

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

1:00 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, met in regular session on December 10, 2015 at 1:16 PM in the Government Center Commission Room, Building C, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Barfield led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT

Chairman Barfield expressed his appreciation to all who are present at the workshop; he stated the Board appreciates everyone's input; it is an important discussion; and it is important that they moved the meeting to the Commission Room so everyone can be more comfortable. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Smith for bringing this Item up; he stated it is important; and he thinks a lot will come out of the discussion. He noted the purpose of this meeting is to view legislative intent for the gas tax; the Board is open to various types of discussions, solutions, and alternatives; and the Board wants input from the public. He asked the audience to have civility, there are no outbursts, pro or con, regarding the discussion so the Board can get through this; there are over 50 speakers for today's meeting; and he further requested the audience not repeat what has already been said. He pointed out everyone is limited to five minutes for their comments; the Board may interact with the audience regarding questions, verification, and recommendations; and the meeting will now move forward. He advised there is a citizens video that someone wants to play; it is a 12-minute video; Commissioner Infantini put it on the Agenda; the Policy states the video can be five minutes; and he inquired if the video has been vetted through staff and done a fact check.

Commissioner Infantini stated she cannot account for staff; and she inquired why Chairman Barfield would ask her what staff has done. She asked the County Manager if the video has been vetted; she stated she has not vetted the budget presentation because of unforeseen circumstances with the Budget Director; and she has not reviewed what has presented by staff.

Chairman Barfield stated the video has not been fact checked; and he will leave it up to the Board if it wants to see the entire 12-minute video or to only give them five minutes.

Commissioner Fisher stated he is not interested.

Commissioner Anderson stated people cannot donate their time.

Commissioner Fisher stated the County has rules, and there are 50 people who want to speak.

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Commissioner Infantini stated the video is going to be seen in its entirety because she put it on the Agenda.

Commissioner Anderson stated the County Attorney said there has to be a motion to waive the rules.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Infantini to waive the rules, and for the Board to watch the video in its entirety. Motion died; Commissioners Fisher, Barfield, and Anderson voting Nay.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [2 TO 3]
MOVER:	Curt Smith, Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 4
SECONDER:	Trudie Infantini, Commissioner District 3
AYES:	Trudie Infantini, Curt Smith
NAYS:	Robin Fisher, Jim Barfield, Andy Anderson

ITEM I., PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Barfield advised the Board the motion failed; and the rules will be followed. He stated the first speaker is Amy Tidd.

Ms. Tidd inquired if the Board was going to play the video first.

Commissioner Infantini stated this is just Public Comment; anyone who does not want to speak under Public Comment but wants to speak on the video, he or she can explain that to the Chairman when he calls the person's name that he or she wants to hold off on speaking until after the presentation has been made.

Amy Tidd stated she comes before the Board today to thank it for undertaking this problem solving effort; in Brevard County the roads have not been funded; and she expressed her appreciation to the Board for looking at all options. She went on to say she does support the six cent sales tax; it is a way of funding the roads while having the people who drive on them bear the brunt; and that would be the tourists and snow birds, who will be also paying their part of the tax. She stated there is an opportunity to do a good thing with this; she is asking the Board to take the ninth cent, if the gas tax is approved, for transit; it would make a big difference in the community; she is a Veteran; and a lot of Veterans in the County use the transit to get to the Veterans Administration.

Victoria Northrup stated she sat on the Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel about a year ago; it was very informative; and she supports the Local Option Gas Tax. She noted the roads are not fixing themselves and money is not falling off of trees. She talked to the Board about the Oregon Experiment; they put black boxes on their cars and tracked the miles driven; and she explained she is happy to say that Oregon learned from the experiment and was one of the first States to implement this. She stated on behalf of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), the companies come to the EDC for information and approval for tax abatements; the EDC never promises anyone anything; and if they meet the goals, they get the tax abatement.

Sara Ann Conkling stated she is in favor of the entire six cents; she sat with John Denninghoff, Public Works Director; and she strongly advocates the first cent to be for public transit. She stated she served on the Space Coast Area Transit (SCAT) board for transportation disadvantaged. She stated U.S. 1 routes need to be improved, there are a lot of routes that do

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not have evening or weekend service; holiday service came up as a concern of the Board; and if transit received the \$2 million the first thing that would happen is the money would turn into \$4 million because of matching State allocated funds. She pointed out that will not happen if it goes to Road and Bridge. She pointed out they could expand week day service to 10:00 p.m. so people could work an evening job; Saturday service could be added on the routes that do not have it now; Sunday hourly service could be added on all of the routes; the South Titusville/Port St. John could finally receive service; and this area has a heavy density of elderly, disabled, and low income people who do not have any transportation options at all. She noted the wait time on U.S. Highway 1 could be improved. She asked the Board to consider even taking a separate vote about the ninth cent giving it to transit. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Denninghoff and staff.

Marty Adams stated he read the Blue Ribbon Advisory Board report and two things jumped out at him; first was there was no discussion about the root cause and how the County got where it is; the second thing that jumped out at him was all the recommendations of the board were to create some form of new revenue; and three of them were taxes, and one of them was an infrastructure impact fee. He stated it bothered him the board was concentrating on an expedient approach that does not require voter approval although there were other possibilities. He stated he wants to talk about false narratives, tribes, and chiefs; one of the false narratives is that Brevard County is under-taxed relative to the growth of personal income in the County; if the Board accepts that Brevard County residents are under-taxed relative to personal income, then personal income is a community chest of all of the assets that grow over time; and that would mean the retirement funds and all investments that grow in time. He pointed out those kinds of assets have grown considerably since the recession hammered those kinds of assets; talking about personal income, most people think in terms of wages, salaries, and pensions; this recession recovery has been remarkably slow in the growth in those areas; and he disagrees that Brevard County is under-taxed. He noted using that as a political cover argument to raise this tax now, he thinks it should not be done. He stated the other false narrative he hears, and he has heard it from the Commissioners, is that the County's hands are tied; the budget is restricted in such a way that there just cannot be mandated operational and budget priorities; and he has some recommendations on that. He stated there are a number of tribes in the County; there is the library tribe, North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) tribe, Parks and Recreation tribe, economic development tribe, Palm Bay tribe, Environmentally Endangered Lands tribe, law enforcement tribe, Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) tribe, expansive government tribe, and the small government tribe; each tribe defends its turf; and every tribe has some room for adjustment. He pointed out there are chiefs as well, the Commissioners, who the taxpayers elected to create policy and priorities for the government. He stated the solution for the dilemma rest with the chiefs, not with the County Manager and the public employees. He explained to the Board in 2009 a document entitled strategic plan was published; the first listed issue was infrastructure, drivable roads and no pot holes; it sounds like road maintenance was a true priority years ago; and he inquired why this is being talked about now six years later. He asked the Board to consider before going to a gas tax as a first resort, to stop talking about being powerless in dealing with matters like this, to focus on the doughnut and not on the hole; second, direct every Constitutional Officer and major budget operational entity within the County to create, for purposes of discussion, a new budget for the next fiscal year containing a four percent reduction; do not accept arguments there is no possibility to reduce, just demand a list of lowest priorities that would result in the target reduction; workshop all of the revised budgets; and ask for each departments help. He stated after all discussions have been heard, to make the necessary decisions and mandate the budget adjustments needed. He advised after all of this to revisit the gas tax; and he stated he can live with the gas tax if all other avenues have been explored.

Ed Priselac stated he wants to speak about wants versus needs; not too long ago the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) spent funds beautifying State Road 520 in Merritt Island;

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this was nice, but what was really needed on State Road 520 are right turn lanes from all of the access roads; and they even refused to put a right turn lane coming out of Walmart. He went on to say to those monies could be used for access roads instead of the pretty stuff done on the highway. He pointed out other wants versus needs are tax monies for various Brevard County businesses indicating an interest in moving to Brevard County; three of these appear to have been monster flops, BlueWare, Xun Energy, and Oak Ridge Energy, the apparent battery maker; Oak Ridge is not paying their workers; and he noticed the stock was down to 49 cents whatever that is worth. He stated all of the companies were vetted by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and presented to the County Manager or to the Board; it would seem to him there is a disconnect in that regard, which is his opinion; MIRA and the EDC tax money could be better used by the Board for core requirements; and he requested the Board investigate moving funding and other CRAs to help with road maintenance. He suggested selling the Mosquito Control helicopters and using older fixed-wing aircraft or maybe contracting out the service to cut costs.

Rob Cramp, Housing for Homeless, stated he is present to support the gas tax and feel it should be spent entirely on public transportation; they are the largest houser of homeless in the County; they have 125 properties; they have 125 families who cannot afford public transportation for obvious reasons; and of these families, 85 percent have jobs and many have two jobs. He pointed out at \$8 or \$9 an hour, they could not make car payments; they keep the families off of the streets; the way prices are going on rentals, half of their income is going on rent; and those people cannot afford car payments. He went on to say they have a development in Titusville called Victory Village; it is a complex of duplexes where they care for homeless, disabled veterans; their average age is 67 years old; it takes them over two hours to get from Victory Village to the VA Medical Center; and it is a disgrace. He stated they will keep the homeless off of the street, but the Board needs to help them with better public transportation.

Becky Matheson, Housing for Homeless, stated she wanted to share her experiences with veterans; she had a veteran call her at 6:30 a.m., it was a holiday, and he just started a brand new job; but there was no bus service. She noted they scrambled around to help the gentleman; if the bus had been working that day, he would have had no problem; they are willing to go the extra mile to do what they need to do; but they need the support from the County to get them where they need to go. She went on to add she had another veteran who needed a lesion removed from his neck; he did not make it to the surgery appointment because the bus was not running; and she hopes they can get the one cent that will generate \$4 million that could help the veterans get to their workplace and medical appointments.

William Stanziano, Housing for Homeless, stated Titusville is limited on its employment services; and a lot of the jobs are in either Central or South Brevard County. He went on to say they cannot get to their jobs because there are no buses that come back to Titusville after a certain time. He stated he hopes the Board talks about the sales tax.

Chairman Barfield expressed his appreciation to Mr. Cramp, Ms. Matheson, and Mr. Stanziano for their service to the County; and the Board appreciates what they do for the community.

Catherine Alexander expressed her appreciation to the Board for opening this discussion up for public comments. She stated the interest from the citizens is definitely here. She went on to say she is a 40-year resident of the County; Brevard County has been very good to her; she recently retired as a project manager; and she has free time she has devoted to transportation issues in the County. She pointed out the additional one cent for transportation infrastructure, whether it be bus shelters for the veterans, seniors, or young people, she thinks that portion of the gas tax approach she could support. She noted she does not support the six cents for everyone who travels in a car for a number of reasons. She suggested there is a structural

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issue with the Brevard County budget; there is a citizen's commission right now looking at the County Charter; and she stated she would ask that the Board would be tasked at not just looking at bylaws and amendments, but to look at the financial impact of those portions of the Charter. She advised the Board by trying to dig and move money around will not solve the long-term budget problem. She stated she would ask the Board to end the moratorium on the impact fees; she does not view them as punishment for people who want to move to Brevard County; this is a small portion for their new home to go for the infrastructure that is needed to support those new residents; and she noticed a big shortfall in the capacity budget. She stated it is an insult to people who live in the County and people who have lived here for a long time to give people who are moving here the \$4,000 to \$5,000 freebie on a home they can obviously well afford to buy; and those people can afford the impact fee. She concluded by saying they have passed the 500,000 citizen level in the County; they are at a tipping point; the County cannot continue to put more cars on the road; the Space Coast Area Transit (SCAT) system does a great job with the budget they have; but they need more money. She suggested taking the one cent and investing it in the transit system and takes cars off the roads and extends the bus service hours.

Roger Gangitano stated the idea of a workshop, in his opinion, is that people get to interact with a back and forth; and this format does not lend itself to that. He pointed out it is identical to a regular Commission meeting where people receive a specific amount of time to address issues. He went on to say the second point he would like to make is a lot of work went into a video that the Board has decided to hold off until the very end, which makes no sense, because the people want to refer to the information inside of that video; but holding the video off and not showing it to the end takes everything out of context that the people want to relate to and lean upon. He stated the Board puts itself on the opposite side of the people when it does stuff like that at a workshop like this and it minimizes the ability of the people to fight their point of view, although it is obvious the Board's point of view is opposed to what the people have. He requested the Board vote no on the gas tax increase until such time that a budget review committee can determine if funds can be moved, saved, or cut from other line items in the budget, or if a tax increase or sales tax is appropriate; a rush to vote yes on this proposal is not necessary; and a budget review committee should be given the opportunity to find an alternative to a tax increase. He noted the video had a number of suggestions on it that he thought were worthy, maybe arguable that they are not worry, but they cannot do that after a person has already spoken; there is no discussion on that; and this is not a workshop to achieve a solution, it is a workshop in farce, as the people cannot relate to all of the work that went into the video to find solutions. He urged the Board to vote no on a gas tax to allow the budget review committee to find a viable, workable solution rather than to simply increase the tax on the people for the errors that have been made in the past, either the Board's or other Board's; and the County is in a fix right now when the money should have been there, and was there, in the budget to fix the roads. He reiterated a budget review committee would be able to locate money of that nature and hopefully save the people from having to reach into their pockets. He stated he will donate the time he has left to someone else, unless the Board finds that is unacceptable in a workshop that someone else is given more time if he or she needs it.

Commissioner Infantini stated she would like for anyone who would like to hold off giving their comments, because people turned in their cards thinking they had to put it in public comments; she suggested anyone who would like to wait until staff has an opportunity to do their PowerPoint presentation, and the Board has the opportunity to see the video, which may raise some points; and the public wants to comment after the presentation, not before because he or she cannot rebut anything that has been discussed.

Tim Tumulty, Cocoa Beach Commissioner and Vice Mayor, stated they had a meeting early in December on the issue; the majority of them, four out of five, felt it was putting the cart before the horse, and they voted against voting on it until they heard what the Board had to say at the

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workshop; and they want to understand exactly what is being done. He inquired if the needs or wants are being taken care of; and he stated they do not have all of the information, which is what this workshop is about. He stated in reference to the video that was not shown earlier, at that meeting there was a resident at Cocoa Beach that played music for three minutes from the *Sound of Music* and they all listened to it; it is the First Amendment right of free speech to allow everyone to speak and be heard; and the Board has the opportunity to defer speaking. He stated it is just an amount of time, nothing more than 15 minutes, and the people are going to speak and use that time anyway.

Philip Weinberg stated he is the current Chairman of Palm Bay's local advisory board, and prior to that he served on Palm Bay's road maintenance ad hoc road working group, which essentially mirrored the Blue Ribbon Committee; and they reached a similar conclusion that an additional source is needed to address the road problems. He pointed out no one likes to raise taxes, and no one likes to pay them; he is sensitive to the class of people who are affected most by an increase of taxes, which are retirees living on a fixed income; he and his wife are retirees living on a fixed income; but he understands the necessity to address the problem. He went on to say it is time to bite the bullet and take action, as it cannot be put off any longer; he is sure there is waste in County government just as there is some in the cities budgets, but not enough to address the problem; the ninth cent and the Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) can be unilaterally imposed without a vote of the public; and the taxpayers can vote and let their common sense to solve the problem. He noted of the 67 counties in Florida, 48 of them currently have a tax rate in excess of six and one-half cent on the dollar; the reason for that is because they understand they have needs that cannot be addressed otherwise; and four of those counties have a one cent sales tax specifically for infrastructure. He added the LOGT and ninth cent gas tax are unfair; they have a greater effect on low income people in the fact that everyone pays the tax equally; and the higher income people will not be affected as much as lower income people. He suggested the Board let the voters make that decision.

Chairman Barfield stated in the Blue Ribbon report, it stated that if the gas tax came in and the one-half sales tax went through by referendum, then the gas tax would go away; and if this goes any further, that is what he would like to do. Mr. Weinberg stated he would prefer to see the half cent sales tax which would raise a great deal more money for the County's roads as well as the cities roads.

Kathryn Rudloff, Executive Director for Business Voice, stated this is a diverse group of businesses from across the region who are committed to making the Space Coast a great place to live, work, and to do business; Business Voice is not affiliated with any political party, but it is operated on a non-partisan basis to promote a pro-business agenda; and she appreciates the opportunity to speak to the Board today, not on behalf of herself, but on behalf of these businesses that she represents. She went on to say the voices of Business Voice commends the Board for taking the issue on, for recognizing that maintaining the roads and infrastructure is an obligation of the County to its citizens, and that action must be taken to ensure the roadways and infrastructure are properly maintained. She stated they understand it is never easy to propose the tax increase; members of Business Voice do not want to pay higher taxes any more than some of the individuals the Board will hear from today, but their members recognize the difference between wants and needs; they believe the County can no longer afford to fall behind in the maintaining of roadways; the businesses she represents are confident that the Board is the right leaders at the right time to take action on this issue; and they are confident the Board is well positioned to find a comprehensive solution to maintain the infrastructure so the economy can continue to grow.

John Weiler provided the Board with a hand out. He stated he has recommendations for providing adequate funding for road maintenance without increasing any taxes; he fully understands, as many of the audience members do, that bonded road money cannot be used

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for maintenance, only for new road construction; he also understands that road maintenance funding most come from the General Fund; and the question comes down to funding core functions first and then if money is left over, other items may be considered. He stated what this means is a political will by the Board to stick to the core functions and available existing revenue with reallocation of funds for core functions; most citizens consider a core function of local government to be roads and bridges, including maintenance, sanitation, garbage and trash pickup disposal, fire service, public safety, and the Constitutional Officers Funding; they have been told that the County should be resurfacing about 55 miles of County roads each year; and the list of the items to be reduced are eliminated and the current fund is numerous, but the \$5 million needed can be accomplished with the following items. He suggested to the Board to delete \$510,000 community based funding of various charities that is not a core function of the Board; delete \$150,000 to the Brevard Cultural Alliance that is not a core function of County business; delete \$1,500,000 to the EDC and defund it to \$100 per year; and the EDC is not a core function. He went on to ask the Board to freeze the 150 unfilled positions in the County right now, with benefits it is over \$1.1 million; there are numerous pieces of property within the County, specifically the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) building, which they are all aware of, and the unused Supervisor of Elections building; and that would give the County \$2.6 million. He stated total that is \$5.6 million that the Board has the authority to do; if the Board does not like those suggestions, he has another idea for them; take four percent out of the overall budget of the following County departments: Central Services, Board of County Commissioners, Budget Office, County Attorney, County Manager's office, Emergency Management, Housing and Human Services, Information Technology, Natural Resources Management, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, and Valkaria Airport; that is \$121 million, at four percent, that is \$4.48 million; and those have nothing to do with fire, safety, or other public functions and Constitutional Officers, as these are all County departments. He advised for the future there are major CRAs in the County that after 2017 the Board would not have to do any of this; the CRAs alone, if they were eliminated from the County funding, would give the Board more than enough to continue the 55 miles per year from now on; and that is the \$789,000 a year for MIRA, \$3,135,000 North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), and that gives the Board enough to fund for the next 25 years the road maintenance program. He noted all it takes is political will to focus on the core is all of the citizens are asking for. He stated if the Board does not want to do any of what he has suggested, wait until next year's taxes come in; if the millage rate stays the same, the Board will have more than \$5 million just for that it can dedicate to the road maintenance program. He pointed out there are many ways to fund the roads without taxing the citizens.

Chairman Barfield inquired if the Community Based Funding and various charities were taken out of the budget, what the impact of that would be.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, replied that is approximately \$510,000; a lot of those agencies are present and can explain to the Board how they leverage those dollars; and Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services Director, may have those figures in his head. He went on to add the \$510,000 that goes to those agencies, through a competitive process, not the Board determining what agencies receive, but a competitive RFP process; and Mr. Golden may have the ability to take the \$510,000 and leverage that through their community services.

Commissioner Infantini stated the charities do go through a competitive process, but the \$16,000 in avoided property taxes by the historical farm house, did not go through a competitive process; and the Commission voted to allow them not to pay property taxes because it is a historical building, instead of money coming from the Tourist Development Council to pay those taxes; and there are other places the County has been giving to besides the \$510,000.

Mr. Golden explained the Board approved funding for Aging Matters Senior Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels) at \$60,000, and they will draw down an additional \$540,000 in leverage

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funds, which provides 1,783 meals for clients; their Senior Assistance Program receives \$24,000 and it draws down \$270,000, which gives about 1,248 clients; the Alzheimer's Foundation receives \$60,000 and they draw down \$75,000, which allows them to do transportation for 880 clients; and there are multiple other charities.

Chairman Barfield inquired what the \$1.1 million freeze on the 150 open, unfilled positions is. Mr. Whitten advised the Board staff will address that in staff's portion of the workshop; not all of those positions are General Funded; a number of those positions are fire medics or fire EMTs or enterprise funds; and some of those are public safety positions.

Commissioner Smith stated he made the point when the Board approved the \$510,000 for charities, and he voted for it as well, that those charities should keep in mind he would not be supporting them next year; he does not think it is the purpose of government to fund charities; he is a very giving person; and he probably gives away more than some people earn. He went on to say it is the government's position that it should spend money for all of the people and not choose winners and losers. He stated according to Dave Berman's article in *Florida TODAY*, Brevard County has 467 charities; of those 467 charities, Brevard County chose 14 to support; that is not fair to the other 452 if a person looks at it like government should be funding the charities; the charities will not go away if the County does not fund them, because 12 of the 14 the County supports is also supported by *United Way*; and Aging Matters is receiving \$90,000 from the County, and are receiving over all approximately \$4 million. He pointed out if the Board stops funding these folks, they will still be out there helping the community. He suggested that everyone search their hearts and step up and support these folks.

Jim Phend, Director of Melbourne Motorists Association, stated some of the things he was going to mention have already been covered, so he will not waste time on that; he asked the Board to consider rejecting the proposal for a six cents increase in the County's Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT), as well as the possible one-half cent increase in the sales tax to make road repairs; he listened to the video that everyone spoke about earlier; it has some unhappy things in there; and he hopes the Board will listen to it. He went on to say the average motorist is already paying in full for the necessary repairs for the County's highway system; the fact that the Board or staff has arranged to improperly spend that money on other sometimes unnecessary projects does not make the average motorist liable for the County's errors; there is plenty of money on hand according to one of those members of the citizens board of review; and the fact that the Commissioners and staff members have allowed spending for real estate projects, charities, expensive palm trees, EDC, and other lesser important items is inexcusable in his opinion. He pointed out no one in government has been held accountable for that; the average motorist and taxpayers cannot be held to account for the government's failures; and he urged the Board to vote no on the proposed tax increases. He stated Mr. Weiler and Mr. Gangitano had good ideas.

Mary Hillberg stated it is a rare opportunity that the County gets a chance to act when those before has handed the Board a difficult situation; in addition, the Board has the opportunity to only tax those who use the system, which is fair; she agrees with the transit issues; and it is an enormous factor in the County. She stated when businesses look at Brevard County to decide if they want to bring their businesses here, they look at transportation, infrastructure, culture, schools, and libraries; this is a real face of the community; it is a chance for the Board to do something that everyone else has kind of kicked down; and she thinks it is brave of the Board to do it now because it is not popular.

Dale Young stated he would like to speak on Item II. Chairman Barfield advised Mr. Young there is no Item II.

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Commissioner Infantini stated in other words Mr. Young wants to wait until after the presentation is being made.

John Kaufmann, Veteran's Council, stated he is in favor of the gas tax; he supports the Veterans Center and all they are doing to help veterans and their families; and the extra monies will help in the expansion and programs they are doing, as well as transportation.

Mr. Gangitano inquired if the Board can explain what the difference is between a regular meeting and this workshop, because a lot of them are sitting there wondering what the difference is; and he asked when the people can interact in the workshop.

Chairman Barfield pointed out people are given an opportunity to speak and the Board is interacting. He stated the Board will go through the comments and then there will be discussion.

Commissioner Infantini inquired how many people in the audience would like to speak after the presentation by the Board; and she asked where the Board rule is that said the Item is not heard first. She noted every single meeting she has attended, staff has presented the Item, they do their PowerPoint, and then people get up and speak. She pointed out these people do not want to speak before the presentation. She inquired what if people want to speak afterward.

Commissioner Anderson stated the County Attorney said in order for the Board to change the rules or procedures the Board has to vote.

Commissioner Infantini stated that is not true.

*The Board recessed at 2:18 p.m. and reconvened at 2:32 p.m.

Scott Knox, County Attorney, stated there is a rule adopted by the Board in 2005 that is still in effect today that says that videos are limited to five minutes; the Board can vote to waive that rule if it chooses; there was a motion made earlier that the Board moved to waive the rule; and it was not passed.

Chairman Barfield stated the way it stands now it is five minutes by the rules.

Fred McMillian stated he lives in the unincorporated part of Brevard County, and Commissioner Fisher is his representative. He went on to say he is a transportation disadvantaged person in the County; he has come before this Board for the last five years; he has been appalled at the inconvenience to the public when it comes to transportation; since he has been sitting in this room, he has come to the conclusion that there is too much divisiveness about this tax, even though transportation needs are part of the discussion; and he heard a lot of presentations today that deserves attention. He stated he would like to see the Board to take advice from other professional that is not in this room; he would like to see the Board look somewhere else for another solution before going forward with this vote; the public needs transportation; he is a Vietnam veteran; and he spent 27 years defending this country. He pointed out he does not appreciate having to not to be able to go out the day before Thanksgiving to buy a turkey and sit at the bus stop for 20 minutes, and there was no bus assuming SCAT would be running; he has direct phone lines to SCAT; and he called them and was advised they were closed for the holiday. He noted he was also battling a kidney infection and he could not get to the doctor. He stated he has to depend on public transportation; he receives a lot of cooperation and assistance from SCAT; and they even did a wellness call on him when he missed an appointment. He stated he knows the roads need to be fixed; he is on a fixed income; and five years ago when he first arrived in the County, no one was in this room talking about

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transportation. He went on to add he has placed this argument in front of the Board every week; some of the people are present today just because of the gas tax discussion; and there are other issues in the County that needs to be addressed other than the roads or charities.

Commissioner Fisher stated Jim Liesenfelt, Space Coast Area Transit Director, and he had a conversation after Thanksgiving because several people could not get to the places serving Thanksgiving meals due to no transportation; one of the things they are going to do as a pilot program is have limited transportation that day; and to get with the Daily Bread and other places to see if they can serve meals within certain hours so SCAT can provide transportation. He noted it would be a start to get something done about that.

Pat Pasley stated last week when she should have been baking Christmas cookies and decorating her tree, she was working on a video, and she knows that over 100 hours went into making the video. She stated she sent Chairman Barfield an email and asked him for extra time on today's Agenda so she could make that presentation; Chairman Barfield asked her to send it to him; and she sent it to him. She went on to say at 4:00 yesterday afternoon, she said the meeting is tomorrow and she had not heard back from the Chairman; and as of noon today, she had not heard back from him. She stated the reason people do not show up to meetings is because they are going to get a response like that; it is disrespectful; and she has been nothing but respectful to the entire Board. She pointed out there have been a lot of people who put a lot of time into getting facts done; she could see if the video was shown now, a lot of the comments would be cut in half; and she inquired if there is anyone in the audience who would give up five minutes of their time to show the next five minutes and the next five minutes as there are only 12 minutes of video. She inquired if that is legal.

Attorney Knox replied he is sorry to say there is a rule against that as well.

Ms. Pasley inquired if the Board is afraid of the truth. She stated she has been involved for eight years; the Budget Review Committee got involved; the members went before the Board and they were cut short; and the Board did not listen to what they were saying.

Commissioner Infantini stated there may be a rule, she has never seen it, and she would like for Attorney Knox to show it to her; but she suggested three people do the video presentation of five, five, and two minutes to hear the whole video.

ITEM II.A., LEGISLATIVE INTENT, RE: FUEL TAX AND LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated it is requested the Board approve legislative intent to hold a public hearing to consider adoption of additional fuel and Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) for road improvements in Brevard County; what the Item is, is permission to amend the Code of Ordinances for six additional pennies, one of which is the ninth cent fuel tax; the second of which are five cents LOGT; the proposal, as submitted by the Chairman, is that the County's and municipalities will submit a prioritized list with estimated costs; and the pennies would not be used for capacity projects. He went on to say the represented jurisdictions would have to have citizens oversight committees; and the levy would only last for a 10-year collection period unless extended by the Board or the respective municipalities.

Chairman Barfield the Board will continue with public comments.

Commissioner Infantini stated she thought the Board was going to have the PowerPoint; and she inquired when the Board would see staff's presentation so people could comment on the presentations. She inquired if the people can speak after the presentation.

Chairman Barfield advised they can speak only one time.

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Commissioner Infantini stated the whole point in having the workshop was not to do that; and she inquired if the public can speak afterwards.

Chairman Barfield responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Fisher stated he knows he originally voted not to do the presentation, but he would like to show the video and then let Mr. Whitten do his presentation.

The Board approved a 12-minute video provided by Pat Pasley to be shown, and then the County Manager to provide the Board with his presentation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Robin Fisher, Commissioner District 1
SECONDER:	Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
AYES:	Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM II.A.1., CONSIDERATION OF DISTRICT 3 CITIZENS VIDEO PRESENTATION

Ms. Pasley provided the Board with a video, as follows: "A vote is coming soon where Brevard County Commissioners are proposing to add six cents per gallon gas tax increase for Brevard County. Not only will this add to your travel costs, but it will be a cost increase for any business that provides goods and services, and they eventually will pass that cost along to you. What is the rationale, and just how justified are their reasoning; and are there any other solutions that are available? As you can see from this chart, Florida Fuel Tax Levies come from an interesting matrix of sources. Brevard County is currently receiving a six cents Local Option Gas Tax. The question is what has the County been doing with this money? This chart gives you a view of Brevard County gas tax history. In 1985 the Florida Legislature authorized counties to levy Local Option Gas Taxes. It was to be used to finance the building of new roads. Then from 2000 to 2005 we had no debt service, but we were still maintaining County roads. Starting in 2005, the Local Option Gas Tax revenues were financed and refinanced through bonds several times. This became a problem because bonded money cannot be used for road maintenance, only for new construction, but without a forensic audit, it is hard to determine just how much money has been borrowed because of all the re-bonding, defeasance, and overlapping of bonds. Had we not started borrowing against this future revenue stream, there would have been plenty of funds available to keep pace with maintaining our County roads. This is an organization chart for the Public Works Department. It encompasses all road construction, design, maintenance, and ancillary functions; and it has several revenue sources as you will see depicted in the next slide. Just as a comparison, Public Works has 212 employees, Brevard's Parks and Recreation has 288 employees, so for the purposes of budgeting, Parks and Recreation seems to be at a higher priority than roads. This chart depicts the revenue sources utilized by Public Works. In the 2014-15 budget, Public Works shows total revenues of \$53,741,000. Employee compensation and benefits, coupled with debt service, currently account for \$44,102,000. Notice the debt service of \$8.6 million. This closely resembles the revenue that would be generated by an additional six cents per gallon gas tax. So you can see if we weren't using this revenue to pay interest, we could be using it for road maintenance. Compare the total County debt service versus the gas tax revenues. The County's budget shows only six percent of their entire budget going for debt service. However, if you look at the gas tax revenues, you will see that greater than 60 percent of those revenues are going to pay for bond debt service and not for roads. This chart clearly shows the bulk of gas tax revenues being spent on servicing debt rather than maintaining and building roads. The two bars of interest here is the purple and the red. You will note that the greatest amount of repair activity

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occurred between 2000 and 2005 in which we had no debt service. During that time, rather than continue on the maintenance schedule or to reserve those revenues for projects, the County Manager changed revenue allocations and moved revenues that previously were spent on road maintenance into salaries and administration. Then from 2006 to 2015, note how the red bar far exceeds the purple, meaning that we were paying out more in debt service than what was going to fix roads. For the past eight years, Brevard County has faithfully paid the interest on unused, borrowed funds. It's no wonder Public Works has a road revenue crisis. Here we see a record of Brevard County road construction and maintenance. During the first 15 years of road taxes, these major roads were completed, Dairy Road, Melbourne, Wickham Road, Malabar, and the I-95 connectors. During the past 15 years projects started 10 years ago such as the Palm Bay Parkway, Barnes Boulevard, and the NASA/Ellis routing are still awaiting completion; and yet the revenues for these periods are similar with the exception of the debt service. As of November 12th of this year, Steve Burdett of Brevard County Finance reported that we have over \$54 million in unused bank bond funds, while we are paying a whopping level of interest each year. Even the IRS asked why the funds were collected but not used as intended. Arbitros rules disallow borrowing for the purpose of investment interest, but because we were paying more in interest than what we were borrowing, Arbitros rules did not apply; however, at this rate, all these funds will be simply used to pay debt and not for roads. Back in May of 2007, *Florida TODAY* lauded the Brevard County Commissioners for biting the bullet and making the right move by issuing a \$50 million bond for 30 road projects. They stated that there for some 470 miles of backlog. That was eight years ago, and according to the Blue Ribbon Committee, the backlog is even larger and no projects have been completed. The \$50 million sat around unused but not without being at a great cost. So why are the cities clamoring for this gas tax? Well, the County receives 47.14 percent of the gas tax while the city receives 52.86 percent. If we are concerned about County roads, is this really a good business arrangement? Granted that most road projects are jointly funded, but the County does not participate in city taxes. So, let's recap. Brevard County currently has some \$35 million in Local Option Gas Tax bonds proceeds, plus another \$11.7 million on hand in Constitutional Gas Tax revenues. This money cannot be spent on repairs and maintenance. However, at \$5.5 to \$6.5 million plus in debt service on those funds, they will be exhausted in eight years with no benefit to anyone other than our bond holders. During that eight-year time frame there would be another \$44 million in Local Option Gas Tax received, more than enough to have funded road projects. So you have to ask, why would you borrow money just to pay interest, then ask the taxpayers to ante up more gas tax revenues? As you will see from the following two charts, our goal of resurfacing 55 miles of road per year has been woefully neglected. How was this possible? Has management deteriorated that badly in the past two years? So, if the recommendation is to resurface 55 miles of road per year, and the cost is \$78,000 per mile that would bring the total cost to under \$4.5 million. So you have to ask, why is the County seeking to raise \$6 to \$8 million in additional gas taxes? Let's take a look at some of the spending that's occurred in the past few years. \$1.4 million for EELs building; \$1.4 for Fire Rescue building; \$3 for Sheriff's CSI building; \$500,000 for Fire Rescue modular; \$1.19 million for EMS Harris Clermont Street; \$1.2 for the rejected Supervisor of Elections building; \$6 million for my favorite, Mosquito Control helicopters; \$500,000 for Spec buildings; \$2.7 on lost bond specs; and who knows how much on EELs land acquisitions and NBEDZ's corporate charities. Could any of this money have been used on roads rather than needless spending? Are charities a core function of government? Where does it say that government can take your money from General Fund and disburse it to charitable organizations? Yet Brevard County has played a game of pick and choose and has handed out over \$510,000 to charitable organizations, possibly to some organizations you would not approve. Before a Commissioner votes to support the six cents per gallon gas tax increase, they should consider some of the following recommendations: 1) creating County budget priorities list, this should be done before every budget cycle; 2) create a County road priority list, and not just a Christmas wish list, but one that is based on true needs; 3) use some of the \$54 million that's currently in the bank to help maintain some of the roads that are in most need of repair; 4) start to defease some of the bonding to knock down the high

rates of interest; 5) remove the funding of CRAs, if the cities like them they can keep them but they'll have to fund them with their own revenue; 6) eliminate NBEDZ, the amount of funding coming from FP&L alone could benefit the whole County and not just North Brevard; 7) review the Sheriff's Department, crime is down so why hasn't their budget been reviewed and cut; 8) review Public Safety budget that hasn't never been cut; 9) lower the millage rates on some of the departments such as EELs, Parks, and Libraries; 10) sell some of the properties such as the EELs building on East Drive or the Supervisor of Elections building that was never wanted; 11) start with one or two departments and put them on zero based budgeting, this will help find any waste; 12) review current Brevard County health plans, and not with the current vendor; 13) review the Brevard County phone system, millions have been lost because of the AT&T contract renewal; 14) review the 150 unfilled positions, if they have not been filled in six months, eliminate the position; and 15) well, I'm sure there's plenty more. There's no disagreement that roads need to be among the highest priority of things that need to be done; but until we see the County, A) create a priority list for the County budget, B) create a road repair priority list rather than a Christmas wish list, C) fix the debt service issue, D) stop corporate welfare, E) stop the funding of CRAs and NBEDZ, F) stop the distribution of General Fund revenue funds to charities, and G) begin to use funds that are currently available to work on road maintenance. Then tell them no to the proposed six cents per gallon gas tax."

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated he appreciates the opportunity to respond to the video; and largely what staff is going to talk about are the false narratives that are out in the public. He stated Section 1.5 of the Charter establishes the separation between legislative and executive functions of Brevard County government; the establishment and adoption of policies shall be the responsibility of the Board; and the execution of that policy is the responsibility of the County Manager. He went on to say his job is to execute the Board's policy; a lot of the issues that were raised in the video are policy matters of the Board. He stated he will start with bond financing and the exorbitant interest rates; there are three bonds that the County has in place; and those bonds begin in the year 2000. He added the video says the County had no bond financing between the years of 2000 and 2005; that is absolutely false; the County issued the Constitutional Gas Tax bonds in the year 2000 in the amount of \$39.7 million; the interest rates on those bonds are 1.43 percent; and they retire in 2020. He noted the County issued bonds for LOGT in 2005, and refinanced those last year; those bonds were initially \$48.5 million; the interest rates on those bonds are 2.77 percent; and they are extinguished in 2026. He pointed out in 2007 the County issued bonds for \$48.4 million; those bonds carry the highest interest rate of five percent; and they are extinguished in 2037. He stated the question was asked why the County would not defease the bonds; as the Board can see, the County has already refinanced two previous bonds; and those interest rates are well under three percent. He advised the Board the third bond at five percent has a call date of 2017; if the County were to seek to refinance those bonds at this moment in time, it would actually pay more in interest earning because it would have to take the refinancing dollars, escrow those dollars, and pay interest on those escrow dollars; and right now it does not make fiscal sense for the County to actually go out and refinance those bonds. He stated the County's financial advisor monitors all of the time the ability to refinance for savings; when the County refinances it never extends the term, it simply takes advantage of the lower interest rates; and again, the video was not correct in saying the County did not bond out between the years 2000 and 2005. He noted the video was also incorrect in saying that those bond proceeds cannot be used for repair and maintenance, they absolutely are used for that; a large part of what the County has achieved over the past 15 years are as a result of issuing bonds to do just that. He explained to the Board John Denninghoff, Public Works Director's, presentation will go into a lot more detail regarding the success of the County regarding those bonds; but he wanted to highlight those things. He stated the video talked about the 150 vacant positions; 57 of those positions are in

fire; 33 of those are safer position grants; and the safer position grants are federal dollars that were utilized to train veterans and other disadvantaged groups with regards to the fire service. He pointed out a large portion of those vacancies are not Generally Funded but they are also Public Safety related positions. He stated the video talked about the phone system and what the County is doing regarding that; the County issued an Request for Proposals (RFP) to switch to Voice Over IP this past spring; those responses are back and are currently under review; and the false narratives that are out there are presented all of the time as though they are factual. He stated the video talked about zero based budgeting and the ability to do that; back in January, he presented to the Board and the Citizens Budget Review Committee a line item budget of the County; that is the first time in his recollection that anyone has ever been presented with a line item budget for the County; it is on the table in the Board room; and people can ask any director if they had any questions on any line items within their budget. He stated the budget document could be opened up, a line item picked up, call the departments in and ask the question; and they are not afraid to open up the County with regards to the line item budget. He advised they have had that for over 10 months. He went on to say the video talked about the health insurance recommendations; Gerard Visco, Human Resources Director, and Frank Abbate, Assistant County Manager, are prepared to go into great details regarding the savings generated over time; one of the things he wants to point out is the video talks about the consultant and doing away with the current consultant in favor of either the consultant they are recommending or some other consultant; the County's current health care insurance consultant has a listing of clients that includes Universal Studios, Volusia County, the School Board Consortium, Duval County School System, the Orange County Government, and the City of Orlando; and they are experts in the insurance business. He added as the Chief Administrative Officer he is not sure it is something to brag about, but since 2009 the shift from Brevard County as the employer to the employees has occurred in an amount in excess of \$12 million; the County has reduced the cost in health insurance to the Board since 2009 by \$12.3 million; and the represent as a false narrative that staff has not explored healthcare reductions is simply that, a false narrative. He pointed out the turn around on the health insurance program is to the tune of \$20 plus million. He advised the Board last year they spent, in terms of actuals, \$55 million; the projection from two years ago was \$65 million for the end of this fiscal year; and they are projecting that the County's actuals will be \$49 to \$50 million, which is a \$15 million savings on the health insurance program. He noted there are a lot of representations in the video that staff will hit during their presentations; Mr. Denninghoff will go first and give the Board the record on Public Works and the County's road projects; and then Mrs. Hayes will follow up with the budgetary false narratives that have been out there. He noted that will take some time, but staff will give the detail the Board has asked for. He stated Commissioner Infantini asked him why she did not get the PowerPoint presentation; the Board has seen the information before; and it is just a reformatting of that information. He stated the information is contained in the budget book, the information is contained in the annual audits, and it is contained in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR); and the Board did not get the information because Tom Rosenberg, Budget Office Director, has been dealing with the death of his brother for the past week, and has only been in the office twice; and it took staff time to digest the video, and to get through the video. He pointed out there are a number of points staff will hit on that video; and staff stands ready to actually present to the public, and to remind the Board of, what the facts are regarding the County's story.

Commissioner Infantini stated unfortunately the point has been missed; the point of the video was to highlight information as best as public citizens could gather; they worked very hard to gather the most accurate, reliable information they could; no one came out and said they believed that absolutely without a doubt it is flawless. She noted it was an effort to accumulate information and present it to give other ideas; and this is what happens to her every time she presents ideas of how to cut spending and save money. She advised instead of looking at the ideas, the next meeting she was greeted with why these things will not work. She stated as far as the phone system, the Board was supposed to go out to RFP in 2009 but there was a

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Commissioner who had an issue with one of the people who was going to bid, and she shot it down; there has been millions that have been lost; and staff has done a wonderful job in saving the County on health insurance, but even more could have been saved. She stated it was never meant as an attack on the County Manager.

Mr. Whitten stated he is simply saying that when it is said the County has not issued bonds, and those bonds cannot be used for road maintenance and repairs that is incorrect; there are a number of those inaccuracies; and there is a particular item he wanted to point out. He stated the County has some of the most dedicated staff anywhere; they work into the community; they live in the community; and they are a part of this community. He advised at some point in time a person has to protect his or her professional integrity and ability to do their job if he or she does not counter the negative, because people perceive it as not doing their job. He stated there was a slide in the video that asked if management has deteriorated that badly in the past two years because the Board is unable to maintain its 55 miles per year road resurfacing; the Board has never been able to resurface 55 miles of roads a year; and to imply that because of his management that the Board now does not have the ability to do that is a shot at him. He went on to add the Board had the ability in those two fiscal years because there was one time savings from bond proceeds from gas tax savings and from other grant sources that were utilized to push the budget up at that point in time; it is not a recurring source; and the Board now goes back to the normal of not being able to resurface the 55 miles of roads per year that it needs to. He stated he is, in his personal and humble opinion, out of the box as any manager the Board will find; he is not rejecting those things that they are able to do; and he is putting on the public record the facts regarding the budget, gas tax, and all of the other information that has been presented that is a false narrative.

John Denninghoff, Public Works Director, stated most of his presentation is directly from presentations made previously to the Board since he became the Public Works Director in 2008. He stated a lot of the slides may look familiar to the Board.

Mr. Whitten stated the last two years of this being an issue is not factual; the books in front of him is the approved Capital Improvements Program from Fiscal Year 2005; the Board will see in the program from 10 years ago a listing of unmet road needs; and this issue has been presented to the Board and to the public for well over a decade.

Mr. Denninghoff stated prior to 2003, the Public Works Department was structurally about the way it is today; from 2003 to 2008 there was two separate departments; he was the director of one of those; and he provided information, engineering expertise to the Road and Bridge Department at that time that was the support behind those needs that were listed out, at least the maintenance part of it. He stated there are five major programs in the Public Works Department, Surveying and Mapping, Engineering Program, Transportation Construction Management, Traffic Operations Program, and Road & Bridge Program. He went on to explain the County is quite large and from a maintenance perspective it is divided into three major areas, the North Roadway Maintenance, Central Roadway Maintenance, and South Roadway Maintenance; and there are 1,096 miles of paved roads in the County, 82 miles of unpaved roads, 274 miles of open ditches, 1,040 miles of swale systems, 584 miles of sidewalks, 63 retention ponds maintained, and miscellaneous road grading, tree trimming, sidewalk repairs, pot holes, etc. He pointed out some of the Public Works accomplishments are 2010 to present 378.71 road miles resurfaced, completed 24 dirt road paving projects (7.5 miles) FY 2011 to current, Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) expansion from 13 to 100 signals in 2.5 years from grant money, \$50.8 million in grants for projects, Palm Bay Road culvert pipe was completed, St. Johns Heritage Parkway is under construction, and Riverside Drive reconstruction. He went on to add the Public Works Department worked on Pineda Causeway, South Wickham Road, Barnes Boulevard, which is under construction, IWorQ Work Management System implementation, 207 project highlights, and the A. Max Brewer replacement. He noted they

have received over \$50 million in grants for projects. He stated he wants to go into what staff did with the LOGT, the Constitutional Gas Tax, the bond proceeds from both of those, as well as the revenue they had associated with that since the year 2000; the reason he wants to talk about the year 2000 is because that is when the Constitutional Gas tax was bonded; and later and Mr. Whitten had already described, LOGT was bonded in 2005 and in 2007. He explained he is going to talk about the capacity of projects; they are going over some grant funds they were able to get because of it; and to talk about the opportunity to take advantage of some of the stimulus funds. He stated there have been statements he has heard suggesting the impact fees have not really done much good for the County; and he is going to show where that is really not true, they have been a substantial portion of the revenue stream they have had to deal with transportation problems. He provided a pie chart illustrating where the county has used, or is currently using, since 2000 to basically the present; He stated it is over \$270 million; much of that was grant proceeds that was split between maintenance and capacity; and it is 24 percent for maintenance and 76 percent for capacity. He noted there is no impact fees listed under the maintenance because impact fees cannot be utilized for maintenance; the gas tax bond proceeds are listed there; and staff managed to be able to do something that was unusual and came up with some grants for maintenance projects. He pointed out stimulus funds were there that were almost exclusively used for maintenance; in order to qualify for those, staff had to use the gas tax proceeds to take care of some important projects; and one was two of the lanes on Apollo Boulevard going through the Melbourne Airport Area, which were in very poor condition. He went on to say staff has completed of non-bond projects 19 percent; bond projects completed are 63 percent; and there are 18 percent of the projects currently in progress. He noted approximately 70 percent of the funds have been spent, and there is approximately 30 percent of the funds to go; and hopefully the County will qualify for some grants along the way so more can be done. He stated 25 percent was spent on maintenance; a great many of the projects done for capacity actually have a maintenance benefit; as Barnes Boulevard was widened, there was an old road there that needed to be resurfaced but the resurfacing was held off because staff knew it was about to be widened; and they relieved the maintenance responsibility of the need to do that maintenance work at least for that one cycle on that road. He noted about 43 percent of the expenditures of the 270 projects have that kind of effect; and the same things would occur at intersections and those types of projects. He stated about 33 percent of the projects were straight up capacity and did not have a whole lot to do with any maintenance benefit. He added what the Board see is the maintenance of a portion of the bond proceeds that made maintenance about \$35 million, and the bond receipts of capacity at about \$105 million. He talked about the 207 projects.

Mr. Whitten stated there is a lot more in the presentation. He advised the Board the Sheriff is present and he has another engagement; and he thinks the Sheriff wants to respond to some of the narratives presented in the video, in particular he believes there were two.

Wayne Ivey, Brevard County Sheriff, stated he is surrounded by great people who are doing great things to protect the community. He went on to say one of the things mentioned on the video was the CIS building; first of all, the building is a core function of the Sheriff's agency; it was a building that had to be constructed to accommodate the entire functions of the criminal investigation services, all inclusive of homicide, sex crimes, sexual offender registration, crime scene, and all of that is in that building. He pointed out the Sheriff is able to pay for that building out of forfeiture monies and inmate telephone money; and that money is very restrictive in how it can be spent and what it can be used for. He stated the Barbara Pill facility and also the hangar where the aviation unit is based at, the new multi-million dollar CAD System that they had to have; their other system antiquated was completely failing and the new Records Management System, Jail management System, and CAD System was funded through all of that as well; and the Gus Hipp building is a priority in their agency. He noted the Sheriff's office partners with its citizens, other law enforcement agencies, and in the past three years, they have been able to lower the crime rate just over 18 percent in the County. He stated they are the most efficient jail

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in all of central Florida; they compete with several private facilities; they have been able to maintain those by being innovative, by coming up with things that will lower the money they are using from the taxpayers; they grow vegetables; they have a Budget Oversight Committee, and they ask for citizen input from citizens from all different walks of life; and every year they have given a thumbs up on the budget. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for supporting public safety in the community.

Mr. Whitten stated staff has extensive presentations on both roads and the budget; they intend to go through that unless the Board turns staff around; and he does not know if the Board wants to ask the speakers to come up now or after the presentation.

Chairman Barfield inquired what the pleasure of the Board is.

Commissioner Infantini stated she thinks the audience has the just of the fact that road improvements are needed; the question is where to get the money; she does not see where the benefit is coming from; she thinks it lies within the budget; and it is not under Mr. Denninghoff's control. She went on to state her appreciation to staff for putting together the presentation; and if the Board can just get back to the people, it would be great.

Mr. Whitten stated he considers himself a professional and respectful person; staff's job is to give the Board and the public facts; they are not close to the end of presenting all of those facts and addressing all of the points in detail; and he understands the narrative is not going to change. He added when staff tells the Board the County does not have three IT Departments and the public contuse to say the County has three IT Departments, including the School Board, they understand that the narrative is to confirm the bias; and as the County Manager, he feels compelled to allow staff to address the misinformation that is out there, because the false narratives reflects upon staff in terms of their professional integrity. He asked the Board's indulgence to present their entire presentation just like Ms. Pasley was allowed to present her entire presentation.

Commissioner Infantini stated that is about 11 minutes versus two hours.

Commissioner Fisher stated he would like to see staff's presentation, because the Board needs to get the facts about the community, especially if it is going to move forward with this.

Commissioner Infantini stated she does not know how in 11 minutes there could have been that many false statements.

Commissioner Anderson stated they are going into the budget overview and revenues; there were points that were brought up on the video that maybe these are relative to; and he is prepared to be here all evening.

Commissioner Smith stated that he has been here for 13 months, and he can confirm and praise Mr. Whitten and staff as they are very diligent and efficient; he does not know if anyone needs to hear more of that; and personally he thinks that the audience has a lot of things to say. He recommended to the Board that it allow the people to speak; it is best to let them vent as they are frustrated; the County has great staff to answer the questions if there are misstatements or misconceptions; and then the Board can move on.

Commissioner Anderson stated the budget part of the presentation is what he was interested in.

Commissioner Fisher stated the public is confused by the video and he thinks there are some facts out there that need to be cleared up; and he thinks staff should be given the opportunity to finish their presentation.

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Mr. Whitten suggest that Mr. Denninghoff goes to the portion where there is \$50 million something dollars in the bank; the false narrative part of that is that those are allocated by Board Policy to projects; and if something different is done with that money, it is a Board decision.

Commissioner Smith inquired if the County is paying \$350,000 for people to ride around and access the roads and say either that they are good or bad; and he stated the point that has been made to him numerous times over the last several weeks is that the numbers are bogus, and that the County does not have that many roads that need repaired.

Commissioner Infantini stated the money is collected Countywide and should be allocated Countywide; getting more money is not going to ensure the roads will be maintained in a fair and equitable manner; roads that are in the most need of improvements will be maintained; and she reiterated that more money is not the issue.

Mr. Whitten stated the Board still has the budget presentation to hear; bond funding can be used on repair and maintenance; the Board commissioned an engineering firm to make an in-the-field assessment on road conditions; and they have the table for anyone who wants to see a comprehensive examination of the County's road system. He went on to add that staff has done more than the three projects listed in the video over the past 15 years; and staff stands ready to answer any questions that may come up.

Commissioner Anderson stated he thinks they should move to slide number 74 on the bond financing; it is a good chart; and it could clear stuff up for the public that may have been indicated in the video.

Mr. Denninghoff stated what the Board will see on the next two slides, 73 and 74, is basically in 2000 the County had Constitutional Gas Tax bond proceeds that was the 80 percent portion of the tax, it was a 20-year initial term; that term has been unchanged as a result of any refinancing efforts; and the initial year that was to be retired was 2020. He went on to say Local Option Gas Tax one through six in bonds of 2005, is the same thing for 20 years; the 20-year term has not been refinanced because the County has got to the time period where it can do so. The refinancing efforts were focused on reducing the amount of interest payments the County would be making; the last time the County refinanced the LOGT, a few months ago, it saved \$190,000 per year until those bonds are completely retired; and that is going to be available in the years going forward to go towards maintenance of roads and capacity if the Board chooses to do it. He pointed out the refinancing has not been a problem; it has better helped the County get revenue to be used for today's problems.

Mr. Whitten noted the debt services section is in the budget book; the Board does not need a forensic audit to tell what the Board has issued; and if a person goes to the budget book, it is located on pages two and three of the debt section.

*The Board recessed at 4:16 p.m. and reconvened at 4:29 p.m.

Bob White stated Mark Twain once in referring to the press said that a person should never get into a letter writing contest with people who buy ink by the barrel; that is a little bit of what has been done here; there was a 12-minute video presentation that was prepared to the best of the people's ability who prepared it; it was turned into the County; and while the County said in whether or not it was going to make a decision to show the video that it had not been vetted by staff, suddenly there was a response from staff that clearly indicates that staff had the video in advance and had reviewed the video. He stated it is a false narrative. He went on to add he stated under different circumstances he may have enjoyed staff's presentation, but he thought today's workshop was to determine if there was something in the budget that should be used to

avoid raising taxes; everything staff showed so far had absolutely nothing to do with that singular issue that the workshop was supposed to be all about; and maybe it is a divide and concur kind of thing. He stated the last time he came before the Board he shared a resolution in opposition to the increased gas tax; and he shared with the Board the last 'whereas' clause. He noted it is a false narrative that the money does not exist in the budget to cover the cost of what would be raised by the gas tax, it is just not being spent on the core function of roads, and it is being spent on other things that are not core functions. He stated Mr. Whitten said his job was to execute the Board's Policy; he is recommending that the Board simply make it a policy that County staff brings the Board a budget every year that funds the Board's identified core function of government first; then staff can make recommendations to the Board with whatever money is left over of what categories of the budget that money should be distributed to and in what amounts; and the Board would decide what level of funding was sufficient to meet the rest of those non-core functions needs. He went on to say if the Board then decided it needs to raise taxes, it would be its responsibility to go to the public and tell them it wants to raise taxes for the things that are wants. He noted the Board wants to continue the budget process whereby it can continue to fund the non-core functions of government and then come to the public and ask them for money for the roads. He asked the Board to institute the Policy whereby there is a budget that funds core functions first.

Ronald Bartcher encouraged the Board to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Board; the County has ignored recommendations from this Board for the last 20 months, and the transportation problems have just become worse; and ignoring the problems is just not acceptable from the Commissioners. He stated some say there is plenty of money in the County budget and all that is needed is prioritization of the items; libraries and parks are vital to the budget; and that approach would cut services to children and families who need them the most. He stated cutting fire and police budgets harms the citizens of Brevard County; and libraries provide services that are essential to the community and the citizens; there are computers to find jobs, children's programs, and other services such as fax machines and notary services. He added there is 280 miles of repaving that is not possible; and it would be at five times the cost with the pay later. He stated with the new construction with Heritage Parkway, the Board has to review each project to make sure the budget is increased to cover the maintenance cost for the new project; the road maintenance can be handled with no increase in the budget; and he asked the Board not to cut library budgets, instead adopt a long term solution as proposed by the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee that will actually solve the problem.

Randy Foster stated he looked over the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee's recommendation; he agrees with recommendations one, three, and four; but he does not agree with the gas tax. He went on to say the reason why he does not believe in the gas tax is because he talks to a lot of people who tell him they are not for the gas tax; he believes it will hurt them when they get to the gas pump; and businesses that have vehicles and have to pump gas into their vehicles, which costs the consumer. He noted it is important the Board finds a way for the roads to be fixed and paved. He recommended that the Board stop funding the CRAs; ask each department for one-half percent budget decrease; and to put that money towards the roads. He stated if that does not work, the voters do not approve the one-half percent sales tax, to raise that from one-half percent to one percent. He stated gas may be low now, but a year from now it might go up. He pointed out he does not blame the road problem on the current Board, and he believes this happened long before this Board was elected. He asked the Board to work together and solve this problem.

Becky Lemstrom, representing the Women's Center, stated they ask for the funding because in 2014 there were 3,727 instances of domestic violence in the County, including seven fatalities; 2,000 people applied for restraining orders due to domestic violence; the Women's Center uses the CBO funding they receive specifically to help provide advocacy services in the north part of

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the County; and that kind of assistance is crisis counseling, shelter in the emergency safe house, legal advocacy, hospital appointments, taking them to work, taking children to school, and give them basic needs. She stated in 2014 they assisted 3,200 clients through the Victim's Services Program; and their staff does a great job. She went on to say people services are core government services.

Todd Pokrywa, The Viera Company, expressed his appreciation to the Board for having this discussion; it is important a solution is found as infrastructure needs have a direct impact on economic development opportunities and quality of life in the County; to compete with surrounding communities, the County needs to have the same tools available to it to deal with the shortfalls in the roadway program; that shortfall is identified at \$6.2 million for maintenance resurfacing, \$11.86 million for maintenance backlog, and \$29.75 million for capacity backlog; and the status quo will not work and no one will be happy with the difficult decision the Board has to make. He pointed out without a chartered course, the roadway maintenance and capacity cannot be addressed that are needed in the County; he supports all of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee; and those have been provided in the Agenda Report. He stated if the sales tax passes, the gas tax should be repealed. He added the County must start somewhere; beginning to address the implementation of the funding sources identified by the Committee will prevent the County from falling further behind and reduce the risk that it will be more expensive to address these needs in the future.

Connie Smith stated she feels like this is a little bit of a set up; she thought the public was coming to a workshop and the Board asks the general public to give it ideas about how to save money in the budget to pay for the road maintenance; and everyone agrees the roads have to be maintained. She inquired if the people speaking about the transit system have anything to do with the six cents gas tax.

Commissioner Fisher replied those people have a right to use part of the gas tax for the transit system; and for those people, it was about that as well.

Ms. Smith stated it makes it sound like some of the people today are against the bus system and domestic violence, but they are the first ones donating charity wise. She stated the Board Members ran on its business backgrounds; roads are a core service; and core services should be funded before any non-essential expenditure. She inquired if the \$8 million that went to a billionaire if there is any way to renegotiate and ask for him to maybe do something nice for the County; and was the \$8 million a core function.

Chairman Barfield replied there has been no money given to Blue Origin; there are certain requirements over the years they have to do; once they complete their \$200 million facility, they get a portion of that; but they have certain things they have to do before they receive any money.

Ms. Smith stated there could be an uber bus system for the veterans, especially on the weekends from the public schools. She stated the Board should sell the empty buildings; and immediately they would have money.

Commissioner Infantini stated the \$8 million has been pledged and that is why she has been talking about it; the County has to have it available when and if they do it, which means it is not available for core functions; and she reiterated if the company does what they say they are going to do, the County has to pay them. She noted she encouraged the Board before it makes promises, it figures where the money is coming from first so things that need to be funded will be.

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Commissioner Smith inquired if the Board did not pledge the \$8 million to Blue Origin could it be used for roads.

Commissioner Infantini replied affirmatively. She stated the County bonded out \$41 million of the NBEDZ to widen I-95 in Volusia County; she thought it was ridiculous when that was done; and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is paying the County back.

Commissioner Anderson advised it had no impact on County funds.

Commissioner Fisher stated once again there is this ability to mislead the public; it is shameful; it is like the video that was presented today, because he knows Commissioner Infantini had the opportunity to see that early on; and she allowed those things to be said without contacting the people who made the video to correct their mistakes. He went on to say the NBEDZ did a partnership with Volusia County to create the Space Coast Infrastructure Agency; with that Agency, the contractor with FDOT built I-95 four years before it was supposed to be done; and the County nor the NBEDZ had any financial obligation at all. He pointed out it was FDOT that backed the contractor who funded the project early; and their revenue was what backed the project. He noted the County had no obligation; because of the NBEDZ and Brevard County, I-95, which moves more commerce than anywhere, got built three years early because of the creativity of it; and Commissioner Infantini did not vote for that either.

Commissioner Infantini advised the Board she did not vote for that, but it was widening Volusia County I-95, and it was through the NBEDZ that the Space Coast Infrastructure Agency was created. She inquired why the Space Coast Infrastructure Agency is not used to bond out the revenue stream of the NBEDZ, and instead of giving cash giveaways to companies to get them to come to Brevard County, bond out that income stream and use it for roads.

Attorney Knox pointed out the revenue stream that was bonded by the Space Coast Infrastructure Agency in that case was the contract payments that were due from FDOT to the contractor; the County money was not involved at all.

Commissioner Infantini noted the County and the Space Coast Infrastructure Agency was, and that is an agency of the NBEDZ. She stated there was a mistake in the video; it said the County was going to build a spec building in North Brevard County for \$500,000, but actually it is \$6 million; it is in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the Budget that was approved; and it said the County was using bond proceeds. She stated the County should bond out the revenue stream of the NBEDZ, bring in \$54 million, and use that for roads.

Commissioner Smith inquired if the County has built a \$6 million spec building; and he further inquired if the County has funded or set aside \$6 million, or is there anything in the budget for the spec building.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, replied no, the CIP has both funded and unfunded items; while it is in the CIP, it is not funded at this particular time.

Commissioner Smith stated he hears the \$6 million spec building mentioned a lot, and that would be some place funds could be retrieved for road maintenance; but it has not been funded, so that \$6 cannot be used because it does not exist.

Commissioner Infantini noted it says it is going to be funded with bond proceeds; none of that has to come back before the Board if it is passed next Tuesday; and she reiterated a spec building would be built in 2017.

Commissioner Fisher stated one of the things about economic development is sometimes if there is a facility that is ready, and companies are being brought in, companies will consider a particular area because they do not have to go through the two-year permitting process; at one point in time, the NBEDZ had some small conversation about whether or not it would make sense to build a spec building; that conversation has not happened in the NBEDZ for years; and the reason it has not, is because Port Canaveral with Florida East Coast Railroad to build a 240,000 spec building, so there is no need for the NBEDZ to look at it. He added Commissioner Infantini knows that, and she throws that out to create some dislike for North Brevard County.

Commissioner Infantini stated she does not try to create dislike, she tries to show where the money is being put; and she asked the Board to take the spec building out of the budget.

Ron Bobay stated it is more about priorities than the need for the roads; he read the Blue Ribbon report as many others have; and the gas tax if it is added to the existing revenue the County currently has it will take care of the recurring need of the 55 miles of repaving. He went on to say it does not address the legacy costs, it does not address the infrastructure projections, and those add up to \$41 million a year if he is reading the report correctly. He pointed out that has not even been talked about. He explained his concern is if the gas tax is passed that only helps with the recurring need, the County would still have an unmet need; and his concern is the community is going to have the perception, if the gas tax goes through now, that the problem is taken care of and will not understand the additional need for revenue. He suggested the Board should package this in an informational, before the impact fees are reinstated, to go out with a massive public relations program in conjunction with doing the one-half cent sales tax; and if the Board did one thing, it should minimally go out for the one-half cent referendum; but the public needs to understand all three are needed before being imposed, so if the one-half cent fails, there is still an understanding and perception at least the gas tax and impact fees would have impact to the community. He stated he feels the Board has done its due diligence in trying to review its different budget priorities; a number of people are present today to try to defend their agency and the reason they exist; and he knows the Board has had to struggle to create those priorities to address those across-the-board. He stated something needs to be done with the roads, but the gas tax is not going to be enough.

Anthony Dutton stated as a Navy veteran, he is sympathetic of the transportation needs in the community; but he is present to talk about the need for the Board to act to provide funds to maintain the County roads. He asked the Board that while maintaining the current funding sources, that it uses all three of the Blue Ribbon Committees suggestions; there is no one who likes taxes to increase; but if people want the County to be a good place to live and to attract new businesses and employees, this must be taken care of. He suggested the Board all work together and try to support each other to accomplish this very unpleasant task.

Ron Taylor stated the public understands the County Manager has a good staff, and he has heard nothing but high praise for him; there is a problem in the entire country; there is a cancer on the political system; a great divide has opened up in America; and the lobbyist of the super-rich control the federal and State government. He went on to say *Fortune Magazine* designated the State government as one of the 10 most corrupt in the nation. He stated to spite the Great Depression, the past three recessions, and disappearing American class, somehow Americans still believe if they take care of the well to do, they will take care of them; and at least that is the perspective of the politicians. He stated the politicians may believe if they take care of the wealthy, they will take care of them. He noted unfortunately this is a common belief among the people and a cancer on the political system; whether it is true or not, people believe this; he inquired if this is a cancer affecting the County Commission; and he stated everyone has to come to their own conclusions. He pointed out it is strange the Board would choose to vote to continue to defer a road impact fee on new construction that benefits developers and investors; and these are constituents that actively and financially support political campaigns. He advised

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after having this tax break, Chairman Barfield proposes an additional six cents increase on the gas tax over and above the existing six cents; this Commissioner matter of fact says gas prices are low now, so why not tax it; and this tax unfairly impacts the less well off in the County. He noted low gas prices are one of the bright spots in the budgets of most Americans; food costs have soared, college tuitions have soared, housing affordability and rents have soared, 50 percent of the population are unemployed or under employed; and the Board is offering programs to help with that. He stated the raising of the gas tax is the best alternative to a half-cent sales tax, or closing the libraries, neglecting the parks, or other politically hot issues. He inquired who the Board is really representing by not looking at other alternatives than emotionally charged tax revenue sources like a sales tax and gas tax. He pointed out the report by the Blue Ribbon Committee only looked at new revenue sources; other alternatives were off of the table; and he inquired who benefits most from those revenue sources that are off the table, and is this a cancer affecting the State and national governments alive and well in the local County Commission government. He asked the Board to think of the less fortunate in the County who are unfairly impacted by the tax and to find another way to fund the road maintenance.

Mayor Jim Tulley, City of Titusville, stated he is glad he came and he got to speak toward the end, because he learned a lot, as he is sure the Board has; he stated he applauds the Chairman's patience in what is obviously a very controversial and emotional issue that sometimes brings out the worst in some people; but the Board has pressed on and handled it well. He went on to say it is difficult to argue with those who say core functions should be addressed first; while a gas tax may be necessary, there may be alternate revenue sources the Board may want to look at; and he comes to the Board to propose an alternate stream which he doubts will cover the entire cost, but may help and may offer the Board something to think about. He stated one of the suggestions was to cut out CRAs and the NBEDZ; he is not in favor of that; in his time in public office he has learned that economic development is a core function, because government does not create jobs, but if government does not create environment where jobs come to the area, then people move away, the tax base shrinks, and pretty soon everyone is paying higher taxes anyway; and he reiterated that economic development is a core function. He stated CRAs and the NBEDZ have assisted in that to a large extent; anyone who says the economic development accomplishments they have in North Brevard County could have been accomplished without the NBEDZ he thinks that person does not know what he or she is talking about, because it has made a huge difference; and he commends Commissioner Fisher to have the foresight to put that together. He stated the Board has heard talk of money that has gone out to companies, and he thinks he could make a pretty good case on the return on investment on those dollars being spent in terms of the new valued added dollars that are coming into the County as a result of those expenditures; that is not to say that CRAs and the NBEDZ do not have problems; he thinks there is a flaw in the way they are constructed; there has been a debate on CRAs for as long as he has been in public office; on one side it says that CRAs just pull money out of the General Fund; and the other side of the base says that is money that would not have been there anyway if it had not been for the incentives and the growth of the CRAs which creates new development that is now taxed. He noted both sides of the debate are partially right; in the short term there is no money coming out of the General Fund because it is new development and new taxation that goes back into the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding; the problem is there is inflation, and inflation in the long run starts to pull money out of the General Fund; and the Municipal Cost Index is an index that describes the cost of things that governments buy like asphalt for example. He went on to say as those costs go up, because CRAs and the NBEDZ set the base assessed value year and lock it in, then those costs cannot be addressed by revenue in the General Fund because all of that revenue is going into the CRA or into the NBEDZ in that case. He stated in the last five years he looked up that the Municipal Cost Index has gone up about two percent per year, so that is money that would have provided services to that area that is not available because it goes into the TIF funding; he suggested to find a way to take advantage of inflation dollars that are built into the

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structure of CRAs and the NBEDZ; and it is a small portion of that funding. He stated those dollars by indexing the base year of the zones and the CRAs, there is an income stream there he thinks the Board can dedicate to road repair and maintenance that perhaps it has not thought of.

Commissioner Infantini expressed her appreciation to Mayor Tulley; and she stated that was a good suggestion.

Suzanne Valencia stated the roads need to be fixed, and they are a disgrace; she is a person on a limited budget and she is not getting a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the past three years; and she understands being under the gun in many ways. She noted she would support a six cents increase in the gas tax if that is what it takes to get Brevard County looking decent again. She mentioned in the video she found it was biased against the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) Program; and she reminded the Board the citizens in Brevard County in 1990 voted to tax themselves and set a millage rate on that tax to purchase environmentally endangered lands that were important for biodiversity. She pointed out in 2004, the citizens again, by an overwhelming number of people, voted to tax themselves to continue the program; a millage rate was set; a previous Board decided not to follow the voter's wishes, and decreased the millage rate; consequently the EELs Program is millions behind where it should be; and there are barely enough people to maintain these properties. She stated as far as the roads go, if a person's roof leaks and he or she cannot afford to fix it and it is let go, it costs more in the long run. She advised the road widening on Wickham Road was wonderful to put in the extra lane; she walks every morning from west of Wickham Road and she crosses Wickham Road to go into Melbourne Village; the trouble is when she tries to cross the street, she has to run when the light is green because it is not made for pedestrians; and by the time she is finished walking, she does not have the energy to run across that road.

Courtney Barker, City Manager of City of Satellite Beach, stated she supports the Board endeavors to pass the resolution supporting the Blue Ribbon Committees recommendations; the City supports and additional revenue source for road maintenance; the point needs to be made that the County has cut its budget for eight years in a row; and because of its Charter limitation, it has never been able to fully recover. She went on to add while cities like the City of Satellite Beach were able to increase the utility tax for road maintenance and repair the County has not been able to do anything like that. She pointed out continuing to cut services would be a major mistake. She stated the City of Satellite Beach will be here for the County if needed. She stated impact fees can only be used for capacity improvements; and many people are concerned what it is going to do to the homeowner.

Mike Slotkin expressed his appreciation to Chairman Barfield for bringing Sunshine to this vital issue. He stated he served on the Blue Ribbon Committee in 2013-2014 and was on the subcommittee that authored their report. He stated history informs people that 18 months ago after the delivery of the Blue Ribbon Report, the Board punted; now people sit here a year and one-half later at the same place with the added demerit of additional road miles having been moved from the category of needing resurfacing to requiring some measure of more expensive rehabilitation; in the two and one-half years that he has associated with this issue, he continues to hear the usual arguments supporting action; and he re-emphasized that the Board does a good job and these are trying circumstances. He noted he would not trade places with the Board Members. He went on to add people should respect the Board more in the work it actually does; he stated as to the rob Peter to pay Paul scenario, he would like to extend the low hanging fruit principle from Principles of Economics to County Commission work; if it was easy to do, it was already done by the previous Commissioner who has already taken credit for it; and to the new Commissioners he genuinely feels for them. He stated in a moment of candor last week during a presentation he made to the Charter Review Committee, a former Commissioner uttered something that he had intuited for a while, the Board has been left with

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some significant challenges in a lean revenue environment, and when thinking of the roads, health care increases, forget about salary competitiveness, he realizes this may be one of many hard calls the new Commissioners will have to make in the ensuing years.

Chairman Barfield expressed his appreciation to Mr. Slotkin for being his appointment on the Budget Review Committee.

Commissioner Fisher stated Mr. Slotkin has a different opinion on the County's finances.

Mr. Slotkin stated the County is at a low point; he came to a Board meeting a few years ago and pointed that out to the Board; and nothing that has happened so far has been anything different than would have been expected. He pointed out it is tough, but the Board has to do something about the roads; and every year that goes by, the bill goes up, because roads have to be rehabilitated instead of resurfaced. He stated when the Blue Ribbon Committee came up with the idea of using the gas tax, they were giving what could be done in the short term and in the long term; and the long term solution is the larger infrastructure sales tax. He stated every CRA at some point in time, someone had to vote for. He pointed out everyone is going to come out and argue for their thing; and he cannot be confident that two years from now people will be back looking at the same issue.

Commissioner Infantini stated she believes the tone of the meeting is set at the top, and the people in the audience are following the tone set by the Board in their deliberations.

Joe Mayer, Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce, stated he appreciates Mayor Tulley's comment, he is glad he came and listened to appreciate the diversity and intensity of the view that exist on a very critical issue for the Board. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for discussing this. He stated they believe they must come together as a community to move forward on the issue of roads and road maintenance in the community; providing funding, specifically for road maintenance, will allow the County to meet its transportation needs while ensuring that the health and safety of its citizens will not be at risk, the libraries and community centers will remain open, and the County will be an attractive destination. He stated on behalf of the Cocoa beach Regional Chamber of Commerce, they express their support for the findings of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel.

Dave Pasley stated he finds it kind of interesting that no one has seen the presentation, but there was all of this conversation about what is wrong, so someone is not coming up with all of the facts; they tried to put this together in 15 charts; this is no reflection on the job the Public Works Director is doing; and he is doing a wonderful job maintaining the roads. He stated the Budget Review Committee made recommendations to the Board; then there was a budget workshop; in that workshop, the Board started berating the public because they did not show up; it was scheduled at 1:00 p.m., people are working, and they cannot show up; and they put together some thoughts about what to do with the budget. He inquired if the Board looked at their recommendations. He stated the purpose of a workshop is to kick these ideas around; he is not saying the work they did in the presentation today was perfect or the information from the Budget Review Committee was perfect, but it takes him an hour to drive to Viera; and he is not getting paid for it. He stated he will be happy to go through the budget book line item by line item; and he will guarantee he will be able to find the \$6 to \$10 million. He went on to say there is no pot of gold; however, going through that budget book department by department, there will be a lot of specks of gold found.

Neil Levine, Brevard Cultural Alliance, stated he would encourage the Board to find a sustainable funding stream rather than destroy any existing programs that are working. He noted there has been some talk about de-funding some of the initiatives; one initiative may be the cultural grants; the Board needs to understand the return of investment from those grants;

and last year the Board kindly put \$100,000 into funding those cultural grants, and on the return on local expenditures was \$7.3 million. He stated he wants to dispel the picture of the arts is something soft and fuzzy; it is important to have this if businesses are going to be attracted; a vibrant County attracts key workers; and it is terribly important. He stated it is part of the work of government; it gives people a kind of civilized society. He stated speaking personally, he was in England when the Great Recession began; he saw the world as a laboratory; he remembers speaking to colleagues about the two models that would emerge; and one would be austerity and one would be stimulus. He pointed out the model of fiscal conservatism drove Europe to austerity; America went to stimulus; and that is why he lives here. He appealed to the Board to think about stimulus; and to look at art and cultural, what it brings, and how it drives the economy. He advised the Board in trying to solve the issue of the roads, if the elements that are really working are subtracted and driving the economy, the roads may be repaired but all is diminished. He noted gas is \$7 a gallon in England.

Terry Mott stated she supports the Blue Ribbon Panels suggestions. She stated she and her husband own four properties in Brevard County; they pay enough taxes; and they really do not want to pay anymore. She went on to say the only thing she wants less than paying taxes is to lose the quality of life they have in the County; she is retired; she has been a government manager in the federal system; and she expressed her appreciation to the County Manager, because she cannot believe the quality of service and quality of life he gives the people on the budget he has. She added as a volunteer, she has had the privilege of working at the Brevard Nature Alliance; there have been people from 10 different countries who were spending a lot of money to come to Brevard County; and they were spending \$60 to take a trip to Titusville to the Viera Wetlands for a four-hour tour. She pointed out, while she does not want to spend more on taxes, she certainly does not want to lose the quality of life they have. She noted it is hard to measure in dollar value the quality of life; and the only way to measure it is after it has been lost.

Joyce Errecart stated spending 20 years in government over the course of a longer career than that, she does not think she has seen a worse budgeting process in state and local government; it is stunning to her the Board approved the 2016 budget, and then suddenly discovered that it did not have money for one of its most important functions, which is maintaining the roads; and six weeks later there is a motion for a six cent gas tax increase; and this need for road maintenance did not sneak up on the Board, it is with the Board every year. She stated now that the budget has been approved, there are not as many options for this; the video showed some opportunities; and there are opportunities this year. She noted there are opportunities; the important part of the video is prioritizing; the County has to go through a cost cutting exercise with County staff to prioritize core functions and to reduce non-essential spending; and she cannot believe, as Dave Pasley pointed out, in a budget of hundreds of millions of dollars that there is not an additional penny for road maintenance. She stated these cuts can be done; she ran a State department; and she did it. She pointed out she cut substantially while also improving outcomes; and it can be done. She stated she understands the Board cares for non-profits, and there are more than 400 non-profits that will have to pay that tax increase; the capital projects shown today, it needs to be prioritized; it is great to see Heritage Parkway is going to move on; but she saw over \$3 million in sidewalk and bike path work. She noted it is a higher priority to maintain roads today that will cost more if they are not maintained today than it is to spend that on sidewalks and bike paths. She stated there is \$50,000 of taxpayers money spent this year to start on the spec building; and then they are expecting a \$5 million in 2018. She went on to say the County Attorney has advised the Board that it can act to eliminate any future obligations of taxpayers funds; however, if things have already been contracted, then the taxpayer is on the hook; and she inquired if the taxpayers are about to get on the hook for \$6 million in funding, because this \$50,000 expenditure has been approved by the Board for FY 2016, which is a huge problem. She urged the Board to spend the taxpayers money reasonably and find the money that the three members of the Citizen Budget Review Committee that they know you can find.

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Chairman Barfield inquired if the County Manager can respond to the issue regarding the spec building; and could he explain how money this County has had over the years so it can be put into perspective.

Mr. Whitten replied if the Board looks at the CIP, it will see its projects that are planned, anticipated, or hoped for that may or may not happen; the CIP is a Capital Improvement Plan, five years, and the revenue sources are listed; and if the Board hopes to when it gets to a certain fiscal year fund a project that it has to identify a revenue source. He stated the planning of that spec building was identified in this current fiscal year; the construction is contemplated in a subsequent fiscal year; and the Board would have to approve the construction of that in some fiscal year down-the-road. He pointed out he is not sure the NBEDZ is continuing to consider whether or not it is going to do a spec building.

Commissioner Fisher noted the NBEDZ does not have a desire to.

Commissioner Infantini inquired why it is still in the budget; and she stated it needs to come out of the budget.

Mr. Whitten responded the budget has already been adopted, and next year the Board will be talking about whether or not it should still be in the budget; the Board is in the mid fiscal year; and he cannot take it out because it has been adopted by the Board. He went on to say the Board may see that and delete that project from the CIP.

Commissioner Infantini inquired how something can be added to the budget mid-year but the Board is not able to delete things; and she gets budget change requests all of the time.

Mr. Whitten explained to the Board if it wants that to be a CIP amendment, which they do not typically do, because nothing is going to happen on it, so there is no urgency to remove that from the budget; staff does budget amendments because State law says they have to be done; that is not a County Manager issue; and the Policy of the Board, when it adopted the CIP, was that it approve that proposal to have it in the CIP. He went on to add the Board has the opportunity to remove that in the next fiscal year; he does not believe the NBEDZ is going to come back next fiscal year and present that as a plan; and that really is a non-issue.

Motion by Commissioner Infantini to remove the spec building out of the Capital Improvement Plan, do a budget change request to have it removed. She stated she will not put that into her literature anymore if it is taken out of the budget.

Troy Post, NBEDZ Director, stated one of the things the NBEDZ did, and to remember how the process got started, there was a written economic development plan that was crafted in 2012, even before he arrived on the scene, and one of the things it specifically said was to try to put together a project that would involve a spec building; in 2012 especially, there was a real issue with available building stock meeting certain requirements for industrial prospects; when he came on board in 2013, it was communicated to him to follow the plan; and they have done that. He went on to say as Commissioner Fisher said earlier, there has been a lot of changes in the northern part of the County in the last couple of years; one of those has been the construction that is ongoing right now by Flagler Logistics to build a building essentially on a spec basis; they do not have a tenant identified yet; but they are building that project. He pointed out they have plans to build additional buildings if they are successful in getting a tenant; when the NBEDZ put together the plan for the spec building listed in the CIP was before that project was announced; it was likely, however, because that \$50,000 for the current year is being used for engineering and environmental stuff related to the site used for the spec building; and it may be the spec building will become a program to provide a virtual spec building. He noted what the NBEDZ has tried to do is follow the plan approved by the Board; they feel like they are doing that; there

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is still the need to make sure they have the size and space to accommodate prospects as they come to see them; and the \$50,000 can go a long way into helping the NBEDZ lay the ground work into getting one of those sites at the Commerce Park developed. He stated they are trying to move that County owned property into private hands.

Commissioner Infantini stated the bottom line is the NBEDZ is not ready to remove it out of the CIP.

Mr. Post responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Fisher inquired how much is the CIP, which the Board does not have the funds for, what is the total value number.

Mr. Whitten advised the biggest part of the CIP are in roads, waste water, water, and solid waste. He went on to state the Board has cut approximately 500 positions from the budget since 2007 or 2008; they have transferred from the employer to the employee well over \$12.3 million; there is no hot water to wash a person's hands; employees empty their own trash; and Library hours have been reduced and other operating hours. He stated it is cheaper to have janitorial services during the day only; there have been alterations when and how often the grass is cut; and a number of those things have been implemented. He advised the Board employees have been invited to submit through Survey Monkey anonymous cost reduction suggestions; some were fruitful and some were not; staff has looked at how expense can be cut; and they want employees to be open with any suggestion he or she has.

Commissioner Fisher stated those were hard cuts of \$30 or \$40 million over the years; and Commissioner Infantini did not make one of those cuts in the tough, difficult times, but he did.

Commissioner Infantini pointed out she would not approve the bloated budget, which is a false narrative.

Keith Riggler stated Commissioner Fisher did not have to make that remark; the same stuff could have been said without saying anything about Commissioner Infantini; and he inquired why the Board plays playground. He asked Commissioner Fisher to quit being a bully.

Commissioner Fisher stated a person gets punched back so many times, and he punches back sometimes. He went on to say he is one of those politicians who does not take everything that comes from the public.

Mr. Riggler stated Commissioner Fisher causes a lot of it. He stated there is Miracle City Mall, Crab Shack, the boat ramp that was not even built that the County paid for, the stables, the Senior Center on Wickham Road, there was a huge park built, and in 2009 he remembers there was \$500,000 budget for videos at the libraries that year. He stated apparently the County did not need those 500 positions to begin with. He stated there was \$15 million saved on the health care; and he inquired what happened to that money. He noted the County is giving the City of Satellite Beach money for a CRA, and the County must be paying the \$4 million they owe the County; the County is paying for their rip off; the Culture Center screwed Melbourne out of a building, and he guesses the County is paying part of that; and then the Cultural Alliance cannot sustain themselves. He inquired what about the veterans who have to pay the gas tax; do they deserve something for being veterans; he stated this is a regressive tax; he was taught at Eau Gallie high school that roads, infrastructure, police, and fire; and roads are the number one thing for the cities and County as a core function. He stated the workshops he has seen, people sit in a circle and they talk back and forth; if another workshop is scheduled, he would like to see the Board, a representative for the people who do want the gas tax, and a representative for those who do not want the gas tax to go at it; and afterwards the public can comment what the results

are. He stated it seems like Commissioner Fisher is running the program anyway. He asked the Board to cancel this whole thing and bring it back next year with the budget.

Philip Stasik stated he lives in North Merritt Island, and he has watched year after year as each Board has tried to do its best to find those little places of fat that needs to be trimmed out; the Board has been left in a hole that is very sizable; the infrastructure is a public safety issue; and if the roads are inadequate, it is a public safety issue. He went on to say the Board has put up with a lot today, there have been a lot of people who have been disrespectful, and he apologizes for them, because the Board is trying to do the right thing. He advised he supports the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Committee, and he supports the gas tax increase. He suggested the Board supports public transportation as well.

Commissioner Infantini stated for the viewing public, six cents is a 100 percent increase.

Peter Fusscas stated the great thing about going just about last is just about everything has been already said. He stated a lot of people have talked about the atmosphere here; he has to say it makes it difficult to be a volunteer to work in a sea of negativity; and it is not appropriate. He expressed his appreciation to staff for spending time with him and taking their experience and trying to educate him. He went on to say the County Manager will implement the policies directed to him; he does not know what the disconnect is; it is hard working on a committee because of the Sunshine Laws; and it gets a little tiring after a while. He concluded by saying he looks forward to working with County staff and the Board in the future; and he stated he wants it to be a positive experience. He stated he is concerned with how the County handles the debt; it should be looked at; the recommendations he personally made a few months ago were not his ideas; he offered alternatives for people to consider; and Frank Abbate, Assistant County Manager, should be recognized for all of the great work he did in reducing the cost of insurance. He pointed out the Board needs a strategic plan to diagnose what went wrong and why; and then the Board need action plans.

Stephany Ely, Space Coast League of Cities, expressed her appreciation to the Board for taking up this issue, specifically Chairman Barfield for bringing this to the forefront. She went on to say there are three things the Space Coast League of Cities approved at the last meeting for the Board to consider; the first one is to find a solution to the maintenance crisis; the second thing is if the Board finds taxation is the solution, that the Board only provide enough tax revenue to provide for the need and no more; and the third thing is the Board would have a fair distribution of the road maintenance funds to be equally distributed throughout the County. She advised the Space Coast League of Cities support the economic development opportunities created through the CRAs; and they oppose any attempt to redirect the monies generated in each CRA district to other purposes, including road maintenance.

Pam LaSalle stated she was not going to speak, but people kind of ignore who is getting the bill for this; she lives in an age restricted neighborhood, 55 and older, and within a one block area they have three adult males living with their mother; they have had an increase in the insurance and dues, but they have not had an increase in their income; she met with a lady who told her the way Social Security looks at their income, she is having to consider going back to work because they are taking most of her check for the new health care; and she can assure the Board, everyone wants to come to Florida. She went on to add she does not see any reason to have economic development; this State is better as a real estate investment because there are more barriers to development; and she finds it offensive that everyone keeps coming to the Board and putting their hand out. She stated she wonders if this is not about the gas tax at all and it is a way to get them to the sales tax; and then people will have no control over that money. She advised the Board she is in favor of the transportation; she does not think there is enough transportation; and there are service people who need that transportation. She stated they live in a Community Development District (CDD); the way it works is they pay their own

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expenses; and someone has assured her that once the bonds are paid off, they will be paying the same into it for maintenance. She inquired if someone is in a CDD, if the impact fee is brought back, do those people have to pay impact fees as well.

Trés Holton stated most everyone here are probably aware of the Direct TV commercials with Rob Lowe and Peyton Manning, which one is cool and one is not too cool because he has cable; if the roads are maintained, the County will end up with roads like the City of Palm Bay; the City of Palm Bay inherited that from the General Development Corporation (GDC); and he inquired what to do from here. He went on to say the City of Palm Bay City Council looked at things from a fiscal conservative point of view regarding road issues; the City needs to build trust; and they look at the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations. He stated they created a Road Maintenance Advisory Committee; it gives accountability and transparency; they looked at selling properties in the City of Palm Bay; they have all these excess properties acquired from GDC; and even if they find something in the budget book, it is a one-time shot and they are looking for something recurring. He pointed out the backlog in the City of Palm Bay is \$160 million; the ad valorem property tax they collect from everyone in the entire City is a little over \$20 million; their City Council looked at the budget and they went from almost zero dollars for road to \$2.5 million overnight; and that is 10 percent of their budget. He stated at that rate, it would take them 64 years to address the backlog; and the County will not be able to find enough in the budget to address the long-term road needs. He stated as a City they cannot vote on the half-cent sales tax; they believe people should have a voice on this; and they passed the resolution based on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee. He stated cities throughout the County have passed resolutions asking the Board to please give the option to the voters; it is pay now or pay later; and it will be more expensive to repair the roads later.

Pat Pasley expressed her appreciation to the Board for finally showing the video. She inquired if the Board would explain why it went through the questions of if anyone vetted the video; and she stated surely it was vetted as there was a two-hour presentation. She advised the Board she will look at rebuttals that staff provided. She stated everything in the video came from the County. She stated she did not want this workshop to begin with as people would be spending time during the Christmas season rather than enjoying the true reason for what it was about; she thought it was a workshop where money would be looked for; and all that they have gotten is everyone's opinions. She stated she told the Board before she did not want something where everyone just talks, but where everyone gets together and debates back and forth; instead it is exactly what she said it would be; and this is not a workshop. She stated on the bond revenues, it is debatable whether it could be used on road repairs; she inquired if there were bond revenues and they were able to be used for road repairs why they were not; she stated there was a whole period of time where those revenues were not used for repairs; and she would like the answer to that. She stated she understands there is another Request for Proposals (RFP) for the AT&T Contract and a lot of people left because they said there is no way to put everything in the Contract; and she thinks that is something that needed to be more concise. She stated she did not say sell EELs property but she did say sell the EELs building on East Avenue; she has attended many meetings there; and she inquired how many people are located in that building. She stated she cannot understand why the County has this huge facility when these people could be moved to another area. She stated she loves arts; if she cannot pay her bills at home, she does not go to the movies; she has to pay her bills first; and that brings her back to budget prioritizing. She advised Commissioner Fisher that Commissioner Infantini did not see the video and did not give her the input for it; and his comments were unnecessary. She inquired if Mike Slotkin is a paid consultant for the County.

Commissioner Infantini replied she knows he has done one analysis on the beaches when they were talking about redoing the beach parking and re-nourishment of the South Beaches; and he did get paid for a study there, but she is not sure about anything else.

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Ms. Pasley pointed out if a person is a paid consultant of the County, of course he or she would go with the County.

Mr. Whitten stated Dr. Slotkin has a PhD in Economics and has done some work with the County; he is not on retainer; PhD's at universities are used by government to perform work; and he is not sure it impairs his independence.

Ms. Pasley noted if someone is getting paid by the County it makes a big difference, because of course he or she will side with whatever the County does; and she is not criticizing. She stated there were five members of the Citizen Budget Review Committee and the only one the County paid attention to was Dr. Slotkin.

Mr. Whitten stated the false narratives are not going to change; when Ms. Pasley says staff presented recommendations, and she does not give details on the recommendations; at the Thursday meeting regarding the insurance recommendations, staff went over those one by one; the question was asked where the information came from; and she did not know where the information was from. He pointed out staff presented their information with all of the recommendations, yet she continues to say the County has done nothing regarding health insurance. He stated the County does not have three IT Departments, and staff tells here the County has nothing to do with the School Board; the recommendations were not ignored; they were recommendations of individuals on the Citizen Budget Review Committee; but the Committee never came in with a voted upon recommendation. He noted he has invited Mr. Adams several times; he has the same invitation to Mr. Fusscas; staff is an open book; that Committee is a six-person committee; and he is sure the dialogue will be discussed again. He stated not one director was called on a specific line item within their budget; this is a protection of staff's professional integrity, because it always seems to be it comes back to staff and what they really presented to the public were policy matters of the Board, which staff has no control over; and they are here to implement the policy of the Board.

Ms. Pasley stated when Mr. Fusscas presented his presentation to the Board, he was told to hurry up, he could barely finish it because no one was paying attention; she also objects to the County Manager saying there are false narratives; all of the information was in the County records; and she is not doing this during the holidays. She reiterated maybe after the first of the year the Board can have a real workshop that gets down to looking at dollars and cents like it is supposed to.

Roger Gangitano wished the Board a Merry Christmas. He went on to state he applauds the efforts by Pat Pasley and others who put the video together; the contents of the video was all based on the information available to the public; apparently there is a boat load of additional information available to the Board and staff; and he suspects, he is not accusing anyone of holding information back, the Board has access to information the public does not have access to on a daily basis. He noted some recommendations were made in the video; some of them may be somewhat flawed; but he asked the Board if there is anything the public came up with that seemed like it might be an alternative to the proposed gas tax increase.

Chairman Barfield responded affirmatively; he stated he has been taking notes of things to look at.

Mr. Gangitano stated prior to the video was an hour long, extremely detailed presentation by Mr. Denninghoff loaded with numbers; the bottom line is it was too much information for the public to digest in one sitting; and it was all pretty much in defense of the position. He went on to add he does not think anyone would want Mr. Whitten's job; he commends Mr. Whitten for working under the parameters he has; and he can only work with the tools and information he is given. He pointed out the County Manager is not responsible for the condition the County is in. He

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stated he has been before the Board a number of times; at times he has disagreed with each Board Member without calling any of the Board Member's names either publicly or privately; and he disagrees with the name calling wherever it occurs. He stated since the Board has agreed to look at some of the things the public has brought to the Board's attention, he does not know how the Board can go forward and approve a gas tax if in fact there are alternatives that could be explored that have possibilities of providing positive results; he reiterated if there is anything the public came up with that is worthy and has possibilities, the workshop should allow that to be explored; and if the Board votes on the gas tax, and it passes, it sort of tosses out any good suggestions that came in. He implored the Board to not pass the gas tax, to approve another workshop, and to make the workshop a little bit more open so people can go back and forth; he hopes it is more of a roundtable discussion than the format from today's workshop; and he is not faulting anyone for the format today, he is grateful for the opportunity. He concluded by saying the public and Board can agree there has been some positive movement towards some solutions that will only come from exploration.

Ed Priselac expressed his appreciation to the Board and County staff. He stated Mr. Whitten may or may not remember regarding Xun Energy where he read information that said Xun Energy manufactured fly wheels; the fly wheels are multi-ton things that have to be done at a steel mill somewhere; he heard someone say EDC only filled out paperwork for these companies and did not do anything else; and he inquired where the information came from that Mr. Whitten read to the Board regarding a company like that which came from the EDC.

Mr. Whitten replied the EDC provides an application to the companies; the companies present the application to their tax abatement committee; it is a committee of community members; the companies are graded on payroll, jobs they create, and the capital investments; and then there is a recommendation by that committee of what percentage and how long the tax abatement would be.

Mr. Priselac inquired if the EDC vets the companies; and if it is viable or has the assets.

Mr. Whitten responded he does not know the extent of the EDC's analysis on the particular companies.

Commissioner Infantini stated he thinks what Mr. Priselac is like the going concern concept.

Mr. Priselac stated the sense he has is the EDC is the big kid on the block, they bring stuff to the Board, and the Board takes it as almost gospel. He inquired why the County is giving EDC a million and one-half dollars every year.

The Board recessed at 6:53 p.m. and reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Commissioner Fisher stated the Board has spent a lot of time talking about previous Commissioners and decisions that have been made; and he is one of those that believes that once those decisions have been made, he would run with that, because he thinks it is his responsibility to make sure it is successful. He went on to say in talking about core functions, there are a lot of things that are core functions; different Commissioners set different priorities; and when talking about a strategic plan, he can say from a staffing standpoint, the plan is whatever there are three votes for. He pointed out that is just the way the system works; Commissioners are always going to have different things that need to get done; and each Commissioner will have different philosophies of what should be funded. He noted there are a lot of comments regarding the NBEDZ; his philosophy is to support CRAs and economic zones; but that is peanuts compared to other Commissioners philosophies. He explained to the Board when he became a Commissioner in 2008, he was a firm believer the County should not build a

new road until the County could afford to pay its own; when the Board went through the budget cycles and it was time to address MSTUs; he lost being able to get an MSTU passed because there were no increases in the budget so he could not do roads in his area; but his philosophy was why to build new roads when the County could not afford to pave the old roads. He added, the Parkway became a big issue; he and Commissioner Nelson inquired why spend \$37 million on the Parkway if the County should be paving existing roads; Commissioner Infantini was in favor of spending \$37 million on a new Parkway; it is a priority thing; and the NBEDZ got \$3 million and the Parkway got \$37 million. He went on by saying three times in the last seven years impact fees have come up as a discussion with this Board; he can remember someone calling all of the realtors asking them to come before the Board to fight for impact fees; and impact fees could have been collected over the last seven years that could have gone towards roads. He noted that was \$90 million that could have gone towards roads because of different philosophies. He stated he supports the Parkway today; the Board made a decision that it should be done; and he has supported it, and made motions to negotiate deals so the Parkway could work. He stated in hindsight people could ask why put \$37 million on the Parkway when it could have been put towards maintenance today. He stated he remembers the Board agreed to sell excess land; the Board asked staff to identify excess land; when staff identified the excess land, they came up with a piece of property; it was put out there and a buyer came forward willing to pay \$2 million; and he can remember a bunch of people coming in from Suntree asking the Board not to sell that land. He noted as a Board, the decision was made not to sell it. He pointed out now it is going to be made into a park and it is going to cost the County more money. He stated the Board can argue what a core service is, but a core service is what three votes will get. He advised he is a CRA and Parks guy, he is a public safety guy, and he is a guy who voted to keep that Suntree property. He stated the NBEDZ is peanuts to the \$90 million he just told everyone about that the County could have had. He stated and the end of the day the quality of life is important to the County; and it is unfortunate that this can has been kicked down the road so many times. He went on to say he does not believe it is either/or; he does not believe a library needs to be closed to fill a pothole; he believes it is a time to address the gas tax, and the legislative intent should be approved; the Board can have another workshop if it wants to; but the legislative intent can be approved and the Board can continue to talk about the issue. He asked for the Board not to tell him if he quits funding CRAs, libraries, and parks, when he gave three examples of where the County could have used those monies on roads. He stated the play has been called, and the Board needs to run the play and make sure it is successful; and the Board should support the things previous Commissioners have put into place.

Commissioner Smith expressed his appreciation to the Citizen Budget Review Committee; he stated they put in a lot of hours. He stated when he tries to make a decision, he does not like to put emotion into it. He stated roads need to be repaired; he does not care where the problem started, he knows it needs to stop; there are a lot of things that can be done if the emotion is taken out of it; there have been passionate people here today; but when it comes down to it, charities are not the functions of government. He noted by in large, the community does help each other; there are 467 charities in the County, and the County only funds 14; the charities are not going to go away; and what the Board needs to do is scour the budget, see what can be found, to come back in January, and to give the thoughts at that time. He stated if enough money cannot be found, then the Board will have to make hard decisions. He added he does not have a problem with CRAs, but he has a problem with the fact they never go away and there is very little oversight; each of the cities that has a CRA, he would suggest one idea would be to go to the CRA and ask them to take the County monies it receives to go towards roads in the CRA areas; and they would be responsibility for their own roads. He stated if the CRA chose not to, the Board could put them on the bottom of the list. He went on to say he loves the arts, but there is a reserve fund in the Brevard Cultural Alliance where the monies can be made up that would be lost by the County not giving them money; and if the Board gets to the point in a

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month from now, and the other Board Members put their heads together, ideas can be discussed and maybe enough recurring monies can be found for the roads.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Infantini, to deny request for legislative intent for the Local Option Gas Tax.

Commissioner Infantini stated she could cry about all of the things the Board has wasted the County's money on; there is a stadium appraised at \$18 million; and instead of selling the stadium, the Board gave someone \$10 million to renovate it. She went on to say a community center was built in Melbourne; a need was never determined; and as soon as it was built for \$3 million give or take, the Board turned around and leased it to the City of Melbourne. She noted talking about the NBEDZ, when it was created, the City of Titusville said it could not give the Board 90 cents on the dollar that is earned in the NBEDZ for the part of the property of Titusville that is in there, because it was needed for infrastructure and public safety; the County is giving 90 cents on the dollar for every dollar that is earned; and she inquired why the City of Titusville is so much wiser than the Board by only contributing 40 or 50 cents on the dollar. She advised the Board she is definitely not in favor of the gas tax.

Commissioner Anderson stated over his years of being a Commissioner he has grown to be more realistic about everything. He stated many things can be done to put more money into the General Fund, but there needs to be two other Commissioners to side with him; and he has a list that it would be impossible or difficult to get three votes to reduce services in the areas. He mentioned defunding year-round lifeguards, defunding the arts programs, reducing public safety spending, victims advocate services, offender reentry programs, animal services, and law library; and he stated he can go through the list, and there are not three votes because everyone defines core services differently. He stated he does not mind going out for legislative intent and let the public speak more and get more information.

Commissioner Smith stated if he was a captain of a ship he could do some of these things; there is a captain by a committee on the Board by getting three votes; and that is what it comes down to.

Commissioner Infantini pointed out the public do not get paid to come back for another discussion but the Board does.

Chairman Barfield stated a lot of things have been said, but the reality is there are certain things that need to get done; he just wants a decision, because things get pushed off; and he is fine with whatever way it goes.

Commissioner Smith stated he just wants a solution; the problem needs to be fixed; if the Board can come back and it cannot come up with recurring funds that will make a difference, then difficult decisions will have to be made; and that is the way he sees it.

Commissioner Fisher stated the Board can pass legislative intent; the Board is not approving the gas tax; and it will come back in a month or so with more conversations.

Chairman Barfield called for a vote on the motion. Motion is defeated.

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RESULT: DEFEATED [2 TO 3]
MOVER: Curt Smith, Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 4
SECONDER: Trudie Infantini, Commissioner District 3
AYES: Trudie Infantini, Curt Smith
NAYS: Robin Fisher, Jim Barfield, Andy Anderson

Commissioner Anderson stated the City of Palm Bay hired an appraiser to go out and show the effects of improved roads on home values; in some neighborhoods the improved home value for fixing the roads was in the neighborhood of 25 percent; and the return of investment of good roads, however it gets there, benefits the residents more than it harms them.

Commissioner Infantini stated if Commissioner Anderson does not vote to stop funding the NBEDZ in a big way, he will be hurting the City of Palm Bay, because the City can never compete with the Titusville area and the huge sums of money they have to spend on economic development.

The Board approved legislative intent to hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the additional fuel and local option gas tax for road improvements in the County.

RESULT: ADOPTED [3 TO 2]
MOVER: Robin Fisher, Commissioner District 1
SECONDER: Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
AYES: Robin Fisher, Jim Barfield, Andy Anderson
NAYS: Trudie Infantini, Curt Smith

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

ATTEST:



SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK



JIM BARFIELD, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Tammy Rowe

From: Tammy Rowe
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 10:41 AM
To: 'Knox, Scott L'
Cc: 'Lewis, Sally A'
Subject: December 10, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes
Attachments: 12-10-15 Special.doc

Scott:

Attached are the December 10, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes for your review and recommendations. They will be considered for approval by the Board at its **March 1, 2016** meeting.

Thanks,

Tammy Rowe, Supervisor
Clerk to the Board
Brevard County Clerk of Courts
tammy.rowe@brevardclerk.us
321-637-2001 Ext. 49056