

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940*



Minutes

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

5:30 PM

1st Budget Hearing

Commission Chambers

**

Executive Attorney-Client Session at 4:30 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners will meet for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and settlement negotiations in the case of Cocoa Beach Motel, Inc. d/b/a Radisson Resort at the Port vs. Brevard County and DAD 1300 N Atlantic Cocoa, LP, Case Number 05-2022-CA-041904-XXXX-XX.

Called to Order 4:30 p.m.

The Board of County Commissioners met for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and settlement negotiations in the case of Cocoa Beach Motel, Inc. d/b/a Radisson Resort at the Port vs. Brevard County and DAD 1300 N Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, LP, Case Number 05-2022-CA-04194-XXXX-XX.

A. CALL TO ORDER 5:33 PM

Present: Commissioner District 1 Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 2 Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 3 John Tobia, Commissioner District 4 Rob Feltner, and Commissioner District 5 Jason Steele

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Goodson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D.1. Announcement of the Percentage Change in the FY 2023-2024 Aggregate Tentatively Adopted Millage from the Aggregate Rolled-Back Rate

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing on the announcement of the percentage change in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 aggregate tentatively adopted millage from the aggregate rolled-back rate.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Item allows for the reading of the tentative aggregate operating millage rate to fund the portion of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget that is supported by property taxes; and he asked the Budget Office to read into the record the tentative aggregate millage rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, read into the record, the aggregate tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget is 4.6383; the tentative aggregate millage rate represents no change when compared to the aggregate rolled back millage rate of 4.6383; and the tentative aggregate millage rate represents a 6.82 percent reduction when compared to the aggregate current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rate of 4.9777.

There being no comments or objections, the Board acknowledged the Budget Office reading into the record the percentage by which the aggregate millage necessary to fund the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is changed from aggregate rolled-back rate of 4.6383 mills, aggregate tentative adopted rate of 4.6383 mills, and percentage change of 0.00 percent, including voted millages, and the tentative rate represents a 6.82 percent reduction from the current Fiscal Year aggregate rate of 4.9777.

D.2. Public Comment, Re: Revised Tentatively Adopted County Operating and Capital Budget for FY 2023-2024

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing on the public comment portion for the revised tentative adopted County operating and capital budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Item allows for the public to comment on the revised tentative County budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and before the Board begins public comment, he asked the Budget Office to read into the record the revised tentative budget information.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 tentative budget is \$2,041,823,659; and the budget represents an increase of \$52,522,723 or 2.64 percent when compared to the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 current budget of \$1,989,300,936.

Chair Pritchett advised she had no public comment cards.

There being no public comments, the Board accepted public comments concerning the tentatively approved budget and millage rates for the County's 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, including Charter Officers and Dependent Special Districts.

D.3. Adoption of FY 2023-2024 Tentative Millages

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 tentative millages.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated for this Item it is recommended that the Board discuss and tentatively adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 millage rates; and any changes to the millage rates under this Item will be recomputed by the Budget Office and announced under Item D.4.

There being no comments or objections, the Board discussed and tentatively adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Millage Rates.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Jason Steele

Second: Tom Goodson

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

D.4. Announcement of the Recomputed FY 2023-2024 Aggregate Tentatively Millage

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing to announce the recomputed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 aggregate tentative millage.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated based on the approved changes to the millage rates that were approved on Agenda Item D.3., he will ask the Budget Office to read into the record the revised aggregate millage rates

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated the aggregate rolled back rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget is 4.6383; the aggregate tentative millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget is 4.6383; and the tentative aggregate millage rate is equal to the aggregate rolled back rate.

There being no comments or objections, the Board acknowledged the Budget Office reading into the record the percentage by which the aggregate millage necessary to fund the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is changed from aggregate rolled back rate of 4.6383 mills.

D.5. Resolution: Adoption of the Stormwater Utility Resolution Ratifying, Confirming, and Certifying the Annual Stormwater Utility Special Assessment Rolls

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated the Board is now ready for the rate approval and adoption of the specific program budgets; and these actions are necessary in order to certify non-ad valorem assessments to the Tax Collector in accordance with the uniform method of collection, Florida Statute 197.3632.

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing for adoption of the stormwater utility resolution ratifying, confirming, and certifying the annual stormwater utility special assessment rolls.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated this Item is for the stormwater utility assessments and request adoption of the stormwater utility resolution ratifying, confirming, and certifying the annual stormwater utility special assessment rolls.

There being no comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 23-084, ratifying, confirming, and certifying the Annual Stormwater Utility Special Assessment Rolls.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Jason Steele

Second: John Tobia

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

D.6. Board Adoption of a Fire Assessment Rate Adjustment of Three Percent (3%) in FY2023-24; and Board Ratification, Confirmation and Certification of the Annual Fire Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing for adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Fire Assessment Rate Adjustment of three percent; and Board ratification, confirmation, and certification of the annual Fire Services non ad valorem Assessment Roll.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated this Item requests the ratification, confirmation, and certification of the annual Fire Services non-ad valorem special assessment tax rolls.

There being no comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 23-085, ratifying, confirming, and certifying the annual Fire Services Non Ad Valorem Special Assessment Roll, which has been updated to reflect the three (3) percent rate adjustment, as previously approved and authorized by the Board in Resolution No. 21-044, on April 20, 2021.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Jason Steele

Second: Tom Goodson

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

D.7. Resolution, Re: Adoption of a Schedule of Rates and Charges for Hazardous Materials Special Operations Team, Standby Response, Fire Prevention, and Inspection Rates

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing for adoption of a schedule of rates and charges for hazardous materials special operations team, standby response, fire prevention, and inspection rates.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated this Item is the schedule of rates and charges; it requests the adoption of the schedule of rates and charges for hazardous materials, special operations team, standby response, fire prevention, and inspection rates.

There being no comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 23-086, adopting a Schedule of Rates and Charges for Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Special Operations Team, Standby Response, and Fire Prevention and Inspection Fees imposed against all improved real property within the benefit area of Brevard County for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023.

Result: Adopted

Mover: John Tobia

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

D.8. Adoption of Budgets for FY 2023-2024 for Certain Districts and Programs

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing for adoption of budgets for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for certain districts and programs.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated in accordance with the Brevard County Code of Ordinances, he requests the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budgets for the following agencies, Solid Waste Management, Stormwater Utility Department, Fire Services non ad valorem assessment, and Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District.

There being no comments or objections, the Board accepted the budgets of Solid Waste Management Department, Stormwater Utility, and Fire Rescue Operations Assessment; and adopted Resolution No. 23-087, adopting the final operating budget for Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Tom Goodson

Second: Jason Steele

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

D.9. FY 2023-2024 Budget Resolution: Barefoot Bay Water and Sewer District

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget resolution for Barefoot Bay Water and Sewer District.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated it is requested that the governing body of the Barefoot Bay Water Utility and Sewer District approve a resolution adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

There being no comments or objections, the Board, as the governing body of the Barefoot Bay Water and Sewer District, adopted Resolution No. 23-001, adopting a final operating budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 of the Barefoot Bay Water Utility and Sewer District.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Jason Steele

Second: John Tobia

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

D.10. Tentative Approval of a Resolution Adopting the County's Budget for FY 2023-2024

Chair Pritchett called for a public hearing to tentatively approve a resolution adopting the County's budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated based on the action taken during this public hearing, he will now ask the Budget Office to read into the record the revised tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated the revised tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is \$2,041,823,659; the revised tentative budget represents an increase of \$52,522,723 from the current budget of \$1,989,300,936.

Mr. Abbate requested tentative approval of a resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Brevard County budget.

There being no comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 23-088, tentatively adopting the County's total budget for FY 2023-2024, as indicated in Agenda Item D.2., at a revised total budget of \$2,041,823,659, which includes County agencies of \$1,742,159,281, Charter Officers of \$194,691,848, and Dependent Special Districts of \$104,972,530.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Jason Steele

Seconder: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

E.1. Resolution, Re: The Use of Tourist Tax Revenues for Beach Lifeguard Services

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, stated this Item is a resolution regarding the potential use of tourist tax revenues for beach lifeguard services; at the Commission meeting on August 22, 2023, the Board directed that he and staff work together to prepare a resolution setting forth appropriate findings to support the use of tourist development tax revenues for lifeguard services for consideration at this meeting; the resolution attached to the Agenda Item sets forth the appropriate findings and concludes that beach lifeguard services do not only incidentally benefit tourists but rather a clear and direct relationship exists between lifeguard services and the promotion of tourism; and further, that one of the main purposes of beach lifeguard services is the attraction of tourists to Brevard County.

Commissioner Goodson noted that Attorney Richardson stated that lifeguards enhance the tourist attraction to Brevard.

Attorney Richardson remarked that is correct, as it is one of the findings in the resolution.

Commissioner Goodson noted that Attorney Richardson stated that the County could use this money as long as tourism is the benefit; he mentioned he could say good roads help tourism; and he asked if it could be used to fund good roads.

Attorney Richardson replied no, because roads are a general duty owed to the public at large; and with roads it would be difficult to see how to specifically promote that for the attraction of tourists, although if the Board made appropriate findings, perhaps it could get there.

Commissioner Goodson asked if the money was moved towards the lifeguards, when would there be a discussion of when or how much the cities might kick in.

Chair Pritchett stated she is not sure that is a question she was ready to answer; and it should be a Board discussion later.

Commissioner Goodson asked why the money would be transferred now, not knowing if the cities would kick in.

Chair Pritchett replied she is not sure it is; she thinks it was a Board vote at one of the last meetings; and this is the resolution from the vote already taken.

Attorney Richardson explained this in of itself does not transfer any money, it is just findings to support any monies from Tourist Development Tax (TDT) that is spent on lifeguards.

Commissioner Goodson stated if he is not mistaken, there are eight parks that charge fees to park, but the County furnishes lifeguards; he hopes that is looked at before this goes completely down the road; and he thinks the cart has been put before the horse.

Commissioner Steele stated he thinks what the Board is trying to do is just determine whether or not it was allowed to use tourist tax dollars for lifeguards; that is what the resolution is about; all the other details are very important and will need to be answered in time; but tonight it is a resolution saying that tourist tax dollars can be used for lifeguards.

Chair Pritchett stated she had a comment card and would not typically do this because public comment was before the discussion; and she asked Sandra Sullivan to come down.

Sandra Sullivan stated in response to the last meeting talking about this, she looked up on the State Attorney site, and this has been a conversation that has ensued from other counties wanting to do this as well; there was some discussion in 2013 where Matt Gaetz had done a bill to give smaller municipalities the ability to use tourist tax; and that bill failed. She added there are two legal opinions on the State Attorney's site that TDT taxes could not be used for lifeguard services; she has requested the State legislation to get a revised State Attorney legal opinion; and there are two emails that she sent to the Commission and State representatives that what the Board is doing, she thinks, is not legal.

Commissioner Tobia asked Ms. Sullivan which district the State Attorney opinion was from, or if she meant Attorney General.

Ms. Sullivan replied yes; and apologized.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 23-089, finding that one of the main purposes of beach lifeguard services is the attraction of tourist in Brevard County, finding that a clear and direct relationship exists between beach lifeguard services and the promotion of tourism, supporting the expenditure of Tourist Development Tax revenues on beach lifeguard services and the promotion of beach lifeguard services to tourists pursuant to Section 125.0104(5)(a)(3), Florida Statutes and Section 102-119(3)a., Brevard County Code of Ordinances, and providing for an effective date.

Result: Adopted

Mover: John Tobia

Second: Rob Feltner

Ayes: Pritchett, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

Nay: Goodson

F.3. Board Discussion and Direction to Staff, Re: Lifeguard Services Cost-share Option Between Brevard County and Municipalities

Commissioner Tobia stated he thinks some of the discussion dovetails into this; this is discussion for lifeguard funding and there will be a motion to direct staff to go out and negotiate with the cities with a better parameter than was had previously.

Sandra Sullivan stated at the last meeting on this subject there were two spreadsheets, one for how things were funded before, and one for how it is proposed; the same 11 beaches are on each spreadsheet; the point of that is that a statement was made that the intention was to move this ahead to fund unincorporated beaches, which is, from what she sees, a misrepresentation; further, in the budget that was just approved, all of the lifeguards are being funded from the general fund; and it is interesting that the funding was \$1.9 million two years ago and now it is up to \$3.3 million, which is a 65 percent increase. She added it is interesting that \$3 million of that dollar value is for the cities; the cities who are charging for parking; that is when she hears the Board talking over the years about giving the parks away to cities who then charge for parking; the idea was to give the beaches to the cities so the County does not have liability; and then continue the liability while they are charging the taxpayers who funded buying those beaches, it really makes her sick. She stated the equitable thing here is for the cities to pay an equitable share, and the spreadsheet that it presented has the County paying almost all of it; it was, she thinks, 96 percent that Commissioner Tobia said originally that the County was paying; it was a very good presentation he made; she made a suggestion to the Board to consider a 50/50 split and take over to where the County has a premium pass for those parks as part of the Interlocal Agreement to assure there is no differential in fees, and sell that pass for \$100 a year for the premium parks that have lifeguards; and have a tourist product to where there is a benefit for County residents and visitors that buy that pass and be able to access all the beaches. She went on to say that would provide funding to fund the lifeguards, at least as an economic source; and she is sorry, but the Board is not being fiscally conservative when it increases fees.

Commissioner Tobia stated in May the Board unanimously directed staff to meet with municipalities to discuss the transfer of responsibilities of costs from the County to the municipalities for lifeguard services at their own parks; he mentioned the Board has handouts A, B, and C; he noted to disregard A, which was the nuclear option where the Board told the cities that they needed to pony-up the money immediately, and he was informed many of these cities do not meet in time to negotiate with their city council and amend their budget to fund that; and the cities won after sending Frank Abbate, County Manager, and Morris Richardson, County Attorney, to negotiate and basically received no answer. He went on to say that is very important because the Board does not want that to happen again; a concern of the Board was subsidizing lifeguard services with cities that were charging for parking; he advised Cocoa Beach charges \$2 million according to their budget, \$917,157 in Fiscal Year 2021 between total meter revenue and paid lots surrounding beach parks, Indian Shores was \$411,588.63 for Fiscal Year 2022, and Melbourne Beach was \$55,387.17 for Fiscal Year 2022; he started with spreadsheet B, stating that it provides the cities one more opportunity to get their budgets straight and transition through this year until budget year 2024-2025; and this puts the responsibility overwhelmingly on the County, as the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) makes up 20 percent of that, and the cities that were contributing a little bit for part-time would continue to do so. He added there would be no need to shift resources in order to make this happen, however, this is not a sustainable model; he stated for spreadsheet C, it would be a 50 percent cost-share; he met with Attorney Richardson, who said if General Fund dollars were going there, it would be best to do that at 50 percent; the cost-share would be 20 percent TDT, 30 percent County General Fund, and the remaining 50 percent would be city cost; while he would like to do that this year, he has been informed there is not sufficient time to do that; he thinks it is important to send Attorney Richardson and Mr. Abbate to the cities with a little more direction

than before; and this is a way to transfer some of the responsibility over to the cities that are charging for parking. He stated this gets it a bit closer but he thinks the Board needs to be prepared just in case the cities say no again; he has some ideas but he hopes the cities are partners on this; if the cities are given another year to make these accommodations, they certainly have the revenue from parking; he is not stuck on these numbers but he feels it is a good starting place; if the Board would like to provide more direction or look at this at a later time, he is willing; but it is very important that we come together and let the cities know that at some point, they need to pay a fair share of the services that the County is currently providing.

Chair Pritchett stated she liked the B plan and she is going to support it; and she thinks it is a fair proposal.

Commissioner Tobia advised the B plan is the status quo that the County is covering 80 percent, TDT is covering 20 percent, and the cities really are not paying anything more than pennies on the dollar; the goal is to have a more equitable cost-share; that would have to be negotiated through an Interlocal Agreement for the next budget year; and there would be no loss of service.

Mr. Abbate asked whether the Board is firm on if the City refuses to negotiate; he asked what to do at that point because that is a critical component of what is discussed with the cities; and he wants to know if the cities refused on October 1, 2024, will the cities be responsible for their lifeguard services and the County would not provide it.

Commissioner Tobia remarked the negotiations need to happen in the next three to six months, so the negotiating team could come back to the Board and it would make that decision at that point; one suggestion would be to use the TDT dollars that would have otherwise gone to certain cities to go to the cities that participate, so there is a larger cost-share; there may be some legal questions, but the point is not to leave it to the last minute; and the cities called their bluff this time and he does not want it to happen a second time. He continued to say if the County Attorney and County Manager bring that information back within the next six months, it would give the Board six months to make that determination; if the cities say no, it has to be prepared to say it is their responsibility to cover the lifeguards; and the Board needs to stick together because if it is fractured at all, they will most likely pick it apart.

Commissioner Goodson stated there were 10 drownings from October 22, 2022 and October 23, 2023, five of which occurred after 5:00 p.m. in Indian Land Beach; it sounds like there will be a problem unless the Board wants to have lifeguards until 8:00 p.m.; but he is all for the proposal.

The Board directed staff to meet with the municipalities in which the County currently provides lifeguard services to discuss the cost-sharing option beginning in Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and for parks maintained by municipalities, the cost share for lifeguard services will continue to utilize the 20 percent of cost from the Tourist Development Tax dollars and in addition, receive 30 percent of cost from the County's General Fund, leaving a 50 percent municipal responsibility from either municipal parking revenue and/or any other municipal funds.

Result: Approved

Mover: John Tobia

Second: Jason Steele

Ayes: Pritchett, Goodson, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

F.1. Board Discussion and Direction to Staff, Re: Economic Development Commission Grant Funding

Commissioner Tobia stated Item F.1. is dealing with a reduction in grant funding to the Economic Development Commission (EDC).

Sandra Sullivan stated she thinks what the EDC does is very important and all the conferences that are applied to and the work that is done in bringing large companies to Brevard County that has the opportunity; she does not always agree with all of the proposals that the EDC brings forward, but she thinks the organization brings a lot of merit; the EDC is like a pass-through to North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ); and NBEDZ was created in 2011 and kind of relates to it. She added if the Board wanted to get a money source and cut back over \$1 million, it is taxing the entire County; this was intended for when the space shuttle program ended and Titusville was hurting; this tax has been for more than 10 years; the tax to NBEDZ is not needed anymore and it is not fair tax; and it is related to this. She thinks that the EDC should continue and if they communicate with NBEDZ, the duplication of effort is not needed; and she suggested to get rid of NBEDZ and not cut back on the EDC.

Lynda Weatherman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, provided a handout and stated the EDC has always valued the partnership and leadership this County has taken to ensure a strong, viable, and sustainable economic climate; it was not that long ago that as a community, it faced severe economic challenges tied to the economic recession and retirement of the shuttle program; and today this community's exceptionalism is demonstrated in its growth and diversity of industry, expansion of military assets, and competitive workforce. She mentioned activities of the EDC as it relates to the successful partnership between EDC and the County; since October 2010 it has been successful in attracting projects that amounted in over 8,000 new jobs with a capital investment of approximately \$1 billion; while capital attraction is the most recognized of the EDC work, the EDC has embarked on additional efforts, some of which have a direct impact on Brevard County operations; for example, in order to make the spaceport infrastructure more competitive, the EDC has been successful in attracting over \$3 million in defense and space-related grants; but significantly, and to the financial interests of this County, 30 percent of those funds benefited Brevard County. She added the EDC was successful in obtaining over \$1 million for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); this funding provided direct support for the County for civil site preparation; these were costs that the County did not have to absorb; to address the Indian River Lagoon environmental challenge and infrastructure challenge to NASA, Patrick Space Force base, and direct interest to the County, Sykes Creek and Port St. John wastewater treatment facility, the EDC funded a \$200,000 study on the conceptual alternatives and evaluations for wastewater treatment options; and the next phase will continue this effort and work focusing on planning, design, and engineering targeting an innovative sustainable regional wastewater treatment facility. She stated on September 26, the EDC submitted a letter of intent to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for \$1.5 million from the Climate Resilient Regional Challenge Program; in addition, it is in the final stages of working very closely with the Department of Defense to secure \$800,000 to \$1.2 million for this endeavor; in regards to workforce, since 2017, the EDC has provided, via State appropriations, over \$800,000 in scholarships, tuition, and teacher support in the creation of certifications targeted for demand industries including manufacturing, aviation, avionics, and space; and she thanked the Board for their partnership and she looks forward to a continued and successful collaboration.

Kirk Hall, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, stated he would like to address several subjects as they relate specifically to the EDC budget; first, the overall County grant funding, the EDC has not requested or received an increase in County funding in over 12 years; in fact, in 2010 and 2011, the EDC received a decrease of five percent and seven

percent respectively; secondly, the venture is a co-venture between private and public funding; the EDC has always honored and respected the investment this County provides for a competitive economic development program and it does not rely solely on County funding to support its extensive program of work; and it seeks to ensure that economic development is a partnership between both private and public resources. He added currently, the budget funds provided are 48 percent by County grant, and 52 percent from private sector and additional partnerships; the EDC has a reserve policy defined by its board of directors and, as with any operating business, it incurs increased costs on a yearly basis and its reserves allows it to continue operating a full program of work in an effective manor, given these Fiscal challenges; the current reserve balance reflects the reduction of activities during COVID-19, which is reflected in both the activities and reduced marketing due to shutdown of other programs; and these reserve balances will be used over a three to four-year period for significant expenditures and execution of a new program of work outside the normal scope, focus on talent attraction for local manufacturing and service industry businesses, after which the reserve will have returned to the level mandated by the board of directors. He stated the new program is currently underway and will be unveiled at the annual meeting in January; to ensure it remains competitive and attracts top talent for the community, the EDC conducts salary surveys to align compensation and benefits with industry standards and local competition; personnel expenses are shared with County and private funds, with the County contribution averaging 76 percent of total personnel expenses each Fiscal Year; for executive leadership, an annual committee of the board of directors conducts a performance review, including a salary comparison and benchmark study and formal survey; the EDC is cognizant of tight budgets; and for this reason it has not sought an increase in the budget for over 12 years. He expressed his appreciation for the Board's time; and the success of the community in mitigating challenges is due to the co-venture and continued support of the County and the EDC.

Chair Pritchett commented she would like to request if Commissioner Tobia ends up with this that it is maybe not so much of 20 percent, but maybe a bit softer with it; she really admires all the things that the EDC does and their strong board; when she goes to the meetings, they hash it out, they are smart people; it is not like one person making the decisions, as it is run through the mill when discussing projects; most of the projects have been on the south end, which is fine, because Ms. Weatherman has been working on a grant for almost \$88 million; and that will mostly affect Districts 1 and 2 with an advanced wastewater treatment plant, which is desperately needed, and will alleviate a lot of cost to the County down the road. She added she is very thankful Ms. Weatherman is starting to do more in the infrastructure projects, which made this an easy sell today; the amount of money that it is going to save the County later, as far as this treatment plant, for the space center, Port St. John, North Brevard, and into the Cocoa area is going to be a real game changer; and considering this amount of funds and the return on that investment alone is substantial.

Commissioner Steele stated he has had the pleasure of working with the EDC since 2012; he was on the Enterprise Florida board and the Space Florida board and he can say that the EDC works stealth; they do things behind the scenes that nobody in the room knows about, continually working tireless amounts of hours, not only with the amounts of economic incentives that they have gotten for all of the wonderful companies that have come here, which total well over \$1.5 billion over the last 12 years; what they have also done is help other developers with hotels, schools, with whatever their needs would be, so he hopes that tonight that their budget is not cut one cent, and allow them to continue on with the good work that they are doing; and he is just a big fan of the EDC.

Commissioner Tobia stated the grant agreement between the County and the EDC allocates \$1,400,500 to the organization each year; section 3(d) of the grant agreement states the EDC will work "with elected official and community partners to develop a competitive business environment in the County"; whereas EDC may meet with other elected officials, they do not

meet or even contact his office; Information Technology (IT) ran an email search and found only six instances when the EDC reached out to his office, the most recent being May 7, 2019; and there have been no phone calls, texts, or emails. He added that is how he came up with one-fifth, as he is one-fifth of this Commission, which accounts for \$280,010; he did not want to go over all of this stuff because they tooted their horn enough, but there are things that were neglected; over the past five years, the approved jobs that were brought to the County from Dark Storm, National Service, Roswell USA, BK Technologies, MG Foods, and Midwest Dental, that is a total of 252 jobs; it sounds like a lot of money; but probably not as much as the \$6 or \$7 million that was given them at that time. He went on to say something that has been neglected off of all of their publications from the speakers, all of the jobs that they brought forward that the employer did not meet the requirements and the incentives for jobs were rescinded; he mentioned Diamondback CNC did not deliver 35 jobs, East Coast Paper Stock did not deliver 30 jobs, Merritt Island Board Works Inc. did not deliver 380 jobs, Geno LLC did not deliver 12 jobs, Project Taylor Geno LLC did not deliver 126 jobs, and MC Assembly did not deliver any jobs; he would go through 2022, where the EDC brought nothing to the Board, or 2023 where the Board said it was not interested in incentivizing; and he stated he was going to leave it to Chair Pritchett. He mentioned he wanted to allocate that \$280,010 to something else; the Board decided to fund lifeguards a different way so he asked the County Manager and some employees where some capital funding was needed; he found out that capital funding was needed in Fire Rescue for a firehouse in District 1; he would like to allocate \$280,010 to that, but if Chair Pritchett wants to decrease that, he would take that as a win; and he wanted the Board to understand where his motion will allocate those funds. He asked for a percentage and he would do the math and put it in there.

Commissioner Steel suggested a 10 percent cut.

Chair Pritchett commented she thinks that would be a little better; she has had the privilege of getting to go to the Pentagon once; the work that was able to be done, the talk with the military was amazing; she has been on a lot of the team calls in the past trying to get the Space Force here and she knows Ms. Weatherman had so much to do with it, as she has got that respect in that area; she sees a lot of losses on things, but the amount of wins, as far as military presence, Navy-related businesses in District 1, and the advanced wastewater treatment center, there have been hours spent on this trying to secure funds; and it looks like it is coming to a good place, with Senator Mayfield also involved now. She noted she would like to do less of a cut; and she thinks Commission Steele's proposal is reasonable.

Commissioner Goodson asked Commissioner Tobia how much a fire station costs so he will know how much he has to give to Chair Pritchett to help her; and he asked if it is funding it next year.

Commissioner Tobia replied he had no idea; and this is just for capital improvement, not a new fire station.

Commissioner Goodson stated he thought Commissioner Tobia was donating to District 1 for a new fire station.

Commissioner Tobia replied no, no, no, it is for capital infrastructure; he moved to reduce the EDC grant funding for 2023-2024 from \$1,400,050 to \$1,260,450, a 10 percent reduction, and direct staff to provide written notice to EDC of this action; and to utilize the \$140,050 for Fire Rescue capital infrastructure in District 1 at the County Manager Office's direction.

Chair Pritchett stated if the Board ends up getting all the money for the advanced wastewater treatment, she will be championing next year that the EDC has this returned with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) bump on the funds because it will be substantial to the County; and she

expressed her appreciation to Ms. Weatherman.

The Board approved a reduction in grant funding for the EDC of Florida's Space Coast for FY 2023-24 from \$1,400,050 to \$1,260,450; directed staff to provide written notice to the EDC of this action; and to utilize the \$140,050 for Fire Rescue capital infrastructure at the County Manager Office's direction, in District 1.

Result: Approved

Mover: John Tobia

Second: Jason Steele

Ayes: Pritchett, Tobia, Feltner, and Steele

Nay: Goodson

F.2. Board Discussion and Direction to Staff, Re: Modification to the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections' FY2023-24 Budget Request

Commissioner Tobia stated this is dealing with the 2023-2024 budget for the Supervisor of Elections.

Sandra Sullivan stated she was pretty shocked to see this on the Agenda; she sat in her chair and laughed her head off, as she has never seen anything like this; she suggested that Commissioner Tobia recuse himself from this vote as a conflict of interest, given he is running for the Supervisor of Elections (SOE); there have been some shenanigans in her opinion that she is really uncomfortable with lately; when she looks at who is contributing to that SOE race and looks at the candidates; and what is not seen is the lobbyists, as they are not seen there or anywhere. She added for most of the Board sitting up on the dais, they pretty much have the lobbyists behind them to get elected; elections are won by vote by mail, as everybody knows that, with the way elections are done today; going back the feasibility study, she asked why would District 3 fund a feasibility study for Merritt Island; she asked if it is to solicit, to encourage...

Chair Pritchett asked Ms. Sullivan to stay on topic.

Ms. Sullivan remarked it is related; if one does not succeed and get those lobbyists behind them, in her opinion, if she was in that position, she would be feeling pretty desperate about her election potential; every piece of mailing, as Commissioner Tobia has previously stated on the dais, that goes out for vote by mail or whatever is going out, has Tim Bobanic's name on the top; he is dealing with that; and this seems to be politically motivated. She stated she would call it as such, as that is her opinion; she finds this gives her heartburn; and she called it the clown show.

Diana Schommer stated she is present to speak about not shifting money from the SOE's office to the lifeguards, the suggestion by Commissioner Tobia to transfer from the SOE to the lifeguards; he would achieve this reduction to the SOE, an office he is currently running for, by eliminating sample ballots; this would be a travesty, as people rely on these sample ballots to do their research before voting; without the sample ballots, people show up to vote without knowing what is on the ballot, or because of the way those ballots are worded, sometimes with double-negatives, making it a positive, it takes a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out what it is really saying; and secure elections should be the most important job of Brevard County. She added it should supersede everything else; this move weakens the elections in her opinion; it is also a travesty not to provide postage on the vote-by-mail ballots, as most people would not know the correct postage to put on the oversized envelopes, she would not; the taxpayer should have some conveniences for all the money that is given to the County; and Commissioner Tobia should recuse himself from this discussion, as he is running for this office and the SOE's budget is a conflict of interest. She added as a side note, people who live on

Merritt Island would also like it if he would stop trying to push incorporation on it; it should be noted that Tim Bobanic, the current SOE, has one of the lowest costs per voter budgets in the State; he is doing a great job; and she wants to see him keep it.

Helen Voltz stated she is present to speak in favor of Tim Bobanic's budget; from what she understands, the Board has already approved the budget and Commissioner Tobia did vote for the budget, which includes the SOE's budget; she echoes things that were said by the previous lady; she thinks it is a conflict of interest for Commissioner Tobia to have a vote on this since he is running for office; she would like to ask the County Attorney if when one is in office and running for another office, if one must resign from office to run for another office...

Chair Pritchett interjected he or she does not; and those questions will be done later.

Ms. Voltz replied alright; and she is in favor of Mr. Bobanic keeping his position and keeping his budget the way it is.

Tim Bobanic, Supervisor of Elections, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on this critical Agenda Item; as was mentioned, he is happy to see that this Board has already approved the submitted budget that is tentatively approved; he wants to address the three areas of reduction proposed by Commissioner Tobia; first, the return postage on vote-by-mail; prepaid postage was implemented in 2021 and it has been included in the budget approved by this Board for the last two Fiscal Years; and the answer as to why to keep postage-paid return ballots is simple, voters should not have to pay to cast their vote. He continued to say to now take this away from the voters when they have now used it for multiple elections, would cause confusion and would be a great disservice to the voters, especially the elderly population; he mentioned that sample ballots are the most critical tool to educate voters, as they contain the voter's precinct and polling place location and address, the identification requirements to vote, list of early voting sites with days and times that it is open, information about returning mail ballots to secure ballot intake stations, list of SOE administrative offices, and election day instructions; to put things into perspective, he ran the numbers on Commissioner Tobia's proposal to change the sample ballot; and based on *Florida TODAY* subscriber rates and email sample ballot requests, 81 percent of voters in this County would not receive a sample ballot. He added if approved, this will create massive lines at the polls in early voting sites because the vast majority of voters will not have the necessary information to study the ballot prior to voting; it will also trigger a deluge of calls to his office from angry voters wondering why they did not get a sample ballot after having received one for the last 15 years; it is amazing to him that a candidate for SOE thinks it is a good idea to not send sample ballots to 81 percent of the voters; lastly, he talked about the prepaid postage, while working on the 2023-2024 postage budget, his office opted to leave a few categories that would typically be budgeted, at a lower total amount; and this was done knowing that there would be postage balances left on the permit to cover these expenses, and no need to request additional dollars. He stated at the request of Chair Pritchett, earlier today he sent a revised budget request which includes the postage prepaid amount as a negative expense item and the full budget of the postage needs for the FY 2023-2024; this amount includes statutory mandated mailings to include voter roll list, maintenance, post cards, felony, mental incapacity, certified mailings, form 1 delinquency notices, payments to vendors, and other general correspondence; and according to the email from the County Manager on Friday, September 1st, "The proposed FY 2023 budget for Ocean Rescue was \$3.3 million, while this amount does not fully fund the annualization of the expanded services as \$3.5 million, there is some flexibility within the Fire Rescue proposed budget, if needed, to ensure the enhanced services are provided for the full year. The proposed budget here fully funds the EDC and the Supervisor of Elections budget."

Chair Pritchett asked Mr. Bobanic to stick around in case there are questions; and she closed the public comment section.

Commissioner Steele noted that he and Commissioner Tobia do not always get along, but for someone to come up here today and call him unethical is insulting; John Tobia works his fanny off for the County and he is one of the best Commissioners that it has; he does a lot of research; he is running for the position presently filled by Tim Bobanic; but he has every right in the world to voice his opinion in regards to these issues. He added he thinks it is absolutely disgusting that some folks are trying to recuse him from a job that he has to do constitutionally, which is vote on these issues tonight; as far as the cuts that are being talked about, he commented that he has no use for sample ballots either; he thinks they are a complete waste of money and what happens with a lot of the sample ballots is the family fills them out and give them to the parents saying here is how you vote; and he feels there are many ways to put those out to save that money. He appreciated Mr. Bobanic's call and thanked him for it; he thinks the sample ballots are a waste of money; and to try to insinuate that Commissioner Tobia is unethical is just disgusting.

Chair Pritchett stated she appreciated Mr. Bobanic working hard with the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from the County to get the budget where it is good now; she is comfortable with the budget and may work on moving that line item to another place later; but it is all transparent now and she appreciates that. She stated she wanted to say that if she tells Commissioner Tobia he has to recuse himself, then she has to tell Mr. Bobanic too, since he is running as well; discussions need to be had out in the public and transparent; Commissioner Tobia is not always comfortable, but he has really done well saving the County a lot of money; everything is put online now because everything the Board does is out in the public; and she appreciates that work he does, that is not comfortable, but he does a good job holding the Board accountable.

Commissioner Tobia stated he wanted to go over the basics and then respond to some of the things put out; he thanked Mr. Bobanic for his quick responses to the Board inquiries as well as his follow-ups; after reviewing the data he sent and conferring with the County Attorney's Office, he has confirmed that the SOE estimates about \$320,538.34 in discretionary mailing expenses for the 2023-2024 budget; to be clear, this conversation would not be happening if his request was not 19.4 percent higher than the previous year; and it has been brought up about the authority to reduce funding, and there is no reduction here. He went on to say according to Florida Statute 129.201(4), the Board may "amend, modify, increase, or reduce any or all items of expenditure in the proposed budget as submitted, however the Board cannot ask for these modifications at the sub-object code level"; he has modified suggestions to the SOE operating expenditures for the 2023-2024 budget; and he wants to point-out what will not change here. He added this will not decrease access to voting opportunities; it will not reduce one day, one hour, or one minute that the polls are open; it will not cut one employee position; and it will not reduce any poll workers. He stated if this passes, the net result will be the SOE's budget will be \$952,611.66 higher than the previous year, an increase of 14.55 percent; he did not think it would be fair to point-out or just arbitrarily say the suggestion was far too high and the Board would give him more money, just not as much; he outlined some areas that were discretionary; and they were confirmed by the County Attorney, as well as statute. He noted that education and wait times was brought up; he found a 2020 Massachusetts Institute of Technology election lab study that recommends reducing wait times by decreasing arrival rate, increasing number of services at bottlenecks, decreasing the service time at bottlenecks, and increasing service at arrival time variations; studies from The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the Think Tank in Washington, DC, the Brennan Center for Justice, a liberal non-profit, and New York University Law School make similar recommendations; none of these studies mention State or even imply use of sample ballots to shorten wait times; and often, as the SOE has mentioned, sample ballots are not even received until voters have already cast their official ballot. He noted that voter education was brought up, but of the 15 primary duties listed on the website of the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections, education is not mentioned once; statute was brought up, if the SOE would like State statute change to reflect discretionary

mailings to be made mandatory, the SOE has the Brevard delegation at his fingertips; and according to the official SOE Facebook page, there have been visits from elected officials recently, Representative Robert Brackett on June 14, 2023, Senator Tom Wright on August 1, 2023, Chairman Randy Fine on August 15, 2023, Senator Debbie Mayfield on August 23, 2023, and Representative Chase Tramont on September 1, 2023. He mentioned political argument, which he was initially skeptical of but has since changed his mind; at the June 28, 2023 Special meeting, the SOE stated "If you are talking about sample ballots, it will have my name on it once"; he passed a copy of a sample ballot, dutifully furnished by the SOE, which if one would notice, Mr. Bobanic's name is on there three times; and he does not know if that was an error in his statement, but that will result in discretionary spending of the SOE, his name out there 2.5 million times at taxpayer expense. He noted control, he has mentioned this before the budget increase, makes no cuts; the SOE has the ability to send as many sample ballots with his name plastered all over them; as the SOE is aware, Commissioner Tobia does not control what he does with his budget, so he does have the right to use taxpayer dollars for that purpose; and however, he may have to make suggestions elsewhere. He added if the SOE is looking at providing a more conservative budget, maybe he should stop spending thousands of tax dollars at five-star hotels such as the Ritz-Carlton in Virginia, as he did just this year; he noted again, this is an increase of 14.55 percent, \$952,611.66, more than the previous year; as a conservative, it is hard to believe there is so much disdain over such a large increase; as the SOE, he is sure he is well aware if he disagrees, he can file in Circuit Court, according to Pinellas County vs. Nelson, 1978; and though not an attorney, he does not know how much sympathy the SOE will get from a judge, when he is sleeping on a 1000-plus thread count sheets at the Ritz-Carlton at taxpayer expense. He advised he moves to direct staff to fund the operation expenditure of the SOE Fiscal Year 2023-2024 proposed budget in the amount of \$4,573,910.66, resulting in a total allocation of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget allocation of \$7,502,059.66; to direct staff to provide written notice to the SOE of this action; and to reallocate the savings to Fire Rescue capital infrastructure to be utilized at the County Manager's discretion.

Commissioner Feltner commented maybe it can be split; and he asked Mr. Bobanic if he would agree that there are in-person voters and there are mail voters.

Mr. Bobanic replied yes, although that dynamic changed when the Legislature wiped-out all mail ballot request.

Commissioner Feltner responded he agreed 100 percent; he asked when mail ballots go out very quickly after sample ballots go out, do many people who receive a mail ballot also receive a sample ballot.

Mr. Bobanic replied that is correct.

Commissioner Feltner asked maybe one of the ways it could be split is if one group gets one ballot and the other group gets the sample ballot.

Mr. Bobanic responded he would have to look at the statutory legality of that because it says it is to mailed to all voters or publish it in a newspaper of general circulation, and sent to the email ballot requests; and he would not want to comment on that until he gets some legal opinion.

Commissioner Feltner asked about the Presidential primary, if it was necessary that voters receive sample ballots when there might only be one box on there.

Mr. Bobanic replied the law says that he has to send sample ballots for every election.

Chair Pritchett asked Mr. Bobanic if he is allowed to do the same as with the mail-in ballots, and have people send an email to request a sample ballot.

Mr. Bobanic replied yes; he stated he currently has 68,000 voters who have requested an email sample ballot; but out of the 416,000 registered voters, *Florida TODAY* has a subscriber rate on a Sunday of 12,474, which leaves a little over 335,000 who would not get a sample ballot.

Chair Pritchett commented those who wanted them would be able to do that, so there is still an ability to get sample ballots.

Mr. Bobanic noted he would say it would be a challenge for a lot of voters who are not technically proficient, who do not have computers or a way to print the sample ballot.

Chair Pritchett stated she still struggles with paying the return postage; she thinks it would be better to put on the envelope how much is needed to mail them back; she noted that every other office she goes to, she has to pay the return postage for something to be sent back to her; she mentioned to Commissioner Tobia there is the \$91,000 amount that the SOE pulled back into the budget; and she wanted to make sure he was aware of that.

Commissioner Goodson stated his office checked as far as Okeechobee and all the way to the west; about 10 counties around Brevard do this; and he asked Commissioner Tobia if he had been on the Board for about seven years and if there has been other elections.

Commissioner Tobia replied correct; and questioned other elections.

Commissioner Goodson remarked Lori Scott ran.

Commissioner Tobia asked other Supervisor of Elections; and answered yes.

Commissioner Goodson noted there were other elections and Lori Scott put her name right on it; he asked why Commissioner Tobia is so adamant today, since he is running; and it looks kind of strange but undoubtedly Lori Scott did not spend that much money.

Commissioner Tobia responded the SOE is asking for an almost 20 percent increase.

Commissioner Goodson remarked there are more elections in this process; and he asked if that was correct.

Commissioner Tobia replied absolutely; he stated the Legislature saw fit to provide discretion to the SOE on mail they could, or did not need to mail, called discretionary funding; this is a new statute, so there are ways to do this, namely email or newspaper, both of which would save thousands of dollars; and to be clear, the SOE knows that he does not have to cut these. He added his motion sees an almost \$1 million increase to the SOE; his motion cuts the \$19.4 million all the way down to \$14.55 million without limiting opportunities for voting, or cutting employees; and that is the genesis of it.

Commissioner Goodson asked why Commissioner Tobia did not go after Lori Scott then.

Commissioner Tobia replied again, this is a new statute.

Commissioner Goodson stated if one knows anything about the State of Florida, and Commissioner Tobia spent eight years up there too, anytime it helps and it comes south, it is not a pretty picture.

Mr. Bobanic asked to address Commissioner Goodson's comment; he did a poll himself, of the 16 largest counties in Florida who comprise 72 percent of all registered voters in Brevard County; it would be the only county of those 16 who would not be mailing a sample ballot; and every county of the 16 largest counties mail sample ballots. He added to respond to Commissioner Tobia, the Legislature made the change to the statute to stop forcing SOE's to waste money publishing in newspapers with massively declining subscriber rates; and it is seen continuing on with legal notices and ads that the SOE now has the ability to post on the websites versus publishing in the newspaper, which his office has done.

Chair Pritchett commented she does not think Mr. Bobanic is adding anything new.

Mr. Bobanic commented he is doing exactly what has always been done.

Commission Pritchett opined she thinks he is doing what was handed to him; and she is glad the change was made that there is not a continual absentee ballot also, as she thinks that is something that people should request.

The Board directed staff to fund the operating expenditure of the Supervisor of Elections' FY 2023-2024 proposed budget in the amount of \$4,573,910.66, resulting in a total FY 2023-2024 budget allocation of \$7,502,059.66; directed staff to provide written notice to the Supervisor of Elections of this action; and directed staff to reallocate the savings to Fire Rescue Capital Infrastructure to be utilized at the County Manager's discretion.

Result: Approved

Mover: John Tobia

Second: Jason Steele

Ayes: Pritchett, Tobia, and Steele

Nay: Goodson, and Feltner

G.3. Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 2, Vice-Chair, Re: Board Report

Commissioner Goodson stated he would like to compliment Florida and Florida State; it was a real good licking they got; last night he was really happy with Duke; and let them all pull for Florida State.

G.4. G.4 John Tobia, Commissioner District 3, Re: Board Report

Commissioner Tobia stated he wanted to bring up a motion at the next meeting; he probably should have added it; the savings from the added funds that would have otherwise gone to the Supervisor of Elections; he is going to ask for that to be transferred into Fire Rescue infrastructure; it was an oversight; but he would rather do it at a regular Board meeting. He added he just got a text from the Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis with a picture; John Scott, Emergency Management Director, and two full Fire Rescue crews are currently in Lafayette County; and he thinks it is wonderful that Brevard County is sending its best and brightest to other struggling counties. He noted it is National Be Late for Something Day; the useless Florida fact of the day, Okeechobee is the third largest freshwater lake located completely within the United States; on this day in Florida history in 1977, NASA launched the Voyager One mission to fly by Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune to become the first human-made object to leave the solar system in 2012 and continues to collect data to this very day; and Voyager One carried a copy of the golden record, a message from humanity to the Cosmos that includes greetings in 55 languages, pictures of people and places on Earth, and music ranging from Beethoven to Chuck Berry's Johnny B. Goode. He recognized County Employee Jim Foster, Plans Examiner III of Planning and Development, who has been with Brevard County for 17 years; he is a dedicated employee who improves the Planning and

Development department in every way; he is eager to help anyone who comes into the office and has a reputation for customer service that is second to none; he enthusiastically built on his knowledge base with credentials in the manner that provides tremendous benefit to the County and its mission of enhancing and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens; and while employed with the County, Mr. Foster has obtained numerous professional licenses through the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations, including building, electrical, plumbing, plans, examiner for residential and commercial development, as well as certification to the building and electrical, residential and commercial inspector. He noted Mr. Foster moved to Satellite Beach from Detroit, attending the first class of the new Satellite High School; he ran his own irrigation business for 15 years; to say Mr. Foster is a dog person is a massive understatement, as he is the proud owner of three miniature dachshunds which snuggle in bed with him every night; and he expressed his appreciation to Mr. Foster for all his hard work and dedication, as he knows it is a very difficult department to be in.

G.7. Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 1, Chair, Re: Board Report

Chair Pritchett mentioned that she is going to bring something to the Commissioners that she thinks it needs to have the external auditors help with auditing the budgets because she thinks that would have helped tremendously instead of having all the heavy-duty work in the last couple of weeks; she also wants to make sure the Board knows that all of the travel and individual spending goes to the bill folder; she is going to get with the County Attorney to find a way to get all of the elected officials in Brevard County, that there is a way to put all reimbursed travel out so that constituents can see everything that Board is spending; and it is the right thing to do. She added the Board's spending can be seen but there is no easy way for the public to see it; it keeps them accountable; she spoke to the external auditors who report back to the Board when an audit is done on individual entities in the County; she wants to bring it out so that the public can hear it; and she plans to bring that before the Board so it is not trying to figure out numbers again.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST:


RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK


RITA PRITCHETT, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

As approved by the Board on November 14, 2023