

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT WORK SESSION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
December 6, 2016**

Present were:

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Vanessa Baugh, Chairman
Robin DiSabatino, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Betsy Benac
Stephen R. Jonsson
Carol Whitmore
Priscilla Whisenant Trace

Present were:

ISLAND MAYORS

Dan Murphy, City of Anna Maria
William Shearon, City of Bradenton Beach
Bob Johnson, City of Holmes Beach
Terry Gans, Mayor of Town of Longboat Key
Dave Bullock, Town Manager of Longboat Key

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Robin Toth, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Baugh called the joint work session to order at 3:04 p.m.

AGENDA

BC20161206DOC007

4. **TOURISM IMPACTS ON THE BARRIER ISLANDS**

Island Mayors Dan Murphy, William Shearon, Bob Johnson, and Terry Gans were introduced.

Dave Bullock, Town Manager of the Town of Longboat Key, stated Mayor Jack Duncan recently resigned due to health issues, and Vice-Mayor Terry Gans, has assumed the Mayor seat.

Mr. Bullock used a slide presentation to address the barrier islands, permanent and seasonal population figures. An origin destination study is underway. The barrier islands support three times its permanent population.

The slide presentation continued regarding seasonal, visitor and day tripper population is 3.1 times greater than permanent population, the barrier islands make up 2.7 percent of the overall population of Manatee County, EMS/Fire calls have increased 62 percent for 2010-2015, AMI trolley ridership has increased more than 100,000 in four years, 2016 was a record-breaking summer for tourism in Manatee and Sarasota counties, planned or approved new development near barrier islands, effect on population-based Island revenues as County populations increase, barrier island contributions, Ad Valorem taxes paid by barrier island taxpayers FY 2008-2017, per capita ad valorem contributions of the Island versus Mainland, Tourist Development Tax (TDT) Collection and Population, breakdown of Island communities property tax dollars, County Interlocal Agreements with the Island cities FY 2014-2017, Beach Concession Funds available to Island cities, infrastructure needs, operating expense demands, and funding sources for the next 15 years, total Capital improvements and operating costs for the island cities, total potential funds over the 15-year period, projected deficit of each city, Capital Improvements deficit, and Barrier Island Request with and without operating costs.



Discussion ensued that Island millage rates have not increased, average of five-year capital expenditures were carried forward, assessment rates remain unchanged, and TDT and

federal/state partnerships for Anna Maria Island Beach.

Mayor Dan Murphy, City of Anna Maria, reviewed FY 2015 TDT Distribution for projects and maintenance.

Discussion continued regarding revenue sources to maintain local roads on the Island, Island millages versus millage rates for the Cities of Bradenton and Palmetto, beach concession revenues, how do the Island Cities plan to use their portion of the half-cent sales tax revenue, bed tax, desire for more leniency on the use of tax revenues, and the Island cities were asked to forward their lists of legislative priorities to the Board.

 Nick Azzara, Public Information Officer, distributed a handout regarding House Bill 7099, which allows a very small group of Florida gulf counties to spend up to ten percent of tourism taxes toward supplanting the normal operating expenses of public safety, emergency medical and law enforcement services. It is not new money and it cannot supplant tax dollars. This matter can be taken to the next Florida Association of Counties meeting if our community seeks to pursue this change with a different strategy, but population and restricted uses criteria must be met.

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, stated the supplanting is not part of the equation; the additional dollars are available, but only for expanded law enforcement and EMS services and not for road work or libraries.

 William Clague, Assistant County Attorney, advised that strict legal rules exist regarding the use of public revenues to help fund municipal expenses.

 Discussion ensued as to which island cities have a business tax, and the millage rates of each municipality and the School Board.

 Mayor Gans commented on various data provided in the slide presentation.

Further discussion occurred to pursue lobbying in Tallahassee, continue dialogue with the Island Mayors to brainstorm solutions, and look at those things that are a status quo that can be changed.

 Katherine Edwards questioned Ad Valorem taxes were calculated as though they were fixed at a 15-year period, beach renourishment and maintenance costs, can the County disburse funds to the Cities from the half-cent sales tax without any allocations information from the city given that the County is ultimately responsible for the distribution. She also said it would be interesting to see the shortfalls that would be experienced if government would consider reorganizing to be more efficient and consolidating the three Island Cities into one. She noted the identity of Longboat Key is totally different from Anna Maria and if the County would consider discussions with Sarasota County on making Longboat Key part of Sarasota County versus remaining in Manatee County.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Baugh closed citizen comments.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the work session at 4:45p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____