



Tammy Etheridge, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001  
Fax: (321) 264-6972

January 15, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stockton Whitten, County Manager

RE: Item III., Ordinances Establishing, Imposing, and Levying the Ninth Cent Gas Tax and Levying the Five-Cent Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT)

The Board of County Commissioners, in special session on January 14, 2016, denied the option of holding a public hearing on January 26, 2016, by cancelling the public hearing for ordinances establishing, imposing, and levying the ninth cent gas tax, and levying the five-cent Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) upon every gallon of motor fuel sold in Brevard County as authorized under 206.41(1)(e) and 336.025(1)(b), Florida Statutes.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

*Tammy Rowe*

✓ Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

cc: Budget  
Finance  
County Attorney  
Public Works Director

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**Presented to Brevard County Commission – January 14, 2016**

Commissioners, you with the public participated in a "Gas tax workshop" on 12/11/16. Many ideas and ways of achieving the additional funds (about \$5M/yr.) without increasing the gas tax were provided by active citizens in this county. It appears that these proposals were provided to "deaf ears", because there was a constant rebuttal of why it couldn't be done throughout this long and grueling CC meeting, by fellow commissioners and the County Manager and Staff. Commissioner Anderson has publicly stated that he has several ways of reducing cost and getting there but can't get 2 more votes. I call on Curt Smith and Trudie Infantini to be the 2 other votes. Contrary to "I don't have the votes"....is an approach that says I have the political will to make the budget cut proposals so as to fund roads and submit it for a vote. If you lose the vote so be it but it least we know where you stand....Please do not hide behind I don't have the votes....Take a stand.

During the 12/11 15 workshop I provided the commission and the staff with several ways of obtaining the revenue without increasing taxes, but through judicious evaluation of core needs versus do good wants and political patronage. I will once more attempt to provide you with the way to get there with yet a **third recommendation**.

**RECO #1** The list of available items to be reduced or eliminated in the current general fund is numerous, but the \$5M need can be accomplished with these following items

- \$510,000 delete community based funding of various charities - NOT CORE
- \$150,000 Delete Brevard Cultural Alliance funding - NOT CORE
- \$1,500,000 EDC Defund to \$100/yr - NOT CORE
- \$1,150,000 Freeze the 150 open unfilled positions in the budget (includes benefit costs)
- \$2,650,000 Sell Ellis bldg and unused SPE bldg on John Rhodes
- \$5,960,000 Total Current cuts

**Reco #2** - \$4,848,707 Alternate source - 4% overall budget cut for the following County departments (\$121,217,683) BCC, Budget Office, Central Services, County Attorney, County Managers Office, Emergency Management, Housing and Human services, IT, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development department, Valkaria Airport.

**Reco Alternate #3** (the nickel and dime approach) -1 year only

- \$231,901 Brevard Fire rescue EMS Reduce by 3%
- \$777,164 Lifeguards reduce 50% (TDC could pay for this its mainly for tourist)
- \$387,607 County parks N, Central and S - 3% reduction
- \$510,000 delete community based funding of various charities - NOT CORE
- \$150,000 Delete Brevard Cultural Alliance funding - NOT CORE
- \$700,026 Reduce EDC by 50% - NOT CORE
- \$410,002 Reduce Jail by 1%
- \$126,125 Sheriff's office Judicial Operations (2%)
- \$813,007 Sheriff Office -Law enforcement (2%)
- \$1,150,000 Freeze 150 open unfilled county positions
- \$5,255,830 Total

The following 2 CRAs need to be defunded to assure **future** road maintenance funding from **2017** forward.

- \$789,816 Defund MIRA from tax revenue - NOT CORE
- \$3,135,000 Defund NBREZ from Tax revenue - NOT CORE
- \$ 6,084,816 Total each year from 2017 forward.

Respectfully submitted, a very active citizen not on the sidelines ....John Weiler D2