

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
SEPTEMBER 17 2019**

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

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Cheri Coryea, County Administrator
Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court



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

AGENDA

BC20190917DOC00

1. **INTRODUCTORY**



Cheri Coryea, County Administrator, reviewed the budget process for FY19/20. This was the first year for a results first based budget. A balanced budget is a requirement of the County Administrator, and a large portion of the budget is to increase services for the growing population.

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2. **STAFF PRESENTATION**



Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, used a slide presentation to review, from 2008 to 2020, taxable property values, total millage rates, total tentative millage rates, a comparison of revenue structure for Manatee and neighboring counties, the tentative budget summary (required by the State), sources of funds, uses of funds, interim statements, history of governmental cash and investments, and reserves broken down by funds. Ms. Brewer stressed that funds cannot cross, for example impact fees cannot be used for public safety. The budget stabilization fund totals \$45.5 million and a breakdown of the millage per fund was reviewed. Gas taxes are for specific uses as designated by Florida Statute. She continued to discuss the expenses of the General Fund by each department. The Sheriff's budget includes operations at the jail. Ms. Brewer continued to address the revenues by source and the uses by function. Public Safety is the largest use at \$197.6 million.



Discussion ensued regarding the County has just reached a healthy point with the budget, the millage was lowered in 2008, a Building fee study is being performed, water and utilities have a 10-year plan, the only funds that can borrow from each other would be from the general fund into another specific fund such as the tourist fund, and there were loans for the building fund.



Discussion continued regarding there is always a need, Manatee County is going to continue to grow, and there may be opportunities next year to be able to fund additional programs.

 Ms. Coryea explained there are large projects in the future including the Lincoln Park pool and the east County Library, but currently, there is no funding for operations of these projects.

 Ms. Brewer noted the spending out the cash reserves is being spent down by \$30 million. BC20190917DOC00

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

 Mike Meehan requested a 15 percent cut in millage which he anticipates will be gained in two years based on rising property values. He addressed statistics from the ALICE report and homestead exemptions.

 Angel Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court, addressed Florida Law that dictates what can and cannot be done regarding investments. The Clerk maximizes the return on investment by putting the funds in short term instruments. She continued to discuss rising bond ratings, the financial stability of Manatee County, and a high level of financial responsibility to attain financial resilience. She continued to speak on factors that affect the stability of the County. There is no profit earned by the County.

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

 Motion was made by Commissioner Bellamy for a work session in February or March to come up with a strategy to potentially cut the millage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baugh.

Discussion ensued regarding taking in all the revenue at once and then it is spent down throughout the year.

 Ms. Brewer explained there has been growth, but the budget reflects the ability to maneuver within the existing funding. She clarified the County only receives part of the total seven percent sales tax collected; the State keeps a portion of the sales tax.

 Discussion ensued regarding would cutting the millage correct the issues for the ALICE population, asking residents to pay more money for stormwater and mobility fees, the economy slows down during a Presidential election, how can the County help residents do well, consider the percentage of the reserves, misconception about where the money would be taken from if the millage is reduced, mobility fee is paid as an impact fee paid by new development, and appreciation for the presentation this evening and comments by Ms. Colonnese.

Motion was made by Commission Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore and carried 7-0 to call the question.

There being no public comment, Chairman Jonsson closed public comment.

 The motion carried 7-0. BC20190917DOC00

4. **AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE COMPARISON**

 Ms. Brewer announced the aggregate millage rate for the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners for FY19/20 is 6.8792, and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of 6.6083 for the operating millage is hereby determined to be a 4.10 percent increase. There is no increase in the overall tax rates. BC20190917DOC00

5. **MILLAGE/BUDGET ADOPTION**

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of Resolutions B-20-004, B-20-005 and B-20-006.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore, and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-20-004, setting final millage rates for FY19/20.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Benac, and carried 7-0 to adopt Resolution B-20-005, the annual budget for Manatee County for FY19/20.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore, and carried 7-0 to adopt Resolution B-20-006, the final budget for Manatee County Dependent Special Taxing Districts including the Manatee County Port Authority, the Housing Authority of Manatee County, the Manatee County Law Library, and the Myakka City Fire Control District for FY19/20. BC20190917DOC00

6. **FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND POLICY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, and seconded by commissioner Benac, to adopt Resolution R-19-135 adopting a Five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Policy regarding the administration of the five-year capital Improvement Plan for the FY20-24.

Discussion ensued regarding being able to add or remove projects from the CIP throughout the year.

There being no public comment, Chairman Jonsson closed public comment.

The motion carried 7-0.

Discussion ensued regarding not willing to jeopardize public safety if there is a cut to the millage, and important to make good decisions for the citizens. BC20190917DOC00

7. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Jonsson closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____