

**MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY LIAISON COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
AUGUST 26, 2025**

Present were:

Benjamin Heavener  
David Otterness  
John Settineri  
Mark Stanoch  
Don Berg

Present were:

Brent Anderson, Government Relations Manager  
Crosley Jones, Legislative Aide  
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor., Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Brent Anderson, Government Relations Manager, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

 Member Settineri delivered the invocation.


**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Otterness led the Pledge of Allegiance.


**AGENDA**

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**INTRODUCTIONS**

 Members and staff introduced themselves.


**OVERVIEW OF SUNSHINE LAW AND PUBLIC RECORDS LAW**

 Crosley Jones, Legislative Aide, used a slide presentation to review the Sunshine Law and public records law including members not engaging in discussion outside of meetings, scope of the Sunshine Law, meetings must be open to the public, recording meetings, Florida Statute 286.0114, penalties for violating Sunshine Law, Public Records Act, public records definition, disclosure and retention, providing public records, fees for providing public records, retention schedules approved by the State, and additional resources may be found on the Florida Attorney General website (myfloridalegal.com).

Mr. Anderson reiterated that the Committee is not allowed to speak to the Board of County Commissioners regarding anything that needs to be approved by the Board. The public would need to send a public records request to the County for information presented at the Committee. He recommended keeping everything related to the Committee be kept in the shared file, not saved on personal devices.

Corey Stutte, Deputy County Administrator, encouraged Members to use their County issued email to communicate.

Mr. Anderson explained there is a formal process to communicate to the Members.

 Discussion ensued regarding public records requests, if the public sends and email to a personal email, the Member can forward to their County email, and then respond, fact

finding as opposed to taking action, recommendations from the Committee cannot be discussed with County Commissioners, and this Committee is tasked with looking at areas to review.

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### **ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Mr. Anderson explained if a Member misses three consecutive meetings in a row, there may need to be action taken.

### **SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Anderson opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Member Stanoch nominated himself as Chairman, the nomination was seconded by Member Otterness.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the roles of having a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, including presented items or summaries to the County Commission.

Member Stanoch was appointed at Chairman.

Motion was made by Member Otterness for himself to serve as Vice-Chairman. Member Settineri, seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0, to appoint Member Otterness as Vice-Chairman.

### **PROPOSED MEETING DATES AND TIMES**



The proposed meeting dates are September 23, October 28, November 25, and December 9, 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding the November 25 meeting, and bring back alternate dates for the November meeting.

A motion was made by Member Otterness, seconded by Member Settineri, and carried 5-0, to approve the September 23, October 28, and December 9, dates with further discussion at the next meeting regarding November 25.

### **ACCESSING SHARED FILES**



Mr. Anderson used a slide presentation to review Member access to the Sharepoint site, Citizen request file, three Florida Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) requests, one request from a member regarding the Tourist Development Tax, acknowledgement forms, six questions from the State, Manatee response to questions, response three includes all the documents requested by the State, broken down by department, and Members can make requests of items they want to look into.

### **AREAS OF REVIEW – INFORMATION REQUEST FORM**

Mr. Anderson continued the slides to review the information page for the Committee, and the public request form for items they would like the Committee to review, and these requests will be reviewed at meetings. The Committee will make the decision if the requests are to be reviewed.



Discussion ensued to keep things as they are now, to see how the process works, everything on the SharePoint site is protected, Members communicate with staff and staff

can provide information, compliments on the SharePoint site, scope and timeline for the Committee, is there mission for this Committee, welcome packet includes the Resolution R-25-072 setting up the Committee, information can be provided related to Manatee County Government, mission to ensure funds are being spent correctly, Committee is set to find ways for Government to be efficient, the most the Committee can do is make a recommendation, but the Board of County Commissioners make the final decision, letter sent to the Governor's office is included on the SharePoint site, Tourist Development Tax and how the funds are used, review of what other Counties are doing with their Committees, are Members allowed to contact Members of Committees in other Counties, guided by Members and comments by other individuals, deadline for agenda items is two weeks prior to the next meeting, the only timeline from the State is 60 days for the report to be returned to the County, and provide organizational charts for County departments.

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**



Member Settineri suggested reviewing County organizational charts.



Member Heavener questioned if staff would be able to provide a visualization of budget items, or similar topics. He also noted the importance of reviewing large land purchases and high-ticket expenditures.



Mr. Anderson stated they would provide information. The School District is a separate entity, and the Board of County Commissioners does not have control over the School District budget.

Chairman Stanoch questioned the School District budget.



Discussion ensued that the School District is a separate taxable entity, why does the County provide funding for the School District, overlap information can be supplied, Constitutional Officers are also separate entities, and their budgets can be provided.



Member Otterness questioned sharing files and personal information.

Discussion ensued regarding having County staff attend meetings, and are County reserves too high.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**



Dr. Darryl Drury discussed the best way to review efficiency, fiscal responsibility, meeting the needs of citizens, and requested the redevelopment of County Club East Park in Lakewood Ranch be reviewed by the Committee.

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Art Vedder requested the redevelopment of County Club East Park be reviewed, as the plans are not compatible for a local park.

Discussion ensued regarding the citizens expressing their concerns to the County Commissioners.



Michael Arnold requested the redevelopment of County Club East Park be reviewed, as the plans are not compatible for a local park.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciating the comments from the citizens.

Mr. Anderson read emails from citizens regarding items they wish the Committee would review.

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Discussion ensued regarding obtaining information on how to submit citizen comments/requests, make an announcement at the September 2, Board meeting, move citizen comments prior to Member comments, and all Members are invited to attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_