

# **Brevard County Board of County Commissioners**

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940*



## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**Regular**

**Commission Chambers**

**A. CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM**

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

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Goodson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**D. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

The Board approved the January 14, February 11, and February 25, 2025, Regular meeting minutes.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**E.2. Resolution Acknowledging and Honoring Commander K9 Junny in His Faithful Service to Brevard County Sheriff's Office**

Chairman Feltner read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-021, acknowledging and honoring Commander K-9 Junny in his faithful service to Brevard County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Wayne Ivey, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, expressed his appreciation for the Resolution recognizing Junny; he stated this has been probably the toughest couple of weeks of his life; no one imagined what Junny's persona would become in Brevard County, and all of the things that he did, from being involved with allowing pets to be in domestic violence injunctions, to helping protect animals, to helping many different programs; Junny did it all; he thanked the Board for recognizing not only Junny, but the legacy that carries on of Junny Rios Martinez; and he also wanted to thank the citizens for the out pouring of love, thoughts, and prayers that everyone has thrown to the Sheriff's Office. He noted it is no secret that dog went with him everywhere and he is honored to accept this Resolution on his behalf; and he reiterated the appreciation for how much this Board and the community loved Junny; and it has eased the pain of losing him.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**E.1. Resolution Recognizing April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Commissioner Altman read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-022, recognizing April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

A representative of Child Prevention expressed her appreciation for the recognition; she mentioned they plant pinwheels in honor of Brevard's children; it represents a happy, healthy, whimsical child and that is what every child in Brevard County deserves; the Child Abuse

Prevention Task Force of Brevard is made up of wonderful organizations represented here today, Children's Advocacy Center, Guardian Ad Litem, Family Partnerships of Central Florida, and many others that are working tirelessly to ensure that the children are growing up happy and healthy; and they thank the community again, for supporting this initiative that the pinwheel does represent, and that people can make a difference.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Commissioner Altman stated he wants to thank those who have dedicated their lives to protect the children, there is no greater cause or greater purpose than protecting the children and ensuring they are given the fullest lives possible.

### **E.3. Resolution Proclaiming April 2025 as Fair Housing Month**

Commissioner Delaney read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-023, recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Month.

Rusty Melle, a representative of Space Coast Association of Realtors expressed his appreciation for the Resolution; and he stated everyone knows what a fundamental right and the importance of this for the workforce and families in Brevard County.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

### **E.4. Presentation by United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to Provide an Update to Environmental Assessment and Response for the Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area Designated as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)**

Marc Bernath stated on February 7, 2023 the Board authorized the right-of-entry to begin an environmental assessment for the former Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area in South Patrick Shores; and tonight Rebecca Lee Duffle from the Army Corp of Engineers and Brad Tompa are here to briefly present next steps which include digging test pits in the community later this month.

Rebecca Lee Duffle, Project Manager for the Formerly Used Defense Site, stated these are the conclusions from the preliminary assessment; right now where they are in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) phase is Remedial Investigation (RI); that is what is being done with the test pits right now; the reason for the RI, it is not a removal action, they are not looking for things to remove, but to identify the nature and extent of potential Navy-related impacts; the results and data from this Feasibility Study (FS) is going to determine what is done in the future at this site; she explained it is hard to see, but the test pits are on the map; they use ground-penetrating radar to find the best locations to dig the test pits; and they have gotten property owner's permission to do the test pits. She continued by saying they will document conditions before and after, mark utilities, and there will be a small excavator to dig the trench, which will be about 10 feet and go down about six to eight feet; once that data is received, it will determine the next steps which would be soil sampling, analysis, and groundwater sampling, if necessary; there has been a lot of

communication with the public, letters, postcards, drop in meetings, and telephone calls; the test pits are starting April 2025, they will start next week in the field; she and Mr. Tompa will be there to do oversight; and based on those results, they will do soil borings in the summer of 2025.

Commissioner Delaney thanked Ms. Duffle for the update; and she asked if this is Satellite Beach.

Ms. Duffle confirmed it is.

Commissioner Delaney asked if any of the test pits are going to be on the high school.

Ms. Duffle advised they are not.

Chairman Feltner stated obviously once they compile all of that information then they will have to decide what that means; and he asked if she would tell the Board what happens next.

Ms. Duffle replied they will have to analyze the data and then, maybe, Summer 2025, they will start the borings; and after that, it would be a few months to get the data back from that.

Chairman Feltner asked if they will have some answers by Christmas from the Army Corp on this sampling.

Ms. Duffle responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Delaney asked if they find some troubling data points, is there any thought to check the schools over there because she has been to a couple RAB board meetings, so she knows that is a huge concern.

Ms. Duffle stated she is trying to understand the question; and she noted they are not doing a test pit at the school, but is the Commissioner saying if they find something...

Commissioner Delaney inquired if they will expand at all or is it just in that target area that was shown on the maps.

Ms. Duffle responded this is just for the initial test pits; based on the results, there could be more test pits; but, they do not have those locations yet.

Commissioner Goodson commented usually it follows the water tables, as far as flow, if there is some sort of pollutant; and he asked if that is correct.

Ms. Duffle asked, follows the what.

Commissioner Goodson stated water table as far as flow plumes, correct.

Ms. Duffle responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Goodson asked which way is the plume going naturally down there, does it go to the river, the ocean, or south.

Ms. Duffle responded to the ocean.

Brad Tompa responded they really do not know yet.

Chairman Feltner asked for Mr. Tompa to come to the mic for the benefit of the people at home.

Ms. Duffle advised he is the technical lead.

Mr. Tompa stated they really do not know the flow; there are no monitoring wells in yet; they assume it may be tidily influenced a bit, but it is probably relatively flat because it is sand; and they just do not know. He commented to the question about the school, the footprint that one sees is based on historical aerial imagery of what he knows of the extent of where the material may have been buried by the Navy so that is kind of where they are focusing their study for this phase.

Commissioner Goodson asked if Mr. Tompa knows what was buried there.

Mr. Tompa responded he has no idea.

Commissioner Goodson asked, no idea.

Mr. Tompa confirmed he has no idea. He noted it was an uncontrolled dump since World War II.

Commissioner Goodson commented, correct.

Mr. Tompa stated that is the purpose of what they are doing; preliminary work was done in early 2000 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and the good part of that is they did not find any contaminants in the groundwater or soil.

Chairman Feltner asked if Mr. Tompa has done this type of work in other places, other FUDS.

Mr. Tompa replied similar projects, not this exact one, but similar.

Chairman Feltner noted he will not ask Mr. Tompa to predict the outcome, but just the path that some of those have taken before.

Mr. Tompa advised it is highly variable; he did something similar in Puerto Rico with trenches, sampling, and monitoring wells of an old landfill; and as bad as it looked, they really did not find any contaminants.

Chairman Feltner asked if the Army Corp were to find something, what is the remediation; and is that something the Army Corp would be tasked with.

Mr. Tompa explained if that phase came along they would definitely develop a plan for that as well.

Chairman Feltner inquired if that is soil removal; and he stated he is not asking the typical because he understands each one of these is different; he gets that the barrier island is different than some other places that he has been; and he asked if that is a starting point.

Mr. Tompa responded there are multiple ways; he stated this is the early starting point; but if there is problematic soil contaminants, then yes, it would have to be addressed.

Commissioner Altman stated he sees the map of the area, slide five, and he asked is the green area the area where Mr. Tompa had received the right-of-entry.

Mr. Tompa responded in the affirmative. He stated those are the properties where people have agreed to let them do either the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) on their property or do a test pit.

Commissioner Altman asked if there are any property owners who said no.

Mr. Tompa responded affirmatively. He stated this is just the property area; if one would imagine, this area being outlined would be the entire area, one can see there are some parcels within the area that are not green; and those are the people who have declined to have the work done.

Commissioner Delaney stated she hates to put Mr. Tompa on the spot here, but she feels like it is a little disingenuous saying that there is probably not contamination in this area.

Mr. Tompa noted that is why they are there; they are not predetermining anything; the slides that were put up shows the CERCLA process is a very rigorous process of getting to a point where it is determined how to do the investigation, and what to investigate for; the Board is only seeing two people, there is a team of people in Jacksonville and Huntsville, on the Army Corp side, and then there are the contractors, their scientists, and their engineers who have been developing these plans; they have been reviewing them and making sure they are going to address those questions; therefore, it is a very rigorous development of what they are going to be analyzing for and how many samples they will be taking.

Commissioner Delaney asked if he is aware that there are residents who have dug in their own yards and that they have had massive side effects from the things they have dug up in their yards.

Mr. Tompa stated he knows people have dug material up, but he is not sure of any health issues.

Commissioner Delaney advised she is telling him now, just so he knows. She commented the residents here are very aware of what is going on in this area.

Mr. Tompa stated that is why he is glad to do this; it seems like it is taking a long time, but the process that has to be gone through to make sure the money is spent correctly, one develops a very good plan, then works the plan, and moves on; it is a sequential plan; and step-by-step they move forward as they gather information.

Chairman Feltner asked if there was a serious weather event late spring, early summer, how would that affect things for them as Mr. Tompa commented summer is when they will be doing the boring.

Mr. Tompa stated basically the first task is the test pits; based on this information, they are kind of using this information to prove what was found in the GPR studies; the GPR studies were done six months ago, which identified possible buried material; these test pits are going to go to those areas; and they are going to dig up, see what is found, and then based on that, they can use the borings to go to other areas and do borings and see what material they find there.

Chairman Feltner thanked Mr. Tompa and Ms. Duffle for coming.

## **F. CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Delaney requested to pull appointments, not to do anything other than she would love for her appointee to introduce herself, if that is okay with the Board.

Chairman Feltner advised the Board will oblige, Commissioner Delaney will introduce her appointee, and then the Board will take a motion for the entire Consent Agenda.

### **F.6. Appointment(s) / Reappointment(s)**

Commissioner Delaney stated Marcia Gaedcke is going to be her appointee to the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC); she is excited to work with her; and she thanked her for serving in this role.

Marcia Gaedcke stated she is a lifelong resident of Titusville; she has worked for almost the last 30 years in the community in some form or fashion; primarily, in developing the community, and on the business development side, as the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Titusville; she is now at the Titusville Playhouse; she is excited to be able to work with many of her friends again in the community; and she looks forward to representing Commissioner Delaney and this Board at the EDC and making good things happen in Brevard County.

### **F.1. Final Plat and Contract Approval, Re: Village 2, Neighborhood 2 - Phase 2 Developer: The Viera Company**

The Board granted final plat approval for Village 2, Neighborhood 2 – Phase 2, Developer: The Viera Company; and authorized the Chair to sign the final plat and Contract for Village 2, Neighborhood 2 – Phase 2, Developer: The Viera Company, subject to minor engineering changes as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all other necessary jurisdictional permits.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

### **F.2. Final Plat Approval, Re: Aripeka at Viera - Phase 2A, Developer: The Viera Company**

The Board granted final plat approval for Aripeka at Viera – Phase 2A, Developer: The Viera Company; and authorized the Chair to sign the final plat for Aripeka at Viera – Phase 2A, Developer: The Viera Company, subject to minor engineering changes as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all other necessary jurisdictional permits.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

### **F.3. Adopt Resolution and Release Performance Bond: Farallon Fields at Viera - Phase 2, Developer: The Viera Company**

The Board adopted Resolution No. 25-024, releasing the Contract and Surety Performance Bond dated May 7, 2024, Farallon Fields at Viera Phase 2, Developer: The Viera Company.

**Result:** Adopted  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Thad Altman  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.4. Adopt Resolution and Release Performance Bond: Farallon Fields at Viera - Phase 3, Developer: The Viera Company**

The Board executed and adopted Resolution No. 25-025, releasing the Contract and Surety Performance Bond dated January 28, 2025, Farallon Fields at Viera Phase 3, Developer: The Viera Company.

**Result:** Adopted  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Thad Altman  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.5. Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Revolving Line of Credit Agreement Between the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority ("Authority") and Truist Bank Extending the Maturity Date and Increasing the Available Credit**

The Board adopted Resolution No. 25-026, approving an amendment to the 2021 Revolving Line of Credit Agreement between the Authority and Truist Bank.

**Result:** Adopted  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Thad Altman  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.6. Appointment(s) / Reappointment(s)**

The Board appointed/reappointed **Lori Alvord** to the Central and South Brevard Public Library Advisory Board, with said term to expire on April 8, 2027; **Jeffrey McLean, Mary Jane Nail, Janice Scott, and Tracy Thompson** to the Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with said terms to expire December 31, 2026; **Dan Dvorak** to District 2 Canal Dredging Committee, with said term to expire December 31, 2028; **Marcia Gaedcke** to the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, with said term to expire December 31, 2025; **James Shackelford** to the Historical Commission, with said term to expire April 8, 2027; **Robert Brothers** to the Planning and Zoning Board, with said term to expire on April 8, 2027; **Gary Loduca and Harry "Skip" Taylor** to the South Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with said terms to expire on April 8, 2027; **John Moran** to the Tourist Development Council, with said term to expire on April 8, 2027; and **Ginger Twigg** to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizens Advisory Committee, with said term to expire April 8, 2027.

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Thad Altman  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.7. Bill Folder**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Bill Folder.



**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

## **G. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jane Higgins stated she presented to the Board last month at the Citizen's Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendations (CEER) Workshop and she just wanted to share some additional information that was found, because this is a journey, learning about Low Impact Development (LID); on the second slide, these are right off the Brevard County LID Retrofit Guide which she found, and she does not know if the Board is aware of the Brevard County LID Retrofit Guide, she was not, so it was interesting to find that document; on the next slide, what is the good news, it basically was finding that document that was prepared in 2020; it is a Retrofit Guide for commercial and light industrial facilities; it is a very thorough guide dealing with those and it is out on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) site; she has the link out there and it is an excellent reference for all things environmental in the State of Florida; and also she was very impressed with the Brevard County Natural Resources Management stormwater public education site, it incorporates many of the LID principles. She noted it is not called LID, but it is very LID-oriented; there are great resources on the FDEP; she wanted to give a shout out to the many Florida, Brevard County Parks out here that are using native plants, which are a key component of LID; the Board may be familiar with the Enchanted Forest up north, it is just a treasure; they work a lot with Erna Nixon and Conradina; the Rotary Park at Suntree was featured on the landscape tour last year and has a lot of great plants on it; and then she placed a page for suggestions for future considerations. She commented as the Board is going through all of these CEERS, now that they are available to the public, she really appreciates the opportunity for that input; 12 CEERS just on LID she thought that was awesome, as well as several other recommendations; the last slide points out the difference between Florida-friendly landscaping and Florida native plants because it is an important differentiation between those two; native plants are within Florida-friendly, but Florida-friendly encompasses more than just the native; and it is very important environmentally to understand those differences.

Chairman Feltner asked if the plants that grow between the cracks of the sidewalk, that people do not necessarily want there, are native or friendly.

Ms. Higgins commented she would have to know what they were specifically; chances are they might be neither, they may be invasive.

Chairman Feltner announced he has some that are very determined and he always thinks that should be the lawn because that is what wants to be there.

Ms. Higgins commented many grasses are invasive in fact, and she looks forward to the CEER analysis.

Christina Fleming stated she is in attendance not as a retired firefighter, but as a firefighter's wife, a voice for the silent sufferers in this community; she stands before the Board, not just as a spouse, but as someone who sees firsthand the incredible strain that mandatory overtime and understaffing are placing on the men and women who serve as the County's firefighters, as well as, on their families; the spouses are the unsung heroes; they are the ones who are expected to juggle multiple roles, roles that no one sees, but are crucial to keeping his or her family afloat; they are the Uber drivers, the chefs, the doctors and nurses, the housekeepers, the lawn maintenance workers, the handymen when things break and their husbands and wives

are at work; they are the teachers, and also the therapists; and now, for some of them, they have to play the roles even more because his or her spouse is working more hours, covering more shifts, and sacrificing their time and wellbeing just to make ends meet. She went on to say, it is not just about the long hours, for some it is the emotional toll of balancing their role as a firefighter, while simultaneously carrying the weight of home life without the support of their partner; there are now firefighters working whose spouses have died, are dying, or are just ill, which leaves them with even more responsibility; all of this, while the pay for a Brevard County employee, particularly a firefighter, simply does not stretch far enough and when other sources of income are unavailable or scarce, it forces them to stretch every dollar; they are doing everything they can to create a budget that meets the basic needs, food, shelter, utilities, and healthcare; but in these times of rising prices, even these are bare necessities and are becoming harder and harder to maintain. She continued by saying the County has been in a state of critical need for far too long and yet nothing seems to be done except for kicking the can down the road; their spouses have been forced to work longer and harder, but for less; now with the recent news of Orlando Health closing its Rockledge facility, their spouses are going to feel the added pressure of even fewer resources for the community; this decision is going to put an additional strain on them both physically and emotionally; she has two questions; the Board is asking tonight for one district to give up funding, and she asked why the Board is not asking each district to get rid of their extraneous monies as she is sure all of them have a few million dollars to spare; and why has the County not made a decision on the fire department funding wages and the response models yet. She noted as a community, it should be doing everything it can to support the first responders, not pushing them to their limits without addressing the root causes of this ongoing issue; it is time to stop waiting and take the action; these firefighters are not just the backbone of this community, but the ones who keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes; she urges the Board to take immediate action to address the understaffing and mandatory overtime that is harming, not just the firefighters, but their families as well; and this community depends on these brave men and women, as their spouses are silently bearing the weight of the sacrifices they are making. She stated it is time for the spouses to stand up and ensure they are supported in the ways they deserve.

Steve Bruch stated he will be extremely brief; he just wanted to introduce himself for those who he has not had the pleasure of meeting; he is a resident of Satellite Beach and has applied to be on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee; he has been able to meet with some of the Board Members; he just wanted to put a face with the name; he thinks it has to go through Department recognition, but hopefully it will be voted on sometime in the future; and he submitted his information and inquired if the Board has that. He advised his background is with Habitat for Humanity; he would advocate for affordable housing being part of that for attainable home ownership being a part of that affordable housing equation; he does bring many years of experience in government board, experience in tax financing authority, and redevelopment authority at County level; he would appreciate a vote on that; he looks forward to being a part of the conversation; and he repeated he just wanted to put a face with the name, Steve Bruch with Space Coast Habitat.

Commissioner Delaney thanked Mr. Bruch for what he does; she commented as far as affordable housing goes, his mission is awesome, getting people into homeownership; and in her opinion, that is what should be focused on.

Mr. Bruch stated he appreciates that enormously; it is definitely an 'and' conversation where there are so many different avenues of affordable housing, it is not an 'or' conversation between rental, but an 'and' conversation; and he is just trying to keep that at the forefront of the conversation.

Janice Scott stated she wants to bring up one topic that has been in the national news lately; she is a third generation descendent from the construction of the Panama Canal; the Board may not know, but the Panama Canal was given in a treaty to a military dictator Omar Torrijos by one Senate vote; Senator Dennis DeConcini voted to give away the Panama Canal, and it was the deciding vote; she is a former elected official, Mayor of Cocoa Beach, and she knows the value of a vote; that one vote; it is a big impact on other things that happen; as one moves on from that thing that was voted on, to what somebody else does; she is an avid advocate for no taxation; she does not believe that it is imperative of the community, the Economic Development Council of Florida's Space Coast (EDC), and all of these other things that go on, to give a tax abatement to a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), whatever they are; and after one makes that vote, people will never see where that money is going and being passed on to someone else, it is really very difficult. She continued by saying she wanted to address the turtle nesting in Cocoa Beach; between March 1 and October, there are 75,000 turtle nests on Brevard beaches; the Tourist Development Council (TDC) gave \$50,000 to a superboat race, Thunder on the Beach in Cocoa Beach; she realizes, and the Board may have heard that she talks about it a lot, but she is not against all of the fun on the beach, what she is against is the date of the race, May 18 to May 20; she feels very strongly that the State, the County, and the Cities should be consistent; people are badgered all the time to turn out their lights, close the curtains on the beach it is turtle nesting season, but there can be a boat race where a one-half ton boat can zoom up and down and hit a 2,000 pound object; it is going to be sad when that happens and she believes it has happened in the past; it was kept very quiet and kept on the 'down low' without the race being shut down; but why go through that and not just move the date of the race to some other time.

Elizabeth Blackford stated she is a 2015 graduate of Brevard County's Citizen Academy; this year she participated in the Speak Up Brevard program for the first time, submitting two suggestions and elaborating on them during the March 3 Workshop; while the program has generated great ideas since its inception in 2010, she found the process of submitting and implementing ideas lacking; this led her to join an ad hoc committee aimed at improving the Speak Up Brevard process; the goal is to ensure future Citizens Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendations (CEERs) are thoughtful, researched, and actionable, making it easier for the Board and County staff to implement them; and the plan is to test some of their ideas this cycle to help the Board make its vote in May, a step forward in harvesting the best suggestions for improving the quality of life in Brevard County.

#### **H.1. Approval of Third Quarter Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Chairman Feltner called for a public hearing on a request for approval of third quarter supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated this Item requests approval of the mid-year budget supplement and amends the projected balance forward budgets that were developed before the close out of Fiscal Year 2024; the adopted budget includes estimated balance forward based on anticipated level of revenue, expenses, and project completion; during the first several months of the new Fiscal Year, revenue and expenses are still being accrued; and the financial statements are then reconciled and then audited by County Finance. She went on to say staff then analyzes the actual balance forwards and changes are then brought to the Board for approval; most of these adjustments are associated with multi-year projects, but the Agenda and supporting documentation summarize the total change in each fund type and also includes the individual Budget Change Requests, as well as the advertisement of public hearing; and she is available to answer any questions the Board may have.

There being no further comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-027,

approving a budget supplement for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and authorized the budget changes and such actions as are necessary to implement the adopted changes.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**I.1. District 3 \$20,000 TDT Appropriation**

Commissioner Adkinson stated she would like to leave the \$20,000 with the Tourist Development Council (TDC); and she will make the motion to allow the TDC to keep the \$20,000.

The Board approved for the District 3 \$20,000 Cultural Fund Appropriation to be carried forward into next year's budget for allocation by the Tourist Development Council (TDC) under the Marketing Support Grant Program.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**I.2. Approval, Re: Termination of Lease Agreement with Furever Home Animal Rescue, Inc. and Permission to Advertise a Request for Proposals to Lease County Property Located at 2605 Flake Road, Titusville to Operate as an Animal Rescue Facility**

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, stated this is for the termination of the lease for the Furever Home, as well as implementing previous Board direction to provide a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to lease the facility and then for the Board to authorize the Selection and Negotiation Committee; and the first action being requested is to approve the previous termination of the lease.

The Board approved and authorized the Chair to execute the Termination of Lease Agreement with Furever Home Animal Rescue, Inc. that has been approved by the County Attorney, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Commissioner Delaney stated she would like to clarify something that she thinks there was a miscommunication in the lines; the last meeting, she was trying to convey that if this was the way the Board wanted to go, she just wanted a fair process; she just wanted to put that out there; and she is still open to conversation with the rest of the Board about how to move forward with this property, she is not sold on any one avenue in particular.

Sarah Skywind stated she would like to introduce Kara Lester who is her cohort with Brevard Barkhouse; she just wanted to express her thanks and put it back on the plate that she is really interested in the building to help out the community; she has an extreme amount of back-up; and she hopes that is an option that is on the table for her to do; and she is open to any

questions the Board may have. She stated she is just looking forward to helping the community.

Richard Lange advised he really does not have anything; he spoke at the last meeting; he is just there to find out the determination of what is going to be done with the property; and how the Board is going to go about leasing it out, if that is the case.

Theresa Clifton, Executive Director of Brevard Humane Society, stated she has been the Director for that last 21 years; the organization has been serving the community since 1952; it started on Clearlake Road, moving to Cox Road in 1962; she has to say she has seen a lot during this time; she is amazed that people move to the community and do not want to help existing, successful non-profit businesses, to do what they do in the community; instead they want to start up another duplicating existing services causing the public to choose who to give their expendable funds to; and it makes no sense to her because most of them do not last more than three to five years. She went on to say regarding the building at 2605 Flake Road, there is no point in discussing the conditions, everyone has already heard it from staff and the Sheriff; she has spoken to the Sheriff and he is not interested at all in it staying alive; she will only say it needs to be condemned and demolished; it is not habitable; aside from the fleas, ticks, ringworms, there is mold, feces, and rats, drains, electric, all of that, with the building itself being a hazard; and factually speaking, she inquired, to put that aside, does the County really need another facility to house animals. She continued by saying the Humane Society in 2003 had over 6,000 animals come through its shelter, 20,000 Countywide; 2024 there were 1,800; in the last 10 years, because of the low amount of animals coming through Brevard County, they have taken over 3,500 animals from other counties, other states, all the way to Puerto Rico and other areas; she also has Susan Naylor in the audience who is the Executive Director of the SPCA, and she has received information from her as well; the SPCA is located in Titusville and it is a really beautiful facility; they are also a 40-year old organization, who also has had excessive room for animals; in the last five years they annually average taking in about 2,000 animals; and in the last five year period, they took in 3,200 animals from outside of the community. She noted she does not see where this Board would want another group to come in and try to put all of their efforts into this dilapidated building that should have been destroyed when the Sheriff left; her recommendation is to not repeat history, demolish the building, sell it, give the property to Roads and Bridges because it is connected to Roads and Bridges; she is sure they could put culverts or something on it; or sell it or do whatever the Board would like, but quite frankly, it just aggravates her; and she really tries to stay in her area, but the animals, if they are killing any of them, someone needs to tell her where they are because she is still taking them in from other areas.

Commissioner Goodson asked if Ms. Clifton is taking in animals from other countries, counties, and states, are the taxpayers of Brevard County paying for that.

Ms. Clifton commented that is the beauty of it, neither the SPCA nor the Humane Society receives a dime from taxpayers; they operate on their own; they are self-supporting and self-sustaining; she does not even think that the people who want to take on this building understand, they average \$35,000 to \$50,000 every month in the red in their shelter; that money comes from the services and the things they provide to the community in other ways; they have a low-cost spay, neuter, and wellness clinic, they have thrift shops, they have Bed and Biscuit Doggy Daycare Pet Hotel, and those are things that help the community, low-cost income help them and it helps them to sustain; SPCA has the same budget; and if people want to help they should really go to those well-established organizations. She advised she has been a Guardian Ad Litem 33 years; she thinks people who want to help kids should also become a volunteer with the Guardian Ad Litem program, not create their own new thing because there are some really great programs in the community, so there is no point in creating more; and there is just not enough support for it.

Commissioner Goodson asked Ms. Clifton if someone did create another thing, how it would hurt her.

Ms. Clifton commented it is not hurting her at all.

Commissioner Goodson stated if a guy wants a hamburger stand but she has one and does not want him to have one; and he asked if that is what she is saying.

Ms. Clifton remarked, no sir.

Commissioner Goodson pointed out that it seems like that is what Ms. Clifton is saying.

Ms. Clifton stated she is sorry; and she asked Commissioner Goodson if he has ever been to the North Animal Care Center or Furever Friends.

Commissioner Goodson responded affirmatively. He noted Ms. Clifton did not answer the question; and he asked why she is so adamant that she does not want anybody else to have what she has.

Ms. Clifton noted she is not.

Commissioner Goodson remarked okay good, then he can have it.

Ms. Clifton noted it is the building itself that does not...

Commissioner Goodson stated forget the building he could buy a brand new building and Ms. Clifton would be happy; and he asked if that is correct.

Ms. Clifton stated if he builds a brand new building then sure have had it.

Commissioner Adkinson asked Ms. Clifton to give her a number of what it cost to run her shelter per year.

Ms. Clifton responded the shelter itself they put in about \$1.5 million per year just to operate.

Commissioner Adkinson asked per year.

Ms. Clifton replied a year, every year just to operate; and she stated that does not include maintenance, repairs, or the \$3 million she raised on the side to rebuild the front of the building that is currently taking place.

Commissioner Adkinson advised she has a question for staff but she is not quite sure who the right person is to ask.

Chairman Feltner asked if there were any more questions for Ms. Clifton.

Commissioner Adkinson asked if there would be any cost to taxpayers if this building was kept and it was leased out.

Mr. Bernath explained the way that staff drafted the RFP, and obviously that assumes the Board approves them to move forward, is that they would have to show their assets, liquidity, their business plan, and how they are going to be able to do it; the County would be offering no monetary value towards this; they would have to demonstrate that; then the Selection Committee would have to review those proposals, how they would address all the County's

concerns; there is going to be a requirement that they have to do a mandatory walk through with staff where they will have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as N95 masks because of the biohazards that the Board has heard about; but at the end of the day, the Selection Committee will review it and come back to the Board with a recommendation to either accept it, reject it, or revise based on the committee's recommendation.

Commissioner Adkinson commented then that will just be staff time to go through all of those applications.

Mr. Bernath responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Delaney asked about the Code Enforcement issues.

Mr. Bernath explained right now the City of Titusville Code Enforcement Office requires that the County resolve it by June 9; there had been discussions through the County Attorney's Office; if the County provides a solid plan, he believes there may be some additional flexibility there; one of the things, as part of the proposal, they would have to address how they would rectify the Code issues and the Committee would have to be convinced of that; and the Committee would then bring it to the City of Titusville.

Chairman Feltner asked if that building were to be demolished, he would not have an immediate plan for it.

Mr. Bernath stated as far as Public Works Road and Bridge, it is not necessarily an immediate need; if the Board were to consider the demolish option, his recommendation would be to hold on to the property; Public Works is currently under a review process where a consultant is doing a master plan looking at three of the Road and Bridge facilities, one of which is Flake Road; and he would suggest to get rid of the building, but hold short of what to do with the property until they get through that master plan evaluation.

Chairman Feltner commented if the Board went that route, someday, potentially, Road and Bridge could have heavy equipment out there, storage of culverts, gravel, and all of those things.

Mr. Bernath responded by saying, potentially, yes.

Commissioner Delaney noted she was wondering if anybody has any discussion over this, she feels like last time the Board really focused on the icky of the of the building.

Commissioner Feltner advised he was just going to say the Board is in discussion.

Commissioner Delaney stated like she had said before she is not really sold on any which way; she has major concerns for the welfare of the animals, especially after Mr. Bernath has spoken with her a lot about the condition of the building; he has been there again, recently; she has had a lot more resident input on this issue since it has been talked about so much; people are very concerned; she has not received any positive reach outs except for those people who want to take over this building; and she is not opposed to it, but she really feels like with the ringworm, and she learned some things about the drains. She inquired if the building has individual drains or a trough-type drain for the kennels.

Mr. Bernath replied it has both.

Commissioner Delaney went on to say learning about Parvo situations, if one of the animals gets Parvo, any dogs along those drains would have to be put down because of the nature of

that disease; that is really concerning; and she does not know if that is part of the renovations that they would have to get rid of those drains and only have the individual drains in the kennels.

Mr. Bernath noted right now that was not something contemplated but if the Board decides to move forward with this, he was requesting revisions to the draft RFP, staff could make sure they identify or address how they would overcome that, whether it is removal or some other mitigation.

Commissioner Goodson asked if the Board is still in discussion.

Chairman Feltner responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Goodson stated he has nothing, but he has a motion to be made when the Board is ready.

Chairman Feltner stated he will share a couple of thoughts; when he goes to Road and Bridge in his District, it has over the years been surrounded by the City of Melbourne, so they have that challenge where they had to enter into an Agreement with Melbourne to hook up to new water; these things happen; in the future and just thinking about the kind of needs up there, if Mr. Bernath ended up with the property, he thinks the worst that would happen if the building is demolished, is that he would end up with more space to store more equipment in the future and he might not need it; and that is the worst in his mind.

Commissioner Goodson stated the motion would be to allow the County to demolish the building and the County Attorney to work with the City of Titusville; and the County keep the property for further need or until a time when the Board wishes to sell it or lease it.

The Board granted approval for the County to demolish the building at 2605 Flake Road, Titusville; and directed the County Attorney to work with the City of Titusville, to keep the land as County property for any future needs or until at which time the County wishes to sell or lease it.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

### **I.3. Confirmation of John (Tad) Calkins as Assistant County Manager**

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this is for the confirmation of Tad Calkins as the Assistant County Manager of the Development and Environmental Services Group; Mr. Calkins has 30 years of experience in Planning and Development; 10 years with Osceola County and the last 20 with Brevard County; he has performed very well as a Department Director for the last eight years; and he believes he is well-prepared to take on the position of Assistant County Manager of that group.

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wanted to express her appreciation to Mr. Calkins and Billy Prasad for allowing her to make this public; she feels like, in the Director positions, that the community should know about it; sometimes on the Consent Agenda it gets hidden; and she thanked them for all the help they have provided her and for being so kind and okay with her making this public.



The Board approved confirmation of John 'Tad' Calkins as the Assistant County Manager

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

#### **I.4. Confirmation of Billy Prasad as Planning and Development Department Director**

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this is the Planning and Development Department Director position and he is asking for the confirmation of Billy Prasad as the Planning and Development Department Director; he has served in capacity of the Deputy Director since November 2023; prior to that he served a year as the Strategic Operations Manager in that Department; he has his law degree from Stetson University; he has been a successful participant and advocate for the Executive Leadership Institute as well as Lean Six Sigma Green Belt; he has participated in the Department and helped them achieve some significant improvements in how they operate through participation, as a lead and then as members on various projects, most recently as sponsoring some of those projects; and he is looking for confirmation of Mr. Prasad.

Sandra Sullivan stated she has some heartburn on this one because Mr. Prasad comes from former Commissioner Tobia's Office with all of the controversies and investigation on that office; in particular, on some of the items coming forward; she has objected to the conversion of intensity use of properties and Live Local to what that would represent in terms of density; there is no such thing as conversion; it is kind of interesting, after pushing back he said he had documents to support it and he would provide her something; he does not, and come to find out this Legislative Session looks like they are going to approve that; that is interesting; and she wonders if there are any puppeteers behind the scenes.

Chairman Feltner commented he knows Mr. Prasad to be an amazing human being; he worked with his wife, Bethany, at her first real job, when they both worked for Representative Workman; and he has known them both for a very long time.

Commissioner Adkinson stated for those who do not know Mr. Prasad, being a brand new Commissioner, and sitting with him with constituents, talking about things that she has very little understanding, he has been a great teacher and an amazing advocate for the people who have come into her office looking for help; and she appreciates everything Mr. Prasad does for the residents to help them get what they need.

The Board approved confirmation of Billy Prasad as the Planning and Development Director.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

#### **I.5. Board Discussion, Interim County Manager**

Chairman Feltner advised this is his Item; he is open to discussion on an Interim County Manager; and he asked if there are any questions.

Commissioner Delaney asked to hear Chairman Feltner's thoughts since this is his Item.

Chairman Feltner advised what he is prepared to do tonight is to make a motion for Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager, who has worked for the County for many years, to be confirmed as the Interim County Manager; the County is going through a phase of transition from Frank Abbate's, County Manager, leadership; the County is going through a search for a County Manager; he thinks continuity is good; Mr. Liesenfelt has his full confidence; and he thinks the Board should confirm Mr. Liesenfelt as the Interim County Manager, he is the right guy.

The Board discussed and approved appointment of Jim Liesenfelt as the Interim County Manager.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Chairman Feltner advised Mr. Liesenfelt that he is going to go through some tough things together with the Board, but he knows he is very capable; and he applauds him.

Commissioner Delaney stated she hopes he is ready for the Board.

Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager, stated Brevard County is his home; his wife is a public school teacher; public service is pretty important to his family; they have raised their children here; they are happy to do whatever the County needs them to do; Mr. Abbate has been a great leader and has accomplished many great things; and with the leadership out there and with County staff, they will continue to do a tremendous job for the Board, for the community, and for the County as it goes through this selection process.

#### **I.6. Board Discussion, County Manager Selection Process**

Chairman Feltner stated this is going to be an open discussion on the County Manager selection process; the Board was provided information at a prior meeting about how the Board approached this in 2017, as a guide; there is a card on this issue; however, he would like to do questions first.

Sandra Sullivan stated she does not understand this; the Board has not had a discussion yet about this so it is hard for her to come up and comment; she would like to see this as broad as possible, select the best candidate, and do not artificially limit it to the County; she saw the article in the paper and that just raised her hackles to no end; the County needs the best person for this job; there are certainly a lot of concerns with the degree of malfeasance and issues that have been going on in Brevard for too long, that frankly, need to be cleaned up; maybe someone from outside the area might be good to do that; it makes sense to take the best person, not artificially limit it to somebody locally; and for the record, the one person she absolutely does not want to see as even being considered for the job is who she calls 'Boot Barker' from Satellite Beach. She went on to say the County does not need that; she was there as one of the facilitators of the whole North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) deal and a lot of other unsavory things that have gone on in Brevard County; and she will leave it at that.

Commissioner Delaney stated she actually has a little bit of experience in a similar search; as the Board knows she was very involved in the School Board and was extremely involved and had a lot of input throughout the entire process that they had finding a new superintendent; she figures that is pretty similar to what the Board is doing in a search for a County Manager; the

process they went through was so extensive; they went for a national search; and they had extensive interviews with people, loads of citizen input, and by the time it whittled down to the top five, each of the School Board Members got individual time with each of the applicants. She noted throughout the entire process the School Board was the Selection Committee; she really feels passionately that the five Commissioners should have equal input into this process, even from dwindling down, say there are 100 applicants, even dwindling down from there to 50, to 10 and to five, whatever is decided by the Board as the dwindle down numbers; she feels the Commissioners should all have opportunity to participate in that and have an equal voice in it; and she feels passionate about a national search because one of the things she spoke about when she was sworn in, one of her main missions was to build the public trust. She commented someone from Brevard County may be the next County Manager, she does not know, the Board has not decided yet; one of the ways that the Board can work on building that public trust is by saying they have gone through the most extensive, fair, and open process and the Board knows without a shadow of a doubt that this person is the best person for the job; and that is her pitch.

Chairman Feltner asked for other thoughts advising this is an open discussion; he stated the Board is going to need to agree on some things; and he is looking for some input.

Commissioner Adkinson mentioned she has a question for staff; and she asked what the cost difference is from a local to a national search.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, responded it would be fairly minimal, except for maybe travel costs to bring people in.

Chairman Feltner stated the idea of a consultant would help the Board through this process; and he asked if that is something that Commissioner Delaney would want to speak to.

Commissioner Delaney replied she thinks that is something that was being talked about tonight, was to go through a consultant; she stated in her mind, the Board would meet with the consultant in some sort of fashion; she is not sure with Sunshine if it has to be a public meeting, workshop, or whatever that has to look like, but the Board could meet with the consultant and share their hopes and thoughts for the process; and at that point, the consultant would work their magic, put out the search, with the Board's parameters, and then bring back the results.

Chairman Feltner stated he thinks if the Board met together with the consultant it would have to be some kind of workshop; meeting one-on-one, he is sure at some point the consultant is going to come to each Commissioner's office for follow up and ask any questions he or she may have; he thinks that is a different thing, but he is certainly not opposed to a roundtable discussion with a consultant; he thinks some municipalities have been through this recently, Commissioner Delaney mentioned the School Board; and he asked if there are certain items from that that Commissioner Delaney thought were good or that she liked better than others.

Commissioner Delaney commented she loved the fact that there was an open house where the citizens got to come in and meet the finalists, they got to talk with them, and it was really great because the citizens were able to give their input back to the School Board; it was really community-driven; she really loved that; and the other thing that was in this proposal that was provided to the Board at the last meeting, where it says six copies of the proposal, she would like to make sure that the proposal is electronic also so that it has the most visibility for the residents.

Chairman Feltner stated he will make note of that; and he asked the County Manager how the Board would start the process with a consultant guiding them through this process.

Mr. Abbate replied he has provided a draft of what was utilized last time; he advised he was looking to see if the Board was comfortable with the selection criteria which looked at the evaluation criteria, looking at quality and thoroughness of the proposal, which was 10 percent, qualification experience and workload was 30 percent, with a variety of bullets under that, the scope of the work, how they were going to do it, the methodology that they would use would address some of the issues that the Board just raised in terms of meeting individually with Commissioners, meeting with the public, coming back and showing the Board how they were going to advertise it, get the Board's thumbs up on that, and then move forward with the advertisement; they would screen, as a matter of fact, last time, as he recalls it, the Board had full participation in determining who was going to be on there; as a matter of fact, the Board left it upon themselves that any Commissioner could add someone, even if they were not on the list that was recommended by the consultant, so it could do that; of course it would come back to the Board for a vote and the Board would screen down from there; and that would all be open in the public with the Board making the decision of who ultimately, to interview. He noted if the Board is comfortable with that, staff can put that together; he believes the last time there was the Human Resources Director, the County Attorney, and also a Commissioner appointed by the Board to serve on the screening committee that would evaluate the consultants' responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP); then it would be brought back to the Board to select who it wanted to move forward with; he would suggest staff jump on it and get that to...

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying she is sorry to interrupt, but that is the part that she felt a little uncomfortable with; if she is hearing Mr. Abbate correctly, she would rather go through a workshop with the consultant with the five Board Members versus having a subcommittee bring the Board recommendations; and she asked, or is this just for the consultant.

Mr. Abbate noted that is not what he is saying, he is talking about the selection of the consultant.

Commissioner Delaney stated okay.

Mr. Abbate continued by saying the other process is all going to come to the Board.

Commissioner Delaney thanked Mr. Abbate for that.

Mr. Abbate noted plus that is the committee for the selection of the consultant and it is only going to evaluate the RFPs and then come back to the Board with a recommendation, the full Board, or the one Commissioner, if the Board so chooses to have one Commissioner serve on it, will come back and say who they are going to recommend; and the full Board will make the decision as to who the consultant is.

Chairman Feltner asked if the Board could direct staff to put together that proposal of what would go out and do the RFP for, for the consultant; bring it back to the next meeting; the Board can discuss it, amend it as necessary; the Board can start with that tonight...

Mr. Abbate stated staff can hold on, once the consultant is on board, the Board provides the consultant with the criteria for the process that the Board is going to utilize whether it is a national search or whatever.

Commissioner Goodson asked if that is a motion.

Chairman Feltner replied he would make that motion and that is what the Board is going to proceed with.

The Board discussed and directed staff to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to assist in the search for a County Manager, and bring it back to the April 22, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting for discussion.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

\*The Board recessed at 6:28 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m.

**J.1. Approval, Re: Resolution and Maintenance Map for a Portion of Irwin Avenue Between Tax Parcel Identification Number 21-35-05-00-257 and Tax Parcel Identification Number 21-35-05-00-255**

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, noted this is a resolution for maintenance map for a portion of Irwin Avenue in Mims in District 1; these portions have been supported by maintenance logs back to 1972 by Public Works where this Department has maintained approximately 50 feet or more; the purpose of filing the maintenance map is to enumerate and document what the County already owns by fee-simple ownership based on Florida Statute 95.361; this is not an opportunity or a referendum on the project itself; this is tied to a development known as Orchard View subdivision; if this moves forward the developer is going to pave a section in front of their frontage; and it will remain a County maintained right-of-way.

Commissioner Delaney noted this unfortunately, was a development that was passed a long time ago in the mid to late 2000s; every single piece of this development is done, ready, the cake is baked, unfortunately; this is a necessary thing that the Board has to do; it goes against everything that she wants, unfortunately, it is what has to be done; and if there is no other discussion she would make that motion to pass it.

The Board executed and adopted Resolution No. 25-028; approved the Maintenance Map for a portion of Irwin Avenue between tax parcel identification number 21-35-05-00-257 and tax parcel identification number 21-35-05-00-255; authorized any other documentation to effectuate the change, including but not limited to, addressing any issues with or scrivener's errors on said maps; and authorized staff to record the Resolution and Maintenance Map.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**J.3. Discussion, Re: Elimination of County Membership Dues to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC)**

Chairman Feltner advised this is a supplication of services; the County has a lobbyist, Ron Book, and there is no need to pay the five lobbyist at Florida Association of Counties (FAC); it is \$68,500 approximately; and his motion would be to move that over to Fire Rescue.

Commissioner Delaney stated she feels pulled in each direction for this one because she does not typically agree with the direction of this organization, nor the League of Cities; she feels there is a lot of influence from the global community on those organizations and organizations like it; her hope was, since she was put on this Board, she has not gotten to participate yet because there have not been any meetings, her hope was to find other like-minded people to go

and fight with a bigger voice to Tallahassee against some of these home rule violations that are going on; and she feels like this has a different operation than the lobbyist because the County's lobbyist is not going to Tallahassee to push back against home rule, or the violation of home rule. She went on to say Mr. Book is not going up there and pushing back on legislation that is going through, at least not that she knows of; she thinks that it has some value; the County has not participated in this for a long time; now there is finally a Commissioner who is willing to put the time in; her hope is for a short opportunity to see if there is any value, since she is willing to do the participation, and come back to this at a later time; she could bring a report back after participating, sharing her findings; and then give a recommendation to the Board about whether to continue or not.

Commissioner Goodson stated if Commissioner Delaney knows anything about Tallahassee or this organization, they will tell people anything they want to hear in Tallahassee; if she wants to know anything about home rule or fight home rule, she needs to be calling her local legislators, looking at where they get their money from, and she will see exactly why they vote and how they vote; she might be able to do something with them; the local League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties, he is not too sure they are going to help Brevard; she could go up there and spend a lot of time; and he would suggest to go on the days they have their parties, they are a lot more fun.

Commissioner Delaney advised she has actually spent a lot of time in Tallahassee through her years of advocacy with issues like parental rights and different School Board issues, Second Amendment issues, and all sorts of things; she understands the hustle and bustle of what it takes to get a bill through the Legislature; she spearheaded the moment to get the recalled School Board Members included not only in the County Charter, but in the State Constitution; that took two years of hard work and working with the local State Representative; and a shout out to State Representative Sirois and Congressman Randy Fine for helping with that mission. She noted she understands it is a lot of hard work; and what she is saying is she is willing to put in the hard work.

Commissioner Altman stated he thinks this organization as well as the national association has a great deal of value; it is an opportunity for County Commissioners to come together and share ideas, to learn, to work together, they do not always agree, sometimes they disagree, but that is beneficial too, to see some of the divergent thought and understand where they are coming from; he found it to be a great learning experience when he was a freshman member; he learned a lot and got a lot of ideas; one of the areas is through model legislation; and he just thinks they have a lot of value. He went on to say he thinks for the money that is spent it is a great investment; he thinks the Board is very fortunate to have a Commissioner who is willing to put in the time; and he thinks it could pay great dividends. He commented he would oppose removing from these organizations; there was an issue that the Board talked about this evening, finding a new County Administrator, and there are a lot of resources in these organizations, State and national to help find qualified staff; he understands where Chairman Feltner is coming from; however, he thinks the organization has a lot of benefit.

Chairman Feltner commented he would suggest to Commissioner Altman that the Board Members are compulsory members of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and it pays them \$130,000 that is mandated by the Legislature, the Board does not have a choice in that; he would be doing this same motion for that if he had that opportunity but he does not; he has the opportunity on this one because it is not compulsory; and he asked if there is other discussion on the Item.

The Board discussed and approved eliminating the County's participation with the Florida Association of Counties and to transfer the membership dues in the amount of \$68,507 to the

County's Fire Rescue Department, as a recurring source of funding.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Goodson, Adkinson, and Feltner

**Nay:** Delaney, and Altman

Commissioner Delaney asked for a Point of Order; she stated Chairman Feltner has made a lot of motions this evening, and as Chair it has not been precedent for the Chair to do that; and she is wondering what the change is.

Chairman Feltner advised the Chair can make motions and seconds, there is no rule against that; he has not done that as Chair; but tonight on some of these issues, he thinks it is important to move them forward.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out in the past Chairman Feltner has said he does not feel comfortable with doing that and that is not something that he would be doing; and she is just surprised, that is all.

Chairman Feltner explained he thinks the Board is in some difficult times and it needs to move some things along; he has said what he needed to on the Association of Counties; he thinks there is a better use for that; he appreciates what she is saying; but there is no rule against the Chair making a motion.

**J.2. Discussion, Re: Elimination of County TIF Payments to the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ)**

Commissioner Adkinson asked if the County Attorney, Morris Richardson, could provide a little history on how North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) came to be and what it is.

Attorney Richardson advised NBEDZ was created in 2011 by the Board of County Commissioners, primarily through two Ordinances; the first created a trust fund and a tax increment funding source; a subsequent Ordinance created a structure of governance for a board that would manage it; NBEDZ is what is known as a Dependent Special District of the County, meaning it is a creation of Brevard County, was created by the Board of County Commissioners, and can be dissolved by the Board of County Commissioners by ordinance; it is a cooperative organization with the City of Titusville because it also includes the corporate boundaries of the City of Titusville and Titusville appoints members to the NBEDZ board; and there is an Interlocal Agreement between Brevard County and the City of Titusville. He stated the City of Titusville has implemented its own tax increment funding, and contributes to a trust fund, revenues generated within the City as well for the economic development mission of NBEDZ; back when it was created it was in the wake of National Aeronautical and Space Administration's (NASA) Space Shuttle Program; and the principal goal was facilitating job growth and economic development in the north portion of Brevard County, after the end of the Space Shuttle Program.

Commissioner Delaney stated while Troy Post, Executive Director of the North Brevard Economic Development Zone, is finding his way up, she would like to thank Commissioner Adkinson for finding sacrifices for District 1; and she was wondering if there were any sacrifices in District 3, that she has thought about.

Commissioner Adkinson stated she is very welcome; at the moment no; she is going through

the different programs that have been brought to her attention; her job, as she sees it, is to figure out how to help get the money for the crisis which this Board now has, which is Fire Rescue; the Board needs recurring money and that is what this is; and it does not mean that NBEDZ is going away because as the Attorney said, Titusville will be able to still continue their portion, should they choose to do so...

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying, for Titusville.

Commissioner Adkinson continued on by saying what is interesting to her is how successful NBEDZ has been; as she understands it, and she asked for Mr. Post to correct her if she is wrong, the unemployment in Titusville is down 74 percent from when the Shuttle crisis originally happened; that is significant and shows that the project did its job in that crisis; right now there is another crisis; and she is suggesting that the Board move money from one crisis to another. She commented Brevard County residents all pay in this; and she also understands that Milken Institute has decided that now Brevard County ranks ninth, when it used to be 177 when this was first created. She noted there is a lot of redundancy in this; there is the Chambers of Commerce, the Economic Development Council of Florida's Space Coast (EDC), even the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to some degree, brings as much as they can to the area; and with SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Space Florida, she believes that right now is a time to decide how to redistribute taxpayer funds to the current crisis at hand.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Commissioner Adkinson was saying that the entire County pays into NBEDZ.

Commissioner Adkinson replied what she is saying is it is taxpayer money.

Commissioner Delaney asked Commissioner Adkinson to answer her question.

Commissioner Adkinson commented why not let staff answer that question, they are better at that than she.

Commissioner Delaney noted it was something that Commissioner Adkinson had said, so that is why she asking.

Commissioner Adkinson said it is taxpayer money.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out no, she said it was the entire County; just because she knows the answer to that, it is only the properties within the Zone that pay into this; and she asked if that is correct.

Mr. Post responded he will try to answer that; he noted he is very eager not to make a misstep that could be interpreted as advocacy for the Zone; he is there merely to try to answer questions as factually as he can and let the Board decide; and the way in which the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) structure is, NBEDZ gets a portion of the valuation and property taxes in the north end, the specified geographic area that is the Special District.

Commissioner Delaney remarked one of the things also said was that it is redundant; and she inquired if Commissioner Adkinson is also aware that one of the major missions of NBEDZ was to deal with redevelopment and blighted areas.

Commissioner Adkinson stated the County Commissions job is not necessarily economic development; really, safety is one of the core priorities...

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying she agrees.



Commissioner Adkinson continued by saying that is where she is saying this money needs to go to.

Commissioner Delaney commented if she could just answer her question, if she was aware that one of the core missions is to deal with redevelopment and blight.

Chairman Feltner commented he thinks Commissioner Adkinson answered the question.

Commissioner Delaney remarked she did not, yes or no is the answer.

Chairman Feltner advised she gave an answer and it might not have been the one Commissioner Delaney wanted; and he asked her to move on to the other ones because there are several cards.

Commissioner Delaney asked Mr. Post if that is true, and if that is one of the core functions of NBEDZ.

Mr. Post noted in the Strategic Plan that was approved by both the City Council of Titusville and the Board, back in 2012, it does include a redevelopment component.

Commissioner Delaney added, and infrastructure, correct.

Mr. Post answered under the Strategic Initiative of that Plan, NBEDZ could do infrastructure improvement projects.

Commissioner Delaney thanked Mr. Post; and she advised she is done with questions for now.

Commissioner Goodson pointed out Commissioner Delaney ran on killing NBEDZ when she ran for election; and he asked if that is correct.

Commissioner Delaney stated it started out that way and throughout...

Commissioner Goodson asked if she has changed her mind.

Commissioner Delaney stated if she can finish her answer.

Commissioner Goodson remarked answer yes or no.

Commissioner Delaney stated the answer is yes; when she was not fully informed she advocated for the dissolution of NBEDZ; once she met with Mr. Post her opinion changed; she actually made a video and it is on her campaign page still, that residents recently shared, and it talked about how she felt this was a secret that the special interests have used this money over time, and she said in that video that she felt this needed to be redirected to focus on small businesses, redevelopment, and the great things that Mr. Post and his team are now doing; and like in everything, people grow and learn.

Commissioner Goodson stated then she is for it now; and asked if that is a correct statement. Commissioner Delaney answered by saying it depends because NBEDZ is a combination of a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and economic development committee; it is both entities in one; if the Board is talking about getting rid of economic development and growth in North Brevard and getting rid of the entity that is going to help with redevelopment, she would not be for that, especially if it is not being looked at in the County as a whole because with the County as a whole, the Board could actually fix the firefighter issue with the \$12-plus million, the

\$7.3 million that all of the other Board Members get to enjoy in their own Districts; and she asked why District 1 is bearing the brunt of this issue and where was their input in funding the County's Fire Rescue Department.

Commissioner Goodson commented District 1 is not bearing the brunt of it because the park...

Commissioner Delaney asked where the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) is on here.

Commissioner Goodson asked her to hold on, because some of her District 1 is in District 2 paying the bill and the money is coming from the General Fund, which is the total County.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out it comes from the businesses in the Zone's economic development boundary.

Commissioner Goodson advised her not to say District 1 because District 2 has Exploration Park, which is the biggest thing in District 2.

Commissioner Delaney remarked she agrees with him.

Commissioner Goodson stated do not limit it to just District 1.

Commissioner Delaney stated it is just District 1 because he still has MIRA...

Commissioner Goodson stated that District 2 is involved in it, so it is not just District 1.

Commissioner Delaney stated she understands that, but if he would let her explain this, District 2 has a total of \$5.2 million in CRAs, including MIRA; District 3 and District 5 have \$1.7 million in their CRAs; and she asked where those items are on this.

Commissioner Goodson commented he would guess like District 1, since it is the culprit of everything, and the who is who of the world, MIRA funds the repair of the bridge on Merritt Island; MIRA funds infrastructure; MIRA funds road building; MIRA funds the clean up on State Road 3; and everybody is doing their part, it is not just Commissioner Delaney's ballgame, it is the Board's ballgame. He added the Board Members are all in this together.

Commissioner Delaney stated she would like some participation from the rest of the Board and add this thing up to \$12 million and really fund the Fire Rescue Department.

Jack Ratterman stated he is part of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association (HOA); he is on the North Merritt Island Special District Board, and he was on the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) board; when the Board talks about MIRA, it is the only thing good happening on Merritt Island; everybody else has a city; Merritt Island is the step-child of the whole County; Merritt Island puts a major amount of money into the County cauldron and it gets the least back; he would ask to show him what Merritt Island gets back, that the rest of the County already has; it does not have a community center, where is it, it did not get one because the Board Members all have a city working for somebody in there; and the only people Merritt Island has working for it is MIRA. He continued by saying the only reason Merritt Island got an amphitheater is because MIRA stepped in and used all the influence they could get; Debbie Mayfield and Tylor Sirois stepped in and brought in the money, it is the only reason Merritt Island got it; as far as the NBEDZ, it is a rip; supporting the two richest people on earth and helping them put a spaceship up; he asked help them do what, they are already going to put \$7 million worth of fill in and flood North Merritt Island; they are the worst neighbors

Merritt Island has; people already know from past Board meetings that they want the County to build a septic system; the County can improve theirs to the tune of \$130 million, but they do not want to pay for any of it; however, if NASA, or SpaceX built theirs it would be \$350 million, so they are getting a heck of a deal. He inquired what NBEDZ does; he stated he does not see anything for economic development; he would like to see who was employed, as the Board says unemployment went down, and where are the figures; he does not hear anything about that; the Board could say anybody got employed; the Board makes an intelligent and smart decision, it wants to put some money into the Fire Rescue Department Budget, then X these guys out and do what the Board is supposed to do; think about the firefighters; and he mentioned what is NBEDZ, is the County going to call on it to put the fire out or get someone off the couch after having a heart attack, good luck.

Aaron McDaniel stated he is in attendance to provide his experience with NBEDZ; he has worked in Brevard County for over 20 years; he served as the engineer for the Titusville/Cocoa Airport (TICO) Authority; he served on a team with Space Florida and others to try to coax Space Command from the Space Force to come to North Brevard; he comes with those experiences; he is also a service disabled veteran, a small business owner, and he employs employees in North Brevard County and South Brevard County; he comes to share that experience with the Board in that him working with NBEDZ he has seen a positive experience; he thinks on a macro-level, some of the difficulties he had working with Space Force on the team that the Governor put together, was that there was not a good share of information about North Brevard, about the emergency services that are offered, about the capabilities of utilities, and other things like that; and the Zone actually helped his team put some information together so that it could bring those kind of macro-business opportunities to North Brevard. He noted at a more micro-level, he can share his experience; his business is a general contracting firm; he started a second business doing electrical service work and plumbing work; his story is that really specifically with the Valiant Air Command project that NBEDZ is helping to fund, his business has been able to hire local employees and really get off the ground; he has the Valiant Air Command, NBEDZ, and others that have put money into this, and to thank for that; he would also say that there are many other smaller businesses in the North Brevard area; he would tell the Board to go look through the area of North Brevard where the Zone is located; and there are several other businesses that have received grants from NBEDZ and have really done quite well because of that opportunity. He commented that is just his humble way of sharing his story and why he thinks that NBEDZ has served a purpose.

Janice Scott stated as the Board knows Cocoa Beach had a referendum; the people made it important that the City had to vote on whether or not they wanted a CRA; she will talk about the Special District, it is the same thing; she looked at the map and the Special District goes from State Road 528 all the way to Mims, from the Atlantic ocean west to Orange County; this is obscene really; this is a County and she asked why certain people are given these kinds of privileges; she understands when the Shuttle Program wound down and there was an issue, but that is no longer an issue; and these things need to sunset. She continued by saying as a matter of fact, while she was sitting there, she Googled a Florida Initiative that she read aloud, "In Florida Community Redevelopment Agency (CRAs) are set to be phased out by July 1, 2025 or September 30, 2045, whichever comes first, and are prohibited from starting new projects or issuing new debt after October 2025"; the Board knows what the history is of CRAs; this was an initiative back in the day when Cocoa was called 'Little Vietnam'; it has been very successful there, so successful that they need to sunset; every time taxes are abated for one, somebody else, two or three, get to pick up the bill; and that is not fair to the rest of the residents of Brevard County. She mentioned she understands why Merritt Island is upset because it is included in the District, but it barely gets the trickle down; really the vote needs to be to eliminate NBEDZ; that needs done all over the State; if one knows the companies that are there, United Space Alliance, Blue Origin, and SpaceX; give her a break; one disclosure that is

never asked, and today's Board Members were not on the Board in 2011, but who are the shareholders, who are the elected officials now that may have shares in SpaceX or Blue Origin, that are voting on these things; and she asked to please eliminate it.

Mary Watkins stated she has two properties on North Merritt Island and she is a lifelong resident of Brevard County; she was born before NASA developed; she has watched the collapse of the missile industry when the Apollo went away; she understands the initiative here, and yes, the County did need to do something for the economy; but that was, according to the records she is hearing, 2011; it is now 2025; and she believes it is time that money went to other places and not continue to be passed around to additional sources like that. She commented if the money is needed for the Fire Rescue Department, put it there.

Sandra Sullivan stated this binder is from the Brevard Coalition from back in the day; there is a wealth of information in it; she would encourage the Board to go to Wavesaction, she has been posting some of it and there is a lot more to come; fundamentally, NBEDZ was created as an enterprise zone; that was a promise; it is not, enterprise zones are governed by Florida Statutes not listed as an enterprise zone; it is bait and switch; and it is basically a CRA. She continued by saying the concern by the Brevard Coalition was the monies going from District 1, taking that out of the General Fund, that the other Districts would end up picking up that tab, picking up the monies that are needed for the services in District 1; and that has come true. She went on to say the core issue as people said, was the recovery of the Shuttle Program; by Florida Statute one has to do a findings of need; that has been fulfilled, there is not a need for NBEDZ any longer; in fact, if one wants to address the affordable housing issue in keeping Brevard County affordable, the Board needs to keep taxes down; and to keep taxes down, the money needs to be kept in the General Fund. She stated the one thing that would be really great right now would be to Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) it; she has looked at the projects and she sees some of them have not succeeded; one of the big issues of the Brevard Coalition was the conflicts of interest and the Board Members appointing business partners; and that was very well detailed out. She pointed out another issue, back in 2011 the tax increment broken down and the CRAs by District, and 40 percent at that time was District 2; the amount of the CRAs for the entire County is about the same as what was going to NBEDZ; one of the things she has seen in the past was some fiscal analysis; she thinks that would be good, when one is coming up here, that there are presentations; this was very controversial back in 2011 and there were 51 speakers and it marginally passed with a 2:3 vote; and NBEDZ is selling County land which one knows when that is done it needs a supermajority vote, therefore, by State statute there is a question that this may have needed to be a supermajority vote because it is selling County land. She noted the biggest controversy with NBEDZ is that they immediately did bond funding with the Space Coast Infrastructure Agency which they created and then bond funded for Blue Origin, in which the Clerk of Courts sued and won; NBEDZ has been full of controversies since day one; it is time to sunset it; and time to put things back where they should be because this is not a critical need any longer and the Fire Department is.

Sarah Hodge stated she thinks everything has been said by Sandra Sullivan and several other people who have spoken against keeping NBEDZ; Bill and herself would like to see it sunset as well, and for the money go to the firefighters; they desperately need it; and the Board needs to start doing needs before wants.

Tuan Le stated he is a small business owner from engineering to restaurant and property redevelopment; he is going to speak the truth about NBEDZ; he has had a good experience in the past, about five years ago; he did not have a good experience four years ago and he would have to blame that on the former Commissioner of District 1 because he does not think she did a good job; NBEDZ has done good for small business; in the past few years it has been

focused more on big companies and that is not what he wants; if NBEDZ focuses on big companies like Blue Origin and SpaceX, it is benefitting investors in the State from different places, even if they create jobs here; that means people from out of State apply for jobs here, not locally here; small business people here are working hard and trying to give a job and opportunity to local people; and he is in attendance today because Commissioner Delaney's staff had called him and asked him about what he thinks about the small businesses. He commented he thinks Commissioner Delaney cares about small businesses, which is a good thing because for example, after Coronavirus Disease (COVID), Titusville had received \$5 million and that money went to Parrish Hospital and at the same time 15 other local businesses had to be closed; with that \$5 million it could have saved more than 20 or 30 small businesses that are a benefit for the people who work there and stuff like that; and getting back to the small businesses, right now, when one starts a business it is really hard to start a small business and the requirement for the EDC is very tough for small businesses to comply. He stated on top of that if a place is redeveloping and wants to get money from the bank, the bank wants owners to have at least 10 percent of the cash in hand instead of providing the funds; he believes in Commissioner Delaney right now because she is the one who convinced him to come today; he thinks she can do something to help District 1 and to help the small businesses in the area to grow and save the small businesses because he closed more than five businesses after COVID because he did not receive support from the EDC, County, or City; and it is really ridiculous what the politicians have done to the people instead of caring for small businesses, the Board cares for big companies to make each Board Member look good when they tell the voters they brought the big company here and it forgets about small businesses. He went on to say he thinks this needs to be changed; he wants NBEDZ to be revised and to work together; and he believes in Commissioner Delaney and what she is trying to do.

David Shores stated he is on the Board of Directors of the Warbird Air Museum in Titusville; it is in the process of building a 20,000 square foot event hangar that will be tremendously beneficial to all of Brevard County, particularly North Brevard, for weddings, displaying airplanes, and all kinds of events; this project never would have gotten off the ground without Mr. Post and NBEDZ; without that funding it never would have been able to start the project; it is employing a lot of people, and those who are building it are employing a lot of people; and all the studies that were done to prove that this was a good idea, say that the County, State and the Museum will do very well financially throughout the year because this property exists. He noted he is very much in favor of NBEDZ; and he thinks Mr. Post has done a great job.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned a lot of people talked about the influence of NBEDZ on the space industry; while it was heavily focused on the space industry in the past, what she has seen throughout her time as a Commissioner is a major shift in focus; like one of the speakers talked about, one of the major shifts is that a lot of the focus has been on getting these small businesses going; one of the struggles that District 1 has, that some Board Members may not understand, is it has the most amount of wetlands in North Brevard; she would guess North Brevard has the most undeveloped land; and when companies are deciding on where to go, they look at whether there are site-ready places because these companies are thinking of their bottom line and how quickly they can come in and start making money. She continued by saying some of the reasons why North Brevard has trouble with enticing businesses is because of those challenges; some of the things that Mr. Post and his team have done, there is a site that is on Highway 50, a main thoroughfare in Titusville, and there was a lot with a blighted building right across the street from Publix, and when the owners of the property went to develop the land, they found that their \$200,000 project is now turning into a \$1 million project because they found huge chunks of concrete, construction debris, and all sorts of things; the simple project of just tearing up the land to pour the pads for their businesses turned into this huge monster of a project; and thankfully, they came to NBEDZ for help so that they are able to continue with their project. She mentioned there are so many good things that NBEDZ

is now doing; she cannot speak to the things that happened in the past; she was not there and frankly, she did not agree with a lot of it; there is another project that is going on tonight at the City of Titusville, the Searstown Mall; without the funding of NBEDZ, that will continue to be a blighted, dilapidated site, right in the heart of Titusville; North Brevard has unique challenges that the other Districts do not have; and she asked for her slides to be put on the screen. She stated this slide from the budget presentation, shows all the CRAs in the County; it shows \$7.3 million and out of that only \$350,000 goes to North Brevard and that is because Titusville has one CRA; contrary to popular belief, District 1 is a lot bigger than Titusville; if the Board were to get rid of NBEDZ that would be District 1's portion; she pulled data from the Clerk's Office and since 2010 the total payments across the County for all the TIF payments, that includes NBEDZ, CRAs, and MIRA, the total payments are \$120 million across the County; the total of North Brevard payments is \$34 million since 2010; and the payments did not start for NBEDZ until 2013. She continued by saying all the other Districts combined is \$86 million; from 2013, when NBEDZ received its first installment, she put together the numbers from 2013 to present, \$108,000 million across the County and North Brevard, including NBEDZ and the Titusville CRA, it is \$33 million; and all other Districts combined, \$73 million. She went on to say if the Board were to get rid of NBEDZ, the bottom chart on this slide shows that District 2 gets \$5.2 million, Districts 3 and 5 together get \$1.7 million, and District 1 gets \$350,000; her request is for the Board to remember why it is there; the Board represents the citizens of this County; she thinks this is an extremely important decision for this Board; if the Board is talking about everybody coming to the table and ponying up, she will be right there with the rest of the Board; \$12 or \$13 million would make a huge dent in the Fire Rescue Department; and with the legislation, that is probably going to be going through, and CRAs are not even going to be a thing anyway. She added she is going to make a motion to table this Item so there can be citizen input on how the public wants the Board to proceed with this because she thinks that this greatly affects the County as a whole; and she thinks it will be a huge detriment, not only to her District, but to the entire County. She asked the Board to think about any time the ebbs and flows of the Space Center happen, any time something happens it is District 1 that bears the largest brunt of that; she remembers that time with the boarded up houses; her mom was a teacher at Space Coast Jr. Sr. High School, and one of her student's family was so devastated that they not only shot their own children, but shot themselves; there were people living in the woods; it was a horrible situation for District 1; if the Board is going to be looking at this to take care of the firefighters, then it should take care of them together as a County; and it should make a huge dent, because \$3 million is going to do nothing for them.

Chairman Feltner stated he thinks what has happened in the north end of the County in recent years is pretty amazing; commercial space flight is here and the kind of investment that is going to be made in the north end of the County will rival what was done in the 60s; he thinks it is at that point; it was pretty well advertised that that is the situation; Space Florida and the State of Florida, the kind of investments being made, it is in the billions of dollars...

Commissioner Delaney asked if that is in District 1.

Chairman Feltner replied north County is going to be the largest beneficiary of that because not everybody can live in Viera who is going to be working on the space program; he thinks the north end has quite a lot of economic growth that is going to be coming; and he asked if there is further discussion on the Item.

The Board denied the request to table.

**Result:** Denied

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, and Altman

**Nay:** Goodson, Adkinson, and Feltner

Commissioner Delaney stated she was wondering, just for the minutes so that everybody is aware, how the Board plans on funding the Fire Department with \$3 million.

Chairman Feltner advised it does not fund the Fire Rescue Department with \$3.3 million, in addition to the \$68,507 tonight; he thinks the Board is about a quarter of the way there; \$16 million or somewhere in that range; the Board is approaching a quarter of the way...

Commissioner Delaney interrupted by asking a quarter of the way to what; she stated with all due respect the Board has not even come to the table for these poor people; the Board has strung them along for months, and months, and months; and now the Board is coming after her District.

Chairman Feltner replied he thinks the Board gets a quarter of the way to their ask...

Commissioner Delaney commented there is no ask, there is nothing on the table right now.

Commissioner Goodson stated it is a total different issue.

Commissioner Delaney advised it is not a total different issue; the Board has made this about the Fire Rescue Department, so talk about the Fire Rescue Department; and the fact is the Fire Rescue Department needs to get funded, so let the Board fund it, there is \$13 million on the table.

Chairman Feltner explained the Board is going to be going through this, this summer, he can assure Commissioner Delaney; and this is but one step, the first step.

Commissioner Delaney asked how to broaden it.

Chairman Feltner replied he thinks it is a good faith effort that the Board is trying to get there.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out a try to get there to these people would be \$12 to \$13 million, not \$3.3 million.

Chairman Feltner stated he does think that raising taxes should be the first choice.

Commissioner Delaney asked where she said that.

Chairman Feltner continued by saying he thinks that should be the last resort; and the Board is going to have quite a robust discussion about this, this summer.

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying it seems like Chairman Feltner and Commissioner Adkinson had a robust conversation about this.

Commissioner Adkinson stated she would like to make a motion.

Commissioner Altman asked if the Board is in debate.

Chairman Feltner advised him to go ahead.

Commissioner Altman stated he is going to vote against the motion and he wants to talk about why; he thinks NBEDZ provides an incredibly important public purpose; North Brevard is really important to the future of Brevard County; there are significant infrastructure shortfalls in the North Brevard region; there are cultural needs in North Brevard; it is important to Brevard County as a whole that the Board try to fill the gap and support what Brevardians are doing in the County seat; Titusville is the County seat and it is the identity of the space program; he thinks it is important that the Board continue to support them; he thinks the need is still there; and he understands the points that have been made, but he thinks good economic development is important to the County as a whole, therefore, he will be voting against this.

Commissioner Adkinson moved to direct staff to prepare a statement of legislative intent regarding the discontinuation of County TIF payments to the NBEDZ Trust Fund; the dissolution of NBEDZ; and the refund of any uncommitted TIF funds on deposit in the NBEDZ Trust Fund to the respective taxing authorities that contributed those funds, including the County.

Commissioner Delaney asked Commissioners Goodson, Adkinson, and Chairman Feltner if they are willing to speak about the CRAs in their Districts.

Chairman Feltner stated he thinks the Board will have a discussion of CRAs this summer; and he envisions that happening.

Commissioner Delaney asked why this summer.

Chairman Feltner commented because the Board is going to go through the budget process.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out she is asking to get the firefighters paid, which is what the Board says it wants to do; and she asked if the Board Members are willing to put their CRAs on the table, it is a plain yes or no question.

Chairman Feltner advised he does not have a CRA in his District; he thinks there may be one on the edge of it, but that is finishing up something; he cannot speak for the others; and he would suggest to Commissioner Delaney the Board Members should look at every funding opportunity that they can this summer when going through the budget process.

Commissioner Delaney asked if that is a yes.

Chairman Feltner explained he would look at every funding option available to the Board this summer; that is his answer; and he will let the others answer if they so choose to.

Commissioner Delaney stated she thinks the public deserves to know the yes or no answer.

Chairman Feltner stated he understands there is a motion on the table, as he is being reminded.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Commissioner Goodson and Commissioner Adkinson are refusing to answer that question, for the public and for everybody that is watching right now.

Commissioner Adkinson advised Commissioner Delaney that there is a motion on the table and she would like to follow...



Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying that she understands.

Commissioner Adkinson continued by saying and she would like to follow procedure.

Commissioner Delaney stated for discussion, because after one makes a motion in Robert's Rule's, there can be discussion after the motion is made, and she would again ask that question of Commissioner Adkinson and Commissioner Goodson, if they are going to tell the public if they are willing to put their CRAs on the table to fund the firefighters. Commissioner Goodson stated no comment.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out that is a no.

Commissioner Goodson explained it is not a no, it is a no comment; and the Chairman said it will be discussed at a later date.

Commissioner Delaney asked if the Chairman is her boss; and she answered by saying no the Board Members are all duly-elected here.

Commissioner Goodson asked if Commissioner Delaney understands English.

Commissioner Delaney replied yes, she understands English.

Commissioner Goodson asked if she understood what the Chairman said.

Commissioner Delaney stated she is asking him a question.

Commissioner Goodson pointed out he told her it would be discussed at a later time.

Chairman Feltner advised there was a motion and a second, Clerk will call the roll.

The Board directed staff to prepare a Statement of Legislative Intent regarding the discontinuation of County TIF payments to the NBEDZ Trust Fund, the dissolution of NBEDZ, and the refund of any uncommitted TIF funds on deposit in the NBEDZ Trust Fund to the respective taxing authorities that contributed those funds, including the County.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Goodson, Adkinson, and Feltner

**Nay:** Delaney, and Altman

## **K. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Susan Connelly stated she wants to speak on the Speak Up Brevard Program; her 2025 submission called for the creation of a Brevard County Board of Government Efficiency; she had no idea when she turned in her submission that Brevard County already had its (Department of Governmental Efficiency (DOGE); interestingly, the County DOGE program is the Speak Up Brevard Program, where each submission is identified by a Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) number; by not knowing the complete name nor the purpose of the Speak Up Brevard Program, it made her realize a couple of things; first, how much she did not know about the unlimited opportunities of the Speak Up Brevard Program; and second, how disconnected citizens are from the very operations and decision-making of local government. She went on to say since the March 3, Speak Up Brevard Workshop, she

has been working with a group of citizens who also share these realizations; there are two goals: to review the Speak Up Brevard process from a citizen's perspective and provide actionable recommendations for improvement, and to rework their own CEER submissions so that those recommendations clearly identify the issue as well as present actionable cost effective solutions; and Speak Up Brevard can become a showcase of best practice of efficiency and effectiveness in government operations. She noted that was going to be the end of her comments, however, she would just like to say, based on the discussion she just heard, the question is why can businesses not economically thrive; and she thinks that Speak Up Brevard Program may hold the answer, with efficiency and effectiveness.

Sandra Sullivan stated she wants to talk about the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) presentation by the Army Corp of Engineers; it is kind of depressing how much the presenters do not know; as many know, her group Wavesaction, she was the lady that dug up all the military waste in her backyard; yes, she did get sick and fell down seven times per day, and had been getting some medical assistance since, with a lot of neurological issues; when they were asked if they knew what was buried there they said no they did not know; there was a Defense Environmental Restoration (DER) report that was done by the State stating there was everything from munitions, chemicals, oil barrels, and it is all detailed in there; they were asked about the contamination; in 1991 there was a study and found on Southeast First Street were levels of benzene a pyrene and other really nasty chemicals above the cleanup targets; and the wells were capped. She noted a little history about the FUD Site; there were 500 applications for FUDS back around that time; and this was the only one of 500 sites, that was denied the FUDS eligibility, and interestingly, the only ones with a class action law suit for a cancer cluster. She mentioned there was an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC) study which is a study done on the aerial analysis of what was buried there; she has firsthand accounts of a heavy machinery operator that missiles were buried, and there are large conical objects in those aerials; there is a lot of data from the 90s; and she was lucky enough to have a local resident give her that. She stated when she was doing the investigation there were four people on Southeast First Street with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS); this area is world-renowned for the levels of ALS, which for military bases is largely correlated causation to the levels of chlorinated substances like tri-chlorinated ethylene and organochlorine pesticides; the EPA came into her yard where there is a smell that persists but is not there all the time; the EPA came in and thought it might have been benzene a pyrene; when the EPA tested her yard it found 1,4 dioxane above the cleanup targets by her bedroom; and that level is a tracer chemical for tri-chlorinated ethylene. She noted she is talking about the chemicals associated with Camp Lejeune; the bottom line is the Army Corp of Engineers has a history of doing its studies to reach an end result of 'no further action'; this has been seven years so far and it is coming in to do sample pits; it should have done directional push technology years ago; it is a BS effort and it is not going to go anywhere; and the only way it will get anywhere in other communities is when their local government has stepped up and sued the Corp of Engineers in order to get the results that were necessary.

Woodrow Sweet, Vice President Brevard County Professional Firefighters, stated he, like the Board Members, is an elected leader who has sworn an oath to those he represents; he comes before the Board tonight to demand action concerning the state of public safety in Brevard County; the County is not facing the potential of a critical failure, but rather it has reached critical failure; this is evidenced in the firefighter's inability to handle the 9-1-1 medical call load; as of two weeks ago, Brevard County Fire Rescue was forced to seek assistance from Coastal Health Systems to help with staffing and apparatus deficiencies; and if the Board does not know, Fire Rescue is very deficient. He continued by saying this coupled with the Fire Chief declaring a public safety crisis and now Commissioner Adkinson declaring the same crisis, only echoes what Brevard County Professional Firefighters have been telling the County for well over a year; the Board may be hearing from some prominent figures not to listen to the

firefighters regarding the state of public safety, but this is simply a fraudulent message designed to cause a rift between leadership and the firefighters, paramedics, and inspectors; and to combat the misinformation regarding the firefighters, he directs the Board's attention to the email that has been distributed to all five Commissioners from a neutral third party magistrate detailing his observation of the state of Brevard County public safety. He went on to say the magistrate's email reveals that Fire Rescue has been operating in a spinning deficit; he explains his displeasures with the County's stance on this matter as it pertains to the lack of contract with its firefighters and the lack of appropriate funding required to operate; he also advises against waiting for his report and recommendation and strongly suggests that the County find a solution as soon as possible to avoid service failure, which Fire Rescue is at; the Board has not listened to the email that the magistrate has sent and Fire Rescue has failed, not almost, the department is there; while he fully understands that the process of defunding the Fire Rescue Department started well before any of the Board Member's time on this Commission, but this is an inherited problem that the Board has sworn to fix; and as Chairman Feltner has said tonight, "We will get this done this summer," this is a major error and will cost lives. He asked with that being said, given the information, as the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, will Chairman Feltner commit to expedite properly funding Fire Rescue, rather than waiting months for the Report and Recommendation from the special magistrate, so Fire Rescue may begin the rebuilding process to provide the proper service they were sworn to give; and he stated the lives of the people are at risk.

### **L.3. Katie Delaney, Commissioner District 1, Re: Board Report**

Commissioner Delaney stated there has been a lot going on in District 1; she was lucky enough to go on a North area parks tour with Mike, the construction manager, and Steve; they were amazing, knowledgeable, and incredible people; they went all around to the District 1 Parks looking at all the projects that are being done; it was great to get a real hands-on understanding as to what is going on up there; and she is also very happy to report, because it has come up a lot in her office, herbicides are not being used in District 1 Park ponds and that is a great thing. She continued by saying the more chemicals that can be cut down from entering the waterways the better because it cuts down on the algae blooms and keeps the water looking great, which is not only great for everyone's health, but it is great for the economic development, as everyone knows Floridians love being on the water. She mentioned she also went to a couple community meetings in Cocoa; one, Councilwoman Lorraine Koss hosted, and it was really great to get to speak to the residents in Cocoa and hear their thoughts and concerns and all of that; that was really great; she also went to a community meeting about the City Point development that was on the table and again, it was great getting to hear from those residents; she also went on a couple of farm tours, one in the north end and one in the south end; she thinks the farm in the south end was 25,000 acres and the north end was around 70,000; and she is honestly speechless about what these families do for preservation and conservation for the wellbeing of the community. She commented in North Brevard at Farmton, what they are doing is rebuilding a quail habitat to bring the quails back to North Brevard which is cool for any hunters out there; that has been gone for a really long time, so they are working on that, which is awesome; she also went to the Canvassing Board meeting on the special primary election night; that was incredible to watch in action what the Supervisor of Elections does and how all the magic happens; she is happy to report there were no issues; unfortunately, there was not a whole lot of voter turnout, but hopefully those numbers will be pumped up; it is really important, even in these special elections; and she asked people to get out there and vote because the more people that vote, the more the community is represented in their vote. She noted she has been attending the weekly healthcare stakeholder meetings that the Space Coast Health Foundation has been hosting; a shout to them and she expressed her appreciation for organizing those meetings; they have been making great progress, as far as bringing everybody together and getting to a solution;

the next thing she wants to talk about is Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR) and the Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC); at the November 7 meeting her predecessor stated there would be a new Commission meeting and they might want to do a workshop and figure out what to do with all of the input and what they want to do moving forward; she would like to bring forward, at the next meeting, a request for a workshop to talk about the update to the Comprehensive Plan because there was a lot of citizen input into this and she really feels like there should be more of a conversation around this; people care about this and they want to know what is going on and they want to feel like they are heard and want to be a part of the conversation; and she feels like this is necessary, besides public safety, this is one of the major things that the County does; and she wanted to give the Board a heads up that she will be bringing this forward on the next Agenda. She advised she has received so many concerns about the Orlando Health-Rockledge Regional Hospital, from the citizens, the Fire Rescue Department, Health First, Parrish Medical Center, Rockledge Hospital doctors and nurses, and she just wanted to read a post she saw today on Facebook, it says, "Ambulance rushed my sister to Viera hospital from the Port St. John Urgent Center because Rockledge is no longer accepting patients. She arrived there just after four yesterday afternoon and was placed outside in the lobby for at least six hours before she got back, in terrible pain. We're still in the ER. There's no beds available and the waiting room, when we started we were told a two-hour wait. Waiting on surgeons to make a decision. I highly recommend if you do not need to go to the hospital for non-emergency care, go to a walk-in clinic, this is insane"; she would have to agree; Chairman Feltner had mentioned a couple time now that there is something big coming and whatnot, but she is speechless in this; she knows Coastal coming on board is a band-aid to this crisis, but it is not something that she feels is sufficient; she is also heavily concerned that the Board was not really part of that decision-making; this is a critical, massive change to the way that business is done here in Brevard County; and she feels like there should have been more Board discussion over this. She stated she is concerned over the level of service; and she asked if Chief Voltaire would not mind coming up because she has a question for him. She commented as far as the level of service goes, she understands that the Coastal ambulances are going to show up in non-emergent cases, not a heart attack, not a stroke, not major bleeding, trauma, or something like that, and she asked what about, God forbid, a kid got into a football accident and they had broken their femur, what would that look like.

Chief Patrick Voltaire, Fire Rescue Director, responded that would actually fall under trauma alert protocol; there are now two helicopters in Brevard County with Holmes going to the north end at TICO airport also; there have been many calls since then; he has only had one call in his career where they had to call for two helicopters; but crazy enough, since there have been two helicopters in Brevard County, he knows of two calls where they have actually had to utilize two helicopters.

Commissioner Delaney noted this is just for clarification, she wants to make sure that the public feels comfortable with this too, and she asked if anything to do with growth plates would be considered an ALS situation where the County Fire Rescue shows up and not Coastal.

Chief Voltaire responded yes broken bones would be.

Commissioner Delaney asked for clarification if any broken bone would be.

Chief Voltaire responded yes, any broken bone would be an Advanced Life Support (ALS) call; he noted a Coastal unit, a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit, will not go to a call on their own without any of the municipal first response or a County, unincorporated area first response unit, with a paramedic, and ALS unit getting there and evaluating the patient; from there, if they deem it would fit the protocol for Coastal, they will then call the Medical Director; and the Medical Director will say yes or no. He stated one of the examples he has is a bite; someone

calls 9-1-1 for an ant bite, a bee sting, he is not sure what kind of bite, but it was a bite, called the Medical Director, gave the vitals and a rundown, told the whole situation to one of the on-call Medical Directors, and then they will transfer it to Coastal from there; there are a lot of eyes on it watching it through the process; there have been a total of 49 activations since it has gone into service; and 16 since 7:00 a.m. Monday morning, when the hospital was officially shut down.

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wants to put it out there for the public that is watching this, and for people to be aware that the hospital is closed in Rockledge; she asked that people not drive there or go there because they will not get service; she stated if there is an emergency she would hate for something to happen because someone did not know; and if anyone has neighbors, elderly people around, in a moms group, whatever people are doing please spread the word that the hospital is closed and to please not go there. She mentioned something for the future, and she asked if an alternative to this would be to hire single certification paramedics per diem, and if that is something that is viable to get some highly qualified people who are working for these other agencies, into the County's agency.

Chair Voltaire responded affirmatively; he noted they have started with the single certs on a 24-hour basis; he knows the guys with the union had a conversation about the per diem late last week to start working on that as another angle; he will hire any single cert that would like to come work at Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) or any firefighter that would like to come, if they can pass the test; and the Board has heard the guys here, if BCFR had the people available to do this themselves in the rigs, they would be doing it themselves.

Commissioner Delaney asked if it is possible to work with them on their schedules as far as not having to work a full 24 hours, that they could work a 12-hour schedule.

Chief Voltaire replied yes, anything is possible; he noted they have just started talking about that the other day, how that would work in the flux of things that will have to be talked through; and it is in the beginning stages, but they have been talking about it.

Commissioner Delaney asked if she can put it out there for people to start applying for the County to start filling its fire department.

Chief Voltaire advised he is not there yet.

Commissioner Delaney stated if anyone out there is a single cert paramedic and he or she wants to work for Brevard County, but the hours are a problem, please email her, the Chief, or the County Manager because Brevard County wants he or she working for it. She asked what the cost is to the residents who use Coastal services.

Chief Voltaire answered it is \$742.95 plus \$14.30 per mile.

Commissioner Delaney asked if that is the same as the County's rates currently.

Chief Voltaire replied the County's rate for BLS transport is actually \$849.81 with the same per mileage rate.

Commissioner Delaney asked if the Coastal vehicles charge extra for any services provided within the ambulance.

Chief Voltaire responded by saying no, not that he is aware of, but he is not a billing expert for Coastal.

Commissioner Delaney commented with that all being said, she just wanted some information to be put out because she does not know how much has really been talked about to the public. She stated the next thing that she would like to talk about, she, along with Chairman Feltner, were at a Community Health Needs Assessment update where a lot of stakeholders had been pulled into the conversation, everyone from non-profits to healthcare industry people, some elected officials, a lot of people who could benefit from this information; unfortunately, she was troubled by what she saw and it is because the data that was put out there was minimal; the pool was only 1,200 people within the entire County; they provided survey data and compared to other surveys that she has seen going to government meetings and whatnot, she was troubled because the people who put it together could not provide the metrics; she was troubled by that, especially because this data could influence the decisions made by different healthcare providers; and there was some County staff there. She added she just wanted to go on the record and talk about that because only 233 people in North Brevard were a part of this, only half of the people who participated were random, and she feels like that is an important data point because if a survey is biased how good is the data. She pointed out she felt like she needed to speak about that. She mentioned the City of Titusville, one year ago, put out a survey and it went to their constituents, about how the City is going; that company provided three pages worth of methodology about how they did the survey; she was really troubled when she saw the Community Health Needs Assessment especially because of how important that information is; she would like to give the Board a heads up that at the next Board Meeting she will be placing on the Agenda the other Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs); and that will be open for conversation.

**L.5. Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 3, Re: Board Reports**

Commissioner Adkinson stated she will be hosting a town hall down in Barefoot Bay; there has been a lot of citizens who have some things that need to be discussed, therefore, she will be doing that this month; she continues to work with staff and the Barrier Island Preservation Protection Association (BIPPA) and hopefully the County will be able to have the Barrier Island Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC) plan hopefully transmitted sometime in July; currently, she believes the County Attorney is looking over some changes that were made by BIPPA; and lastly, Florida Department of Transportation has been fantastic and they have put their project for the pedestrian hybrid beacon on hold at the moment until there is a stakeholder meeting.

**L.7. Rob Feltner, Commissioner District 4, Chairman, Re: Board Reports**

Chairman Feltner stated in regards to the hospital, he knows the Legislature just continues to put pressure; he cannot speak to any specifics, only that he thinks it is still evolving; he knows that there are some questions as to what can be done to make things a little better in Brevard County; he thinks that at least, starts a discussion on the help Brevard County needs with some things; and he thinks that is in progress right now. He mentioned the event Commissioner Delaney discussed on the data, he does not think she is wrong; however, the closer someone gets to the population, the greater the validity of the survey, more people more data; he thinks they will probably go there in the future; and that is the future of data.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:



*Rachel M. Sadoff*  
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RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK



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

Approved by the Board on July 8, 2025.

## Kimberly Powell

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**From:** Kimberly Powell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** Cathy Lively; Commissioner District 1; Commissioner District 2; Commissioner District 3; Commissioner District 4; Commissioner District 5; Morris Richardson  
**Subject:** 04-08-2025 Regular Draft Kim  
**Attachments:** 04-08-2025 Regular Draft Kim.rtf

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached April 8, 2025 Regular meeting minutes to be considered by the Board on July 8, 2025.

If you find any discrepancies please let me know prior to Board approval.

Have a great day,  
Kim