

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940*



Special Minutes

Monday, March 3, 2025

5:00 PM

Speak Up Brevard / CEER Workshop

Florida Room

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

A. CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Delaney led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CITIZEN RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Feltner stated the Board will go directly into its citizen recommendations.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated he thinks what staff would like to do is introduce Rachel Horse who works in Space Coast Government TV; they are going to try to do it in the same format as the Board did the workshop on Tourism, which they will call up the individuals who signed up; they have done it in the order in which they were submitted by calling and indicating they were interested in participating; staff received some the very first day, and right until the cutoff day; Ms. Horse has a few introductory comments she can make about it broadly; he thinks there will be some information at the end, so that is ready to go as well; and with that, he would like to turn it over to Ms. Horse.

Ms. Horse stated she is the Public Information Officer; she is here representing the Communications Department; just so everyone in the audience knows, and of course the Commissioners know, staff did receive 77 total recommendations from January 1st to January 30th; those were from 65 different residents; following the Board's discussion and action at the February 11th meeting, staff did go back through with Mr. Abbate to review those, and determined that 13 of those recommendations were outside of the Board's jurisdiction, so those are not part of this; staff notified the remaining submitters, and their recommendations, as Mr. Abbate said, were put on the Agenda in order of their RSVPs to them, so 11 presenters will be speaking on 14 Speak Up Brevard recommendations; and she asked Chairman Feltner how much time he would like to allot.

Chairman Feltner replied three minutes each.

Commissioner Delaney asked if there is any appetite to, because the Board does have allotted the time of three hours, and so many people came to participate today, to extend the time to five minutes.

Chairman Feltner advised historically, it has been three minutes, so he will leave that to the Board. He asked if there is any discussion on the Item; and he noted it will be three minutes.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to make a motion to extend the time to five minutes.

Chairman Feltner asked if anyone knows how many comment cards that the Board will have toward the end.

Motion died due to lack of a second.

Ms. Horse stated first is Heather Elko, then Terry Mott.

Heather Elko commented she would like to say she has three she would like to speak about today; and she asked does that still mean three minutes.

Chairman Feltner replied three minutes each.

C.1. Heather Elko - CEER #2025044, #2025048, and #2025058

Heather Elko stated okay, she will not take that much time, but she can speak slower, so that will be nice; she was ready for anything; the first idea she wanted to submit is that the County Commission calls for and holds summit meetings occasionally with the city mayors and councils when there are issues that would be best addressed cooperatively; some issues in Brevard County cannot be neatly compartmentalized as County or city issues; the residents feel that he or she live in an umbrella, and the umbrella is the County; many of them are city residents as well; and a lot of times those lines blur. She went on to say an example is homelessness; it is a Countywide health, safety, and economic issue, though it has traditionally been treated as just a city issue; she would like the Commission to call a summit meeting with city mayors, and councilmembers to discuss and brainstorm homelessness; it cannot hurt to work together and problem-solve on this issue, or any future issues, that might come up that need joint cooperation for the best results; this idea holds no-risk and very minimal expense, and it has clear upsides; one is the overall improved appeal that the County will have for tourists; and a second benefit, is that better off citizens, she includes herself, will be comforted to know that the problem is in good hands, and all of the elected leaders are pulling together. She advised her second idea is to restore County grants to nonprofits to focus on specific focused issues, not wide-ranging; she is going to focus today on homelessness and at risk residents; nonprofits are buckling under the demands of a burgeoning, low-income population; while the County is doing a great job with affordable housing, the kind of housing she is thinking about is having a place to sleep, overnight shelters; nonprofits are capable of providing more services if they have more funding to do it, temporary shelter, emergency help with utilities and food, mental health services, transportation to medical care, or to cold night shelters; and these are fundamental needs. She commented unfortunately, nonprofits run out of money on a regular basis and they have to deny services to applicants even though they would otherwise be capable of doing that; she would like the County to provide grant funding specifically to nonprofits that serve unsheltered and inadequately-sheltered residents; this, in effect, would be a restoration of grant funding, with a more targeted focus that had been in place for decades, and only really, in the past ten years, has been changed to not being made available; in her more lengthy proposal, she points out that this program can be focused according to the Commission's priorities of limited time duration and structured to specific needs that the County identifies; and for example, funding for more beds, or more access points for people who need mental health counseling. She noted her third idea is for the Commission to acknowledge speaker contributions made at County Commission meetings; occasionally she does rise to speak, and many people do; speakers sign up to speak at the Commission meetings about issues they consider important; but the three minutes of speaking ends and they go back to their seats not knowing if their words had any impact; she would like the Board to devise a way to give speakers some kind of feedback that shows it has heard them; and perhaps staff could send an acknowledgement following the meeting. She pointed out the County will benefit in doing this by rewarding citizens for being engaged and brave enough to speak publicly; and furthermore, many have valuable expertise and ideas, and they should be encouraged to share them.

Commissioner Altman asked if the Board should acknowledge that Ms. Elko spoke.

Chairman Feltner replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Altman advised the Board has heard Ms. Elko.

Ms. Horse stated next is Terry Mott, followed by John Dacko.

C.2.. Terry Mott - CEER #2025077

Terry Mott stated she is a resident of Viera East.

Chairman Feltner stated if the audience cannot hear her, she will not be heard on the video; and that is a reminder for everyone here tonight.

Ms. Mott mentioned her suggestion is for the Commission to inspire the five entities that she will list in just a minute, to work together to create and execute a stormwater education program for the residents of the Viera East Community Development District (VECDD); these entities are Brevard Natural Resources, St. John's River Water Management District, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, VECDD, and the Viera East Community Association; for background information, her husband and she built a home in Viera East in 2001; they built this home on a four and one-half acre retention pond; for several years the VECDD maintained these properties, this particular pond, by letting a natural vegetation grow along the literal shelves of the pond; they changed the Policy at some point after about 15 years; and when that happened, they immediately had an algae bloom, and since have had major erosion problems for the past 10 years. She stated her property, backyard, the incline was this when it started and now it is about like that; it is so dangerous that they would not even have a toddler in her backyard; she alerted the VECDD and asked them to address this issue; they have been in the process of trying to get that resolved ever since; the main concern really is the VECDD has said that the residents of Viera East do not like vegetation in the backyards because they think it attracts snakes and alligators, so they have 84 detention ponds, and none of them are maintained by the recommended standards of best management practices of Brevard County; the action taken, she has been working with each of these five entities for the last few years, Brevard Natural Resources decided they would try to get a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) grant for \$50,000 to start an education program; that grant is still on hold right now; they have been waiting a couple of years for it to go through, but it is not a priority because the Indian River Lagoon is the main priority; and most of the outflows in Viera East flow into the St. John's River. She explained her concern is these buffer zones keep eroding around all of the ponds; she has actually lost two feet of buffer zone property in her backyard, so their inclines continually increase; there was a concern that when one has this incline, the ridge of the incline is unstable; there has actually been an accident, from what she understands, in Brevard County where a toddler fell into a pond and drowned, because it fell off; and also there was in the State of Florida, an accident where a lawnmower service person was mowing over one of these unstable ridges, fell into the pond, and drowned because the ridge collapsed, so they have these safety issues. She noted they are still waiting for Brevard Natural Resources to do this grant; in the meantime, she is a Florida naturalist, she has taken all of the courses of Florida Master Naturalist Program, and she has been taking the professional courses for stormwater management of ponds; she has talked to every one of these five entities; they are all willing to address this issue and put together, if they could come together in a joint effort, she thinks an educational program could be set up digitally, and also with Florida Master Naturalists, out in the communities teaching these residents what the best management practices are and how it can be improved; she is retired, is a formal military trainer, and she would be willing to help and volunteer to do this project; and she expressed her appreciation to the Board for this program.

Chairman Feltner asked Ms. Mott to seek Carol Mascellino, Chief of Staff, and give Carol her information; and maybe she can be contacted for a meeting in his office.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Ms. Mott is saying the County was doing mechanical harvesting and now it is doing herbicides, and is that what is happening.

Ms. Mott replied yes, they do spraying, but they kill off everything. She stated the very last thing, to start the excitement, is to start a Save the St. John's River campaign where the people can have the three W's of water, wildlife, and waste as part of the education program; and she has St. John's River people who are very excited about getting involved, so they have the program ready to go if the Board would just launch it for them.

Ms. Horse advised next is John Dacko; and they also have C.4. on the Agenda, Terry LaPlante; but however, she is not interested in coming up, so next will be Jane Higgins.

C.3. John Dacko - CEER #2025020

John Dacko commented tonight he would like to propose a Brevard Emergency Medical Services (EMS) one; this would be unifying EMS for better emergency care, which is going to be a bold step for Brevard County; he asked the Board to imagine a system where every resident in Brevard County, no matter where he or she lived, received the fastest, highest-quality emergency medical care possible; he noted that is division behind Brevard EMS one, a Countywide EMS system that unites Brevard County Fire Rescue and the city fire departments under one coordinated response model; inspired by the nationally recognized King County Medical One Program, this system would be funded by a one-cent sales tax, ensuring that paramedic training, salaries, equipment, and operations are fully-supported without burdening local budgets; and by integrating resources across the County response time can be reduced, improved patient outcomes, and guaranteed advanced life support coverage for everyone. He went on to say at the heart of this plan is collaboration; city fire departments will staff their own ALS ambulances ensuring local control over hiring, training, and deployment; Brevard EMS One would operate these ambulances providing standardized protocols, dispatch coordination, and Countywide oversight to ensure efficiency; ALS fire engines would remain staffed by city firefighter paramedics ensuring that rapid first response and seamless handoff to transport units; this model protects local autonomy, ensures compliance with employment laws and union agreements, and maintains a unified Countywide EMS response system without disrupting existing fire department structures; public education and community engagement will play a vital role in securing this one-cent sales tax referendum; the one-cent sales tax shifts the financial burden from property owners and distributes across all individuals who contribute to the local economy, individual visitors, and tourists; and this ensures everyone who benefits from Brevard County's EMS shares in this funding, relieving residents of the disproportionate financial impact. He noted this funding model is designed to be sustainable, efficient, and here is what it would cover, salaries and benefits, ensuring paramedics are well-trained and well-compensated, advanced training; the idea would be a top tier paramedic education program, preferably a partnership with Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) College of Medicine modeled after King County's Medic One Program; equipment and ambulances, the County would provide modern vehicles and life-saving tools to meet growing demand, centralized dispatch and operations, a coordinated 9-1-1 system to ensure the closest, most appropriate EMS units respond quickly, and of course, centralized supply; standardized equipment and supplies would improve efficiency and reduce costs; and this approach would allow cities to retain control over their fire department staffing while the County standardized medical protocols, transport services, and EMS training to ensure high-quality care across the region. He stated a key part of this proposal is investing in the next generation of paramedics; fire fighters can promote into the EMS division attending full-time paramedic training while receiving a salary; after training they would serve as a predetermined number of years in the EMS side of their department before returning to the fire suppression duties; this creates a structured career pathway ensuring a highly-skilled EMS workforce while maintaining fire department staffing;

this plan includes development of state of the art training, again, coordinating with FIT providing its extensive clinical training and advanced airway cardiac care trauma response, hands on field experience, and tuition funding; public outreach will be critical in promoting EMS as a career, encouraging young people and experienced fire fighters alike to pursue paramedic training; and it would not just improve response times, it is making them smarter with a centralized 9-1-1 system by providing strategically placed ALS system paramedics and city fire stations for faster response times. He pointed out with data driven performance metrics, public education, by leveraging technology and coordination and training, Brevard EMS One would be a system that works smarter and faster for everyone; there is a particular road map that could be followed; year one, an EMS governing board could be done, finalize agreements with city fire departments, and educate the public about the sales tax referendum; year two, the County could hire and train paramedics, integrate the ALS units into the fire stations; and year three, it could fully-activate this system, evaluate performance, and expand on the public education side. He stated Brevard EMS One is an investment into the community is health and safety; it promises faster emergency response, better patient outcomes, smart, sustainable funding, transparency and accountability, and community involvement; by coming together as a County they can create a best-in-class EMS system that delivers world class emergency care to every resident regardless of where they live; now is the time to act; he hopes the Board would support this initiative and bring Brevard EMS One to life; and he asked the Board to build an EMS system that saves more lives, works smarter, and serves the community better than it is now.

Commissioner Goodson asked if this was all to come to fruition and pass, who controls the money.

Mr. Dacko replied there would be a governing board; Brevard County would have that governing board, and it would oversee the funding that comes in; then that funding source would be directed out to each stakeholder, so every stakeholder, be it a city, Palm Shores, or Grant-Valkaria, they will have a stakeholder on this governing board; and then those monies will be divvied up accordingly.

Commissioner Goodson inquired where the union fits in.

Mr. Dacko responded the union would fit in on the personnel side, so that the union is going to make work life balance much better, and allow things to work seamlessly between the County of one, and of course, the cities.

Commissioner Goodson asked if Mr. Dacko is saying the funding would help feed the bottom rung of the firefighters as opposed to the higher ups.

Mr. Dacko advised this funding, if managed correctly by the gatekeeper, which is the Board, would be able to provide funding from the bottom all the way up; if it is done correctly, ALS transports should be free; but BLS transports, on the other hand, would have to be farmed out to a private company, because BLS transports generally should not be going to the emergency rooms and they should be taken care of elsewhere, so the BLS transports put a greater burden on the system.

Commissioner Goodson stated if all has been said is true, which he is sure it would be, the County being the gatekeepers could regulate the money from the bottom up; and he asked if that is correct.

Mr. Dacko replied that would be the hope.

Commissioner Altman commented he appreciates the proposal, it has a solution to a problem and is very well thought out, all of the proposals so far; he asked if the County is allowed to use sales tax for Fire/EMS and does Florida Law allow the Board to do that; and he remarked he knows there are a lot of restrictions in what the County can use it for.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, explained it has to be substituted, but he will let the County Attorney handle that.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, stated there is a provision where sales tax could be adopted, if approved by the voters, to fund Fire/EMS; and however, if the Board enacts the sales tax, it also has to adopt a corresponding decrease in other funding sources, such as the assessment, General Fund, et cetera, so it is a replacement but not necessarily an enhancement.

Mr. Dacko remarked if he could expand on that, that would be the idea, the sales tax would take over the EMS Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) and any other property taxes that is the financial burden that he spoke about; and Seminole County does this right now, they offer a sales tax, and it fully-funds their fire department and EMS.

Commissioner Altman asked if there would be any increased revenue, or would it only be allowed to be a replacement.

Attorney Richardson responded the language of the Statute is that the County has to reduce the other funding sources by the amount that the sales tax generates.

Commissioner Altman stated he guesses the County could benefit as the economy grew and sales tax revenue grew, like with the property tax where there is the roll back issue, the cap, and all that; but he asked if that would apply to a sales tax.

Attorney Richardson replied that is correct.

Commissioner Altman noted to put it on the ballot this November.

Mr. Dacko advised he would love it.

Commissioner Delaney stated she would second that.

Attorney Richardson pointed out he thinks the Board can only, and he will have to verify to be sure, but his recollection is that it can only put a sales tax like that on a ballot in a general election year.

Commissioner Altman stated that is why he said November.

Mr. Abbate stated there would also be agreements with the cities; and he asked if that is right.

Attorney Richardson advised in an even year; there would be agreements with the cities, or else there is a formula in the Statutes that takes place; but ideally, the County would have an agreement with the cities kind of like the County does with Save Our Indian River Lagoon.

Chairman Feltner clarified by saying because sales tax is collected Countywide, and it is collected in the cities, they have to get sort of their proportional share of that; and he asked if that is correct.

Attorney Richardson replied absolutely.

Mr. Dacko noted if he could, this system has been going on since 1970 in the King County region; it is implemented amongst the county and the cities; they are all coordinated under one umbrella; it is overwhelmingly voted in every five to 10 years by its citizens because of how efficient and how successful this program is, so it has been running for 55 years; he is not creating a new wheel; this is not something that he just popped off on the top of his head; this is a well-oiled machine, well-funded, and it just needs to be implemented; and now is the right time to implement it in Brevard County, because it is in a climate now where something needs to be changed, and this potentially might be the time to get this done, either with sales tax, or in King County they do it with a levy, so obviously it is a little bit different. He stated it is similar to the County's EMS MSTU in its property taxes; but a sales tax might be something the community would bite off on a little easier than raising property taxes.

Chairman Feltner advised at least the tourists would pay it, because right now tourists do not pay property taxes, only Brevard's property owners pay property taxes.

Mr. Dacko stated again, that would be the idea, to shift the burden off of the property owners and those folks.

Ms. Horse stated next is Jane Higgins, followed by Sarah Hodge.

C.5. Jane Higgins - CEER #2025047

Jane Higgins expressed her appreciation to the Commissioners for this opportunity; she stated she has been a resident of Palm Bay for about 45 years now; and she is on the board of the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. She mentioned she is here with other Conradina members and concerned Brevard County citizens to talk about Low Impact Development (LID); she asked everyone in the audience who cares about this topic to stand up real quick to show their support, because there is a lot of support amongst the citizens of Brevard County; she stated hopefully, the Board received the presentation she accidentally sent in twice, so the Board has two versions of it; and just in summary, she wants to talk about what LID is. She went on to say basically, it is an approach to land development that uses various land planning design practices and technologies to preserve and protect essential aquifers and waterways, such as the Indian River Lagoon; LID offers many environmental benefits that is in the package the Board has; she asked who benefits from LID; she advised everyone, so developers, municipalities, residents, and the environment; it is not everyone versus the developer, it is everyone; and everyone can benefit. She mentioned the thing she wants to take away from this presentation the most is on the last page, the State of Florida has been a little slow to adopt LID permitting criteria, so local governments are basically taking the lead; on the last page are the pictures of some of the other government emblems that one could certainly learn from, such as the City of Clearwater, Sarasota County, Pinellas County, Manatee County, and et cetera; there are a lot of opportunities; their request is that the County promotes and supports legislation and projects that use LID and design throughout Brevard County to protect its precious wildlife, water, and habitat; her suggested recommendation is to incorporate that legislation and perhaps create a board to investigate those other counties and what they are doing and how Brevard County could easily adopt that here; she would personally be willing to serve on that type of a committee; and she is sure the County could have other concerned citizens, as well as some of the Commissioners who might be interested in that. She asked if the Commissioners got the chance to look at this presentation.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Ms. Higgins would share with the Board and whoever is listening if there are examples that she is particularly interested in.

Ms. Higgins responded LID is basically trying to keep the water captured on the land instead of letting it flow through concrete down to the river; since grass only absorbs one-half an inch of rainwater, grass loses a lot of water, so anything that can be done to stop it, including rain gardens, native plantings, permeable pavers, which are seen in a lot of parking lots, and anything like that to try to keep the water on the land so that it soaks down to the aquifer, which is where it needs to be for future usage; they are just trying to avoid having it run into the concrete, or down those big drainage tubes into the river, because then it carries a lot of pollutants with it as it goes to the Indian River; that is pretty much the concept in a nutshell; there is a Statewide implementation website as well through the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); and they show a lot of examples, like in Cocoa Beach, where they have diverted a lot of rainwater from the major roads, Cape Canaveral has done a lot of that work, and most of the municipalities have a LID plan in place. She pointed out what is lacking is legislation to mandate that; it is kind of a voluntary thing at this point; and where it is most effective is when there is some teeth to it as the Board can imagine.

Commissioner Goodson stated in the mid '70s is when retention ponds were put on plans to hold water for 24 hours; and he asked if it is 24 hours.

Tad Calkins, Interim Assistant County Manager, replied he believes that is the County's requirements, 24 hours.

Commissioner Goodson asked that being said, what Ms. Higgins would do with the total number of subdivisions in Brevard County that do not have a retention pond that had straight outflow, what she would do with those.

Ms. Higgins responded if there is not a retention pond, and as everyone heard from Ms. Mott, retention ponds are not necessarily the best answer, but keeping the rain on the site can be done by using more native plantings and less grass, because any other plant put in a landscape besides grass is going to retain water; Oak trees are the best, of course, but they are the biggest, so that is not always a great solution; and any native landscaping will cause that water to be percolated down versus running to the river, so that is really one of the major goals of capturing that rainwater.

Commissioner Goodson asked if she is proposing that an older subdivision with no retention pond go through and do all total new landscaping.

Ms. Higgins advised just some native plants, does not have to be 100 percent, but any amount helps; they are doing a project this Thursday, it is kind of top secret, but it is a flip my Florida yard which will be the entrance of a Homeowners Association (HOA) in the Melbourne area; that is a great example of space where nothing is going on really that native plants could be put in to capture water versus having it runoff with mulch; and she reiterated any little space helps, it does not have to be 100 percent no grass, but any space helps.

Commissioner Goodson stated he would imagine developers would love this idea because that would give them their 20-acre pond for more houses.

Ms. Higgins pointed out there are some definite benefits for development, developers using LID; it is a little bit of a mind-shift versus cutting all of the trees down from the very beginning; but it does reduce the land clearing and grading costs, reduces their infrastructure costs, reduces rainwater management costs, increases their lot yield as Commissioner Goodson pointed out, may reduce impact fees, and increases lot and community marketability because a lot of people want to see some trees.

Commissioner Adkinson asked staff if the County incorporates any LID at the moment with what it does.

Mr. Calkins replied with the last year's amendment, the County adopted the peril of flood; in the peril of flood, it talks about the LID aspect; and it would be something the County would be moving forward with along with the creation of the barrier island area of critical concern, so those are all things in the works at the moment.

Chairman Feltner commented coming into this office, one of the things he has come to appreciate is how expensive it is to move water; it is an incredible amount of infrastructure just to move temporary water, which is stormwater, it is not there every day, it is just when it happens and trying to move that; and he sees it more Ms. Higgins' way, which is it is a lot easier to deal with it onsite, in his mind, than it is to try to transport it down the road, so he does think that governments will adopt it for a whole host of reasons, one of them being that eventually it will be cheaper and easier in infrastructure terms.

Ms. Higgins advised what is happening in the City of Palm Bay is a lot of that concrete drainage that was built 40 to 50 years ago now is breaking down; and replacing that is an astronomical cost, so it is a good time for the County to look at some alternative solutions to concrete.

Ms. Horse stated next is Sarah Hodge, followed by Lori Alvord.

C.6. Sarah Hodge - CEER #2025014

Sarah Hodge remarked she would like to see the public records put on the Internet for all to see without the cost and delays when trying to get them from the County; by doing so, it would free up County employees time from doing so many records requests; the more records available online, the fewer requests are needed and costs to the public; this leads to the efficiency and effectiveness of the County, as well as the public perception, transparency, and open government; the Clerk of Courts has their records available on the Internet; and she asked why Brevard County cannot do the same for the public. She went on to say it would save staff time and the huge costs people have to pay to get their records; some requesters have problems and delays getting records in advance of meetings; sometimes the items are voted on before the records are obtained by the public; last year at this time, the County charged two residents \$35 per hour just to review the Speak Up Brevard binders in the County Attorney's office; and she recommends the County post more records online, add hyperlinks to any Department records that are already online, and track the number, percent, and type of records that are added online, which could be included on the County's annual budget update. She added, she would also like to see the records Policy revised to increase the amount of minutes that staff provides to the public before records are charged for; currently, the public is charged for anything over 15 minutes as excessive time; she would like to see the County post online the amount of money that is charged to the public, plus the amount of dollars collected by the County each year for fulfilling records requests; this information could be posted on a monthly and annual basis so the public can monitor how much he or she is being charged for the public access to the public records; she thinks saving many by having fewer records requests would be a huge benefit to the County in a time when it is trying to find budget money; this would be a benefit for everyone; residents deserve easy, convenient, and no-cost access to the public records; and she asked the Board to please put all of the County records online and make them easy to locate for residents. She pointed out that Dade-Miami has an Internet site for all of their public records; it is awesome; she would love for the Board to look at it; and maybe the Brevard County can do the same thing.

Ms. Horse stated next is Lori Alvord, followed by James Erdman.

C.7. Lori Alvord - CEER #2025034

Lori Alvord stated her citizen recommendation asks to repeal the injunction against County staff participating in non-mandatory municipal board meetings; she would like to request this in order to restore the ability of citizen volunteers to interact with County staff at these meetings in order to propose new ideas, potential new programming for the different County Departments that are represented by the boards, to help bring the views of other citizens to the attention of County staff, and also to disseminate information from County staff back to the citizens; this injunction was put in place at the suggestion of former Commissioner John Tobia in May 2022 following the pandemic shutdown as a cost-saving measure; and she questions what costs have been saved. She continued by saying she serves on the Satellite Beach City advisory board, as well as the South/Central County Library advisory board; the meetings are held during Library staff time; they are in Library or County spaces, so there is no time for commuting and no overtime; this seems to be part of the duties of staff of outreach and communication; the only costs she is seeing is a negative costs; and it is an opportunity cost of losing citizen participation in municipal boards working with County staff trying to improve. She noted they sent, as the secretary of the Satellite Beach Library board, a letter to the County Commission following this injunction; they did not get a resolution, they only received acknowledgement of the letter; she respectfully requests that this injunction be ended to end the disenfranchisement and restore their ability for citizen participation, and interaction with County staff as part of municipal and County boards; as a member of the County South/Central board, she takes her time to go to Melbourne Beach and look at what they are doing; but she cannot talk to the librarians there, she cannot take those ideas back to Satellite Beach, and it does not seem quite right; and she expressed her appreciation to the Board for its consideration.

Commissioner Delaney stated she wanted to let Ms. Alvord know that the advisory board Policy is one of the things she would like to bring before the Board sometime soon; she was going to let the Board get through the budget process; but then she was going to start going through some of these Policies that are near and dear to her heart; and one of them are advisory boards, so she really appreciates this request.

Ms. Horse commented next is James Erdman, and next is William Hodge.

C.8. James Erdman - CEER #2025062

James Erdman expressed his appreciation to the Board for giving the citizens the time of day to be here and to hear them; he stated as one of the few locals left that were born and raised in North Brevard, he has slowly watched the out-of-control growth, pollution in the river all destroying their way of life as North Brevard residents; like the Mims Comprehensive Plan states, "Above all, Mims should remain Mims, a special place rural and small town in nature with history and future all its own;" he advised this includes people hunting, fishing, riding horses, side-by-sides, and that is why he is here today to propose to allow side-by-sides, ATV's, and golf carts on County-maintained roads in North Brevard with speed limits less than 45 miles per hour; and a family should be allowed to ride around on a nice afternoon and enjoy nature one sees while driving the backroads without any worry of getting tickets or stopped. He went on to say just the other week he was down in Canaveral Groves and he saw three Sheriff's Officers having someone pulled over for riding an ATV down a County road; with all of the crime in Brevard County, it is only getting worse as people keep moving; he asked would it not be better if the Sheriff's Officer could focus more on the crime instead of someone riding down the road on an ATV; he advised Florida Statute 316.2123 states that a county is exempt from the section if the governing body votes on it; and it can be the entire County where the County can dictate roads, or just by district, it does not have to be the entire County. He stated

Viera, for instance, uses Ordinance 106-73 as a prime example, where they voted to allow golf carts to ride down their roads; they can ride through the City on golf carts; but in the County, if one does it, he or she gets pulled over and they write a ticket; as long as the laws are being followed, there is no reason why North Brevard cannot have their way of life protected before it is all gone; and in closing he asked to work together and come up with an ordinance that allows people to ride side-by-sides on County roads in a safe and responsible manner.

Commissioner Goodson asked if there is any truth to the fact that a farm emblem can be put on the back of a four-wheeler and ride it.

Mr. Erdman replied it used to be, but they still pull a person over; and they were told they do not recognize that on side-by-sides and ATV's.

Commissioner Goodson stated unless he has a cow on the front seat.

Mr. Erdman advised basically.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if Mr. Erdman would like to see an ordinance that would take him from State Road (SR) 46 north to the County line.

Mr. Erdman replied just North Brevard, like Canaveral Groves, Mims, Scottsmoor, the rural areas of Brevard County, keeping Brevard rural.

Chairman Feltner asked Port St. John.

Mr. Erdman responded Port St. John, part of it, where it is not developed, over developed.

Chairman Feltner asked just for his own education, are these vehicles that are titled in the State of Florida but they do not have tags on them, so they are not registered as Low Speed Vehicles (LSV); they do not have a license plate on the back; but they are titled, is that right.

Mr. Erdman replied that is correct; the LSV is defined as a vehicle that can do at least 20 miles per hour, but less than 25, so it really limits a person to basically just golf carts.

Chairman Feltner stated he thinks side-by-sides, if one is taking them in a State park, it does have to be titled in the State; and he asked if that is right.

Mr. Erdman responded that is correct; and a person gets an off-road registration for them as well.

Commissioner Delaney advised she is so glad Mr. Erdman brought this forward; spoiler alert, she has been talking to Sheriff Ivey about this; she thinks the Sheriff would be okay with her sharing this; but she thinks she has his support to look into what can be done as a County, with Board support; the County has to stay within the Statute, so that it has to be registered like the bigger vehicles have to be registered and have insurance; and she asked if the smaller vehicles just need insurance, or do they need both.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, replied unfortunately, it is much more complicated than that; it is not sizes of vehicles, but it is classes, and there are very limited things that the Board is authorized to do under State Law; most of what the gentleman is addressing actually, in fact, there is actually a bill pending right now, both in the Senate and House, for the legislature that would allow side-by-sides and similar vehicles; they are introducing a new definition called Utility Terrain Vehicles, that if it passed it would allow those; but right now not only are they not

allowed on any other public roads; the County does not have any authorization to allow them either; and it does have some limited ability with golf carts if it jumps through certain hoops. He stated the Statute Mr. Erdman read, he understands why he would read it that way; it is confusing though, because it is actually reverse of that; it is not that the County can exempt itself from the prohibition on ATV's, but it can exempt itself from the State provision that allows ATV's on certain unpaved roads with speed limits 25 miles per hour or less; actually the Board did that in 2006, adopted an Ordinance opting out of that, so in Brevard County, they cannot even be ridden on the unpaved roads; but even if the County took that on, all it could do would be to repeal that Ordinance, which would only allow them on unpaved roads with speed limits up to 25 miles per hour, so the County's hands are largely tied with ATV's and side-by-sides. He noted there are some things it can do with golf carts, although he has never seen it done on that kind of scale of an entire portion of the County as opposed to more specific areas; but that is something that can be looked at.

Commissioner Delaney stated hopefully this new bill will pass the Senate and the House, and the County can get moving on something.

Attorney Richardson pointed out if the UTV passes, they would be allowed at a lot of places; and he thinks it is up to 50 miles per hour speed limit roads they would be allowed to go on.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if everyone in Viera are 25 miles per hour and under, and they are not side-by-sides.

Attorney Richardson replied he has not weighed those vehicles, but supposedly they are golf carts.

Commissioner Goodson stated if one knows anything about anybody that has an ATV or a golf cart, a person does not want one that goes 20 or 25 miles per hour; and he or she wants one that goes 85 or 90 miles per hour. He stated Viera has much more clout than Mims, no offense to Mims; and he would start toting a cow around with them.

Chairman Feltner stated just for a point of clarity, they are talking about a multi-use trail versus on the street, so a golf cart for it to be in the street it is supposed to have a tag he thinks; off to the side of the road, they have some trails, so up in Mims . . .

Commissioner Goodson asked if Chairman Feltner would say if he went down to Viera High School there are 300 of them, and he is telling him that every one of them has a tag.

Chairman Feltner replied no, the high school, they tell him, that they do put a sticker on there to make sure that those students driving them have at least a learner's permit, so that is the part of the law that the legislature . . .

Attorney Richardson explained in Viera they can only go on the multi-purpose pathways, like Chairman Feltner mentioned; then they can go on roads with speed limits less than 30 miles per hour; and looking at a Suntree Ordinance that potentially would allow them on certain designated streets with lower speed limits.

Commissioner Goodson noted undoubtedly Stadium Drive is maybe not so well traveled, because one sees them all of the time crossing intersections up there.

Chairman Feltner advised that is the Viera DRI.

Attorney Richardson stated they can cross, they cannot actually drive on it.

Commissioner Goodson stated the County surely should be able to help Mims.

Chairman Feltner pointed out he is not against Mr. Erdman on the ATV's in the north end of the County; there is a lot to like about Mims; and he likes it, too.

Ms. Horse stated now it is William Hodge, followed by Susan Connolly.

C.9. William Hodge - CEER #2025029

William Hodge commented he has an easy suggestion that does not cost a lot of money; he has sent in a recommendation that he thinks the County can improve on the visibility and function of the Consent Agenda; currently, the numerous Items listed on the Consent Agenda are voted on as one block, with Commissioners occasionally stating that he or she is voting no on a certain Item; the current process does not provide a chance for meaningful discussion by Commissioners or the public; and it raises concerns about transparency and visibility of County business. He went on to say there are sometimes over two dozen Items of County business that are voted on in a single motion under the Consent Agenda; these Consent Agenda Items are not read out loud, and the public has no idea what is being voted on by listening to the meeting, or when viewing on the streaming platforms; and he proposes the following changes to the Consent Agenda. He noted the County Manager or the County Attorney should read each Consent Agenda Item out loud and into the record as is done at other local meetings, including Titusville and Cocoa Beach; the dollar amount of each action voting Item should be clearly stated during the Consent Agenda reading and on the written Agenda, as well as the total dollar amount of the Items being approved under the Consent Agenda; fewer Items should be placed on the Consent Agenda, as Consent Agenda Items are defined as being routine and non-controversial in nature; Commissioners that are voting no on a Consent Agenda Item should pull the Agenda Item and state why he or she is voting no on the Item, as is done in Cape Canaveral; Commissioners should more frequently pull Items to add visibility, and publicly raise the concern that many Items do not belong on the Consent Agenda and should be placed on the regular business Agenda before the meeting; and a brief statement could be read out loud at each meeting and placed on the projector that informs the public that background information for every Agenda Item is available online on the County website. He advised with the new Commission there is an opportunity to improve the handling of the Consent Agenda to make it more transparent to the public; he asked Chairman Feltner to spearhead these visibility and transparency changes in his new role as the current Board Chairman; he stated these proposed revisions would make a difference to residents and can be implemented immediately; and he asked that his statement be added to the record of this workshop meeting, and included in his CEER recommendation, which he is providing copies of the statement.

Commissioner Delaney stated if there is Board support for this, she would definitely be in support.

Ms. Horse advised next is Susan Connolly, followed by Lisa Cullen.

C.10. Susan Connolly - CEER #2025069 and #2025070

Susan Connolly expressed her appreciation to the Board for its time; she stated she values the opportunity to have a focused conversation with the entire County Commission to develop solutions to community issues; everyone has seen the ads to come to Florida, spend time on Florida's pristine beaches and waterways; the truth is, however, the longest water system within Brevard County, the Indian River Lagoon, is polluted; for years there has been a large number of citizens, organizations, scientists, and even governmental bodies like this County Commission focusing on the problems of the Indian River Lagoon; and the majority of these

efforts used words like restore and remediate to describe their collective and continuous efforts. She continued by saying it is now time for a new word, prevention; it is also time to resolve all of the problems by prevention using the root causes of the problem; one cause is from her beloved City of Palm Bay; in 2024 alone, there were 52 wastewater spills directly into the Central Florida Indian River Lagoon; spill volumes range from 50 gallons to 1.33 million gallons of untreated and partially-processed wastewater; and the insufficient and over capacity infrastructure of Palm Bay resulted in citizens being a contributor. She noted her recommendation to the County Commission is to bring together from throughout all of Brevard County anyone who is already engaged; start here tonight; many of the citizens are already engaged trying to attempt resolution; bring Brevard County into an organized effort that includes root cause solutions that are quick and comprehensive with permanent results; there also needs to be oversight; and something all of the community efforts lack, accountability, a strong system of financial consequences for violators, as well as a strong system of incentives for creative, innovative, and how about just common sense solutions are needed. She advised there is something the County Commission can do right here tonight to encourage the development of eco businesses to address the County's eco needs; and these will promote and assure the success of ecotourism, which is the life force of Brevard County. She stated she has a second recommendation and that is on Brevard County Department of Governmental Efficiency (DOGE); DOGE is coming to Brevard County in case the Board has not heard; the Federal government has DOGE; and now Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida has DOGE. She asked the Board not to wait for the trickle down, to start its own; she asked the Board to personalize and prioritize what the people want in Brevard County; she asked the Board to add a twist, in the County's DOGE, to also identify and acknowledge what is being done right; and she expressed her thanks to the Board.

C.11. Lisa Cullen - CEER #2025010

Lisa Cullen, Brevard County Tax Collector, stated in 2009 when she took office, she inherited a situation that needed some various items addressed; one of those things was the budget process that the Tax Collector used; her predecessor just added 10 percent every year and moved forward; in 2023 this Board, not this Board but the Board, took an interest in several Constitutional Officers' budgets; she wanted to share why she thought the questionnaire was good; and she encouraged the Board to do that with each of its Departments. She went on by saying the Tax Collector's budget, as well as the Property Appraiser's budget, is submitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR); as she looks at the questionnaire, many of those questions they were asked to answer, they actually filled out an appendix or a budget section that answers each one of those questions; she does not know if the Board has that or not, she has not gone through its budget process; but she can appreciate the massive budget that the Board does have control over, probably about a billion that it has discretion over. She commented she thought she would suggest the Board use a questionnaire like it used for the Constitutional Officers in its Departments; she thinks it would be a good faith effort; the questions are not out of line; some of them did not apply to them, like she has no grant funding for example; but she thinks it would give more clarity to the budget and help the County wrap its mind around it, because she had to do that in her own office, so she uses those schedules they fill out for the DOR, and work through it that way. She advised she lives in wild, wild west Canaveral Groves.

Chairman Feltner stated UTV's are coming her way.

Ms. Cullen advised they are there.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Ms. Cullen has it in front of her, could she give the people listening some examples of some of the things that are on the questionnaire.

Ms. Cullen noted for example, it asks if they have any membership fees in any organizations; she belongs to, for example, the Tax Collector's Association; they are a joint lobbying group, and share information; travel, she can tell the Board with the DOR she has to tell them where she is going, what city she is going to, how much she is going to spend, such as airfare, food, lodging, and if there is any associated costs with attending that conference, such as a registration fee; mailings, of course they do a lot of mailings; and they have a whole postage worksheet that they do for the DOR. She went on to add vehicles, it asks various questions about vehicles; they have a vehicle portion of their budget; capital expenditures and contracts, they send them a list of every contract with each of the vendors the Tax Collector uses, how wage increases are determined, employee benefits, and she believes all Constitutional Officers participate with the County and its benefits, as well as some of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) and State benefits; those are some of the things that are addressed; and they do an appendix for each one of those in their budget.

Commissioner Delaney stated, speaking as a new Commissioner, all of that seems really great, and it seems like it would be a really helpful tool, especially when the Board is trying to figure out how to prioritize its money that it is spending and whatnot.

Ms. Cullen pointed out if the Board wants to look at what the DOR uses, it is right on their website for both Tax Collectors and Appraisers; the Board can look at some of the things they have to fill out as part of their budget submission; they go back and look years in the past to see if she budgeted for that three years in a row and not spend that money; and they will call and ask those questions.

Commissioner Delaney stated for transparency, she thinks that would be really great; it would give the public like a cheat sheet of the budget and how Departments are spending money; and she really likes this idea.

Commissioner Goodson asked how many expenditures Ms. Cullen has in her budget, just ballpark a year; and does she have 500, 5,000, he does not know.

Ms. Cullen inquired what he means by expenditures.

Commissioner Goodson replied how many checks she writes to vendors in a year's time.

Ms. Cullen responded she tries not to write checks; a lot of those expenditures Commissioner Goodson is talking about are actually ACH, would be a refund to a customer; and she would hazard to guess her vendor list is much smaller than the County's.

Commissioner Goodson stated he would, too.

Ms. Cullen stated she does have several contracts, it is quite a few.

Commissioner Goodson asked if her contracts are usually buildings, maybe improvements improvement's on buildings, and what would her contracts be.

Ms. Cullen replied she leases a building in Merritt Island, so she has a lease there; she has contracts with a queuing company that monitors her appointments, as well as how a person is called through the office; it gives her a lot of statistics; there is their overall comprehensive tax collection software; it is used for everything within their office; it interfaces with their finance software; and there is a lot of online presence and payment processing there, so those are some of the types of companies she would have contracts with.

Chairman Feltner advised she does put multiple tax bills in one envelope.

Ms. Cullen noted as well as the registrations.

Chairman Feltner stated so are the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices, and the Board appreciates that.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kaci Beckett stated she just kind of wanted to see what was happening today, as this is one of the first meetings . . .

Chairman Feltner stated they met in the elevator.

Ms. Beckett advised she just has some comments for some of the people; Heather Elko, with the homeless she does agree there is a real problem; they, as a small farm, donate a lot of eggs; they are also talking to other small farms that can donate potatoes and other things; and it would be nice if there was a place where people could find that they could donate excess food, instead of just throwing it out to the pigs. She went on to say she thinks Terry and Jane Higgins hit on retention ponds, and they are a pet peeve of hers; basically, the developer can come in, build a retention pond, handover the maintenance of it to the Homeowners Association (HOA), and be gone; there needs to be a maintenance plan for those retention ponds; a lot of them need to be mucked out at some point, need to have plantings around them; it would be nice if the County could educate the HOA's to be able to help that out; James Erdman, Grant-Valkaria does have golf carts all over their roads, they just cannot go out to US 1 or Babcock Street; they have golf carts all over the place; they still have horses and an occasional cow in the road; and it is a little different place. She noted she has seen with stormwater runoff them pouring, and she does not know who to talk to about this, herbicides that are going on US 1 on the east side with waterways that go right out to the Lagoon, right beside them; that destroys the seagrass that cost a lot of money to bring back in; the County is not going to with herbicides being allowed to be poured down in there, there has to be a different way to handle these stormwater runoffs with plantings, working with Conradina, places like that, that they have got greenways to do it; there are a lot of different little cities; and she has been going to a lot of different meetings that are providing these rain gardens, and people are loving it. She pointed out they are seeing flooding disappear in their neighborhoods, and having beautiful little grass and pollinator areas that people can go visit, so she just had a lot of things to spell out.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned the County's Natural Resources Management Department has really tried hard to limit the herbicides, and a lot of the roads one is seeing excessive usage of herbicides are by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), so if she is inclined to reaching out to FDOT about this.

Ms. Beckett stated yes, she thinks that is who does US 1, because they are trying to get rid of it in the other Grant areas as they have charge of that.

Commissioner Delaney noted if Ms. Beckett emails and if she can rally anyone she knows that cares about this; if they get multiple emails all at the same time, they will pay a little bit more attention to it; and then the Commissioners can go to them advising them that the Commission is getting a lot of citizen input that they are contributing to what is going on in the river, and how to come up with a solution and partner.

Carl Winebarger commented he is also a member of the Conradina Native Plant Society, along with Jane and several other members; he is advocating for Low Impact Development (LID); as the Board may have seen, this County is growing in a pretty fast pace; a lot of native trees and native shrubberies are being removed when building these new HOA's, so the idea of LID is to try to keep the water on the property, mitigating the use of retention ponds, swales, and it going to the main canals, which eventually either goes to St. John's or goes into the Indian River Lagoon; as everyone knows, the Lagoon is in bad shape; and it has gotten a little better, but not great. He advised Conradina supports the use of native plants to remove the use of fertilizer and pesticides; they have contributed to a lot of the problems in the river over the years; as was said, the use of herbicides and where there is sea grass, it goes in and it kills it, so there is so much time, money, and effort spent; and they wind up shooting themselves in the foot by doing something like that. He reiterated Conradina promotes the use of native plants; they hold a yard tour every year highlighting the different areas of the County or the cities and show what average people can do with their lawns to make them more environmentally-friendly, reduce the amount of pesticides, or eliminate pesticides, and limit the abuse of fertilizer; he hopes the Board would consider trying to put together some sort of an IDL legislation that gets the developers onboard early, because if they get on late, forget it; it needs to be baked in to part of the equation; when one starts developing, these things need to get done first; and in the long-term, it is better for the developers, because they have a known, a given, better looking neighborhoods, less problems with flooding, and less pollution.

Elizabeth Blackford stated before she begins she needs a little clarification, because she submitted two CEERS, and she also had a card for a general topic; and she asked how long she gets.

Chairman Feltner asked if she RSVP if she wanted to speak on her CEER items.

Ms. Blackford replied she already discussed it with staff; she did RSVP; but she just was not put on the list; and she asked if she can speak for six minutes.

Chairman Feltner advised he would be happy to yield her more time; and he asked if she could do both of them in five minutes.

Ms. Blackford replied affirmatively; she asked the Board to forgive her as she is going to use her cellphone. She went on to say she submitted two CEERS, one was about dangerous traffic congestion; she will not reiterate that, it was number 71, the last two digits were 71; with the increase in building here, the traffic has increased dramatically, and she sees an easy solution for cutting down on people doing a drive-through; the residential neighborhoods close to the major roads are being used by commuters to cut the corners; and she asked if there is any problem simply reducing the residential speed limit to 25 miles an hour, flat out. She pointed out right now there is a variety, running from 35, 30, and 25; as far as she can see, the conditions vary all over the place; she has provided the Board with a good deal of rationale in her CEER; it is a revenue opportunity; but she does not think it hurts anybody by dropping the speed limit to 25; and there is no confusion involved, so she would appreciate the Board's consideration on that. She inquired how many people have submitted suggestions along the lines of LID principles; she noted basically, the citizens have been paying the additional sales tax for several years now, yet people flick their cigarette butts out of the windows and fertilize their lawns with high phosphorus and high nitrogen fertilizers; there is no signage at big box or even maw and paw stores to show that there is a limitation on that; what she is asking for is more enforcement and more coordination; she recognizes that a lot of these are city issues; but just like the fertilizer ban, it took everyone within the County coordinating to make that happen; and it is only marginally successful so far. She added, she wanted to bring it to the Board's attention that she did not submit CEER 68, but she thinks it is a very good suggestion, recommending a

certification program for landscapers; these people would be taught the principles, receive a certification, and there would be renewal required; the County would give its contracts to them; they bid, but they get preferential treatment because they follow LID principles, they recognize native plants and how to properly prune trees for maximum effect; she thinks it is a very creative suggestion; and whoever submitted it, gets a gold star from her. She advised she would like to make some suggestions about the Speak Up Brevard workshop; she expressed her appreciation to the Board for spending its time here this evening with the public; she stated this is an important opportunity for those who work to do their part as citizens; and she expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Delaney for sponsoring this. She stated she sees from the database, in the past there have been recommendations that the period for submitting suggestions be expanded; one month is not really enough; there was nowhere nearly enough publicity for this event; she suggested that the County open it for two months, starting December 1, running till the end of January; that gives people time when they are together partying, spending time at home with their families, to look around them and look for ways that they might improve Brevard's communities; she would also suggest that the County use a drop-down menu to coordinate topics into specific subject areas that can be dealt with all at once; and it would have everybody talking about one thing during this part of the Agenda, and then to move on to the next topic instead of using an RSVP system for speakers. She mentioned as the Board knows, speakers have been all over the map; she asked the Board to try to keep it a little coordinated; and she hopes the Board gets some good information out of what the citizens gave it.

Judy Trandel remarked this reminds her of the legislative delegation meeting, and that is so important; she has sat there and listened to many of the citizens, and her subject goes right along with it; she would like to talk about wetlands; the importance of wetlands and everyone's concerns about retention ponds, stormwater runoff, flooding, nature, pure water, and the Indian River Lagoon is something that can be attended to by the County's input on development when developers come in to mitigate wetlands; and doing away with the wetlands and putting in a retention pond takes away all of the clear water filtration, the wildlife, hatcheries, and all of the things that Florida is so famous for. She advised she just read that the Everglades restoration when way back they decided to develop the Everglades, make canals, and dry up the marshes, she thinks she just read that Governor Ron DeSantis is going to allot \$800 million this year and next year for partial restoration; they have to go back in and try to fix all of the damage that was done before; that refers right back to the County; what it is doing by allowing the wetlands to be transformed into a lake, or just dry land and say to put a retention pond somewhere else; it is not doing Florida a favor; they do not last; and retention ponds deteriorate within five years is what she read. She mentioned it takes away all of the natural defense from the stormwater and things like that; Floridians like to have a low, slow-paced life, and natural beauty, and not to build it up with all of the development; she saw somewhere that Sun Terra in Palm Bay is going to destroy 101 acres of wetlands in the South Brevard area; that is a shame; and she asked the Board that when it looks at a development plan coming in, she knows the damage is already done behind it, but forward, when a development comes before the Board to start with its staff to make sure there is no wetlands on the property, for Planning and Zoning to ask if there are any wetlands on the property, and for the Commission to make sure that it is preserving the Florida life.

Heather Elko stated she tried to be brief, but she really did not get to adequately thank the Board for having this workshop; she hopes the Board will have it again; the suggestion of having a little bit more of a window would be wonderful for suggestions; she knows the Board is busy, it has a lot of big stuff on his or her mind; but she hopes some of these ideas will stick with it; and she reiterated her thanks to the Board for having this workshop tonight.

Dana Blickley, Brevard County Property Appraiser, advised that part of her comments are going to be related to her role as Property Appraiser, part of them are going to be related as a citizens, a taxpayer of the County; the first thing she would like to recommend, and she actually sent Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, an email, she cannot remember if she copied the County Manager or not, but the Budget workshop the Board had in February where unfortunately, she could not be here, because she was in Tallahassee at a legislative conference, but that comes at a time when they do not have any information from the Board, so it is hard for them to give the County substantive information if it is needing that going forward with its budget process; and she suggested that maybe the Board set those, at least for Constitutionals, in March, or at a time when it has most of the mandates it is going to give them, because that is when they start their budget process, so that would make much more sense. She went on to say she is going to take the Board back prior to '23, because 2023 was a dismal year for the relationship between some of the Constitutional Offices and this Board; maybe not particularly the members who are sitting here, but certainly the tone; while it was bad, she does not think it was done in good faith, there is always good out of bad; that is how she chooses to live; and the bad was it appeared to be a contentious relationship between those that are responsible for setting tax rates, establishing budgets, and those who are part of that process, when the truth is in the past, it was not contentious at all. She commented as a matter of fact, when it came timely in the year, they were able to share with the County Commission, and brag, what was going on in the Constitutional Offices, what efficiencies they had done, changes they had done, legislative mandates that were coming their way that of course, the Board was having to fund, so that was not always a bad process; she would certainly like to see it get back to that spirit; and having said that, she does have some recommendations. She stated she is going to tell the Board from experience, prior to becoming Property Appraiser she worked there for 20 years, so she had a pretty good idea about discover listing and valuing properties in this County; but her name was not on the door, so that meant that she followed the Policies of the Property Appraiser and management at the time, which she was a part of; when she came in the door, she knew that she was coming after the cusp of the bubble, they all lived through that, a time when the Property Appraiser's Office was bloated, it had 159 people doing, and she would say providing less services than 106 now do that; and they were not able to do that without looking at themselves hard in coming up with some changes where they knew they would be in a place like this, 11 cycles of appreciation of property values, new construction everywhere, and they certainly wanted to do that as efficient as they could and at the least cost to taxpayers. She mentioned that Chairman Feltner was with her during that process, so he could probably speak to the Commission if he or she had questions on how they did it; one of the things they did out of the gate is there were 20 percent of the staff that found other opportunities before she came to be the Property Appraiser, and there were 13 other individuals they helped find their way out of the Property Appraiser's Office; it came through looking at who was producing a work product; if she had a director that was supervising a manager, a manager that was supervising a department, she can tell the Board that one of those managers went; she was able to streamline that and make the organization much flatter; she might take a manager that was not producing a work product and create two field appraisers that could pick up \$1.8 billion worth of new construction, redundancy; if one does not look at their processes and if they have been at the helm for a long time, they do things they are comfortable with and the way they do it; and through improvement processes, they found redundancy in the Property Appraiser's Office. She noted they found things they were annotating during their mapping process that their appraisers were not using, and it was done strictly for the appraisers; they found uniformity, areas where they could create uniformity; they are geographically challenged just like everybody in this room; they have four offices, and they found redundancy and uniformity in making sure that people that were providing their services in Titusville were the same as in Palm Bay; the users became more powerful because their tools became more powerful, so with a lot of those folks that were no longer working for them, a lot of those reoccurring dollars were substituted with a one-time expense; and they

acquired a \$1.8 million computer system without coming to the taxpayers for a single cent. She pointed out one will find quality control measures whenever one looks at the way he or she is doing things; people are very comfortable with what they know; but sometimes they have to take a look within themselves and fresh eyes are good for that; less errors are being made and less errors are being found through filters, so one thing she would offer to the Board is yes, even though it was a contentious process for them in '23, she does not think it should be, and she does not think it is best for residents of this County; and certainly, it is not best for this Board and the Constitutional Officers when they do not have a good spirit of cooperation. She stated she would like to see the timing of some things to change so more substantive conversations can be had.

Chairman Feltner stated homestead season ended.

Ms. Blickley stated homestead season ended today, but it has not ended yet, a person can still file online until midnight.

Chairman Feltner stated he forgot to ask the Tax Collector something; and he asked if since taxes are due, in April they are late.

Lisa Cullen, Tax Collector, replied they become delinquent April 1.

Chairman Feltner asked if residents have until April Fools' Day to pay their taxes before they are late.

Ms. Cullen responded correct; and around 90 percent of the taxes have been paid.

*The Board recessed at 6:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:39 p.m.

Susan Connolly expressed her appreciation, again, to the Board; she stated this workshop has been invaluable for her and the audience; she thinks that might be one of the unintended positives here is that citizens here may also get onboard with solutions they have heard, maybe even educate the public on what some of the issues are that are facing the Commission, and have a little compassion for the Board; and she asked the Board to continue this. She went on to say she thinks another positive outcome might be, she knows Commissioner Adkinson is trying to fill all of these advisory boards, and she has heard many people say he or she wants to be part of the solution, her included; she wants to talk a little bit about the process; she likes when she submitted her recommendation, she could see that she had her recommendation from 2024 was there, it kind of reminded her, and she liked that; the recommendations are identified by CEER numbers; she would like to see her name, the other people's names, and the contact information, because again, it gives her insight and motivation to do something; and she would like to be able to contact some of these people here. She mentioned she would also like to see, as part of an outgrowth of this, where the citizens are contacted, and there are some means of continual communication throughout the year; communication that would involve what the Commissioners have decided; she thinks some of these solutions are ongoing and will not be overnight, so again, having that continual communication would be very good; she would like to see the communication written and posted where citizens who participate, or do not, can learn from the website or wherever this information may be; the only disappointing thing for her, as a citizen, is 77 recommendations, she was thrilled to see that, but when she walked in, there are only 11 speakers; she does not know if it is because this process is so new and the workshop is so new; there was confusion in her mind in how to register and to make sure she could speak, how long, and all of that; and she wanted to be acknowledging of the Board's time as well, because if 66 had all showed up and spoken, there would be more than a

five-minute bathroom break. She noted she does not know the answer to that, but to put everyone's heads together on that.

Kristina Fisher commented Least Terns are listed by the State of Florida as threatened; Least Terns winter in Central and South America and return to the U.S. in spring to breed; at one time Florida had many colonies of breeding Least Terns; due to extensive development along the coast, they are only limited beaches still suitable for Least Tern breeding; as a result of the loss of their beach breeding grounds, many Least Terns began using flattop roofs of commercial buildings; but only those buildings with gravel roofs are used for breeding; and unfortunately, most of those gravel roofs have been reroofed with newer materials, materials not suitable for breeding Terns. She pointed out, there is a possible solution that is both easy and cost-effective; many large cities, such as New York and Atlanta, offer tax incentives to building owners who install or convert their roofs to living roofs, also known as green roofs; living roofs are engineered to allow the placement of a soil layer, the planting of grasses, flowers, shrubs, and even small trees; living roofs have many benefits, they reduce runoff, reduce Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and electricity costs, and increase the life-span of the roof by up to 100 percent; their aesthetic value cannot be underestimated; many high-rise, dwelling buildings list their rooftop garden as an important amenity; however, to improve the chances for breeding success for the Least Terns would only require a much smaller investment; a thin layer of sand and gravel is all the birds need; and the building owners would not have to invest in soil, irrigation, plants, or special leak detection systems, and only minor annual maintenance would be necessary. She stated the cost to the property owners would be minimal compared to the cost for the standard green roof; in order to convince property owners to make the changes needed, the County should consider offering monetary incentives, such as real estate tax credits; additionally, she thinks that providing some type of recognition, such as a plaque certifying that the roof is helping endangered birds would be beneficial; many businesses like to let the general public know that they are trying to be good environmental stewards; the Starbucks in downtown Disney has a green roof, because Starbucks appreciates the good will that this engenders; Brevard County has dozens of volunteers, some of them in the room, who spend hundreds of hours every year trying to help Least Terns successfully raise their young; and she asked the Board to consider helping the people help them.

Commissioner Delaney advised she had the opportunity of going to a presentation, she believes they met there, at the Brevard Zoo; this is a really cool idea; and she bets there are a lot of businesses out there that are interested.

Ms. Fisher noted somebody just needs to give them a little push to get them onboard; a standard living roof is still a great idea, but it is expensive; and it requires a lot of maintenance, a lot of engineering, one has to take the extra weight of the soil, the trees, and this is honestly a little sand and pebbles.

Commissioner Delaney inquired where some of the ideal places for these roofs would be.

Ms. Fisher replied several years ago she noticed driving by the U-Haul Self Storage building in Merritt Island by the Mall; she saw 100 Least Terns flush off of the roof; she asked Catherine Vecchio and she said that roof was not on their list; she monitored that roof, with multiple volunteers, they spend hundreds of hours checking the roof, because unfortunately, the roof did not have any systems to keep the babies from falling off, so whenever there was a hard rain, the birds came down; she and other volunteers checked after any hard rains for any baby birds on the ground; they put them back up with a crazy chickaboom system, which Catherine helped with, so the parents could take care of them; and sadly, some of the birds drowned coming through the gutters. She noted Florida Fish and Wildlife has somebody who deals with this; she tried for a long time, because she tried for a long time to get somebody at U-Haul to

talk to them, they would not have anything to do with them; after that year, they did something to deter the birds from using that roof again, so they have not been back; they need to get somebody who can get the business owners to see the value of doing this, and maybe giving them a little incentive to do it; if they could figure out some way to get them to understand that there is a value to this, and it can be used in their advertising; and by going to Cocoa Village, every little shop says 'dog friendly'. She asked the Board if it knows why; she stated because everyone wants to walk their dog in Cocoa Village; and they sell a lot more stuff if they can bring their dog into that shop. She pointed out a plaque could be given that said that this building helps save endangered birds.

Commissioner Altman advised he loves those Terns, and they do need protected; he knows the County acquires land for conservation, and there are conservation easements the County provides, and maybe it needs to kind of purchase rooftops, or give grants to land owners, and Ms. Fisher mentioned tax abatements, which is a good idea; and he asked if Ms. Fisher is aware of any research that has been done by universities or engineering firms on the types of structures, architectural design of the type of roof that is needed.

Ms. Fisher replied not this specific roof, there is a lot of engineering done on the standard green roof that has grasses and flowers; she is fully-able to find an engineering firm and bully them into giving them what is needed; and she already bullied her husband's friend, who is a professional roofer, into giving her a lot of information.

Commissioner Altman explained he heard that the gravel roofs that used to be so common in Commissioner Goodson's and his day, but one reason he heard they lost flavor is because in a bad hurricane the rocks are blown off.

Ms. Fisher advised any flat roof if there was a hurricane type rain is going to have an issue; but the newer systems that they have are lighter and less likely to leak; it is too expensive to re-gravel the roof; now it is easier to pull that off and she thinks they just spray them on, it is some kind of foam, so they are no longer suitable; if one just threw some sand on there, they would suddenly become suitable, again sadly, the Space Force and Kennedy Space Center put deterrents on their roofs; they have suitable roofs; and she happens to have a badge, because she volunteers at the Missile Museum, so she checks those roofs all of the time. She noted historically, they were, in fact, used by Least Terns; but she reiterated they all have deterrents to keep the Terns from using those roofs; and she feels a little distressed that the Federal Government is not helping more with endangered or threatened birds.

Commissioner Altman remarked one thing the County does have is the Canaveral National Seashore and the Cape Kennedy Space Force.

Ms. Fisher stated she does go to the Cape, there is a place she checks, and they do occasionally have nesting Least Terns; there are a lot of areas inside there that she cannot go to because they are essentially off-limits to everybody who is not security, so she does not know if there are any additional areas that have them; she assumes, just based on her knowledge as a birder, that going north of Playalinda, there is a very long beach between Playalinda and Apollo Beach in New Smyrna, that probably has some; and the birds made the switch to the grapple roofs successfully, because they no longer had their historic breeding grounds available.

Commissioner Delaney asked if it is any gravel in particular.

Ms. Fisher replied she has done some research; there is not as much known about breeding Least Terns as one would think; but since they use beaches, she is guessing that a layer of

sand would probably do the trick; some beaches are gravelly, which is why the gravel probably appeals to them; there are certain other requirements; there does have to be a source of food; obviously, if they are hatching chicks, they need to be fed, so it has to be close to a river; the U-Haul is very close to the Banana River, so they could grab fish out of the Banana River and bring them back; if there was a building nowhere near any water probably would not work no matter what was done to the roof; and certain things would be looked at.

Beth Blackford stated she yields her time.

Sandra Sullivan stated she found an article the other day on Wayback Machine by the Brevard Citizens Coalition; they were the ones that pushed the idea of Speak Up Brevard and got the Charter changed; for clarity, the Citizens Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendations is where the word CEER comes from, and this is DOGE; relating to their article, Speak Up Brevard allows citizens to submit ideas which would assist County government in conserving energy, saving costs, eliminating duplications, generating revenue, increasing productivity, or preventing waste, so she wants to talk about generating revenue; she has a Federal document here called Taxation and Federal Areas; and it clearly states that when Federal land is leased to private entities that the local government has the right to negotiate taxation. She went on to say she is going to send an email to the Commissioners, it is page seven, that she thinks needs to be looked at, given the condition of the County and the challenges being faced right now. She noted she wants to talk about North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) specifically, so this binder is from the Brevard Coalition, and it is on NBEDZ; there is a number of controversies; one of the things is NBEDZ is supposed to be an Enterprise Zone; that is one of the things that was reported and promised; but it is not, because she looked on the State site and it is not listed as one of Florida's Enterprise Zones; one of their major concerns is that this was taking tax dollars from the General Fund that was not available to the needs of the County; and when it was calculated out, 71 percent of the General Fund revenue of commercial and industrial areas, it excludes residential and ag, the County is losing that revenue. She pointed out those costs in District 1 have to come from somewhere else, or maybe they just do not have enough to do things, so looking at Station 23, which is a condemned building there, is just sitting there and not being addressed; these guys are piled in from two stations into one station; there is a number of alarming inconsistencies, including the monies from the tax increment, the amount going into the budget exceeding what the tax increment is, so there will be a number of details and emails coming out on this; her request is rescind, or take the Ordinance and sunset NBEDZ; and it was only supposed to be for five years, and to tax Space Florida since they are now pulling on the County for resources. She expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Delaney; she stated this came to life today, hearing people's ideas; this starts the collaborative process; this is hearing from the people; this is what they wanted to see and just be heard; and it makes a huge difference to the frustration that a lot of them are feeling.

Michael Myjak, representative of the Indian River Lagoon Roundtable, commented he wants to talk to the Board about a very big picture problem; he knows the Commissioners eyes are all glazed over as he or she has been doing this for an hour or two, but he really wants to talk to the Board about something that is important; when the building really started in the '60s, Brevard County had a fishing industry that was world class; the Indian River Lagoon fishery was second to none; and it is not here today. He went on by saying part of the reason is back in the day there was this thing called Banana Creek that used to connect the top of the Banana River and the Indian River Lagoon, and allowed them to flow; there was great fishing; it was really wonderful; there were oysters, all kinds of interesting creatures and critters, and charismatic beings that lived out here that is a definition of Florida residents in their quality of life; he wants the Commission to think about, not just the charismatic ones and little babies, but everything that is out here; a friend of his told him once that she would sit down on the dock and watch a school of mullet pass by, and it would take 20 minutes for one school to

pass; and that is not today. He explained the Space industry happened; the Board has heard of doing stupid after bad, that is kind of what the County's stormwater is these days; this is kind of what happened here, people did not know what the effects were going to be when NASA came here with their DDT and pond filling; the North Indian River Lagoon, north of Banana Creek is a disaster; and it is because the flow has been cut off between the Lagoon, both north and south; and he wants the Board to see it is not just the mosquito estuaries and the stuff that comes out in the stormwater, it is the water itself, it is poisonous in an estuary. He noted the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) does not deal with fresh water, they do not deal with saline water, so they do not look at it; it is the biggest input in the Lagoon and the estuary, why it is dying, why the Manatee is dying, and why the County's recreational capabilities are dying; the quality of life that Brevard County has is being threatened because there are many large entities; the Department of Defense (DOD) is one, NASA is another; and the Board of County Commissioners is in a unique position to create what he has asked for, a Space Force task force to coordinate how it is going to grow its Port, how to intermodal that with rail, and now pentamode Space flight, commercial space flight, in a way never seen before. He stated the County has tens of thousands of new jobs coming; it is going to need housing; all of these places, people, and groups are affected; the Board needs to bring them all together to plan the future; if the County has a hope of creating synergy with nature, its quality of life, and the tsunami of growth coming from the Space industry, without proper planning, it is going to tank; he wants the Board to think about the resources responsible and needed for accelerated growth; he will give it one, groundwater; he did a study with SJRWMD to look at putting a D Cell plant in the Indian River Lagoon; they started out hoping to get 30 million gallons a day; and they ended up with a study less than five because their model showed the Lagoon was dead in two years. He pointed out they cannot go to the IRL for D Cell unless one takes the effluent somewhere else, out to the Gulf Stream is what they came up with; it was the only viable solution; 30 million gallons a day produced 720, 10 cubic yard dump trucks full of dry salt a day; the County is not set up for that; it is not set up for a sewage plant that is going to treat this County; Titusville's plant is going to be under water in 30 years; the County wants to put one in Port St. John to serve the Space Center; and he asked what about Palm Bay, they are all on septic. He stated a regional solution is needed for potable water, stormwater, sanitary sewer, and for all of the concurrency items, and the Space growth has to pay for that; the County needs to make sure it is taking itself accordingly so that the impacts are covered to supplant these concerns; a task force is needed that includes the County taking the lead; it has the world renowned Space Center in its backyard; they are home here now to play; the County has to take charge and take lead; somebody needs to lead this task force; and he hopes it will be the County.

Celeste Corrado remarked she has a couple of suggestions on Speak Up Brevard; first of all, she is totally excited by what she saw here; it is indeed the first time she has seen the objective being citizen engagement; what she has seen with the 77 submissions and the people in the room, the Board tapped into the collective intelligence of the community; this is a smart community with a lot of skills and a lot of expertise; she has no doubt if the County and the citizens collaborate that some amazing things can be done; and signs have already been seen. She noted she thinks this is one of the most encouraging things she has seen in the couple of years she has lived here; she has a couple of suggestions, because she is really hoping the program will evolve, and she sort of wants to paint a picture of both the tactical and strategic sort of potential that it might go in, just to throw out some ideas; the first one, there were a lot of comments heard from Ms. Connolly and Ms. Sullivan about some of the practical tips, which is a little better on the communication thing, it was really hard to sort of navigate that website and get all of the pieces of information as a newbie to the process; they talked about extending the timeframe, a good suggestion from Ms. Connolly about allowing some of the submissions to be transparent, there would be collaboration among the ideas, so when it came to the Board, he or she might see two or three different people sort of combining their ideas; and so those are

some of the practical tips that would help them as citizens understand what it is the Commission is looking for. She went on to add, the second tier of recommendations was basically that the County can help shape the submissions that come in, and she would suggest it do that, because she knows it is probably a huge burden to take in all of these submissions and review them, so that would be make the criteria for submission explicit so the public knows what the County is looking for; what are the top five to seven really hard problems it is facing; to let the citizens get into, she knows he or she have the expertise somewhere in the community to help solve some of those, so not just keeping it open to broad submissions, but also on really big challenge problems; and maybe thinking about shaping how the County gets those instructions out to the public might give the Commission some really good things back into it. She stated on the strategic level what she wants to say, and she will end on this point, is a little broader thinking about where the program can go; what she just talked about is actually the basics of an incubator, of basically the County and the citizen incubator; and if the County thought a little bit more about where that could go, and actually designing it like an incubator, she is thinking it can actually get beyond current-day problems and start thinking about future problems.

Catherine Vecchio stated she just learned about this event on Friday, so she is not too prepared; she first came to the County Commissioners during the time of former Commissioner Curt Smith where he then tasked her to reach out about her topic, which has been about finding habitat for the Least Tern, as the Board just heard spoke about; as a volunteer with the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) Florida Shorebird Alliance, she had found out that they, as volunteers, were having to look to the skies to rooftops to help this bird species, so it was beyond her to think that, that is the way it should be; people do so much in the community to help the Manatee, to grow oysters, now it is clams, and trying to grow grass; her recommendation was to go to Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs); and the EELs advisory board tasked her to read all of the management plans, she read them all, and in those management plans she found notices that specified that there were regions within the EELs lands that would be adaptable to habitat for shorebirds and seabirds nesting. She continued by saying as the nitrogen levels have increased, the Spoil Islands are becoming overgrown with native vegetation and non-native vegetation; at the time that those management plans were written, they would have accommodated wildlife; now with all of the regulations that evolved, the land is not clear, and the sand is not there for them to nest; with the help of the EELs advisory board to direct her, and with Mike Knight, EEL Program Manager, his commitment, he did find an area within the EELs properties; but only through grant money would they allow what is now looking to be the norm is a raised platform; and a raised platform is kind of going to be similar to what a rooftop is, but for them as volunteers, when having to monitor a rooftop, as was explained earlier, when that bird falls off, they do not always get cooperation with building owners, so they have to put the bird back on the roof. She stated there is a plan through the University of Florida, there is something with American Bird Conservancy; they are trying to develop a program to have like an incubator to develop new roofing ideas, so she personally feels like she wishes the birds could have the ground and do their native thing; but because there are so many predators that are combined and packed into certain small spaces that the species cannot thrive, as there is predation from the sky and ground; and they deserve a place to live as well. She pointed out this could be a revenue generator, because by the time the chicks hatch out, it is out of season; right now, the County is lucky to have the birding festival come back to Merritt Island, but this could be a draw; when she first saw a chick on the ground, from afar, she was with the FWC and saw them through a scope, it is unbelievable how they protect themselves as a colony; the County does everything to protect the Ospreys; Ospreys are given these platforms on top of poles, but it is not doing its part for this bird that is a native of this State; when that bird leaves and comes back, all of its habitat is gone; and then the rooftops are gone, so if the County were get access to the Florida Shorebird database, it can see that they started taking data in 2012. She noted rooftops have doubled since 2012 to 2024;

there could be other rooftops; unfortunately, the ground nests occur in constructions sites; they cannot see them, but she is hoping they are following the FWC guidelines and have environmental consultants onboard; she does not know how the new Commission could help direct this; Mr. Knight has been very helpful; it is not in the budget to build a platform, so if there is to be a platform it is going to have to come through grants; she is also attending the Citizens Academy this year; she does try to bring it up to every Director she has an opportunity to speak to; she had questions for Frank Abbate, County Manager, at one time; she does not want to be a can kicked down the road; but this species has been here long before anyone has been here; and they are being neglecting them because they fly away, one does not see them, they come back, and she is at the mercy of private property owners. She stated the Air Force has the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) document protocol that they follow, so they have the ability to stop birds; she hears them in the morning, she hears the horns going off clearing the runway; she is not saying she wants any harm to the service members, but they have open space, the birds are attracted to it; they have gravel rooftops because government does not move as quick to change out the rooftops; she does not know how this can be a think tank kind of thing and how to help the species when they come back; the birds will be here in the next four to six weeks; she appreciates everything that Mr. Knight has done, but she has been coming to speak since former Commissioner Smith was on the Board; and now she thinks he sits as an advisor on that board for EELs.

Sarah Skywind, cofounder of Brevard Bark House, stated they are a non-profit animal rescue team that would like to request the use of the building located at 2605 Flake Road, Titusville; that will be a topic on the Agenda on the 11th, so she is a little premature on it, but it is really important to them; it is already setup as an animal shelter, but it is vacant; she has spoken with Code Enforcement and Facilities Department about their interest; and they hope to build a strong relationship with both Departments. She went on to say it will be a great space for the community to gather as they help ease the strain of existing shelters like the Brevard County Animal Shelter; it will be a place for the community to find their new best friend, volunteer, and gain education on topics like behavior, health, nutrition, enrichment, and safety for their pets; the building has approximately 38 kennels; their plan is to operate at 75 percent capacity so they can make sure they have an area for sick animals and also have the room to aid other shelters of overflow; their approach is unique, they would like to provide each animal with a space resembling a home instead of a concrete, cold kennel; each animal will have a set schedule for let outs, feeding, and training; and it will make their transition into their permanent home much easier. She noted to give the Board a little background on her and her co-founder, they were Florida raised and love Brevard County; they are not just animal lovers, it is their passion; in the last six months, they have aided in finding permanent, loving homes for 52 dogs, have worked with local feed and pet stores to get over 6,000 pounds of food to animals in need, as well as collect over 3,000 pounds of other items like bedding, enrichment items, and grooming products; they are two people who feel it is their responsibility to serve the community the best they can; and allowing them to use this building will give them the possibilities to do that.

Chairman Feltner advised he worked in North County for a while; and he asked Ms. Skywind to tell him where this is again.

Ms. Skywind replied it is right behind the Dunn Airport.

Chairman Feltner asked who is in that building now.

Ms. Skywind responded it is vacant right now; and it was a private-ran shelter called Furever Home.

Chairman Feltner inquired if it is a County facility.

Ms. Skywind replied affirmatively.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, explained for a number of years it has been occupied by a private, not-for-profit, called Furever Home, which recently left the facility and ended their lease.

Kristin Lortie commented she wants to share some appreciations and some advocacy; one, she so appreciates the Board's vote to say yes for this workshop, and she thanked them for voting yes; she expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Delaney for spearheading this, and for everyone's participation, and everyone in the audience who participated; and she noted it has really been amazing to hear all of the citizen advocacies. She went on to say advocacy aside, she wants to say that of the submissions that were received, of the 13 that were eliminated, there are five in particular she would like to draw the Board's attention to, as she disagrees with County staff's elimination of those; those had to do with the Constitutional Officers; she believes the Constitutional Officers belong in this room, two of them spoke tonight, she was grateful to hear them; the citizens who want to speak on those topics, they belong here, the advocacy belongs here; she appreciates staff sending the emails of those recommendations; but if those citizens want to speak, they should be included in this event, this first annual event since this was passed by the Charter in 2010. She stated on their behalf, there were five of them, and all of them had to do with the shelters, they had to do with County shelters, so it is interesting that this piggybacks on the last speaker; in particular, there were two that came in regarding stray holds; and she would like to read a little bit about them, because those residents are not here tonight. She read, "The County shelter has not been abiding by the legal stray hold, and has been returning cats to the field before the owners have a chance to reclaim them. One recent case is that of Snowflake. Her lottery date was set for today, but she was released on the 3rd, and now her owner cannot find her. The owner came in with a pink bell collar and I believe was microchipped, yet still released." She advised the second one says, "That while I think Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is a valuable resource for the cats of our County, the execution is simply awful. Cats are not held on five-day stray holds, friendly cats are TNR without being a chance of adoption, and often cats are dropped off in a place that is not their home. Brevard needs to do better." She stated additionally there were two that were very detailed; those were CEER 011 and 012; these are people who know intimately what the shelter system is like, and she thinks that the Sheriff should receive those; but then those people should be able to be represented by the Sheriff if they want to participate in that, they should be able to do that, and she wants those on file. She stated lastly, when it comes to the logistics of the workshop, they had confusion in the District 1 Office, they had people calling who were not exactly sure how this worked; they have an Agenda that just has names on it; what was requested is they actually add some more information, so that this could be informative; there were people calling in saying they did not understand how this Agenda works; they would like this to be corrected for the next session; and to let everyone know in the audience that when there is another vote for this, everybody can come in and look for the staff comments that will be online prior to the meeting to see what the staff has done with all of this advocacy, and to be welcomed back again.

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

Commissioner Delaney expressed her appreciation to her fellow Board Members for humoring her with this; she stated she knows it took a little bit to help the Commissioners to see her vision for this, for collaborating with her, and working through this to get to this point, where it had all of this collaboration and input from the public; she stated it means the world to her; she and her Chief of Staff were outside of this building about a year ago with about 40 people, front

page on the news, and talking about this program; it is incredible to see so much input; and for everyone who came to speak, or just came to witness what happened tonight, it was extremely beautiful, this is exactly what government is intended to be, for the people, by the people. She noted she is so encouraged by this, and she hopes this is the first of many; all of that being said, like many of the speakers had talked about, there was a lot of Agenda confusion; she had her staff send an email almost immediately after the Agenda first came out with some suggestions, because she kind of anticipated the confusion, as when the Agenda came out, it was not really clear according to the information on the Agenda; and then with the citizens recommendations, Letter C, it just had the CEER numbers, and for residents, it would have been really cool to have a short thing explaining what the CEER was about rather than the numbers, so that if a citizen was interested, they could click on it and see more of what that was. She remarked she hopes that if this is done again, which she hopes it is, that it could be collaborated a little bit more on this; the letters that were sent out to the public were also another place where there was some confusion, because people were wondering why they had to RSVP, and her office received a lot of feedback that there was a lot of confusion; she tried to talk to staff about it, and honestly, it was not super well-received when she asked them about sending another email to clarify, so what she did in her office was she had her staff call all of the individuals to let them know to please sign up and that they are welcome; the one letter that got sent out to people who did not get included, she would have liked to see in there that while their CEER is not maybe under the County's jurisdiction, that they could still come and speak during Public Comment; and even if the County is not over what their concern is, this is still an avenue where they can come and speak. She stated she reached out to some of the Constitutional Officers to get their opinion about them being included in the CEER program, and what they said to her is that this would have been an awesome opportunity for them to hear from the public, because they do not have these venues like this; the Board is dedicating a night to do this anyway, and all that they asked is maybe they could be a part of it for those CEERS that were talked about; they seemed to be onboard with that; and maybe that is something the Board could improve on in the future. She advised her final thing is, after the budget season, like she had mentioned about the advisory boards, the Speak Up Brevard Ordinance is something she would like to see if the Board could improve. She stated some people are going to be wondering what happens next with all of this citizen participation; the County staff is going to continue their evaluation throughout the 120-day review period, starting February 1; the staff recommendations will come to the Board during a regular County Commission meeting at a date to be determined; letters will be mailed to participants a minimum of seven days prior to the meeting; participants will be able to speak on their recommendations at this meeting; participant may submit slides in advance of the meeting to accompany their recommendations; this will be participants opportunity to advocate for or against any CEER proposals; and the Board will vote to approve or deny CEER recommendations at that meeting. She stated she would encourage people to come to that meeting and fight for their item, speak for or against for whatever he or she wishes, and even if something does not get approved this time, she encourages them to continue on with their County Commissioner, because like, she believes Chairman Feltner said, that this is not the only opportunity one has, so if he or she really feels passionate about their idea and the answer was no, maybe there is a yes in there somewhere and he or she can work with their Commissioner to find that yes.

E.5. Reports, Re: Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 3

Commissioner Adkinson expressed her appreciation to everyone who showed up tonight for all of their thoughts and solutions, and to staff for being here so late and putting it all together.

E.6. Reports, Re: Thad Altman, Commissioner District 5

Commissioner Altman expressed his appreciation to everyone; he stated he thought it was well-done, engaging, and stimulating in terms of ideas; there was extremely positive input; he thinks more is gotten out of being positive, proactive, and visionary; it makes him realize as a body, there is a lot happening in Brevard County, it is heading in an exciting direction; maybe the Board needs to take a look at planning and visioning kind of seeing what direction the County is going, and how it can get there; he thinks the Board is going to have to look at the fiscal challenges, because everything it tries to do has a fiscal input, and this is a good model; and maybe the Board can look at seeing if maybe it can make a big difference for the future of the County. He noted this has generated some ideas, and he will be bringing it up at later meeting under reports to see what the Commissioners think about them.

E.7. Reports, Re: Rob Feltner, Commissioner District 4, Chairman

Chairman Feltner expressed his appreciation for the kind and happy words tonight; he pointed out those are much appreciated by the Board; the Board does not always get happy words, so that was nice; and as a reminder for the Board and the public, the Commission will be back in this room on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. for the budget workshop.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

RACHEL SADOFF, CLERK

ROB FELTNER, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

As approved by the Board on May 1, 2025.