

# **Brevard County Board of County Commissioners**

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940*



## **Minutes**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**1:00 PM**

**Workshop**

**Commission Chambers**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM**

Chair Lober advised that before getting started, there were some housekeeping matters; he stated the lights on the microphones in the room have to be green for it to pick up the audio, and no one outside of the room will hear the speaker unless the light is green; that applies to the Board and anyone who comes up to the podium; also, he did not want to mess up the system in the Florida Room so Commissioner Pritchett will use the stopwatch application on her phone; and everyone for Public Comment will get three minutes, unless more than three minutes are needed for staff presentation, then he may ask for a motion to extend it slightly longer to get through their material.

**Present:** Commissioner District 1 Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 2 Bryan Lober, Commissioner District 3 John Tobia, Commissioner District 4 Curt Smith, and Commissioner District 5 Kristine Isnardi

## **II. Staff Presentation**

Frank Abbate, County Manager, announced that today's workshop is on CARES Act funding, and he wanted to go over the agenda; he will be making the presentation and hopefully answer any questions that may be had about the information presented; there is a lot of information to present; after that, because it is a workshop seeking Board direction, the Board needs to listen to Public Comments before making any motions to take any action; and he spoke to Eden Bentley, County Attorney, and she said that is how it needs to proceed. He added staff will go through all the information and he wanted to talk about outcomes and Board decision points that he will be looking for; the first one, after they explain what is being done, what funding the County has, what has been done with it, and where it is with it, he is going to ask for Board direction after hearing the Public Comments on distribution of currently unallocated funds; he will be explaining how funds have been obligated; he mentioned, perhaps, obligated is not the best word to use in some of the cases, but he will go into detail to let the Board know exactly where things are and why because the Board has some rather significant discretion in how it moves from here to the end of the year with this funding; and the funding needs to be encumbered and spent before December 31, 2020, but he will explain that in detail as it moves forward. He added number two, he will be seeking Board direction, but he believes that this is what the Board will want to see to require and authorize him, as County Manager, to execute either grant agreements with anyone the County enters into a grant with, especially those over \$50,000 or more; that can either be through an agreement, or an Interlocal agreement if it is a government agency, to require them to acknowledge that staff has a right to audit them relating to these funds and they will be participating in any audits that occur, which is a Treasury guideline requirement, and to provide for clawback provisions; those provisions are two-fold, one, if it is deemed that any of these funds that are allocated to a grant or are determined to not be eligible by the Treasury or the Office of Inspector General, or an audit that occurs that the recipient has to reimburse the County; secondly, another clawback provision if the Board so chooses, which is drafted by the County Attorney's office already, is that if staff receives any of these entities, which are called sub-recipients, if funding is received that covers the same costs, the recipient would be required to reimburse the County for those dollars, thus preventing any double-dipping; third, he asked the Board to authorize him, as the County Manager, to transfer funds, during December, between programs to maximize benefits, including all necessary Budget Change Requests; and that is because, during December, in the various programs that it has, if the funds are not utilized and they could be utilized in another program or whatever the Board may approve, he would need the flexibility to be able to do that. He wanted to ask the Board for permission, or at least consider that; he states these things on the front-end so that when going through the presentation, the Board can be thinking about that; he is looking for the decision-making to come from the Board after hearing the

Public Comments and having discussion; as the Board knows, the County was provided with \$105 million that was allocated to the County; the reason for the allocation of that money was because it is a local government with a population that exceeded 500,000; and the County made a request to the Treasury which acknowledged it and provided the funding to the Board. He stated the funding must be utilized to fund expenses that are directly related to COVID-19 and there are multiple guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that have been issued by the Treasury Department, with one of the latest being on September 2, 2020, the Treasury Office of Inspector General (OIG) on September 21, 2020, and another just last week from the OIG that also gave additional guidance; in addition to the \$105 million, the County has received additional funding, for example, he believes at the upcoming Board meeting the Housing and Human Services Director is going to be talking about some the additional funding of \$5.4 million that department received, Transit Services received about \$18 million, Fire Rescue received about \$462,000, the Sheriff's Office received about \$177,000, and Valkaria Airport got \$30,000; and he will be referencing some of this as he goes through the presentation; and when CARES Act funding was provided back in March, it provided payment of money from those funds can only be used for "necessary expenditures" that are due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, which was a significant limitation. He stated the items must not have been accounted for in the budget that the Board approved on March 27, 2020, and any expenses had to be for costs that were incurred during the period of March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020; those requirements have been expounded upon by the Treasury in the guidance that they provided and have made some significant changes over time; he will be going over that in detail as well because that can impact how the Board decides it wants to spend the remaining funding; "Necessary" under the Treasury guidance means the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for spending the fund payments which gives this Board significant discretion as to how, from a policy perspective, it believes these funds are best allocated; and the Board has approved a variety of things and programs that the County currently has in place. He thinks part of the job today is to make everyone aware of how those dollars have been funded and utilized; he is going to go through that in significant detail; it also has to be "due to" expenditures that must be used for action taken to respond to the public health emergency; those are in two areas, addressing medical or public health needs, or in response to second-order effects for the emergency including economic support to those individuals and families, which the Board has multiple programs for, or due to people suffering from employment or business interruption due to COVID-19, and the County has small business programs, which will be talked about today as well as things that can be covered; "not accounted for in the budget", or what was not in the budget from March 27, 2020, means the cost cannot be lawfully funded from within the budget and the cost has to be for a substantially different use from any expected use of funds in that budget; and that has also undergone extraordinarily significant change in terms of what can be done. He added the one thing that is still in place is, when it relates to local government, these funds cannot be utilized as revenue replacement; that is not to say that it cannot be given to individuals, families, or small businesses; that was a big part of the small business program, if a person could show a revenue loss from year to year and it was due to COVID-19; that was a qualifying event that helped in the \$10,000 grants; and what cannot be done is to use it for ourselves or any other government to replace lost revenue. He mentioned sales tax or what other revenue loss that the County may have had, either directly or indirectly, for example, the program could not reimburse someone for utility payments if those utility payments are coming back to pay the County for obligations that are due to the County, because that is considered revenue replacement; the County has not done any of that; there are very significant subsequent Treasury guidelines that really address these issues in more detail that he feels is going to impact the Board in its decision making; and the OIG has put out FAQ's, various questions and their responses that are going to be very helpful; OIG is responsible for the monitoring, disbursement, the use of the funds, and the recovery of the funds; and basically, what that means is they have an obligation and a right to audit any grant recipients, including the County

as a primary recipient, as the definition shows, any government that received funding, as Brevard has, that has over 500,000 people in its jurisdiction; those governments are considered primary recipients because the money came directly from Treasury to the Board. He stated it did not go through the State; Brevard County is among, he thinks, 11 or 12 counties that received that funding directly; all of the other counties have had to go through the State; another definition that is important is sub-recipients, which are any entities to which Brevard County, as a prime recipient issues a contract, grant, loan, direct payment, or transfer of \$50,000 or more; and there are many sub-recipients that the County already has: four Charter Officers, the Sheriff's Office, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, and the Clerk. He stated there are nine municipalities that have received or are receiving \$50,000 or more; and there is a variety of contracted services, any vendor that the County has done business with that relates to any items the County has purchased, like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), et cetera, and other agencies like the School Board, Hospitals, and non-profits are all sub-recipients; under the OIG guidelines that have been issued, any CARES relief funding that the prime recipient gives is going to be subject to an audit, as well as the sub-recipients; what is important for the Board to know is that when a sub-recipient is audited, and a problem is found, the Treasury will come to the Board for reimbursement, as it is the prime recipient; and that is why this Board has already implemented Interlocal agreements, with clawbacks, with the municipalities and the School Board. He continued to say he requested the Board to give him the authority to do it for everyone else who is a sub-recipient, moving forward, to indicate that they have to pay the Board back because it is going to have to pay the Treasury back at some future time; as a prime recipient the County is responsible for documenting everything that supports that the payments have been made, done properly, and have been used for appropriate purposes; the County is using a third party, Tetra Tech, who the County already uses for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements and provides consulting services to the County; they were brought on board to do reviews and have been conducting all the reviews of the documentation that is obtained to assure that the County has the appropriate documentation that the Treasury is going to require, as well as evaluation of any requests that come in; and they determine if they fall within the guidelines that he is talking about today. He stated, while that is the case, in the FAQs, the OIG has already told the County and other prime recipients that the County can use that party and use CARES Act funding to reimburse them for the services they provide for us, however, any decisions they make do not insulate the County; Brevard County is still primarily responsible if there is anything that the Treasury says is not good; it cannot rely on the third-party evaluation that occurred and would still be responsible for the payment back to the Treasury if it is determined that the recipient was not eligible; and, in addition, for any small business assistance that is given, the County, as the prime recipient would be obligated to maintain the financial documents that prove that the small business that received the grant was impacted by the emergency and are eligible for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funds. He further stated the County has used a rather robust program that it purchased to do the online applications and he feels very comfortable; the County has been very good partners with the Clerk's Office, who has also reviewed after staff has reviewed internally what has been done; he will be reporting on what the County has accomplished and where it stands with that, moving forward; now, as everything he has described so far, one might wonder how the \$105 million are allocated; and he will say there was a time where the County was concerned about whether or not it would be in a position, within the time frame that was provided, to allocate all those funds appropriately under the CARES Act. He stated there was concern from staff whether the County would be able to spend the money appropriately, with the appropriate documentation needed; he was helped in that regard by Treasury and by OIG, because they realized, after hearing from a lot of governments, of the difficulties and the challenges with the administrative requirements that were set forth; the County was given administrative accommodations in terms of what will be acceptable if an audit was done; those accommodations will make it easier for the burdens that are carried to show that the allocation and distribution of funds will be acceptable; and the first one provided was in the area of public safety. He added what was stated was that, as an

administrative accommodation, the County can presume that public health and public safety employees meet what is called the substantially dedicated test; unless he, as the Chief Executive Officer, or his equivalent, determines that the specific circumstances indicate otherwise; that is rather broad but, what it is saying is that, if someone is a Sheriff's deputy, a corrections officer, a firefighter, or a dispatcher, payroll and benefit costs that were incurred from the period of March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020, qualify for CARES Act funding and the Board can dedicate funds to that; that is rather broad and gives significant discretion of the utilization of funds moving forward; and the County does not have to demonstrate that or substantiate that the public health or public safety employee, or any individual functions were substantially dedicated to the emergency that is presumed; and as a prime recipient, what the County is required to do is maintain records and documentation supporting what the payroll amount is and that amount was reimbursed from the CARES Act fund. He stated that is a very broad opportunity and he will talk more in detail about that a little later when he goes over the costs and the programs that the Board has in place and what it may choose to consider doing; administrative accommodations were also made by Treasury and OIG when it addressed issues relating to the safe reopening of schools; staff inquired, before this occurred, would the Board like to reimburse schools like it is doing for municipalities and the Board replied yes; he invited the schools to submit any reimbursement requests they had for PPE and other areas that would qualify for funding; staff has processed all of what they submitted through Tetra Tech; and when the administrative accommodation came through, what it provided for is that in two areas, in-school learning or at-home e-learning, the County, as the prime recipient, has the ability to award up to \$500 per student for any kind of expense for the safe reopening of schools and the schools would not be obligated to provide any documentation as there is a presumption that schools could do that. He advised he had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Mark Mullins, Brevard Public Schools Superintendent, early on and indicated how supportive the Board was of helping the schools and he asked that they participate like all the municipalities were in submitting the specific requests from a transparency perspective; the schools would tell him what they specifically want and he will submit it to Tetra Tech and process that; they have done that and they are here today in case the Board wants to go over it in detail when he shows what is happening with the schools; with school's enrollment of 69,800 students, of which 61,900 are in the regular public schools, 258 are in alternative programs, 7,431 in charter schools, equating to almost \$34.9 million; and the schools have submitted about \$7.8 million of reimbursement requests and he has told them that he believes that what has been submitted so far, the Board can approve up to that amount. He stated what has been done for the municipalities, the schools, partners, and charter officers is to allocate funding consistent with the programs that the Board approved in May 2020, which were for medical expenses, public health expenses, payroll expenses for public safety and public health services, compliance with public health measures, and economic support programs which are the public health program, medical expenditure program, public health compliance program, public employee reassignment program, COVID-19 related emergencies, housing rental and mortgage assistance program, housing utility and security deposit program, food stability program and small business support program, which he will talk more about, as he thinks the County can put more money into the program if the Board so chooses; and he wanted to share what is happening with 2-1-1 and positivity in Brevard, which is a little over 11,600 cases and 375 deaths from March to the present, and 37,700-plus calls to 2-1-1 relating to housing, food, utilities, and miscellaneous. He went on to explain how the money has been distributed so far, hoping the Board recalls the programs and budgets he has outlined were all approved by the Board; that is how the County has distributed the \$105 million, however, all the money has not been spent and \$21 million was placed in reserves; what has been "incurred", that is, things that other agencies have been told are reimbursable, and some areas, such as schools, that have been included in that column, but have not made the purchases yet; the Board could change that if it thinks this is not going down the right path, as it is ultimately the Board's decision how to allocate the remaining funds; and in the final column, the amount remaining, there are a couple of areas that are prepared to expend if the Board approves the additional

dollars that were not included in what was initially asked for in May because then the County did not know how much it would spend in these various areas. He added that much of that deals with public health compliance, which includes the schools, and the Sheriff's Office; he talked about community support, which the Board was very sensitive to, and he showed that \$13.8 million was provided in community support and various programs that the Board approved which includes Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \$1.1 million, Community Development Block Grant Program \$2.1 million, Coronavirus Relief Program \$1.6 million, Community Service Block Grant \$408,000, individual assistance \$4.4 million, and food stability \$4 million; he has some suggestions for the Board to allocate additional funds in that area; in terms of COVID-19 testing and PPE, testing is being done in Brevard through the Health Department and partners Health First and Parrish Medical Center; the total of COVID-19 tests so far that have been tracked through Emergency Management is 126,957; and Brevard has also distributed lots of PPE, based on requests that go into the Emergency Management Department, to assisted-living facilities, hospitals, healthcare providers, first responders, and non-healthcare providers. He stated the next slide shows what has been paid for PPE expenses by agency, Board of County Commissioners \$988,000, charter offices \$253,000, School Board \$1 million, cities \$922,000, small businesses \$441,000, and nursing homes and healthcare providers \$1.1 million; other secondary-effect programs to help the community through individual assistance has received over 1,400 applications, with 64 percent from unincorporated areas, which sounds high but the major cities have their own programs; the County has given an average amount of assistance of \$3,752 per application, and expected to rise to about \$4,476,000 in that type of assistance; in terms of small business PPE assistance, the County has distributed 2,226 kits, received over 1,600 applications, total amount of grants is \$9 million with the average award of \$9,306, and the CareerSource Workforce Recovery Program used \$909,000 to rehire people in the various businesses; in terms of financial assistance, the next chart shows for small businesses it is different from individual assistance for rent and utilities, in that here almost three-quarters of the dollars spent have gone to businesses in municipalities; and he believes the County could spend another \$1.5 million since the program is still open and still receiving applications, provided the Board approves, bringing the potential grant to \$11.5 million. He mentioned that he is proud of the community feeding programs with over 2.49 million pounds of food received, over 2 million meals distributed, the Children's Hunger Project distributed 46,679 meals, the Farmer's Markets have served over 17,000 households, and the total anticipated expenditure until the end of the year is \$4,261,000; some of the partners are Second Harvest, with over 11.28 million meals, Brevard Public Schools feeding program with 1.34 million meals, and Aging Matters with a little over 10,000 meals; he also mentioned the Board approved to share with municipalities, which it was under no obligation to do, and allocated or reimbursed various programs such as Families First and Quarantine over \$1.5 million, social distancing, teleworking and compliance over \$1 million, PPE over \$922,000, decontamination machines at about \$665,000, additional public safety expenses of over \$417,000, and public employee reassignment over \$333,000, for a total of municipal obligations of \$4,926,450; and some jurisdictions received a couple thousand dollars, while larger municipalities received up to a million. He went on to say for the Sheriff's Office obligations, the County requested certain information to assure that, from a public safety perspective, things that were dealt with were Countywide issues; from the Sheriff's Office, the most critical thing was Corrections, being that it is a Countywide service that crosses municipalities and unincorporated areas; the Sheriff's Office provided information related to payroll costs, and Correction officers and medical costs that relate to the jail, from March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 and then from October 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020; that was broken down for the County staff in a variety of areas and he has that detailed if any of the Board wants to see it; and staff evaluated that into a variety of tiers that were, in staff's opinion, very clearly eligible on a Countywide basis, and other areas are available as well, but would require significant additional funding. He stated the Board could see how the Sheriff's Office costs provided were broken down, and in the first tier it is shown where the payroll costs fall in various areas and things that the County is involved in, either purchasing for the Sheriff

or reimbursing for purchasing supplies necessary due to COVID-19; there are a variety of areas covered and it is broken down in detail for the Board; and while he believes these are the costs based on what the Sheriff provided, the County does not have the backup documentation yet, but if the Board is good with these numbers, it could move forward sending this to Tetra Tech and then reimbursing the Sheriff.

Chair Lober interjected that he wanted to make sure that he was on the same page; he asked Mr. Abbate if this is the amount he is going to propose to set aside, then have Tetra Tech evaluate it, and then, assuming that it all is qualified, turn around and reimburse the Sheriff.

Mr. Abbate replied yes; he stated if the Board is good with it, his staff is obligating it and then will be able to reimburse; the obligation is what his office is concerned about doing; some of this deals with funding that is during the Fiscal Year that just passed and there is certain legislation that is statutory about how to accomplish that appropriately and still be consistent with the CARES Act; a lot of it is going to be for funding in this Fiscal Year and then there is not an issue about it being a part of last year's budget, or a cash forward, et cetera; and his office believes it is okay for reimbursement, but the specifics need to be figured out to accomplish it administratively without any problems.

Chair Lober stated he is sorry to focus on this but it has been a point of contention with some of his constituents; and he asked Mr. Abbate if when he said reimburse them, is it to add that money to the Sheriff's existing Fiscal Year budget.

Mr. Abbate replied yes; he advised for dollars that are in this year's budget, the Treasury guidelines specifically state that any costs related to Corrections Officers, medical-related costs, even deputy costs, personnel including benefit costs, firefighters, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) are all reimbursable, meaning that those dollars can be added into those budgets to cover those costs.

Chair Lober apologized that he may not be as articulate with his question as he should be; he stated he is trying to get a better understanding in terms of the proposed logistics, even if Mr. Abbate does not have the minutia figured out yet; he stated the Board is allocating funding to Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) every year; and he asked Mr. Abbate if what he is proposing is to reimburse the County because it paid for it, or is it going to BCSO, and is that what he is suggesting.

Mr. Abbate replied no; he advised what he is proposing is that those dollars be set aside in a separate fund that the Sheriff would use for any COVID-19 related expenses; the County could give BCSO a lot of these dollars for personnel and medical costs; and he would suggest that if they relate to the prior Fiscal Year, that the Sheriff can use those resources for anything he believed to be appropriately COVID-19 related.

Chair Lober stated looking at the breakdown listed, and some of it is not entirely clear if it is personnel costs, but if the County has already budgeted funds for personnel costs, if the County is reimbursing those funds, if they have already been paid once out of a different pool; and he is trying to figure out what the other funds are going to be used for.

Mr. Abbate replied that he will have to let the Sheriff tell him how he planned to do it; from a staff perspective, he believes that they are all appropriately reimbursable; what the Board cannot do, and he thinks this is what the concern is, is the Board cannot take the money and give it to the Sheriff and then he gives it back to the Board, because that is revenue replacement; if it is left in the Sheriff's budget and the Board allows him to use it, especially if the Board directs it is restricted use for capital expenditures, et cetera, for example if the Sheriff wanted to build a new building at the jail for more social distancing, or one of the precincts, he

believes all of that would be appropriate; this could be done by utilizing the personnel and benefit cost dollars, which is a part of the \$8 million seen on this slide; and he stated he would next talk about additional expenses that are also reimbursable. He suggested the Board put any extra money left to go into a public safety account where it could make the decisions of how that money is spent moving forward; that could be a combination of funds that could go to Fire Rescue and/or the Sheriff, public safety needs, or anything COVID-19 related; and those would be dollars from other programs that would have to be supported by personnel or benefit costs in this Fiscal Year.

Chair Lober asked, with respect to the last item that Mr. Abbate mentioned putting an amount aside in a public safety fund, is he talking about based upon reimbursable expenses prior to December 30, 2020, but it does not have to spend it until some future date, as he is trying to understand when the money has to be committed by or if simply putting it in that fund is considered committing it, or if there has to actually be something contracted for by December 30, 2020.

Mr. Abbate replied if it is dollars that relate to personnel or benefit costs, and those dollars are expended by the Fire Department or the Sheriff's Office for personnel or benefit costs during that period of October 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020, those dollars are considered expended, whatever that amount of money is; with the Sheriff and Fire Department being large organizations, during that three-month period those personnel costs and benefit costs, all of which are reimbursable, are eligible and could fund any portion of that the Board wants; at the point, the Board could take those dollars and put it in a fund, leaving it for either Fire Rescue, the Sheriff, or a public safety fund; and the dollars are already presumed to have used because it is reimbursed for those dollars in their budget.

Chair Lober interjected by stating it is already committed at that point.

Mr. Abbate stated the money could be used in the future after January 1, 2021, for whatever capital or purposes that are COVID-19 related, as those needs will be continuing moving forward for fixing air conditioning, buildings, et cetera; and there would need to be significant discretion. He continued on to talk about School Board obligations as the slide shows what is there in terms of what the schools have submitted; the schools have not submitted all the detailed documentation that is required, but if the Board so chose, and was good with this number, it could be made rather easy, because as long as it is below that \$34.9 million, they would not be required, under that administrative convenience, to provide that documentation if the Board does not want to require it; they have agreed to, and County has asked for it up to now; whatever the amount the Board chooses to of that \$7.5 million, to encumber and give to them and ask them to give the Board the documentation for that; and unless the Board wants to do differently than that, this is something for the Board to consider how it wants it handled. He stated he would go into the other areas, which is where the funding is going; based on what has been obligated and what is "unobligated", the County believes that there is about \$51.1 million that is "unobligated", meaning that it may be in some of the programs but the County has not committed to anyone indirectly or temporarily, based on what Tetra Tech has said, these funds are available; what he is about to show is additional economic support requests and/or potential requests up to \$44.5 million, and in public safety support the eligible expenses and/or potential requests for \$64.4 million; and the Board has the ability to allocate significant dollars in a variety of different ways. He further stated what has been "obligated", what could be done, and what has been done is on this next slide; he has listened to what the Board has said thus far and staff has reached out to various agencies that the Board indicated an interest in obtaining information from; based on everything received, at this point, the County has obligated \$8.4 million to the Individual Assistance and Food programs that he has described, with a potential additional \$2.2 million, which is something that the Board discussed briefly, and Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services Director, believes he has the ability to fund up to that



between the individual assistance and the food programs between now and the end of December; for Small Business Support, the County has paid \$8.3 million, and another \$700,000 is going to be paid this week; and he believes at the current rate, that the County can go above the \$10 million, if the Board agrees, under the same program, keeping it going until the end of December, and spending up to \$1.5 million more if the Board authorized that additional funding. He stated he mentioned earlier the \$7.5 million, which he thinks is a starting point, if the Board even wanted to do that much, less, or more; without funding it could go up to \$34.9 million with the Board's discretion; the County has been partners with the hospitals, Parrish Medical Center, and Health First; what has been obligated there is \$1.3 million, which has been vetted, and possibly already paid, related to reimbursement for COVID-19 testing and things they have done in the community; the number for Health First is only \$44, 577, but they just provided yesterday \$1.1 million in testing-related expenses, which are not vetted yet; and in both cases, the Board had discussed potentially providing \$5 million in funding to these hospitals, and the Board could go higher or lower than that. He went on to Community Support and for economic programs, everything that he has heard the Board talk about, has been included there; Animal Rescue Groups has \$200,000, as the Humane Society received a \$10,000 grant which is included; Brevard Zoo submitted numbers and after Tetra Tech reviewed, it has potentially up to \$1.3 million; and Mental Health/Circles of Care has a variety of areas that the Board can go over including community action, cat program, forensic multiple disciplinary teams, Brevard partnership, telemedicine, and hazard pay issues, all of which they believe could qualify for support, which is \$1,090,896. He continued saying Urgent Care was included as \$5,000 per urgent care, but no vetting has occurred as of yet, and that is listed as \$130,000; Aging Matters has approximately \$34,000 that is potentially reimbursable and the County was willing to go higher but they indicated the Sheriff's Office has been helpful to them with refrigeration and other related needs, and also they have had reimbursements from other agencies; the Homeless Coalition submitted \$24,662 for reimbursement subject to approval; and Tourism and Marketing request for a potential amount of \$750,000, which is potentially eligible if the Board chooses to do so. He stated those are the potential economic support funding options that the Board will decide how to distribute and does it want to distribute the \$51 million, or if it wants to distribute in a different way; the other consideration for the Board is for public safety funding options; in trying to be good partners with the municipalities, staff reached out to them and told them if they needed reimbursement for any public safety staff, whether it is fire or police, that either had COVID-19 or were quarantined, or any overtime due to COVID-19; those are in the dollars already committed that he has already spoken about; and from the Countywide perspective, at the last Board meeting he was asked what the potential was for reimbursement for Fire Rescue and that amount could be \$11.1 million. He added the Board could decide to reimburse that cost, it would be qualified under CARES Act funds, the money would be put in Fire Rescue's budget for related purchases, and it would not come back to the General Fund; Fire EMS/Fire Medic/Dispatch is also a qualified expense if the Board chooses, which would be an additional \$15 million; in addition to the \$8.8 million for the Sheriff that was discussed earlier, looking at all of their correction costs for that whole period between March and December, looking at things that would qualify, the Board could approved \$37 million; the Sheriff did not request this but provided that information; and that would be a potential additional cost of \$64 million. He stated he hopes the Sheriff chooses to speak on this issue as he was very comfortable saying this second tier of money that covers public safety, outside of the first \$8.8 million, the Board could put the money from the Fire EMS/Fire Medic/Dispatch dollars and anything from Corrections, \$15 million or \$37 million, put those dollars together in a public safety fund and can then determine at a future date, because they are current year expenses, to spend it as the Board, Sheriff, and Fire Rescue think is appropriate moving forward; he wanted to review what he is looking for is Board direction on this distribution of the funds, input in those areas, and what the Board wants to see done between now and the end of the year; when CARES Act funding was initially given to the County, it was told to have the money out of the bank by December 30th and that has changed; and it changed rather significantly, which is whatever the Board chooses to do with the CARES

Act funding, whether it is for service or goods, there has to be a contract in place that says the County is going to get the services or the goods delivered by December 30, 2020. He added as long as the costs are encumbered for the service under that contract during that time period, it will be covered; if for some reason, not due to the County, there was a contract like that in place, and it is not received until early January, as long as it was committed timely, it would be a covered expense; a contract may not be entered into with an expectation of receiving the goods or services in January; as it stands now, unless the Congress or Treasury changes it, that is how it applies; and that is why it was important to have this workshop now, to give the opportunity to decide how to move forward, as there will not be much time to change things after today in terms of how to move forward with the allocation of these funds. He stated that is a lot of information and he is available as well as Shannon Wilson, Assistant County Attorney, Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services Director, and Kathy Wall, Special Assistant to the County Manager; and all are here to answer any questions the Board may have.

Chair Lober stated he is not going to accept any motion until after public comment, as he spoke with Attorney Bentley and that is what she suggested; he knows that he and at least one other Commissioner, during the beginning of this meeting, circulated some potential proposals; he suggested, after public comment, if any Commissioner has not had a chance to circulate anything in writing, to make sure the Clerk gets a copy for the record; and he asked Sheriff Ivey if he would like to speak first.

Sheriff Ivey stated he thought the County Manager did a great job laying everything out and his is in total agreement with everything he said; BCSO has always tried to be good partners; and he thinks Mr. Abbate did a really good job putting the presentation together so that the Board can make their decisions.

Chair Lober stated to begin with Edwin Loftin, Parrish Medical Center; his thought was that the folks or organizations that are specifically mentioned in Mr. Abbate's presentation, to give them five minutes and everyone else three minutes, and he asked if that was acceptable and hearing no objection, he stated that is how it will be done.

Attorney Bentley stated since there is a Board policy, Chair Lober should probably make a motion as to how much time.

Chair Lober asked for a motion and he stated for any organization that had more than one speaker, he would give them three minutes each or five minutes together.

Commissioner Tobia inquired if that was cumulative total of five, for example, if there were 10 people they would not get three minutes each.

Chair Lober replied he thinks the Board has to give three minutes to each individual speaker.

Attorney Bentley remarked affirmatively.

Commissioner Tobia asked if there were 10 speakers did it really need to give on five minutes.

Chair Lober stated for example, the Humane Society has at least two cards, which without the motion would have three minutes each, regardless; and with the motion, they would have three minutes each or one speaker could speak for five minutes and not have the other speakers speak.

Commissioner Smith remarked that the Board could point out that if they have 12 speakers, and one person says succinctly what the others are thinking, the others could just agree with the first speaker rather than just repeat themselves.

Chair Lober stated he would encourage that.

The Board agreed for any organization that had more than one speaker, he would give them three minutes each or five minutes together.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

### **III. Public Comments**

Edwin Loftin stated he is the Vice President of Acute Care and the Chief Nursing Officer at Parrish Medical Center; he wanted to explain why it is asking for an additional \$5 million in CARES Act funding based on who, what, and why; who is Parrish Medical Center and why is it relevant here; one, their mission, vision, and values are our mission is healing experiences for everyone all the time; they serve North Brevard community and have that obligation; they are a public, independent hospital, and a subsection of the government of the State of Florida; they have enabling legislation that was written in 1958, that gives their Board of Directors complete governing authority for their district; and in their enabling legislation, as seen on the slide, the Board of Governors is authorized and empowered to provide health care benefits to those members of the public, both within and outside of their district. He added the members of their governing body are not reimbursed for the time they spend; they believe, as a partner with the County Government of Brevard, Parrish Medical Center has an obligation to meet the needs of the community; what it plans is looking at broad changes in creating an even safer environment; they have a very safe environment now, but, like every other hospital in Brevard County or in the State of Florida, have made changes through COVID-19 and have plans to enhance those changes and further improve the safety of the environment; and they are looking at infection-prevention innovation across the entire organization and across their entire entity. He stated they are making changes in their emergency department to create a safer environment and to create a stand-alone respiratory care area that they can actually provide what is called universal care, meaning they can provide care in the same bed at a med-surg level care all the way up to an ICU level care without the patient having to move; the equipment, nursing staff, and physicians will come to them; house-wide they are looking at enhanced automations, such as removing the touch from doors and light switches, HVAC systems, and robotic technology for cleaning and infection prevention; and significant improvement in the HVAC systems so that they can control the flow of air at any location, at any given time, or if they need to provide a negative pressure environment, they can do that, as well as a positive pressure environment. He stated why is because they are a public safety net; they have a legal and moral obligation to the community of North Brevard and anyone else in Brevard County, and it is fulfilling their not-for-profit public health mission; in their enabling legislation sections five and nine are where this truly comes from and he has copies of that to share; in summary, they are asking for \$5 million in CARES Act funding to make substantial improvements in the emergency department, in the universal respiratory care area, and in the infection prevention innovations; and in addition, they are committed to providing 20 percent back to the community and have identified Blanton Park as an area that needs community resources and they are committed to the 20 percent to give back.

Commissioner Tobia noted that Mr. Loftin stated Parrish served North Brevard; and he asked what percentage of the inpatients or patients are Brevard County residents. Mr. Loftin responded off the top of his head.

Commissioner Tobia remarked he would rather have a number than an off the top of his head answer.

Mr. Loftin replied it would be 85-90 percent strong of North Brevard residents.

Commissioner Tobia asked if they have received any Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) dollars.

Mr. Loftin replied yes.

Commissioner Tobia asked if he could give him an idea of the amount received.

Mr. Loftin responded he did not have that figure and would rather bring that back to him.

Commissioner Tobia stated he felt it is very important when the Board determines \$5 million, how much Parrish has already received from the Federal government; he would expect that before making any type of appropriation; and he asked, as an independent taxing authority, did he recognize his board's authority to raise taxes.

Mr. Loftin replied they do recognize that.

Commissioner Tobia interjected that on September 15, 2020, less than six weeks ago, during the COVID-19 crisis that Mr. Loftin stated caused great amounts of financial stress on the organization, and he asked, to the best of his knowledge, what was the vote of his board to get those resources from the constituents that they serve.

Mr. Loftin replied he was not following the question.

Commissioner Tobia stated Parrish had the ability to raise the tax in order to fill a hole; and he asked what the vote was by its board as to whether or not to collect those resources.

Mr. Loftin replied it was not to tax at this point in time.

Commissioner Tobia inquired if it was unanimous.

Mr. Loftin replied yes.

Commissioner Tobia stated so, they had the authority to tax and yet decided not to but came to ask Brevard County for those resources, he assumes; and he asked why Brevard County as a whole should cover the north part of the County specifically, or, why should his constituents in South Brevard be responsible for filling a hole in North Brevard when the constituents there have the ability to do just that.

Chair Lober asked if Commissioner Tobia was asking him what makes Parrish unique.

Commissioner Tobia replied no; he stated this is CARES Act dollars that were allocated to all of Brevard County, and Parrish serves 85 percent that would be centralized in North Brevard County; and he asked why should dollars that have been allocated to Brevard County in total, be specifically spent for just North Brevard.

Mr. Loftin remarked he needs to clarify something he may have answered incorrectly; he was asked how many of their patients were Brevard County patients; and he stated 85 percent of their patients were Brevard County patients, not that they serve 85 percent of Brevard County.

Commissioner Tobia stated he understood; and Mr. Loftin said cumulative.

Mr. Loftin interjected 85 percent of the patients they serve.

Commissioner Tobia asked, overwhelmingly, if those patients come from North Brevard.

Mr. Loftin replied a large majority do come from North Brevard; and he advised they get about 18 percent of EMS traffic from mid and South County.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that is 80 or 82 percent are served from North Brevard; these are dollars that are meant to benefit Brevard County in total; and he asked why the Board should do that for a small percentage of 82 percent.

Mr. Loftin replied if the other organizations are asking for money, that is their business; and he is only representing Parrish Medical Center and it is asking for CARES Act funds to help support the new environment of health related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is sorry but he is going back to the previous question; and he asked if Mr. Loftin knew why the board did not make the decision, just six weeks ago when COVID-19 was just as prevalent as it is now, to assess their right of taxation in order to fill the need that is being discussed now.

Mr. Loftin replied he cannot speak for the nine members of the board, six of which are nominated by the Commission; they do not see the taxing issue and the CARES Act funding in the same bucket.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if Parrish Medical board has ever taxed.

Mr. Loftin replied they have not taxed in 26 years.

Commissioner Pritchett stated typically, she has followed the hospital as they are pretty good at managing all their funds and trying to cover their funds; and she is guessing that when they voted no, they are still trying very hard to live within the constraints of the revenues they have coming in.

Mr. Loftin replied yes.

Commissioner Pritchett thanked him; she stated she hopes all the hospitals around the whole community turns in applications for the CARES Act funds because she thinks the medical industry has been hit hard and they do not have a choice to not serve the community; she is thankful for that because if there were sick people and Parrish was not serving them, that would not be a good scenario; and she thanked them for all they do.

Chair Lober asked Mr. Loftin if Parrish is the only public hospital system in Brevard County.

Mr. Loftin replied correct.

Chair Lober stated as heard earlier, the Board provided at least a seven digit number directly to the individual cities so he thinks there is already a precedent that it works with the governmental partners; one of the items he is going to be bringing up after public comment is a potential set-aside for Port Canaveral, which is also a taxing authority that has not sought to tax residents, which may have some degree of overlap with the geographical boundaries of Parrish's taxing authority, but by and large, it covers a different clientele and a different area of constituents; he does not see anything wrong if the Board can help a governmental partner avoid taxing its constituents, even if it disproportionately may benefit one or two different Commission Districts, whether or not his District is included in that, given the alternative is that this money can be returned to the Feds where no one gets the benefit locally; and in terms of the 20 percent match that Parrish had referenced, he asked if that is, to his understanding, assuming they get a \$5 million allocation, going to Blanton Park which is an impoverished area with a soup kitchen, and a County Park.

Mr. Loftin replied yes it is.

Chair Lober stated he did not want to micro-manage, assuming this goes in that direction, how that money is spent; he would be happy to defer to Commissioner Pritchett since it is in her District; but with respect to other things that may differentiate Parrish from some of the other health systems, he asked if he knew if the President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) was driving around in an expensive car, or has a private helicopter.

Mr. Loftin replied that is George Mikitarian and no, he does not.

Chair Lober asked if Mr. Mikitarian drives a Buick.

Mr. Loftin replied yes.

Commissioner Isnardi mentioned she had talked to Eden Bentley, County Attorney, about whether or not requiring the matching for the CARES funding was legal and while she stated it was her legal opinion that it may be legal because the twenty percent is a public benefit; her concern is, if this was a County obligation; and she asked Attorney Bentley if this is revenue replacement.

Attorney Bentley replied it could be considered revenue replacement if the funding is not coming from a different source than the CARES funds; she stated if they are taking the CARES money and putting it into a park, that is a problem, if it is basically a pass-through; but if the funding is coming from somewhere else, that is a different story.

Commissioner Isnardi asked if Parrish would require an obligation to show the \$5 million in total use for CARES expenses.

Attorney Bentley replied yes, the agreement that has been drafted and sent to Parrish has audit provisions and a clawback provision; she stated also, a clause could be added that indicates that any expenditures regarding the 20 percent would not use CARES money; and that could be specified affirmatively.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she has to be careful because it has already been determined that she cannot even speak in very general terms and she is trying to speak specifically as to Parrish; while she thinks that this is a great idea, she does not agree with the 20 percent obligation because she thinks even if it is legal, it looks like a quid pro quo; she does not like how it looks and feels; she is more than happy to help them get their facility up to date on everything and she thinks that any way the Board can help a healthcare system do that is

wonderful; but she just does not feel comfortable with the 20 percent obligation, and she would be very supportive of this if it did not have that in there.

Chair Lober stated with respect to that, as far as it striking someone as a quid pro quo, every time there is a contract to do anything, that is technically a quid pro quo; and it sounds horrible, but all it means is that one is getting something in exchange for doing something.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked she thinks the concern is, given the exchange of things that have happened in the past with other agencies, she does not want that ever viewed by the public as that, even if the intention is pure; she still would prefer to vote in support of this without that in there; and that would be her vote or opinion.

Chair Lober stated it seemed like the Board is almost wrestling away a benefit that the entity is willing to give the public without there being a reason; he can say, as far as the specific concerns that Commissioner Isnardi brought up with respect to where the money is coming from for the 20 percent match; and he is happy to have Mr. Loftin come up again and confirm that it is not coming out of the \$5 million that is to be allocated.

Commissioner Isnardi stated that could be done after being awarded those monies on their own; Parrish does not need the Board to give them a legal document or terms to the COVID-19 funding as they are probably more than willing to do that; she does not want that in the contract if this Board approves it; she did not like it when it went down with the Commission with the Waste Management thing years ago; she is just giving her opinion and she thinks it is great that Parrish is willing to give back to the community and it says a lot about what a fine organization they run; but she is just not comfortable with that being the terms of their agreement for the funding.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she believes Parrish would do the project, regardless, as they do a lot of community outreach; Chair Lober gave a good idea about talking to Parrish so she knows they are going to do that, regardless; and either way, the Board contracts it is fine.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she is happy to support it without that in there.

Chair Lober stated Commissioner Pritchett has worked with Parrish longer than he has; and if she is comfortable that they would go ahead and do that anyway.

Commissioner Pritchett stated they are very honorable and a great hospital; and they do a lot of community projects.

Chair Lober stated he had no reason to question that, he just has not had the long-standing relationship that Commissioner Pritchett has with them; every interaction he has had with them has been universally as positive as positive can be so he does not have a bad feeling; as far as trusting any entity whatsoever, to do something that it is not contractually obligated to do, is a bit of a step; but he will trust her on this one and have the motion phrased accordingly.

Commissioner Tobia stated he had a little consternation with this as he just does not understand the basic premise; they come to the Board for \$5 million but they have \$1 million set aside to help a park; he asked why not just provide them with \$4 million; that way Parrish could keep the million dollars, make the decision whether to spend the money on the park or not; and the Board would not have to worry about it contractually, one way or the other.

Chair Lober asked if his proposal was to allocate \$4 million instead.

Commissioner Tobia replied no; he is just saying it is ridiculous either way, to provide this

amount of money to an organization that magically has a million dollars in another pot of money to go towards a park; he would want them to say they need \$5 million and if they do not get it, they would be shutting their doors and not be able to serve the people of North Brevard; that is not what the Board is hearing, what it is hearing is Parrish thinks it is uncomfortable to tax the people, as it has not done so in 26 years, but the people will not understand this, so it goes to the Board and, by the way, it also has an extra million dollars to fund a park; and remember, this is a binary decision, as it either goes to public safety or to any one of the organizations as the slide number 28 shows, the Board has the ability to spend \$75,260,782 for public safety and \$51,100,000, and he is going to try to bump that up to \$55,800,000, and even if that is successful, the Board cannot fully fund the amount for public safety. He advised to please think about this as the Board makes decisions, that it goes to one or the other; and he is not hearing from Parrish that it is closing the doors; but he is hearing that this would be nice to have some cool equipment and build a park, and thank you very much.

Commissioner Pritchett stated if there is any hospital right now that is not able to manage and will go out of business if the Board does not give them funds to help with their facility to help the community to keep COVID-19 or other infections at bay, then she would have great concerns of giving them funds regardless; she is fine if the Board wants to do \$4 million; Parrish keeps money aside to always do community projects; the project in the park is also having a girls and boys club; it is what this community hospital does; they do not make profits, they spend the money in the community to help take the pressure off of the rest of the community; and she is fine doing the \$4 million, as she heavily supports getting money into the medical facilities. She added that they should have reserves built up and, if not, they are not doing their job; they have been hit very hard financially and are not allowed to just shut down; she thinks Health First lost the ability to fund all of their staff for a while because of lost income; it has been tough on them; she thinks this is a good place to put some of these funds into; they have been very responsible; and she thinks it is the right thing to do.

Chair Lober stated it seemed very clear, from what Commissioner Tobia had mentioned, that he is not going to support it whether it is four or five million dollars; if the rest of the Board supports it at \$5 million, and they have \$5 million in legitimate expenses, he suggests it is kept at that because it is not going to change the end vote, it is just not going to help the constituents as much as it otherwise could; as far as Commissioner Tobia's contention that it ought to consider whether or not they are going to shut their doors, he does not think hardly any of the allocations made, or any that are being considered, are dealing with organizations, governmental taxing authority or otherwise, that are going to shut their doors; Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is not going to shut their doors, Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) is not going to shut their doors, nor are Urgent Care Clinics or the Humane Society, if an allocation is not given; and nothing would be allocated if that is the standard to be imposed. He went on to say if it is an either/or and there is an opportunity cost in the sense that, if it funds this, it is money coming out of public safety, then, if it applies the additional condition precedent to funding, he asked are they going to shut their doors if it does not give them the money, the answer is no.

Commissioner Tobia stated the Board has an authority and a responsibility to the agencies that it directly oversees, the ones that it collects tax dollars for, as these organizations are unique in such a way that they have the authority to tax themselves; they just neglected to do that and instead they have come to this Board to ask for these dollars; make no mistake, if this goes into public safety funding, this will go towards a public good with Federal tax dollars at such a time it is going to have to fill that public good; the question is, does the Board fill that public good with Federal tax dollars right now, or fill that with public dollars down the road; and this is not going to help his tenure on the County Commission as he will be off in four years and the cost will not be realized down the road. He added there is a decision to be made to purchase that new fire truck with the CARES Act funds through the public safety funding or does the Board do that



with additional fees or taxes four or eight years from now; and he thinks that as this organization has the ability to assess tax, let them take care of themselves that way and the Board will take care of the organizations that it has a fiduciary relation with.

Chair Lober stated he thinks Commissioner Tobia is overstating the opportunity cost and he will call on Shannon Wilson, Assistant County Attorney; and he asked if the Board's choice is an either/or to purchase that fire truck, as that is not how he is seeing it.

Ms. Wilson responded she would ask the County Manager in terms of how he intends to fund things for the future, because that is not an easy question to answer.

Mr. Abbate stated he would go back to what he said at the beginning, when he said this Board has very significant discretion in how it thinks these the funds should be allocated and as long as what it does is reasonable, it can make the decision of what it thinks the best allocation would be; and that is really why they are here today, is to hear what it wants the County to do on this.

Commissioner Smith stated he agreed with what Commissioner Tobia is saying, but he does not agree that it should take money that is available to use in a direct public manner to benefit an entity that is in the business of taking care of the community, as that is what a hospital does; if the Board does not give \$5 million to Parrish, they are still going to spend the money, because that is what they do; they are in the business of helping the community; the Board has an opportunity to help them; and he asked Commissioner Isnardi if she was in favor of giving them the \$5 million and they are going to give to the park, or would she rather do it a \$4 million and let them do the \$1 million on the side.

Commissioner Isnardi replied that would depend on whether or not they had \$5 million of expenses or if they would put \$5 million into improving the technology in their rooms and better the facility; and she mentioned this is just the first pandemic and testing of the community and for her, it was not the amount, it was the obligation to have to do anything.

Commissioner Smith stated it does not feel right to him.

Commissioner Isnardi stated it is legal, and she gets it; it is nice and feels good but she does not want there to be any sort of appearance that an entity has to do this in order to get that; it is not the Board's job to make sure that they invest their community service dollars anywhere; and she was not comfortable when those conversations were happening before, and she does not it to be a part of the terms for COVID-19 funding.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Isnardi if she wanted to do the \$5 million or \$4 million.

Commissioner Isnardi replied she would have to know what their needs are; and she imagines that their losses are more than \$5 million.

Commissioner Smith stated he thinks the point is that they are going to invest a million dollars in the park.

Commissioner Isnardi asked if the \$4 or \$5 million dollars matters at this point, if they still have a million dollars to invest, they will still invest it if they get \$4 or \$5 million dollars; and if their losses are \$10 million, then the \$5 million is going to be helpful to them.

Chair Lober stated it is not just \$1 million for \$5 million, it is not that if the \$1 million is taken off, nothing goes to the park; it was a 20 percent match of whatever they are allocated; and if the goal is to eliminate that, then give them nothing.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she is fine with the \$5 million if there are losses; and she asked Mr. Loftin if he could speak to the hospital's losses.

Mr. Loftin replied he did not have that dollar figure in front of him but they have been significant, just as the other hospitals.

Commissioner Isnardi stated Commissioner Tobia brings up a good point; and if it is a taxing authority obligated to collect funding that way and able to do charitable work, she would at least talk to their board about that consideration.

Mr. Loftin remarked the board is spending this year considering that; it is not a matter of turning a switch on or off; the enabling legislation provides very specific guidance of, if it chooses to tax, it is a very finite millage rate year one, and the finance team is going through and determining what the initial dollars would be based on the millage; but it is pennies in the bucket.

Commissioner Isnardi inquired if that board is considering it.

Mr. Loftin responded it is having that conversation.

Chair Lober stated the worst thing to him would be to say no totally to this, have the hospital tax, and then send the \$5 million back to Washington, D.C.; that would be the dumbest thing the Board could do; the bulk of the Board would be opposed to that action, so he is hoping it does not occur; seeing that Parrish has not taxed, he does not view that as a bad thing; he thinks that is a good thing that they have been able to avoid doing that; if they have done that, even in part, hedging a bet that they may get some meaningful allocation here, then hopefully that ends up working out for them; he would rather do what the Board can using Federal funds to avoid any of the constituents being taxed in any District; and he thinks that would be an excellent use of the funds.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she thinks the outreach of the impacts are a lot larger than just upgrading to a room in telemedicine; it has a lot more to do with the employees that work at the agency because if they are going through one pot of money to upgrade the system and to make negative pressure rooms, while someone is getting a higher patient load, or maybe someone is not getting the hours or getting called off because elective surgeries are cancelled; and the impacts are much bigger than what people see.

Mr. Loftin thanked her for recognizing that; he stated the dollars that are reflected on the screen are estimates that have been put forth with an engineering architectural firm; from what Commissioner Smith pointed out, this is what is going to be done as they have an obligation to the community and their equal obligation is to the care partners and provide them with a safe environment for them to work; Parrish is very proud of the fact that they have not had any care partner acquire COVID-19 in the working environment; some have acquired it in the outside community, but none from exposure at work; and they hold that honor very strongly.

Chair Lober remarked that is great.

Commissioner Tobia stated he knows he is beating a dead horse, but he wanted to ask Mr. Loftin if he is not sure of Parrish's losses.

Mr. Loftin stated he did not have the exact number.

Commissioner Tobia asked if he had any idea, or a ballpark.

Mr. Loftin stated it is in the millions but he was not prepared to give that to the Board today.

Commissioner Tobia asked if he knew how much Federal dollars in PPP.  
Mr. Loftin stated he did not have an exact number.

Commissioner Tobia stated before a vote is made, the Board does not know how much Parrish lost if anything, and how much PPP dollars have been received from the Federal government; but they do know they want \$5 million for respiratory care or something like that.

Chair Lober stated he does not think anyone is proposing just giving Parrish \$5 million; it has to be vetted by Tetra Tech and qualify; if they do not submit \$5 million in expenses that qualify, they will not get \$5 million in reimbursement; they can only get up to \$5 million for what they qualify for; and if they only qualify for \$1 million, that is all they will get.

Commissioner Tobia remarked he gets it, but the Board has obligated those funds and opened the door; if the Board opens it to Parrish, it opens it to Health First, Omni, and every mom-and-pop private practitioner out there; and this Board has said on many occasions that it wants to get this into people's hands and people's hands is not Parrish or Health First, it is Dr. Joe Smith, who has a private practice with two nurses and three clerks.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Tobia if he would rather tax them to get it back in people's hands, and then the Board can give them the money to pay the taxes; and does that somehow benefit the constituents some way.

Commissioner Tobia replied he is saying Parrish does not need the money; if they needed the money they would have taxed; and they have a million dollars laying around to build a park.

Chair Lober remarked to Commissioner Tobia that he thought they were getting in a circular argument at this point.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Mr. Loftin how many employees Parrish Medical Center employs.

Mr. Loftin stated, right now, they have one thousand employees.

Commissioner Pritchett stated Parrish supports a thousand families in the community that work at the hospital; and she cannot imagine the amount of staff that is on at Health First and other hospitals.

The Board recessed at 2:40 p.m. and reconvened at 2:47 p.m.

Roni Flowe, Brevard Humane Society, stated she wanted to highlight some things that are in the handout she passed out; she stated the Humane Society has been in business for 68 years and just recently, it started showing an increase in losses; they are funded by services offered and fundraising contributions; the total losses for March through September is \$291,000 and they are now having to cut staff hours; and they are down 4,000 hours for volunteer hours, but still doing what is needed to care for the animals and providing food through the food pantry. She added that 60 percent of the animals at the shelter are strays, which would normally be a burden on taxpayers as they would normally go to the County Animal Services, but they take them in anyway; with that plus their losses, they are requesting funding from the CARES Act; and they appreciate the \$10,000 they already received, but they could use a lot more.

Michael Bramson, President of the Brevard County Firefighters Union, stated he congratulates those who won the elections this week; he represents the Firefighters Union specifically, not

necessarily the function and operations of the Fire Department; he thanked Frank Abbate, County Manager, for addressing the operational needs and concerns and the line item of the Fire Department moving forward; as the firefighters, the people in the field doing the job and the essential functions, he feels that the direction of CARES funds should look into what is the original intent first, which is public safety across the board; and it has been changed multiple times, which we will benefit from, as Mr. Abbate pointed out. He continued to say with COVID-19, public safety is number one; it has not even waned, it has changed, manipulated, moved forward one direction or another, but it has not gone away; Brevard County offers and supplies transport services for the entire County, 17 cities in the entire unincorporated area; it does not have any other emergent service transport; and if someone calls 9-1-1, they are obligated, regardless of funding and billing insurance, they will show up, perform their job, and it will happen. He added that during the past couple months, specifically since the summer and beginning of school, they have had to meet this obligation through mandatory overtime; firefighters are told they are not going home and will work yet another 24-hour shift to meet the compliance of staffing levels to perform this task; there is a diluted cost to this that the County Manager can probably give a lot better idea of the difference between mandatory overtime, assumed overtime, regular straight pay, and all the other things; their finance chief is in the back of the room; and COVID-19 created a new problem, because they can only capture trending. He stated the Board talks about absolute numbers, and all these other things that other facilities are bringing up; he cannot bring those numbers to the Board because all he can tell them is trending; during the COVID-19 event, he can say that the trauma, the amount of car accidents, and life safety issues they have done, has stayed the same; he stated people think with COVID-19, people are not leaving the house, and everything is going down; and they run the same amount of people in car accidents, and the number of people having cardiac arrest, at home, in the field, and before they get to a facility, is significantly higher, with everything else excepted. He stated trending year to year, moving forward, firefighters do more work for cardiac events in the field, and in the ambulance, right now, more than ever before, strictly from COVID-19; the overall medical has decreased but that cannot continue to be accepted because of the trending data from COVID-19; when talking about reimbursement and what can be or cannot be moved forward; he is there to say that the money is already spent as they have already had to do the job with COVID-19; and the money is gone, and this is truly a reimbursement for the Fire Rescue, so that the survivability of Fire Rescue moving forward, compounded by the ongoing flu and whatever else may come up, they need a contingency. He opined that the Fire Rescue, Sheriff's Department, Corrections, Dispatch, public safety as an entity, is in dire straits and it is directly related to their response to COVID-19.

Mark Sexton, Director of Programs with Family Promise of Brevard, stated Family Promise was the original shelter able to take in a family that included a dad; it was the first shelter since 2013 that was able to keep a family together and they continue to take that on as a mission; when COVID-19 began, they had to make some pretty significant shifts; they closed down their shelter on March 22 and made sure that family got into housing; and since then, they started working towards prevention services and in doing so, they were able to establish a program that moved over \$100,000 directly to landlords and utility providers to keep families in housing between March 22 and October 1. He added as they have seen shifts in the CARES Act funding become available and the County being able to get things rolling, they have scaled that back and now their focus is back on shelter; however, the very nature of establishing shelter involves working with volunteers, in congregations, and churches, which are not open; for them to open shelter, which they did, they had to reduce the ability to serve families down to one family at a time; what they are coming forward with is a proposal of a \$5,000 request to piggyback off of the Brevard Homeless Coalition's request for a Safe Overnight Stay (SOS) shelter; and that would allow them to double their capacity between now and December 31, so that they could work with multiple families for the length of time that they need in order to ensure that they are able to make it back into stable housing. He thanked the Board for awarding them funds in the past, as they are a multi-year recipient of Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Based Organization (CBO) funds, which has allowed them to grow into the programs they have today, which is a three-tiered approach that includes prevention, shelter, and then stabilization to work with families after they make it into housing, to ensure that they retain that housing; and he shared a document that includes the cost per unit analysis.

Liz Alward, Chairman of the Brevard Homeless Coalition, introduced several Board members that were there to support them today; she advised she wanted to share some of the challenges they have had, as all people have had; there is no place that has not been impacted and they support public safety too; she wanted to speak about the SOS program, which is a program that was started two years ago with the Coalition; it is a collaboration among several agencies, 2-1-1 Brevard, Brevard Family Partnership, Community Foundation of Brevard, Community of Hope, Coronavirus Mutual Aid Network, Daily Bread, Employee Community Fund of Boeing, Hope for North Brevard, Genesis House, Housing for the Homeless, MBC Universal and PNC Bank; she thought it was important to hear the number of different organizations that collaborate on the different programs they have; and she would not go through the PowerPoint as it is pretty self-explanatory, but the program, this year alone, has served over 65 households, with 74 percent of these households leaving shelter and going into permanent housing. She stated Drew Warren, with Community of Hope, will explain what SOS is and why it is so important.

Mr. Warren stated the program started about three years ago and it was really targeting just families, and it is a very short-term shelter, which is where it gets the name; it was designed to get people in and out of shelter quickly and out into a permanent solution; they have been able to expand that due to so many good local partners and local funding, and last year they served a lot of people but specifically elderly as well as families with young children; and when COVID-19 hit, it was an easily scalable program that was able to meet the needs of more people that were COVID-19 vulnerable, or had been directly impacted by COVID-19. He went on to say they took that program that had been serving two or three families a month, to serving 16 families a month, incurring a lot of extra expense; that expense is provided by local private funds; he stated if the Board could reimburse some of those funds, it would make this program last longer, be more sustainable, and help more people, moving forward; he is from the agency Community of Hope but they all work together; and this program particularly highlights working together well as a full community and he thinks that is what the Commission should be supporting.

Ms. Alward stated, with that, they are requesting \$24,662 for reimbursement to keep the program going until the end of the year.

Chair Lober asked if Miriam Moore was still with their group, as she had mentioned leaving at some point.

Ms. Alward replied Ms. Moore's contract ended in October and she is staying on part-time until November and then moving on.

Chair Lober stated he just wanted to put in a good word for her as she has been stellar to work with.

Keith Winsten, Brevard Zoo, congratulated all the incumbents who won on Tuesday; he stated he thinks most people know of the zoo as it has been around for 26 years; they are proud of their economic model as they are one of a handful of accredited zoos that are completely independent; by that, he means they are not a part of any government body, and about 90 percent of their income is earned income and about 10 percent comes from philanthropy; and they are lucky that in Brevard County, they get a piece of the Tourist Development Tax for

capital and they apply for State and local grants, et cetera. He added that like everybody else, they were profoundly impacted by the Coronavirus which shut them down during the two busiest months of the year; since then, there has been reduced attendance during the tourism season, and they have seen certain income lines just disappear altogether, such as functions that cannot be offered safely right now; during that time, they have kept the programs and jobs primarily intact because they feel they are critical to the community; they have migrated to virtual platforms and done everything they can, like doubling down on things that are safe to do; and their impact is fairly significant on the economic side, their estimate now is about a thousand jobs in Brevard County are supported by what they do there, and probably about \$60 million per year. He stated the community responded and they have had amazing private support since closing down; they are still looking at about \$2.4 million in reduced income for the year and that is expected to go up by the end of the year; they had \$1.2 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds, so the consultant recommended \$1.3 million to close that gap between what the PPP provided for them and what is anticipated will be the true loss of income by the end of the year; and they could continue to do what they do well, serving the people of the community, and serving people who will come and bring tourist dollars from another community, taking care of the sea turtles, taking care of the park, and all the things they do for the community every day.

Chair Lober stated he appreciated Mr. Winsten meeting with him last week to discuss this and he did not think the zoo could have sent anyone better or more qualified to sway the Board on this; he is looking at the request and the amount that qualifies listed at \$1.3 million; he does not have a problem allocating more in the future, and he knows in the future there will be more time constraints than now; and he asked Mr. Winsten what his thoughts would be if the Board made a motion today seeking to set-aside \$500,000 now and directing staff to reimburse as soon as the initial \$500,000 is qualified by Tetra Tech and deemed to meet the requirements, and in the meanwhile, between now and December 22, continue to submit the remainder of the expenses for Tetra Tech to evaluate, so that the Board can give them \$500,000 now and then come back December 22 and it can allocated an additional amount over and above that \$500,000, depending on what other needs come up between now and then. He advised he would like to give the money to local groups instead of sending it back to Washington, D.C., especially groups like the zoo that benefit the County as a whole; he does not feel comfortable today allocating \$1.3 million, but he would feel comfortable with half a million now, with the understanding that can be reimbursed as soon as it gets approved; and he would like to revisit the remainder in December.

Mr. Winsten stated they would be grateful for whatever they get, to be very clear; no one counts on this money going into a crisis; it has all been a moving target; they would be grateful and it would make a difference; and they are trying to fill a true gap and their calendar year ends at the end of the year, so that leaves them with a lot of uncertainty. He stated it is not that they would not be grateful for half a million, as they would be, tremendously, but they would love more assurance than that; they know the Board has tough decisions to make; they would certainly love the whole \$1.3 million, which would be tremendous and put them into next year to move forward with some confidence; but they are not going to turn it down.

Chair Lober remarked the half million would make a meaningful difference to the zoo.

Mr. Winsten replied it certainly would; he stated he would not mislead the Board in any way; but the \$1.3 million completely changes their outlook for next year and allows them to make sure there are no more cuts for staff or do any of those things that, right now, are under consideration.

Commissioner Smith stated if the zoo qualifies for \$1.3 million, he is in favor of giving it to them at this point; the Board needs to disburse this money that it has been sitting on for an awful

long time and it needs to get it to the people and the organizations that need it the most; he thinks it heard from a number of them today to consider, and if they have already been vetted for \$1.3 million, he does not think there is any reason not to give it to them; but he is just one person.

Commissioner Tobia stated this is an organization that he recalls trying to fundraise \$70 million for an aquarium, and asked for \$10 million from the County; maybe if they were to focus in on the core, they would not have that gap of \$1.3 million, which does not sound like very much; this goes back to the very fundamental thing; and he asked if the zoo is a core function of government. He added if there was an extra \$1.3 million, he does not think it is a bad place to give as it drives tourism, but that is \$1.3 million that is not going to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transport, or Fire Medic dispatch, or to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Jail Corrections Countywide; these are not his numbers, these are numbers provided on slide 28 by the County Manager; he was 100 percent in support of sending this back to Washington, D.C., however, as Mr. Abbate has said multiple times that the CARES Act funding requirement has changed and he outlined a way in which the County could create a public safety fund and put up to \$75 million in it; as CARES Act qualifications have changed, so has his opinion; and he is no longer in favor of sending it to Washington, D.C. He added he is in favor of it going to both Brevard County Sheriff's Office and Brevard County Fire Rescue in total; and he will respect the opinion of the Board if it thinks pandas and parakeets are more important than Fire Rescue and the Sheriff's Office.

Chair Lober stated he is not going to get into a circular back and forth; he does not think it is a choice of either/or; the Board does not spend 70-something million in fire trucks; Commissioner Tobia mentioned if the Board allocates money to another entity that it would potentially, or at least he alluded to the potential that it might be forgoing buying fire trucks; and the County does not spend anywhere near that.

Commissioner Tobia stated these are not his numbers, they are the County Manager's numbers, and just one of many examples; and page 28 shows Fire EMS/Fire Medic/Dispatch a potential total of \$16 million, Countywide EMS Transport a total of \$12.3 million, and Jail/Corrections/Countywide BCSO \$46 million.

Chair Lober stated Commissioner Tobia is talking about expenses, many of which or the bulk of which, have already been budgeted for and already funded for this year; and he asked him how is that something the Board is going to forgo.

Commissioner Tobia remarked these are capital expenses that the County would not have to pay for in future budgets.

Chair Lober stated if they have already been paid for, he does not know why they would be showing up anyway.

Commissioner Tobia replied they have not; this is capital expense; if the County were to use it as Mr. Abbate mentioned, it can be put in a public safety fund which would allow the Board to then spend it on public uses such as fire trucks, being one example; he asked if it is a binary decision between public safety and parakeets; he answered absolutely, because there is less money than what the County has the potential of according to Mr. Abbate's numbers; he has never fought so hard, as usually, he is on the other side of funding for the Sheriff's Office and Fire Rescue; but he thinks this is now the time, and every dollar the Board expends is a dollar that is not going into that legally permissible public safety fund.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Tobia if it was his thought, because he just wants to take this out a step further, that it could offset the taxpayer burden next year, with respect to Brevard

County Fire Rescue (BCFR), and potentially lower taxes; and is that what he is proposing. Commissioner Tobia replied as a County Commissioner, while he would love to say it, he does not think it would be responsible of the Board, as policy makers, when it has an infrastructure system that is not up to par; he has not once been heard to say he is there to lower taxes; he thinks those monies could be used in other areas, and this is an example where he thinks that the Jail Corrections, Countywide BCSO, Fire EMS, and Fire Medic are more important than the zoo and if the Board disagrees with that, then he respects that; but the Board has a way to get money into a public safety fund that allows it to use these CARES Act dollars for capital expenses that go to Fire, EMS, and Jail; and this is not an unending amount of money, this is a pot of money with a little over \$50 million with just those three expenses of about \$75 million.

Chair Lober stated he would leave it at this; this is not like picking an entrée and can only have one; if the Board was talking about his proposal of \$500,000 for the zoo instead of the \$1.3 million that was requested, if it qualified today, he is still absolutely in support; and he will just say it bluntly, if putting eight digits aside, a substantial double-digit percentage of what is remaining, in a public safety fund to be used for that purpose, a small fraction of the overall pot, and he does not know why it is being couched as an either/or when that is not what the Board is being forced to do, it can do substantially one, and then do a small amount for any others that it chooses to do.

Commissioner Tobia stated he did not want to be confused, \$500,000 is a lot of money; the Board has went through a great deal of debate, and it pained him to say that the extra \$800,000 that went to BCSO was not a critical need in his opinion; the difference is \$500,000 for the zoo to put it in perspective, that is the bulk of the critical need declaration that this Board had to make; it is certainly not a trivial amount whether it is part of \$1 million or whether it is a part of \$55 million, as he thinks each one of these dollars is precious and should be used accordingly; and he just does not think it is to an organization, the zoo, that is out there trying to fundraise for another animal park.

Mr. Winsten stated the zoo is not in the active fundraise state and he said that they have delayed that because of the COVID-19 crisis.

Commissioner Tobia remarked they will be in the near future actively raising money for another quasi-zoo.

Commissioner Smith stated he agreed with Chair Lober that it could do both.

Dr. Michelle Dally stated she is the veterinarian type of doctor; she is present to propose a small program that she believes fits into the mission of the CARES Act dollars; she is proposing to provide pets of disabled and elderly Brevard County residents with free or reduced house call services during this time of COVID-19; she calls it the Stay Safe and Stay Home program; and even before COVID-19, it could be difficult for these populations to ensure their pets receive appropriate care. She added that veterinary costs are at an all-time high, as she is sure many have noticed; public transportation will not transport animals unless they are documented service animals and handling an animal under high-stress conditions is difficult for the most able-bodied persons; with the Coronavirus, the difficulties have only increased and for these at-risk populations, the difficulties include succumbing to the Coronavirus a hazard that should be minimized in any way possible; for the past few months she has been working with organizations such as Daily Bread, Volunteers of America, and the South Brevard Sharing Center to provide free outreach veterinary services to pets of the homeless; and she worked with the Brevard Homeless Coalition to go on outreach with them once a week, and every time she encountered pets, and there are good amount of dogs and cats, she vaccinated, did blood tests, including some thyroid test on some pretty large pit bulls, and in one case there was a 10-year old boxer who could not eat because his teeth were in such bad shape. She stated



she was being funded by the National Street Dog Coalition who funds care for pets of the homeless and she got the boxer's teeth fixed and he is now eating; the gentleman who lost his job because of COVID-19, was forever grateful and started crying on the spot; she stated it really can make a difference and the more she works with the homeless, the more she becomes aware of the additional populations that could be served by at-home visits featuring exams, vaccines, blood test, and the like; the Street Dog Coalition would not be the appropriate sponsor of a program like that because these people do not sleep outside, which is the criteria the Coalition's mission requires; and she is suggesting providing services and medication to pets of high-risk COVID-19 populations who are housed. She added if the County has COVID-19 dollars to spend, this would be a clearly beneficial program that would greatly reduce risk to seniors and the disabled.

Chair Lober asked Mr. Abbate if this has been evaluated or submitted.

Mr. Abbate replied this was the first he has heard of it.

Dr. Dally stated she emailed each of the Commissioners a couple days ago.

#### **IV. Board Discussion**

Chair Lober stated there are a couple of ways, logically, to go through this; he will give the suggestions, and if the Board likes one, it will go with that; and if there is a different idea, it can do that.

Commissioner Pritchett stated Chair Lober had mentioned the Port and that is the only thing the Board has not talked about.

Chair Lober apologized that this was not included in the sheet that he provided to the clerks; this is something that came up a little later and he did not have time to put this together; the Port has received no State or Federal COVID-19 relief whatsoever; other Ports exist under the County or City umbrella and have had CARES Act allocations to them as a result of that, from those local governments; Port Canaveral, just like Parrish Medical Center, is a taxing district; and Port Canaveral is a special district and it did not receive an allocation. He added with zero cruises for many, many months, it is possible that they have to levy taxes for the first time in perhaps decades; that would cover not just Port Canaveral, but also the barrier islands and past the Indian river into the mainland, then Cocoa, Rockledge, and potentially Port St. John; it would cover a substantial majority of his District and possibly into District 1 and 3; he would like to set aside some amount of money, depending on how other things are allocated, if there is between \$7.5 and \$12.5 million, he thinks that might be enough to make a difference in allowing Port Canaveral to submit qualifying expenses in the hopes of either helping them avoid instituting a tax, or alternatively, helping them lessen any tax that they have to institute; they have not been doing well financially and he is happy he is not serving on that Commission now, as this Board is in a much better position than they are financially; and that is his suggestion with respect to Port Canaveral. He stated he is not saying that we offset the entirety of their expenses which could eat up everything there is, but a meaningful amount of \$7.5 to \$12.5 million would be stellar in terms of helping them; he knows that they will be submitting expenses according to one of the Port Commissioners that he spoke with; and he does not know where the Board is with this.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is good with that; she mentioned that at one time the Board had talked about discussing Steward Health Care System; they never put in anything so the Board talked about a \$15 million packet; and she suggested giving \$5 million to each hospital and then \$5 million to the Port to distribute those funds.

Chair Lober stated he thinks the Board needs to address everything individually and see where the numbers are.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would support that if both hospitals were brought in and then brought that in, which would be what was talked about before.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked she thinks the Board is going down a rabbit hole here; she asked what is to stop them from supporting every city and municipality as they have all been hit; the Port is a taxing authority; the Board has to be careful because every city would have the option to come to the Board and say they want \$7.5 to \$12.5 million; and she has seen their budget, and how much they pay their director. She added, in her opinion, the Port does not always make good fiscal decisions, she is not trying to pick on them, and she is sure they may say the same about the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC); she stated they are a governmental entity and it is sad for them, but it is sad for BOCC too; no one has contacted her office to pitch a case to her about these kinds of dollars; someone can just watch the news to find out their revenue loss, but no one has given her a compelling case as to why it should hold out on those kinds of monies; and that is just her two cents.

Chair Lober stated he thinks he made a compelling case that they may have to tax otherwise and they may have to tax anyway.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked she is glad he has, but he is not the Port, and no one has contacted her.

Chair Lober stated no, and Health First is not here pitching anything either, so by that logic nothing should be allocated.

Commissioner Isnardi pointed out Health First knows she cannot vote.

Commissioner Tobia stated he thinks all that needs to be done is to look at the budget of the Port; first of all, they pay their chief executive a ridiculous salary of \$386,000 plus bonuses, and he would like to know if they took any cut before handing over any money; he noted someone could not go there without noticing the \$23 million transcendental thought tower that has hundreds of thousands of dollars of chameleon colored paint; he agreed they are in bad shape because they did not plan ahead; and if the Board hands these folks dollars, it is taking away from the businesses. He continued to say the hoteliers decided they wanted to put parking spaces there and the Port got mad that they were busing folks in; it seems very difficult that the Board would be handing money over to a government agency that is in direct competition with private enterprise that is going through tough times right now; in other words, the County has been taking tax dollars from private to give it to public in direct competition; it is ridiculous that the Board would hand dollars to a Port; and they had plans for an amphitheater coming up and they were not very kind to the Board when it came to Jetty Park about the turnover. He stated this is not an organization that is friendly or played ball with the Board; he would not support dollar one to an organization that one of their board members said that Captain Murray is a "rain maker" and should be paid accordingly; if they are down 50 percent, he would like to know whether or not his salary went down 50 percent with the financial hit that they took; he is not making this up, \$23 million for a monument; and he is not sure if they are still paying on that but he certainly does not want any tax dollars doing this. He added this would be two taxing authorities that are in the north part of the district, there is nothing in Commissioner Isnardi's or his Districts; they do not have Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA), a Port that Chair Lober thinks should get money, or a hospital system that has that authority; and if the Board was going for an equal distribution of dollars, this would not be the way to throw \$5 million or more at the Port and another amount at Parrish.

Chair Lober stated he did not disagree with Commissioner Tobias initial thought that it may be good, or in his case, it may be bad to hand the money over to this organization because he does not want to help the organization; he said, fine, to heck with the organization, he is talking about the constituents who would otherwise be taxed or taxed more; whether he loves or hates who they have as their Chief Executive Officer (CEO), it does not change the fact that they are hemorrhaging money left and right, unlike the cities, because they have been totally shut down; as far as property tax millage, that is not where their money is at; and it is not like Rockledge or Palm Bay.

Commissioner Tobia interjected that is factually incorrect; he stated their shipping business is actually slightly up, so it is not like the Port is completely shut down; they have lost money but they are not completely shut down; this is not about helping at the expense, this is about money that would go into a public safety fund, for Fire Rescue, the Sheriff, and the Jail; and that is the way he would like to help people instead of supporting a CEO who makes \$380,000 per year.

Chair Lober remarked what Commissioner Tobia is saying is tax the constituents.

Commissioner Tobia stated that is a decision that those elected officials have to make.

Chair Lober interjected the Board is forcing them to make that decision.

Commissioner Tobia replied no, the Board is not forcing them to do anything, they made the decision.

Commissioner Smith interjected he would like to make a suggestion; he stated since he can see the vote is 2:2 and he is the odd man out and not ready to make a decision; and he asked if the Board could move on and he could still be swayed either way.

Chair Lober replied that is fine; he suggested it could be done one of two ways, he has distributed a sheet that had some potential motions he would make and he knows Commissioner Tobia had a sheet he distributed, and he believes the Clerk has gotten copies of both; the Board can address them in that order and see what the County Manager wants to do or it can go in the order the County Manager listed it on slide 27; he stated to do that; and he asked Mr. Abbate if there was a proposed motion he had earlier.

Mr. Abbate replied yes, there were a couple; he stated one was to be the Board direction on the allocation of the funds which is going to be addressed; and he would like a motion, if the Board so chooses, to authorize that it be required with any sub-recipients, that the County has a grant agreement with or gives any funds to, to have a clawback provision that they agree to reimburse the County for any CARES Act funding provided that is determined by a County or Department of Treasury audit for expenditures that are found not to be utilized in accordance with Federal statutory requirements or Treasury guidelines; and additionally, as part of that, that any sub-recipient would be required to reimburse for any funds that are awarded by any other agency that could be used to cover the same costs.

Chair Lober stated before taking the vote on that, he wanted to make sure Mr. Abbate is contemplating that as to each and every sub-recipient with whom it has not yet contracted with.

Mr. Abbate replied yes, anyone receiving over \$50,000; that would apply to the charter officers, municipalities, the schools, or any of these entities.

Chair Lober stated he wanted to make sure the Board all understands what it is voting on; he asked if there was any further discussion; and hearing none, he Called the Question.

Mr. Abbate asked if that gave him the authority to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Chair Lober asked if there were any objections to that and none heard.

The Board authorized the County Manager to execute grant agreements, with fund recipients receiving \$50,000 or more in CARES Act funding, to include audit and clawback provisions that any expenditure found to be not in accordance with the Federal or Treasury guidelines, that the sub-recipient be required to reimburse the County.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Commissioner Isnardi asked Chair Lober why he crossed off the mutual link on his sheet because she was kind of interested.

Chair Lober replied he would refrain from commenting too much on that; if someone else wants to bring it up he will entertain any motions that are made.

Commissioner Isnardi asked why he pulled it.

Chair Lober replied he did not want to get into it at the meeting, but he decided that he did not want to push that himself.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she asked and she guessed Tetra Tech said it did not qualify.

Mr. Abbate stated he would be happy to give the Commissioners a copy; what happened was, in the end of June, the Sheriff had written something about looking into that, and Doug Waller was there and the Board asked staff to do that; staff spoke to people from Mutual Link and sent it to Tetra Tech; this is the analysis that was done at that time which said that it was a high risk; and he wanted to make sure that the Board members were aware of this. He added he did not provide this information previously because he did not know before today that it would be an issue that anyone would be interested in.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she knows that Madison County had used it and the whole state of New Hampshire uses it.

Mr. Abbate stated he could not tell her for what purposes; all he can tell her is what he knows and that is all contained in the analysis; he thinks Tetra Tech was pretty thorough; the Board could still choose to want to do this; and this was not staff initiated and he does not really know what the Sheriff's position is on it.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks Sheriff Ivey had liked this; if the Board allocated these CARES Act funds to the Sheriff, he would be allowed, if he thinks this is appropriate for him to do his job, and then he could do it and the Board would not have to have the same concern; and she knows the County is paying Tetra Tech but even if they did something wrong, the County would still be obligated to cover funds if there is a problem, whereas, if the money was given to the Sheriff's Department to use for public safety and he deems it appropriate, it would be an easier path for him.

Mr. Abbate stated if he was hearing her correctly, if the Board chose to give either part of the initial funds, the \$8.8 million, or part of a public safety pool, if the Board chose to do that, to the Sheriff and he allocated for that purpose, deeming it appropriate, yes, he could do that.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked that would be appropriate and the Board would have no liability issues.

Mr. Abbate stated it is important to say that there are other costs which are reoccurring costs, for example staffing, those are not even considered; those are a dependent cost, so if it did something like this, it would have to look at additional costs that are not a part of what would be CARES Act funded, because it would be in the future after January 1, both in terms of licensing fees and staffing costs, which he thinks are rather significant; and he wanted to make sure he shared that with the Board and it had all the information it needs to have.

Commissioner Tobia asked Mr. Abbate, for the motion that just passed, the agreement that would obligate the vendor to cover the costs, to tell him how that would work if the Board went through with this project and it was deemed in such a way, how would he draft the document, assuming that they would be willing to sign it; and would it protect the Board.

Mr. Abbate replied that would be something to speak to the County Attorney's Office, because, as it will see in the version that was given, Tetra Tech has told them this is a high-risk item; if the vendor agreed that the Board funded them for something and it was determined through any audit that it was not qualified, they would be required to reimburse the County those funds.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that would be the decision of the vendor to make.

Mr. Abbate agreed; and he stated he did not want to speak for the County Attorney's Office but he believes that is where it would be.

Shannon Wilson, Assistant County Attorney, stated she thinks the Board would have to be concerned; number one, it would be her recommendation that there is a clawback with a vendor; once the Board starts down that road with a vendor like this, then if this were de-obligated or the Treasury came back and said no, it would get the money back but then if it has been installed, it would have to figure out how to undo all of that, does it undo all of that, as there is wiring and all kinds of things in place; it was her understanding, talking with Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director, that because the number of cameras involved need people to monitor them which is an ongoing personnel cost, as well as the licenses that go with that; and this is not a one-time expenditure.

Wayne Ivey, Sheriff, stated Chief Deputy Douglas Waller appeared here before and talked about the value of Mutual Link and it has a tremendous value; in fact, it is used in the schools to provide a common platform for all law enforcement and public safety to communicate on; what is being talked about is a system that would tie-in not only the Port, but the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), all of the local police and fire departments could be tied-in; it uses existing systems to tie-in with and other components could be added; what is being talked about in the initial phase is being able to tie-in to already existing systems and put them on a common platform so when there is an emergency situation, it does just that; and it is used in the schools and they are happy and satisfied with the system.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if the Board gave the Sheriff the appropriate amount of funds, if he would feel like this would be a good expenditure for his department.

Sheriff Ivey replied in the big picture of things, the money coming to public safety would be something that he would definitely look at and move forward on; and he wanted to make it clear that the money for that would be in addition to the \$8 million allocated.

Chair Lober stated not specific to this, but for anything that is used out of that public safety fund, if that is the direction the Board goes, to please not enter into contracts in which there is not some level of protection from clawbacks; and if he comes back and the Board has to deal with that, he will not be very happy to see the request, as the Board will be obligated to make him whole at the end of the day.

Sheriff Ivey stated they would work with the County Manager and staff for anything to accommodate.

Chair Lober remarked he appreciated that; and he stated to go ahead and start on page 27 and work its way down.

Commissioner Tobia asked if he can start with the left-hand side of his spreadsheet since it changes the bottom-line number, it actually precedes the green one that he handed out.

Chair Lober replied it is up to the Board but he was more comfortable with starting on page 27 and working down.

Commissioner Tobia stated he wanted to see if the Board was on board with an additional \$4.7 million.

Chair Lober asked to put up the slide to make sure everyone was on the same page; and he asked if he was just referring to the School Board reassignment.

Commissioner Tobia stated his District 3 stuff is all at the end if there is any money left over; and he is referring to what is prior to that.

Chair Lober asked if he was talking about the \$4.7 million because he just wanted to make sure they were not getting derailed on this.

Commissioner Tobia stated the Board asked the School Board what may meet CARES Act criteria and they provided a list of about \$7 million dollars; the Board has expended \$2.876 million; his suggestion is to reassign \$4.7 million from the School Board into the unassigned portion that is about to be discussed; and since this request went in, the voters of Brevard County saw fit to put \$250 million into public schools, so this \$4 million could be better spent on public safety.

Chair Lober stated he is happy to address that but would like to give Dr. Mark Mullins, Superintendent of the Brevard County School Board, a chance to address that before discussion; and he has made a decision one way or the other but he would like to give him the opportunity.

Commissioner Tobia stated, to be clear, the incurred amount at the top has either been committed to spend or already spent, and does not include the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) or the fancy Apple iPads and other stuff.

Chair Lober remarked the \$4.7 million.

Dr. Mullins thanked the Board for the earlier support and approval for Brevard Public Schools to be an authorized agency to work with the County on the CARES Act, and to give his appreciation to Mr. Abbate and his staff; they have been working very closely with them for the last few months and they have been very helpful and supportive; he also thanked the vast majority of Brevard's voters who supported Brevard Public School's request to extend the half-cent sales tax for capital renewal, infrastructure, security, and technology; he stated these expenditures that are listed here are completely separate and not a part of the funds that would be generated through the revenue of the half-cent sales tax; and they have provided the community an allocation of those dollars, which have been prioritized based on comprehensive assessments in the areas of facilities to address failing infrastructure, as well as security and technology needs. He further stated not included, are the technology requests that are a part of the \$4.7 million dollars; what is seen here is above anything they would be able to fund from the sales tax, and they have not begun to receive the sales tax funds which will not be assessed until January; and these expenditures would directly support the students in meeting their learning needs as they all work together to meet the demands of COVID-19.

Chair Lober stated he would just tell where he is at with it; he is not comfortable eliminating the entirety of it, but he is comfortable eliminating a portion of it on the basis that their sales tax did pass; the comment was made that it funds different things, and that may well be, but it does not mean there cannot be a re-prioritization following that tax having been imposed; he asked Commissioner Tobia what are the most important for him to see stricken from that to free some funds up that would be least impactful to the school system; and he can ask Dr. Mullins to comment on that if he would like.

Commissioner Tobia replied he is sorry, but if Chair Lober cannot find \$4.7 million out of \$250 million.

Chair Lober advised he is trying to work with him.

Commissioner Tobia stated he appreciates it but Apple iPads; and he said one could get an Amazon Fire for \$70 right now.

Chair Lober stated if they strike \$2.567 million for those; and he asked if the rest is that troubling to him.

Commissioner Tobia replied in all honesty, the \$240 million is troubling to him, but the voters decided that was the way to go; he advised he has no problem with \$2.8 million for PPE and food as it is a great way to spend those dollars; if the Board frees up the \$4.7 million, it can give it to pandas and parakeets; and he asked the Board to think about this, they just need to prioritize.

Commissioner Isnardi asked if he is trying to convince people.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is just trying to think of animals that begin with P.

Chair Lober stated again he is happy to free up the \$2.56 million for the Apple iPads for Pre-kindergarten.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Mr. Abbate when he gave this to the Board, he gave it \$7.593 million that is already obligated, was that correct, or are these funds not already obligated.

Mr. Abbate replied they were obligated in that the County asked the schools to provide expenses that it then looked at and said these, as vetted, would clearly be eligible; they are

only obligated to that extent and the School Board is aware of that; and the term obligated is used in that sense.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Dr. Mullins if the Apple iPad for Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten is because the children are schooling at home.

Dr. Mullins replied that is to allow them to have a one-to-one device for the Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students so every student either in class, or at home, it would allow them to be equipped with that device; it is a tablet device because the youngest are not ready to navigate a mouse yet, especially the distance learners that do not have as much opportunity to be coached and guided; and that is the approach that they have taken with their students.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is sure the School Board will fund that whether the Board gives that to them or not because that is a good product for the students.

Dr. Mullins stated they are not in a position to fund that without the CARES Act funding.

Chair Lober stated to Commissioner Tobia that it did not look like the Board will be de-obligating anything, based on the explanation.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that an obligation is just a moral commitment; the Board just asked the School Board what expenses they thought would meet CARES Act funding, and they provided, dutifully, with \$7 million; it is up to the Board now to make that determination; it is his understanding that it has either spent or partially spent \$2.876 million, the numbers at the top which was run through the Budget Office and this is what is not yet spent; and his thought was to increase the \$51.1 million by \$4.7 million, thus giving the Board \$55.8 million to spend on others.

Chair Lober stated he would meet him part way there and take out the \$2.567 million; if the School Board wants to reallocate the remainder and change how that is done, he is happy to set that cap for them amongst qualified expenses; this would change the total from about \$7.5 million to about \$5 million; and if he wanted to make the motion, he thinks he may have some luck getting that passed.

Commissioner Tobia stated since the half-cent tax also went to technology as Dr. Mullins stated, the last one is laptops.

Chair Lober asked if he wanted to make it \$4 million; he really does not want to go lower than that; and he understands there is the half-cent tax, but it is not all coming in at once.

Commissioner Tobia replied no, but it is coming in because it is a tax that is already in place, so they are collecting it now.

Commissioner Smith stated to Chair Lober he wanted to point out that he is not speaking for him; and he is in favor of this, so they needed to make up their minds, make a motion, and take a vote.

Commissioner Isnardi asked Commissioner Smith what he was in favor of.

Commissioner Smith replied passing it as is, for the \$7.5 million.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Dr. Mullins when the School Board got the extra sales tax put on the ballot if that increased the taxes or kept it at what it was receiving in the past.



Dr. Mullins replied it is not an increase in tax, it is a continuation of the existing tax.

Commissioner Pritchett asked then it did not really add to or change their budget.

Dr. Mullins replied correct; and he stated their estimates are actually lower than what is anticipated to receive through December 30 of this year.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is struggling with some of these things too; she agrees maybe it could do something different with the iPad, but she thinks these kids are having to home school a lot right now; she does not know what to do with their budget; she thinks, like Commissioner Tobia said, the \$2.8 million is definitely appropriate; she mentioned that maybe they could split the new amount up some and is struggling with the computers as well; but she has a big heart for the children having to work from home right now.

Commissioner Tobia remarked the \$2.8 million, he is good with because it is already spent or being spent, so that is off the table even if he wanted to do away with that; he thought of another animal, penguins; and if he thinks of any more, he will update the Board.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she is sorry but she thinks if every taxing authority and municipality came to the Board wanting a piece, it would need to be careful; the zoo and the homeless coalition do not have the authority to tax; she actually likes Commissioner Tobia's plan because, as a parent, even when she could afford it, she never bought her Pre-kindergartner or kindergartner an Apple iPad, whether she thought it would be beneficial or not; there are ways around things like that and \$2.5 million she just cannot justify, she would much rather see that money spent elsewhere; she thinks it is about prioritizing, and the School Board has to prioritize just like the County does; and she is fine with the \$2.8 million, but she would support eliminating this \$4.7 million.

Chair Lober stated it sounds like it is two to two and he is not going to go the whole amount, but he will split it; he will second a motion and have a three to two vote; it seems if the Board strikes the Apple iPads and laptops, it frees up about \$3.5 million and keeps everything else in the plan; and he thinks that is a fair middle ground.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if Chair Lober would like it if they got rid of all of the electronic equipment.

Chair Lober responded he is even happy to keep the hot spots, the before and after supplemental staffing, food service scanner, stylists, et cetera; he mentioned striking the \$2.567 million and the \$1 million, the bottom two lines out of the \$4.716 million; that would strike, in essence, \$3.5 million from the total that is listed as obligated, even though it really is not obligated; the simplest way is to say that it would authorize reimbursement up to \$4 million total; that is the cleanest way to phrase the motion; and he thinks that will get a 3:2 vote.

Commissioner Smith stated he was with him on that one.

Chair Lober asked for a motion to reimburse the School Board up to \$4 million, provided that those expenses qualify and are reviewed by Tetra Tech.

Commissioner Tobia stated to Chair Lober, the peacocks, platypuses, puffins, and porcupines thank you.

Chair Lober replied he did not know how that has anything to do with that, but he appreciates it.

Commissioner Pritchett made the motion to reimburse up to \$4 million.

Chair Lober stated that is inclusive of the \$2.8 million already obligated.

The Board approved reimbursement of up to \$4,000,000, inclusive of the \$2,800,000 already obligated, to the School Board provided those expenditures qualify and are reviewed by Tetra Tech.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Kristine Isnardi

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated in the interest of time, to try to stick with the order on page 27; beginning with individual assistance and food, but he first wanted to thank Rob Rains, United Way, for sending an email supporting the proposal and also giving the unemployment numbers showing a decline in the local low-wage employment in the County since the beginning of the year; the proposal is in accordance with the memo that he submitted during the October 27 Commission meeting to allocate an additional \$2.2 million over and above the already-allocated \$4.4 million to bolster the County's housing assistance program; and as he mentioned in the memo, that would increase the maximum per applicant funding cap from \$7,200 to \$12,500 over a 10-month period and would authorize the County Manager and the Chair to execute any necessary documents to implement this increase in funding.

Commissioner Tobia stated line one is individual assistance and food; and he asked if the Board was going off that.

Chair Lober replied he was basing it on his memo; he advised what he contemplates is housing, not the food side of things; if more is needed in food, an Agenda Item can be brought forward for the next meeting; and he would be happy to look at that too.

Commissioner Tobia state he spoke with Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services Director, and things may have changed since, but he thought the \$2.2 million included the food.

Mr. Golden replied he thinks what is contemplated is the \$2.2 million for individual assistance and food with the County Manager having the authority to move funds in between the two programs.

Commissioner Tobia stated Mr. Golden mentioned briefly about matching with other grants in the State; and he asked if this would jeopardize any of the other stuff or would the County be in good shape for the other matching portions, should the Board raise it to these amounts.

Mr. Golden replied if he is understanding the question, what they had talked about was that there are additional funds, as Mr. Abbate mentioned in one of the slides, that come from other sources, and they are able to and do marry those together when they have the ability to do so.

Commissioner Tobia inquired that increasing it from the \$7,200 to the \$12,500 does not jeopardize any of that marriage.

Mr. Golden replied it does not.

Chair Lober asked to have page 29 of the slide displayed; he stated the question was whether it should pass Item three now and then deal with the rest of it; and he asked if the Board had any opposition to it.

The Board authorized the County Manager to transfer funds between the programs to maximize benefits, including all necessary Budget Change Requests.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated that obviates the concern as far as whether it is individual or food assistance; he would ask for a motion to increase the funding for that by \$2.2 million as outlined.

The Board authorized an increase of \$2,200,000 to the Individual Assistance and Food Program; authorized an increase to the maximum per-applicant funding cap from \$7,500 to \$12,500 over a ten-month period; and authorized the County Manager and the Chair to execute any documents necessary to implement the increase in funding.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober asked Mr. Abbate if he wanted to comment briefly on the additional \$1.5 for small business support.

Mr. Abbate replied the County has spent \$8.3 million, and \$700,000 was obligated; he stated the County believed that based on the current amount of applications being received and the grant amounts and how many they are able to approve, that if the program is continued to the end of December, the target would be to try to get up to \$11.5 million; and that is why that amount was asked for so it would have it through the end of the year.

Chair Lober stated he is in favor.

The Board approved an increase of \$1,500,000 to the Small Business Support Program to try to continue the program through December.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated he thinks it has already addressed schools unless someone wants to go further on that; and to move on to Parrish Medical Center.

Commissioner Smith stated he would like to see these reversed and do Health First, first; the reason is he is just looking at the table here and knowing there is one Commissioner that will probably not vote yes for anything, although he has surprised him to some degree, and another Commissioner that cannot vote for Health First, and another Commissioner that has had a little bit of an issue with Health First; and he wants to see what the Commission does with Health First before he makes a commitment on Parrish.

Chair Lober stated Commissioner Smith is welcome to make a motion any way he wants, but he is trying to go through the order to keep this timely.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to pass the \$5 million for Health First.

Attorney Bentley advised Commissioner Isnardi that she simply needed to declare her conflict and provide the paperwork.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she had a voting conflict, which she is sure everybody here is aware of but not sure if the public is, so she will fill out the proper form as she is employed by Health First; and she will not be voting.

The Board denied additional CARES Act funding to Health First.

**Result:** Denied

**Mover:** Curt Smith

**Second:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, and Smith

**Nay:** Lober, and Tobia

**Abstain:** Isnardi

Chair Lober asked if there is any discussion; and hearing none, he Called the Question.

Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the \$5 million for Parrish.

The Board denied additional CARES Act funding to Parrish Medical Center.

**Result:** Denied

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, and Lober

**Nay:** Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated to move on to animal rescue groups; he stated he has phrased this a little differently than is listed on page 27; in accordance with the memo that he distributed on October 27, he asks that the County Manager is authorized as designee to reimburse for qualifying expenses up to an additional \$100,000 for both the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Brevard and the Brevard Humane Society for a maximum total of \$200,000 as a result of this Board action, exclusive of the \$10,000 already applied for by the Brevard Humane Society through the County Small Business Grant Program; this shall not be taken to mean that the Brevard Humane Society will be able to double-dip and be reimbursed twice for the same expenses; should the SPCA of Brevard wish to additionally apply for the Small Business Grant Program, they may do so subject to the \$10,000 limit for qualifying expenses; the motion also contemplates that the Chair will be authorized to sign any necessary documents to carry out the Commission's direction on this Item; should either organization submit additional qualifying expenses, he asks that staff also be directed to bring back to the Commission at the December 22 meeting; and any such qualified expenses for consideration of allocating additional funding.

Chair Lober asked if that was \$190,000 between the two of them; so SPCA, which has not applied for anything, would be eligible for up to \$100,000, and the Brevard Humane Society would be eligible for up to \$90,000 additional; and he seconded the motion.

Commissioner Tobia stated he had a question; it was mentioned that this would be a savings to BCSO when it comes to animal rescue; and he asked if that was correct.

Chair Lober stated it offsets their costs; he did speak at length with Joe Hellebrand, Director of Animal Services, and SPCA in particular, largely as a result of their geographic location, takes animals directly from the Sheriff's shelter; he sees the Sheriff is in the back, so he may come up to hear from him; but he stated to finish the vote because it was in the middle of it.

The Board authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to reimburse for qualifying expenses up to \$100,000 to both SPCA of Brevard and the Brevard Humane Society for a maximum total of \$200,000, exclusive of the \$10,000 already applied for from the Brevard Humane Society through the County's Small Business Grant Program, this shall not be taken to mean that Brevard Humane Society will be able to double dip and be reimbursed for the same expenses; approved the SPCA of Brevard to also apply for the Small Business Grant Program, if they wish to do so, for the \$10,000 limit for qualifying expenses; authorized the Chair to sign any necessary documents to carry out the Board's direction; and further directed staff to bring this back to the Board on December 22, 2020, should these entities have any additional qualifying expenses for consideration of allocating additional funding.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated for the Brevard Zoo, his proposal was to set-aside \$500,000 to reimburse the zoo for qualifying expenses after being reviewed by Tetra Tech to ensure they qualify and authorize him to sign any necessary documents; staff would be directed to forward qualifying expenses, up to the \$1.3 million, to Tetra Tech as soon as they are available and be directed to bring back the Item to the December 22 meeting so that it can consider allocating an amount over and above the \$500,000, depending on how things go in the future; by doing this, it would allow significant help to the zoo now and retain a portion of the requested funding to better ensure that the Board is able to meet unexpected demands over the next month and one-half or so; if the costs do not occur and it otherwise is faced with sending it back to the Feds, it can allocate more; and if they do occur, it can deal with it accordingly.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to fund the entire \$1.3 million now.

**Result:** Denied

**Mover:** Curt Smith

**Second:** Kristine Isnardi

**Ayes:** Smith, and Isnardi

**Nay:** Pritchett, Lober, and Tobia

Chair Lober asked if someone wants to reconsider that motion for the \$500,000.

The Board authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to set aside \$500,000 to reimburse the Brevard County Zoo for qualifying expenses, after such expenses are reviewed by Tetra Tech to ensure that they qualify; authorized the Chair to execute any necessary documents; directed staff to forward qualifying expenses up to \$1,300,000 to Tetra Tech for review, as soon as provided; and directed staff to bring this back to the Board December 22, 2020, should the Zoo have any additional qualifying expenses, over the \$500,000, for consideration of allocating additional funding.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kristine Isnardi

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Lober, Smith, and Isnardi

**Nay:** Pritchett, and Tobia

Chair Lober stated for Mental Health, Circles of Care...

Mr. Golden interjected and stated the updated number for Circles of Care for the Mental Health Item is \$1,215,896.

Chair Lober asked if there was further discussion or a motion.

Commissioner Tobia asked Mr. Golden what type of a cut, and was it a State funding cut.

Mr. Golden replied it was a State funding cut; the portion of this request is a State cut by three percent; local agencies that are funded through a managing entity; that reduction equated to about \$300,000 to local mental health agencies; and the additional dollars are specific to Circles of Care Telemedicine upgrades to allow for the infrastructure for Telemedicine and staffing costs that Mr. Abbate mentioned earlier.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that he did not know that it matters, but he would support the State cut of \$300,000 but not the additional technological upgrades; and if someone wanted to bifurcate the vote, he would support the \$300,000 for the cut.

Chair Lober asked Mr. Golden for the actual dollar amount.

Mr. Golden stated the actual dollar amount is \$300,896.

Commissioner Pritchett mentioned to Commissioner Tobia she was going to ask for \$500,000; and she wanted to tell him why.

Commissioner Tobia replied she did not have to; and he was for it.

The Board authorized \$500,000 for Mental Health/Circles of Care.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated next is Aging Matters with Meals on Wheels included in that; the amount listed is \$34,400; and he asked Mr. Golden if that has changed.

Mr. Golden replied he was just given an updated number which adds \$40,000 to that for a total of \$74,400.

Commissioner Tobia asked how it comes up with this number and if it is COVID-19 related.

Mr. Golden replied it all has to be COVID-19 related; these are increases related to their food programming; and wear and tear on equipment and vehicles that do deliveries, and increase in freezer size for storage.

Commissioner Tobia stated, to be clear, this is an increase to the line item of whatever is in the budget of \$60,000.

Mr. Golden replied correct.

The Board authorized \$74,400 for Aging Matters to include Meals on Wheels.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kristine Isnardi

**Second:** Curt Smith

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated the Homeless Coalition requested \$24,662.

Mr. Golden stated if the Board chooses to take what is presented as an additional \$5,000 request, and roll that in, this could be up to the \$29,662; and that was the request that came in during public comment by Family Promise.

Commissioner Tobia inquired if Family Promise of Brevard mentioned just one family.

Commissioner Smith replied initially, when it first started, but they take in up to 16.

The Board authorized \$29,662 for the Homeless Coalition.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kristine Isnardi

**Second:** Curt Smith

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober remarked he thinks he skipped the urgent care one; he asked, in accordance with the memo that he circulated to the Board at the October 27 Commission meeting to authorize the County Manager or his designee to reimburse for qualifying expenses, up to \$5,000 per urgent care facility, located within Brevard County, irrespective of number of employees, which he does not think that part is in there, irrespective of ownership, irrespective of whether it is located within a municipality or an unincorporated portion of Brevard County and also irrespective of whether the owner or owners have received other forms of assistance from Brevard County, with the exception that individual expenses may not be reimbursed more than once through any combination of grant programs, whether it is local, State, Federal, or otherwise; he asked to include to authorize the Chair to sign any necessary documents; and he asked for a motion.

Commissioner Tobia asked if one of these urgent care clinics had already received the \$10,000 small business grant, would this give them the opportunity for another \$5,000.

Chair Lober replied that is correct.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she had to declare a voting conflict because Health First owns some urgent care facilities through Advent; and she will not be voting on this and will sign the paperwork accordingly.

The Board authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to reimburse for qualifying expenses up to \$5,000 per urgent care facility located within Brevard County, irrespective of

ownership, whether in a municipality or unincorporated Brevard County, or whether the owner(s) have received other forms of assistance from Brevard County, with the exception that individual expenses may not be reimbursed more than once through any combination of grant programs; and authorized the Chair to execute any necessary documents.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated he would go back to tourism and marketing, which is a \$750,000 proposal; and he asked Mr. Abbate if he had anything to add to that.

Mr. Abbate replied no, but he might want to hear from Peter Cranis, Tourist Development Office Director.

Chair Lober stated he felt Commissioner Tobia may have some questions on this so he would call on him first.

Commissioner Tobia stated this seemed like a veiled attempt to make up for lost revenue that may have come out of the Tourist Development Office (TDO) so he is uncomfortable when it comes to that; these funds could be used directly to fight the pandemic; he thinks that tourism, while important, certainly does not rise to the level of public safety; and he is hopefully going to give the TDO some opportunities at the meeting on Tuesday to spend them more wisely, should they decide to do that.

Chair Lober stated there is a gentleman from the Comptroller's office, who he respects, and he asked him if he would like to chime in with respect to his thoughts as to the legality, or if his office has a position with respect to the legality of this; and he noted Mr. Ellis is there too.

Scott Ellis, Brevard County Clerk of Court, inquired as to the legality of what, transferring money to the TDC.

Chair Lober replied yes.

Mr. Ellis remarked the Board has transferred money all over the County today.

Chair Lober stated with respect to this one particular item; and he asked if Mr. Ellis had any qualms with it as far as the legality of it.

Mr. Ellis replied if he does, he will let the Board know afterwards.

Chair Lober stated he would like to avoid costing the taxpayers money and lawsuits and things of that nature, so if there is a concern, he would appreciate a heads-up as it may change the way he votes.

Steve Burdett, Finance Director, Brevard County Clerk of Court, stated his only comment is that he kind-of shares what Commissioner Tobia was saying, that it looked like they are replacing lost revenues; it would be up to the Commission to decide that this is actually carrying out a purpose related to COVID-19, the health and safety issues; and that is his only concern.

Chair Lober stated he is sold on this one; he was unsure earlier for that reason; and if someone else wants to make a motion, he will accept it.



Commissioner Pritchett stated she did have a motion she wanted to put out there after listening to the conversations; she stated each Commissioner of every district to be allocated \$5 million to do what they would like to do; she would like to give hers to Parrish, Commissioner Smith could give it to Health First, Chair Lober could do the Port, and Commissioners Tobia and Isnardi could pick; she thinks because of personal reasons, some things were overlooked, things that she thinks are very important for the Board to fund; and she made a motion that each Commissioner be given \$5 million to allocate to their District on something that is appropriate, and COVID-19 related.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Pritchett if she would consider modifying that to mandate that the distribution be to items that are evaluated and considered by Tetra Tech to be low-risk.

Commissioner Pritchett replied yes.

Commissioner Tobia asked how much money is left over since the Board is throwing millions of dollars around here; he stated this creates all sorts of obvious problems; he asked what happens if a Commissioner wanted to do something crazy, like something he would do, like spend money on Fire Rescue that benefits the entire County instead of an entity that is located exclusively within a Commission District; he stated it is time to get out of their individual Commission Districts and start looking out for the entire Brevard County; and when these pots of money are created, it becomes absolutely ridiculous, and it has to be bad for staff. He added that the Board found a way to put the money in that Public Safety Fund and it will go to Fire Safety and the Sheriff.

Chair Lober remarked that he really wanted to be nice to Commissioner Tobia and he is struggling with it at the moment, because as far as making the pitch that the Board needs to do things that benefit the entire County, the items that benefited a substantial portion of the County that did not have the same overlap with his District, he was very quick to dismiss earlier; it seems to him that the argument is seeking to achieve the opposite; and things that benefit District 3 or portions of the County that also include District 3, and it strikes him the wrong way.

Commissioner Tobia stated that argument is completely flaccid in so much as he wants to give it to the public safety fund; his portion will go to the public safety fund; he would hope everyone would do the same; the Board just gave \$200,000 to dogs because it was important to a Commissioner, which is fine; but he does not even know how much money is left.

Chair Lober remarked yes, it was important to him but the two organizations were not selected because he just happened to like them; these are organizations that perform a service that would otherwise fall to the County; he does not recall giving either of those two organizations a penny of his own money, but he has given a lot of money to animal rescue organizations; but none of them have shelters, which is why those two were selected.

Commissioner Tobia stated he was going to lose this one; and he asked Commissioner Pritchett how she chose \$5 million, why not spend it all.

Commissioner Pritchett replied he was saying this is District specific, and they are, so there is an opportunity for other District specifics; this is important as there were so many personal things going on with this on projects that should have been approved; she thought this would be good and each Commissioner can do what they need to do that is felt to be important in their own District, using the criteria that it is low-risk and benefiting the community; and she really likes this motion.

Chair Lober stated if someone feels compelled, Commissioner Tobia for instance, to put this toward BCFR exclusively, there is nothing that precludes him from doing that; and he does not see any issue with that.

Mr. Abbate stated he faults himself for this; when he did the presentation, he mentioned one item but the Board did not take action on it, and it was not really written separately; that was the \$11.2 million for the EMS transport going into the fire fund; he does not know if the Board wanted to deal with that issue, but when going through the list, it was not listed there; and before that is considered, which is \$11.2 million, there is \$49,604,683 left to consider.

Chair Lober inquired what is left as far as the amount after, assuming the Board allocated the \$11,136, 356.

Mr. Abbate replied it would leave \$38 million, and if the Board did \$5 million each, that would put approximately \$13 million into the Public Safety fund; and then whatever is done with the \$5 million each, that number could go up.

Chair Lober stated he had spoken with Mr. Abbate prior about doing BCFR as one pot and BCSO as another pot; and he is not opposed to combining them.

Mr. Abbate stated the \$8.8 million would still be a separate pot for BCSO.

Chair Lober stated he wanted to be certain that, as to the Countywide EMS transport costs, the Board allocates everything that it is entitled to allocate for that, as that benefits everyone.

Mr. Abbate stated that would be the \$11.2 million and that was not addressed separately.

Chair Lober stated with respect to this, there is more than ample funding left over to allocate that and still have money to look at; and there is a motion and a second.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked she is uncomfortable not knowing where it is financially; she needs to see a spreadsheet with some numbers on it because this is all over the damn place; and she does not like any of this.

Mr. Abbate replied those are the numbers.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked what she is saying is the numbers are being messed with and she does not know how much money is left.

Chair Lober stated there is about \$38 million left; and asked if that is not correct.

Jill Hayes, Budget Director, stated it started out with \$51.1 million and she has been keeping a tally along with clerks in the Budget Office, and she can give a recap; \$2.2 million in individual assistance, \$1.5 million in small business support, \$3,593,928 was unallocated to the School Board and given a max of \$4 million, \$190,000 for animal rescue groups, \$500,000 for the zoo; \$500,000 for mental health/Circles of Care, \$130,000 for urgent care, \$74,400 for Aging Matters/Meals on Wheels, and \$29,662 for the Homeless Coalition/Family Promise of Brevard; it is now at \$49,604,683; and with \$11,136,356 for EMS Transport, that would leave \$38,468,327 available, and she has it in a spreadsheet.

Chair Lober stated there is a motion and a second on the floor, unless the motion is withdrawn...

Commissioner Tobia interjected he had a question.

Chair Lober replied to make it brief.

Commissioner Tobia stated he just Googled strip clubs in Brevard County and he sees there are six; he asked Commissioner Pritchett if she would be comfortable with him going to them and saying there are CARES Act dollars available and the Board has authorized him to find out what they may be eligible for; and, assuming that comes back that they are eligible, he asked her if she would be on-board with that.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Commissioner Tobia what planet he was on with that; and she stated the Board is talking about hospitals and the Port...

Commissioner Tobia interjected that she just gave discretion to do whatever as long as...

Commissioner Pritchett interjected that it has to be low-risk, and those are small businesses so if they already put in for that, they could be run through...

Chair Lober stated he is going to Call the Question; he apologized as he does not think this is productive; and he stated this is to authorize the individual Commissioners to spend up to \$5 million each, anywhere in the County, and evaluated by Tetra Tech and found to be low-risk.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, and Smith

**Nays:** Tobia and Isnardi

Commissioner Isnardi stated now there is \$5 million for each of their Districts and she will say that she wants her \$5 million to go to the Public Safety fund.

Mr. Ellis stepped up to the podium and stated the Board could not do what it just did.

Chair Lober asked why.

Mr. Ellis replied it is not the Board's \$5 million, or her \$5 million, or his \$5 million; he stressed it does not belong to anyone on this Board; he stated they are welcome to go home and make a \$5 million wish list to bring back to the Board to approve; then he does not care if the vote is 5:0 and all the wish lists are approved; but none of the Board members are empowered to pick out \$5 million worth of expenditures on their own.

Chair Lober asked Shannon Wilson, Assistant County Attorney, if the Board is able to delegate that authority.

Attorney Wilson replied the Board has the ability to delegate authority to an individual Commissioner to make decisions of this nature.

Mr. Ellis asked without Board approval.

Attorney Wilson replied the Board just approved it.

Mr. Ellis remarked he would just see them in court, because all he sees is a \$25 million slush fund; even with the Beach and Riverfront, and Attorney Bentley and Mr. Abbate were here for

that, it still had to come before the Board with the individual slush funds on Beach and Riverfront; and it finally got rid of that in the early 90's.

Attorney Wilson stated it has been stipulated that it has to be COVID-19 related and approved by Tetra Tech as low-risk; and she appreciates his difference.

Mr. Ellis stated it could approve whatever, but the Board should not delegate that down to the individual Commissioners to have the ability to spend that money.

Chair Lober stated he appreciated Mr. Ellis' viewpoint, but there is legal counsel here and he has to go with the counsel.

Mr. Ellis remarked he is used to being in court with Chair Lober, so it is no big deal; and they will be back in court again because it is not going to have \$5 million slush funds for each Commissioner in this room to spend as they choose.

Chair Lober asked Mr. Ellis to at least wait until he sees where the allocations go because it may be totally wholesome that he would have no objection to.

Mr. Ellis replied if it was totally wholesome, then it should be voted on as a Board and it does not need to be done this way; they are easily able to each come up with their \$5 million wish list, walk in as a Board, each present their list, and vote as a Board to approve all five of those wish lists.

Chair Lober stated he did not disagree but that is not what the Board chose to do.

Mr. Ellis stated what the Board is doing is enticing to corruption when it has the ability to spend \$5 million as they each choose.

Chair Lober stated to that end, anyone who reaches out to him for funds, from this point on, will not get a leg-up but a leg-down in terms of their likelihood of receiving them; he will reach out to the entities that he thinks need the money; as far as the suggestion there is some enticement for corruption, he is just not interested in that.

Mr. Ellis remarked he did not know if he was interested in it or not; the former Clerk stated he was not interested in corruption either until he got there and had the ability to spend the money as he chose.

Chair Lober stated he is telling him that he is not.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she knows what the Board is trying to achieve; she wanted to try three motions and see if this works; and that could probably settle all of it.

Mr. Ellis stated he understood what she was trying to achieve also.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Pritchett to tell him what she is thinking before it undoes things.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is going to make a motion to give \$5 million to Health First, a motion to give \$5 million to Parrish, and a motion to give \$5 million to the Port; she thinks that would solve it.

Mr. Ellis remarked then it would be voting as a Board.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that would get it done because she knows that is where it wants to allocate it.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked this is like a circus.

Mr. Ellis stated it is extremely dangerous to give anybody the power to spend \$5 million of public money any way they choose.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would like to make a motion to give \$5 million to Health First.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she has to abstain from that and going on record; and she will fill out the form.

Chair Lober stated his concern with that is that the Board has already delegated \$5 million each and if that passes...

Commissioner Pritchett interjected she would pull that back.

Chair Lober replied there needs to be a motion to reconsider.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she wanted to make a motion to reconsider...

Commissioner Smith interjected to rescind that vote.

Commissioner Pritchett stated a motion to rescind that vote.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would like to make a motion to give \$5 million to Health First.

Chair Lober asked if it already had that motion.

Attorney Wilson asked if that could be amended to include COVID-19 related and approved by Tetra Tech.

Chair Lober asked before doing that, if there is not a prohibition in Robert's Rules on having the same exact motion heard the second time during the same meeting.

Commissioner Smith remarked this is going to be a combined motion.

Commissioner Pritchett stated it does not seem to hit Robert's Rules at all.

Chair Lober stated to Attorney Bentley that he does not think ever in his tenure had the same motion come up twice.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked it was just done the other night with Commissioner Smith approving it after denying it once.

Chair Lober stated it was actually different individual motions; and one was trifurcated, as he recalls.

Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to give \$4,999,000 to Health First.

Chair Lober remarked that is creative and he likes it.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she wanted to go on the record because she has to abstain.

Chair Lober stated the Board can see that as being a standing objection, Commissioner Isnardi.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she had to state that for every motion.

Attorney Wilson interjected subject to being COVID-19 related and vetted by Tetra Tech.

Chair Lober stated there is a second from Commissioner Smith and asked for any discussion; and he Called the Question.

**Result:** Denied

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Seconder:** Curt Smith

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Smith

**Nays:** Lober, Tobia

**Abstain:** Isnardi

Commissioner Smith stated it is going nowhere.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Pritchett if she wanted to try Parrish.

Commissioner Pritchett replied it is not going to pass; that is what it had; everyone had their thing, but they all knew there were good things to do; and if each member had \$5 million, they were going to do it anyways.

Commissioner Isnardi reiterated this is like a circus.

Chair Lober stated it really needs to be figured out; if it wants to go back to the \$5 million motion, it could do that again, and he would support that again; and he thinks they could all fund their respective causes.

Commissioner Smith asked why not make a motion with all three in the same motion.

Chair Lober replied he would vote against it; and he is just telling him that anything that includes that allocation of Health First, he will vote against it.

Commissioner Smith asked him how he really feels.

Chair Lober replied he just did not want the Board to waste time on it; and he advised if it had the votes otherwise, by all means.

Commissioner Smith stated Commissioner Isnardi cannot vote because Health First would be included with Parrish and the Port.

Chair Lober stated to Commissioner Smith respectfully, it is not going to happen today.

Commissioner Smith remarked okay.

Commissioner Isnardi stated that is okay because one will suffer because of another's...

Commissioner Smith responded right, exactly, so all three suffer.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is sorry, and made a motion for each Commission to have \$5 million dollars that is appropriate for COVID-19 funds to spend on appropriate low-risk projects.

Chair Lober seconded the motion and Called the Question; and he stated this was almost comical.

The Board authorized a \$5,000,000 allocation to each Commissioner to spend within the County, subject to being COVID-related, vetted by Tetra Tech, and to be qualified as low-risk.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Secunder:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, and Smith

**Nays:** Tobia, Isnardi

Commissioner Isnardi stated now the Board is forced to have \$5 million each in their Districts.

Commissioner Tobia stated so it can be put on the table, his \$5 million will be going to the Public Safety Fund; and he stated to add the \$5 million, that way it will serve Countywide.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she wanted to make a motion that Commissioner Tobia's \$5 million and Commissioner Isnardi's \$5 million that was allocated in the previous motion go towards the Public Safety Fund; and she asked if that sounded correct

Commissioner Tobia stated no, she did not need a motion; this is done individually; and it is her \$5 million.

Chair Lober stated she did not need a motion for that.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked oh, Jesus.

Commissioner Tobia stated to just throw it in the pot.

Chair Lober asked Attorney Bentley if an additional motion was needed to authorize the Chair to sign any documents or to authorize the County Manager to sign any documents necessary to effectuate that action.

Attorney Bentley replied he had already made that motion.

Chair Lober remarked he was sorry, it is becoming a long day; and he apologized.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would make a motion that she is putting hers towards Parrish hospital, so the Board would know right now.

Chair Lober stated no motion needed but he thinks it is an excellent expenditure; with respect to his, he wants to mull it over and not do it impulsively; although, he thinks that was not at all an impulsive decision with respect to where that went; he thinks those have all been excellent decisions in his opinion, but he does want to think it over; and if someone reaches out to him seeking funds for this, partially for the reasons Mr. Ellis identified, he is not going to view that very favorably. He added he wants to do some research on his own and determine where he thinks it is going to generate the most benefit for the County.

Commissioner Tobia asked Commissioner Smith what he was thinking.

Commissioner Smith replied he thinks they are all crazy.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that is by virtue of being here; and he asked where Commissioner Smith was going to spend his \$5 million and if he had any ideas.

Chair Lober stated there is a half an hour until the Zoning meeting, so...

Commissioner Smith replied he would think on it; \$5 million all of a sudden...

Chair Lober stated this has certainly been an interesting meeting; and he asked Mr. Abbate if there was anything further that had to be decided, or what else needs to be looked at.

Commissioner Tobia asked if the Board needed to create the Public Safety Fund for the dollars that are not expended to be put into.

Chair Lober responded he would love for that to be a motion; he stated to make sure it has covered all the bases first, then he is happy to allocate everything left over; and his request, with respect to that, if Commissioner Pritchett would be so kind.

Commissioner Pritchett stated so moved.

Commissioner Smith seconded.

Chair Lober asked if he could hear the motion first before hearing a second.

Commissioner Smith replied he knows what it says.

Chair Lober stated he would just read it for the public that have not had access to this that was passed out during the meeting and given to the clerks; and he read "In accordance with the memo that I provided the Board, during the October 27 BOCC meeting, authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to reimburse up to \$11,136,356 over and above the existing \$1,253,555 listed as already obligated in relation to approve Countywide EMS Transport costs, for an aggregate total of \$12,389,911. Motion will allow the Chair to sign any documents necessary to effectuate this action. The motion also contemplates that funds to be reimbursed will not be deposited in the General Fund. They will remain set-aside under the deposit account or fund, in which the future use shall be restricted to Brevard County Fire and Rescue expenses." He stated that is the motion Commissioner Pritchett, and asked Commissioner Smith if that was his second; and seeing nods from both he Called the Question.

The Board authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to reimburse up to \$11,136,356 over and above the existing \$1,253,555 already obligated in relation to the approved Countywide EMS Transport costs for an aggregate total of \$12,389,911; and authorized the Chair to sign any necessary documents to effectuate this action, and contemplates that funds



to be reimbursed will not be deposited into the General Fund, they will remain set aside in a deposit account or fund in which the future use shall be restricted to Brevard County Fire Rescue expenses.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Curt Smith

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Mr. Abbate stated there was one additional Item; he wanted to be clear on it because it was in the PowerPoint and it was discussed; he indicated earlier on that the County was partners with both Health First and Parrish as it related to COVID-19 testing; the number he has here is \$44,000 but Health First is submitting additional dollars; and he would put that in that obligated column what was reimbursable for the testing.

Chair Lober asked if that was not already authorized by prior Board action.

Mr. Abbate remarked in light of everything, he just wanted to make sure everyone was comfortable with that.

Chair Lober stated he is not looking to backtrack on any commitments the Board has made; and he wanted to be clear about that.

Mr. Abbate stated he believes it is a commitment, but he just wanted to let the Board know that is how he would be proceeding.

Chair Lober stated that is how he sees it as well; he is not looking to be unfair to any entity; and he thinks that is appropriate.

Chair Lober asked if there were any objections other than Commissioner Isnardi; none were heard; and he asked Mr. Abbate if there were any further Items that he thinks absolutely need to be discussed.

Mr. Abbate stated he thinks it has done quite a bit.

Chair Lober asked with respect to the remaining funds, if he may have a motion to allocate them to the Public Safety Fund.

The Board authorized the remaining CARES Act funding to be allocated and placed in the Public Safety Fund.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

## **V. BOARD REPORTS**

### **V5. John Tobia, Commissioner District 3**

Commissioner Tobia thanked the staff and stated he would like to add pig, partridge, piranha, puma, and puffer fish.

**V6. Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4**

Commissioner Smith stated he wanted to congratulate the winners on Tuesday; good job; well done; and it will be nice to have them around another two years.

**V7. Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5**

Commissioner Isnardi stated congratulations to her fellow Commissioners.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

ATTEST:



RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK



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

As approved by Board March 23, 2021.