

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

5:30 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, met in special session on August 7, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Government Center Commission Room, Building C, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rita Pritchett	Chair	Present	
Jim Barfield	Commissioner District 2	Excused	
John Tobia	Commissioner District 3	Absent	
Curt Smith	Commissioner District 4	Present	
Kristine Isnardi	Vice Chair/Commissioner District 5	Present	

ITEM A., CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

ITEM B., MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Pritchett called for a moment of silence.

ITEM C., PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Isnardi led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM D.1. STATEMENT OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING USER FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019, RE: MELBOURNE-TILLMAN WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

Chair Pritchett called for the public hearing to consider statement of proposed user fee rates for the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District Fiscal Year 2018-2019; she advised the Item requires for the Commissioner of District 3 to be present; and the Item will have to be continued to another date.

Phil Weinberg advised he is the newest Board of Directors Member for Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District; he stated what is being asked for is a 10 percent user fee increase of \$2.13 per year for a residential lot; \$.75 per year for an agriculture lot; and \$4.14 per year for a commercial lot. He went on to say he is not being cavalier by raising fees and taxes; he is in the segment part of the population that feels a tax increase, a senior citizen; and the District needs long-term solutions to fulfill its responsibilities according to Florida Legislature under Chapter 2001-336. He went on to say the District itself contains 163 miles of canals; the District includes, but are not limited to, establishing a water management system which will accomplish objectives as follows: Prevent damage from flood, soil erosion, and excessive drainage, promote the conservation, development, and proper utilization of surface and ground water, preserve natural resources, fish, and wildlife, maintain water quality in the District and the receiving waters from the District, preserve and protect the natural systems in the District, Turkey Creek, the Indian River, the St. Johns River, and purchase and establish conservation areas and passive recreation areas to protect the natural resources, including the sloughs, wetlands, and natural areas, which exist in the District or along the receiving waters, where the District finds it is appropriate for environmental protection or conservation of the natural resources. He stated the District shall utilize the best management practices in implementing and operating its water management system clean out, straighten, open up, widen, or change the course and flow of, alter, or deepen any canal, ditch, drain, river, watercourse, or natural stream; concentrate, divert, or divide the flow of water in or out of the District boundaries; and construct and maintain main and lateral ditches, canals, levees, dikes, dams, sluices,

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revetments, reservoirs, holding basins, flood ways, pumping stations and siphons, and may connect same, or any of them, with any canals, drains, ditches, levees, or other works that may have been heretofore, or which may be hereafter, constructed. He asked the Board to give the District the funding that it needs to perform all of its responsibilities, to the best of its ability.

Commissioner Isnardi inquired how this is tied to Turkey Creek. Dan Anderson, District Manager of Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, responded there are over 163 miles of canals throughout a 100 square mile area that falls directly into Turkey Creek, and then into the Indian River Lagoon (IRL); he stated it is a massive amount of runoff water that ends up in the IRL; for years Melbourne-Tillman was a stormwater drainage district for flood control; and the major objective now is water quality in order to be able to clean the water before it makes its way into the IRL.

Commissioner Isnardi advised some time ago she talked with Mr. Anderson in her office about the aging equipment he has; and she inquired if Mr. Anderson would talk a little about that. Mr. Anderson replied for about eight years they went without any budget increases; each year they would reduce capital equipment expenditures down to practically nothing; each year they have to use Reserves in order to make budget; in trying to keep the deficit amount down, they have reduced equipment purchases; and now the equipment has aged and have real problems with maintenance costs in order to keep the older equipment going. He added one of the main objectives with an increase would be trying to do more capital outlay, to replace some of the aging equipment.

Commissioner Isnardi inquired about the Reserves. Mr. Anderson responded the Reserves have been reduced by 41 percent over the last seven years; he advised if they keep going into Reserves, they will not be able to make budget; and he does not want to reduce services because he feels with the amount of citizen contacts received, they do not get near the level of service that is expected.

Commissioner Isnardi asked if the Melbourne-Tillman system is ever going to expand. Mr. Anderson pointed out with the outside development a lot of developers are asking to be annexed into the District; and he advised they have a 100-mile area that has potential to be increased.

Commissioner Isnardi commended Mr. Anderson for doing a bang-up job with how fast the water went down during storms with limited resources; and she expressed her appreciation for all that the District does.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that he has worked on the canals for 38 years and he is overly impressed himself with how well the system functioned; he stated staff works hard to get done what is expected of them, to accomplish the mission; over the years his staff has been overly creative on how to figure out doing something with nothing; and in doing that, he thinks they shoot themselves in the foot because the people say that they have been able to maintain it well with what they have, and they ask why is more needed. He added the expectations and the water quality issues are over and above the flood control that Melbourne-Tillman originally started; it has a staff of 19; and as individuals retire, they are not replaced because of having to keep the deficit down. He recognized Debbie Leclair, Assistant Manager/Administration Operations, for being the glue that holds the office together, and for being the numbers cruncher.

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There being no objections heard, the Board continued consideration of the proposed statement of rates for the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District FY 2018-2019 to the August 21, 2018, Board meeting.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 8/21/2018 9:00 AM
MOVER:	Kristine Isnardi, Vice Chair/Commissioner District 5	
SECONDER:	Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4	
AYES:	Rita Pritchett, Curt Smith, Kristine Isnardi	
ABSENT:	John Tobia	
EXCUSED:	Jim Barfield	

ITEM E.5., KRISTINE ISNARDI, COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5, VICE CHAIR, RE: REPORT

Commissioner Isnardi encouraged Dan Anderson, District Manager of Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, and the Board of Director Members for Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District to attend the August 21, 2018, Board meeting, and to be able to explain the system to the public by showing an overhead map of the area, and talk about how it impacts Turkey Creek so it is understood it is not just maintaining ditches.

Commissioner Smith agreed; and he stated the people need to understand the importance of what the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District does for the Indian River Lagoon.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

ATTEST:



SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK



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

As approved by Board August 21, 2018.