

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

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



Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

9:00 AM

Regular

Commission Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:01 AM

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

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Delaney led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E.1. Resolution Re: National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Commissioner Adkinson read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-146, designating December 21, 2025, as National Homeless Persons Memorial Day.

Amber Carroll, Executive Director of the Brevard Homeless Coalition, expressed her thanks to the Board for acknowledging that day; she stated the Homeless Coalition is the lead agency for the Continuum of Care for Brevard County; and she asked James Smith, from her team to provide a few words.

James Smith, Coordinate Entry Manager for the Brevard Homeless Coalition, stated joining him this morning are members of the Brevard Homeless Coalition, under the leadership and direction of Ms. Carroll, and the Brevard Continuum of Care; he expressed his thanks to the Board for recognizing December 21, as National Homeless Persons Memorial Day; he stated the Board's continued support matters deeply, not just to them, but to hundreds of men, women, and families in the community who are struggling to survive without a safe place to call home; they are present today with a shared purpose, to remember the lives lost, acknowledge the progress they are making, and bringing solutions to pursue together; and because, the truth is simple, no one in Brevard County should die because they have nowhere safe to sleep. He mentioned, this year, they lost 78 of their neighbors, men and women, who died without a safe place to sleep; 78 individuals, not statistics, but they were members of the community; the Coalition's 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count tells both challenging and meaningful progress, progress that would have not been possible without the Board's support and leadership throughout this year; the Coalition's data showed that the unsheltered homelessness fell five percent and chronic homelessness declined by 11 percent; even with these decreases there are still over a thousand homeless individuals in Brevard County; Brevard County remains in the top 10 counties of Florida when it comes to homeless residents; and the Coalition cannot accept this as normal, not when they have compassion, leadership, and talent to change the story. He continued saying through the collaborative efforts and works with the Brevard County Jail, the Coalition conducted over 300 surveys and found that 57 percent of individuals entering the jail had reported that they were homeless at the time of booking; this tells an important story, law enforcement and first responders are carrying a heavy and increasing burden as they respond to the ripple effect of homelessness and House Bill 1365; many individuals are cycling between the streets and the justice system, because they lack a safe place to go; everyone wants the same thing, safer neighborhoods, healthier residents, and better parts of the County; they know the long-term solution is safe, affordable, and permanent housing; but they also need immediate, practical tools to prevent more deaths like this year. He concluded by saying that the Coalition wants to move forward together, but it will take all of them, the non-profits, city leaders, law enforcement, businesses, and neighbors to build a community where no one dies because they do not have a safe place to sleep; with that, the Coalition's vision is clear, to have a housed and healthy Brevard, and by making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring; in the month of December, the Coalition will hold four homeless memorial services to honor the lives of those who have passed this year; those services are happening

this week, with one service happening today at Matthew's Hope at 1:00 p.m., Cocoa, if the Board is able to make it, and the Coalition asks that it join them; for many individuals, this will be the only ceremony held in their name; and in January, the Coalition will also be conducting its 2026 PIT Count, as always the Board's participation truly makes a difference in the Coalition's efforts. He expressed his thanks for the Board's leadership and its support shown to the Coalition over the years; and for being its partner and helping them to build a house and a healthy Brevard.

Chair Altman expressed his thanks; he stated he knows it is a serious, serious challenge that they have as a community, as well as many communities across the country; and the Board appreciates so much of what the Coalition is doing and its dedication for those most in need.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Secunder: Rob Feltner

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

E.2. Presentation, Re: Update from Parrish Medical Center

George Mikitarian, Parrish Medical Center President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), stated one month ago the Board made the mandatory appointments to the Parrish Medical Center Board of Directors; he was somewhat ridiculed by the District 1 Commissioner, for not having spoken on that day, and that is why he is present to shed light on some of the conversation that unfortunately occurred that day; and some of the difficult situations that some of the Board were put in. He continued to say on behalf of the residents of North Brevard, he expressed his apology for the stress and strain that the Board were unfortunately and inappropriately put under; this is his update to the Board of County Commissioners, that was put together very carefully, and is rather long; just to relieve the Board's anxiety, he is not going to go through the entire presentation; it was assembled by his staff and he, last week; the District 1 Commissioner did give him a call and asked him what was up with this Presentation today; and he spent about 30 minutes in conversation with her, describing that it was basically a summary of past presentations made by the organization to city council, and that he would be using the majority of those slides mostly to educate the community about Brevard County's only public hospital, and to recognize and reward the employees, volunteers, physicians, and others that work at and support the organization. He stated, but unfortunately, constant public bullying by the District 1 Commissioner against him has caused him to change his presentation this morning; they spoke last Wednesday and as of yesterday, his intent was to come here and present to the Board the same presentation he has given to the city council; but as early as yesterday, a mere five days after what he thought was a very positive conversation with the District 1 Commissioner...

Chair Altman asked if he could interrupt.

Mr. Mikitarian responded affirmatively.

Chair Altman stated this entire presentation is to the entire Board of County Commissioners; and, in due respect, he asked to please keep it positive, and focus on the Board as a whole because this is the Board, and he is speaking to the Board of County Commissioners; and not designed for one Commissioner and to please keep it dedicated to the governing Board here, they operate collectively as one unit.

Mr. Mikitarian replied okay. He stated the background of Parrish Medical Center (PMC) is this County's only public hospital established in 1953, by Florida Statute; it is an independent Special Tax District of the State of Florida; this slide is the mission by law of the North Brevard

County Hospital District doing business as PMC; it is the only public hospital in Brevard County; for further education, there is a distinct difference between a public and a private hospital; all of the other hospitals in Brevard County are what are considered to be private, not for-profit; PMC is a public, not for-profit hospital; it is structured differently, governed differently with different regulations, bureaucracies, while still providing health care services; it is done structurally different and unlike every other public hospital in the State of Florida, it does not tax the citizens of their district; PMC was established back in 1953 by the taxation of people who lived within a particular geographic area, in and around the hospital; and it has not taxed for the past 30 years. He continued to say, in addition to not realizing tax monies from those who live in its district, it is also one of the lowest cost hospitals in the State, and those two things combined result in tens of millions of dollars in savings to the people who live within the community; again, PMC is not structurally or governed, or Legislatively outlined, and established the same as other private hospitals in Brevard; PMC is different; and there is a difference in how it operates, the mission, and how it is funded. He stated to get to the heart of the matter, the Board appointments; he showed the role the Board of County Commissioners have when it comes to PMC; the appointment of six of the nine member Board of Directors; the role of the Board of County Commissioners is showing the enabling Legislation, all board members shall reside within the boundaries of the district; the district is Fay Boulevard in Port St. John north to the Volusia County line; this representation assures that the public is adequately represented; some members are appointed by the city council; and three members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, not a single district Commissioner, by the entire Board of County Commissioners. He went on to say anyone asking the Board to do anything different is in violation of that law, it is the responsibility of the entire Board, not one Board member; and there are members who are jointly appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County and the City Council of the City of Titusville. He advised that he has a copy of the enabling Legislation, if anyone feels compelled to take a look at it; to further ensure what the Board of Directors does, what the Board has charged it to do, and what the law has charged it to do through the enabling Legislation: PMC is one of only about 60 percent of the hospitals in this country that conducts a board self-assessment; PMC brings an independent third-party into its organization every two years; and it goes through an assessment of the performance of the PMC board. He stated here one could see that it is a requirement of the bylaws; it is an issue of good governance that PMC strongly believes; how PMC compares to other boards similar in size, on and on, they are different in some ways; there are more physicians on the board; and it is more diverse than most hospital boards. He stated here are some of the scores within the assessment results, as presented by the consultant; continued progress can be seen in key areas, that any board would want to have assessed, with additional results as well; again, PMC is a public and independent hospital, which is drastically different; in fact, in addition to being one of the few public hospitals in the State of Florida, they are also one of the few independent hospitals, and not just in the State, but in the entire country; imagine the challenges of being independent and public, and not taxing; and being the low-cost provider. He reiterated PMC has zero taxes for the last 30 years and saving the citizens of North Brevard tens of millions of dollars each and every year; this slide is just a snapshot of some of the benefits PMC has provided to people; and as the Board knows, North Brevard has a larger population of poverty, both for adults and children than other areas of Brevard County, he is happy to show those contributions, especially the bottom line of over 10 years, \$170 million worth of uncompensated care, and something surely the Board should be proud of on behalf of its public hospital. He stated in addition, in 2021, the State of Florida passed Uniform Special District Accountability Act Statute, mandating that Florida's Independent Special Districts have conducted an independent review of its entire operations; he happens to have a copy of this as well and it is on the website, if anybody cares to take a look at it; he will go through it quickly, the report was a complete assessment of PMC's performance, and are proud to present it; the individual in the lower right is Brian Fuller, who was the consultant from the State mandated assessment of the PMC organization; and they came through with flying colors, as the Board would expect them to. He added stellar

performance after the pandemic; a \$20 million financial turnaround after the pandemic; PMC is mission driven, it has tremendous talent, it focuses on quality, it is drastically more affordable than others providers, and it does not tax; the pandemic devastated PMC like it did many other hospitals; and is happy to begin recruiting back many of the physicians that left PMC during the pandemic, some 68 left or retired, and it is almost back to having fulfilled that staff. He stated he is pleased with the Burrell College relationship; tremendously pleased with repairing of the relationship with Brevard County's largest healthcare provider, Health First; the relationship is going incredibly well and is working collaboratively and cooperatively on behalf the communities PMC serves; that relationship brought this, the Cancer Center to North Titusville; and PMC is in a real estate transaction acquired from Health First, which is their cancer center in Titusville that PMC has turned it into its own Parrish Healthcare Center that is focused primarily on cancer care. He advised he will not be going through the remainder of the presentation, for the interest of time; he did want to just make sure that this Commission sees the stellar and incredible awards that the PMC organization has received on behalf of the communities it serves, provision of maternity care, OBGYN services, surgery, stroke, and the list goes on and on; and with that, he will stop to see if there are any questions.

Chair Altman expressed his thanks to Mr. Mikitarian, for coming today and presenting to the Board of County Commissioners; he wanted to keep this as positive as he could and he appreciates him being here; he can understand his frustration; he happens to think that PMC is a wonderful hospital; he would like for him to elaborate more on the awards received, because there were some comments about the hospital; he is blown away by the number of awards listed; and he inquired what some of the highlights are on that.

Mr. Mikitarian responded as in any organization, there are various ways of determining success; there are some organizations that look at the financial performance of organizations and in hospitals; there are some that look at the mix of how many Registered Nurses (RNs) there are compared to non-RNs, four-year RNs versus two-year RNs, the number of physicians and the specialties they have; PMC is very fortunate in obtaining awards in the areas it excels in and it excels in the provision of oncology services; PMC is Brevard County's longest, accredited hospital for cancer care by the Commission on Cancer Care; PMC is the first and still the only hospital in the nation accredited by the Joint Commission, for what is called Integrated Care, and how it blends the physician practice care with the hospital care, and when the patient is discharged, back to the home with home care, and other components of care in the community; they are all integrated by its care partners, it is called Integrated Care, that is to reduce redundancy, keep costs low, and prevent mistakes from happening; and he reiterated that PMC is the only Integrated Care accredited hospital in the United States. He added, PMC is stroke certified, has certifications in orthopedics, and Blue Cross has recognized PMC in orthopedics in women's care; nationally, the United States has an epic system for an electronic medical record, it is the Cadillac of medical records system in the United States, and Health First, Orlando Health, and Advent has it; Halifax in Daytona Beach will still have it; it is not affordable for PMC, it cannot expend \$40 to \$50 million to acquire this system; but what the system does do, is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other electronic tools within the system, and it makes sure that data is scrubbed and cleaned before it is reported to Federal agencies. He continued to say in a recent report by The Leapfrog Group, specifically stated that hospitals that use AI and electronic technology have better reporting of their quality scores, it does not mean the quality is better, it does mean that the reporting is better. He stated he hopes the board members are not watching right now, because he plans to bring this to the next board meeting; a request for \$7 million for PMC board to approve PMC acquiring the Chevrolet of electronic medical records, not the Cadillac called MEDITECH Expanse; it will allow PMC to do through AI and other digital, innovative tools, the ability to scrub its data, and clean the data up before it is then reported publicly; and that certainly, if the studies and the research are correct, to propel it further towards earning and achieving even more awards in the area of safety, and quality.

Commissioner Delaney expressed her thanks to Mr. Mikitarian for coming today; she stated she just wants to clarify one thing and then she has just a couple of questions; she wanted to make sure that Mr. Mikitarian were aware of the concern, it was not that he did not speak, her concern was the influence of who was going to be appointed to the board; with that being said, she wants to definitely talk about some of the good things that they had in their conversation; one of things talked about was some of the struggles that all hospitals are going through; and she does not know if he would like to use this platform, if he could, to explain for the community about what is going on with maternity care, the need for doctors, and this hole that as a country, it has in that respect.

Mr. Mikitarian replied the area of obstetrics; he stated if she talked with the Health Department, Director Kristine Zonka, she will tell her the same thing where she continually struggles to find physicians, obstetric, and gynecology physicians to provide the services in the community; there is an abundance and with the closure of the Rockledge hospital, there are now fewer hospitals that deliver, and more people coming to PMC to receive those services; and it is straining every organization in Brevard County. He advised if the Board were all inclined rather to use its platform to bring kind of a kumbaya moment to all of the healthcare providers, the Commissioner and he think it is a great place to do it.

Commissioner Delaney expressed her thanks for that; one other thing that they talked about that she thought was great and she will start by saying one of the things that she appreciates about PMC, is the amount of community outreach, and how involved it is with the community; and she really appreciates that and, she knows, the community does as well.

Mr. Mikitarian stated great; and he appreciates that.

Commissioner Delaney stated one of the things they talked about that would be great is, finding a way to bridge the gap between, while there are people who are happy with the way things are going, and there are some people that are not, and she looks forward to working with him and the community, and whoever else she has to work with to make sure that they can make the North Brevard hospital the best that it can be.

Mr. Mikitarian stated he appreciates that.

Chair Altman expressed his thanks to Mr. Mikitarian for when they were going through the trauma of having a hospital close; it was his family's hospital and it was quite traumatic, but Mr. Mikitarian was the only CEO present for every, single discussion the Board had related to that; and he personally wants to thank him for his level of support, commitment, and concern. He asked for a little briefing of how things are going, how they are adapting, how the County is responding, and what problems he foresees, or what needs, there might be.

Mr. Mikitarian replied with the help of a lot of people from Space Coast Health Foundation and Health First, there has been a lot of forced collaboration; they did not have time to think about the past; overnight, they were forced to come together, collaborate, and using community resources to help people from another part of the County; they are all one and they all understand that when sized a certain way; PMC emergency department was built for 22,000 patients per year, it currently is serving about 32,000 patients per year; that ratio is probably no different than at Viera hospital, Palm Bay hospital, Cape Canaveral, or even Holmes; this County continues to grow, not evenly distributed, not economically even, and not commercially insured even; there are pockets of disparity; and there will always be ups and downs within the community. He continued to say but when the Rockledge hospital closed, 15 years after he said it would, it was not a surprise to people; the abruptness was certainly a surprise, and how the people were handled by Orlando Health was certainly a surprise; healthcare people are strange people, and one can visit hospital emergency departments and they look disorganized

in an organized way; let there be an incident, let there be a hurricane, let there be a disaster, and it is lickety-split, people know what to do and they do it; and he thinks that is what triggered in the minds and hearts of people at all of Brevard's hospitals when the announcement of Rockledge hospital's closure was made, everybody went into disaster mode, it clicked on, and how do they take care of patients. He added he gave the leadership at Health First, Terry Forde, CEO, who said nothing about money, who said nothing but anything that had to do with how do they take care of these people; he led that charge and Space Coast Health Foundation helped coordinate and organize, and it was just, he will not say easy because he would hate to do it again; but that is how hospital people are trained and conditioned. He reiterated that he appreciates the comments; and he thinks it was a successful rapid response to a very bad situation.

Chair Altman inquired as the Board of County Commissioners and the health challenges that all of Brevard's hospitals are facing, what he sees as the single most important thing that the Board can do to help.

Mr. Mikitarian responded there are a lot things.

Chair Altman remarked he is not limiting him to one.

Mr. Mikitarian stated in the roles the Board has assure, not just communication, but collaboration; resources in this day and age are too scarce and for competition to spread those resources even further; for duplication of facilities in places where there is no need for duplication because of being a tremendous burden on the finances of people; somebody has to pay for a new building; somebody has to pay for all of these facilities, that health care organizations want to pop-up to make money, and all that does is increase prices; the prices in Brevard County are about to go through the roof; if the Board thinks healthcare costs are expensive now, it has not seen anything yet, because they are going through the roof, when Orlando Health opens up a new hospital in Brevard County, by far the most expensive hospital in Central Florida, and they will bring that expensiveness to Brevard County; the Board has PMC, one of the least costly providers; the Board has Health First, which does a very commendable job with operating four hospitals, and doing that very efficiently; but the market is about to unfortunately change with the entry of an Orlando-based health care system, it is going to disrupt things drastically. He reiterated anything the Board can do, in terms of collaborate, cooperate, and communicate is going to play a critical role.

Chair Altman expressed his thanks for Mr. Mikitarian taking the time and preparing, it is not always the easiest thing to do, and the Board appreciates him.

Items Pulled from Consent

Commissioner Delaney advised she would like to pull Items F.1., F.6., F.9., and F.11. from the Consent Agenda.

Chair Altman inquired how the Board wants to do this, pass the Consent as a whole and then hear these Items, or hear these Items first and then pass the Consent; and he stated he is looking for how Commissioner Feltner would have handled this since he just got through being the Chairman.

Commissioner Feltner responded in the past, he thinks they passed Consent and then took each one of those Items up separately; he supposed the Chair could hear those; and then do Consent all at once.

Chair Altman suggested going ahead and hearing those first, in case...

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, interrupted by saying per Board Policy 97, when adopted by the Board, is whenever the Items are removed from Consent, the Board should address the approval of the remainder of the Consent Agenda, and then address the pulled Items separately.

Chair Altman expresses his thanks, because that is what he was looking for.

Attorney Richardson asked if there were any cards on Items that were not pulled from the Consent Agenda, because those cards should be heard before the motion passed the Consent as a whole.

Commissioner Adkinson replies yes, there were.

Chair Altman advised backing up then.

Commissioner Adkinson stated F.4. and F.7., were the only two that were not.

Chair Altman stated for the Board to go ahead and hear public input; but he inquired if the Board can go ahead and hear the rest of the Consent.

Attorney Richardson responded the Board typically does not; he advised it would be to hear those public comment cards on Items that were not pulled and then take the vote on the Consent Items that were not pulled.

F.4. Approval, Re: Payment of Emergency Invoices to Meeks Plumbing, Inc. for Assistance with the Pumping of Multiple Lift Stations in the Mims, Port St. John, and Sykes Creek Service Areas

Sandra Sullivan stated for Items F.4 and F.5., the County has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars for invoices to Meeks Plumbing, Inc., during these wet events, and from what she has heard the County still dumped behind Sykes Creek and Port St. John; there are some laws coming up that are going to prevent or disallow legally doing that; she knows this is approval of these, but there is hundreds of thousands of dollars in pumping poop; and she inquired about where the County took it, because many of the sewage plants were over capacity. She added there are many plants, 137 percent to 184 percent over capacity, which is why the County was trucking sewage. She inquired what the County is doing for the future to ensure it is not dumping, with the plants that are at, or are near or over capacity; and she stated that is it, but she does have other cards to talk on.

Chair Altman stated that is a good question; and he asked when the County pumps it, where does it take it.

Edward Fontanin, Utility Services Director, replied with regard to the question and the circumstances related to that Agenda Item that went to Sykes Creek, there was no discharging at Sykes Creek. He stated Sykes Creek has two deep injection wells, capacity wise, the ability to discharge there in a permitted fashion was done.

Chair Altman advised he is glad that this Item was pulled, because he thinks it is an opportunity to thank Mr. Fontanin and his department, and the County for their quick action and leadership to minimize to a very small amount that was discharged; other jurisdictions have not been so successful; the County knows, it had significant discharges in these type of events; he will not name any, because he is sure there were a lot of extenuating circumstances; but some of those discharges even led to State Legislation and increasing penalties, and it was good that he was on it. He added that also highlights the importance of those deep well injections, in

terms of emergency and flooding, et cetera; what was done is allowable under permitting, that is a process that is provided for, and there were no violations; and he asked if he is correct on that.

Mr. Fontanin replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Delaney inquired if it were treated before putting it into the deep injection well.

Mr. Fontanin responded it is brought through the process of the plant...

Chair Altman interrupted by asking Mr. Fontanin to speak a little louder.

Mr. Fontanin responded yes.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned that Mr. Fontanin said it had been brought through the process of the plant before it is discharged into the deep injection well.

Mr. Fontanin replied affirmatively.

Chair Altman stated in a real emergency, this has been talked about; he means, it goes to show the challenges that the Board has, this was a localized Countywide event, unlike a major hurricane or very wet tropical storm where the whole region has been impacted; he asked if there is ever an emergency scenario where the County would be allowed to deposit untreated; he asked what happens when the untreated refuge, because of flooding and sewage is overflowing; and if the County is allowed to put that in the deep well untreated, or is there a certain amount the County is allowed to do, better there than in the water bodies.

Mr. Fontanin responded when the period of time of the Governor giving a State of Emergency, the County gets a reprieve on the laws associated with that, because the State views it as such an extreme circumstance, that from a planning side, it cannot be achieved; they recognize that; but the County still reports it during that period.

F.7. Acknowledge, Re: Receipt of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast Bi-Annual Report

Sandra Sullivan stated Item F.7., is the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) bi-annual report; in the past, they have seen where there is the total report for the year as well, and she would have liked to have seen that; she asked what the \$1.4 million Brevard County grant is for; she does not see a dollar amount from Brevard County listed; she just wants to say that now that the Board has done away with the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), there still is the Economic Development Department, there is very good lobbyists that the County pays, and essentially it is doing this twice; salaries were like \$290,000 to this entity; she is just wondering what the value proposition is, she means recently they came with the study for the regional sewage plant, and so unrealistic in the cost to do it as well; and the location at Titusville-Cocoa Airport (TICO) cannot have a sewage plant put on it there, because sewage plants are a bird attractant, and destroys engines on aircraft. She mentioned that being like basic knowledge that they should have known; and as a County, it spent \$1.7 million, or approved \$1.71 million to second a study that was flawed to begin with.

Chair Altman inquired if anyone wants to respond to that to give a response, he does not have one, but why not get a response since the question was asked.

Edward Fontanin, Utility Services Director, asked what the question was.

Commissioner Feltner advised he could clarify it.

Commissioner Goodson remarked he could too. He stated the question he thinks was why pay for a study to put a regional sewer plant at TICO, when they should have known that birds flock to poop, and it ruins airplanes.

Ms. Sullivan inquired what is the \$1.4 million Brevard County grant and what is the value proposition of the Tourist Development Council (TDC) when the County has its own, not the TDC, but the EDC financial report; what is the benefit financially of going through and working with EDC when the County has its own department and lobbyists to do everything internally; and what is the \$1.4 million Brevard County grant that is in that document.

Kathy Wall, Central Services Director, responded the \$1.4 million grant is for the support that the EDC provides the County; it talks to businesses, recruits for businesses in Brevard County, supports local businesses in Brevard County, armed for recruiting and retaining businesses in Brevard County; in fact, this morning she was talking to a Houston group that has been in contact with the EDC, because they want to come to Brevard County, and talked to the EDC yesterday; and the EDC is very much involved in the retention and recruitment of businesses in Brevard County.

Chair Altman remarked he agrees with that; he thinks the other thing to take in consideration if the EDC was not providing those services, which are absolutely necessary if the County is going to be relevant and competitive, and bring in high-quality high-paying and big on return employment; the County would probably have to hire a lot of those staff member in-house; and it is not like the County is spending money that it would not necessarily have to spend.

Commissioner Delaney stated she thinks the question may have been about the \$1.4 million that had passed in the budget, and it is not an additional grant.

Ms. Wall stated that is correct; this is a grant that was passed in the Board's budget; and this has been a grant for several years now, it is not just the first time the grant had been put in the County's budget.

Mr. Fontanin stated he would like to elaborate a little more on the discussion.

Chair Altman asked if on the sewer plant issue; and if there is a sewer plant that almost abuts Melbourne Regional Airport and they seem to manage to operate that fine.

Mr. Fontanin responded there is a lot of effort going on simultaneously, not singular; with regard to the study, that is related to what staff is calling the regional, it is underway, and great progress is being made; the benefit of that study is going to not only solidify staff's decision making, but provide a document; because whether it is at the State or Federal level, they still want a level of due diligence of a third-party to provide that recommendation; as much as they want to believe in what he says, because he works for the County, is not sufficient; that due diligence is needed in order to go through that and staff is looking at multiple efforts; and Titusville is one of them, but it is not the solution or the approach yet. He added he has been in contact with the leadership at TICO Airport; the bird rule is not, as stated; Gainesville is another great example; and there has to be approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which staff has already gone through the first step of submitting that to the FAA for that consideration.

Chair Altman stated those were the two Items; there is a card on F.1., which is one of the Items pulled from Consent; he thinks the Board will hear that card when it has discussion on the F.1. Item; and now, he thinks it is fine that the Board have a motion in order for the rest of the

Consent Agenda.

Attorney Richardson responded affirmatively.

F.2. Acceptance, Re: Binding Development Plan with Aubri Williamson (24Z00052)

The Board executed Binding Development Plan Agreement with Aubri Williamson (24Z00052), for a parcel of land being north ½ of the west ½ of Lot 7, Block F, Map of replat of North Indialantic by The Sea, according to plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 9, Page(s) 70, of the Public Records of Brevard County, Florida.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Seconder: Katie Delaney

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

F.3. Final Plat and Contract Approval, Re: Banyan Point Developer: D R Horton, Inc.

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 Banyan Point – Developer D. R. Horton, Inc., subject to minor engineering changes as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all other necessary jurisdictional permits.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Seconder: Katie Delaney

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

F.4. Approval, Re: Payment of Emergency Invoices to Meeks Plumbing, Inc. for Assistance with the Pumping of Multiple Lift Stations in the Mims, Port St. John, and Sykes Creek Service Areas

The Board executed and approved the Purchase Order Change Request for payment to Meeks Plumbing, Inc. for the total cost of pumping and hauling for the lift station basins efforts in Mims for \$82,600, Port St. John for \$103,102.50, and Sykes Creek for \$74,340 for high water flows due to recent high rain events; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Seconder: Katie Delaney

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

F.5. Approval, Re: Payment of Emergency Invoice to Meeks Plumbing, Inc. for Assistance with Pumping of Lift Station J02 in the Port St. John Service Area

The Board executed and approved the Purchase Order Change Request for payment to Meeks Plumbing, Inc. for the total cost of their efforts assisting with pumping Lift Station J02 and a collapsed gravity main on Fay Boulevard, in the Port St. John Service Area, for \$131,290; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments.

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

F.7. Acknowledge, Re: Receipt of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast Bi-Annual Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast Bi-annual Financial Report detailing the use of the County's grant funds from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

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

F.8. Approval, Re: Group Health Insurance Stop Loss (Excess Insurance) placement CY2026

The Board approved the renewal of Stop Loss Insurance with Symetra Financial for the self-insured group health insurance program; and authorized Melissa Powers, Human Resources Director, to execute all documents, upon County Attorney's Office approval, necessary to bind this coverage effective January 1, 2026.

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

F.10. Appointment(s) / Reappointment(s)

The Board appointed/reappointed **Darleen Hunt** and **Dr. Richard Nederlander** to the Art in Public Places Advisory Committee, with said terms expiring December 31, 2027; **Teddy Chase** to the Board of Adjustment, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Bruce Moia** to the Building and Construction Advisory Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Dirk Von Holt** to the Citizen Budget Review Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Shalarie Highsmith** to the Community Action Board, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Brian Fleis** and **Albert Underwood** to the Contractor's Licensing Board, with terms expiring December 31, 2027; **Kelly Cover-Haugh, Gordon Mark, and Jeff Vayda** to the District 2 Canal Dredging Committee, with terms expiring December 31, 2029; **Josia Gattle** to the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, with term expiring December 31, 2026; **Janette Gianella** and **Kika Golan** to the Employee Benefits Insurance Advisory Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2026; **Stephen Simmons** and **Sara M. Wagner** to the Audit Committee, with terms expiring December 31, 2027; **Robert L. Socks** to the Investment Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Mark Broms** to the Brevard County Library System Advisory Board, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Kelly Cover-Haugh** and **John "Jay" Woltering** to the Marine Advisory Council, with terms expiring December 31, 2027; **Jessica Cassone-Devine** to the Personnel Council, with term expiring December 31, 2027; **Ron Bartcher, Henry Minneboo, Ana Saunders, and Robert Wise** to the Planning and Zoning Board, with terms expiring December 31, 2027; **Donn Mount** to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority, with term expiring December 15, 2028; **Martin Lamb** to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizens Advisory Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2027; and **Bill Vollmer** to the TPO Citizens Advisory Committee, with term expiring December 31, 2026.

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

F.13. Approval, Re: Bill Folder

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Bill Folder.

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

ITEM REMOVED FROM AGENDA

F.1. Approval, Re: Amending the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program to Provide a Minimum Cost-Share for Septic System Upgrades

Chair Altman asked if Commissioner Delaney wants to say a few things or invite up the public comment first.

Commissioner Delaney replied she was hopeful to have staff present; and she asked if that is all right or rather have the public.

Chair Altman responded it is up to her.

Commissioner Delaney remarked staff would be great.

Anthony Gubler, Natural Resources Management Environmental Specialist III, stated Item F.1., is requesting an immediate amendment to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) plan to increase the minimum cost-share for septic upgrades from \$0 to \$6,000, and allow for retroactive reimbursement for early adopters of these nitrogen reducing septic systems; and the Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) unanimously recommended this amendment for a one-year trial period, considering the changes to the regulatory environment that has significantly expanded the residents interest in this grant program.

Commissioner Delaney asked what does that look like for residents who have gone through this program that now possibly have access to more of a rebate.

Mr. Gubler replied terms for retroactive reimbursement were included on the Agenda Report; the Board in the past, whenever there has been a change to the funding amount available for the septic upgrade program, has allowed for retroactive reimbursements; and it is asked the owner show intent to have participated and have complied with the other needs of the program, which includes a 65 percent nitrogen reduction standard.

Commissioner Delaney inquired what the turnaround time would look like to receive the rebate once the owner puts in their application.

Mr. Gubler responded typically, concerning the application portion, staff typically turns that around in one day.

Commissioner Delaney remarked wow.

Mr. Gubler stated then the owner has to go through the construction process, which can take a few months; it depends on the market variables; and then reimbursement takes one week or two.

Commissioner Delaney stated that is great.

Sandra Sullivan asked if rather she come up and down for each consent item, can she just go through all of them.

Chair Altman advised for her to just sit in the front row.

Ms. Sullivan stated on F.1., she was at the SOIRL meeting when this was first discussed; she would like to say under the Consent Item there were no supporting documentation, generally a lack of transparency on this issue; at the SOIRL meeting the Board was generally, in favor of a motion for option two; however, the Director of Natural Resources Management pushed option three; and the Board changed its mind to that. She stated she wants to say that this item brings her heartburn, because she does not think that the SOIRL tax is going to renew next year; what the County has for dollars is what she thinks it is going to have for dollars; what this does is, it takes the paraded funding that prioritizes as it is right now, and priorities that money closest to the Lagoon; after all, what was voted for was cleaning up the Lagoon, not for septic systems anywhere in Brevard County being funded by the SOIRL tax; she is not in support of this; she thinks it is not what the voters voted for and she thinks there may even be a legal issue with that; and if the State is not providing grant funding, it is taking all of the SOIRL money to pay that \$24,000, or whatever it is, that amount of money that is going, and this is not what the voters intended when they voted for the SOIRL tax. She added, she thinks learning about this and learning that a septic system on the west side of I-95 is getting the same funding, as next to the Lagoon is going to tick off some people, it is a betrayal.

Chair Altman advised he thinks that is a valid point; he thinks there is truth on both sides; he does not agree with the term betrayal; he thinks there is reasonableness on both sides and it was a reasonable decision to try to solve a significant problem; but he thinks it is valid issue for debating discussion.

The Board approved a minimum cost-share for property owners within the Indian River Lagoon watershed who upgraded from a conventional septic system to a nitrogen reducing system that complies with House Bill 1379, which requires all existing septic within the watershed to be connected to sewer or upgraded by 2030; authorized this change to go into effect immediately and be incorporated into the 2026 Update of the SOIRL Project Plan, as recommended unanimously by the Citizen Oversight Committee; and approved retroactive reimbursements for early adopters of nitrogen reducing septic systems.

Result: Approved

Mover: Kim Adkinson

Second: Rob Feltner

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

F.6. Approval, Re: Adoption of State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Incentive Strategies Evaluation and Recommendations Report

Juanita Jackson, Housing and Human Services Director, stated Item F.6., is a request for the Board to approve the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) 2025-2026 Affordable Housing Committee Incentives Strategies Evaluations and Recommendations Report; approval of this report facilitates the continued receipt of SHIP funding from Florida Housing Finance Corporation, which this year is about \$2.4 million; the Brevard County Affordable Housing

Advisory Committee (AHAC) at a public hearing on November 20, 2025, reviewed and unanimously approved the incentives report; the report recommended for staff to coordinate with the relevant County departments to further evaluate the feasibility in the following focus areas: density flexibility, accessory dwelling units and tiny homes, land bank inventory, parking and setback, and reservation of County infrastructure; and this report does not change land density or land development regulations.

Chair Altman remarked he loves those tiny homes.

Commissioner Delaney stated she was wondering about the public participation with this; and she asked if she knew how many people participated, because usually she has how many comments received.

Ms. Jackson replied staff did not receive any comments from the public; a report was posted on the website and staff, actually discussed it at the AHAC in two meetings, and there was no public present at either meeting; it was addressed at length at two different meetings with AHAC, that members actually provided input; and that input was emailed and staff distributed it amongst all of the Committee members.

Commissioner Delaney suggested maybe staff could keep working on trying to solicit public input into these things; she stated she does not know if some different ideas could be brainstormed; she knows there are many groups around the County who are focused on this program; she would love to see a more robust public input put into this; and she is sure Ms. Jackson would, too.

Ms. Jackson stated absolutely.

Commissioner Delaney advised she would love to help or collaborate in any way to do that.

The Board approved the SHIP 2025-2026 Affordable Housing Committee Incentives Strategies Evaluation and Recommendations Report.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Secunder: Rob Feltner

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

F.9. Adoption, Re: Resolution and Amendment to Declaration of Restrictions on Property in County-Owned Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville

Sandra Sullivan stated first, she thinks people are seeing... She stated she is going to get to her comment in just a second, with these Consent Items is these are normally seen as Agenda Items, for things that are of this nature; and she would encourage the County to go back to that. She stated on the F.9. agreement on page two it says, prior to any such future sale or lease of the property, any such future buyer or lessee may demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the North Brevard Economic Development District that it has appropriate financial and risk management plan; North Brevard Economic Development District no longer exists, it has been terminated; and that should be removed from the legal language of the agreement prior to an execution of that. She added she did put a card in for F.5. and she spoke on F.4.; she just wants to say pertaining to that, that this is regarding another payment for emergency services to Meeks Plumbing, Inc.; there was \$74,000 in trucking sewage for Sykes Creek and Sykes Creek was at 140 percent capacity utilization; therefore, she does not see how the sewage could be taken there, and process it through that plant; by the way, Sykes Creek has been under consent orders for putting raw sewage down that deep injection well,

and polluting by the County, by the tests that were done by Jacobs, polluting the surface water, the surrounding water, and there are residents in that area that are on wells; and if surface water is being polluted, the County is potentially harming human health. She added by that statement that is where they trucked that sewage, so that is a concern.

Troy Post, CEcD, CBE, Planning and Development, stated this Item is a request that is coming from North American Properties, which is a real estate developer; two years ago, the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) board made a recommendation to the County Commission to sell property in the Spaceport Commerce Park (SCP) to the company, which had a plan to build a building on a spec basis that is without a tenant already signed up; they had two conditions that they suggested be added to the deed; and one, was a job creation requirement, and the other was the typical clawback that is used which is that they had to do site preparation activities within two years. He stated now two years later they have completed their site preparation activities; they have spent over \$3 million in hard and soft costs to do that, but they are running into what is being considered an unintended consequence with the second clawback, the one with the job creation, that is clouding the title, and making it difficult for them to find a lender to do the construction period of financing; the lenders feel that requirement reduces the pool of eligible candidates to lease the building; and they are coming today to request action to remove and amend that restriction.

Chair Altman added everyone was briefed on this issue; it is a good request; the County has lost some opportunity from an economic development point of view in the meantime; and he thinks it is a good request.

Mr. Post stated that is correct; he should have mentioned that the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) actually did an impact analysis to show the benefits of having this kind of a space available; a lot of deals are lost because there are no available industrial building space; and staff is also thinking that because of the size of the building they intend to build, which is about 100,000 square feet at SCP, will probably attract a tenant that will create a number of jobs, maybe 25, 50, or even 100.

Commissioner Delaney thanked Mr. Post for presenting that; she stated that she just wanted to bring some awareness to this Item; she considers it as a critical need in North Brevard, having buildings ready for businesses to come into the community; she expressed her thanks for developing that and going to the community; and stated she just wanted to highlight some good stuff going on in North Brevard.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 25-147, allowing for the amendment of the recorded Declaration of Restrictions for property owned by a related entity, North American Properties (NAP) Commerce A LLC, in the County-owned Spaceport Commerce Park, Titusville, to remove a requirement that a future tenant at the property create 50 jobs; authorized the Chair to sign the Amended Declaration of Restrictions; and authorized the County Manager to execute other documents in connection therewith, as approved by the County Attorney.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

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

F.11. Acceptance and Approval, Re: Internal Audit Reports and Internal Audit Plans

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wants to bring some sunshine onto this Item, because it has a bunch of the County's Audit Reports; she thinks this is something of high-public interest; and she asked if the County Manager would be willing to talk about some of the changes the

County is going through with its audit situation going forward.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, responded what the Board has in front of it, are the Audit Reports from the last calendar year; they first went through the Audit Committee, before being presented to the Board; he has to give hands-down props to the Audit Committee, they are an active group, they go through it, and they do ask some tough questions of the departments and of the auditors; and it is a good process. He stated in the reports there are three different Information Technology reports about its Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard Readiness, the External and Internal Penetration which is bad actors trying to get into the system, and the Library Firewall Implementation because it has its own network and staff had to test to make sure that is being protected; there is the Fiscal Year 2025 Half-Cent Sales Surtax for Save Our Indian River Lagoon report, which is done every year; the Solid Waste Management Capital Improvement Program funding; and he pointed out there was only one finding on that one and staff had had the corrections to the report, even before the Audit Committee saw it. He added, what is also attached is the Internal Audit Plans for two different organizations this year, they are transitioning from RSM and CRI which is private auditors for the Clerk of Courts office; RSM and CRI are going to be auditing Information Technology, the same thing, the penetration reports, making sure the firewall is up, how credit cards are handled, and the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) review, again this year because they have done it for a number of years; and the Clerk's Office is just getting started by the Office of Inspector General auditor who would be looking at purchase cards for a few of the departments, with the idea that they would transition to the full audit in Fiscal Year 2026-2027. He stated what the Board is being asked of is to acknowledge and approve all the audit reports and audit plans.

Commissioner Delaney stated in the meantime, if the Board decided it would like to have something audited, staff could bring that up to the Clerk at some point, or RSM, or...

Mr. Liesenfelt replied she would bring it to the Board and the Board would tell staff to instruct the Clerk's Office to do the audit.

Chair Altman stated they had talked about that in the past and he brought up concern that of using a government agency to provide services that are competitively selected; he felt that the Board should have competitively selected that; maybe when going into the budget cycle that is something the Board should look at; he believes in competition and pulling it in-house and hiring people without public notice and competition sort of violates that premise that he has; and there was some Board discussion about that.

Commissioner Delaney advised she would definitely be interested in that conversation.

The Board acknowledged and approved the Internal Auditors' Reports and the Internal Audit Plans.

Result: Approved

Mover: Katie Delaney

Second: Rob Feltner

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

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Keith Edwards stated he is proud of his First Amendment right, but with ladies present, he will keep his tongue as straight as possible out of due respect to them; he has rolled everything into his one public comment to not waste the Board's time; Parrish hospital is one star; when putting buildings over people's lives it is wrong; they are understaffed; the staff is great people; the

buildings are beautiful and the entire sixth floor has been empty; Veterans have been lost, which is ridiculous; Coach Greg went in, they gave him a few shots, and before he got home he got his toe tagged; people do not want to go to Parrish; and he personally has been there and has seen Parrish, along with the Veterans sitting in the hall for two days before getting a room. He mentioned seeing the beautiful hospital in Viera, it is fantastic, and he cried when Rockledge was lost because it was a great hospital, that was well staffed with good people; ladies want to go to Canaveral to have their children, nobody wants to go to Parrish; he lost his own daughter at Parrish; and he is speaking from the heart. He went on to say a bigger issue is development and the flooding in North Brevard, he does not know how many pieces of equipment there is up there to work on the flooding; his tax dollars have been going south; when Viera was a cow pasture, he helped build the courthouse; he sees the County seat is in Titusville and North Brevard being the pearl of Brevard; he has seen this place be developed and the County wanting to pull the County seat down here; and then there is talk about splitting the County, but God bless the Parrish's because it is known where the County is and know why. He advised the flooding is ridiculous; the systems of freshwater, sewer water, and stormwater are all undermined; they are outdated and the flood plan has not been updated since 1960, when it was written; he saw Stan Johnston, an excellent stormwater engineer, be disgraced and arrested for trying to bring attention to it, and get help; there is a lot of development coming and it is going to boom; if they are not prepared for it, they are going to be in worse shape; and he asked when those floodwaters come in, the septic tanks and drain fields quit working, and when the manholes overflow where does that sewer water go. He stated it goes in the ground table water and when it goes in the ground table water, its being drank; water flows downhill; he lives up north and if the infrastructure and all of this development ties-in to what there is now, there is not going to be any help, and it is going to be even worse; the tax dollars needs to come north; \$12 million for a parking lot, with people in North Brevard losing their homes and being homeless; people are bailing water; there is development with people turning a blind eye to it; it has to be built higher than the road level, because that makes all of the homes become retention ponds; and Royal Oak is going to be a perfect example.

Chair Altman advised he wanted to give him time to finish if he was in mid-thought.

Mr. Edwards concluded by saying North Brevard needs to have some real eyes up there and somebody that can handle it, and know what they are talking about; the equipment needs to be fixed; there is only three pieces up there, a Gradall, a Spider, and one other piece but he is at a loss right now; and they built this down here and every good deed goes to reserve.

Michael Bramson, Brevard County Firefighters Union, stated he came to the podium today to give some opinions on advice and direction; as the public safety challenges continue in Brevard County, from the many things that coincidentally were already discussed today; and he would like to bring some support towards the Commission on how it pursues for the future. He suggested engaging the public on what it feels healthcare should be, including pre-hospital; it is known that this Commission supports pre-hospital care and there was much time spent going back and forth over this last year to receive pre-hospital services, i.e. the Fire Rescue into a better place, moving forward to allow its services to get the citizens to the hospitals needed to get to; he encourages that they continue to move forward with public opinion on the needs of the County and the cities, being that this Board is in charge of the only emergent transport agency in Brevard County; as meetings continue like today, there is going to be incentive, taxes, fees, permits, zonings, committees, and boards throughout the next year; and he encourages for those to remain public and open. He continued to suggest as the Commissioners sit on the Board, the union supports the continued conversation on what is the standard of care, and what the services are; primarily moving into new structures, new hospital systems, new people, and emergent pediatric care that needs to be addressed like yesterday; 640,000 estimated people depending on Google and Artificial Intelligence (AI), or whatever is

being looked at, is the tenth largest by population county out of 67 counties in the State of Florida which is the third most populous state; and the biggest thing is geographic challenges cannot be measured to get people from where they are to where they need to be. He stated pediatric emerging care should be the hot topic; he is looking at a slide right now about student athletes and having Electrocardiographs (EKG) and Obstetrics (OB) in place; all these things are true, but there are certain levels of care in Brevard County; and there is nothing for them on the kids. He mentioned looking towards neighbors, what they are going through in Orange and St. Lucie counties if their videos of committee meetings were watched, for Brevard County to see the future of what its conversations will be; most importantly, look at the local talent when talking about pediatric care, there are pediatricians and people who create incentives, tax abatements, and create whatever the Board has the power to do to get those pediatric doctors into the community, and into the hospitals to render care; and he just wanted to bring that little direction to the Board. He advised why this is important to the firefighters is when he became a paramedic 20-something years ago, they always ask why the person wants to be a firefighter; he brings the Board an antidote on what is the most important part of the pediatric care; when becoming a firefighter paramedic and responding to a call, it is one of the few jobs that someone has a bad day, and a level-headed, competent, and loving mother will have their child incur an incident; they will call 9-1-1 and someone like he will show up; that rational women will hand a complete stranger her child and say, save the kid; when they get that child, the support services for getting that kid to definitive care because they drive pickup trucks with gear in it, is scarce and complicated; and emergent pediatric care should be the hot topic, along with everything else that has been discussed.

Chair Altman stated he thinks George Mikitarian said the same thing that shows there is a problem.

Mr. Bramson stated absolutely.

Sandra Sullivan stated she is one of Santa's helpers.

Chair Altman asked if she is going to be jolly.

Ms. Sullivan replied she is going to be very jolly.

Chair Altman stated good.

Ms. Sullivan stated Santa is making a list and checking it twice, going to find out who is naughty and nice, Santa Claus is coming to town; and she mentioned she cannot sing, Ho! Ho! Ho! She went on to say she has the top ranked naughty list for the year; naughty for giving \$1.7 million to Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Florida's Space Coast for Space Florida sewage plant study when the Board thinks it needs more handouts than the firefighters; naughty because the Board changed the EDC's tax abatement referendum after it passed to 20 years for data centers, which she does not think is legal; naughty for not prioritizing funding the firefighters for two years and creating a public crisis that endangered and cost lives; naughty for raising property taxes again, while refusing to update developer impact fees that have not been updated in 25 years; and maybe the Board could use coal to power a common sense study on how infrastructure is paid without busting the tax cap. She continued to say naughty for doubling and tripling density on the Barrier Island when there is a critical evacuation deficiency of 61 hours in a category five and change the level of service to a variable for the developers, this will cost lives no matter what; naughty with all of the people flooded by rain in Brevard, the Board removed the density limitation on the floodplain, which will cause much more flooding and more lost homes; and the coal she is showing is because the Board does not care about the people. She continued on by saying naughty, \$885 million Lagoon tax where muck dredging, grass clipping, marketing, and et cetera is not legal under the

infrastructure surtax; meanwhile, the Board ignores real infrastructure needs in Brevard, as the County pumps millions of sewage into it, and without reporting it; naughty, the Board tried giving away \$7.2 million to Melbourne for Sarno land, and knowing it would cost the taxpayers hundreds of million dollars more for muck dredging because the Board absolutely has no shame; naughty, the Board wants to give \$12.1 million for a 548-space parking garage for a developers hotel, which is supposed to be a 300-space parking garage 90 percent for the people; and Santa said, the coal is because the Board is bad for prioritizing profit over public need. She stated Merry Christmas and may the Board use those gifts to light a much-needed fire in it to represent the people in 2026; and naughty because of doing what the lobbyists want when the Board should be making decision for the people. She added for the Board to stop listening to the lobbyists because they do not control the Board and it should be doing what is best for the people.

The Board recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

H.1. Adoption of Resolution, Re: Petition to Vacate a Portion of a Public Utility and Drainage Easement - Plat of "Colony Park", Plat Book 18, Page 60 - Merritt Island - Sherry and Sean O'Brien

Chair Altman called for a public hearing on a petition to vacate a portion of a public utility and drainage easement for Plat of "Colony Park", Plat Book 18, Page 60, Merritt Island, as petitioned by Sherry and Sean O'Brien.

There being no objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-148, vacating a portion of a public utility and drainage easement, Plat of "Colony Park", Merritt Island, lying in Section 22, Township 23 South, Range 36 East, as petitioned by Sherry and Sean O'Brien.

Result: Adopted

Mover: Tom Goodson

Second: Katie Delaney

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

I.1. Approval, Re: The City of Melbourne's Request to Revise and Restate the Interlocal Agreement Governing the Olde Eau Gallie Riverfront Community Redevelopment Agency

Kathy Wall, Central Services Director, stated this is a request for the Board to review the City of Melbourne's request to revise and restate the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the County, the City, and the Olde Eau Gallie Riverfront Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and approve as submitted by the City of Melbourne or make revisions and authorize the Chair to execute the revised and restated ILA; and she pointed out with the sunset of this CRA, five years earlier, the County will save approximately \$1.8 million in General Fund.

Commissioner Delaney asked for the changes to be read aloud for the public to know what the changes are, what is actually being voted on today, and what it is.

Ms. Wall responded there are some redline revisions that were not captured, which shows from the 2038 to the 2033; they have committed to not increasing the debt service limit that was in the 2021 Resolution of \$6.835 million, and they are not going to change that; there was a typographical error in reference to Section 9(a) to 9(b); the uniformity of language that has been added regarding the parking rates that the Board asked for; and to provide all the notice requirements.

Commissioner Delaney asked about the years that the public can have free parking; and also,

tell the Board how much of its General Funds is being put into the CRA.

Ms. Wall replied they have committed to the first 15 years of free public parking for the 270 spaces; also, in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the County is contributing \$346,536 of General Fund money to the CRA; they are contributing over 71 percent; the County is a minor part of that at 29 percent of what goes into that CRA; and the lion's share is from the City of Melbourne.

Commissioner Delaney asked if it would be fair to say that it would be about that amount for the next 'x amount of years'.

Ms. Wall responded it could be, but the only caveat that she would have to say is, the growth in that area as the property values grow, that money will continue to grow; and if the property taxes continue to decline, it could be that way.

Chair Altman passed the gavel to Vice Chair Adkinson.

Jenni Lamb, City of Melbourne City Manager, expressed her thanks for the opportunity to negotiate with County staff for this ILA; she stated the ILA as a whole helps realize the goal of the CRA; right now the goal, not right now, but as was in the 2021 ILA, the goal of the CRA is for additional parking, and in the form of a parking garage; the version presented in the Agenda package addresses the concerns brought up by both the Commissioners at previous meetings and of County staff; the City attorney will speak later and he can address the finer points of that ILA; but what she wanted to do today was to address some of the information that is out there in the public social media and such. She clarified that this revised ILA allows for either the City/CRA to build the garage on its own, or for the City/CRA to enter into a public/private partnership, it allows the option; and if something falls through with the public/private partnership the City Council has authorized staff to negotiate a public/private partnership, but if something were to fall through, the City would come in and build the garage because it knows they need 273 parking spots for downtown Eau Gallie. She stated an independent analysis was performed and it determined the cost to construct a 300-space garage is approximately \$10.5 million; there seems to be concern about the \$10.5 million and the \$12 million; the difference in those, as spelled out in the ILA is for ancillary costs, including legal costs, professional engineering design, consulting costs, engineering, inspection, management costs, the bonds, and so forth that gets to the \$12.075 million; and an independent analysis was also performed to determine what it would cost to build a 542 to 548-space parking garage and the construction cost alone would be \$20.25 million. She mentioned the reason she is giving the Board these costs today is to show the CRA is not funding any additional parking that would be needed for the development; the revised ILA would be used only towards the capital contribution and those ancillary costs, and the debt service for the 300 parking spaces; the City appreciates the Board's consideration; and she is available for any questions.

Derek Gores stated he is an artist and a business owner in Eau Gallie, he has an art gallery and a cool gift shop with lots of local flavor in it, and has an indoor mini golf in the gallery; he loves Eau Gallie; he first took arts classes there, when his folks moved them down from Massachusetts when he was 10-years-old in 1980, 1981; and Eau Gallie is so important to the County, it is essential as that place of expression. He mentioned the Board may know of his smart friends Jacie and Jimmy Stivers, she described Eau Gallie once as the soul of the County and other parts of town might have more of this or that, but in Eau Gallie when leading with art, it is a place where people can express themselves, make things, learn more about the community, connect with people, and is a great place for mental health expression; through his art career, he has been able to travel the world a bit and see how good towns are done, see what they have in common; Eau Gallie has an opportunity to be walkable, there are not that many places in the County that has that, and he has learned and been able to see what makes a place walkable; for 17 years, he has been involved with Eau Gallie, and been on an Eau

Gallie board for a bunch of that; and he chaired a board for a couple of years, and did his best wrangling the cats during those years. He stated he has become to be grateful that the CRA for Eau Gallie was not formed at an opportune tax time; there was not a lot of money to work with from the City and the reason he is thankful for that is it put it all on the shoulders of each business owner, each artist, and each musician to build the buzz themselves, and connect with people one moment at a time without fancy curbs some of the time, and without signs and all of that; he thinks that has given the great result of it being about the character, connections, and the personalities of the community; initially, it was just the artists expressing themselves, but now more and more of the public is starting to see the engagement and bringing that energy of one event, one mural, and one happening at a time; with all of that buzz it was known that it would progress to this moment now; and the number one need and request heard is the number one pain points for businesses is parking. He added, the businesses are grateful that it attracted the right folks and that the County and the City has been creative and expressed their own art of negotiation to work on this parking garage plan; they are excited to have it and it is needed; and he may park on the top floor every time, just to get a better view and to remind himself of the path.

Jackie Haywood stated she has been a Brevard County resident for the past 30 years and she has seen the growth and development of the Eau Gallie Arts District, the closing of businesses and the birth of new businesses; she feels that this parking garage is needed in that area to help with the continued growth for the community; being able to find parking is essential; she is coming to the Board as a mother, a shopper, a passenger in a vehicle when her husband is driving around three or four times, and he is like okay, he is done, and they are leaving because there is no place to park; the parking just alleviates the stress and she thinks it will have an opportunity to open families to making more memories downtown with the events that they have, the lighting of the tree, the walking around for the murals to see all of the different murals that the artist have done, the trick-or-treating events, and so many other events that people are not aware of because they just do not think about going there; and she thinks allowing for the garage will open up, not just for more businesses to be prosperous, but just for people to open up their eyes to see what is actually down there thriving in the community because there is just so much down there with the shops, restaurants, and the artists. She stated if the Board has not taken the time to go down there to see how much it has changed in the past 30 years because she has seen so many different things; there is foot traffic that needs to be available; the only way to be available for foot traffic for families is to have parking; there is so much that this community offers, but if not allowing for simple things like that; when going to the big cities and go to events, they know that they are paying for parking there which takes away the stress of the beginning of where does their adventure start; and knowing they could have that there in her hometown, is just other people coming in and being able to experience that, she thinks is a win for everybody.

Anouck Jourdaa stated she was here on December 2 and she wants to echo what the people previously said, and echo the voices of the artists who have already been interacting and working with the Brevard Cultural Alliance; she had the joy of meeting several artists who grew up in Eau Gallie, who went to Eau Gallie elementary school, and who want the best for this district; they emphasize the fact that parking and walking around is immensely important; also restoring the flow of the Eau Gallie Arts District going through the Foosaner Art Museum, that the development of the parking is also connected to building the hotel; and she thinks that the parking and the hotel will add to the flow needing to be restored, which was left vacant by the Foosaner. She added, there are great visions for the hotel and the parking; once there is foot traffic and a hotel created that creates an art vision for the whole district, then suddenly everything falls into place; she pictures that hotel almost like an art landmark in the middle of Eau Gallie and having artists in residence and curated shows like the Aqua Hotel in Miami where there is an art week that maybe sponsors art festivals; there are no limits once this is put in place; there is urgency, because she thinks Eau Gallie is kind of missing it; and it has been

missing it since the Foosaner was closed.

Julie Kennedy, City of Melbourne Vice Mayor, stated she is present to just express and to reiterate what has been said before the Board; this parking garage is going to be a game changer for downtown Eau Gallie; she frequents downtown Eau Gallie and sometimes she takes an Uber there, because there is no place to park; if she had a place to park, she would go there more often; she thinks with bringing more people downtown, it would bring more businesses to the area which would then increase the tax base that would get the County more money; that is what everyone wants is more money to balance their budgets, put more money towards roads, and putting more money into fixing the flooding problems and other things; but she thinks this is a way to bring more people, more businesses, increase that tax base, and be a benefit for the entire County, as well as downtown Eau Gallie. She asked the Board to support this project.

Sandra Sullivan stated one of the biggest things she has about this, is the lack of transparency; before starting she just wanted to applaud Mr. Gores' friends for coming up to speak; this is like classic, right out of the playbook of boot Barker; at the last meeting the agreement is for 300 parking spaces, per the 2021 agreement, but they were just wanting to secure just say 270 parking spaces; somebody said how many spaces is there going to be, they do not know, bologna, it is right on their website; so she went to their minutes from the meeting and the documents, and they are building a six-story not a three-story 548-parking space garage; when going there, they do not have an agreement in place yet on a public partnership; and in fact, the grant CRA application is actually for the hotel and the parking garage, which is interesting. She went on saying the County just got burned with \$2.7 million on the Titusville Hall of Fame, by entering into agreements when there was not even a design done; of this \$10.3 million for construction, the rest is to design it on the CRA; and if the Board wants to talk about saving money because it has an infrastructure crisis, it could take that money that would go to this CRA, \$12.1 million, plus there is money in there, the Board could take that and reallocate that, and close the CRA today. She reiterated if the Board wants to save money, close the CRA today; she stated the County has three CRAs that have no debt that can be closed today; the Board closed NBEDZ that is essentially a CRA and it talked about what the future amount is; property taxes are going up, the assessments are going up, and just this year they got over a 13 percent increase in CRA monies; and the applicant applied for financial assistance for the proposed 160-room full-service hotel and adjacent 542 space joint use parking facility in the Eau Gallie area of Melbourne, Florida. She remarked the lack of transparency stinks that comes out of this Commission and the statement of what has been redlined here is just deplorable; it has no shame about being honest about what the deal in place is; and it is just deplorable.

Jennifer Dustin stated she is coming to the Board as a resident of Brevard County, Melbourne; she loves being able to go out and do things in the County and do things in her neighborhood; one of the reasons that she loves being in Melbourne is there are lovely things to do; it has beautiful weather and can walk around; as Mr. Gores was saying, she has also lived abroad for many years, in different towns and cities where it is nice to walk around; Eau Gallie has unique potential to be an amazing walkable area for them; when the hotel is built and there are places for people to park, visitors would be brought there who are going to spend their hard-earned money; the people who live there who are thriving with their own businesses in Eau Gallie and around will spend their money; all of that money would trickle-down; and there has to have people to be able to shop in their neighborhoods and being able to have their businesses thrive to support the locals that need different services and infrastructure, all of it rolls. She stated with regards to having the parking garage, she can also speak to the Board as an Eau Gallie Rotary Club member; one of the Rotary's events that it has every year is the Rocky Water Brew Fest; the Rocky Water Brew Fest brings in brewers from all over State; it brings in about 4,000 to 5,000 people to come and participate in the event; all of the money made at that event goes

to local charities, 100 percent of the net proceeds; that event alone has people coming in who do not have places to park; and the people who are coming in the night before for the party, even the sponsors that are trying to be recruited, sometimes have to leave because they do not have anywhere to park, they are discouraged from supporting it the next year, it would be an awful shame for people to lose events such as that, and other events that could be had in Eau Gallie and around because of the lack of parking. She stated she knows there are a lot of people who want the money to go to other places and those are valid concerns, but the Board well understands that all of the money that it spends supporting people to make more money trickles down and more money is able to be spent to support all of the needs; everything cannot all be done at once; this is one thing that is an immediate need now, as the Board has seen from the businesses that are requiring it to stay open; and for the people to have a place to go and a place to enjoy the City that they love spending time in.

Sean Paul Reyes stated he is an investigative journalist and activist, and founder of Long Island Audit, Inc.; if the residents want a parking garage, that is fine, and he just thinks the way it is going about and the details of it is a little murky, especially hearing them talking about not wanting to do 50 years because the Board wanted 50 years, and now they are offering 15 years; and he is going to get right into it. He advised he is present today to raise serious concerns regarding the proposed hotel and parking garage project, a joint project between the City of Melbourne and Brevard County, and the broader issues of transparency, ethics, and public trust; he has brought this matter up several times during the City of Melbourne's council meetings and to the council directly, who is present today and sitting right behind him; they have largely ignored his concerns; he wants to be clear at the outset, this is not about personalities, it is about accountability, ethical governance, and the appearance of impropriety when public authority intersects with private interests; the public record reflects a close personal relationship between Paul Alfrey, City of Melbourne Mayor, and the project developer, Larry Jarnes, who he believes is also here; and he thinks it is interesting that everybody who supported the project happens to be sitting next to Mr. Jarnes, and he wonders why. He continues to say that relationship has included shared travel between Mr. Jarnes and Mayor Alfrey, business promotion...

Chair Altman interrupted by saying nobody is sitting next to Mr. Jarnes, he is sitting there by himself.

Mr. Reyes remarked in the vicinity.

Chair Altman stated so that is guilt by association; and he asked if that is how he thinks.

Mr. Reyes responded no, he is pointing out things.

Chair Altman continued to say attacking people and their relationship.

Mr. Reyes remarked no, no, no, this is his public speaking time; and he asked if the Chair can be quiet.

Chair Altman replied no, he is not being quiet.

Mr. Reyes reiterated can he be quiet; and this is my public speaking time.

Vice Chair Adkinson passed the gavel back to Chair Altman.

Chair Altman stated the Vice Chair gave him the floor.

Commissioner Delaney remarked Point of Order.

Mr. Reyes stated okay, this is my public time.

Commissioner Delaney remarked Point of Order.

Chair Altman stated he just wanted to point out a fact that is misrepresented.

Commissioner Delaney reiterated Point of Order.

Mr. Reyes blurted out if he wanted to be an attorney; he would get to that later...

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wanted to say the Board has to be careful here; she understands the Board does not want public attacks and things like that; but it is opening itself into a lawsuit here.

Mr. Reyes asked if they have ever heard of the First Amendment.

Chair Altman stated he is just asking...

Mr. Reyes interrupted by saying the Chair earlier told somebody, "Oh, do not direct anybody directly."

Chair Altman advised that he has the floor.

Mr. Reyes stated he said that before.

Chair Altman reiterated that he has the floor.

Mr. Reyes referred to this being his time.

Chair Altman advised that he just wants him to be factual.

Mr. Reyes stated this is his time; Chair Altman needs to be factual on the First Amendment; and there is freedom of speech in this country.

Chair Altman stated he welcomes him challenging facts; and to not interrupt him. He stressed to not interrupt him.

Mr. Reyes pointed out he is interrupting him.

Chair Altman advised he has a right to do that because he is the Chair.

Mr. Reyes stated so, go ahead and keep talking.

Chair Altman stated proceed.

Mr. Reyes stated now, he lost his whole train of thought; regardless of intent, these facts alone create the relationship between Mr. Jarnes; he thinks maybe the Chair should be looked into; regardless of intent, these facts alone create a reasonable perception of preferential treatment in a project involving public approvals, and public resources; what deepens that concern is despite the relationship, Mayor Alfrey has repeatedly voted, and signed on governmental actions directly affecting Mr. Jarnes interest, including but not limited, to zoning decisions, and contracts tied to this very project; ethical standards exists for precisely these situations; recusal is not an admission of guilt, it is a safeguard meant to protect the public confidence; and when recusal does not occur, the integrity of the process itself is put at risk. He went on to say this

project is not isolated it appears connected to a broader pattern that warrants scrutiny; based on the facts and records he reviewed, it appears Mayor Alfrey is engaged in criminal activity; he understands that these matters related to this conduct are currently under the review by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; he is stating facts, that taken together raise legitimate concerns about overlapping personal relationships, public roles, and financial benefit; and for example, the Mayor's private roofing company received fully-funded payments...

Chair Altman apologized but...

Mr. Reyes continued to say through Habitat for Humanity, an organization...

Chair Altman stated the Board...

Mr. Reyes continued saying whose local director, Anna Terry, is publicly documented as being friends with Mr. Jarnes wife, Jeanette Jarnes...

Chair Altman stated he is going to ask...

Mr. Reyes continued saying when public officials participate in decision making... He remarked excuse him, he is talking, Chair, in decision affecting close associates, while their private businesses receive public or Federally funded work through overlapping social networks, the public is entitled to question whether ethical boundaries are being respected; and because of this pattern, he wants to be transparent himself.

Chair Altman advised his time is up.

Mr. Reyes indicated no, it is not, and stop interrupting him.

Chair Altman requested he is going to ask for him be removed from the podium.

Mr. Reyes revealed he is not skeptical of not only the relationship between Mr. Jarens and the Mayor, but also, whether similar personal relationships and business relationships exist between each one on the Board; it is not an accusation, it is a statement of civic responsibility; scrutiny is how public trust is preserved; the people expect more than technical compliance with ethics rules, they expect leadership that is cautious, proactive, and protective of public trust; when officials fail to recuse themselves where ethical standards clearly call for it, the burden shifts to the public to demand transparency; he respectfully urges this Board to ensure that all actions related to this project, past, present, and future, are handled with full disclosure, documented independence, and a commitment to restoring public confidence; and development should not come at the expense of integrity. He stated he will be emailing the Board with all of the evidence that he has uncovered during his investigation; he will be following this matter closely; and he hopes the Board strongly investigates and reconsiders this project in its current form. He remarked he prefers the 50 years.

Chair Altman stated he challenges Mr. Reyes to one thing, whenever all of these allegations are proven false and all of the individuals are exonerated, he challenges him to come back here and admit that he was wrong.

Mr. Reyes asked what allegations are false.

Chair Altman remarked he is talking about when they are.

Mr. Reyes asked how he would know.

Chair Altman stated and then if they are true...

Mr. Reyes asked if he had investigated the allegations; and the Chair is coming from a position of bias.

Chair Altman stated he assumes Mr. Reyes is not willing to accept that challenge.

Mr. Reyes reiterated has the Chair investigated the allegations.

Chair Altman stated he...

Mr. Reyes interrupted by saying has he or not.

Chair Altman remarked if they were true, they would find out.

Mr. Reyes inquired if this body has investigated the allegations; and stated the Chair's bias is clear.

Chair Altman remarked it is obvious Mr. Reyes is not accepting that challenge.

Adam Conley, City of Melbourne City Attorney, expressed his thanks to the Board for giving staff direction to further the negotiations with the City staff at its December meeting; he expressed his thanks for Morris Richardson, County Attorney, Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, and Kathy Wall, Central Services Director, for actively engaging with the City on those additional negotiations; he stated the version of the revised and restated interlocal agreement that the Board has before it today reflects those further negotiations; he believes this version captures all of the minimum requirements that were part of this Board's December 2 motion, together with County staff's requested additional items from those negotiations over the past week and a half to reincorporate the debt ceiling maximum, as well as further bolster the language about uniformity in parking rates and time frames, as requested by County staff; and beyond that he will reiterate some of the points that Ms. Lamb made. He advised the \$10.5 to \$12.075 million represents the CRAs and the City's contribution to either a capital project on the City and the CRAs own, for approximately 300 parking spaces, or also the potential for a larger shared parking garage project through a public/private partnership; while City council has heard an unsolicited P3 proposal and has given staff direction to further negotiation on that, nothing is final yet; and both options are still available and feasible for the City. He stated the \$12.075 million represents what would be the City's contribution to the project; it does not represent the County's investment or opportunity cost in the underlying project; per Ms. Wall, the County's opportunity cost and investment in the CRA funds is somewhere around 30 percent of the overall project funds; additionally, he will correct any statements about CRA funds going to subsidize the hotel project; as this interlocal states, the only allowable expenditures is for capital, ancillary, and debt service costs for the parking garage project; and the City is well aware that it cannot use CRA funds for economic incentives for any P3 hotel project, and that any of those economic incentives would come from the City directly and not from the CRA. He advised he would answer any question the Board may have.

Vice Chair Adkinson stated in the actual agreement, it says, at the conclusion of the 10-year term described above, the City shall not be restricted in the use of revenue from paid public parking spaces of the parking garage project; and she asked for an explanation of what that statement means.

Mr. Conley replied in the previous negotiations, there were a back and forth on the time frame of free parking and a time frame for cost restricted parking; the 10-year time frame that is referenced in section 9(d) goes back to language in section 9(c), talking about how for that

10-year time frame, the City is agreeing to set parking rates at an annual amount that will, and for the estimated is to capture the capital maintenance reserves and annual maintenance costs that are associated with the parking garage project; section 9(d), saying after that 10-year term is over, that underlying requirement goes away; and the City will be able to set rates and use that parking revenue for the purposes that City council sees fit.

Vice Chair Adkinson stated after these 10 years, the City council...

Mr. Conley advised technically, it is after 25, because the first 15 years is the free period; but yes, after that 25-year period, then it is giving a future City council freedom to...

Vice Chair Adkinson remarked to do whatever they want.

Mr. Conley replied correct.

Chair Altman stated he has question related to that question and that is after 10 years, but if both parties agreed that could be changed in the future; and he asked if that is true.

Mr. Conley responded the interlocal agreement is certainly subject to amendment in the future.

Chair Altman stated it could be approved, it could be adjusted, and it could be changed in the future; and what the County is trying to get is an agreement so this project can proceed.

Mr. Conley mentioned in the version the Board has before it was approved by both, the CRA and the City at its December 9 meeting.

Chair Altman inquired if Mr. Conley is an attorney.

Mr. Conley replied yes.

Chair Altman asked if he sees anything that is being illegally done here.

Mr. Conley responded individual ethics issues of individual elected officials is not really within his purview; to date, the City has gone through its public/private partnership process, pursuant to Florida Statue, and its own ordinances for application, consideration, and the review process so far; he stated it has not been finalized yet; and each individual, both Commissioner and council member needs to consider financial conflicts of interest and other things, and decide whether or not it is appropriate for them to vote.

Chair Altman stated his question was the agreement, the legal documents that Mr. Conley reviewed and sees no problem with it.

Mr. Conley apologized; and he asked if he is referring to this interlocal agreement.

Chair Altman responded yes.

Mr. Conley advised with regards to this interlocal agreement, they have been at council meetings and Commission meetings to negotiate; had those discussions and negotiations with County staff; the City is present today for review; he thinks this version is in the best interest of all the interested parties; and he certainly recommends approval of it.

Marcus Smith, City of Melbourne Councilman, stated he wanted to touch on something a little bit different; he is retired military and he arrived in Brevard County in 2010, and when he retired, there was an opportunity to leave and go to another city; there is a reason why he

chose to stay here and why he decided to run for office; he saw the potential and he saw the quality of life; as he thinks about this parking garage and the opportunity that there is here to create and hear all of the different comments made; he loved what Mr. Gores had to say and the other artists; and being in the military, he has lived in several cities, seen several cities, and there is an opportunity right now to show that the Eau Gallie Arts District in Melbourne can be a shining star and create a type of quality of life. He pointed out that CRAs work when properly managed and executed; the primary objective of CRA and this CRA, is to eliminate blight, stimulate economic growth, and improve living conditions in target areas; that is exactly what is being talked about here, with the parking garage and hotel that could be built here; just the type of catalyst of energy that it brings, is going to be hard to sort of capture; sometimes when having these moments in life that are considered with all of the factors that are involved; there has been a lot of negotiations, back and forth; and he loves what the City attorney just stated, that they are looking at an agreement here, that could be a win-win for both sides. He recommended for all of the Board to support this initiative; as they continue to move forward they can look back from this moment and say look at what they have done, look at what they have accomplished, and now, the Eau Gallie Arts District and all of the tension and energy that was there before; and look at what has come and what has been done now.

Chair Altman stated Carl Kaiserman left early and his issue was resolved.

Mark LaRusso stated he is present to back clean up a little bit here; the Chair mentioned Melbourne International Airport, it is Melbourne Orlando International Airport; there are tens of thousands of jobs that are coming into that area; he is the vice chairman of that board; he sees what is in front of them and he sees what has happened over his shoulders; he knows that they are just bound to great things there; when he says that, he means that they are going to get an influx of engineers, professionals, and very high-grade type of professionals who are going to seek out places like Eau Gallie and places throughout the whole County; he does not see this as giving something to somebody, he sees it as giving back to the constituency; and this is what they have worked for and this is how hard they had worked. He mentioned he has represented this district from 2004 to 2012, he was convinced to come back again in 2018, and he is glad that he did because he gets to talk about representing Eau Gallie those whole times; his district goes over to the beachside and all of the property that is within the Melbourne border, over beachside 6,000 strong; where do they go, they go to Eau Gallie, it is just a standard of life; either there or the bunkies next door, he means either one of the two; all he is asking, is to keep in mind for the future that this agreement can be negotiated anytime, anywhere, with any amendment positive or negative, whatever is looked to see happen; and he asked the Board to consider passing this and consider allowing the folks in Eau Gallie to shine, as they have been trying to. He added Mr. Gores is here and he spoke eloquently about it; he is a fantastic artist, he is sure the Board has seen him, he is world-renowned; he puts on an art camp every year that is sold out for the summer months ahead of time; his two grandchildren attend it, they wait in line, and they are put on the wait list; he also offers scholarships to the less fortunate as well; that is kind of the core of people who are in downtown Eau Gallie; that is the kind of the core that has grown this CRA, this hometown, and this Americana; there was a tree lighting event Friday, December 5 and there were thousands of people there, children, families, and elderly; and he has five seconds left, if the Board has any additional questions or concerns, to reach out, and ask.

Commissioner Delaney stated she was wondering how much has Brevard County put into the CRA, since this agreement.

Ms. Wall inquired since this agreement.

Commissioner Delaney replied since the parking garage became the last project and that was all the County were funding.

Ms. Wall responded that she has through 2023 and the County put in \$1.2 million; a total of \$3.9 million has been allocated to the CRA fund; and approximately a little less than 31 percent has come from the City.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned she was just wondering how many dollars, as a County, it has put into this project is what she is trying to figure out; and she inquired if she has that number.

Ms. Wall replied all that she has is through 2023, that the County put in \$1.2 million into the fund.

Commissioner Delaney stated with that, she would assume, and she asked since what year that was.

Ms. Wall responded that is 2022-2023, what the County allocated by December 31, 2022, and that is how much it has put in \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Delaney stated if she could, she would like to propose something because she has a lot of concerns about this, and she would like to be able to vote for it; what she would like to propose is this \$1.8 million approximately that the County is saving from ending the CRA early, is she would like to see if she could get any support to allocate \$1 million of that towards North Brevard stormwater projects, and \$800,000 of that towards North Merritt Island stormwater projects; not all at once, but as that money comes in, they can make this project about the whole County; and with that, she would feel comfortable voting for this.

Chair Altman inquired if that is legal to take money out of a Community Redevelopment Agency; and he means, this is money that was created because of the CRA that the County created.

Commissioner Delaney stated she is not advocating taking the money out; and she is saying the years the County would be contributing, that it is now going early, and that money stays earmarked for stormwater projects in North Brevard and North Merritt Island.

Chair Altman advised he thinks the County would have to wait until this ran its course; but if she wanted to make a motion...

Commissioner Delaney asked if that would be something, the Board could do.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, responded not directly, there would be a number of steps that would be required; obviously, it contravenes the existing Interlocal Agreement between this Board and the City of Melbourne, that would have to be addressed; plus, the Board is not currently operating as the CRA and it does not have authority to make that decision at the moment; conceivably there are actions the Board could take that could possibly get there; but it would have to be looked at.

Commissioner Delaney asked if would be amendable to make a motion, to approve this with the caveat of working towards earmarking those dollars, and is that something the Board could do.

Commissioner Feltner inquired if a future Board could be bound 13 years into the future as Attorney Richardson explained, with what it would do, and with what will become General Fund at that time.

Attorney Richardson responded not by that mechanism, no; and he stated it would have to be

through the normal budget process.

Commissioner Feltner stated he would say to Commissioner Delaney, that he would work with her for a finding; he believes he mentioned this once before that there are future stormwater projects that can be done in North Brevard through SOIRL; SOIRL has the stated goal, keep stormwater out of the Lagoon, and that is a good thing; it also benefits and it prevents flooding in certain areas, and that is a win-win for everybody; he thinks those things are in her future, but there are no projects today; he is willing to work with her toward that goal because he does not see any sort of conflict; and he thinks that is what SOIRL is there to do, it is just those projects are not there today.

Commissioner Delaney asked if he is talking about the possibility of the current Board looking at the current plan and those dollars that they have now.

Commissioner Feltner responded he would do that with her; he has talked to staff in Natural Resources Management and have asked this question before; there are dollars in the bank today that just do not have a project attached to it; he does not think it is in conflict with the plan; it just has not been identified; he has already kind of laid the path for her; and he thinks they just need to move on to the next step of it.

Commissioner Goodson asked for Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, to come forward. He advised Commissioner Delaney, stay out of District 2, and take care of her own problems; and he wants her to listen to this so she gets it one time. He asked Mr. Bernath to tell the Board that a \$300,000 study on North Merritt Island trying to understand the flooding, and trying to get the residents to understand; out of that study, it was found that over time, and he means 40 years ago, it is a bowl; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was even asked to let the County put water in their ditch, and it will not allow that; Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) was asked to allow the County an outflow into the Indian River, they will not allow that; and if something is going to be done in North Merritt Island, explain what he would do, and how much money would be needed.

Mr. Bernath stated he believes Commissioner Goodson is specifically referring to the Broad Acres Study done last year.

Commissioner Goodson stated affirmatively.

Mr. Bernath advised that was identified to be about \$20 million to address that one street and the County would be nominally, actually resolving the street flooding, but really the properties themselves are the issue; as Commissioner Goodson had just laid out, staff has spoken with NASA, but there is significant hesitation with them opening up their property for staff to look at, possibly lessening that cost and where to put that water; and he mentioned that he is not necessarily prepared to go down the list today, but he is working with Natural Resources Management and Planning and Development, as well as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to prepare a brief for the Board to discuss drainage on January 22. He added, what frequently comes up in these meetings is the backlog and right now staff is finalizing that; he believes with inflation, they are looking at about \$2.4 billion; he noted, he thinks it has been misunderstood, that includes other infrastructure and not just transportation; about \$500 million of it is identified projects; he cannot sit here and say there is nothing else on Merritt Island the County can do because he was not prepared for that question; but there are a lot of irons in the fire throughout the County where it just has not had the sufficient funding, in order to be able to move from studies to actual designs, or construction.

Commissioner Goodson asked if it would be safe to say, if earmarking this \$1.5 million that is coming from this CRA by taking that rate, if there is any truth to the backlog, which he believes;

it seems like every time they turn around, they have to spend \$300,000 on an environmental study before the County can doing anything; and would Mr. Bernath say 20 years.

Mr. Bernath replied obviously, with the time value of money, that will not go as far as it will today, but he would be happy to work with the Board if the County has any additional funding.

Commissioner Goodson stated he understands. He went on to say if Mr. Bernath is going to help flooding in Mims or North Merritt Island, and he wanted to correct it next year, the simplest thing to do would be to raise taxes, then everybody gets a fund of money, and Mr. Bernath gets to correct every problem, if he can; or the County stays at a cap and gets nothing.

Mr. Bernath advised that is a Board decision on whether or not it wants to raise taxes; and he has presented that there are significant challenges with the funding he has.

Commissioner Goodson reiterated he understands. He stated he saw today on the news that Orange County is going back for another cent of the transportation tax; now, whether they get it or not, but if looking at those surrounding counties they do not have a cap, they have taxes for floodwater, for transportation, and they do quite well; he is not promoting anything, he is just saying as the people, they are going to have to decide to have nothing or they are going to have to pay for it; the minute taxes are raised, somebody says, they pay \$2,000 a year for taxes, so he pulled their tax bill, and what is not recognized is \$1,000 of that \$2,000 goes to the School Board, whether a person has children or not, and they get about 50 percent of a person's tax bill; after that, it is split out between Mosquito Control, Fire Rescue, and yada, yada, yada; Public Works gets \$3 or \$4, \$6 from each person to correct roads, bridges, infrastructure, and drainage; and it takes a long time in the market today to buy a \$2 million backhoe at \$10 a tax bill.

Chair Altman stated what he thinks Commissioner Goodson is trying to say is, nothing is free, and they cannot make money appear out of thin air.

Commissioner Delaney remarked that she would love Commissioner Goodson to take his own advice in that.

Commissioner Goodson asked what advice Commissioner Delaney is giving, because he is waiting on it.

Commissioner Delaney replied it would be nice for him to stay out of her District.

Commissioner Goodson remarked he does...

Chair Altman advised be cordial.

Commissioner Delaney stated if she heard Commissioner Feltner correctly, she would like to build on that a little bit, because the County does have a considerable amount of money sitting in the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL), waiting on projects right now; like she mentioned a couple of meetings ago, she is not advocating for stopping projects that are just on the cusp of getting ready to start, or finish the planning for; but anything that is not in motion, she would appreciate support and advocating for those dollars to go towards the infrastructure.

Commissioner Feltner stated he understands and he specifically asked for dollars that are not already committed, that could be used for stormwater projects as the first goal, keep it out of the river, and the ancillary benefit though is having flood control; he has another Item on the Agenda today where he is going to mention something like that; and he thinks when those two things will come together at the same time, it is a good project that has been done.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wants to explain her vote; she is going to support this today and the reason why is because she is acting in good faith because she is believing that the Board is going to act in good faith and focus on the stormwater infrastructure issues; this is the County and the City working together; she is not happy with the 15 years, it is what it is; she appreciates the City going back down to the original amount brought at \$6 whatever million that was in the original agreement; she is acting in good faith here; and with that the Board may continue.

Chair Altman stated he started going to the Eau Gallie area that is now the redevelopment district in the 1950's, and it is something that is close to his heart; he apologized if he got a little defensive, but it is where he grew up; it is a special community; he expressed his thanks to those who are making it even more special and to those who came today to speak about the wonderful things that they are doing in the community, which he has often said in the public arena; sometimes no matter how positive something is the more negativity there is; it is like the law of physics, for every action there is equal encounter reaction; the more good somebody does, it seems like the dark side draws more negativity; it is not easy standing at the podium, being a great artist, running a business, being a great elected official, making the community better, and be a good developer; what would they do without the developers who provide communities, housing, neighborhoods, parks, being a good developer, and not all are evil, just like in everything else; and he supports this wholeheartedly. He expressed his thanks to Commissioner Feltner for his leadership on this matter, as they share the Eau Gallie Ddistrict; he thanked the City for its good work; he thanked those in the community of Eau Gallie, who are keeping it a special place that is deeply special in his heart; and he asked if anyone knows why they call it the Rocky Water Brew Fest, because Eau Gallie in French means rocky waters.

Commissioner Feltner stated he did not know that, but he does know there are a couple of French speakers here today that would know that; he thinks the artists and the local businesses that have moved in the restaurants, they are enjoying a renaissance; he thinks people are headed there; and he thinks the future is bright and he wished them luck.

The Board reviewed the City of Melbourne's request to revise and restate the Interlocal Agreement between the County, the City, and the Olde Eau Gallie Riverfront CRA; and executed and approved the Interlocal Agreement.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Secunder: Tom Goodson

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

J.1. Approval, Re: Lease Agreement for the Guardian Ad Litem Program

Commissioner Feltner inquired if there are speaker cards; he stated he has worked with the Guardian Ad Litem quite a bit, he is sort of the unofficial courthouse liaison, and he is chair of the Public Safety board; he expressed his thanks to the Chair for leaving him on that board, because he thinks that made a lot of sense; he mentioned there being a lot of work done with getting them to a place where it has a good facility; and if there is not any other discussion on the Item, he is ready to make a motion.

The Board approved and authorized Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, to negotiate and execute a Lease Agreement to provide office space for the Guardian Ad Litem program, upon County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Central Services approval; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments (BCRs).

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Secunder: Kim Adkinson

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

J.2. Board Discussion, Re: January SOIRL Workshops Structure

Commissioner Feltner advised he took the liberty of working on an agenda, he does have some concepts from when he proposed this; he has contacted some folks who have agreed to participate in both workshops and he took the liberty of mocking up an agenda to be helpful today; he provided the Board with a handout; and he has been working on it for the last few days.

Chair Altman expressed appreciation to Commissioner Feltner for his work and his leadership on this.

Commissioner Feltner stated he appreciates that; he has a handout for the Clerk to the Board; the Board agreed to do a time certain and it is going to leave at 9:00 p.m., which he thinks that is in consideration for the municipal governments who are letting the Board use its facilities; he tried to leave time for Board discussion and leave as much time as possible for public comments; they will start off with Natural Resources Management, Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) presentation, he has Dr. De Freese from the National Estuary Program (NEP), take a quick break, a business community person, a municipal perspective, a former Mayor, a St. Johns River Water Management District member who does a good job speaking on economic impact, and he sells boats; and that is the agenda that he worked on.

Chair Altman stated good job.

Vince Lamb stated he is speaking as a representative of the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition that is a non-profit that formed to advocate for the Lagoon; the health of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) hit a low point from 2014 to 2016 with a prevalent brown algae tide bloom; unusual mortality events were experienced by multiple species and a massive fish kill occurred in the spring of 2016; Brevard County stepped into action, encouraged by the Indian River Lagoon NEP, and the SOIRL project plan was quickly developed; this went to a referendum and more than 60 percent of the voters chose to tax themselves to restore the IRL; nine years have passed and they are entering the final year of the SOIRL plan; much has been done to restore the Lagoon, but the work is far from finished; and in a November Commission meeting, the Board authorized the two public workshops in January, starting a process that should lead to a referendum on the ballot next November. He stated he supports the suggested presentations that Commissioner Feltner has offered to open the workshops, by providing a baseline of factual information from respected community leaders is a good start; the workshops will provide opportunities for people to suggest improvements in the future of the SOIRL program; should SOIRL place an emphasis on stormwater projects that can reduce flooding and also reduce the nutrient pollutants entering the Lagoon; should SOIRL play a bigger role in removing the basic septic systems to fulfill the State mandate by 2030; what should be the proposed Bowen Aquarium Dr. De Freese Coastal Conservation Hub and what role can they play in the future of the SOIRL program; and hopefully, these issues and more will be addressed in these workshops. He added, the Brevard County Commission is clearly the most important government entity that determines the future of the IRL; some of the problems faced today can be attributed to past bad decisions or failures to act; the SOIRL plan owes its existence to the leadership of the 2016 Board, especially Commissioners Jim Barfield and Curt Smith; there is now opportunity to make a difference; and he expressed his thanks to each Commissioner for accepting this challenge.

Chair Altman expressed his thanks to Mr. Lamb for all of his good work.

Sandra Sullivan stated 10 years ago, the County did this tax, and it lost almost all of the seagrass meadows in the IRL; in 10 years it has not appreciably got much back; that is the foundation species of the IRL of life in the Lagoon; she is going to talk about a concern that many people share, which is the sewage dumping that Brevard County is not even reporting to pollution notices anymore, not since 2023, and is under present consent orders for lack of reporting sewage dumping; the County has an impending State Legislation on septic systems for Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT), which was promised under the tax that the County would address, and that deadline becomes law in July of 2026, that is only a few months away; and when looking at the AWT projects, it is less than three percent, even though that is when the Lagoon tax was voted for, and it was promised for AWT plant upgrades. She went on to say South Beaches is about 30 percent through planning; it is, by old numbers \$18 million to do that project; she does not know what it would be now, but SOIRL only funded \$2.4 million; SOIRL is supposed to be matching on an equal basis any State grants, that was promised, but it is not; she gave the Board an example, legal documents of grants from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that requires the County to match documents; SOIRL lies at its meetings; and she gave the Board another example, the Cove got about \$1.2 million which is supposed to be matched by SOIRL, and it had only \$130,000 matched, that she thinks is only for connection and is not a match to the grant. She went on saying SOIRL said, delete that project from the IRL, but when looking at the Lagoon SOIRL map of its conversions to sewer, all of the other properties to the north of it and all the way up to South Beaches is in the planning to put it on sewer; that project, which is one mile away from the plant would actually allow those connections to all of those other properties; but the County wanted to put a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) on the Cove for \$3 million. She remarked the County has contingency fund, but that is just one of the things, there is a sewage crisis, there is an infrastructure crisis in Brevard County, and right now, the plan is being written; and she is asking the Board to direct SOIRL to put more money towards AWT which is what was promised in the SOIRL tax that has not been delivered to the people. She mentioned they are going to be coming back and that plan is being written; that plan is going to come back to the SOIRL board in January; it will be just like before, the Board will not do anything because it never does do anything; it will come back and the Board will go, oh, they should have given staff direction before it came back to the Commission; but every year, she comes and asks the Board to do it, and it does nothing.

Commissioner Adkinson stated she has a question for staff and she is not sure exactly who this question is for, maybe Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager; she is interested to see what the public has to say during the workshops; she thinks it is important that the Board understands that in doing these workshops it costs something; and she is wondering how much, was it planned for, is there extra money sitting in a kitty somewhere, or where does it come from.

Mr. Liesenfelt replied he is going to make sure he gets it right; for the City of Titusville, it will be taped so the County can broadcast is on Space Coast Government Television (SCGTV), and on its social media; it will not be broadcast live which can be done for free; he worked with the City of Palm Bay, but the County has to hire a contractor because the contract for the City Council meetings only allows for their City Council meetings; a vendor has been found and it is somewhere in the \$4,200 range to do the filming and the taping, and being similar to Titusville; and it is in the \$5,600 to \$5,800 range if wanting to do the same as Titusville, and broadcast it live on SCGTV. He stated staff has spoken with Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director, but have not received the final resolution; and they will have the funds for it, probably used out General Fund.

Commissioner Adkinson followed up by asking if that is for the venue and the taping, and are there any other costs associated with doing things like this.

Mr. Liesenfelt replied staff will be there, the Sheriff's deputy for securing, and the normal if the Board were to have a regular workshop, it would have those costs, too.

Commissioner Adkinson asked if he has any idea of what kind of number that is.

Mr. Liesenfelt responded not off the top of his head, no.

Commissioner Delaney stated she does appreciate this being brought forward, but she does have a little bit of concern because she is seeing many names that are either on the SOIRL board, or have been on the SOIRL board; there is a lot of focus on that; and then it leaves time for only 23 public comments.

Chair Altman asked about what she means by saying 23; and how much time is being allowed per comment.

Commissioner Delaney replied the one hour and 15 minutes; and 23 if they do three minutes.

Commissioner Feltner advised this is sort of an estimate, he tried to kind-of split this in half; the first half is presentations; the second half is dedicated to public comment and Board discussion; he envisioned one thing that he would do in a motion is let Cathy Lively, Agenda Coordinator, put this in the proper posture; he envisioned they would do the same workshop in both places so there is two different groups of people being the North County and South County; the same information is going to be heard but the Board will hear from people, Palm Bay versus Titusville, et cetera; he also thinks there would be some communication, for example, former Mayor Frank Catino from a municipal perspective, and since he operates a charter boat, he is in the water every day, and he thought he would be a great person to talk on that; and he knows that Mr. Catino will not talk for that long, which creates opportunity to kind of keep moving things along. He mentioned attending something yesterday that was hosted by Representative Monique Miller, at a Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) facility in Palm Bay; she had several speakers from the Brevard Zoo, FIT, and St. Johns River Water Management District, who each were given eight minutes, or four minutes, and then eight slides or something; it moved along fast; this is going to be a little bit slower paced; he was making mental notes as late as yesterday about the kind of flow that the Board would want; he imagines a couple of questions by Commissioners at the end of each workshop; and if the Board takes a break by 7:00 p.m., he thinks the Board would be in a good place to leave on time. He added, on the comments, the Board tries to do three minutes, but it is not an uncommon thing sometimes where if there were 100 minutes to go and there is 100 people who have to do their speech pretty quick; he thinks that would just be the flexibility of the Chair at that point.

Commissioner Delaney remarked she was just hoping that this would be a bit more focused on the input of the citizens who are paying for this, because a lot of... She stated she feels like a lot of people are... She went on to say one thing that the SOIRL group has done an exceptional job of is educating; she feels like people are educated in what is going on, how the County got here, what they are doing, the economic impacts, and all of that; she was looking forward to this being majority of citizen input and then the Board having a considerable amount of time to dive through this; and...

Commissioner Feltner commented he wants that too, he tried to leave what is in his mind at least one-half hour, maybe 40 minutes for Board discussion at the end; maybe a way the Board could get there is simply say for each of these presentations, they have 10 minutes; and he thinks they would probably not object with that because it is hard to talk for 15 minutes.

Commissioner Delaney stated that sounds great.

Chair Altman stated he also sees this as a start and educating the Board; the Board does not want to go advocating for another tax increase, until it has been educated and get some public input; he thinks this a great start; he understands Commissioner Delaney; the Board is going to probably need more public input and there will be a lot of public input, and there may be unlimited public input if the Board decides to put this on the ballot; there may be unlimited public input if the Board decides not to put it on the ballot; when deliberating there is going to be a lot of input; he thinks there is a good balance and he appreciates what Commissioner Delaney is saying; and the Board will get started on the first one and see how well it goes.

Commissioner Delaney inquired if the 10 minutes would still be okay that Commissioner Feltner proposed.

Chair Altman responded affirmatively,

Commissioner Feltner reiterated the Board would give direction to Ms. Lively, to utilize his draft, they will let the presenters know in advance that they have 10 minutes, and the extra time will be for public comment and Board discussion.

Chair Altman stated the only change he would make, is he is willing to go later than 9:00 p.m., if needed.

Commissioner Feltner stated he is not opposed to that himself, he just thought for the sake of the municipal governments' facility that the County is borrowing they are going to keep staff there; there is going to be security; but personally, he is not apposed if it is an option that the Board goes later, and that change could be made on the fly based on the number of people in attendance.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned Titusville's meetings go until 1:00 a.m., so 10:00 p.m. is not too bad for them.

Mr. Liesenfelt clarified the Board is inviting six speaker for 10 minutes each; he wanted to make sure he gets it so Ms. Lively can get it advertised properly; he will invite the six speakers to bring their presentations; and he will need the presentations January 2 or New Year's Eve, to make sure it is properly put onto Granicus.

Commissioner Feltner advised he did speak to all of those presenters and they are committed; one of the important things is, he wanted to make sure that each presenter was available for both workshops, so there are not different presentations, and both workshops will have the same presentation; they have already said yes; and he thinks a formal email would be good.

Mr. Liesenfelt asked if the Board is okay with recording the workshop and then broadcasting it.

Commissioner Delaney replied she would love it to be livestreamed, but she understand the issues with that.

The Board directed staff to update the proposed Agenda to the proper posture and to set the time frame for presentation to 10 minutes.

Result: Approved

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Katie Delaney

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

J.3. Board Direction, 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)

Commissioner Feltner stated this is for an area known as the Hundred Acre Hollows, it is located in District 4, and at the corner of Viera Boulevard and Rock Springs Drive, in the Suntree area; this was originally utilities property and has graciously been ran by Tom and Anita Unrath, as the Hundred Acre Hollows; and this is at the point now where the Board needs to make this an Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) property and that is what this proposes today. He mentioned stormwater has been something the Board has talked about a lot; he spoke with EELs, the County, and Natural Resources Management since this has some basins that were originally meant to be a wastewater facility, and he wants to reserve the right to the County to send stormwater there if Viera Boulevard needs it in the future; it is not needed now, if that happens, the worst thing that is going to happen is those basins are going to be a wetland; he understands it is material that will percolate quickly; and Jim Swann told him the other day, that is the ideal way to take care of stormwater by it seeping down into the ground, and doing its thing.

Tom Unrath stated Hundred Acre Hollows is both a location and a group of people, there is a board which he is the president, who kind of keeps watch over and helps work with protecting the wildlife, restoring the habitat, and engaging the public in various ways; it is located about one mile south of Viera Boulevard, it is kind of tucked away in an area, and it is not actually in Suntree but it is on the north side of Suntree; and he could show the Board on a map, rather than trying to explain it. He expressed his thanks on behalf of his board for allowing them to be here today, for the notion that this could be set aside with an EEL project; he stated the fact that this Board's predecessors allowed for them to work with this and to do what they have been doing for the last 10 years, it has meant a lot to the community, not just the community in Brevard, but visitors from all over Florida and internationally to see this and to keep up with it regularly; he can say on a weekly basis, they are in communication with a woman who will send notices from San Antonio, Texas, saying it is looking great what is being done there; and it is an important piece of property and keeping it as it is will allow for, on a high spot in this part of the County, and keeping it like it is would prevent water from flowing down to the Indian River Lagoon that might carry pollutants of various sources. He expressed his thanks for directing the EEL Program to keep this in its portfolio of properties and it will mean a lot; he knows there are a lot of people who have spoken about this over the years; he would like to tell George Rosenfield, who recently turned 99 and is a World War II Korean War Veteran who was here, and spoke in 2010 to keep this as a place set aside; Mr. Rosenfield wanted and said so at a Commission meeting to keep it in perpetuity as a place, for just exactly what is being talked about; and when he has the chance to see him, probably later in the week, he thinks he would be ecstatic to hear that this is moving into the EEL Program. He reiterated his thanks to the Board and especially, Commissioner Feltner, for bringing this up, and putting it this way; and he appreciates it greatly.

Commissioner Feltner expressed his thanks.

Anita Unrath expressed her thanks to the Board for this opportunity to speak and for considering this; she stated she would like to thank Commissioners Smith, Infantini, Fisher, Barfield, and Anderson, who is now in heaven, for not selling this land when they stood before them on July 7, 2015, and asked them not to accept the bids for 200 more houses; she wants to express her thanks to this Board now, 10 years later; it is not the same place it was, as far as the wildlife and the vegetation as 10 years ago; it is a recovering prairie savannah, pinelands; now there are 30-foot pine trees out there, huge cabbage palms, the dogfennel came back, the native grasses came back, and they saw palmettos came back; and it really is a recovering area. She stated them, as the board have been working on keeping this a wonderful place for the wildlife and for the people to enjoy; it is worthy of being in the EEL Program; in 2015, the

County estimated 300 gopher tortoises; some of the people that first helped them were the Space Coast Eco-Geeks for Brevard County science teachers, who had camera traps on the burrows; they saw animals that live there and they counted 299 burrows; in 2020, they had a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wildlife permit, that has been ongoing, and they geolocated 407 active burrows; in 2022, 467; in 2024, 481; two weeks ago, Dr. Mark Bush's students in a field ecology class from the Florida Institute of Technology geolocated 540 active gopher tortoise burrows; and there is no area in Brevard County that she knows of that has that many tortoises. She stated it is not just tortoises, there are other creatures, including 96 species of birds that have been documented on eBird, 16 species of native bees, white-tailed deer, bobcats, raccoons, armadillos, numerous commensal species that live in the burrows, butterflies, and dragonflies; she believes Jesus told people who love the Lord, God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and love thy neighbor as one's self; all of these creatures are her neighbors because she lives adjacent to the Hundred Acre Hollows; in her yard, she has seen 37 species of birds that she put on FeederWatch; their son gave them a Bird Buddy with 31 species of birds that eat at that feeder, it is the one that has the camera; she has seen bobcats, red shouldered hawks, and cooper hawks hunt in their habitat since 2020; and a course that she took at University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) called Florida-Friend Landscaping, and she has planted native plants in her yard so she has habitat that has extended the habitat of the Hundred Acre Hollows. She asked the Board to consider this; she expressed her thanks to the Board; she expressed her thanks to Commissioner Feltner for believing in them; and she wants to thank Commissioner Curt Smith for believing in them 10 years ago so that they could try to save this property for the wildlife and for the people to enjoy.

Meghen Murphy stated when she was here last, she was here to support the Board in its effort to protect the Indian River Lagoon watershed and focus on stormwater best management practices; she introduced herself as a nurse and a Suntree mom; many of the issues the Board is discussing now impact her personally, and the community that she lives in; she thanked the Board for its focus on constructive and positive dialogue, because she thinks it is important to let people speak; and it is important to respect each other's diversity of views. She stated today she is here to support the Board's efforts to protect the Hundred Acre Hollows because she believes that it was once a potential water treatment site; this is one of the few untouched green spaces in her community; it is 114 acres that has been renaturalized, but it also connects to almost 400 acres of contiguous green space that functions as a wildlife corridor for many endangered species; there is so little natural landscape left in the area, particularly in District 4; and it is more important than ever to leave this undeveloped property alone so that it can function as a natural ecosystem, protecting native habitat, and contributing to the potential for clean water to help recharge the aquifer. She added, if it were not protected it could have significant negative impacts on traffic, stormwater, and the Indian River Lagoon watershed, which people are working hard in her community to talk about how individual homeowners can make a difference and relying on the Board to look at that from a broader perspective; there are hundreds of native species living here, many of them are endangered; 96 identified species of birds, 16 species of native bees, and the gopher tortoise habitat with 540 identified active tortoise burrows; youth groups come to this area to enjoy the native ecosystem; there are restorative benefits to children, just to spend time in nature; and those things need to be remembered when making decisions about how the community is developed, Suntree is a planned unit community that should have no more development there because it cannot take any more traffic impact. She encourages the Board to support this proposal for protecting this land; and she believes that it should be an easy decision to protect this habitat in perpetuity with essentially no controversy, but what does she know.

Christine Murray stated she lives in a subdivision alongside the Hundred Acre Hollows; it is a special place for all of the surrounding neighborhoods; it is one of the few untouched green spaces, especially in Suntree; it is more than just undeveloped property, it is a functioning

natural ecosystem; there are hundreds of native species living there, many of them are endangered, 96 species of bird, 16 species of native bees, and the gopher tortoises which come and visit her backyard frequently; and there are 540 active burrows. She mentioned a lot of homeschool groups come to the Hundred Acre Hollows for field trips to learn; it is open to the public every other Sunday, for people to take a nature walk, and enjoy a sunset in the hollows; if this is not protected the surrounding neighborhoods and the community will be affected in many ways; protection of the Hundred Acre Hollows ensures the land remains intact for future generations to enjoy; she encourages the Board to move forward with environmental protection for this land, not because it is easy, but because it is the right thing to do; and if the Board has not ever visited, the community would love for it to come out, take a walk, and enjoy the nature.

Commissioner Feltner concluded by expressing his thanks to everybody who came to speak today and for holding on, because he knows it was a long meeting; it is hard to identify EELs properties in District 4; he thinks that with each district, there is advantages and there is disadvantages; the people who he represents will pay the EELs bond referendum, but there will not be EELs properties in District 4, that is just the reality of it; and this is the one chance that he thinks the County has to get 100 acres that it will never have again.

Chair Altman added, the first time he seen the Hundred Acre Hollows, it was breathtaking; his second thought was, the County needs to save this; and he expressed his appreciation for all of Commissioner Feltner's hard work on this.

The Board directed the EEL Program to evaluate the potential transfer and long-term management for the Hundred Acre Hollows property as part of the EEL Program sanctuary network.

Result: APPROVED

Mover: Rob Feltner

Second: Katie Delaney

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

Commissioner Feltner expressed his thanks; and he suggesting visiting during the cool time of the year, because when the Unrath's took him there for the first time it was in July, and that will be burned in his memory forever.

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

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated the Board might have seen an email yesterday about Natural Resources Management sending the letter out to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requesting a meeting for the Blue Origin permit. He added, for the fun of it, "Go Hoosiers!"

L.4 Report, Re: Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 2

Commissioner Goodson stated his request is for staff to research if Port Canaveral sells the Barge Canal land to a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant, what effects it will have on Merritt Island, how they are going to route the trucks, and ask for a public meeting with Captain John Murray, because he needs to suffer the consequences with the public, too.

Chair Altman stated this is just a thought, and he would be amendable to it, just as the Board had a meeting with Parrish today, and maybe it is time to have the Port come in and speak in a public appearance.

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

Commissioner Adkinson stated the Board does not often thank the security that it has here in the chambers with the Deputies; also, the ones out there because she recently, personally had an opportunity to meet them when she was a member of the public, trying to get through some stuff; Joe is amazing and she wants to thank him for all of his dedication, for his hard work; and she expressed her thanks to Kayla Alba, who is always smiling, whether here or at the Moore Justice Center; she does not want to forget thanking everybody else, but they are who particularly stand out to her.

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

Commissioner Feltner stated congratulations to the Florida Tech women's soccer winning the Division II National Championship; he seen this in the newspaper and with his wife having been a college athlete pointed this out to him; he read aloud, "The Panthers defeated Franklin Pierce 3:0, on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Colorado Springs, Colorado, claiming the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II National title; goalkeeper Kaitlin Sinkler was named tournament's Most Valuable Player, having made 41 saves across six tournament games, including seven in the final; Melbourne native, and a Viera High grad, Savannah Oxley, who earlier in the tournament became Florida Tech's all-time leader in games played, finishes her career with 81 games played for the Panthers; and the Panthers made it into the title game by defeating last year's national champion."

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

Commissioner Altman stated Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy Hanukkah to the staff, the public, and the Board; and he is looking forward to having a great holiday and getting back with the Board, after the first of the year.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

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

Ass approved by the Board May 19, 2026.