mortgage, and if they understand all of those terms; the recorded the phone call, as they learned that people were saying they were not told one thing or another, so they just solved that; it is an incredible lift on their part; and it takes a lot of humans to do that. He mentioned it is bilingual, both English and Spanish; no other property improvement, home improvement finance offers this level of consumer protections or this level of detail to ensure folks that maybe the contractor said this was a free government program; contractors say all sorts of the darnedest things; this is going to reconcile how this product was discussed with each and every property owner; once they learn that a contractor says something that violates their marketing guidelines, they terminate them, and tell all of the rest of the providers that they just terminated this contractor, so keep an eye out; they want to make sure they are vested in long-term viability of their program; they do verify all of their contractor's licenses and permits and do background checks; and they want to make sure they are working with folks who are not unscrupulous players. He stated another big consumer protection is they do not pay the contractor until the work is done and the homeowner signed off on it saying they were satisfied with the work; then they do an inspection to ensure what one is financing has actually been installed on the property, so asset verification; only then does a contractor get paid; that gets rid of the contractors who are borrowing from Peter to pay Paul that takes one's money and down payment and they finish another job; that does not happen; they cannot do that with

PACE, they do not get paid until the work is done; that is one of the best methods of getting rid of contractor's that maybe should not be using this program; he went through most of this with the Commissioners and each Commissioner has copies of this presentation; he wanted to remind the Board that this Item is to direct staff to bring back a resolution; there will be further discussion, he or she will have time to go through all of this information, to use himself and his colleagues; and he has Mark Scheffel from Ygrene, Rachel Hobbs from Home Run Financing, and Matthew Choy from Renew Financial, all of the industry is here, which is only four of them. He pointed out they are resources for the Board during this process of due diligence to make sure it has all of the answers to the questions he or she needs answered; one cannot use this program if they have a reverse mortgage, in Statute; there are a lot of these little things the Commissioners should go through, take a look at, and make sure that he or she understands what these changes are; they have accountability to Florida's Auditor General; they are already in the middle of an audit right now, they do not waste any time diving right in; anything that is happening is going to be published information; accountability is one thing he thinks everyone needs regardless of who they are, and they definitely have that with PACE now; Home Rule has been codified, so that is why they are here today; and he asked if the Board has any questions.

Commissioner Feltner asked how the bank knows he received a PACE loan and they need to start escrowing the payments; and is it something he does, or something customer does.

Mr. Peterson replied it is a two-part process; the first part of how does one know is that they notify them via a letter, that is part of State Statute as well, they are required to notify the primary mortgage holder; the second part about how to escrow that is that they provide the recorded document; that is what escrow needs in order to impound, add this to one's impound account, so that is something the customer does, PACE walks them through it; that is one of the questions they receive more often; that is usually a follow-up question when people ask how to do this, so they will walk them through it; and it is very straightforward, but it does require a little bit of action on the property owners part.

Commissioner Feltner advised he asked that question because if one goes through the process of getting a PACE loan and when the tax bill happens and all of a sudden the bank did not escrow that and they have to pay maybe \$1,000 or something; people were surprised by that in the past, so he can understand one of the problems; and he asked if it is in their interest, as the lender, for the payments to be escrowed.

Mr. Peterson replied yes, sir, they encourage that very much.

Commissioner Feltner remarked for most folks, it makes sense to spread out the payment; and he asked what the current interest rate is

Mr. Peterson replied seven and a half percent; and when mortgage rates were down to three or four percent, they were four or five percent, they are just a little bit above mortgages.

Commissioner Feltner asked what a typical term is.

Mr. Peterson responded it usually ends up being 20 years, because 90 percent of the improvements they do are new roofs, impact windows, and doors; the HVACs are also a very big product, those are typically 10 to 15, depending on the actual unit being installed; and there are Federal guidelines around the useful life of products that they will follow.

Commissioner Feltner stated he noticed on one of the slides some of the things that one can do, even down to the insulation and such; and he asked if he would do a PACE loan just for

that, or part of an HVAC sort of overhaul.

Mr. Peterson stated one can get a PACE assessment for an HVAC; but there could be duct work, installation work, pouring a new pad for their new HVAC, having to cut through, do siding work, drywall work, trim work, and there is all sorts of stuff that goes into installing a new HVAC system, versus just swapping one out, so yes, that is typically in conjunction with other products.

Commissioner Feltner inquired what the typical amount is, the average amount he is doing the loans for.

Mr. Peterson responded about \$25,000.

Commissioner Feltner asked, out of curiosity, what the smallest amount that they can do.

Mr. Peterson replied \$5,000.

Commissioner Adkinson asked if a better interest rate comes out, if she can refinance her mortgage.

Mr. Peterson responded he is still waiting for a definitive answer on that. He stated he believes that they can; he asked that question earlier to the team, but has not heard back; but he believes that was the case; and they did address that.

Commissioner Feltner stated he refinances because interest rates have gone down on his mortgage and the PACE loan stays there by itself; he asked if that is what is being said; and he does not have to clear it in order to do a refinance.

Mr. Peterson advised it wholly depends on one's lender; he did a refinance and his lender actually allowed him to keep it on title; others do not have that same experience, they were asked to pay it off before they originate a new first mortgage; that is why they tell everybody what they need to be prepared to do, so it is important to know that just because one has a HELOC, they are going to make them pay off the HELOC before they get their new first mortgage; this looks very similar; it acts very similar to this on title; the only difference is their method of repayment through the tax bill versus just on title; and that is the . . .

Commissioner Feltner interjected by saying he is sorry, but he has a follow-up; and he asked is that why they have to know the equity first.

Mr. Peterson replied that is right.

*The Board recessed at 8:13 p.m. and reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Mr. Peterson could explain more to her about the ability to pay test and what that looks like.

Mr. Peterson responded the annual assessment, payment amount cannot exceed 10 percent of the household income, so they have to verify that a person is employed, they make 'x' number of dollars, and the annual payment does not exceed 10 percent of the income.

Commissioner Delaney asked if the person taking out this loan gets to choose if they want to do monthly, quarterly, or yearly.

Mr. Peterson responded property taxes are paid when they are paid, they have the ability, because of the nature of the property taxes and when one has a mortgage and all that, how they can impound one's escrow amount, and that gets paid annually, so they have the ability to impound the additional PACE obligation as part of their escrow payment that will end up getting paid by a person's escrow holder for the true up that happens every year; and to do that, maybe one has opted to pay his or her taxes outside of their mortgage or escrow or do not have a mortgage, then it would just be paid as a line item on one's property taxes.

Commissioner Delaney asked if one does have a mortgage with this loan, does the property owner get to decide if they wanted to have monthly, quarterly, yearly, or whatever their situation, or whatever they choose.

Mr. Peterson replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Delaney inquired if the PACE providers would be able to fund and include disclosure in the tax bill that says one's property taxes have gone up by 'x' amount because of their PACE loan.

Mr. Peterson responded yes, if that is something the County thinks would be helpful; they have paper disclosures as well as their oral confirmation terms call and settlement papers; typically, almost always throughout the State of Florida, every county has their own disclosure that they like to include; they can include that language in that if the County wants something separate, that can be done as well; he thinks they are pretty flexible; transparency is pretty important to them, they want to make sure that everyone has all of the information that they need to set everybody up for success; and whatever the County feels is right, they can work with it to figure out the nuts and bolts.

Commissioner Delaney advised it is already additional work for the Tax Collector, but she did not want even more additional expenses on them.

Mr. Peterson mentioned they would be happy to make that part of the deal; both the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser are entitled to two percent of the annual payment as a fee, so some counties choose to take much less than that, but others choose to take the full amount; there are additional funds that get distributed to the Tax Collector for their efforts; and that is a Statutory requirement.

Commissioner Delaney asked if that comes out of what they make, or if that is on top of . . .

Mr. Peterson interjected by saying that is something the property owners are going to end up paying; he advised that is why they try to encourage counties not to go as high as two percent; Miami-Dade was at, he thinks, .1 percent, they almost went to just have something in there; others look at the actual cost that they incur and will adjust accordingly; and other will just take the two percent due to whatever reason.

Commissioner Delaney noted this question is for the County Manager, County Attorney, or Commissioner Feltner if he remembers, because he was on the Board at that time; the Board decided back then to get rid of this; and she asked were the legislation changes in place at that time, what the conversation was around then.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, explained respectfully, Commissioner Feltner was not on the Board yet, this was in August of 2022, so it was shortly before he returned to the County and a little bit before Commissioner Feltner was elected in November; and the changes in the Senate Bill that the gentleman referenced did not happen until 2024, so those Statutory

protections he discussed were not in place in 2022 when the program was rescinded.

Commissioner Delaney asked what some of those complaints are that they have gotten since the new legislation has been put in place.

Mr. Peterson responded 99 percent of the complaints they receive have to do with contractor behavior, not the financing itself; because of their comprehensive communication efforts, it is very rare that someone comes back to them saying they did not know this was going to happen; they have kind of eliminated that particular pain point they had experienced in the past; he reiterated it almost exclusively had to do with the contractor leaving nails on one's driveway and they popped a tire, the door got left open and the cat got out, or they did not do x, y, or z; they will work with property owners to address those contractor issues; remember, they do not get paid until the property owners say they are happy; they do spend quite a bit of time playing referee between the contractor and the property owner, which frankly is unique to PACE, because if one has a HELOC, the bank does not care if he or she gets a tattoo, buys a bow, or goes to France, they can do whatever they want as long as they make a payment; and with their method, they are an intermediary, they are somebody that the homeowners can look to for help. He went on to say they have had situations where the contractor has left the job and they ended up paying someone to come out and finish it; the homeowner was not put out by that process; again, luckily the contractor was not paid yet; it is very unique; he knows being on the tax roll it is a unique program, it is unconventional, it takes a while to wrap one's head around, which is why he is glad they have some time after this to take a beat, ask questions, and have some due diligence, because it is a little bit to wrap one's head around; he is sure the Board is going to hear people holding up pictures of people saying they lost their homes; he has a lot of data to support that is not the case; and he is happy to share that, so he would ask that anybody that has certain things like that to show them a little bit more data.

Attorney Richardson noted from a staff perspective in response to that same question about complaints received, and again this is pre-Statutory changes, but the County received many calls, calls that went to Commission offices would be forwarded to his office, and this was after the Board had ended the program, but with regard to financing that had taken place before the program was ended, and Florida PACE Funding Agency (FPFA) actually continued to finance after the County rescinded it because of a judicial bond validation, which he takes great issue with, but at any rate, those complaints that staff received from consumers generally involved things like being surprised by a \$2,700 increase on their tax bill, complaints that they were upsold when they needed a roof, and they ended up with impact windows all around, things like that; some of those protections, things like the amount of financing in relationship to the value of the property were not in place then but those are what staff heard; they heard from people who were in fear of losing their homes because they can because it is on one's tax bill; and homestead does not protect against that.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out she can share a couple of her biggest concerns; one of them is this program is targeted towards people who cannot necessarily qualify for other means because of credit history and whatever else that is prohibiting them from going through refinancing or any of the other methods, so that is a concern as far as making sure that people are not taken advantage of; the piece about it being tied to property taxes, she is a little uncomfortable about how all of, and she knows this is going to look a little far-fetched, but they now have a list of all of these homes that are part of this program; say they do not pay, and they now have a list of all of these homes that could be bought up based upon their tax situation; she is not saying him in particular, she is saying she has to protect 40,000 people or 650,000 people; she is just thinking of what could possibly come from this; she asked what she would have to answer for being a policy maker; and she advised she knows that is quite a thing to say, and she is not accusing anybody of doing that, but she is saying these are

some of the things that keep her up at night.

Mr. Peterson stated he will not disagree that this is a little farfetched, they do not have any kind of real estate division; he will not say that question has not been posed before, but there is nothing to support that is something they would be involved in, he has not heard of that; tax certificate sales, those investors, are all very public, they have to do with filings, and they certainly are not tied to any of that; it is not in their best interest to put people in danger of losing their homes, this is not a scheme to collect real estate holdings; it is pretty documented that is not what they are doing; but he appreciates Commissioner Delaney's concern; to be clear, the policy has been made; this is an authorization to acknowledge that the County is allowing them to operate under 163.08, Florida Statutes, here in Brevard County; there is a layer there between the County and the actual policy itself, but whatever; he certainly wants to help Commissioner Delaney feel comfortable with what they are doing; and he encouraged her to continue asking the good questions.

Commissioner Feltner stated he wants to say something just as a technical thing on that; every tax certificate sale is published in the newspaper and then every tax deed auction before that happens; after three years of unpaid certificates, then the Clerk will do a tax deed auction after the tax collector instructs to do that, but that is all published, if one is aware of that; and if one is a real estate investor or whatever, that is the source to go to.

Mr. Peterson stated he will forward to Commissioner Delaney, and he will forward to her, they did a study using only publicly available data, tax certificate sale data, Department of Revenue (DOR) data, and Tax Collector data; they use zero internal data; what they did is they looked at, since 2016, all of the properties, starting with Palm Beach County, Miami-Dade, that is where the bulk of their assessments are, 100,000-plus assessments; they looked at those properties that had a PACE assessment and those that did not; properties with PACE assessments went to tax certificate sales significantly less than those properties without; he thinks the reason for that, and maybe this is conjecture, which is fine, but these are people trying to improve their homes, they want to stay in their home; the data is objectively clear; and he is happy to send it to, happy to post it online, or whatever he can, as he has distributed it widely. He continued by saying this is zero tax deed sales of properties with a PACE assessment; he is not saying that people have not been forced to leave, but financial situations can change for a multitude of reasons; it is very easy to blame PACE; he is not going to go down that rabbit hole; but he will say that according to the publicly available data, that is the gospel.

Commissioner Delaney stated she has one more question about the ability to pay test, so that is based on the end number; like one originally would say he or she want to get a new roof, going off Commissioner Feltner's comments before, then the contractor comes and he upsells them impact windows, the whole shebang; and she asked if it is the end number that they go through the ability to pay test.

Mr. Peterson replied there is two layers to it; one is that one is going to have an approval amount that is based on the equity in their property and then the project amount; then from there, an annual payment will be come up with, based on the term and whatnot; that annual payment is what they would then need to qualify for from an ability to pay perspective; it is like almost a property qualification based on the improvements, and then there is actual ability to repay after that; if it is like a \$57,000 deal, then they are not going to tell them, and certainly not going to tell one's contractor what they are approved for, they are either going to say yay or nay; and then from there they are going to need to be able to demonstrate that they can afford that payment.

Commissioner Feltner asked to qualify for a PACE loan, does it have to be his homesteaded property, or typically if he had a rental or something he is not seeking PACE funding to put hurricane protection on it.

Mr. Peterson responded it can be used for rental property as long as they are on the title, or if it is an LLC or a trust, the members of the trust would need to be involved in the process; and they would need that documentation.

Commissioner Feltner asked if that is a typical thing . . .

Mr. Peterson interrupted by saying 100 percent, because if he had 10 rental properties and he wanted to make improvements to all of them, his DTI from his banks perspective is going to be really hard to work with; this allows the property to really be subject of the financing; and then, of course, his rental history and all of that stuff is going to play into the ability to repay.

Commissioner Feltner inquired if since it is a business, that is part of their whole calculus, and they will probably maybe get a better rate from PACE than they would in the market because it is not their primary residence; and he stated he cannot remember what that is called, maybe first rider.

Mr. Peterson replied yes, with an investment property one typically pays a different rate for that.

Chair Altman stated he mentioned he tested PACE, he did his own financing for windows, and after the insurance savings, he was only paying . . .

Mr. Peterson interjected by saying \$85 a month.

Chair Altman asked if he factored in energy savings.

Mr. Peterson responded he did not.

Chair Altman advised he was saving even more than that.

Mr. Peterson noted it is hard to quantify because usage tends to go up when one's energy efficiency goes up, so it is quite an interesting dynamic; he tried to stay away from that conversation; but they are a lot more comfortable, healthier, and safer.

Chair Altman advised if he were to have lived at the same level, he thinks in his house it would not have made a difference, it is individual; and he asked if Mr. Peterson factored in the useful life of the existing windows and amortize and capitalize that to see how much savings he was making there.

Mr. Peterson responded this is way above his paygrade, sir.

Chair Altman pointed out Mr. Peterson was very conservative, he was probably saving a lot more money than he realized.

Mr. Peterson stated he hopes so, but that is a lot of math for his brain.

Chair Altman asked if Mr. Peterson is aware, he is sure they are out there, there are PACE financial programs where consumers are actually saving money by getting better windows, better insulation.

Mr. Peterson advised everybody is different; he would have to imagine that statistically there are those people out there; he does not want to lean too heavily on that, simply because everybody's usage is different, everybody's goals are different; saving money or energy may not be one's primary focus, reducing one's insurance costs or staying in his or her home; if the result of that is reduced energy bills; but typically, it is not the primary purpose of the folks who are using their financing.

Chair Altman stated there are probably individuals, there are individuals who are very scrupulous and frugal, and they look at this program and see the potential of economic gain, so there is a potential for actually saving consumers money; he thinks that sort of feeds into Mr. Peterson's point where PACE loans or homes are foreclosed at a lower level than non-PACE; typically these programs are individuals that are thinking them through and they want to improve their homes; many times they want to save money, he thinks septic-to-sewer is another example of that; when one looks at the cost and the difficulty of getting there; he thinks there is opportunity that is being given to the consumer; and it would penalize the vast majority of consumers for just a few of the bad outcomes that have been mitigated through the legislature. He stated he was just curious if he had factored that in; he think Mr. Peterson was very conservative in his analysis and that is good, as he does not want to oversell; that is probably the problem with this program prior to the legislation was overselling; and he respects his approach there.

Richard Heffelfinger commented he only had a couple of question; the public knows in 2022 that the Commissioner put something together, some information, and said this was predatory lending; maybe the answer is that the program has been improved; he does not know; and it is always buyer beware. He went on to say he realizes these guys are asking permission from the Board to provide a product so that it will accept the fact that this is going to be put on the tax bills, so the Board is doing the billing for them, or at least the tax assessor is; he does not think this had a cost; and he asked if the tax assessor been contacted. He stated he understands there is a fee for the, he thinks, two percent number; and he asked if any money is going to offset the cost to the tax assessor who has to deal with this situation.

Chair Altman replied he thinks what Mr. Peterson said is there is a fee that can go to the tax assessor to reimburse their costs, and that varies, it can go up.

Mr. Heffelfinger inquired has the tax assessor been asked that question.

Chair Altman stated it can go up to two percent.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked in Brevard.

Chair Altman advised he has personally spoken to the tax assessor at length about this issue.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked and they do not want any money.

Chair Altman explained no, that is not the case; and if it cost the tax assessors money, they have the ability if they so choose to have a fee up to two percent to reimburse their costs, so the general consumer is not having to pay for the overhead that may be incurred by the tax assessor.

Commissioner Delaney stated if she remembers what the gentleman said before, the fee does go to the consumer, the person who gets the PACE loan.

Chair Altman stated yes.

Commissioner Delaney stated they pay it.

Chair Altman asked if Mr. Peterson wanted to respond.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated he just does not know how the County, because he thinks they are asking for additional work for the Commission, which is why he has to ask, because he is asking the County to perform, he wants to say it will collect . . .

Mr. Peterson stated there is two percent that does get passed through to the consumer as part of a fee of the cost of doing business, so that fee does offset the Tax Collector's labor for putting these on the tax roll; the County does not have any obligation here, they actually provide updates or reporting at their discretion; but there is no real County involvement outside of the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector, and they both get up to two percent if they choose.

Mr. Heffelfinger repeated so the Tax Collector does get additional resources to handle Mr. Peterson's work.

Mr. Peterson advised that gets passed . . .

Mr. Heffelfinger asked if that is two percent that the lender paid this is a revenue source somewhat.

Mr. Peterson replied yes, sir.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked to the Tax Collector's office.

Mr. Peterson responded affirmatively.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated oh, okay, that was his biggest question; he stated he guesses it is buyer beware; he does not have a problem providing a lending opportunity to somebody as long as they realize that it would be put on their tax bill and could be foreclosed for it; and he asked if that is right.

Mr. Peterson replied correct.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked or could they pay the County their part and screw him on the tax bill. He advised he asked that question about garbage all of the time.

Stel Bailey stated people in Brevard County are barely holding on right now; the insurance is exploding, roofs are failing, there is flooding, and there are victims of flooding here in the room; she does have concerns about PACE because of their history; by researching PACEs history, and the predatory practices and a lot of the articles being brought up, it is very concerning; it seems to be debt disguised as relief; it puts a lien on one's house, it gets paid through their property taxes, and if he or she falls behind, they do not just get a late fee, they risk losing their home; and already there are people risking losing their homes here in the County with the flooding, and they say that this will help, but the Board shut it down in 2022. She continued by saying another thing that she wants to bring up, she is a big believer in transparency, especially when it comes to lobbying because they are paid to convince the Board to do something; she wants to put on the record that she realized that Renew Financial had hired Satellite Beach's Mindy Gibson and Courtney Barker as their lobbyists; she asked for the sake of transparency, she is curious if any Commissioner met with any of these lobbyists or this company prior to this Item appearing on this Agenda; she reiterated she is a big believer in transparency, she thinks

there is a lot of people in this community that would agree, they just want to know; it is simple as just knowing; and she asked again did any Commissioner.

Commissioner Feltner advised he met with Mr. Peterson.

Ms. Bailey remarked she appreciated that, having honesty that is it.

Chair Altman stated he did; intentionally he reaches out to individuals so he can learn as much as he can in these issues; but he spent many, many hours in the legislative process as well; when PACE came before the Florida Legislature, they addressed these problems, and believe in giving consumers choices and options; and it is a good thing. He advised for him it is a consumer-based initiative.

Ms. Bailey expressed her appreciation to Chair Altman for his honesty; she noted she wishes that could be done more with government because she thinks it builds trust between the people and their representatives if people know who he or she is meeting and speaking with; there are people who live here, and that was her concern, because this company, especially the one she just mentioned, it looks like they are from California; she believes Brevard needs more affordable insurance, stability, and production; she does not know about bringing this back, she thinks people need to do their due diligence; she is really not for them exploiting families that have been impact by PFAS contamination just because the government is responsible for infrastructure; to expect people to get a loan that could go against their house for contaminated water is crazy to her, and the same thing with septic-to-sewer; and she thinks that could be addressed in different ways than PACE loans.

Sandra Sullivan stated so while the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau finalized new, stricter rules for PACE financing in early 2025, applying Truth in Lending Act (TILA) requirements to treat them as mortgage loans, significant issues remain unaddressed; controversy persists because the changes did not fully-resolve the fundamental risks associated with placing a super priority lien on residential properties, particularly for vulnerable homeowners; this means that in the event of foreclosure, the PACE loan is paid before the primary mortgage keeping the risk to homeowners high; while new rules require PACE creditors to verify their ability to repay, they do not prevent the high interest rates and fees that often make these loans costlier than traditional financing; it also does not address the predatory sales tactics often used by third-party contractors who are not traditional lenders, such as door-to-door marketing that misrepresents PACE as free government money; and inadequate energy savings, which failed to deliver promised energy savings failing to materializing leaving homeowners with both the debt and high utility bills. She went on to say lien stacking with some consumer advocates calling for a total overhaul or ban on residential PACE; impact on low income, PACE programs continue to target low income, elderly, or cognitively impaired homeowners who may not understand the long-term tax lien; and in Florida a major lawsuit involves local tax collectors challenging the Statewide expansion of quasi- governmental agency highlighting the tension between rapid, private financing expansion and local public accountability. She advised they have a history of predatory practices, and she would not assume that is going to change; she showed the Board a copy of a 2022 presentation that was done; she stated this particular one, they lost their home; unlike 2022 when former Commissioner Tobia brought this forward with his presentation, with facts, what she sees is a lobbyist coming down and sits down with the Commissioners, and his or her minds are made up as he or she is a go for this already; on something with a company known for predatory practices; Ms. Bailey posted something about a Federal investigation into them; the County should be erring on the side of protecting the public on an entity that has been known for predatory practices; and according to just a simple search, still has predatory practices.

Mindy Gibson commented she is a former City of Satellite Beach Councilwoman; she was hired by this organization to help them navigate their way through the City and County, within Brevard County; she wanted to speak with the Board about this program; their City Manager, Courtney Barker, they have had the PACE program in Satellite Beach for about five years; Indian Harbour Beach also has a PACE program, as well as Cape Canaveral; and Ms. Barker, their City Manager, actually utilized the PACE program in her previous home, had hurricane windows put into her home that was built in the 1960s, and then proceeded to sell her home, which was paid off, and bought another home. She mentioned it was very seamless; she unfortunately is unable to be here to explain her process, but if the Commissioners want to talk to her about it, she would be more than happy to do it, because she wanted to test it out to see if it was predatory; as they say, there are predatory practices in the construction world, regardless of the PACE program; to say that they are the problem when the lender is just simply giving a pathway for people that might not have the credit to be able to buy these necessary upgrades, such as roofs, windows, and septic-to-sewer if one is not by the water; those are things that sometimes homeowners have to do; she implored the Board to consider taking this on, working through it, and finding out what makes it comfortable; it is not forcing anybody to use it, they have an option; a HELOC loan could put a lien on one's house just like anything else, and take one's home from them, so can a mortgage; as long as it is transparent, as they said, she thinks the Florida Legislature has said that it is okay, they have worked through the issues; there are 30 counties, almost half of the counties in the State that have approved this; and she is sure that more cities within the County will also follow suit. She stated she would just ask the Board to consider it; he or she can work through whatever issues there are; and she reiterated the people can make the choice, they are not being forced, it is giving them an option to make that choice.

Rachel Hobbs, Home Run Financing, expressed her appreciation to the Board for its consideration; she advised she is with Home Run Financing, one of the four PACE providers here in Florida; and she is happy to answer any questions as the Board works through the process.

Mark Scheffel, Ygrene Energy Fund, stated he is also one of the PACE financing partners, providers, referred to as a third-party administrator; he would like to applaud the Board for taking this on, and would encourage it to continue the process; it does not end here tonight; he thinks the continuation tonight instructs them to work with staff and prepare documentation for the Commission's further consideration where such things, Commissioner Delaney, where a bolstered disclosure could be considered; PACE at its heart is about attracting and deploying capital to much needed improvements into one's community; that has been done all over the State; this was not done by trickery or accident; and this was a policy decision by the Legislature in Tallahassee in 2010 to encourage investment in a very limited number of projects that have been done literally as was pointed out, over 100,000 projects deploying over \$2.5 billion, mostly in the area of storm hardening and hurricane preparedness. He pointed out that was completely reexamined in 2024, part of a nearly five-year project with legislative partners in Tallahassee to take a look at the details of this program; any of the naysayers that talk tonight, none of what they say is surprising to anybody; they are aware of all of the stories, the articles, situations, and literally sat down with the idea of how one can take the good and leave the bad; everybody knows that the weak link in this whole equation is the contractor; that is something everyone knows and experiences daily, and especially sees that in unsecured financing; the question is how they can do this, how they can take this four-legged stool of financing, the homeowner, the consumer, and the contractor and figure out how to do that; and that is what SB770, which was passed in 2024, did. He noted it was mentioned that they have seen great results from that, mostly because the heart and soul of this program is to inform and educate folks, make sure they understand; that is the source behind the recorded phone call; as a reminder, all of the things that have been talked about, his colleague did an excellent

presentation, all of those things are codified; what was talked about was contained in what was a very dense, 40-page Bill out of Tallahassee, and all of the things that have been discussed about the disclosures and the contractor oversight; there is a provision in there that as this advances and the Board considers this, actually works to do a contractor registration process that they would work with the Board on so that they know who these folks are so they can be delisted if they are breaking the rules, marketing restrictions so one cannot promise this is a free program or sponsored by the Board; he encouraged the Board to continue the process; and he advised they look forward to working with the Commission.

Commissioner Feltner stated today was the first day of legislative session; and he asked if there are any bills going through the Legislature this year that is going to affect him.

Mr. Scheffel replied no, something they monitor very closely.

Commissioner Feltner noted he was just curious.

Matthew Choy, Renew Financial, commented he is with one of the four companies in Florida that are able to provide PACE Statutes; he agrees with everything his colleagues said earlier; he just wanted to highlight quickly and not take up too much of the Commission's time; the first is the idea of transparency; one of the things they do now, and he just worked with Hillsborough County on this because they opted in in 2025, is they actually receive quarterly reports about each type of assessment, the dollar figure, the home, and what that assessment is on a quarterly basis; there is really no gotcha or surprises here; and they very much want to be as transparent as possible to make sure Brevard County knows what is happening inside of its County. He advised residential PACE is a very unique financial tool; it is not necessarily intuitive about where the money goes, how it works, because like he said, it is just a unique financial tool; what they look forward to is having the discussion, maybe even a deeper dive than what they were able to give in this presentation, through the workshop or one-on-one interactions and meetings, to really deep dive into all of the specifics in case there are questions the Board may have that they were not able to answer tonight; they are going to be a resource for everyone; and he asked the Commission to feel free to reach out if they can answer any questions.

Commissioner Delaney stated the thing she is wrestling with in her mind is if she is comfortable with the government's taxing authority to enforce a private home improvement loan; that she is not quite sure of; one of the things she had talked to Attorney Richardson about in their briefing is since the new legislation, if there are still things out there that this could possibly not go well for the homeowner; unfortunately, it was yesterday so it did not give him a whole lot of time to research that, so she is proposing possibly tabling this Item to give Attorney Richardson a chance to give the Board that information; and that way if the Board does decide to go forward with this, then maybe it can put some things into the language that could add to consumer protection.

Attorney Richardson stated he would ask for clarification, and asked if she is talking about maybe some additional consumer protections at the local level; he stated he is aware of some other counties, he thinks Hillsboro County was mentioned by Mr. Choy; and he met a group with some other county attorneys that have discussed this sort of thing, so he can put together some options for the Board if it would like to see those in addition to the additional protections that were put in the Statutes in 2024 if that is something the Board is interested in.

*Chair Altman passed the gavel to Vice Chair Adkinson, and he made the motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution, to include consumer protections, to be considered and discussed at a

future Board meeting that would reinstate the PACE Program for residential properties in Brevard County.

Commissioner Delaney asked if what the Board is doing right now is not approve this, it is approving going to the next step to see language.

Vice Chair Adkinson replied affirmatively.

The Board directed staff to prepare a resolution, to include additional consumer protections, to be considered and discussed at a future Board meeting that would reinstate the PACE Program for residential properties in Brevard County.

Result: Approved

Mover: Thad Altman

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

*Vice Chair Adkinson passed the gavel back to Chair Altman.

J.8. Letter to Legislative Delegation, Re: SB 180 and Potential Legislative Changes

Commissioner Adkinson advised she knows the Board has talked repeatedly about Senate Bill (SB) 180, and it has come to her attention that many of the legislators, its delegation in fact, did not quite understand what they were passing and how it was going to affect Brevard County individually; she sat down, using her relationships, to get a feel for how they feel about this fix, which is SB 840, which goes some way towards rectifying some of the problems the County has; and she asked Billy Prasad, Planning and Development Director, to give a short synopsis of the letter that was put together and how that is going to help educate some of the legislators, so when they are talking to their colleagues in Tallahassee, they have facts, specifically, one of the legislators thought that the County had not turned in necessary information on time.

Mr. Prasad explained he thinks the letter does a good job of summarizing how the County got to where it is today, the history of the County going through the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process, as well as implementation of the area of critical state concern, properly meeting all timelines, then SB 180 passing, and then having Section 28, in particular of SB 180, having retroactive effect leading the County into its current condition of non-compliance as it relates to its Comprehensive Plan; it additionally talks about how SB 840 fixes some of the problems that SB 180 caused; not all of them, but most importantly, at least from his perspective from Planning, it sunsets Section 28 early in June 2026, which would effectively restore Home Rule authority over development regulations moving forward, absent a future storm; and in the event of a future storm, it also makes some improvements to Section 18 of SB 180 that applies in the future. He noted ultimately, like Commissioner Adkinson said, SB 840 does a lot of good for the County; it is not perfect; but it is nothing but good things.

Commissioner Adkinson pointed out the other thing that is important is right now the County's unique area of state of critical concern is at risk because SB 180 puts it at risk; SB 840 helps with that; again, sitting down with some of the legislators as she did, they were all very positive about receiving this letter to help them, like she said, talk to their colleagues in Tallahassee; she is asking for her signature to go on the letter just because she is so passionate about the fact, not just because it is an area of state of critical concern, but because it affects all of Brevard County and how the County is functioning; it did not get a companion bill; but today it went through the Senate Community Affairs and it passed 8:0; it has two more committees to

go through, but that is promising it passed 8:0; and the legislators know more about what that might mean for it in the future.

Commissioner Delaney asked the County Attorney if she is remembering it right that he said it is now a House Bill that is a companion.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, replied when he talked to Commissioner Delaney that was the case, but there is a House Bill; they are not identical; but there was a House Bill filed at the end of the day Friday, HB 1465.

Commissioner Delaney asked if it is or is not a companion.

Attorney Richardson replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Adkinson asked Mr. Prasad to address that because her understanding is that it is pretty largely incompatible with SB 840.

Mr. Prasad responded there are significant differences; it could be used as a vehicle, he thinks, to match SB 840; it does touch on a lot of the same subjects; but there are very large differences between the two; it does not help Brevard County in particular like SB 840 does because it does not subset that problematic section early; and instead, Section 28 would still apply to the County until June 2028, and continue to significantly limit the Board's Home Rule authority, although not as much as it does today.

Commissioner Feltner advised those two Bills are not identical to Mr. Prasad's point, and that was filed by a member; he thinks it would be realistic that this all could get wrapped up in a committee bill as the Board knows in the House; if someone is watching this and what is going to happen, he would suggest at least on the House side it will be seen later; and he asked if the County likes the House version better currently, or it likes the 840 Senate Bill.

Mr. Prasad responded from staff's perspective, it is the Senate version.

Attorney Richardson stated absolutely, the Senate from the County Attorney's perspective.

Chair Altman stated the House Bill was sponsored by very respectable and capable House members, so it was probably intentionally different.

Commissioner Feltner noted it came late though.

Chair Altman stated it came late, but that was probably by design; very little happens by mistake there; it probably will become one of those issues that will be negotiated in session and be held hostage for priorities and issues; but Andrade is a very good legislator; he feels better looking at who is sponsoring it; it is going to be that typical making the sausage process and probably will be part of a bigger package of many other issues that are going to be fought over; and he thinks it is positive that there is a companion.

Sandra Sullivan stated she sees conflicting opinions on whether as a County it can increase impact fees as a consequence of Senate Bill 180; she asked if the Board can clarify as it stands right now, because it has a study out there it is bringing back; and she asked if the answer is no, do either of these Bills fix that.

Chair Altman replied one never knows what a judge is going to do and how they interpret law; this is a relatively new law; but he asked if there is a staff response.

Attorney Richardson advised staff would take the position that the County can increase impact fees that, that it is not prevented from doing that by the existing legislation; but it is an open question.

Mr. Prasad stated to answer the second part, SB 840 resolves that question as of June 2026.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, noted staff did not let it slow down the impact fee study.

Chair Altman stated the County is moving ahead.

The Board approved a letter to be sent to the Brevard Legislative Delegation; and authorized Commissioner Adkinson to execute the letter on behalf of the Board.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

J.9. Board of County Commission Letter (BOCC) to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Request Reconsideration of Venue and Format of Public Engagement Meeting, Re: Blue Origin Permit Renewal

Commissioner Delaney stated she is requesting that the County Commission sign a joint letter requesting the community engagement meeting to be moved to a larger venue with adequate parking and live stream access, and formatted with a structured presentation, question and answer, and time for formal public comment; she understands the Board cannot dictate what FDEP does, but it can certainly advocate; she has been part of these sidebar meetings so many times, and as a citizen, she felt so frustrated because it was just a lot of gas lighting, and it never knew where the comments were going; she reached out to the County's delegation, and the answer she got from them was they can try to talk to FDEP but this is really the Governor; and she reached out to the Governor's office, she does not have his phone number, but she has not really gotten much of a response. She went on to say she feels this is too important of an issue and it impacts the community so severely, that the community is owed a real civic engagement opportunity here; with the venue they have, she believes staff has figured out some extra parking situations to get more people in the doors, but the room is still considerably small; she remembers being at the community meeting where they talked about Lori Wilson Park about a year and a half ago; the house was packed out of a room that probably could hit 500 people; and it was standing room only. She commented this is so much bigger of an issue than that was; just the idea that the County is going to host this in such a small room; it is extremely concerning to her; she has had so many people reach out to her seeing if there is anything that can be done; she is sure the other Commission offices have been reached out to as well; she worked a little bit to get some staff feedback on the letter she provided; she just wanted to make sure it was right so the Board could send it to the right people and it be the right thing; and she is hoping to get support.

Commissioner Feltner stated when he suggested the Simpkins Center, he did that for several reasons; one, it was central to where a lot of where he thinks the public would come from, Merritt Island, good parking, and all those things, so he defends that; he understands in the meantime, that is not available now; it may not have been booked timely, they need such and such notice, or if there is something else; he thinks he heard that secondhand that is not a possibility anymore; technically, with Commissioner Delaney's letter, he thinks she would have to strike that; and if the Board is going to vote for it tonight, to possibly email it to the Chair, and

he can print it tomorrow and send it from his office. He noted maybe there is something else to suggest in there as a large venue; the reason he suggested that in the first place was he thinks it is unreasonable to ask a State agency to come here and expect them to book the ballroom; and he does not think it is a smart thing to do.

Chair Altman asked what about the Board's chambers.

Commissioner Feltner advised he thinks Commissioner Delaney says that here.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out there are multiple overflow areas as well that people can be in.

Commissioner Feltner commented he agrees with Commissioner Delaney on the parking; and if one goes there for a launch, it is a well-known fact that he or she better get there at 11:30 for a 12:00 launch or they will not be parking in the parking lot.

Chair Altman noted he thinks there is a safety concern as well.

Commissioner Feltner stated he thinks Commissioner Delaney will have to fix that, but with that change, he will go with her on this letter.

The Board authorized the Chair to execute a letter to FDEP requesting reconsideration of the venue and a format of a public engagement meeting for the Blue Origin permit renewal.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Delaney, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Absent: Goodson

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandra Sullivan stated relating to the Blue Origin Item, she appreciates Commissioner Delaney stepping up on this, as she has done a lot on this; it is just bad optics when one chooses a location for something as high profile and as many people that if there is a perception of dissuading people from coming in and participating; she expressed her appreciation to the Board for supporting, addressing this; she noticed it was addressed to the Secretary of FDEP; but it is easy enough to pick up the phone and give Aaron Watkins, the Director, a call, and have a one-on-one; and as the Chair, she is sure he knows Mr. Watkins pretty well.

Richard Heffelfinger commented he wanted to use this opportunity to make comments about the meeting; he gives Chair Altman kudos in how he is running the meeting, he engages people; the idea about him wanting to have foreknowledge of things so he can get stuff to the Board, so staff is here, that is kind of why he wanted that; and he is willing to use staff which he appreciates. He mentioned he also he thinks Chair Altman should have Chairman on his placard; it is important for him to know who answers questions, which helps him understand who the people are that the Board is calling on to make decisions, so he would like to see more of that; he asked if the County has a garbage contract this year to negotiate; and he advised he will be interested and he thinks it is this year.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, explained they could have a garbage contract this year if Waste Management is not interested in extending and if terms could be agreed upon on the extension.

Nancy Albritton stated they spend all of this time on PACE, and she learned a lot; all she wants to do is save people's houses in North Brevard; 30 homes were lost; she was here last month and told the Board all about it; the ditches have not been cleaned, nothing; she has met with St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD), they came out; Commissioner Goodson said there is an artisan well; there is still water in the streets; and the ditch line is so full of trees, which are bigger around than she is. She asked how the County expects drainage; she stated everybody has lost their houses, 30 houses; she asked could they please get a little help; and she noted all of her neighbors would be here tonight, but they all work, and they cannot do this, so she is here representing all 30 neighbors who lost their homes, and one of them filed bankruptcy.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to let the neighbors know she is going to be going out there again with one of the staff members on Thursday, so she looks forward to seeing everybody and letting them show her and staff around again; the Board's first Budget workshop is January 29th at 1:00 p.m.; Public Works, Stormwater, and Utilities will be talked about; and hopefully, that can be part of the conversation that day between the Board.

Ms. Albritton interjected by saying one more thing; she is a breast cancer survivor since 1999, that is a lot of years of being clean; her cancer was environmental; she is a Mims girl, raised on a well, and she drank Titusville water all of her life; and this water situation, which she did not know how to address, but wow, that just opened her eyes.

L.3. Reports, Re: Commissioner Katie Delaney, District 1

Commissioner Delaney stated she is looking forward to seeing everyone, seeing the thoughtful submissions to the County's Speak up Brevard program that has a closure date of January 31st; if someone has expertise he or she would like to share with the County that could help its activeness or efficiency and improve what it is doing, the Board wants to hear from them; people can make a submission as a group or with a non-profit; all they have to do is go on the County's website, or type into Google 'Speak up Brevard', and it will pop right up; as of 1:00 p.m. today, there have been 23 submissions; her newsletter on her Facebook page and in the North Brevard Libraries has information on this; and her Substack has a Q and A on how to make submissions. She advised all one has to do is Google Katie Delaney Substack and he or she will find it; it is one of her articles that is in her citizen toolbox series; basically, this program helps connect citizens with the government, so make sure people get those submissions in before January 31st; and the Board cannot wait to hear those things. She stated she wanted to make one note about the PFAS conversation, some of the reason why she brought this forward today was because some of the feedback she has gotten, it is not coming from the government so she is not worried about it, so they would tell the County if it was a problem; that is why she is bringing this forward because there is a feeling out there from the public of if it was a problem, it would tell them; and she just wanted to share that.

L.6. Reports, Re: Commissioner Rob Feltner, District 4

Commissioner Feltner commented there was great public participation at the two Lagoon workshops in Titusville and Palm Bay; he appreciates everyone who came out for that, and the staff; he expressed his appreciation to the City of Titusville and City of Palm Bay for their hospitality of making their chambers available to the Board; and he thanked the Clerk to the Board for coming to those meetings. He stated for the first time in a while he went to a women's basketball game at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC); his wife played college ball; it is at the Melbourne campus, so their current season; unfortunately, EFSC lost by three points in overtime; and it is free, so if one is looking for something cheap to do.

Commissioner Delaney expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Feltner for snacks and food at the workshops.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

THAD ALTMAN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*Commission Chambers, Building C
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940*



Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

9:00 AM

Regular

Commission Chambers

Present: Commissioner District 1 Katie Delaney , Commissioner District 2 Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 3 Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 4 Rob Feltner, and Commissioner District 5 Thad Altman

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:01 AM

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Feltner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D.1. Minutes for Approval: November 18, 2025 Organizational / Regular Meeting

The Board approved the November 18, 2025, Organization/Regular Meeting Minutes.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

The Board approved Commissioner Goodson to participate in the meeting via telephone.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Chair Altman advised there is a speaker card for Item F.4., so he will pull that Item from the Agenda.

F.1. Approval, Re: Permission to Apply for the Waste Tire Amnesty Program and Execute Associated Agreement, Modifications, and Amendments Upon Funding Approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

The Board approved for the Mosquito Control District to apply for FDEP Waste Tire Amnesty Funding; authorized the County Manager to execute the funding agreement, future amendments, and modifications, if funding is awarded by FDEP, upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments (BCRs).

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.2. Approval, Re: Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Grant Funding Agreements

The Board approved and authorized the Chair to execute Grant Agreements from the State; authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to execute all follow-up amendments and modifications for projects, upon review by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services, related to FDEP and FDOT Grant Agreements: LG018 – Indian River Lagoon Countywide Sewer Connection Assistance, LG021 – Skidmore Mobile Home Park Sewer Connection Project, LG027 – North Merritt Island Zone E Septic-to-Sewer Project,

LG028 – Sharpes Zone B Septic-to-Sewer Project, and L0155 – Indialantic Stormwater Drainage Improvements-Phase 2 and FDOT – 456996-1-54-01 – West Central Bridge Replacement (704207); authorized the County Manager to execute all contracts, task orders, and change orders, as required in excess of \$200,000, to accomplish work approved under these State Contracts; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary Budget Amendments (BCRs).

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.3. Approval, Re: Accept Transfer of the Balance of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grant LPA0417 from Cocoa Beach to Brevard County and Authorization to Administer the Cocoa Beach Muck Capping Project

The Board authorized the Chair to sign a Letter to FDEP confirming Brevard County's willingness to assume administration of Grant Agreement No. LPA0417 from the City of Cocoa Beach; and authorized the County Manager, for items related to the Cocoa Beach Golf Muck Capping Project, to execute all contracts, agreements, amendments, modifications, and other contract-related documents, upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services, Task Orders and Change Orders, as required in excess of \$200,000, to accomplish work approved under the State Grant, and all necessary budget amendments (BCRs).

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.5. Final Plat and Contract Approval, Re: Meadow Pointe - Phase 1 Developer: Starlight Homes of Florida, LLC

The Board, in accordance with Section 62-2841(i) and Section 62-2844, granted final plat approval; and authorized the Chair to sign the final plat and Contract for Meadow Pointe – Phase 1 – Developer: Starlight Homes of Florida, LLC, subject to minor engineering changes, as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all other necessary jurisdictional permits.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.6. Approval, Re: Resolution, Fee Simple Conveyance by County Deed and Easement Agreement (Drainage and Access) to Douglas Simon and Nancy Simon, Husband and Wife; Settlement of Case No. 05-2025-CA-024682-XXCA-BC (Douglas Simon and Nancy Simon v. Brevard County)

The Board adopted Resolution No. 26-004, authorizing conveyance of real property interest by the County; approved and authorized the Chair to execute the County Deed and Easement Agreement (Drainage and Access); and authorized the County Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to resolve the lawsuit between the Simons and Brevard County (Case No. 05-2025-CA-024682-XXCA-BC).

Result: Adopted
Mover: Katie Delaney
Second: Kim Adkinson
Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.7. Approval, Re: Mutual Aid Agreement between National Aeronautics and Space Administration, John F. Kennedy Space Center (NASA-KSC) and Brevard County

The Board approved and authorized the Chair to execute Mutual Aid Agreement between NASA-KSC and Brevard County for fire protection; and authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to approve any subsequent amendments, renewals, or other required administrative actions.

Result: Approved
Mover: Katie Delaney
Second: Kim Adkinson
Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.8. Approval, Re: Permission to Competitively Solicit for Just-in-Time Inventory Management for Automotive Parts and Supplies for the County's Fleet Services

The Board authorized Purchasing Services to competitively solicit for Just-in-Time inventory management for automotive parts and supplies for the County's Fleet Services; and authorized the County Manager to execute a contract with the most responsible, responsive bidder with the lowest price for Just-in-Time inventory management for Fleet Services automotive parts and supplies within the Board's adopted budget.

Result: Approved
Mover: Katie Delaney
Second: Kim Adkinson
Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.9. Approval, Re: Florida Local Government Finance Commission to Issue Private Activity Bonds for East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 26-005, evidencing the County's written approval to issue conduit revenue bonds issues by the Florida Local Government Finance Commission on behalf of the East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc. for the financing of the East Coast Zoological Society Aquarium, also known as Bowen Aquarium.

Result: Adopted
Mover: Katie Delaney
Second: Kim Adkinson
Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.10. Approval, Re: Permission to Advertise the Sale via Sealed Bidding of Three (3) Parcels Located on Barnes Boulevard and David Henderson Way, in the City of Rockledge, Florida, a Municipality within Brevard County, Florida

The Board approved permission to advertise a sale, via a sealed bid, for the three (3) parcels located on Barnes Boulevard and David Henderson Way, City of Rockledge, Florida, identified in the County Property Appraiser's records as Parcel ID Nos. 25-36-21-00-251, 25-36-20-00-11, and 25-36-21-00-278; approved that the minimum bid price, as reflected in the appraised values, will start at the following amounts: Parcel C will start at \$420,000, Parcel D

will start at \$580,000, and Parcel E will start at \$275,000, and the amount for all Parcels (C, D, and E) to a single bidder will start at \$1,200,000; and upon receipt of the sealed bids for the appraised value or higher, authorized the Chair to sign all documents required to effect the sale and execute the necessary documents to provide the title to the highest qualified, responsive bid(s) at or over the appraised values.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.11. Appointment(s)/Reappointment(s), Re: Citizen Advisory Board

The Board appointed/reappointed **William 'Bill' Shearer II** to the Contractors' Licensing Board, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Jerrad Atkins** and **John Hopengarten** to the Planning and Zoning Board, with terms expiring December 31, 2027; and **Camelia Chinaris, Vaughan Kimberling, Randy Rodriguez**, and **Maureen Rupe** to the Port St. John Dependent Special District Advisory Board, with terms expiring December 31, 2029.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.12. Precinct Boundaries - Altered and Added (Chapter 101.001(1) F.S.)

The Board approved the creation of precinct 142 for the Willow Creek Community Development District election and the altering of the Boundary of Precinct 114.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.13. Acknowledge Receipt, Re: Bill Folder

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Bill Folder.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

F.4. Waiver Request for Subdivision Sign, Re: Hidden Lakes Developer: Sign Lords, LLC

Commissioner Adkinson advised the cards says questions only.

Chair Altman asked if there are any questions on F.4.

The Board granted approval of a waiver of Section 62-2889(b)(5), which states that no subdivision sign shall be higher than four feet in height and cannot exceed 100 square feet in height (the proposed sign is not a part of a fence or wall).

Result: Approved
Mover: Katie Delaney
Second: Rob Feltner
Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

I.1. Approval, Re: Transfer of Parcels (IDs 26-36-02-00-500, 26-36-02-00-502, and 26-36-11-00-6) to the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL)

Ian Golden, Parks and Recreation Director, explained in December the Board voted and directed the EELs Program to look at the transfer of these parcels to their management; they subsequently did, the Selection and Management Committee (SMC) also reviewed it, and made a unanimous motion to recommend the transfer; before the Board, staff has an Agenda Item that would approve the transfer as part of the SMCs approval, they did a request to waive transfer fees; to honor that request, the Board has an option of either waiving those fees or moving forward with just transfer fees of about \$57,270 to pay the General Fund back what was paid to Utilities back in 2014; the third Item is to authorize EELs Program to enter into a Friends of the Hundred Acre Hollow agreement with the not-for-profit; fourth is to authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to sign set agreement, renewals, and modifications; and fifth is to authorize the County Manager to execute all necessary actions to complete the transfer.

Commissioner Feltner commented this is his Item, so he will close on it after the cards.

Tom Unrath expressed his appreciation to the Board for considering this; he stated he is a pastor, and as he mentioned at the very beginning of this whole thing nine years ago, God created the world, he believes, and said to take care of it; and he reiterated his appreciation to the Board for the opportunity it has given them. He went on to say he appreciated especially former member of the Board, Commissioner Smith, back at that time; Margaret Mead, anthropologist, said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has;" he hopes that they have been able to be part of that tradition; they could not have done it at all without the help of a lot of people, especially Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Director; and they think she was assigned as their point of contact with the County, and she has done an absolutely phenomenal job. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Barker and her staff, Mike Knight and his staff, the SMC that came out, looked at the property, and made the recommendation that they move forward to transfer the property to EELs; there is a guy who is not here today, and will not be here physically at all, his name is George Rosenfield; he died at one hundred years-plus; but he was here speaking 10 years ago saying that he thought that this property should be set aside for this kind of purpose that EELs is doing; he said, his phrase in that was in perpetuity; he thanked the Board for allowing him to see from wherever he is that this is going forward; and he appreciates all that the Board has and will be in a moment doing.

Anita Unrath expressed her appreciation to the board members, past and present; she advised they have had 20 people in the past help them, they have moved to places like North Carolina, Alaska, gone into the Coast Guard, one is an Army veterinarian now, who was on their board when she was a student at Eastern Florida College here for two years, and another is going into environmental engineering; she encouraged the Board to please vote in favor of this Agenda Item; as Mr. Unrath said, it takes a village; and they do have this wonderful team. She continued by saying they also had some wonderful contractors she would like to tell the Board about because they did some awesome work; one is Roberto Bellotti of Suntree Landscaping, he mowed the trails for them for the last nine years; another is Rick Cockrill of Superior Aquatics; he has sprayed the category one invasive Cogon Grass, which they did not know anything about; they knew about Brazilian Pepper Trees, but Cogon Grass could have taken over all of Hundred Acre Hollows; he has been out there at least twice a year; and it needs to be sprayed twice a year to make sure it goes away, as unfortunately it grows by underground

rhizomes, so it may come back in other areas. She stated they have tried to do what they could to cut back the Cogon Grass; the Gopher Tortoises need their grass and Cogon Grass would totally take over; they want to thank LEW Construction for cutting back and pulling out invasive Brazilian Pepper Trees three years ago and they all gave them a good nonprofit price; she expressed her appreciation to other people who helped them, Leysian and Yuland Wong; she stated Mr. Wong was a young man who did their app to geo-locate the Gopher Tortoise burrows they have used over the years; there have been other people who have volunteered to cut down Brazilian Pepper Trees and vines; there have been numerous people who have supported them financially; and they have been supported by individuals and some grants. She noted the organizations that have supported them are the California Turtle and Tortoise Club; in their first year they saw them online and sent them \$250, which was such a gift at that point when they had no money; they have also had help from the Space Coast Audubon Society planting a garden in the south, the Keep Brevard Beautiful grant, they did another garden and a rain pavilion with rain barrels, the Gannett Foundation gave them a grant one year, they got recycled plastic picnic tables and benches, recently, the community foundation for the Mobi-mats that they just installed, and the Gopher Tortoise Council for an educational grant that they received; they had five Eagle Scout and three Girl Scout projects out there; they made kiosk benches, educational signs, and bat houses; and she also wanted to thank the Brevard Zoo which has been an amazing partner, as they bring out homeschool groups every year, and also cut Brazilian Pepper Trees for the giraffes and goats. She asked the Board to vote in favor of this; and she stated she hopes that they have made the Board proud as a small group of people who could do such a thing to help the County.

Commissioner Feltner stated this has been a long time in the making, he has certainly accelerated it since he has been here, and since the County has the EELs Program; he thinks the season was right to do this; and he appreciates the Board's support today.

The Board approved transfer of the identified parcels (IDs 26-36-02-00-500, 26-36-02-00-502, and 26-36-11-00-6) to the EELs Program; approved paying the \$57,270 to the General Fund; authorized EELs to enter into a Friends of the Hundred Acre Hollows Agreement with Hundred Acre Hollows, Inc.; authorized Parks and Recreation Director to endorse the Agreement and any renewals, amendments, or modifications, upon approval by the County Attorney's Office and Risk Management; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments (BCRs) or other administrative actions necessary to support the land transfer.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Seconder: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

J.1. Approval, Re: Resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents to Request the Release of Right-of-Entry for Exploration of Phosphate, Minerals, Metals, and Petroleum Reservation and Rights from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida Related to County-Owned Parcel Identified as Tax Parcel Identification Number 25-36-12-00-1

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, explained Item J.1. is a resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute all necessary documents to request release of entry for exploration of phosphate, minerals, metals, and petroleum reservation and rights from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida; in July, the Board approved the purchases with the County Attorney's Office because the minimal risk; but staff is looking for the Board's permission to request the release at this time.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 26-006, authorizing the County Manager to execute all necessary documents to request the release of right-of-entry for exploration phosphate, minerals, metals, and petroleum reservation and rights from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvements Fund of the State of Florida related to County-owned parcel identified as Tax Parcel No. 25-36-12-00-1.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Rob Feltner

Seconded: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

J.2. Consideration, Re: Joint Resolution with City of Palm Bay for Condemnation of an Approximate 3500-Foot Right-of-Way from Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group Inc. for the Extension of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, explained this is an Item that evolved a little bit since it was added to the Agenda; it involves the St. John's Heritage Parkway and a potential support of Palm Bay and the acquisition of a segment of the future Parkway extension that ultimately will connect it from its terminus out west on Malabar Road now, down south to Babcock, somewhere north of where Micco is; the City of Palm Bay took this up at their meeting Thursday night, and they unanimously proceeded with a resolution proposed by the applicant on it; as the Board knows, the St. John's Heritage Parkway is a regionally significant transportation corridor intended to improve east/west mobility, enhance emergency evacuation capacity, and reduce congestion on parallel arterial roadways, including Babcock Street; there is an Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) study evaluating potential Parkway alignments between Babcock Street to Malabar Road; the proposal before the Board would involve the easternmost segment of that alignment, just west of Babcock Street; and it is in the jurisdiction of the City of Palm Bay. He went on by saying the original proposal before the Board was a joint resolution that purports to be an agreement where the County and City agree to certain terms; it states that the resolution, if adopted by the County and City, would become an agreement between them and between a private party who is going to fund any potential eminent domain action that might need to be taken to acquire that property; just last night he received an email from Scott Knox, who represents the private party Rolling Meadows Ranch that is proposing to provide the financial backing for this acquisition; and he stated, and he would agree, that because the subject property lies within the City of Palm Bay, the County's approval of this resolution is not necessary for the City to proceed and exercise its condemning authority. He pointed out Palm Bay has the absolute authority to condemn the property in the event statutory offer negotiation process called for in the resolution does not result in a negotiated purchase of the property without the County; what they are really asking for is a show of solidarity and support from the County; his recommendation, if the County Commission is interested in proceeding and thinks this is a good thing to do and secure that segment of the future alignment of the Parkway, would be to consider directing him to prepare a resolution similar to the joint resolution put forth in the agreement, but modifying it to show that it is not intended to be an agreement of the County as far as a contractual agreement but rather a show of support for Palm Bay's ultimate acquisition of the Parkway segment; and he is happy to answer any questions the Board may have about this Item. He advised if the Board approves and authorizes the Chair to execute the appropriate resolution.

Chair Altman stated it would be appropriate that the Board show solidarity with the City; it is a regionally significant roadway; this is good news that the County is working together with the City to make it happen; it also has a significant impact on a potential future school site, which is a public benefit as well; this would encourage them to proceed; and he thinks a motion would be in order.

William 'Tuck' Ferrell stated he is here for the Friends of the Parkway; their group started working on this actually in 1982; they worked hard to run the Parkway from the airport to Malabar Road; they would like to see it continue because it is going to be needed as a transportation connector and corridor, it is a critical thing; they almost did not build Wickham Road; when it was built, it was called the road to nowhere; people laughed about it; people need transportation; and people in the South County need to get to I-95. He went on to say this is a critical plan, and the interchange is there; this will connect to the interchange, because right across Babcock Street, it is a critical thing to happen; they support it; they have a lot of support for this, and a lot of support in the South County area; and he asked the Board for its support on this, because Palm Bay has agreed 5:0 to support the thing as it is really needed.

Commissioner Feltner advised when he worked for the Legislature, Chair Altman was there as well, he thinks nine or 10 sessions the Legislature appropriated money for the St. John's Heritage Parkway; and it has been many years in the making.

Commissioner Adkinson noted this is down her way; she had an opportunity to talk to a lot of people that she knows down there about it; one of the things that kept coming up was an evacuation route; and everybody thinks that it is going to be a real positive thing for lots of reasons, but that in particular. She stated she wanted to make a motion to approve.

Attorney Richardson stated for clarification, he would recommend that the motion be that the County Commission adopt a resolution showing support of the City of Palm Bay's action to move forward with acquisition of that property in partnership with the private party Rolling Meadows Ranch, direct him to prepare a resolution to that effect, and authorize the Chair to sign.

The Board directed the County Attorney to prepare a Resolution, adopted Resolution No. 26-007, and authorized the Chair to execute the Resolution in a showing of support for City of Palm Bay's action to move forward with the acquisition and condemnation of 3,500-foot right-of-way segment owned by Forester (USA) Real Estate Group Inc., in partnership with Rolling Meadows Ranch, a private party.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

J.3. Appointment, Re: Member to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority Who is Appointed Jointly by County Commissioners for Districts One, Two, and Four

Kathy Wall, Central Services Director, commented this Item is to appoint a member to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority who is appointed jointly by County Commissioners Districts 1, 2, and 4.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, stated he did a little research and it looks like in 1995, then Commissioner Truman Scarborough actually asked for an Attorney General Opinion (AGO) construing the language in the special act jointly appoint or that they be appointed jointly by those Commissioners; certainly, there is a reading of that that would require a consensus or no dissent or unanimous approval; but the Attorney General at the time, Bob Butterworth, issued an opinion in response to former Commissioner Scarborough's inquiry and opined that the at-large member of the Titusville-Cocoa Airport District who that is to be appointed jointly by the County Commissioners for Districts 1, 2, and 4 should be chosen by a process in which all three Commissioners participate, but the member need not be selected unanimously; whatever is the Board's pleasure when it comes time, it is just those three members that would be

involved in selection; it could be wither by consensus if they are all in agreement, or it can be by a vote; and it does not need to be unanimous to appoint a member to that at-large seat.

Commissioner Delaney asked if that means only three of the Commissioners are voting.

Attorney Richardson replied yes, only 1, 2, and 4.

John Hopengarten stated the Board knows him from his political career and being on the Planning and Zoning Board; he is here today about the appointment for the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority; many do not know that he spent many years in aviation as a project manager for numerous airport projects; he started when he was in the Air Force, he is a decorated combat veteran, a graduate architect, and he was the construction manager and designer for numerous airport projects nationally and internationally; and he will give the Board some examples. He went on to say for example Hobby Airport in Houston, Bush Intercontinental in Houston, El Paso in Texas, Logan Airport in Boston, Cleveland Airport in Ohio, Santa Barbara Airport in California, Ben Gurion Airport in Israel, and Sde Dov Airport in Israel; the projects ranged from a million dollars to \$650 million; he worked on the design for hangars, terminals, passenger gates, hard stands, aprons, maintenance facilities, baggage handling, runway extensions, concession areas, storm drainage, fire protection and detection, docking systems for visual gates, apron lighting, cathodic protection for fuel systems, earthworks, loading bridges, and he could go on and on, he has done it all; in the Middle East he was assigned to do two training facilities for the Israeli Air Force for F-15s and the Blackhawk helicopter systems with simulators, flight simulators; they were putting those in as well; he also did a training school for Scandinavian Airlines for all of their management personnel; and besides all of that, he has done warehouses, office buildings, industrial parks, parking garages, and hotels, all Air Force-related. He stated administratively, he was country manager for Parsons Brinckerhoff, a large engineering firm back in the day, he thinks 12,000 engineers; he was the procurement agent for getting two airports in Cyprus under a Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Program, which is like a private/public partnership; he designed a computer; he is a licensed commercial real estate broker; he made a lot of money doing this kind of work; he is offering the County all of the knowledge he has for free; and he asked the Board to please consider him for this position.

Chair Altman advised there is one card for questions only by Ty Moore.

Commissioner Delaney stated she would like to make a motion if there is no discussion.

Commissioner Goodson stated he wanted to make a motion to nominate Kendall (Ty) Moore II, who runs a business out of Merritt Island; he is a young gentleman; and that is what the County needs to promote since all is getting older.

Commissioner Delaney asked for a point of order; she asked since she wanted to make a motion first, what the order of that would be.

Chair Altman replied since the Commissioner was on the phone he wanted to give him the opportunity to make a comment, so there are two Commissioners who want to make a motion.

Commissioner Feltner stated he thinks the Board should go to Commissioner Delaney's motion first.

Chair Altman stated it is parliamentary procedure to take Commissioner Delaney's motion first.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, advised he would take up her motions first and see if there is a second, but only among the three who vote on this.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to make a motion to approve John Hopengarten to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority.

Motion died due to lack of a second.

Commissioner Goodson restated his motion to appoint Kendall (Ty) T. Moore II to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority.

Commissioner Feltner stated he will second it.

Commissioner Delaney stated she has a lot of concern about this because she did not really see a whole lot of experience; when there is someone who puts their name in with decades of experience, she thinks it would put the airport in a much better situation to add this type of experience onto the board with Mr. Hopengarten; she is the young one on this Board so she understands bringing youth into these situations, but she also is highly in favor of making sure the most qualified person is put into these positions; and she would have to believe Mr. Hopengarten is that person.

Commissioner Feltner pointed out he has known Mr. Moore a long time, he first met him when he was four, and he is a very impressive young man; he appreciates what Commissioner Delaney said about experience; he would note that it is an accomplishment to have 800 flight hours in a cockpit, he is working towards his multi-engine rating in hopes to be an instructor as a multi-engine pilot, and is running a small airline; he thinks Mr. Moore has a very interesting perspective; he appreciates the experience and education he has; and he thinks he will be a great addition to the board.

Commissioner Delaney commented while she understands that, the County has a lot of pilots on this board already, so it would be, in her opinion, better to diversify the type of experience and knowledge it has on this board, especially with all of the growth and expansion; flying a plane is great, and obviously, extremely accomplished; that is an fantastic skill; but it might be a good idea to have somebody on this board who has decades of experience with expansion and revitalizing airports; and she just wants to put it out there, because it needs to be put out there, this person's father is Kendall Moore. She stated she is curious about this, especially this airport; she understands it is a joint appointment, but this airport is in her District; and she would never step on the other Commissioners toes in his or her Districts.

Commissioner Feltner asked what all airports are under the TICO airport authority.

Chair Altman replied he thinks Merritt Island is included.

Commissioner Feltner stated he thinks so too; and he asked if Merritt Island is one of them.

Commissioner Delaney asked if there are two of the three in District 1.

Attorney Richardson replied Arthur Dunn, TICO, and Merritt Island.

Commissioner Delaney reiterated two out of the three are in District 1 she believes.

Commissioner Feltner noted he thinks Merritt Island is an equally significant part of the whole TICO apparatus.

Commissioner Delaney stated Space Coast Regional is the biggest.

Commissioner Feltner asked if Mr. Moore flew out of Titusville on a regular basis.

Mr. Moore advised he originally did not prepare comments, but if there is time available, he would definitely like to make some; he originally did apply for the position on the board; he is a patron and a user of both Merritt Island and Titusville Airports probably for the last 18 years now; he is an aircraft owner, he has an aircraft at Merritt Island, and he also manages two additional family aircraft at Merritt Island; professionally, he owns a company that buys, sells, and manages Embraer jets predominantly, so when they bring clients in for Embraer tours or they are looking at purchasing real estate in the County, they do use Space Coast Regional giving Carsten and Wendy business as they have been really good to them at Space Coast Executive Jet Center over the years; in addition, and this is not to speak negatively on the other candidates, but he can add something the other candidates do not currently do; and the other candidates have skillsets that the board has already demonstrated to be fully-competent at one highly experienced real estate developer, whereas the Board has demonstrated their competency. He continued by saying one of the most recent developments, the River Fly-In condos a collaboration, and the hangars that they intend to build at Merritt Island, and the other applicant, an airline pilot at JetBlue he believes, which Mr. Craig who is on the board who is also a pilot, already had the position; but what he can add, as Commissioner Goodson mentioned, a perspective from the next generation, which is something that the board currently does not possess; they have general aviation covered, they have airlines covered, they have the commercial real estate covered, but on the business/aviation side, he does not believe there is somebody who currently sits in that position, and business/aviation is an integral part of growth at any airport ecosystem, especially at smaller airports, which he has experience operating in and out of; and he would be happy to take any questions.

The Board acknowledged the appointment of Kendall (Ty) T. Moore II to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority, with said term expiring December 15, 2028.

Result: Approved

Mover: Tom Goodson

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Goodson, and Feltner

Nay: Delaney

Abstain: Adkinson, and Altman

J.4. Annual Investment Performance Report Year Ended September 30, 2025 - County Finance Department

Mark Peterson, Brevard County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, County Finance Department, commented he has with him today Richard Pengelly with Public Financial Management, the Chair of the Investment Committee, Robert Socks, and staff member Andrew Walcott; this Item is requesting that the Board accept the Brevard County Annual Investment Report; this report has been prepared by the County's Investment Advisor and County Finance, as required by the County's Investment Policy BCC-49, which is in compliance with Florida Statutes, and approved by the County's Investment Committee, which is comprised of citizens of the County; and they approved it at their last quarterly meeting. He went on to say the County's earnings in 2025 was, as can be seen on the presentation, was \$63 million; in 2024, it earned \$50 million; a large part of that is because of where interest rates have been; interest rates are starting to decline; it is not promising that the County will continue to get that, but it earned \$63 million; and that \$63 million has been allocated amongst the various funds. He stated whatever cash is in whatever funds, be it soil, fire rescue, solid waste, or utilities, that money goes back to those respective funds that had the cash balances, so the money is not being taken and put into one area; it is being allocated amongst 160 different funds; Board Departments do budget for this on an annual basis, that is part of their budgets; in earning \$63

million, it helps replace basically revenue that normally, depending on where the markets were, would be affected in their budgets; in the County's portfolio it is broken up into three areas, a short-term portfolio, long-term portfolio, and the Multi-Asset Class Management (MACM) portfolio; each of them have unique characteristics; the short-term is investments that are less than a year, which is at year end at September 30th, was for almost \$420 million; that is what is used to make payroll, accounts payable, and make weekly payments; and the interest that was earned last year on the short-term portfolio was 4.11 percent, which is managed by County Finance, they manage that and dealing with the daily banking. He mentioned the long-term portfolio is in the one to three-year area; there was \$589 million, and it earned 4.47 percent; that portfolio is overseen by PFM Asset Management, LLC, the investment advisor; they have the expertise; they have been doing this for a number of years; they only work with governments, which is an added benefit because governments are very unique in what they can do; then there is the MACM portfolio, which is Multi-Asset Class Management; this gets into index funds, equities; at year end there was \$148 million there, they earned 12 percent, which is a lot greater than both the long-term and the short-term; and where that benefit came in is because of the equities. He stated about eight years ago, this Board approved for them to start investing in MACM, and it was to try to beat inflation; if inflation is four or five percent and the County is earning three and four percent, it is behind, so adding this MACM portfolio actually helps the County be competitive; it is a small piece of the total \$149 million out of a billion dollar portfolio, so everything is not being thrown into one area which also is a benefit in that when the economy is good it might have a short-term, outperforming the benchmark; if it is in the long-term, things go like a roller coaster, it is up and down, one never knows where things are going to go, but they are trying to protect the public's money; and the short-term portfolio, everything is diversified. He pointed out as the Board can see on this slide, the pie chart to the left, is in local government investment pools, it is in banks, and it is in Certificate of Deposits (CDs), so the money is not all in one area; the long-term portfolio, shown in the upper right hand corner, they are in US treasuries, corporates, and agencies, it is very diversified, so any one area, depending on the economy, might get hit harder than another, but generally one area will do better, one area is less, so it compensates for that; and he wants to let Mr. Pengelly say a few words to show the Board kind of the history last year, where they think some of the factors that they are having to weigh in on in this coming year with the markets.

Mr. Pengelly stated the past performance over the past fiscal year was very good; in fact, over the past couple of years, they have seen pretty good performance driven by a fairly strong and growing economy, and underlying that is it has really been a strong consumer; about two-thirds of the US economy is driven by consumers and consumer spending; when thinking of the outlook from here what they expect in the coming fiscal year is they really pay attention to what the consumer is looking like and what the outlook is for the consumer among economists and businesses; what business conditions look like for corporations; and both of those look fairly strong. He continued by saying consumer balance sheets, as they are now, look fairly strong; the same thing with the corporate balance sheets; they are getting a lot of earnings information recently and that continues to support this idea that companies are in a good place and their outlook is good in the near term; they do not really forecast, and economists and market participants do not forecast that they will have the same, strong performance that they have seen kind of outside performance that they have seen over the past three years; but things look good, at least for the next fiscal year. He mentioned in terms of how they are positioning the County's investments, they have a neutral positioning on its portfolios given that sort of moderate outlook in the near term; and with that, he will pass it back to Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson stated he wanted to introduce to the Board, Bob Socks, the Chairman of the Investment Committee; and he has asked him to say a few things to the Board.

Mr. Socks expressed his appreciation to Mr. Peterson, Andrew Walcott, the Brevard County Clerk of Courts staff, and PFM Asset Management for the success that they have had; he has

been on the committee for six years, was elected Chairman last year, and he is very proud to present these results to the Board; he thinks the results are excellent; and they appreciate the Board's support.

Mr. Peterson concluded by saying he will finalize before the Board approves this; Rachel Sadoff, Clerk of Courts, could not be here today as she had a previous appointment; she would have really like to have been here; but she does sends her regards; that is the report; and he asked if the Board has any questions.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned she does not have any questions, but she just wanted to express her appreciation to Mr. Peterson and his team for coming here today; when the Board received this briefing, she really felt like this was information that the public would like to know; it is a question that she gets all of the time as to what the County is doing with its money, if it is investing it; this team is doing an incredible job; and she just wanted to get this out for the public to see, as this is some great stuff being done here. She reiterated her appreciation to them for their hard work and for doing this presentation.

Chair Altman asked if the County invests in Bitcoin.

Mr. Peterson replied no; he stated one year he did have a question from a Commissioner asking if gold could be invested in; they do not take on anything speculative; the primary thing in their Policy is safety, which is number one, then liquidity, and then return, in that order; and they are not going to take on assumed risks that would jeopardize the County's investments.

Chair Altman advised he knows that being involved with the State government, they had investment strategies; it is a big chunk of money; decisions have been made not to invest in certain countries that promote terrorism, antisemitism, apartheid, and other things; and he asked if the County is involved in that and follows the lead of the State on those types of decisions, or does it have a sort of not laissez-faire, private, and how is the County different in that regard.

Mr. Peterson responded the Board's Policy, which again complies with Florida Statutes, indicates that they have to identify the things they are allowed to invest in; over the years, there have been times they have come back to the Board after the Investment Committee has done lengthy vetting of the process and said yes, they want to invest in this; then they would come back before the Board and via an ordinance, they would then be able to invest in something; and the speculation of getting in some governments, or dealing with some entities, he believes there are some governments who actually invest in foreign bonds.

Mr. Pengelly pointed out they do not invest, by policy, company policy, any of the companies that are on the scrutinized company list that the State puts out; because they only invest in governments, they are very aware of the headline risk associated with those; even though it is not a requirement, that is a State requirement, it does not flow down to local governments, they do not do it at that level; and most of those companies do not really issue large, public debt, so they would not even meet their criteria for the types of investments, large, public, liquid investments that they invest in anyway.

Chair Altman inquired in making investment decisions, do they ever choose to invest in areas that have a benefit for the region, for example, aerospace investment versus industries that might be on the other side of the country providing capital in those entities that are promoting the local economy, and is that ever a factor.

Mr. Pengelly replied no, it is not part of the County's Policy.

Chair Altman asked if the Board wanted to make that a policy, if it would have the ability to do that.

Mr. Pengelly explained there was some legislation passed in 2023 that limited creating sort of extra criteria outside of purely pecuniary factors, that is sort of traditional credit metrics, what

the financial stability of a particular type of investment; what Chair Altman is asking for local investment may be a little outside of that; and they would have to research that whether that would go in violation.

Chair Altman noted it would not necessarily be local, but it would be private industry, aerospace, or high tech; it could be a company in Seattle, there are a couple of them, but it has a role.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated they beat him to the answer, there are State standards, certain laws, and investment guidelines that need to be followed.

Commissioner Feltner expressed his appreciation to them for being here and doing this presentation today and meeting with him earlier; they had a discussion about inflation, obviously everyone is dealing with it; it is an interesting thing when he talks to folks that there is consumer inflation; when one goes to the store to buy something, it is a dollar more than it was a year ago, that is consumer inflation; but the inflation to local government is much higher than that, so one thinks of the things that must be done that the market does not do, roads, bridges, these kinds of things that; the costs of those things year over year, or even replacing equipment, that is a tough thing being dealt with, so much higher; he greatly appreciates that they have found ways to get the County a better return on its money; and it is not a nice thing, it is a necessary thing. He advised he appreciates their fiscal management for the County.

Commissioner Adkinson stated she just wanted to say thanks for the \$63 million.

Chair Altman expressed the Board's appreciation for their work and time, as well as staff supporting this; and the County is in good financial hands.

The Board acknowledged and accepted the Brevard County Annual Investment Performance Report, for the year ended September 30, 2025.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Katie Delaney

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

L.1. Reports, Re: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated he is passing out a letter, they sent out an email late; this is something that has been happening through the weekend; he received a call on Friday night from Secretary Tyler who is the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 5 secretary; the State FDOT is Statewide is applying for a grant, which is the Statewide advancement of future enhancements at Intercity Passenger Rail Crossings Program; they have been asking for support; each of the districts have been going to all the local governments asking for support; this is a grant that is going to target about 900 crossings Statewide; and those are railroad crossings that have passenger rail service. He went on to say off the top of his head, that would be Brightline, SunRail, Tri Rail, Amtrak, and he is not sure if the Street Car in Tampa is in there, so it is throughout the State; he spoke to Secretary Tyler; Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, and Karina Perez, Public Works, have been on a phone call with The

City of Cocoa and FDOT; Georganna Gillette, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has also been speaking with FDOT, so this has been going here and about; the way the grant would work is if the State wins it, or gets awarded it, it is 80 percent Federal, which is pretty typical, 20 percent would be the local match, FDOT would provide their standard local match,

and they provide half, it is 10 percent; Secretary Tyler said that they would be going to the railroad partners for half of that remaining 10 percent, and the County's match would be five percent; he asked the question what five percent was; and right now they are estimating Brevard's local match would be somewhere around \$150,000 over five years. He advised they are still checking as it is 49 different crossings; the County already has some grants for some of the crossings, so it might be a little bit lower number; the letter the Board has talks about how the County will work and support coming up with local match, if necessary; the other letter talked about a hard match; he told them, the County could not do that, the County could not commit to anything it cannot fund; the letter in front of the Commissioners is just asking he or she to support a letter to FDOT for their grant application; the grant application is due February 6, so it is moving fast; he thought about it at the workshop, but the Board cannot take official action at a workshop; there are double x's on the number of railroad crossings because it is being finalized; and if the Board approves this letter, he will have the finalized letter for the Chair on Thursday, or he has a copy he can sign and submit it on behalf of the Board to the FDOT.

Commissioner Feltner asked just to clarify, if anything that would be appropriated as part of the match from the County would be brought back to the Board.

Mr. Liesenfelt replied affirmatively; and the County is going to have to have some sort of agreement with FDOT.

Commissioner Feltner stated this today of itself, is not an agreement as much as saying the Board is interested in FDOT going out and seeking the funds.

Mr. Liesenfelt explained this does not commit the County to expending or allocating any funds of its own at this point.

The Board authorized the Chair to execute a letter in support for Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant program for the SAFE-IPR Program.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Kim Adkinson

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Chair Altman pointed out the County Manager is known for his very innovative dress; and he asked Mr. Liesenfelt to show the Board what he is wearing underneath his jacket.

Mr. Liesenfelt provided a short video of folks chanting Indiana University's fight song; and he advised everyone at the Clerk's Office can spell Hoosier.

Chair Altman expressed his congratulations to Indiana for the wonderful win and storybook finish, and probably one of the most historic college football seasons ever; he stated he is excited that Indiana won; it is great to have a County Manager with such roots, and to have a Big 10 representative; and he has become family of the Big 10 with his son working for Illinois.

L.3. Reports, Re: Katie Delaney, Commissioner District 1

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wanted to give some upcoming opportunities for residents to stay engaged and for their voices to be heard; the County's first budget workshop is coming up January 29th, this Thursday at 1:00 p.m.; if one cannot come, it will be livestreamed, so one will be able to watch that in the comfort of their own home, and if he or she does not want to sit through a four-hour meeting; she asked them to feel free to zoom over, three hours in or something, and give the Board his or her public comments; it is going to be a lot of really good information; the Board is going to be talking about Public Works, Stormwater, and Utilities; and those are things, especially in her District, that is always a topic of conversation. She continued by saying on January 30th, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is going to be holding the public hearing for the Blue Origin wastewater discharge permit renewal; that is going to be at 3696 Lake Drive, Cocoa, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; unfortunately, FDEP decided not to move the meeting to allow for more people to come, but luckily, County staff has opened up some overflow parking; hopefully, as many people as possible will be able to fit into that room so he or she can bring their comments to FDEP; the County recently had a meeting with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) about the State Road (SR) 524 expansion, that was incredible; there were probably 150 show up to that meeting; and she expressed her appreciation for District 1 for showing up for that and really being engaged in that conversation. She noted the public can still write written comments until February 2nd; she has a Substack, Katie Delaney Substack, that gives people all of the information about the project and the links to where one can submit those comments to FDOT; for the FDEP meeting, they have extended public comment to February 6th, which she also has a Substack article on that where all of the links can be found to get people's written comments in if he or she cannot get to this meeting; Speak Up Brevard deadline is January 31st; as of today, the County has 34 submissions; and she wanted to talk about that she will be bringing up for consideration a workshop. She mentioned she knew Susan Connelly pretty well, and she would definitely be flattered with the naming of the program after her; but in her opinion, what she would really feel honored about is to make this program the best it could be; she hopes she will get support for that in the future; and she asked if the County Manager had any updates about the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) notification, the potential website, and how that is going.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, responded they have had a couple of meetings and will be ready to present to the Board a proposed website on the February 10th Board meeting.

Commissioner Delaney commented she wanted to let everyone know that she is going to be putting out an article on Substack following this meeting about PFAS and where one can find that, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) links so that people can get more informed for the care of their families.

L.5. Reports, Re: Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 3, Vice-Chair

Commissioner Adkinson stated she does not actually have a report, she has a request; it looks like the request, 840, is kind of laying around; the Bill 1465 is not making it through its subcommittees; she has spoken to the State Representatives, a few of them, not all of them, and all she keeps hearing is there does not seem to be much interest; she asked that any of the Board members who have contacts or relationships with the State Representatives if he or she could just put a bug in their ear, because like she said before, this affects the whole County; and specifically, she wanted to ask Chair Altman in the Sunshine, he worked really hard to get the Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC) done, so if it is possible for him to take some time to think about what she, as District 3, could be doing to help with the process since she is new, that would be fantastic.

Chair Altman expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Adkinson for her leadership in the great job she has done in advocating for the South Beaches and Brevard; he advised it is abhorrent what the State has done to local planning and local governments with the Senate Bill 180; he has always felt, and many call it a mistake, very few things happen by mistake up there; he thinks it was a significant overreach of State government infringing upon people's ability to govern locally; and it is hurting the State dramatically, it will hurt the South Beaches. He continued by saying he appreciates Commissioner Adkinson bringing this up; he will personally reach out and for Commissioner Adkinson to just keep doing what she is doing; he is surprised the Governor has not become more active; he has had a strong track record of conservation in Florida, and hopefully, he will step up and advocate for the County; he did sign the Bill into law, but maybe he got some bad advice; and he asked if the Legislature does not come through for the County; he does not want to prejudge, because these things are intentionally held hostage until the very end and they become a significant negotiating point; everybody in Tallahassee is always looking for an angle, leverage, and something to barter with; and it is like a third-world market, best analogy he could think of, that can be happening as well, so continue to engage. He asked if this is not resolved, the Board talked about this early on in the process, it wanted to give the Legislature an opportunity to resolve it, but does the Board still have an opportunity to engage in the lawsuit that, he thinks it is a thousand friends.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, responded potentially, he does not know that the County would necessarily want to engage in that lawsuit; and the County has a unique circumstance in regard to the ACSC, so it might want to discuss doing something separately even that addresses the County's unique circumstances as well.

Commissioner Delaney stated she knows that the Bill that Commissioner Adkinson referenced is very important, but she wanted to broaden this conservation a little bit because there are a lot of bills up there right now that are targeting agricultural land, making it extremely easy for developers to come in and just do what they will; there are also a couple of bills up there now that are targeting wetlands; she thinks all of these things together are going to really change the dynamic of Florida, take away Home Rule, which is Constitutionally protected; and she would be in heavy support of doing whatever it takes to protect the community.

Commissioner Feltner stated 1465 was mentioned, he thinks it was the Bill number in the House, that is the one that seems to be stalled; there is not an exact Senate companion, but there is a Senate version; and he asked if that is moving forward as he has not looked recently.

Commissioner Adkinson asked the 840.

Commissioner Feltner advised he guesses that was it.

Commissioner Adkinson commented it was doing well, she has not looked at it in the last couple of days, so she does not know.

Commissioner Feltner stated he knows sometimes it is the situation that one chamber will do more work on a bill.

Attorney Richardson pointed out SB 840 is advancing towards the Senate Rules Committee, that is going to be its final stop before the Senate floor; SB 840 is by far the preferable of the alternatives to the House Bill; but SB 840 seems to be the only one with momentum.

Commissioner Feltner noted that is ready to roll, it sounds like.

Attorney Richardson stated that would be much better for the County's situation; and frankly, 1465 as written now would not solve some of the County's issues.

Commissioner Feltner stated Chair Altman knows better than he does, he was up there; but he worked up there, so the Senate has their version ready to go; the Board is in favor of the

Senate version it sounds like so far; and he asked when it comes over, do they do a strike all, they make a match up.

Chair Altman replied that is a high probability.

Commissioner Feltner commented that is the way it is starting to sound right now.

Chair Altman explained the County has a very good delegation and he knows they are working hard on it; there is a good chance they at least get the area of critical concern resolved hopefully; and he just hopes they do the bigger picture and they really restore some of these planning authority, local government, has because it has serious impacts on the County's open space, the wetlands, the agriculture, the green belt, 100 percent counter to what the general public or the legislature has been doing in recent years.

L.7. Reports, Re: Thad Altman, Commissioner District 5, Chairman

Chair Altman stated he has one item; he guesses it was the last meeting or two that the Board had a presentation on PACE, and the Board looked at the possibility of re-implementing the PACE program, which is something the Board should look at; but the Tax Collector received an incredibly negative, threatening, and adversarial letter related to PACE attacking her ability to comment and have public input, really attacking her and the Board's ability to set minimum amounts, what is charged, overhead; he was in disbelief where the County put an olive branch out there to welcome this industry in lieu of all of the past negativity and problems in the past; and it had not even scheduled a public hearing to talk about it, and they are already threatening, attacking, and limiting the Board's ability to have public dialogue, the constituents ability to have first amendment rights. He noted this Commission has always been supportive of diversity of thoughts and ideas, and encouraging debate; he thinks this should just be put on hold until the attacks and issues in this letter are resolved; he has talked to the County Attorney about it; and he was just going to ask the board to put it on hold until some of those issues were resolved.

Commissioner Delaney advised she would be in favor of that.

Commissioner Feltner asked if there needs to be a motion or simply that the Board does not take it up; and he asked if it is because the Board sort of went to legislative intent.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, stated right now he has direction to research consumer protection measures and prepare a resolution to bring back to the Board for consideration; and for him to pause that, he would just want clear consensus direction from the Board that he should stand down for now until the Board directs otherwise.

Commissioner Feltner asked if the Board needs to make a motion to permanently table the Item or to withdraw the prior motion.

Attorney Richardson replied that would be fine; and he just needs standing direction right now to proceed, so unless he is told otherwise, he would proceed to bring it back.

Chair Altman noted he did not want to put a burden on staff and for the County and taxpayer to incur the expenses when one of its constitutional offices is kind of under attack right now; if it

looks at consumer protections, probably the number one would be addressing the things that were brought up in this letter; and he just thought it would send a strong message.

Commissioner Adkinson asked who the letter is from.

Attorney Richardson responded it is from the Florida PACE Funding Agency, their attorney James Dinkins; it relates to prior litigation between the Tax Collectors, which the County's Tax Collector was not a party to, but it really relates to financing that they issued previously, so the letter is not so much about going forward; the gentleman who spoke at the Board meeting, Chris Peterson, spoke on behalf of the same agency that the attorney represents that sent this letter to the Tax Collector; and he believes the next day after the meeting.

Chair Altman explained it eerily brought up issues that were talked about; one of the things that was talked about was what the Clerk could charge in overhead costs to administer this program, and was threatening her to not have the statutory authority that she has; if the Clerk is incurring additional expense, it is costing the County; and he just did not want Attorney Richardson to work in one direction and expending staff's precious time and resources knowing the County is already at odds with this industry, already threatening and attacking.

The Board authorized staff to permanently table any previous direction regarding the PACE Program.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Attorney Richardson asked the Clerk to prepare a memorandum to that effect.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

ATTEST:

RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

THAD ALTMAN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA