

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, LONGBOAT KEY ROOM
One Haben Boulevard
Palmetto, Florida
September 21, 2020**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Betsy Benac, Chairman
Carol Whitmore, First Vice-Chairman
Misty Servia, Second Vice-Chairman
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman
Vanessa Baugh (attended via Zoom)
Stephen R. Jonsson (attended via Zoom)
Priscilla Whisenant Trace

Also present were:

Cheri Coryea, County Administrator
Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director
Quantana Acevedo, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Benac called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Bellamy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

BC20200921DOC001

1. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

 Cheri Coryea, County Administrator, stated this is the second and final budget hearing for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

2. **STAFF PRESENTATION**

4. **AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE COMPARISON**

 Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, utilized a slide presentation to provide an overview of the FY 2021-25 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) including the uses of funds, infrastructure sales tax (first program - 15 years), FY 2021 tentative budget (revenues by source, and uses by function), total countywide millage - countywide and voted debt millage, and total tentative millages.

BC20200921DOC002

Ms. Brewer read language for the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice: The item of information needed is to describe the percentage of additional property taxes that would be generated by the growth in the tax base exclusive of growth from new construction. This is also referred to as the increase in revenue over the rollback rate or amount in the budget proposal for Manatee County while the overall tax rates are not increasing, the aggregate increase over rollback percentage is 3.4 percent. The aggregate millage for FY 2021 is 6.8813 and the rollback aggregate rate of 6.659.

 Discussion proceeded on the County having a balanced budget in accordance with State requirements.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 Mike Meehan commented on excess reserves and unrestricted funds being an issue in the County and how the County should fund land acquisitions directly instead of borrowing funds. He referenced the handout out he submitted at the previous budget hearing (9/14/20).

 Emily Keller expressed concern that the Manatee County Sheriff's Office has not addressed racial injustices in the County and national police brutality. The proposed budget is an insult to the residents and funds allocated for law enforcement should be reallocated to social services.

 Katherine Edwards concurred with previous speakers. The reserves are higher than they should be for the County and Public Safety garners more funding than human services.

 Glen Gibellina called in to agree with Mr. Meehan regarding the County self-funding projects and on the need for affordable housing. He commended Sheriff Rick Wells and staff on a job well done.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Benac closed public comment.

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5. **MILLAGE/BUDGET ADOPTION/RESOLUTIONS**

Motion – Resolution B-21-004

 A motion was made by Commissioner Trace and seconded by Commissioner Servia, to adopt Resolution B-21-004, setting final millage rates for FY 2020-2021.

Discussion ensued on how the County is working with the Sheriff's Office on body cameras and diversity training, and on programs to assist with housing needs (i.e., Livable Manatee).

The motion carried 7-0.

Motion – Resolution B-21-005

 A motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Bellamy and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-21-005, Manatee County annual budget for FY 2020-2021.

Motion – Resolution B-21-006

 A motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Servia and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-21-006, budget for Manatee County dependent special taxing districts (Port Authority, Housing Authority of Manatee County, Law Library, and Myakka City Fire Control District) for FY 2020-2021.

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6. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND POLICY/RESOLUTION**

 A motion was made by Commissioner Whitmore, seconded by Commissioner Bellamy and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution R-20-138, adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Policy regarding the administration of the CIP for FY 2020-2025.

Commissioner Servia and Chairman Benac commended staff on their efforts regarding the budget.

The motion was amended by Commissioner Whitmore to correctly reflect fiscal years 2021-2025 instead of 2020-2025 as previously stated. Commissioner Bellamy agreed and the motion as amended, carried 7-0.

Discussion took place on the decrease in gas tax revenues, the budget is complicated, the budget being balanced now, but life circumstance may alter the numbers in 2021, and Mr. Meehan's comment on the County's excess reserves and unrestricted funds. BC20200921DOC005

7. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING (ADJOURN)**

 There being no further business, Chairman Benac adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____