

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

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

Present were:

Stephen R. Jonsson, Chairman
Betsy Benac, First Vice-Chairman
Carol Whitmore, Third Vice-Chairman
Vanessa Baugh
Priscilla Whisenant Trace

Absent was/were:

Misty Servia, Second Vice-Chairman
Reggie Bellamy

Also present were:

Cheri Coryea, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court



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

AGENDA

BC20190909DOC001

7. **UPDATES TO THE AGENDA**



Item 4 - Tentative Millage/Budget Adoption, Section 3 of Resolution B-20-003 was updated to correct "Fiscal Year 2018-2019" to Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

1. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, explained this is the Truth in Millage meeting advertised in the TRIM notices sent out by the Property Appraiser. Public Comment will be heard and the tentative budget will be adopted.

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5. **AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE COMPARISON**



Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, used a slide presentation to review the proposed budget. The aggregate millage rate for Manatee County Board of County Commissioners for FY19/20 is 6.8793, and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of 6.6083 for the operating millage is hereby determined to be 4.10 percent. There is no increase in the overall tax rates.

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2. **STAFF PRESENTAITON**

Ms. Brewer continued the slides to review taxable property values, history of total millage rates, revenue structure compared to neighboring counties, revenues by source, and use by function.

Discussion ensued regarding being transparent, and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).



Ms. Brewer explained the cash in the bank account includes a 20 percent reserve on the operational side. When a contract is executed for a capital improvement project the funds for the entire project must be in place, even though it will not all be spent at that time. There are

three large projects including Phase 2 of the Dam, Hurricane Irma costs, and microfiltration. The Clerk of the Circuit Court and FDOT both require the funds to be available to begin a project.

 Ms. Brewer continued to discuss the total tentative millage which includes the unincorporated MSTU, and noted the increase in taxable value is due to new growth.

 Candi Cruz, Budget Manager, stated the County has received approximately \$12 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, of the \$17 million spent.

 Ms Coryea stated more details regarding Stormwater fees will be available after the work sessions later this month.

 John Osborne, Acting Deputy County Administrator, explained the mobility fee will be an update to the impact fee schedule, and will be presented later this year. These fees will be used for capacity improvements to infrastructure, and will be paid by new construction.

 Discussion ensued regarding the stormwater fee being paid by all residents, not necessary to charge residents fees that are not needed, and what is the increased revenue from higher taxable values.

 Ms. Brewer clarified the increase this year is 7.6 percent/\$18.8 million more this year, then last year in taxes.

 Cheri Coryea, County Administrator, addressed the 7.6 percent increase and explained there is still a gap of items that were not funded in the budget, and the goal is to meet the required level of service.

 Ms. Brewer noted the 20 percent reserve is based on funds, not departments.

 Discussion ensued regarding mobility fees being paid by new growth and the limits on impact fees instituted by the State, Stormwater fees will not be assessed this year, Stormwater fees are currently being paid with solid waste fees, 1.9 percent increase for homesteaded property, cannot rely on reserves, and the credit line for Phase 2 of the dam project.

 Ms. Brewer stated both Bond agencies were positive about a disaster fund being set aside to ensure there are funds in the wake of a disaster. Counties must balance their budgets.

 Ms. Coryea explained service levels need to be increased due to the increase in population. The General Fund is taking a hit for everything that does not have its own funding. One of the goals for this year is to find ways to increase services.

Discussion continued regarding concern with charging the citizens more fees, meeting the requirements set by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and interest rates and bond rating.

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3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

 Dr. William Carlton requested support for a library in east County, and stressed the need for philanthropy to be included in funding.

 Ernest "Sandy" Marshall, Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, addressed disaster preparedness and the need to provide for adequate funding for safe shelters and hardening all the schools. He suggested collecting 100 percent of impact fees, and require part of the half cent sales tax be used for shelters and hardening other public buildings for shelters, and that new subdivisions have a hardened shelter.

 Mike Meehan spoke on property taxes, Stormwater fees being adequate as is, reserves, and unrestricted cash.

 Michael Matson questioned why the dive well at G.T. Bray cannot be repaired, and questioned funding for the Lincoln Park pool.

 Ken Piper asked the Board to consider a tax break by half a mil and questioned how much is in the reserves and disaster funds.

 Darryl Johnson requested a tax break, and discussed increased property values.

There be no further public comment, Chairman Jonsson closed public comment.

Discussion ensued regarding restrictions on impact fees, costs to harden shelters, hardening schools for shelters comes from the County Budget, Disaster Fund is new and is needed, east County library will be 24,000 square feet, Friend's of Lakewood Ranch, and a number of large projects planned that require funding. BC20190909DOC005

4. **TENTATIVE MILLAGE/BUDGET ADOPTION**

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Resolution B-20-001, adopting the tentative ad valorem millage rates for FY19/20 annual budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore, and carried 5-0, with Commissioners Servia and Bellamy absent, to adopt Resolution B-20-001, adopting the tentative ad valorem millage rates for FY19/20 annual budget.

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Resolution B-20-002 to amend and adopt a tentative budget for FY19/20.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore, and carried 5-0 with Commissioners Servia and Bellamy absent, to adopt Resolution B-20-002 to amend and adopt a tentative budget for FY19/20 which also includes the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxes Unit and the Palm Aire Municipal Services Tax Unit.

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Resolution B-20-003 to adopt the tentative budget for Dependent Special Districts of the Board of County Commissioners for FY19/20.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore, and carried 5-0, with Commissioners Servia and Bellamy absent, to adopt Resolution B-20-003 to adopt the tentative budget for FY19/20 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts.

 Discussion ensued regarding County requirements to harden schools, need a policy for philanthropic donations for improvements, funding for CIP projects need to be in the bank prior to starting the project, property values reached pre-recession values in 2018, but new homes are included in the values.

 Ms. Brewer stated she has an appointment with Mr. Meehan to clarify statements and to review funds that are reserved for specific projects.

 Discussion continued that the budget stabilization fund is in place to support the county and find a way to help citizens.

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6. **NEXT PUBLIC HEARING**

 The next public hearing will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers; First Floor; Manatee County Government Administrative Center; 1112 Manatee Avenue West; Bradenton, FL.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Jonsson adjourned the meeting 7:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____