

# **Brevard County Board of County Commissioners**

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940*



## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

**5:30 PM**

**Final Budget Hearing**

**Commission Chambers**

**A. CALL TO ORDER 5:32 PM**

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Rob Feltner, District 4**

Commissioner Feltner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Commissioner District 1 Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 3 John Tobia, Commissioner District 2 Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 5 Jason Steele, and Commissioner District 4 Rob Feltner

**D.1. Announcement of the Percentage Change in the FY 2024-2025 Aggregate Tentatively Adopted Millage from the Aggregate Rolled-Back Rate**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to consider the percentage change in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 aggregate tentative adopted millage from the aggregate rolled-back rate.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Item allows for the reading of the tentative aggregate operating millage rate to fund the portion of the FY 2024-2025 budget that is supported by property taxes; and at this time, he would ask that the Budget Office read into the record the tentative aggregate millage rate for FY 2024-2025.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated the aggregate tentative millage rate for FY 2024-2025 budget is 4.4390 mills; this represents no change from the aggregate rolled-back millage rate of 4.4390 mills; and the tentative aggregate millage rate represents a 4.3 percent reduction when compared to the current FY 2023-2024 aggregate millage rate of 4.6383.

There being no comments or objections, the Board acknowledged the announcement as read into the record that the aggregate rolled-back rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is 4.4390 mills, the aggregate tentative rate is 4.4390, and the percentage change is 0.00 percent, including voted millages.

**D.2. Public Comment: Re: Revised Tentatively Adopted County Operating and Capital Budget for FY 2024-2025**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to accept public comments concerning the revised tentatively approved County operating and capital budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Agenda Items allows the public to comment on the County budget for FY 2024-2025; and before the Commission begins public comment, he would ask that the Budget Office read into the record the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated the FY 2024-2025 budget is \$2,250,925,875; and the budget represents an increase of \$100,817,548 or 4.69 percent more than the FY 2023-2024 current budget of \$2,150,108,327.

Mr. Abbate announced the Board is now ready to accept public comment on the budget for FY 2024-2025.

Chair Steele stated since they do not have an agreement between the County and the fire union, he inquired what kind of discussion the Board could have from here.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, replied the County is currently in negotiations with the union; and he stated it is appropriate to keep those negotiations in the proper forum of where they are at now.

Michael Bramson, Brevard County Firefighters Union President, stated he resides in Altamonte Springs; he wants to thank the Board for the last time it met for the direction to explore fire funding, budget, and moving forward with that; the union is encouraged by the details, facts, and needs that the study will identify, including lifeguards and fleet services; however, this study will take time, and it was commented that it could take up to one year; the budget being finalized today is insufficient to run and expand Fire Rescue to meet the public's needs and expected service over the course of the year; as they move through the process Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) will continue to hemorrhage experience and be impacted by failing equipment; the most recent submissions of the resignations has changed BCFR for the worst; the resignations are people who are considered to be leaders and mentors; the pillars of society; people who are integral part of the day-to-day of BCFR; these members are not people who are on a pit stop on their way to a better place, they were Brevard; and now they are gone. He went on to say it would take a very long time to get the replacements up to speed; the outside hires would be resented, but not because of who they are but why they are here; this budget did not allow all necessary expansions of BCFR; the consideration of expansion is appreciated; and they do want the Board to consider expanding the services and the budget for the services deserving of Brevard County's public safety.

Christina Fleming stated she is a resident of District 3 and a retired firefighter; she rejects the proposed 2024-2025 budget, as it does not adequately fund public safety; she would like to address the critical budgetary needs of BCFR and why the Board cannot approve the budget as it is presented today; one of District 1's fire stations has been condemned with no suitable replacement in sight; as of date, nothing has been ordered; a temporary leasing agreement is sitting in the County Attorney's Office for approval of two trailers on Authur Dunn Airport property in Titusville; it should be noted that, although temporary, these trailers do not have showers for the employees, mobile showers are being considered; this unexpected lease with the Airport will cost taxpayers roughly \$1,800 a month; before condemned for safety issues, Station 23 housed five employees per shift, a district Lieutenant, Fire Medic, and two Fire Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT); currently, one rescue is sitting behind the hold station in a fifth wheel camper, the other is being housed at Station 22 in Mims; and this results in delayed response times for 9-1-1 calls which is unacceptable, dangerous, and potentially leading to life-threatening situations. She continued saying this station should have been replaced five years ago when the roof opened up, but its continued use can be attributed to budgetary restraints and tabled capital overlay; currently, multiple fire engines do not have functioning air conditioning; firefighters are being told that the backup engines are unavailable, that air conditioning repairs are either not possible due to unavailable parts, or because those parts are obsolete; they are only being told it is only a requirement to have a heater; as a temporary solution fans are being used in cabs; this is insufficient with Florida's brutal heat index as crews lack the ability to effectively cool down after structure and wildland fires; and this is a critical need. She stated a new fire station in Viera is scheduled to open on October 1; Station 49 still has multiple, unfilled positions with a result of 34 unfilled firefighter, paramedic vacancies; when the doors finally open these positions will be filled with costly overtime or less than qualified firefighter EMT floaters; she asked if The Viera Company is aware of the staffing shortfall, because this is a critical need; and she stated since January 2014 they have lost 611 field personnel, for a fiscal impact of \$13 million. She stated this does not include the gaps created from transfers to inspections or promotions to administration; this year alone, as of today they are looking at 71 field resignations; this is critical need and the basis for the public safety crisis currently being experienced; as of yesterday's negotiation, they can expect their staffing and attrition issues to be exasperated because the current firefighter contract expires on the first; the word is out in the community and around the State; who wants to work for a fire department approaching a pay freeze; the lead, third-party negotiator was asked three months

ago to petition his client for a raise effective immediately, via an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with hopes that the bleeding would slow; but, instead the County Manager will use a frozen contract as a bargaining tactic to starve his employees with hopes that they will accept an offer, that still leaves the senior firefighters and inspectors an average of 22.06 percent underpaid, in comparison to the comparable that is constantly updated to the team, and it is just a shame.

There being no further comments, the Board accepted public comments concerning the tentatively approved Operating and Capital Budget for the County's 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, including Charter Officers and Dependent Special Districts.

**D.3. Public Comment, Discussion and Adoption of the Resolution Establishing Final Millages for FY 2024-2025 for Brevard County**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing for public comment, discussion, and adoption of the resolution establishing final millages for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 for Brevard County.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, advised the Board that it is recommended that the Commissioners discuss the budget since it must adopt the millages and related budgets separately; and comments and motions concerning the individual tax levies can also be made at the time each millage is adopted.

Chair Steele advised he has no lights and no public comment.

Mr. Abbate stated this Item allows for public comment, discussion, and adoption of the final millages for FY 2024-2025; and if there are any public comments on this Item now would be the appropriate time to hear those comments.

Chair Steele noted he has no public comment on this Item.

Mr. Abbate continued by saying the Budget Office personnel will now read into the record the millage and related ad valorem revenue for each taxing authority; and following the reading of each tax levy it is recommended that the Chair entertain a motion for approval of that millage.

**Operating - General Fund**

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, stated for the operating FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 2.9207, which is a 1.95 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 2.8648, generating \$197,160,515.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for the Operating – General Fund at 2.9207 generating \$197,160,515.

RP/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Free Public Library District**

Keith Neterer, Budget Manager, stated for the Brevard Free Public Library District, the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.3306, which is a 2.16 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.3236, generating \$22,431,234.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for the Brevard Free Public Library District at 0.3306 generating \$22,431,234.  
TG/RP

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Mosquito Control District

Ms. Hayes stated for the Brevard Mosquito Control the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.1367, which is a 2.63 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.1332, generating \$9,275,105.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Brevard Mosquito Control at 0.1367 generating \$9,275,105.

RP/TG

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Fire Control MSTU

Mr. Neterer stated for the Fire Control MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.4929 which is a 2.73 change from the rolled-back millage of 0.4798, generating \$15,904,626.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Fire Control MSTU at 0.4929 generating \$15,904,626.

RP/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Recreation District 1 MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Recreation District 1 MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.4281, which is a 2.91 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.4160, generating \$3,564,026.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Recreation District 1 MSTU at 0.4281 generating \$3,564,026.

RP/TG

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

Recreation Special District Operations and Maintenance District 4

Mr. Neterer stated for the Recreation Special District 4 Operations and Maintenance the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.5036, which is a 1.61 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.4956, generating \$3,476,368.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Recreation Special District 4 Operations and Maintenance at 0.5036 generating \$3,476,368.

TG/RP

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority

Ms. Hayes stated for the TICO Airport Authority the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.0000, which represents no change from the rolled-back millage of 0.0000, generating \$0.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for TICO Airport Authority at 0.0000 generating \$0.

RP/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

Law Enforcement MSTU

Mr. Neterer stated for the Law Enforcement MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.8699, which represents a 2.87 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.8456, generating \$25,720,707.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Law Enforcement MSTU at 0.8699 generating \$25,720,707.

RP/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

Road and Bridge Maintenance District 1 MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 1 MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.4980, which is a 2.98 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.4836, generating \$2,674,083.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 1 MSTU at 0.4980 generating \$2,674,083.

RP/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Road and Bridge Maintenance District 2 MSTU

Mr. Neterer stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 2 MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.1687, which is a 2.68 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.1643, generating \$1,226,881.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 2 MSTU at 0.1687 generating \$1,226,881.

TG/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Road and Bridge Maintenance District 3 MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 3 MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.1901, which is a 2.98 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.1846, generating \$595,665.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 3 MSTU at 0.1901 generating \$595,665.

RF/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 MSTU

Mr. Neterer stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.2212, which is a 2.84 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.2151, generating \$1,999,483.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 MSTU at 0.2212 generating \$1,999,483.

RF/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Road and Bridge Maintenance District 5 MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 5 MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.2938, which is a 3.12 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.2849, generating \$694,775.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 5 MSTU at 0.2938 generating \$694,775.  
RF/RP

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 North Beaches MSTU

Mr. Neterer stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 North Beaches MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.1866, which is a 2.98 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.1812, generating \$181,301.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 North Beaches MSTU at 0.1866 generating \$181,301.  
RF/TG

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Tom Goodson

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 Merritt Island South MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 Merritt Island South MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.0984, which is a 2.71 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.0958, generating \$26,269.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Road and Bridge Maintenance District 4 Merritt Island South MSTU at 0.0984 generating \$26,269.  
RF/RP

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Environmentally Endangered Lands

Mr. Neterer stated for the Environmentally Endangered Lands the FY 2024-2025 tentative



millage is 0.0467, which is a 2.64 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.0455, generating \$3,168,598.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Environmentally Endangered Lands at 0.0467 generating \$3,168,598.  
RP/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Recreation MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Recreation MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.2682, which is a 2.96 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.2605, generating \$599,350.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Port St. John/Canaveral Groves Recreation MSTU at 0.2682 generating \$599,350.  
RP/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### North Brevard Recreation Special District

Mr. Neterer stated for the North Brevard Recreation Special District the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.1657, which is a 2.86 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.1611, generating \$904,349.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for North Brevard Recreation Special District at 0.1657 generating \$904,349.  
RP/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Merritt Island Recreation MSTU

Ms. Hayes stated for the Merritt Island Recreation MSTU the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.2326, which is a 2.74 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.2264, generating \$1,295,916.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Merritt Island Recreation MSTU at 0.2326 generating \$1,295,916.  
TG/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Seconders:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### South Brevard Recreation Special District

Mr. Neterer stated for the South Brevard Recreation Special District the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.2178, which is a 2.11 percent change from the rolled-back millage of 0.2133, generating \$8,753,309.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for South Brevard Recreation Special District at 0.2178 generating \$8,753,309.

RP/RF

Ms. Hayes announced they are moving into the voter-approved debt service millages.

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Seconders:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Environmentally Endangered Lands Debt

Ms. Hayes announced they are moving into the voter-approved debt service millages; and she stated for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Debt the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.0078, generating \$531,095.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Environmentally Endangered Lands Debt at 0.0078 generating \$531,095.

RP/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Seconders:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### North Brevard Special District Debt

Mr. Neterer stated for the North Brevard Special District Debt the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is 0.2034, generating \$1,110,106.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for North Brevard Special District Debt at 0.2034 generating \$1,110,106.

RP/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Seconders:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Merritt Island Recreation Debt

Ms. Hayes stated for the Merritt Island Recreation Debt the FY 2024-2025 tentative millage is

0.0888, generating \$494,743.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for Merritt Island Recreation Debt at 0.0888 generating \$494,743.

RF/JT

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### South Brevard Special Recreation District Debt

Mr. Neterer stated for the South Brevard Special Recreation District Debt the FY 2024 tentative millage is 0.0328, generating \$1,323,067.

There being no comments, the Board approved the final millage for South Brevard Special Recreation District Debt at 0.328 generating \$1,323,067.

JT/RF

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** John Tobia

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### Public Comment, Discussion and Adoption of the Resolution Establishing Final Millages for FY 2024-2025 for Brevard County

Mr. Abbate stated the Budget Office will read into the record the resolution establishing the County's final millages for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and following the reading of the resolution it is recommended that the Chair entertain a motion for approval of the resolution.

Jill Hayes read aloud, "a resolution to adopt final millages pursuant to Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, authorizing the Board of County Commissioners to adopt final millages for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and providing an effective date; the Board of County Commissioners, Brevard County Florida is the taxing authority for the taxing entities identified in exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made part of hereof by this reference, does hereby levy the millages specified in Exhibit A and does hereby state the percent by which the aggregate millage to be levied is a change from the roll back aggregate millage."

The Board accepted public comment; discussed and approved each millage levy; and executed and adopted Resolution No. 24-094, establishing the final millage rates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**Result:** ADOPTED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** John Tobia

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

#### D.4. Discussion on Funding for Lifeguards at County and Municipal Beaches

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to discuss funding for lifeguards at County and Municipal Beaches.

Chair Steele asked Space Coast Government Television to put on the slide of options talked about; he stated he just wants to share a couple of different things because this has been very difficult; before he does so, he wants to welcome all of the law enforcement people and the fire people for being present tonight, and he appreciates it; this is a very delicate situation; each Commissioner has different viewpoints; he is going to let everyone speak their minds today; he asked the participants from the cities side to answer the questions the Commissioners may ask; and he asked to try and keep this as civil as possible because it is very emotional, and he wants to tell how they got here. He advised they got here because about four months ago, the County had a workshop and the Board was discussing fire and lifeguards; a Commissioner suggested trying to attempt to get some additional money for lifeguards from the cities; there was a lot of discussion about that and the bottom-line was, the Board agreed to send Frank Abbate, County Manager, and Morris Richardson, County Attorney, to the cities; if the cities agreed on it then fine, but if they did not agree on it, perhaps they would come back with something that would be acceptable to the Board; he voted to allow that to go forward, even though in his own mind he knew that the cities would say no; there was tacit conversation that went on and some anger, with some upset people, and he understands that; he was hoping the Board would have something resolved before the final budget hearing, but they do not; and tonight the Board is going to have a discussion, he is going to let everyone talk about it after calling the folks up, to try to get to a resolution. He mentioned he asked Mr. Abbate to draw up some options on potential funding methods; he cannot talk to the other Commissioners and he does not know where they are, but he thinks everyone will agree that they need to resolve something this evening; he will talk later on it; and he wants to go ahead and call the people up who want to speak about it.

Keith Capizzi, Mayor of Cocoa Beach, stated he is excited for Cocoa Beach being the surf capital of the world; they want the beaches to be safe and they need the Board's help to do that; they do not have the funding that the Board was hoping to receive from them to help do it; he spoke with his commission, he speaks on behalf of his commission, they saw this proposal and they decided that they were willing to do either option one, two, or four which would basically be status quo of what they have contributed in the past; and they are more than happy to help contribute for the safety of the beaches with lifeguards. He advised what was proposed prior was not possible in their budget; he asked the Board to keep in mind the beach is the County's asset, it is all of Brevard's asset, and they all do pay into the property taxes for public safety, which includes the beach; keep in mind that Cocoa Beach is only less than 1.8 percent of the entire population of the County; if they are going to pay 50 percent of the lifeguard bill, it just does not seem to match up; he would love to continue to go status quo with what they have been doing; they are more than happy to contribute; and they hope if the Board sees anything extra, he would consider it as double taxation on the residents since they pay County taxes for safety.

Chair Steele stated he knows Commissioner Tobia is going to have multiple questions; and he asked if he preferred to ask the Mayor those questions or the City Manager, just in an interest of bearing time.

Commissioner Tobia responded there are questions about the budget; and he stated the Mayor mentioned it was not possible in the budget, he may have a better handle, but either one it is just questions of the budget.

Mayor Capizzi remarked if he cannot answer, he would defer to the City Manager.

Commissioner Tobia stated he spent some time with his budget and he wants to go over some

things; he asked to be corrected if he is wrong; they were 8.25 percent above last year's rolled-back rate, a sizeable tax increase; he got that from their millage resolution; next year they will receive \$2.932 million of parking revenue, for the very beaches; he went to page eight, it says, ensure a safe City, and he assumes that meant beaches was one of the goals listed; he thinks they put their priority where it puts their money; and he has some questions on their budget, and one that they had already voted in favor of. He stated on page G-16 there is \$70,000 for storage shelves; and he asked for an explanation of how storage shelves are more important than the lifeguards when it comes to public safety.

Mayor Capizzi responded he was not part of the reason behind that; he stated he assumes because they are having a new City Hall built and they had no storage shelves at the time; if he had to guess, that is what it would probably be for; and there is stuff that needs to be paid for.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is sure it is for shelves, he does not doubt that; and his question is how storage shelves are more important than lifeguards on the beaches.

Mayor Capizzi replied it kind-of makes sense for a building being built because there is nowhere to store stuff and storage shelves would be needed; and he stated he is not going to have City employees store stuff on the ground.

Commissioner Tobia advised he is just trying to get to their priority of ensuring a safe City, it was not ensuring organized books; on page G-29, there is \$525,000 for a marina feasibility study; and he asked if that could be explained, not what it is, but why it is more important than the safety of residents on the beach.

Mayor Capizzi responded affirmatively; he stated it is not; they voted that down; and it is not in the budget.

Commissioner Tobia remarked it is in the budget.

Mayor Capizzi advised that was voted down and it should not be.

Commissioner Tobia stated he will ask the City Manager, but that is in the proposed budget.

Mayor Capizzi reiterated they voted it down; and it should not be in there unless it was a mistake.

Commissioner Tobia pointed out it is on their website. He mentioned there is almost \$3 million for a golf course, less the revenue, but still it is a negative to the tune of a little over a million dollars; they went a step further and have priorities which line itemed out, that he thought was kind of interesting; he asked for an explanation of how a golf pond, floating vegetative island, or islands help; and he stated he did not know what that was and he had to Google that.

Mayor Capizzi responded those are grant-funded items.

Commissioner Tobia stated when it is in the budget, it is probably not grant-funded.

Mayor Capizzi reiterated it is grant-funded.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is going to explain how budgets work; those funds could have been used for golf funds, less the \$1.2 million that was lost on golf courses, and that is General Fund to cover the lifeguards; that is what is being asked of the County to do; and those grant

funds could be used to subsidize the other loss of that golf course.

Mayor Capizzi advised he does not think so; those grand funds designated were specifically for clearing out those ponds; and they could not get grant funds for subsidizing lifeguards, or they would do that.

Commissioner Tobia stated he wants to explain how this works; the County had three or four golf courses and they got rid of them, because they cost the County money; they are costing the City money, who is saying they cannot do it; his question is, is that part of the \$1.2 million loss; and he asked how in the world is the City justifying running golf courses, when it does not have safe beaches.

Mayor Capizzi replied it is very unfortunate that they have an asset that loses money.

Commissioner Tobia referred to it not being an asset, if it loses money.

Mayor Capizzi stated he does see where Commissioner Tobia is going; it is very unfortunate that it loses money; they are trying to figure out ways to mitigate that; everybody has bad years and loses money; it does not mean shut down business; and that means they have to do what they can to make it work.

Commissioner Tobia pointed out Mayor Capizzi does not need to tell him that, this Board made the decision to get rid of its golf courses; it made a lot of residents not very happy by doing that, in all honesty; but it was not fair, because it prioritized public safety so they could afford lifeguards on its beaches. He asked for help with the last bit to see if it is correct, because it was confusing to him about the City employing 21 lifeguards.

Mayor Capizzi replied he is not sure of the exact amount.

Commissioner Tobia pointed out there is 21 lifeguards on the Mayor Capizzi's budget right now for its pool; and he asked for an explanation of the difference between the safety of his residents at the pool versus the safety of his residents at the beach.

Mayor Capizzi responded they all are equal for safety. He stated he does not care what it is; and a life on the beach, a life on the land, and a life in the pool, it should all be funded.

Commissioner Tobia agreed with him; and he stated his question is why fund one and choose not to fund another.

Outburst in the audience.

Chair Steele advised the audience that nobody needs to talk from the audience at this particular point in time; they will get to other questions in a minute; he apologized; and he asked Mayor Capizzi to continue.

Mayor Capizzi continued to say the pool is the City of Cocoa Beach's asset; and the beach is a County asset.

Commissioner Tobia stated he would like to ask Morris Richardson, County Attorney, a question.

Chair Steele responded to go ahead.

Commissioner Tobia asked if the County owns the beach.

Mr. Richardson replied it does not.

Commissioner Tobia inquired if it is a State beach.

Mr. Richardson responded it is.

Commissioner Tobia asked if the parks attached to those beaches that are in discussion are County parks.

Mr. Richardson replied the County has a number of lifeguard towers at the County-owned and maintained parks and then there is a number at the City-owned and maintained parks; he believes in Cocoa Beach there is a mixture; he thinks Lori Wilson is County-owned and maintained, although he thinks that technically it is in Cocoa Beach; but there are other ones at municipal facilities in Cocoa Beach.

Commissioner Tobia asked if in this Fiscal Year 2025 budget the County has fully funded the lifeguards at Lori Wilson Park.

Mr. Richardson responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Tobia stated just to be clear, the beach is not County property and the parks attached to the beaches that is not County property, so it is not a County asset as Mayor Capizzi just described. He added Mayor Capizzi wants the County to pay for it, but it is a State beach, as the County Attorney just said that, he apologized for having to do these things, attached to a City Park, just to be very clear.

Mayor Capizzi remarked personal residences are not County assets; waterways are not County assets; they are all part of the County's public safety requirement to take care of; it does not matter whether the beach is "Cocoa Beach" or whatever, they pay for public safety; and lifeguards are included in that according to County Ordinances.

Commissioner Tobia stated Mayor Capizzi just said, the beaches were County and he just established, that they, in fact, were not County; that is it; and he just wanted to be very clear.

Mayor Capizzi reiterated they pay for public safety and that includes everything.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she was trying to get numbers and she should have asked before this; and she asked, historically, what Cocoa Beach was paying towards this.

Mayor Capizzi replied \$83,000 before.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if he is willing to go right back to that again.

Mayor Capizzi responded they are willing to go even higher, which was the next market adjust to \$86,000.

Commissioner Pritchett asked what it was before they started trying to work on other funds.

Mayor Capizzi replied he thinks it was \$700,000 and something.

Commissioner Pritchett asked just for Cocoa Beach.

Mayor Capizzi replied affirmatively.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, advised they had multiple, full-time towers.

Mayor Capizzi pointed out that is a 1,000 percent increase almost; and they cannot do that.

Mr. Richardson stated right now there are several seasonal towers that are in Cocoa Beach and several full-time; historically, they paid a little over 20 percent for seasonal, but were not paying anything towards the full-time; and with Board direction to go to 50 percent on both seasonal and full-time, that did result in a substantial proposed increase.

Commissioner Goodson inquired what made Mayor Capizzi change his mind, because he was adamant the last time that he was not paying a penny.

Mayor Capizzi responded he wants to work with the Board; he said before when they met that he wanted to figure out a way that they can work together; they want to be a team player; they do not mind doing what they were doing in the past, the status quo; they are present for safety; and they are present to try to make it work.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if he likes option five.

Mayor Capizzi replied they cannot do it. He stated right now they do not have the other options in their budget; but he has talked with his commission and they all have agreed that they would be able to talk with the City about doing a resolution to fit what they were paying in the past.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Commissioner Goodson in option five if he knows what the amount would have been for Cocoa Beach.

Commissioner Goodson responded he would have to resort to Mr. Abbate on that.

Chair Steele remarked \$525,000.

Commissioner Goodson pointed out there are three cities involved.

Mr. Abbate replied he does not have the exact number, but it is somewhere between three and \$400,000.

Mayor Capizzi included he has spoken with all the other coastal community mayors and they send their support.

Wayne Carragino, City Manager of Cocoa Beach, stated he thinks Mayor Capizzi was spot-on and they are in full support of option one, two, or four; they just want clean and safe beaches; they contribute and he does not want to get into the weeds; it is simple, they participate and they were perfectly happy with the way it was; and the status quo before felt like a fair deal for them, it was working, and it was a team effort like the mayor said, it was working. He added his commission was in full support of them coming before the Board and requesting they select one of those options.

Commissioner Goodson inquired when the parking garage would be totally paid off.



Mr. Carragino replied it sunsets in 2036; and he is present with his Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Commissioner Goodson asked if all of the revenue from parking goes to pay for the parking garage.

Patrisha Draycott, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant City Manager of Cocoa Beach, responded affirmatively; and she stated it is a committed fund.

Commissioner Goodson stated the revenue for all parking on the beach is \$2.9 million; and he asked Commissioner Tobia if that is what he said.

Commissioner Tobia responded slightly over \$3 million; and he stated they have projected that, he does not know why a slight downturn to \$2.9 million in this Fiscal Year's budget.

Ms. Draycott advised the parking garage is Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and that is committed to the CRA debt; it is not available for other uses; to Commissioner Tobia's point, yes, their parking revenue is going down, and they expect that trend to continue into 2025; they had a bit of an increase following Corona Virus Disease (COVID) and the return of people being able to go outside has not been sustained, and will not be sustained, as far as they can judge; they have a budget of close to \$14 million for police and fire; and they have completed their negotiations and those negotiations do include increases to the salaries of police and fire, that is for the intent to have retention, and they are still not at market or optimal levels particularly for fire. She went on to say the fire department does track the call types, whether residential or nonresidential; approximately 46 percent of the calls in fire do not go to servicing the residents, but go to servicing the visitors; if extrapolating, the parking does not come close to covering the cost of public safety for their tourists and visitors; it is a real problem for a City that has a population of just over 11,000, it is a heavy burden; it is not that they do not want to help with the safety of their beaches; it is not that they do not want to help with the cost of the lifeguards; but it is that they are struggling under the burden of public safety in whole, for the visitors who come to the City; and it is a heavy burden for their taxpayers. She continued to say that their commissioners are trying hard to keep their millage rate at the current level, yes it is an 8.25 percent increase, and that is because there has been redevelopment; their commission is trying to get redevelopment to help build that tax base to try and ease that burden; as the Board knows, they are all facing the challenges of the supply chain and the rising costs; it is a really hard challenge for all in the public sector, trying to meet the demands and the needs; yes, they could close golf, it is an option, and it is not an option they are not looking at because they did look at that; it may end up being the result; and they are looking at everything and are trying to make it work, but they cannot. She added they are using reserves this year to balance the budget and that is to try to make some of the capital improvements happen; they are looking for grant monies; but it is not going to be sustainable, it just is not.

Chair Steele commented Ms. Draycott is very brilliant and very smart; and he thanked her.

Mr. Carragino remarked that is why she is the CFO.

Commissioner Tobia inquired how much is their new complex.

Mr. Carragino responded \$11.5 million.

Commissioner Tobia stated the parking lot mentioned is part of the CRA.

Ms. Draycott replied the parking garage, yes, is part of the CRA.

Commissioner Tobia asked what percent of the parking garage did County taxpayers facilitated.

Ms. Draycott responded the CRA receives the Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Commissioner Tobia asked at what percentage.

Ms. Draycott replied she does not recall off the top of her head and she apologized for that; she stated this year there is about a million going into the CRA budget, for the TIF from the City; and she thinks it is roughly four or 500 from the County, but those numbers are not exact.

Commissioner Tobia stated he appreciates that; he knows the Board knows, that money that went into the parking structure they are getting \$20 or \$15; and he does not know because he does not park there.

Ms. Draycott stated the parking revenue pays for the parking debt and that is per the debt agreement.

Commissioner Tobia stated yes, but roughly, 40 percent of that parking structure was paid for out of County TIF funding.

Ms. Draycott stated no, the parking revenue is paying for all of the debt.

Commissioner Tobia apologized. He stated the bond that went out to pay for that parking structure came out of CRA.

Ms. Draycott responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Tobia stated the CRA receives TIF funding from the County.

Ms. Draycott remarked but the TIF funding is not going towards paying the debt.

Commissioner Tobia stated he gets it, but the initial construction and all that stuff...

Ms. Draycott stated was paid by the debit; and it was debt financed.

Commissioner Tobia stated he got it.

Commissioner Feltner stated just to clarify Commissioner Tobia's point; and he inquired what does the TIF funding support.

Ms. Draycott responded it supports the redevelopment of the blighted downtown area when the CRA agency started; they provide grants to local businesses; they have been talking about providing grants to some of the homeowners in that area, if they had negative impact due to whatever conditions; they have a grant program established to use that until it is sunsetted; it is based on grant applications from the local businesses; and potentially at their last commission meeting, one of the commissioners brought up using it for the purpose of some low-income housing as well, which the CRA allows.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if it would be possible to add \$1 to each car parked and maybe allow that to help in the future to allocate some of this cost; and if that is available with CRA funding to do that.

Ms. Draycott replied not through the CRA, because they are limited on how they can use CRA funding.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she does know that, but they could make some changes in the CRA Plan.

Ms. Draycott stated they have talked about increases to the parking program as a whole to try to offset some of the costs, but they could only go so far before actually losing revenue due to losing people that are willing to pay the price; she thinks they are at the maximum level they can set their parking at this time, without having it just drop-off in usage where they would not really get a benefit from the price increase; and they are going to have to find other options.

Commissioner Pritchett stated so it is not something that is willing to be looked at.

Ms. Draycott remarked it is not that they are not willing; it is just that they do not think they will receive the benefit they are hoping for; they think with the revenues going up the usage will go down; and keeping it the same hopefully, they would stay neutral.

Commissioner Pritchett stated the City Manager knew this was coming; last time they agreed to pay \$82,000; and she inquired if they are willing to catch that back up for the Board on a past promise, that was not done.

Mr. Carragino clarified for the one they did not pay.

Ms. Draycott remarked for 2024.

Mr. Carragino responded of course.

Karalyn Woulas, City Commission for City of Cocoa Beach, stated she wanted to come and speak as a supporter of the Mayor, City Manager, and CFO; they did have some discussion at their last meeting, where they all agreed to options one, two, or four; being on the commission for eight years, this is an example of some of the same things they had been dealing with for the time she has been on the City's commission; their public safety is staffed for only over 11,000 residents, yet they have to accommodate for over three million tourists a year; they are constantly being tasked with calls for public safety for all of these people; they have tried finding creative ways, even before she was a commissioner in trying to deal with this staffing for their public safety, but also for paying for it too; it goes back to the issue, which she is sure the Board knows, that with generating a bulk of the sales tax for the County, and it being redispersed based on their population; and they have one of the smallest populations in the County, so that is a challenge for them. She reiterated this is something she has been dealing with as a commissioner for the past eight years; she stated with the Board's continued support, they want to work as a team with it, and going back to these options would help the City to continue to do that, as the CFO explained they just could not do what the Board was asking them before for the \$700,000; it is not that they did not want to contribute, it is just that they could not do that much; they appreciate the skills and the know how of the County's lifeguard staff and they were working well with them before; and she just wanted to support her fellow commissioner and City Manager, and ask for option one, two, or four. She advised that is fair and she wants to continue their relationship, by working as a team to provide safer and cleaner

beaches for the residents in the City and in the County, and for all of the tourists who come from all over the world.

D.4. Continued Discussion on Funding for Lifeguards at County and Municipal Beaches

Alison Dennington, Mayor of Town of Melbourne Beach, expressed her thanks to the Board because she knows it is a harder job than anyone realizes, many different things have to be balanced, and be fiscally responsible for, and she appreciates that. She stated she is reading from [www.brevardfl.gov/eGovernment](http://www.brevardfl.gov/eGovernment) about the Beach Management Program because healthy beaches are essential to Brevard's tourism-based economy, which is true but she would say that safe beaches and lifeguards are equally essential to the tourist-based economy of this wonderful, great State; Melbourne Beach is a little bit different because it is small and not like Cocoa Beach; they do have a little bit of beach paid parking, and the revenue from it has been steadily going down; the history over the past 20 or so years in cities and towns is revenue sources have been slowly chipped away, with fewer and fewer means of revenue; but their liability, responsibilities, and costs have stayed the same or gone up, especially for small towns like Melbourne Beach. She stated Melbourne Beach is almost fully built out and it has only a few commercial areas; there is a ton of people who drive through their roads and streets; there is a basin one area that has been a problem for 20 years, it is an interior street, and they do not have the money to fix it; safety is important, but the truth is, it is going to seem heartless, but tourists drown, the residents do not drown; the statistics and the history bear that out; and they want to have safe beaches; but the residents want their tax money to go to fixing their roads, so they do not have to wear boots for a month to walk out and get their mail. She continued to say those roads that they drive on every day, the taxes they pay for goes to fixing those roads because they are paying County taxes and town taxes; in their budget two more police officers were requested because they have one; they raised their salary and they still have one of the lowest salaries in the County for their police officers, but when adding the salary, plus all of the taxes and expenses, she does not know the exact number but \$80,000 is basically all of the revenue from their little beach parking area; unfortunately, she thinks if the residents have to choose between paying any money at all, they may choose not to pay any money; the parents watch their kids and they know about rip tides, it is the tourists; and this is a tourist issue. She advised Elizabeth Mascaro, Town Manager of Town of Melbourne Beach, is present with her today, and she is going to be the one who knows all the numbers well.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if Ms. Mascaro knows the money amount of what their input was before the Board started talking about changes.

Ms. Mascaro responded they had a part-time lifeguard and it was substantial for them.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if she knows the dollar amount.

Ms. Mascaro replied she does not; she stated the Board had gone to a full-time lifeguard and a part-time lifeguard, which they never considered a full-time lifeguard for their beaches.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired what the amount is that Melbourne Beach paid for their portion.

Mayor Dennington remarked she thought it was \$60,000 and it was going to go to \$138,000.

Chair Steele stated he thinks Mayor Dennington is correct.

Mayor Dennington advised Cocoa Beach was \$80,000 and they were \$60,000.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if Melbourne Beach is willing to go back to the historical cost.

Mayor Dennington stated personally and she is just one vote, her position would be if the County does not pay it, they are happy not having lifeguards at all.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that would renege her next question; but she asked if they were willing to pay the part that they did not pay in during that timeperiod when making the Board a promise that they would pay it, that she did not pay.

Mayor Dennington replied she did not make any promise; and she stated they had many residents on both sides of this issue

Commissioner Pritchett advised she thinks the City had made a commitment to that; they did not pay that; and she asked if Mayor Dennington is willing to pay that back.

Ms. Mascaro responded they paid in this year.

Commissioner Pritchett stated they did.

Mr. Abbate remarked Cocoa Beach did not pay this year, the other cities did.

Mayor Dennington stated money does not grow on trees and hard choices are required.

Commissioner Tobia stated he appreciates Mayor Dennington's honesty; it was different from what they had heard in the past; the Board just heard they do not need lifeguards and they do not service them; and he appreciates what they did by having a tax increase of 4.6 percent this year.

Mayor Dennington stated she voted against that, but it passed.

Commissioner Tobia advised it happens to him all the time. He stated with a budget of their size, they have \$50,000 vacation rental tracking software contract, and the best that he could find was revenue through fines was \$6,000 on their budget; and he asked if that could be explained.

Mayor Dennington explained they have one code enforcement officer of 20 hours and they only had one building official, who has no break; that person essentially, could never take vacation; the code enforcement officer has not enough time to be able to go out and get the evidence, and do all the things required to bring a code enforcement case for an unregistered short-term rental; they have about 20, but they also have about 40 unregistered short-term rentals; the cost associated with just gathering the data is insurmountable, for one code enforcement officer of 20 hours; and there is software that could be purchased that does a ton of the work to be able to bring the cases faster. She went on to say their priority, because of their residents is to really go after these unregistered rentals, get them registered which would be a revenue source, and to do what they have to, to actually enforce these unregistered rentals; that software allows for them to do those quickly; and to actually bring cases.

Commissioner Tobia reiterated he appreciates Mayor Dennington's honesty; and he clarified they spend \$50,000 a year for 40 unregistered short-term rentals.

Mayor Dennington stated if looking at the yearly AirBNB data, it says historically, over time in hotel use people staying in hotels is going down and people who are staying in an AirBNB is

going up; that is the vast-majority of people want to stay in small, residential houses and communities; the statistics are that places like Melbourne Beach are going to increase tenfold; they do not want to turn into Jacksonville Beach because they have 350-plus AirBNB's and are losing longtime residents, or up in the Panhandle that has 1,200 residents and they have 1,200 houses that are AirBNB's; yes, they want to take this seriously; there are ratings of places that are great for AirBNB and investors, and Melbourne Beach is ranked 99 percent; they are coming so the number of what they have does not reflect what they are going to have; they want to do everything they can to make sure that at least those places are registered; and she would love for the State to have some tax for every one and for counties, and all of the municipalities on those AirBNBs.

Commissioner Tobia stated he appreciates her answering that there are 40, but she is trying to prevent other ones coming in.

Mayor Dennington stated she thinks it is from some of the capital cost associated with the original software.

Chair Steele advised there are some other questions from some of the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Feltner advised he does not have a question, but during that discussion there was \$1,250 paid for that software for each one of the AirBNBs and he finds that interesting, because the Board talked about a software similar to that; he thinks that would be expensive for the County to pay for something like that; and he asked Mayor Dennington if she thinks they will be doing something like this next year.

Mayor Dennington replied Ms. Mascaro knows and priced the software, there may be less expensive option; she explained it was not in the original budget at all and because of some meetings held with citizens, who came, there were adjustments; and Ms. Mascaro did receive a little bit of information to put in and make adjustments.

Chair Steele inquired what the rate of return for the \$50,000 investment is and how many gained taxes are back.

Ms. Mascaro responded thus far zero; and she stated they have not implemented the program.

Chair Steele suggested to get rid of their software.

Mayor Dennington advised they have not purchased it yet.

Michael Casey, Town Manager of Town of Indialantic, stated he understands the importance of lifeguards; his background is public safety, he was in the police force for over 30 years, and he has worked in Indialantic for almost 35 years; in 2007, he saw the drownings; most of the residents were already paying County taxes and he is not going to go too far into that because they pay the same taxes as unincorporated; the residents are not going to the beaches where the lifeguards are, they are going to the more quiet beaches where there are not lifeguards; and they know the drownings, historically, are people who do not live in Indialantic, they may come from other areas of Brevard County, but it is a lot of tourists. He added with the tourist tax dollars and advertising on billboards to come to Indialantic, or come to the beaches in Brevard County because they are safe; he thinks it is important for the tourists to keep safe, but it is just a burden on the taxpayers because they have 3,000 residents; they do charge for parking and the money stays there due to them having two Enterprise Funds where the parks are and that money funds that area only; and it is not going into any fund for the General Fund

supporting the paving of roadways, and things like that. He stated he is acceptable to option one, two, or four; he spoke with Town Council; and they paid their portion this year already.

Commissioner Pritchett stated it is the same question; and she guesses that if the other two picked up that chunk of change, his amount given so far to the Board has been small.

Mr. Casey agreed; and he stated they paid about \$41,000 this year.

Commissioner Tobia asked if he could explain, what the Board heard is Cocoa Beach is seeing a decrease in revenue, yet Indialantic is estimating a little over a 20 percent increase in parking revenue.

Mr. Casey asked if he is talking about the current budget.

Commissioner Tobia reiterated Fiscal Year 2023-2024 has \$747,000 and Fiscal Year 2024-2025 has roughly \$970,450, which is a 20 percent increase.

Mr. Casey responded he does not have Fiscal Year 2024-2025, but this year they have seen a decrease in parking amounts; and he stated they have raised the rates.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that is a good answer, just raising the rates because there may not be as many cars.

Mr. Casey advised they are getting to the point where they cannot raise them; they raised the rate which is the increase seen to keep up with keeping the cost and the infrastructure; for example, the bathrooms at a park need to be replaced and that is one-half million dollars; and they do not bring one-half million dollars in at James H. Nance Park funds per year.

Commissioner Tobia stated got it. He inquired if the same thing happens with taxes. He mentioned seeing they have a 7.23 percent tax increase; and he is asking for his Brother who lives in Indialantic if there would be some time where they do not raise taxes, it hits a level of where they just cannot do so anymore.

Mr. Casey responded affirmatively. He stated there has been times they looked at taxes, along with Town Council but they have had the increase of cost, wages, and everything else; giving police and fire raises and stuff, and other employees keeping up with things; and they are one of the lowest paid in the County and trying to keep them eligible.

Commissioner Tobia stated page 29 of this year's budget has \$370,000 for the Fifth Avenue landscaping. He inquired if that is more important to his residents than lifeguard safety on the beaches.

Mr. Casey replied right now that \$370,000 has been going on since 2017 with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), working back and forth, and amounts raised; Council is at the bid right now, they were not happy with the first number and rejected the first bid because it came in way over that amount; and they may not do it, depending on what the bids come in as, because they do not see it being that cost.

Commissioner Tobia questioned it was voted on.

Mr. Casey responded yes. He advised it is in the budget.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is just shocked; it was higher than \$370,000 and they got it down to \$370,000; and he asked if that is a good thing.

Mr. Casey replied no. He stated originally that was in the \$200,000 range and it came in at almost \$500,000; they rebid, hoping to lower those bids; he is hoping to get closer to the \$200,000 range; they had money in reserves that was used for that; it is not money that keeps coming about, but it is money they have saved over the years for the project; he increased it a little bit, just in case they come in above; but it will be up to Council, and they do not really want to go above that original number.

Angela Cobb stated she is not a commissioner; she is just a business owner; she has been doing beach rentals for 15 years in Brevard County; she started in Indialantic and now she currently does them in Cocoa Beach; she wants to ask a couple of questions and she is also present for some of the lifeguards who could not be here; but who pays...

Chair Steele advised the Board cannot answer her questions; she can give her public comment; but it is not going to be able to answer her questions.

Ms. Cobb went on to say all of the billboards along I-95, she is guessing that is paid by Brevard County.

Chair Steele reiterated the Board cannot answer her questions.

Ms. Cobb mentioned seeing them all the way up to Georgia advertising to come to Cocoa Beach; she believes that the reason Brevard County has so many visitors there are because of a lot of advertising to come there; the beach that she works at is extremely busy, they have four current lifeguard stands in Cocoa Beach, which she does not think is enough; she saw more tragedy since she has done beach rentals than anybody can probably imagine; she had to pull out bodies herself and she is not even a lifeguard; she thinks the reason there are so many drownings are because of the advertising to come to Cocoa Beach; it is not the residents that are drowning; and every single person she saw being pulled out of that ocean is a visitor. She went on to say many of those visitors are not even spending money in Cocoa Beach, they come in from the cruise lines, and they spend one day at the beach and leave; then they have this tragedy happen; she talks to every single customer, she asks where they are from, and why are they here; they say they just have a flight in from Orlando and decided to drive out to the beach; they are not staying at hotels there or spending money at the restaurants, they bring their own coolers a lot of the times; they hang out at the beach and sometimes they drown; and a lot of times it has nothing to do with anybody in Cocoa Beach. She added their tax money is not going towards, she means it is going towards the residents and what they do at Cocoa Beach, but these are people who do not live there and are not spending money there; she wants to make a point about the parking garage; she goes to work every morning and she sees who parks in the parking garage; the first two floors are usually taken up by residents, who do not have to pay for parking; that is probably why they are not making much money with the parking garage; but she thinks that they should stick with option one, two, or four.

Chair Steele passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Pritchett.

Chair Steele stated as each person probably knows he is the person who called this whole question to a head and he wants to share why; there is a 60 percent decrease in the budget for lifeguards; first, Cocoa Beach and its beach area is the number one surfing beach on the entire east coast of the United States which is incredible; second, Brevard County is the fifth most dangerous beach in the United States; why, because over 300 people were pulled from the



ocean last year and there were 14 drownings, but there is a tremendous amounts of shark bites; the County has a Tourist Development Council (TDC) that is being funded by a tourist tax and he could assure, that with being the fifth most dangerous place in the United States for a beach, and that if there are many drownings next year he will tell them all right now that the tourist tax is going to plummet; and there has already been articles of beaches not to go to and he assured that, that would absolutely ruin what they are doing, as far as tourism goes. He advised he is not present tonight to pick on their budgets or how they spend their money; he thinks that is what they need to do; he understands Commissioner Tobia's point about them being able to afford it, and here is why, which he does appreciate, but what he really appreciates more than anything is that they do the most important thing for the general public and that is the safety on the beach; this budget only included unincorporated areas; he does not care what anybody has to say in the room, unincorporated areas are being paid for fully by the County taxes; why in the world would cities not be afforded the same luxury, because they pay County taxes also; and the reason the beaches are so overwhelmed with invasion from the general public and from the visitors is very simple, they are driving all of them to the beach, and is that the cities responsibility that all of these tourists are going there and messing up their beach, they have to have more beach control, garbage pickup, or is it a responsibility of the TDC, the County, and potentially some of the seasonal lifeguard monies that the cities give. He mentioned being flabbergasted that they are at this point right now, last year when he first came on the Commission, Commissioner Pritchett was the Chair, and the first thing they did was to have the TDC come in and fund some of the money; they fully-vetted it through the County Attorney that the TDC or Tourist Development Tax (TDT) are useable for lifeguards; in the past, interestingly enough, he will share what has happened over the last few years; in 2023, there was a total of 119 people staffed during the season with a \$3,143,000 budget, Cocoa Beach gave the County \$83,000, Indialantic gave the County \$41,000, and Melbourne Beach gave the County \$20,000; in 2024, there was still a total of 119 people with 29 full-time and seasonal 90, out of the County General Fund came \$2,881,000, and out of the TDC came \$934,654; and they need to participate in this funding, they absolutely do, and they are the ones who are having the invasions coming to the beaches. He continued to say he is leaving the Commission at the end of his term and he does not want to be responsible for having people pointing at him when he goes to Publix and them say to him why did he not do something about lifeguards on the beach, and why did he not protect the general public; tonight he is present to tell everyone that he met with every one of those City Managers; he went through all of their budgets with them and then he figured out while going through their budgets, that him going through their budgets is none of his business; and he reiterated none of his business. He stated what is his business is whose responsibility is it for all of these people coming and invading the beaches and being tourists; he likes tourism and he wants it to stay, but he could guarantee them that with a budget like this, with what they have right now, a couple more drownings, and a couple more shark bites, they need these lifeguards on the beach to pull the people out of the ocean; they need those lifeguards on the beach to start blowing whistles when the sharks are out; and they need to protect the general public. He concluded by saying he is begging of all the votes the Board has taken since he first got on the Board, he is begging this County Commission to vote with him tonight; and he would like to make a motion to accept option one, as a potential funding source for the lifeguard issue.

- D.4. Continued Discussion on Funding for Lifeguards at County and Municipal Beaches  
Commissioner Tobia stated option one has roughly \$1.9 million for tourism.

Chair Steele agreed.

Commissioner Tobia inquired where that \$1.95 million would come from and if the TDC has given its opinion on whether or not this is a wise investment or not.

Chair Steele replied the TDC has not given its opinion on it; he stated the TDC has some conflicts of interest in regards to this, because of where the TDC money would come from; as far as he is concerned, it would be the general Marketing Fund; he has spoken with Peter Cranis, Tourism Development Director, in regards to this; there are several other places where the money could come from; the only place he does not want it to come from is what the Board just funded which was Brevard Cultural Arts and the sports things, so that is off the board, as far as he is concerned; but he wants to ensure he is telling these folks the right thing, that the money is available.

Mr. Abbate advised he has the answer to those questions of where the funds come from. He stated in the Cultural Fund, after what the Board did in its votes last week, there is currently \$550,000 not allocated in the Capital Fund, there is \$710,000, and the Marketing Fund has approximately \$1.9 million that is available above the 40 percent threshold maintained in marketing.

Chair Steele inquired if in marketing budget there is roughly \$13 million.

Mr. Cranis responded affirmatively.

Chair Steele mentioned he is not so sure the Board cannot take some money from the marketing budget itself; and he inquired if that is a possibility.

Mr. Cranis replied he would look to the County Attorney to answer that as far as what is available to be used, it is in there.

Mr. Richardson responded he knows there are thresholds below which the TDC cannot expend marketing funds on marketing dollars, that 40 percent is one of those; but he does not know how that correlates to Mr. Cranis' numbers.

Mr. Abbate clarified above the 40 percent, there is \$1,955,000 available in that Marketing Fund.

Commissioner Tobia asked who the Chair is now.

Chair Steele replied Commissioner Pritchett was but she just handed him the gavel back. He advised there is a motion on the floor that has not been seconded.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked it is not dead though.

Chair Steele replied not dead yet and he hopes it is not ever going to be dead, but there might be another option that may be better for everybody.

Commissioner Tobia stated it was mentioned that there were some conflict issues with the TDC.

Chair Steele noted the hoteliers are not going to like not spending money on trying to get individuals to their hotels, that is the conflict.

Commissioner Tobia stated inherently though there always is that conflict.

Chair Steele stated absolutely.

Commissioner Tobia inquired why accept their advice at certain times and not others; for instance, the Board accepted their advice for a lighthouse just last meeting; he does not doubt the conflict; and he is just trying to understand why they accept at certain times and not at other times.

Chair Steele replied that is called politics. He stated that is all that he can tell him; they are a recommending board to this County Commission; this County Commission is the final authority; and if the Commission does not like what they have to say, the Commission could do it, and it has done it a bunch of times.

Commissioner Tobia stated he sees they are recommending, and Chair Steele just mentioned a couple of minutes ago they have not made a recommendation one way or another on this one.

Chair Steele remarked no and candidly, he does not know that it is necessary.

Commissioner Tobia stated Chair Steele just said that they are a recommending body; and he asked if Chair Steele sits as the chair on the TDC.

Chair Steele stated they are; and he could ask Mr. Richardson that question. He asked if it would need to come back and be walked through the TDC should the Board want to do this. He added in the event that the Board wants to do this and the TDC said no, it is going to come right back to the Board; this project is too big and important; he thinks if this Board said it needs to protect the general public, then it needs to protect the general public; if it needs to go back through the parade of the committees and all of that stuff, that is fine; but even if the TDC says no, it comes back here and the Board is the final authority.

Mr. Richardson responded that is correct. He stated there are some things that do need a recommendation from the TDC, in order to accomplish by Statute; and this is not one that has a hardwired requirement to have that recommendation.

Commissioner Tobia advised he could not support the motion; he will have a motion that he thinks dovetails; it would get them there; and it would not require the County to dip into those marketing dollars, but would get them to the \$3.7 million. He stated he has a difference of opinion on where those dollars should come from; there is a motion on the floor; and he will have something else.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if the motion could hold so they could hear Commissioner Tobia's motion.

Chair Steele replied absolutely he would hold his motion. He stated he is happy to hear Commissioner Tobia's motion, as long as it keeps the cities money at \$151,000.

Commissioner Tobia advised his motion dovetails off option five; he had another motion, but this is the watered-down version that gets them to the \$3.7 million; the County on option five, actually decreases from \$1.9 million to \$1.3 million; and he thinks that is unfair and he would slide that \$600,000 over to option five.

Chair Steele remarked he has him confused now, because he is not reading that in option five.

Commissioner Goodson clarified Commissioner Tobia is saying increase the County...

Chair Steele indicated he has it; and he apologized.

Commissioner Tobia went on to say that, roughly \$600,000 savings would then be expended on tourism; that would leave a tourism amount of \$1,275,562; coincidentally they roughly have that amount, give or take \$5,000 or \$10,000 in the Cultural, and to be very clear this is outside of the Cultural money that the Board just spent, and the capital that is leftover, that it just wasted on a lighthouse which no one is going to go to; he corrected himself by saying not a lighthouse, but two extra lighthouse keeper cottages; that savings would come out of there and there would be no marketing loss; and that would get them to the \$3.7 million. He added the General Fund would be the full at \$1.941 million; Tourism would be the \$1,871,000 less the savings, which brings it to \$1,275,562, and the municipal contribution would be exactly what it is in option five, which is \$525,444; to be clear, that is a large amount less than the grant that the County offered the cities at 50 percent, much less than the percent, and almost half of that amount; he thinks Commissioner Goodson was talking about something along these lines at a former meeting to get the cities paid in; and he wants to be very clear, that he thinks it would only be fair to give the cities this option. He mentioned hearing that Melbourne Beach did not want to participate and the other two cities would not have to be detriment because one city does not want to pay that portion. He stated that would be a motion that he could deal with and giving the County the \$3.7 million, it would not have to dip into marketing.

Chair Steele advised he will share his comments on that; if the County does that, it would be right back to where it was before with the cities saying no, and they are not going to do it; he guarantees it; he has already talked to these people until blue in the face in regards to it; they cannot afford it; here they go with right back to where they were; they could go through the process again; but it is not going to work. He added he told the Board that the first time and the Board is not listening to him; he reiterated that he talked to these cities until blue in the face and it is not because of anything other than they cannot afford it; and if they cannot afford it, who the hell is going to pay for it.

Commissioner Feltner clarified the \$525,444 is what is out-of-bounds for the cities in option five; and he asked if that is where they are.

Chair Steele replied correct.

Commissioner Feltner inquired if the amount is \$151,457 from Chair Steele's conversations with the municipalities.

Commissioner Pritchett replied the up-kick is \$183,000 if they paid.

Commissioner Goodson remarked something like that.

Commissioner Feltner inquired if it was negotiated.

Chair Steele remarked he understood the \$151,457 but he does not understand the \$183,000.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she wrote down \$82,000 from Cocoa Beach because theirs would be higher. She apologized for that being wrong. She stated \$86,000, \$60,000, and \$41,000 is what she thinks they had, but it is \$268,000. She advised the Board to hold on; and she added it in the first year payback. She apologized to Commissioner Feltner.

Commissioner Goodson stated they could talk all they want about blowing whistles for sharks and promoting for people to come here; people are going to come to Florida regardless

whether sharks or whistles, but at the same token the Chair has a responsibility to protect and govern the County with its money; the cities could choose what they wish to do with their budget, which he does not have a problem with; but at the same token sometimes making decisions that affect a person, that affects the person for a long period of life, and, however, they vote tonight and next year would have the same complaint. He inquired if right now they have two motions or one on the floor.

Chair Steel responded they have everything on hold.

Commissioner Goodson asked if Commissioner Tobia's motion is on hold.

Commissioner Pritchett replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Feltner stated he had made this same comment before when they had this discussion; he worked for a hotel for a long time and there is nothing to say that tourism is going to be great next year; they have been here before in Brevard County when travel stopped immediately; whatever the Board does today, he thinks it should be mindful of the fact that, that is going to get it through the situation today; there is just no guarantee that the Board would be able to do that again next year and it will have to continue working on it; but he likes the direction the Board is going where there gets the County's General Fund component down, and he thinks this is heading in the right place.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Commissioner Feltner what amount of the County's General Fund that he is comfortable with on the budget.

Commissioner Feltner responded he thinks option five looks the best, but there is the issue where the cities not getting there with its municipal component. He stated he likes the amount that Commissioner Tobia had for tourism, which he thinks gets the County's General Fund down a bit; and the municipalities' contribution; and maybe Commissioner Tobia could restate that for clarity of the updated municipal amount.

Chair Steele commented what is going to end up happening is, is perhaps they had already heard from Melbourne Beach, who does not want to participate, and they want to pay nothing; now Indialantic probably would not be able to afford this; that \$525,000 would be taken out of Cocoa Beach; and that is not fair.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if she might jump in.

Chair Steele responded yes. He stated it might help him understand, because he is not getting it.

Mr. Abbate added under the historical, Cocoa Beach would be paying \$86,000 of the \$525,000, and they would be paying approximately \$350,000; Indialantic was historically paying \$44,000, they went to a full-time tower, and their cost would have gone from \$44,000 to \$125,000 under option five; and Melbourne Beach would have been \$22,000 and they would approximately go to \$50,000. He went on to say that is what the increase would be, the difference between the historical amount and the amount that is under the proposal for the Board's discussion; and he just wanted to make sure the Board had that helpful information.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if in option one Cocoa Beach is at \$151,457 and Indialantic at...

Mr. Abbate replied no. He explained that is Cocoa Beach at \$86,000, Indialantic at \$44,000,

and Melbourne beach at approximately \$22,000.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if this is done, she heard Melbourne Beach does not want to pay, and they would not be able to collect from them.

Mr. Abbate responded staff would follow the Board's direction, but if they were not paying then they would not have lifeguard services and staff would not have any corresponding cost under Tourism or the Board.

Commissioner Pritchett mentioned knowing Satellite Beach a while ago historically wanted to do the same thing, but that was a long time ago; and they are not in any of this either.

Mr. Abbate advised they are not; and they have not been participating since before 2018.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks what the Board is trying to get to tonight is some type of dollar number to move forward with for the Budget Office Director, to figure out how to allocate these funds right now; she does not think that the cities are going to get there; but she thinks they should pay a little bit more than in the past, because they all have got to come together. She stated she is going to reference a couple of things and she does not want to beat them up; she does know that they do have smaller residents and if she honestly asked them, they would still want tourism, if not staff could make sure the TDC does not advertise those areas anymore; she is not trying to be mean; but that is something that is going to have to be worked through in the future. She added there is a lot of money that comes in from the tourism dollars; she is telling them all right now, that if she could get all of this up in District 1 with tourists, she would take it just like that; District 1 does not have beaches that this has to be done on; the residents are all having to pay for the lifeguards and people are saying to go there, and know that it does have a great beach; people pay \$10 every time they go, for all of the citizens and the tourists; she is trying to hear them with this, but she does not know where the rest of the Commission is going to land on this; but a couple of outside of the box things is her never having the support on it before, but she would be glad for Brevard County to just take the beaches back and to figure out how to allocate this, because the COVID time really gave her a lot of heartburn. She mentioned not knowing where the Board wants to go with it, but she does think the TDC should probably pick up a little bit more of it; she actually thinks the AirBNB and the hotels should have an extra surcharge that pays for lifeguards for the tourists coming in; but she does not know how to get there because she is an accountant, not a lawyer. She stressed that she does not want people drowning; she hopes they are all in that same place too, by just tightening their belts and doing it; she is willing to do that for District 1, as far as allocating these funds; she does not know where the Commission is going to land at, but she does not mind it doing \$1,941,000 as originally planned; the rest they could take out of the TDC and having the cities jump in with what they promised to do, with a little extra; but she thinks if a whole City decides not to participate, it would have to figure out how to protect its citizens.

Chair Steele advised that he would like to have a motion from someone.

Commissioner Feltner stated there are two competing motions.

Chair Steele reiterated his motion is to approve option one.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is going to second that, but she wants to renegotiate one of funds; there is municipalities paying \$141,457, but Cocoa Beach just said it would pay back the \$82,000 that it still has; so if they would do that and then alleviate that off of the TDC or the General Fund for the County amount.

Chair Steele stated that means that really they would have to pay \$160,000 roughly in the beginning, so that helps there a little bit.

Commissioner Feltner inquired what silo the \$1.950 million is coming from in Tourism.

Commissioner Pritchett replied she does not know if that is what the Board wants. She stated she knows the Cultural Fund is very important to Commissioner Goodson and she does not want to mess with that; she also knows there are extra funds and she is fine with that Capital Fund; and she verified if Mr. Cranis told her those are all extra amounts.

Mr. Cranis responded affirmatively that the \$550,000 out of Cultural Fund and the \$710,000 out of the Capital Fund are extra funds.

Commissioner Pritchett stated this just a one-year budget and she is thinking of the delta in that number then, if done brings it down \$80,000; they already have the General Fund down so they could take that \$80,000... She went on to say they could do the \$1.941 million out of General Fund; they could do the City portion with that extra amount of \$233,457; and have the Tourism pick up the rest, because that would alleviate almost \$400,000 from there, from the TDT jumping in. She added it is just a thought and it is actually less than what they have in option five.

Commissioner Feltner asked Commissioner Pritchett to say those numbers one more time.

Chair Steele agreed to talk about those numbers. He asked if she is talking about \$1,950,000 or from the County General Fund.

Commissioner Pritchett replied County General Fund \$1,941,068, which they already had put into the budget, and then the cities would be the \$151,457, plus the \$82,000.

Chair Steele advised it would roughly be \$230,000.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, indicated she has that amount at \$234,614 and based on what Cocoa Beach's share would be in the current year.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired what the delta amount is on that math for the TDT.

Ms. Hayes replied the delta that Tourism would pay is \$1,566,393.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that is even less than option five for TDT.

Chair Steele advised that is palatable to him; he thinks that is palatable to the cities; he is not trying to be mean or anything like that Commissioner Goodson, but he does think about the County on a daily basis; and he thinks about all of the lawsuits that could come out of these things, when they do not provide lifeguards on the beach. He asked folks not to think that he is not thinking about the County, he is thinking about the County very much.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if there could be a lawsuit if there were no lifeguards and somebody drowned.

Mr. Richardson responded there could always be a lawsuit and the County is largely immune from liability. He stated the County would have less risk if it had no lifeguards than putting

lifeguards on the beach, in terms of liability; but that should not guide the discussion.

Chair Steele replied there might not be a lawsuit but the tourism is going to drop like hell; it will continue to drop; and why not just get rid of the TDC altogether. He asked if they were kidding him.

Commissioner Goodson opined he does not think anybody knows, that could predict tourism, as well as they all might think they could.

Chair Steele remarked no, they could not.

Commissioner Goodson stated it was said that they think the shark issue would be something; and blowing a whistle for a shark sighting would be interesting, that would detour it quickly.

Chair Steele advised these are all realistic, factual numbers; all a person has to do is go to Google and they would see what is going on here with the beaches having a tremendous amount of shark bites; actually, New Smyrna is the biggest one; but Brevard County has problems out there and if they do not have people on the beaches taking care of the tourist and taking care of the citizens, they have problems. He added that is just his thing; he loves Commissioner Goodson; and he thinks he is great.

Commissioner Goodson asked how many shark bites were there last year, because he does not know.

Chair Steele responded 26.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if that is counting New Smyrna.

Chair Steele replied no, that is just in Brevard County.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if he Googled that.

Chair Steele replied he did.

Commissioner Goodson remarked those are some mean sharks.

Chair Steele advised the lifeguards had over 350 pullouts; and there were 14 drownings.

Commissioner Feltner asked if he heard not taking anything out of the Cultural Fund.

Commissioner Goodson replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Feltner suggested for the tourism component \$1,566,393, effectively half of that could come from what is currently in that capital, which he would be more comfortable with that because there is nothing to say that tourism will be wonderful next year, and they ought to leave some marketing ability there.

Chair Steele asked if he could read those numbers again. He stated that would be considered option one, but with different numbers.

Commissioner Feltner stated for what Commissioner Pritchett read before the \$1,566,393, he is suggesting that be comprised of the \$710,000 that is in capital, and the balance he guesses



would come from the marketing portion.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if she is correct that \$550,000 is actually extra after they do, the Brevard Cultural Alliance.

Mr. Abbate replied the \$550,000 is what is currently available after the votes the Board took at the last meeting.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked they did not complete it.

Chair Steele stated that was leftover in the cultural money.

Commissioner Goodson stated right.

Commissioner Pritchett advised she is good with what they want to do to divide it and she just wants to be honorable to Commissioner Goodson because they traded collateral a long time ago over that.

Commissioner Feltner stated he just did some quick math and what he is saying is \$710,000 from what is currently on their sheet that says capital; \$856,393 from marketing; the County component there \$1,941,068; and then have the City for what Ms. Hayes said at \$234,614.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she loves it.

Commissioner Feltner asked if they could do that.

Chair Steele asked if the City is good with this one-year budget; and going forward the City would have to discuss it with the next Commission.

Commissioner Goodson inquired what motion they are on.

Chair Steele responded they are on the modified motion of option one with Commissioner Feltner is just filling in the numbers.

Commissioner Feltner reiterated \$710,000 from capital; \$856,393 will come from the marketing; County General Fund component \$1,941,068; and he needs Ms. Hayes to give the last part of \$234, from the three municipalities.

Ms. Hayes advised the municipal contribution is \$234,614.

Commissioner Goodson inquired if they want to do the same thing to Commissioner Tobia's proposal for the Board to see numbers against numbers, or not.

Chair Steele replied no. He stated because those numbers do not work, as far as the City numbers go.

Commissioner Goodson stated he does though; and he wants to see the numbers that Commissioner Tobia is proposing.

Commissioner Pritchett stated after they take the vote.

Chair Steele advised there is already a motion and a second on the floor.

Commissioner Goodson remarked there is all kind of motions running around.

Commissioner Pritchett understands.

Chair Steele stated to let him know if he is out of order but if he is not mistaken, they have a motion on the floor for option one, with the modified numbers that Commission Feltner just put into the budget; that is where they are on this motion; for discussion purposes he believes Commissioner Goodson would like to see what Commissioner Tobia would have; and he asked if he would go through what he has.

Commissioner Tobia responded affirmatively. He advised he thinks there is a coalition of three; and he finds it a little disturbing from his perspective here as someone who over the tenure of his eight years here, fighting hard against the TDC, and now he is on the exact opposite side of this.

Commissioner Goodson remarked that is called politics.

Commissioner Tobia stated this is about a million dollars less in marketing; he does not know how there is a rubric for marketing of how it is they spent, but they do spend about \$13 million; if a loss of seven or eight percent is going to be seen of marketing dollars because they are expecting how many less tourists, there has to be a dollar figure per night in beds in order to judge how well marketing is going on these type of things; and if they do not, he asked why they are spending anything in marketing.

Mr. Cranis responded he is not sure because he did not get the question exactly. He asked if the question is how much he predicts the tourism will decline because of a budget cut.

Commissioner Tobia replied to be very clear, it is not a budget cut because it is still in marketing, but it would not be marketing that is billboards, YouTube, or however it is contracted out to be marketing; it is a million dollars that will go to lifeguards, as opposed to those others; and he inquired how many less heads in beds is expected. He stressed if there is no answer and he does not trace these things, then why spend any money on marketing.

Commissioner Feltner asked if he could say something.

Commissioner Tobia indicated he kind of wanted to get an answer; if they are cutting the marketing budget by like seven or eight percent; this is huge; and he asked if they expect seven or eight percent less tourists or three percent less tourists. He advised knowing there are market trends here working that has to layer on top of all of this stuff.

Mr. Cranis replied the issue about whether they should have lifeguards or not plays into the facts. He stated he means if Chair Steele's premise is right, if they do not have lifeguards and they have an incident that could certainly reduce the number of tourist potentially; having a million dollars in lifeguards could preserve the predictions for next year; while it is a difficult metric; he does not know what he could say for sure that they will have a reduction, because having lifeguards could actually prevent them from having losses in the future; and he thinks it is basically 'hedging the bets.'

Commissioner Feltner stated back to the lifeguard discussion, he thinks they all understood before that lifeguards work, and are effective on the beaches that had coverage.

Chair Steele remarked absolutely.

Commissioner Feltner went on to say on the money component here, he thinks the Board was headed in the direction of taking it solely from marketing, and what he is trying to do is simply split it; and he thinks that is a reasonable compromise.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Mr. Abbate to help her wrap her head around this. She stated the cultural \$550,000, does not count all of the grants just approved.

Mr. Abbate replied right, that is everything except grants, and there is still \$550,000.

Commissioner Pritchett stated but they did not fund the Cultural Alliance \$202,000.

Commissioner Goodson responded no, they did.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked they did.

Commissioner Tobia stated they did not.

Chair Steele apologized. He stated he missed what she is talking about and what she meant for funding this...

Mr. Abbate explained for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 there is no contract in place, nor is there funding identified for such a contract.

Commissioner Pritchett stated what they could do is maybe take \$250,000 of these cultural funds to hold it aside for that and they go ahead and apply \$300,000 of this towards it as well.

Commissioner Feltner stated they could do that.

Commissioner Goodson advised he is voting for this thing and he wishes the Board would hurry up.

Chair Steele agreed.

Commissioner Goodson remarked he just does not know which amendment they are on.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Commissioner Feltner to revisit that with his motion.

Chair Steele advised the Clerks that they are going back.

Commissioner Feltner stated \$300,000 back into marketing and move it from the cultural; for tourism \$710,000 from capital, \$856,393 out of the marketing, \$300,000 back into cultural, and making that \$556,393.

Chair Steele asked the Clerk to read back what they have so Commissioner Feltner may check his numbers.

Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, responded \$710,000 from Capital, \$556,393 from Marketing, \$1,941,068 from General Fund, \$234,614 from three municipalities, and \$300,000 from Cultural Fund.

Chair Steele indicated that is good.

Commissioner Feltner stated that is his motion.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would second it.

Commissioner Tobia stated for the future Commission watching, this is so difficult; this Board voted 5:0 to ask the cities to pay 50 percent; and if this motion goes through and he knows this motion...

Chair Steele interrupted by saying that is not what this Board did; this Board did not vote that; they voted to send the County Manager and the County Attorney to try to recommend it to them; it did not vote that way; and that is not true.

**D.4. Continued Discussion on Funding for Lifeguards at County and Municipal Beaches**

Commissioner Tobia stated okay, sure; his motion asked the cities to contribute less than one-third of the cost and here they are going to settle on a little more than nine percent; this is very difficult and they all observe sunshine; and he asked for the future Commissioners to stick with what they say, come hell or high water because it makes it difficult on the other Commissioners, and it is extremely difficult on staff. He expressed appreciation for the cities showing up; he thinks it is very important when they come to the Board asking for money out of the County's budget; the Board looks at that; there are decisions that the cities made and they are not willing to cut that this Board had made cuts on; the Board just got rid of its golf courses; it was just heard that the City of Cocoa Beach is not willing to do that; so the fact that they say they cannot afford it, they could; the reason they could is because the County is going to end up paying 90 percent; he is going down 4:1 on this one; and he opined it is just disgusting. He continued saying it has nothing to do with safety, it is just this Board had made tough decisions that they heard from constituents that did not make them happy; those elected officials have not made those decisions, and they have not had to make those decisions because the Board is backfilling at 90 percent of the lifeguard services the County will be covering when this motion goes through; it may be 89 percent depending on whether or not that \$80,000, Cocoa Beach just said they cannot afford it; and now all of a sudden it is \$160,000.

Chair Steele advised they are paying the money that they did not pay last year.

Commissioner Tobia apologized; he stated he should have just kept quiet; he appreciated the time given to him; they are good with the tenacity on this; but he is losing on this one.

Chair Steele stated he thinks every one of the Board Members appreciates whatever Commission Tobia does on this Commission; he apologized, but he does a great job; and everyone understands it and the Board appreciated that.

Commissioner Pritchett stated if the cities would just try to figure out a way to help raise some revenue for lifeguard services a little by trying to figure out what they could do to maximize its fees and help with this; it is going to go up again and she will not be here; she asked for them to think through that, because she knows none of them want anyone not to live; and she stated she knows that they want tourism for what it does for their restaurants, because she is an accountant who knows better.

The Board discussed and directed staff to implement funding lifeguard services at County maintained beach parks and city maintained sites in Cocoa Beach, Indialantic, and Melbourne Beach at current service levels, in the total amount of \$3,742,075 and allocated as follows:

\$710,000 from Capital; \$856,393 from Marketing; \$1,941,068 from General Fund; \$300,000 from the Cultural Fund; \$234,614 total from the three municipalities to pay their historical cost with a Consumer Price Index (CPI) multiplier, to include the balance not paid last year by Cocoa Beach; advised lifeguard services will only be provided to the municipalities electing to contribute their share of the costs; and authorized the County Manager to make any necessary budget amendments, contingent upon municipal participation.

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Steele, and Feltner

**Nay:** Tobia, and Goodson

The Board recessed at 7:29 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

**D.4. Discussion and Adoption of the County's Final Budget Resolution for FY 2024-2025**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to discuss and consider the adoption of a resolution establishing the final Millages final millages for FY 2024-2025.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated for this Item the Budget Office will read into the record the resolution adopting the County's total budget for FY 2024-2025; and following the reading of the resolution, it is recommended that the Chair entertain a motion for approval of the resolution.

Jill Hayes, Budget Office Director, read aloud a resolution to adopt a final budget pursuant to Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, authorizing the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the final operating and capital budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and providing for an effective date; the Board of County Commissioners, Brevard County, Florida, as taxing and governing authority, does hereby adopt an operating and capital budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, in the amount of \$2,250,925,875.

There being no comments, the Board executed and adopted Resolution No. 24-095, establishing the final millages budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**Result:** ADOPTED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Seconders:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**D.5. Adoption of the Final Millage Resolutions for FY 2024-2025 for Dependent Special Taxing Districts**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to adopt the final millage resolutions for FY 2024-2025.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Item requests that the Board adopt resolutions establishing final millages for FY 2024-2025 for those Dependent Special Taxing Districts for which the County levies a millage; authorize the Chair to sign the resolutions; and Florida Statutes, 200.065, allows the Board to adopt tax levies for all Dependent Special Taxing Districts by a single vote, unless separate votes are requested by a member of the public.

There being no comments, the Board adopted Resolution No. 24-096, Brevard County Free Public Library District; adopted Resolution No. 24-097, Brevard Mosquito Control District; adopted Resolution No. 24-098, Recreation Special District IV – Operating and Maintenance; adopted Resolution No. 24-099, Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority; adopted Resolution No. 24-100, South Brevard Recreation Special District – Operating; and adopted Resolution No. 24-101, North Brevard Recreation Special District – Operating for final millages for FY 2024-2025 Dependent Special Taxing Districts.

**Result:** ADOPTED

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Second:** Rob Feltner

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**D.6. Adoption of Resolutions Approving the FY 2024-2025 Final Budget for Dependent Special Districts**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to adopt the final millage resolutions for FY 2024-2025.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Item requests that the Board adopt resolutions establishing final millages for FY 2024-2025 for those Dependent Special Taxing Districts for which the County levies a millage; authorize the Chair to sign the resolutions; and Florida Statutes, 200.065, allows the Board to adopt tax levies for all Dependent Special Taxing Districts by a single vote, unless separate votes are requested by a member of the public.

There being no comments, the Board adopted Resolution No. 24-096, Brevard County Free Public Library District; adopted Resolution No. 24-097, Brevard Mosquito Control District; adopted Resolution No. 24-098, Recreation Special District IV – Operating and Maintenance; adopted Resolution No. 24-099, Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority; adopted Resolution No. 24-100, South Brevard Recreation Special District – Operating; and adopted Resolution No. 24-101, North Brevard Recreation Special District – Operating for final millages for FY 2024-2025 Dependent Special Taxing Districts.

**Result:** ADOPTED

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**D.7. Authorization for the County Manager to Execute TRIM Compliance Forms**

Chair Steele called for a public hearing to authorize the County Manager to Execute TRIM Compliance Forms.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated this Item is a request for the Chair to entertain a motion to authorize the County Manager, or his designee, to execute all letters and exhibits necessary to establish that Brevard County has complied with Section 200.065 and Section 218.63, Florida Statutes, the Truth in Millage Law.

There being no comments, the Board authorized the County Manager, or his designee, to execute the Florida Department of Revenue TRIM Compliance Forms on behalf of the County; and authorized the authority and obligation to assemble all components of the 'TRIM Compliance Package' and to transmit the same to the appropriate Department of Revenue authorities.

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**E.1. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, FY 2024-2025 Annual Certified Budget for Arthropod Control (All Districts)**

Joseph Faella, Mosquito Control Director, stated Mosquito Control's final budget was just approved in Item D.6., for \$13,785,302; he is requesting in Item E.1., that the Board authorize the Chair to approve and execute the same budget but on the State form so they can be submitted to the Florida Department of Agriculture; and this is required by Florida Statute for Brevard County to maintain its status as a certified Mosquito Control District.

The Board approved and authorized the Chair to sign the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Annual Certified Budget for Arthropod Control (FDACS Form 13617, Rev. 09/23) for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Seconders:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner

**F.3. Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 1, Vice-Chair, Re: Report**

Commissioner Pritchett expressed thanks to the County staff for all of their work and complying with the Commission's budget through the years and always taking care of those items; she thanked Mosquito Control for whenever they have questions about mosquitoes, they give the best answers to give the constituents; she thanked the Budget Office for doing such a great job of putting the budget together and having the ability to answer questions at meetings, is just incomparable with how good they are; she thanked the County Manager and staff for being amazing; and she cannot name everyone, but she thanks them all for all of their work on keeping costs down for all the people who live in Brevard County; and she thanked the Commission for all its work and the studying they have to put into this, and for all of the information brought to do these budgets.

**F.4 Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 2**

Commissioner Goodson thanked everyone for his or her prayers for the Florida State University and for the University of Central Florida, they both won.

Upon motion and vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROB FELTNER, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Result:** APPROVED

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** Rita Pritchett

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Tobia, Goodson, Steele, and Feltner