

**MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY LIAISON COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
March 17, 2026**

Present were:

David Otterness, Vice-Chairman
Don Berg (via Teams)
John Settineri
Jeff Covert

Absent was/were:

Present were:

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**



Vice-Chairman Otterness called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Otterness delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Otterness led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES



A motion was made by Member Covert, seconded by Member Settineri, and carried 4-0, to approve the minutes of February 20, 2026.

The next meeting will be held April 14, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Otterness announced Chairman Stanoch resigned from the Committee.

Mr. Anderson noted staff may not pursue the application process for a new member based on timing and the Committee sunseting in July 2026.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, opened the floor for nominations for Officers.

Nominations - Chairman

David Otterness by Member Covert



Vice-Chairman Otterness noted he is unable to present reports before the Board of County Commissioners (Board). Member Covert stated he can report to the Board.

Nominations were closed, and Member Otterness was appointed as Chairman.

Nominations – Vice-Chairman

Jeff Covert by Member Settineri

Nominations were closed, and Member Covert was elected as Vice-Chairman.

AGENDA

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2. **LETTER TO FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**



Brent Anderson, Government Relations, noted there are no updates regarding the letter, which was dropped off on January 21, 2026.

3. **FUTURE GOALS**



Member Settineri presented a document titled Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Bullet Points on topics of interest.

Discussion ensued regarding clarifying responsibilities to ensure cost savings, efficiencies, possible uses of Tourist Development Tax, reserves, need input from the Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO), clarification of \$12 million paid to the School District of Manatee County, the County is a pass through for collecting impact fees, interlocal agreements, sharing library facilities with local universities, create a format for the final report with a summary of findings, and analyze patterns in the Sheriff budget with crime data and growth.



Chairman Otterness submitted a draft report on interlocal agreements, history of interlocal agreements, considerations for review include a centralized database of all interlocal agreements, amendments, and termination dates, examples of interlocal agreements, shared interlocal agreements with the School District of Manatee County, show citizens interlocal agreements benefit citizens, future opportunities for transportation, purchasing, and shared staffing resources.

Brent Anderson, Government Relations, explained Representative Conerly introduced a Bill for the University Town Center area to be its own special district.



Discussion ensued regarding recommend the Board perform the analysis, provide a brief history of interlocal agreements to Commissioners, each department handles their own interlocal agreements, each agreement stands on its own, shared use facilities with Fire Districts, and Fire Districts have their own source of revenue as special taxing districts.



Member Berg requested a meeting with Mr. Anderson to compile information regarding purchasing.

4. **FINAL REPORT STRUCTURE**



Chairman Otterness suggested combining the reports in a general format, and present areas of focus to the Board.

Discussion ensued regarding being in-sync with the reports and recommendations, and it is important to speak with the interim CFO.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the Committee's wish for the final presentation with bullet points and present an executive summary, areas of consolidation, pros to enhance interlocal agreement, and the entire Committee should present to the Board in June.

5. **PURCHASE INFORMATION REQUESTED**

Brent Anderson, Government Relations, explained staff reached out to other government entities, but only the Town of Longboat Key responded.

6. **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Brent Anderson, Government Relations, explained this is the last quarter for the Committee to meet. There is an agenda item for the Committee to provide an update at the March 24, 2026 Board meeting.

7. **ONLINE CITIZEN COMMENT**

There were no comments submitted online.

8. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There being no citizen comment, Chairman Otterness closed citizen comment.

9. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member Covert noted he will be out of town for the April 14, 2026, meeting.

10. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Otterness adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____