

# **Brevard County Board of County Commissioners**

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940*



## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**Regular**

**Commission Chambers**

**Present:** Commissioner District 1 Katie Delaney , Commissioner District 2 Tom Goodson, Commissioner District 3 Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 4 Rob Feltner, and Commissioner District 5 Thad Altman

**A. CALL TO ORDER 9:00 AM**

The Board approved for Commissioner Goodson to participate via telephone.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Adkinson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Feltner advised the Board has quite an Agenda today; he spoke to a couple of folks in the audience, and the Board is going to go to Item E.7., Presentation Regarding Grassroots Citizen Effort to Affect State priorities at the County Level by Addressing Shortfalls in State Campaign Finance, first; and that will probably be the most efficient this morning.

**E.7. Presentation to the Brevard County Commissioners Regarding Grassroots Citizen Effort to Affect State Priorities at the County Level by Addressing Shortfalls in State Campaign Finance**

Commissioner Delaney stated many times the leadership and whatnot had mentioned that Commissioners can sponsor citizens Items; a group of citizens across the County brought her this information; she just thought that it really needed to be presented; and from there, she will hand it off to Mr. Twitty.

Wayne Twitty stated he is a resident of District 3, and he is here with a group of citizens who believe strongly that transparency in elections is foundational to good governance; before he begins the core presentation, he would like to briefly speak to the process that brought him here; all of the Commissioners received a written request to meet individually; and he wants to thank each and every one of the Commissioners for his or her time and consideration. He went on to say he especially wanted to recognize District 3 Commissioner, Kim Adkinson, who was the first to respond and took the time to meet with them in person; her thoughtful questions and insights were instrumental in helping them sharpen the focus of this presentation; later they met with District 1 Commissioner, Katie Delaney, who offered a constructive and actionable recommendation to bring this issue before the full Board; that is exactly what he is doing today, coming before the Board respectfully and in good faith, because this matter does not just affect one District, it impacts every voter in Brevard County; and this presentation is being made now because Brevard Legislative Delegation meets on September 30, and they fully intend to bring this issue forward at that meeting. He noted over the past few legislative sessions, citizens, no matter how organized or well-informed, have often found themselves stonewalled in Tallahassee; legislative leadership, namely the Governor, Speaker, and the Senate President wield immense influence over what advances, that is why the Board's leadership as the County Commission matters, because the weight of local government can amplify citizen voices in a way they cannot do alone; the attached one-page visual outlines the issue in plain terms, but he asked to allow him to walk the Board through it; in both the August 2024 primary and the

April 2025 special election, Brevard voters were inundated with campaign materials, mailers, digital ads, text messages, and the like; many of these ads were styled to look like official voter guides; they misused names and logos associated with trusted institutions, President Trump, Governor DeSantis, the Brevard Republican Executive Committee, and the Republican Party of Florida; and the effect was voter confusion and a misleading perception of endorsement. He stated in response, Brevard Republicans voted decisively 95:16 in favor of a resolution for campaign finance reform, signaling broad, local consensus on the need to restore transparency; the kicker, voters could not tell who paid for any of the ads; why, because the political committees behind the ads engaged in a shell game of unlimited Political Committee (PC) to PC transfers, which are completely legal under Florida Law; by bouncing funds between multiple political committees, the true donor disappears, leaving voters in the dark about who is trying to influence their vote; and here is how the loophole works. He pointed out Florida campaign finance laws only trigger transparency rules when express advocacy is used, magic words like vote for or vote against; but these political committees and their consultants have become experts at skirting those words; instead, they shape perception without ever crossing the legal line; the result, ads that influence elections without the legal obligation to disclose the funder; he asked if voters cannot tell who is behind the messaging, how can they make an informed choice; if special interests shape the outcome, how can they expect the policy to reflect the public will; he advised this is not just about campaign flyers, this is about public governance; when outside interests determine who can afford to run, what messages dominate the public space, and which policies move in Tallahassee, local voices are drowned out, which leads to soaring utility and insurance rates, State preemption that ties the Board's hands, and Home Rule is being eroded; and they are not asking the Commission to write a bill or wade into party politics, but what they are asking the Board, their elected local leaders, is to stand with the citizens of Brevard to help them elevate this issue. He mentioned specifically, to pass a resolution that has been provided urging the legislature to prohibit the PC to PC transfers, and ask the Brevard Delegation to support legislation in 2026 to close this loophole; he has an example in the packet, and the Board can use that as a template, and they urge the Board to join with the citizens; what they are facing is not hypothetical, it is unfolding right now, growing in scale, and steadily eroding the trust the residents place in their elections and local governance; they need the Board's help to ensure voters, once again, look at the political messaging and who is behind it; and together, transparency can be restored, elections protected, and Home Rule preserved in Brevard County.

Commissioner Delaney commented when this was presented to her, her first reaction was, sure she will bring forward a resolution, but after she thought about it more, just because of the political nature of this, she did not feel comfortable bringing forward a resolution without consensus of the Board; she is wondering how the Board feels about that, because she would be happy to sponsor a resolution; the second thing is, she has signed the presenters letter; she supports this, she thinks it is a great thing, and she appreciates all of them for doing this, because government and politics starts locally; and when the citizens come together, even across party lines, this is an everyone issue, not a left or right issue. She advised she is all for what they are doing, and she appreciates them for doing it.

Mr. Twitty stated they look forward to presenting this to the Legislative Delegation on September 30; and they invite the Commissioners to come and stand with them.

The Board acknowledged a citizen proposal to consider prioritizing State campaign finance prior to the 2025 September legislative priorities session.

## **D. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Chairman Feltner pointed out he missed the minutes, and he wanted to be sure the Board included Commissioner Goodson.

The Board approved the July 8, 2025, Regular meeting, July 22, 2025, Regular meeting, August 12, 2025, Regular meeting, and the August 7, 2025, Zoning meeting minutes.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

### **E.7. Presentation, Re: Grassroots Citizen Effort to Affect State Priorities at the County Level by Addressing Shortfalls in State Campaign Finance**

Commissioner Delaney stated because of the Sunshine, there is no way for the Board to talk about this offline; she did not know if the Board wants her to bring it forward as a discussion item; and she is sure the Commissioners will have to think about it.

Chairman Feltner stated Commissioner Delaney can send it one way, and other Commissioners do not respond to her; and he thinks that is a way she can do that

### **E.1. Resolution, Re: Supporting the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District's Request for the Florida Legislature to Amend Subsection (12) of Section 8 of Section 3 of Chapter 2001-336, Laws of Florida**

Commissioner Altman read aloud a resolution supporting Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District's request for the Florida Legislature to amend Subsection (12) of Section 8 of Section 3 of Chapter 2001-336, Laws of Florida.

Chairman Feltner asked since the Delegation meeting is coming up, does the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District expect this to be a local bill.

Phil Wineberg, Board of Directors, replied affirmatively; he commented with him is Rick Nipper, their District Manager; he expressed his appreciation to the Board for the resolution and its support in this matter; and he stated they feel this bill is critical for the District in order for them to continue serving the residents of the District to help prevent flooding as they have done for the last 103 years.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 25-097, supporting the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District's request for the Florida Legislature to amend Subsection (12) of Section 8 of Section 3 of Chapter 2001-336, Laws of Florida.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Thad Altman

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**E.2. Resolution, Re: Acknowledging September as Suicide Prevention Month in Brevard County**

Chairman Feltner read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-098, recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Month in Brevard County.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Rob Feltner

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Johnette Gindling, President and CEO of Space Coast Health Foundation, stated she is here with representatives from several of their partners, Do It for Hunter, 211 Brevard, Health First, Palm Point Behavioral, and a new organization, Give Yourself a Reason; she expressed her appreciation to the Board for this Resolution and its ongoing interest it has had in promoting suicide awareness, prevention, and mental health in Brevard County; the latest stats from the Florida Department of Health are from 2023; that is when people saw nearly 150 people take their own lives; and that is a rate of 21 per 100,000 people; the rate in Florida was just over 14 per 100,000 people; and one life passing by suicide is too many. She continued by saying the Space Coast Health Foundation and others in Brevard mental health community are determined to do something about this; the Board's support will help towards getting to a solution in finding better alternatives for people when they need them the most; and she would like to turn the microphone over to their Board Chair, Linda Dale.

Linda Dale commented the Space Coast Health Foundation started this local suicide prevention awareness initiative four years ago; they were inspired by some remarks made by Christine Moore, who at the time was with Brevard Public Schools; Christine, who is now with the foundation board, was noted some very troubling mental health issues at the school and how they were affecting students as young as junior high; from there, Johnette took on initiative and had the Space Coast Health Foundation focus more on mental health issues, as well as the suicide awareness; the County Commission, with its action today, is an important part of that awareness; and she expressed her appreciation to the Board for all of its concern and support.

A representative stated what she has found in over 33 years in public education, and the last several years working with community leaders, is that there are no easy answers to challenges like suicide prevention awareness; but the fact that there are no easy answers, does not mean that they look away; all of them are impacted by suicide, some of them more directly than others; and that is why developing strategies and plans means so much and why they will keep counting on the Board for its collaboration and leadership to help them move forward.

Belinda Stewart, representing 211 Brevard, remarked they have been answering suicide calls in Brevard County since 1968, when they co-founded the first suicide hotline in Florida; they now answer more than 5,000 crisis calls per year from Brevard County residents; and they average one per day where the person is at serious risk of taking their own life. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for the Resolution and to the Health Foundation for their leadership in this issue.

Kelly, Do It for Hunter, advised she is just a mom who was directly affected by this four years ago when she lost her son; they know there are many more out there, and they have to do something; that is why they started their grassroots, very grassroots, they say it is in the weeds, their non-profit to try to get the word out to the kids who are mostly affected by this; everyone is affected, but mostly the kids; they do have a really great, fun event coming up on September

27 if the Commissioners would like to come; it is called 'You Matter Day' at Merritt Island High School; they have done it now, this will be four years in a row; it is a great event to get the message out, especially to their kids; she asked the Board to look it up on [doitforhunter.org](http://doitforhunter.org); and if anyone would like to join them in the dunk tank, he or she is more than welcome.

### **E.3. Resolution, Re: Recognizing Constitution Week**

Commissioner Adkinson read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-099, recognizing September 17 – 23, 2025, as Constitution Week in Brevard County.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Michelle Abby, Honorary Chapter Regent of the Abigail Wright Chamberlain Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, stated on behalf of their Chapter, she expressed her appreciation to the Board for the proclamation and support of the United States Constitution; as daughters, mothers, sisters, and wives, they accept the responsibility to help education their children and young people about American history; there are two documents of a paramount importance to American history, the Declaration of Independence, which forged the national identity, and the United States Constitution, which set forth the framework for Federal government that is in use today; and while Independence Day is a beloved national holiday, fewer people know about Constitution Week, an annual commemoration of a living document that upholds and protects the freedoms central to the American way of life. She mentioned the Daughters of the American Revolution initiated the observance in 1955; later that year, the Daughters petitioned the United States Congress to recognize the importance of this document; on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Constitution Week, September 17 – 23 of each year into public law; the celebrations goals are three-fold; first, to encourage the study of historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September of 1787; second, to inform people that the Constitution is a basis of America's great heritage and the foundation of their way of life; and third, to emphasize the responsibilities as the United States citizens to protect, defend, and preserve the Constitution. She thanked the Board again for its support of this important commemoration; and she advised they will be celebrating all month in September and hope the Commissioners can and will visit the Melbourne Public Library on Fee Avenue to view a patriotic Constitution Week display presented by the Abigail Wright Chamberlain Chapter.

### **E.4. Resolution, Re: GFWC Viera Woman's Club International Day of Service**

Commissioner Adkinson read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-100, recognizing September 27, 2025, as General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) International Day of Service.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Harriet Hankerson, President of the GFWC Viera Women's Club, stated she is here with her fellow sisters in work; on behalf of the GFWC Viera Women's Club, she thanked the Board for recognizing September 27, 2025, as International Day of Service to end domestic sexual violence in Brevard County; she stated they have called this day 'Shatter the Silence' here in

Brevard County; this designation is so meaningful because it shines a light on an issue that too often remains in the shadows, domestic violence and sexual exploitation; as a club, they are international in their efforts to educate and raise awareness, and to stand with survivors; this year, this date carries an even greater significance; and on September 27, GFWC clubs across the United States and internationally will recognize this day. She noted thousands will be united in the same mission, standing against domestic and sexual violence; it is powerful to know that while they are in Brevard County working in their own community, others across the United States internationally are taking action on their own; together, their voices are stronger; leading up to this important date, they are hosting two community events; on Saturday, September 20, they invite everyone to join them at the Avenues Viera for the Walk for Victims as they stand in solidarity with survivors and those whose voices have been silenced; on Tuesday, September 23, at the Brevard Health Department Conference Center, they will hold a community education session featuring representatives from Life Recaptured, who will share important information and resources to help all better recognize and respond to exploitation; and together, through awareness, education, and compassion, they can make a difference, so today she invites and encourages the community to join them, come out, be present, and help them shatter the silence. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for standing with them in this work and for helping bring light to an issue that impacts far too many families in Brevard County.

**E.5. Resolution, Re: Acknowledging October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Commissioner Adkinson read aloud, and the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-101, recognizing October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

A representative stated they will be incredibly busy out in the community educating, connecting with survivors; it is very helpful for the Board to help them recognize that and getting that started; she is here with their domestic violence task force, at least some of them, because there is just dozens of folks who are part of their group; from the police departments, advocacy groups, domestic violence centers, and State Attorney's office, they are really a coordinated community response, hardworking and so cohesive working together to help survivors and hold batterers accountable, which is so important; and she expressed her appreciation, as these are awesome people.

**E.6. Resolution, Re: Naming September 2025 as Hunger Action Month**

Commissioner Delaney noted she would like to introduce Bill Collins, he is the Chief Operating Officer for Second Harvest Food Bank; and with that, she would like to read the resolution.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 25-102, recognizing September 2025 as Hunger Action Month in Brevard County.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

Bill Collins commented people can go to their website [www.feedhopenow.org](http://www.feedhopenow.org) if he or she would like to participate more; he is intensely proud of the 11 million pounds of food they distributed in the County this past fiscal year; 8.9 million meals is a significant amount; he himself is a Titusville resident and a Brevard County resident as well, so he could not be happier; he expressed his appreciation to the Board; and he stated they cannot get this work done without these partnerships.

**F.3. Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Council Grant Contract# IRL2025-01 – Brevard County – Indian River Lagoon, 50+ Quick Connects to Sewer Project**

Rick Heffelfinger stated sometimes he asks questions and sometimes he gets yelled at because this is not a question and answer; he does not know if maybe there is someone here from Indian River Lagoon (IRL), because he has a problem with what he is talking about, the one about the direct connect; he thought the County was just doing septic tanks, or the real, hard septic; and the County is paying people's bills to get connected to sewer. He went on to say he thought when the sewer went in, that one had to hook up when he or she was within so many feet and they paid the connection fee, so he does not understand who these special people are; he would like to volunteer to be on that list because his septic system is very old; but he does not know, so no answers today; he just has a problem with that one, he really does, because he does not know why the County is spending money for somebody to hook up to a sewer if it is already there; and he hopes that is not what it is.

Commissioner Delaney asked if there is anybody who can clarify that.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, replied the Agenda Report explains that this project provides funding to convert 50 septic properties within the watershed to sewer and eliminate the nitrogen resulting from those septic systems.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked if that means the sewer has to be close; is the sewer line there; why did they not already hook up; and he commented he does not understand why the County is paying.

Attorney Richardson advised this is a conversion of septic to sewer.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated he has a septic tank and he would like to be one of those 50 people; he asked if the County can hook him up with sewer; can he get on that list; and the County is paying, right.

Commissioner Delaney stated if she understands this, these are just homes that are along the Lagoon.

Attorney Richardson stated these are in the IRL watershed that are on septic currently, and the grant will in part make it possible to convert from septic to sewer.

Commissioner Delaney noted these are people who are being basically mandated from the State to do this.

Attorney Richardson pointed out connection will be required under Statute when there is sewer within a certain distance, but project costs also include extending sewer lines where it does not presently exist sometimes.

Mr. Heffelfinger asked so the County is buying sewer line then, that is what this is for 50 people getting special sewer because they are close.



Attorney Richardson noted that is as in-depth as he can go; that is in the Agenda Report; but it is not new homes on sewer as Mr. Heffelfinger suggested, it is septic to sewer conversion.

**F.13. Approval of an Agreement with the Property Appraiser for Data Sharing and Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Support**

Rick Heffelfinger commented this is an easy one; there is no cost increase with this Item to renew; that is incredible; that does not happen often; and he would like to give a shout out to the Property Appraiser for not charging anything more to do a service they have already been doing.

**F.1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grant INV64 - Indian River Lagoon Circulation and Water Quality Forecast Model**

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to execute the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grant INV64 for the Indian River Lagoon circulation and water quality forecast model, upon approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services; authorized the County Manager to execute any future amendments to the Contract; and authorized the County Manager to execute any necessary budget change amendments.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.3. Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Council Grant Contract# IRL2025-01 – Brevard County – Indian River Lagoon, 50+ Quick Connects to Sewer Project (continued)**

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to execute the IRL Grant Contract #IRL2025-01 for Brevard county IRL 50+ quick connects to sewer project; authorized the County Manager to execute any future amendments to this Contract; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.4. Final Plat and Contract Approval, Re: Aripeka at Viera - Phase 5 Developer: The Viera Company**

The Board, in accordance with Section 62-2841(i) and Section 62-2844, granted final plat approval and authorized the Chairman to sign the final plat and Contract for Aripeka at Viera, Phase 5, Developer: The Viera Company, subject to minor engineering changes, as applicable, and developer responsible for obtaining all other necessary jurisdictional permits.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.5. Legislative Intent and Permission to Advertise Amendments to the Brevard County Code of Ordinances, Re: Business Tax Receipts, Including, but Not Limited to, Chapter 102, Article II, "Business Tax Receipt"; Section 74-116, "Findings, Purpose and Declaration"; and Section 62-1155, "Zoning Approval for Business Tax Receipts; Approval of Home Occupation," Brevard County Code of Ordinances**

The Board approved legislative intent and permission to advertise amendments to the Brevard County Code of Ordinances to ensure consistency between the Code and Florida Law pertaining to Business Tax Receipts, including but not limited to, Chapter 102, "Taxation," Article II, "Business Tax Receipt," and Chapter 74, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions," Article VII, "Pain Management Clinics," specifically Section 74-116, "Findings, Purpose, and Declaration," and Chapter 62, "Land Development Code," Article VI, "Zoning Regulations."

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.6. Correction of Resolution 25Z00009 (Forbes Remodeling & Construction, LLC) (25Z00009) (Tax Account 2802070))**

The Board rescinded Resolution 25Z00009 as previously executed; and authorized the Chairman to execute the corrected Resolution 25Z00009-C.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.7. Approval, Re: Contract for Sale and Purchase of Easement from Indian River REH LLC as Related to the Lift Station J-13 Rehabilitation Project**

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to execute Contract for Sale and Purchase of Easement from Indian River REH LLC as related to Lift Station J-13 Rehabilitation Project; and approved waiving the appraisal requirement.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**yes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.8. Approval of Change Order No. 3 - Mims Asbestos Cement Water Main Replacement Phase 4**

The Board approved and executed Change Order No. 3 – Mims Asbestos Cement Water Main Replacement Phase 4; and authorized the County Manager to execute all contracts, contract amendments, and any contract extensions, budget Amendments (BCRs), change orders, and any documents or other administrative actions related to this agreement.

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Katie Delaney  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.9. Approval, Re: State Aid to Libraries FY 2025-2026, Grant Application with the Florida Department of State, Division of Library Services**

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to execute the State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement Application, Certification of Hours, Free Library Service, and Access to Materials; authorized the County Manager to execute any follow-up agreements, amendments, or modifications contingent upon approval of Risk Management and the County Attorney; authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments (BCRs); and approved the Brevard County Libraries Annual Plan of Service 2026.

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Katie Delaney  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.10. Board Approval, Re: Fire Protection, Rescue/Emergency Services, and Vehicle Agreement with Four Communities Volunteer Fire Department**

The Board approved and executed the combined Fire Protection, Rescue/Emergency Services, and Vehicle Agreement with Four Communities Fire Department.

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Katie Delaney  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.11. Board Approval, Re: Fire Protection, Rescue/Emergency Services, Vehicle Agreement, and Use of Space with Merritt Island Volunteer Fire Department**

The Board approved the combined Fire Protection, Rescue/Emergency Services, Vehicle and Use of Space Agreement with Merritt Island Volunteer Fire Department.

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Katie Delaney  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.12. Board Approval, Re: Fire Protection, Rescue/Emergency Services, and Vehicle Agreement with Mims Volunteer Fire Department**

The Board approved the combined Fire Protection, Rescue/Emergency Services, and Vehicle Agreement with Mims Volunteer Fire Department.

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** Kim Adkinson  
**Second:** Katie Delaney  
**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.13. Approval of an Agreement with the Property Appraiser for Data Sharing and Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Support**

The Board approved and executed a three-year Agreement with the Brevard County Property Appraiser for data sharing and non-ad valorem assessment support.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Seconders:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.14. Proposed Revisions to Board Policy BCC-27, "Construction Contracts"**

The Board approved and executed proposed revision to Board Policy BCC-27, "Construction Contracts."

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Seconders:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.15. Legislative Intent and Permission to Advertise a Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending Section 102-118, Brevard County Code of Ordinances, Relating to the Administration of the Tourism Development Tax (TDT)**

The Board approved legislative intent and permission to advertise a public hearing on an ordinance amending Section 102-118, Brevard County Code of Ordinances, relating to the administration of the TDT.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Seconders:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.16. Appointment(s)/Reappointment(s), Re: Citizen Advisory Boards**

The Board appointed/reappointed **Dale A. Dettmer** to the Brevard County Educational Facilities Authority Board, with term expiring October 22, 2030; and **Drew Powshok** to the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, with term expiring September 30, 2028.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Seconders:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**F.17. Approval of Resolution and Real Estate Contract for Sale of Property to Milton J. Wood Fire Protection, Inc. in the County-Owned Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville**

The Board executed and adopted Resolution No. 25-103; approved Contract for Sale and Purchase permitting the sale of approximately three (3) acres of land in the County-owned Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville for \$190,635 (or \$63,545 per acre) to Milton J. Wood

Fire Protection, Inc.; and authorized the Chairman to execute all documents in connection thereof.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Seconders:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

#### **F.18. Acknowledge Receipt, Re: Bill Folder**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Bill Folder.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Seconders:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

#### **G. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Christina Wilberg expressed her appreciation to the Board for recognizing Suicide Prevention Month in Brevard; she stated she is a former employee of both Health First and Brevard Public Schools; she has reached out to Representative Mike Haridopolis, Senator Ashley Moody, and even President Donald Trump to vocally address the mental health crisis climbing in the nation; and locally, they need more awareness and prevention and more voices heard for this growing crisis. She continued by saying she never had a close suicide loss until she lost a student to it while teaching at Heritage High School, then tragedy struck even closer to her own home; on July 30, 2025, her own husband, Brad, died by suicide at 43 years old; he was a psychology major, a dedicated behavioral analyst, mainly serving children in Brevard County with autism for almost two decades; his first job was actually at Devereux in Viera in 2009; he loved his community, gave himself to it, and Brevard lost a dedicated worker while she lost a loving husband to this terrible disease; but her husband, Brad, lived with chronic illness, ulcerative colitis and then Crohn's Disease from childhood at four years old; and that constant physical pain started to shape his mental health. She mentioned when one talks about suicide, stigma often takes over that it is selfish, unforgivable, or a sign of being crazy; she admits, she also once believed some of those false stigmas until she watched both her student and her husband fight this horrible disease; they cannot afford that stigma anymore; for the sake of those people that are loved, he or she must change the face of suicide; and prevention alone is not enough, actual, true prevention required both awareness and connection with medical professionals. She explained right now, mental health and physical health are treated as separate entities; that separation has proven deadly; the brain is an organ just like the heart, liver, and lungs are; if a person has liver disease, the physicians track and monitor it over time; if depression is left unmonitored, the illness can take the brain in the same way; when someone is diagnosed with depression or anxiety, coordination should begin that same day, just as it would if one was diagnosed with diabetes or heart disease; one does not wait until an organ fails before acting; and the same needs to be done with mental illness. She stated her husband fell into the gaps of a system where his doctors and his mental health providers were not collaborated; her husband did not know how to truly ask for help; by the time he tried, it was too late; the gap in this coordinated care allowed his brain to drift further into the disease until it became overwhelming; he needed steady, consistent care and access to a crisis coordinator when suicidal thoughts urged; and instead, his illness grew between those gaps. She advised those gaps they must build a bridge between primary care and mental health care so patients have long-term plans that monitor both; suicide prevention should start far earlier, before the disease truly overwhelms the brain; she lost her husband because those bridges were missing; she

asked the Board to let this story push everyone to build them for the Board's families, for hers, and for the people who cannot fight alone; and she stated she wants to continue to voice her concern until there is true, efficient care for complete and total health and well-being.

Christopher Childs commented he is a small business owner in Titusville; he wants to speak about spending; he thinks everyone needs to focus on reducing spending; as a small business owner and as someone who has worked in large healthcare organizations, Human Resources (HR) is one of the biggest, if not the largest, expense to a business; when the Board is making those decisions, it has to take into consideration experience and value what they bring to the position; and it is a tough balance because the County wants to keep good employees. He noted he knows that is really hard, he knows, he has done it himself; he has hired people and decided what their salary is, and worked with HR to determine that as well; they would go through the whole pay scales and stuff; they would give him a number, and this is all they could give; and they are not going to give over what other companies are giving. He stated former President Ronald Reagan once said that they did not get to a trillion dollar in debt because they taxed too much, they got to a trillion dollars in debt because they spent too much; he thinks all of the purported conservatives on this Board can show that he or she are the conservatives that he or she is purported to be if the Commission makes some good decisions on spending; to be frank, the magical money fairies, also called the taxpayers, are running out of money; he thinks the Board really needs to focus on spending; and he appreciates the Board hearing him.

Judy Trandel advised as everyone knows, this year Florida enacted Senate Bill (SB) 180 intended to speed up recovery from hurricanes; it places severe restrictions on counties and municipalities like Brevard; for up to three years after a disaster declaration, new land use rules cannot be adopted or enforced, zoning changes, or development standards that are stricter than those from July 2024; that means everything passed after July 2024 is null and void; and this freeze applies broadly, even to areas not directly hit, overriding the Home Rule powers under the Florida Constitution and stifling their ability to adapt to flooding, growth, land use, and protections to wetlands. She went on to say as Brevard County faces storm risks along the Space coast, tools are needed to protect the environment, infrastructure, and residents, not handcuffs from Tallahassee; the best way to fix this is a targeted amendment, limit SB 180's effects to strict 12 to 18-month timeline and apply it only to officially-named disaster areas, such as those designated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the State; this would support quick rebuilding while restoring the local control for long-term planning, ensuring updated flood zones, environmental protections, and smart growth enforcement without undue State interference; she urged the Board to formally request that the Brevard County Legislative Delegation introduce and support an amendment in the 2026 legislative session; and she stated the Bill diminishes the 1968 Charter Rule and the 1973 Municipal Home Rule Act. She pointed out that the Board's voice carries weight and it certainly has grassroots support to back it; and she asked the Board to do the right thing, to vote and voice his or her opinion for an amendment.

Chairman Feltner stated he knows he told the Commission it would be taking a break; he sees a couple of people that maybe could get out of here, and then the Board can take a break; and he asked if the Commissioners are amenable to that.

**J.2. Approval, Re: Tourist Development Council's Recommended Funding for Brevard Cultural Alliance Professional Services Contract for FY 2025-2026**

Peter Cranis, Tourism Development Director, stated Item J.2. is Brevard Cultural Alliance seeking \$217,000 in Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds.

The Board approved TDCs recommendation to approve funding for one year for the FY 2025-2026 BCA Professional Services Contract; further, based on the programs outline, by approving this Agenda Item, the Board made Legislative findings that the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds are authorized for the cultural programs, pursuant to Section 125.0104(5)9(a)3, Florida Statutes, and Section 102-119(3)d, of the Brevard County Code of Ordinances; authorized once the contract is developed and approved by the Purchasing Department, Risk Management Department, and the County Attorney's Office, the Board Chairman to sign the necessary contract and related documents; and authorized the County Manager to execute all necessary budget amendments.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**I.1. Request Board Approval for the Chairman to Execute a Professional Services Contract with SBM Partners, Inc. for State Lobbying Services**

Kathy Wall, Central Services Director, stated Item I.1. is a request for approval of a one-year professional service contract with SB Partners, Inc. for the County State lobbying services; the Board may renew the contract for another year in July, after an annual review of the services provided by SBM Partners, Inc.; the Board may consider to reject the proposals and authorize Purchasing Services to advertise or Request for Proposal for State lobbying services; on July 22, the Board directed staff to negotiate a five-year contract with Crisafulli Consultants LLC; after the proposals were received by the County on April 2, Crisafulli Consultants LLC merged with SBM Partners Inc. in July; and with this merger, Mr. Crisafulli is a partner in the firm and would be responsible for the County State lobbying services if the contract is approved by the Board. She advised this selection and negotiating committee, consisting of James Liesenfelt, County Manager, Jill Hayes, Interim Assistant County Manager, and Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director, on August 19 and September 4, negotiated a contract based on the Board's direction; and based on these negotiations and information obtained from two similar contracts with Hillsborough and Collier Counties, the negotiating committee recommends the Board consider a one-year professional services contract with SBM Partners Inc. with a Board review in July.

The Board approved a one-year professional services Contract with SBM Partners, Inc. for the County's State Lobbying Services; and the Board may renew Contract for another year in July after an annual review of the services provided by SBM Partners, Inc.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

\*The Board recessed at 10:06 a.m. and reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

**H.1. Public Hearing, Re: Petition to Vacate Portion of a Public Right-of-Way – Plat of "Houston Lane Estates" Plat Book 62, Page 46 – Merritt Island – D R Horton Inc**

Chairman Feltner called for a public hearing to consider a petition to vacate a public right-of-way, Plat of Houston Lane Estates, Merritt Island, as requested by D. R. Horton, Inc.

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, explained Items H.1. and H.2. are tied together; H.1. is a petition to vacate a portion of public right-of-way for Houston Lane in District 2; this 3.5 foot by 3.5 foot area was previously taken by maintenance for a speed hump that was never pursued by the County; it is in the way of the private drainage for this affordable housing project, so on this Item, staff is seeking a petition to vacate; Item H.2., which would be a separate action; there would be a County deed that would provide that three and one-half by three and one-half foot section; the County would have the right to discharge drainage from the public right-of-way into the private easements and track; and this is needed for the developer to provide drainage.

There being no comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-104, vacating a portion of a public right-of-way, Plat of "Houston Lane Estates", Merritt Island, Florida, lying in Section 22, Township 24 South, Range 36 East, as petitioned by D. R. Horton, Inc.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**H.2. Public Hearing, Re: Approval of County Deed to D. R. Horton, Inc. for a 3.5' x 3.5' Section of Right-of-Way (ROW) Related to the Houston Lane Vacate**

Chairman Feltner called for a public hearing to consider a deed to D. R. Horton, Inc. for a 3.5' x 3.5' section of ROW related to the Houston Lane Vacate.

There being no comments or objections, the Board executed and adopted Resolution No. 25-105, authorizing the conveyance of real property interest by the County; and executed and approved the County Deed to D. R. Horton, Inc. for a 3.5' x 3.5' section of ROW related to the Houston Lane Vacate.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**H.3. Public Hearing, Re: Petition to Vacate Portion of Three Public Utility Easements – Plat of "Cocoa North, Unit No. 2", Plat Book 21, Page 101 – Cocoa – Mayda Janet Morales**

Chairman Feltner called for a public hearing to consider a petition to vacate a portion of three public utility easements – Plat of "Cocoa North, Unit No. 2", Plat Book 21, Page 101, Cocoa, as requested by Mayda Janet Morales.

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, stated H.3. is a petition to vacate a portion of three public utility easements; it is in Cocoa north, south of SR 528, and north of SR 524, in District 1; vacating these three public utility easements would allow for the existing buildings to remain and resolve a Code Enforcement violation; and there have been no objections brought to the Department.

There being no comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-106, vacating a portion of three public utility easements, Plat of "Cocoa North, Unit No. 2", Cocoa, Florida, lying in Section 13, Township 24 South, Range 35 East, as petitioned by Mayda Janet Morales.



**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Thad Altman

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**H.4. Public Hearing, Re: Petition to Vacate Portion of Two Public Utility and Drainage Easements – Plat of “Port St. John, Unit 2”, Plat Book 14, Page 48 – Cocoa – Dale O’Connor and Patricia Rivera**

Chairman Feltner called for a public hearing to consider a petition to vacate a portion of two public utility and drainage easements – Plat of “Port St. John, Unit 2”, Plat Book 14, Page 48 – Cocoa, as requested by Dale O’Connor and Patricia Rivera.

Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, commented H.4. is a petition to vacate a portion of two public utility and drainage easements; this is in Port St. John, south of Delespine Road, and north of Fay Boulevard in District 1; they are seeking to vacate the two public easements to allow for buildings to remain and resolve a Code Enforcement violation; and no objections have been raised.

There being no further comments or objections, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-107, vacating a portion of two public utility and drainage easements, Plat of “Port St. John, Unit 2”, Cocoa, Florida, lying in Section 24, Township 23 South, Range 35 East, as petitioned by Dale O’Connor and Patricia Rivera.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**H.5. Public Hearing, Re: Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 58 - Historical Preservation, Article II - Historical Commission, Section 58-37 - Members; Qualifications, Term, Method of Appointment, of the Brevard County Code of Ordinances, Pertaining to the Historical Commission’s Membership**

Chairman Feltner called for a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 58 – Historical Commission, Section 58-37 – Members; Qualifications, Term, Method of Appointment, Brevard County Code of Ordinances, pertaining to the Historical Commission’s membership.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, explained Brevard County Code currently provides for a 15-member Historical Commission with membership consisting of three residents of each County Commission District appointed by the Board of County Commissioners; the proposed ordinance before the Board, which it granted a legislative intent and permission to advertise on August 12; this ordinance would amend that to allow a Commissioner to appoint a resident who is knowledgeable in the history, cultural, law, and development of Brevard County regardless of the Commission District in which they reside; and if the Board approves the ordinance, there is also a request by Commissioner Adkinson to approve appointment of Dan Ryder to the Historical Commission to one of her seats.

There being no further comments or objections, the Board conducted the public hearing and adopted Ordinance No. 25-18, pertaining to the Brevard County Historical Commission; amending Chapter 58 – Historical Preservation, Article II – Historical Commission, Section 58-37 – Members; Qualifications, Term, Method of Appointment, of the Brevard County Code;

providing for resolution of conflicting provisions; providing for severability; providing for an area encompassed; providing for an effective date; and providing for inclusion in the Code of Ordinances.

**Result:** Adopted

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

On the recommendation of Commissioner Kim Adkinson, the Board appointed **Dan Reiter** to the Historical Commission, with said term of appointment expiring December 31, 2026.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Kim Adkinson

**Second:** Katie Delaney

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**I.2. Consider Revisions to BCC-95 Citizens Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendations (CEER) Policy, Also Known as the Speak Up Brevard Program**

Commissioner Delaney advised she is bringing this Item back to the Board for discussion after it was tabled she believes last regular meeting; she wanted to read something into the record so the Board makes sure that correct information is out there; and this is an email she received from the County Attorney. She read, "Honorable Chairman and County Commissioners, Commissioner Goodson wishes to correct the record regarding something that he stated at the Board meeting earlier this week. During discussion of Item J.1., he stated that the County spends between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per Board workshop or special meeting. However, that figure was based on a rough estimate of this year's cost to administer the CEER Program, not the cost to conduct a meeting. Commissioner Goodson does not wish to leave the Board with an erroneous understanding of the cost of meetings. Because of Sunshine Law considerations, please do not reply all or otherwise communicate with your fellow Commissioners about this email outside of the public meeting. Kind Regards, Morris Richardson." She commented she just wanted that to be stated for the record that a workshop is not going to cost the County \$50,000 to \$100,000; and if it is okay, if there are any cards on the Item that the Board can go to that.

Rick Heffelfinger stated he is amazed how much time the Board is spending on this; it spends less time on the Budget than it does on this; all his Commissioner is trying to do is give the people a really nice, robust system so that when they have a good idea, they all think they are great ideas, it gets documented, and there is a system that proves it gets looked at; the Board can spend as much time on them as he or she wants; he does not like the summary dismissals, like it is not the Board's job; he asked what does it mean that it is not the Board's job; the Commissioner is trying to formalize this so the people can get a feeling that the Board really does care; and the Board is not doing much to make them feel like it really does care. He stated he does not think there is any cost associated with this; he asked if that is correct; staff has to type it up and they have to redo that; he thinks the work has already been done for them; to remove superfluous wording, that would be good to cleanup whether the Board approves this or not; and maybe it can just approve that one. He asked about submission cycle extended to 60 days; is there any staff required for that; he remarked no, that is just leaving the window open so people can get their stuff in; the Board told them they can submit something anytime on the website; if it does not get written down, it does not get documented; and half of the time, people do not receive an email back. He pointed out the County is not real good at that; he asked if codifying the annual workshop cost anything; he stated he guesses it does not cost as

much as the people were led to believe from Commissioner Goodson; he asked again what it costs; he stated he thinks they pay the Commissioners to show up at all the things he or she shows up at; he asked if staff are paid and are they hourly; he stated he does not think so; and he asked if the Board is going to do overtime on all of those people. He stated the Board has staff that sits in on every one of these silly citizen boards; they do not even get minutes from them; he asked if the board realized that; he stated the County is seriously dink on a lot of minutes; the County has staff burning time; it will not do something that the community wants it to do; and this has bad optics, it really does. He continued by saying Commissioner Delaney has put a lot of time on it, that is why she is sitting there; he does not know what the other Commissioners constituents think when he or she just blows them off; Commissioner Delaney is not blowing the people off; they put her there because she does stuff like this; there are elections coming up; he asked when that is happening; he advised it would really do a lot for the other Commissioners, and it does not cost anything; he asked the Board to pretend it cares; he stated the people might buy it; and he will not, he has been here too long. He commented he really just does not understand; the Board is always complaining about staff; he thinks those people work here anyway; and he asked the Board to just to put this to bed, and to have a nice program.

Elizabeth Blackford expressed her thanks to the Board for considering policy amendments to the Speak Up Brevard Program; she mentioned the County knows their ad hoc group pretty well by now; they are committed to improving this important tool that residents have to participate in their government; they particularly appreciate Commissioner Delaney's efforts to improve the Speak Up Brevard Program Policy; and they will continue their work on ways to change the process to help citizens research, write, and collaborate with others to ensure that submissions warrant the time and effort County staff invests in them.

Sarah Hodge commented she just appreciates the Speak Up Brevard Program, and she cannot tell the Board how important it is that the Commission knows what the people want and need; she is here for public records and Consent Agenda, because she has worked on this for many years, not necessarily with the present Board's staff, but to get public records on the Internet so that people do not have to pay outrageous fees, have delays where they cannot get those records until after it is voted on; there are many issues in the past before the present Commission; this needs to be a public record where they have access; and she is never going to give up, she is going to be here every year saying the same thing, except she will do better research and get better ways to do it. She pointed out the Consent Agenda was her husband's issue, and he is not ready to talk today; it was something to bring the things off that need to be taken off and discussed before they are voted on; she is sorry she is wasting the Board's time on this, but she is not giving up; and as long as she is alive, it will continue.

Commissioner Delaney noted she was not sure if any of the other Commissioners had anything to say, suggestions, or feelings about the changes or any of that.

Commissioner Adkinson advised her thought is the County needs to retain the current submission period, the 120 days; maybe staff should place every suggestion on the first or second regular Agenda, depending on timing, following the close of a submission period that will allow the public to look in on this to be part of it, be more transparent; those would be a couple of things she would suggest; and otherwise, she is not sure she could get behind it as it is written.

Commissioner Delaney asked Commissioner Adkinson to explain that again.

Commissioner Adkinson replied she thinks the submission period whittling it down to, she thinks Commissioner Delaney proposed 60 days, that is not enough time; she thinks that

citizen's suggestions should come in front of the Board, having a meeting to look at these things in public could be helpful; and she would not mind hearing some of staff's thoughts on her suggestions if they would be interested in saying their thoughts on it.

Commissioner Delaney explained she thinks there is a little bit of confusion, the 60 days is to extend the submission time from the current 30 days, to make that wider to 60 days, it is not shortening the program to 60 days.

Commissioner Goodson stated his position has not changed; he asked who better knows what the Board should do than a person's own Commissioner or County staff; he remarked he does not see a need to extend it or change it; and he would like to make a motion that it stays the same.

The Board considered proposed revisions to Policy BCC-95, CEER, the County's Charter Program to consider citizen recommendation to the Board, but voted for it to stay the same.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**Nay:** Delaney

Commissioner Delaney stated she would ask, because of some frustration that is coming, not only from herself, but from the public, is that this program was supposed to be a citizen program, something for them; over the past two years that she has been researching this, the topic has been pushed to the end of a very long meeting; the first year she was going to participate and was not able to, because she had to be at work, and she had already sat through a few hours, that they were pushed to the end, and then the same thing happened this year where people waited to the end of a five-hour meeting; there was talk before to even shorten their time to two minutes; she is wondering how the Board can get to a better place with this program so that people do not feel like it is an afterthought and like their submissions do not matter; the Board does not like her suggestions, but what she can say is that the public does not like the program the County is doing; and this program is all about them. She asked if anybody has any ideas on how this can be fixed, how the Board can do better for its constituents.

Chairman Feltner stated he appreciates Commissioner Delaney's thoughts; and he stated there are other items on the Agenda today.

Commissioner Delaney asked how many times this has been talked about; she stated this is the thing she is frustrated about this is not a new topic; the Board has talked about this over and over again; the Commission heard one of her constituents stand up here and tell it how they feel about this; she asked Commissioner Adkinson, with all due respect, if she has residents that came as well; is the Commission not here to deliberate and talk about these things; and she stated maybe there could be a workshop about this, a policy-making workshop. She went on to say the School Board meets before every one of their meetings to talk and deliberate about policy; that way they could come together with a consensus to bring forward to their business meeting; the City of Titusville does the same thing, they get presentations from the staff, deliberate, and talk about these things; she is extremely frustrated and she knows the residents are extremely frustrated, because they see the Board just rubber stamping policy and business without any explanation from most of the Commissioners; and this is not the way that government is supposed to work.

### **I.3. Discussion, Re: County Manager's Agreement**

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, explained on August 12, 2025, the Board appointed Jim Liesenfelt as County Manager, and appointed the Chairman and himself to negotiate an employment contract with Mr. Liesenfelt; they met, and negotiated the terms of the County Manager's agreement for the Board's consideration and approval; the agreement is in the Board's packet; it is largely unchanged from former County Manager Abbate's Contract, except certain provisions of that contract relating to the voiding of Mr. Abbate's Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) agreement, specifically, a contract term providing for County payment of Mr. Abbate's required Florida Retirement System (FRS) employee contributions was deleted; and Mr. Liesenfelt is in the DROP and will not be receiving those contributions towards FRS. He continued by saying Mr. Liesenfelt provides that he will be reimbursed for 50 percent of his unused sick leave at separation, whereas, the prior agreement with Mr. Abbate was 100 percent; 50 percent is what Mr. Liesenfelt would receive anyway, absent this agreement, based on his tenure with the County and when he started employment here; the other terms are listed in the agreement; he is happy to answer any questions; and the negotiated salary is well within the range that was established by the consultant when there was a search underway.

Chairman Feltner asked as a clarification on the retirement issue, if Mr. Liesenfelt's high five is affected by this at all.

Attorney Richardson replied it is not, he will not receive a retirement benefit as a result of this salary, because he is already in DROP, his high five was frozen at the prior salary.

Commissioner Delaney inquired if there is any way Chairman Feltner can fill everyone in with more detail about the committee meeting with Attorney Richardson, and share more about the deliberation and negotiation with the two-person committee and the County Manager.

Chairman Feltner commented he and the County Attorney met with Mr. Liesenfelt, and discussed terms; largely, a lot of this was what former County Manager Abbate had; he thinks as a starting point, obviously it was discussed about the retirement situation, also the payout for Mr. Abbate for his personal time; with Mr. Abbate's situation, his personal time was at a higher rate than what Mr. Liesenfelt's will be; he thinks those were the major things; and he asked if Attorney Richardson wanted to add to anything that he is forgetting.

Attorney Richardson responded he does not know; they had a very full discussion; they went through the contract, all of the provisions, and lined out things that were not applicable, which were very few; but at the end of the day, largely, there was not any reason to change significantly from the existing agreement.

Commissioner Delaney asked if there was any solicitation from the rest of the Board, any feedback that was solicited, or anything about his or her thoughts or feelings about the contract.

Attorney Richardson replied she sent him thoughts and feelings he believes, yes.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out she initiated this on Thursday, August 21; she basically asked how the salary was being determined, which was never answered, she asked if there were any evaluations that are part of the contract, and she also mentioned that she would appreciate a fixed-term contract with Commissioner review six months prior to renewal; basically, she was responded to by thanking her for her suggestions; the quote was, "I will keep your thoughts and suggestions in mind when I discuss with Commissioner Feltner;" and she asked if that was discussed.

Attorney Richardson noted some of those things were discussed; they did not see the need because of Mr. Liesenfelt's longevity with the organization and he is in a somewhat unique position, he is not an up and comer, first time here with no proven track record; they did not see the need for certain kinds of look and see provisions as if he is on training wheels; they felt he is already up and riding the bike; he has delivered a budget; and Chairman Feltner and he believe they did not need some of those provisions on the front end, plus the contract terminates at the Board's option at any time, so they did not feel the need to put in an initial brief term.

Chairman Feltner stated one thing on that is he thinks they agreed he is an at-will employee, as that has happened in this County before.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned but not for a very long time.

Chairman Feltner commented it is not a preferred thing, but it has happened.

Commissioner Delaney stated about experience and whatnot, the County Manager had experience with over 30 percent of County staff, and only six Departments, which are Housing and Human Services, Parks, Transit, Library, Tourism, and UF Extension; she does not know if the other Commissioners had a chance to look over any of the applicants that had been sent in, but this person managed 145,000 personnel; in another place, they managed 4,300 personnel with \$4.5 billion projects that they were over; this person managed 62,000 employees; in another position, they managed 507,000 employees and a \$1.8 billion budget; another person as city manager, not in Florida, increased financial and budgetary controls, increased interdepartmental cooperation and support, thereby decreasing independent silo behaviors, collaborated with local businesses and leaders using public/private partnerships to expand services, several new parks were built, renovated, and expanded; and they met regularly with all members of the Board to discuss the issues facing the city and impacts, provided administrative direction, oversight over all activities of administration, including finance, accounting, purchasing, human resources, pay roll, and so on. She continued by saying the individual also reduced a wastewater treatment plant and sewer system project from costing \$450 million to \$120 million; that is quite a considerable savings; some of these people that the County bypassed had far more experience, which was far more diverse as well; this person, they paid off the general fund debt in two years because of their innovative out-of-the-box thinking, negotiating long-term solar revenue for the city; she was told in this government that it has tried strategic plans but they do not work, so they are not done; for her, that is not an acceptable answer; and counties and cities all over the country use strategic plans, that is the forward thinking and planning one does. She stated the previous County Manager was making this initial amount of money and some more because of the retirement and whatnot; she thinks it was 2017 when he was hired as County Manager at \$197,000, which is what Mr. Liesenfelt is currently now being paid; he started out at \$197,000, and only until 2022 when the County's current County Attorney got hired did they bloat Mr. Abbate's salary up to \$249,000 from \$209,000, giving him a \$40,000 raise; and then, subsequently, two weeks later, just like the Board is doing here, it gave him a \$13,000 raise. She mentioned when she had talked to Attorney Richardson about this in his own salary, because he claims he did not know he was going to get the subsequent almost \$13,000 raise two weeks after he was hired; but she knows for a fact that Mr. Liesenfelt knows about that, because she has talked to him about it; prior to Attorney Richardson, the County was only \$194,000 for his predecessor; the County hired a new County Attorney at a much higher rate, which was \$240,000; because of "an equity issue" with the County Attorney and County Manager, did they bump up Frank Abbate's salary to \$249,000; she asked if the County is just going to make bureaucrats millionaires, like that is what the County is in the business of; she asked to explain to the public more in depth how the conversation about the salary was brought, especially when the consultant that the County paid

\$30,000 for, told the Board that the range they recommended was \$240,000 to \$320,000. She asked somebody with six months experience in the position, how they should get a premium salary in this role; and she pointed out that is her question.

Attorney Richardson advised he has a slide if Space Coast Government Television (SCGTV) could bring it up since Commissioner Delaney brought up the issue of range; the consultant Colin Baenziger & Associates did recommend a salary range study, and that certainly factored into their negotiations with Mr. Liesenfelt; as Commissioner Delaney noted, they recommended a range of \$240,000 to \$320,000; the midpoint of that is \$280,000; Mr. Liesenfelt is negotiated number, again, based on the prior County Manager is number, comes in at just two percent above the midpoint in the salary study; Mr. Baenziger suggested maybe increasing the top end of the range of \$300,000 to \$350,000; but he and Chairman Feltner only considered the calculated range of \$240,000 to \$320,000, based on comparable county manager positions out there. He went on to say Mr. Baenziger did note that the lower end of the range was, for example, and up and come, so perhaps someone younger and with less experience in government; but given Mr. Liesenfelt's 35 years of experience, and respectfully closer to the end of his long and honorable career than the beginning, it was decided it was more appropriate to put him near the midpoint of that range; with regard to the comments about other applicants, they were not directed to determine who to hire; the Board had unanimously hired and appointed Mr. Liesenfelt; and they were just to negotiate the terms of the contract.

Commissioner Delaney inquired if it is true though that his extensive experience is only over 30 percent of the employees of this County, only six Departments of this County.

Chairman Feltner explained he does not know how one works in a large organization for 35 years and one is not aware or does not have interaction with all of the Departments, and he says that very respectfully; he has worked in a couple of large organizations, and by virtue of being there every day and working with all of the different folks and work on all of the different things that a county organization has to do; and he does not think that to say that he personally supervised six Departments as Assistant County Manager is one thing, but over the 35 years he has worked for this County, he certainly has experience with all of the Departments of the County.

Commissioner Delaney asked if most of that was in Transit.

Chairman Feltner asked if Mr. Liesenfelt wants to speak to his time in Transit; and he advised after that he has Commissioner Adkinson, as she has been waiting.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated he kind of covered this when he was selected as County Manager, he gave the big speech of the background; he has been involved in the senior management meetings, those are weekly, there are seven or eight of them; he has been around 35 years; he has been in plenty of briefings working with Commissioners; he may have been in Transit, but he was aware of the issues; during COVID, Mr. Abbate was out for surgery; and when the buildings were shut down, he was not allowed to come to work. He noted he was here working with Mr. Abbate over the telephone; he was at the Board meetings; and just because it was 30 percent of the Departments, does not mean he does not have the experience.

Commissioner Adkinson pointed out first of all, Mr. Liesenfelt has been doing the job; like Attorney Richardson suggested, Mr. Abbate submitted a balanced budget; she watched Mr. Liesenfelt with new eyes work with every single Department head to figure that out; he made some hard decisions; and she appreciates his leadership. She stated what she wants everybody to understand is when one works in a company, whatever kind of organization it is,

and one works their way up, he or she does not get promoted because they do not do their job, they get promoted because they are the best at their job; that is what promotions do; with promotions, being over six Departments and now being over 22, he gets a pay raise to do that; she will say that one of the things the search committee said was to get a better crop of people, the salary is going to need to be increased to whatever they said, \$350,000 or something; the County has someone who knows the Departments, and someone who knows the strengths and weaknesses of all of the people who work here; she does not understand why the Board is even discussing this, why it is a difficult vote because Commissioner Delaney is the one who made the motion to stop the search; and then the rest of the Board said yes, Mr. Liesenfelt is the guy.

Commissioner Delaney commented she did that to be a team player with this Board, and to try to move forward together, because she knew what the Board had already decided, so she wants to be clear about that; this is not about not giving our County Manager a raise; obviously, with more responsibility, of course, a workman is worthy of their wage; the thing she is struggling with is giving him a promotion of \$100,000; and she asked SCGTV to put her slide up. She went on to say this initial promotion is \$88,000, and then a subsequent two weeks later, the Board is talking about another almost \$12,000; she is sorry, but over the weekend after this became public, she shared information about this, about the Contract; she received three positive comments and the rest of them were extremely negative comments, 77 shares of her post; a news agency picked it up, and they contacted her; she had multiple employees of the County reach out to her saying how disgusted they were, because there is a compression issue in this County; the rank and file feels that every single day; and the Board slaps them in the face with a \$100,000 promotion. She mentioned as the Board is telling the taxpayers the County does not have enough money and it needs to raise their taxes, it has plenty of money to make bureaucrats millionaires; and that is what she has a frustration with.

Rick Heffelfinger stated the County Attorney is one hell of a negotiator, as he squeezed that dude, he hopes he negotiates the next garbage contract; he asked if that is what they are going to get, the Board just hands out money; he asked if the Board knows whose money it is handing out; do the Commissioners know who he or she works for; and he stated the people. He continued by saying if one wants to talk about the budget he brought, his taxes are going to be the highest they have been in 21 years, because the Board pushed all of this crap down to the fire, did a good thing with the fire; he walks away with this huge increase, and the people get stuck with this fire budget, and a fire Multiple Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), holy crap; that is the budget he brought, he is thrilled; reward him, give him \$200,000; the County needs to reward the County Attorney, to give him \$100,000 for one hell of a contract; what a bunch of crud; he asked if the County Attorney is trained in the State to negotiate, because he thinks Mr. Liesenfelt might have been one of the guys who negotiated the garbage contract about seven years ago; he never received an answer that he knew how to negotiate; he thinks someone in this room needs to go to some training, because boy oh boy what a crud job that was; all that money was thrown out; and he asked did he threaten to leave the County high and dry, because it would not give him \$100,000. He asked if Mr. Liesenfelt is now the highest paid guy in Brevard County, or if that medical guy is still it; he noted the medical guy is making almost twice the Governor's salary; he asked if he is not getting any FRS as he is frozen; he stated he does not know what that line was in there that said he was going to get makeups and he was going to get his 457 benefits; he asked what the total package is worth; he stated people know what his salary is; he asked if they have medical, does he pay anything for it; he has medical, insurance, a cellphone; he asked if he is subject to Sunshine, because making that kind of money, man, one can buy their own freaking phone; he asked giving him a car allowance; why, can he work remote; and he asked the Board to please tell him that he can work remote, because that would be frigging great. He pointed out he will not even have to show up; sick leave time, severance, that is three months of severance, the Board did that with



Mr. Abbate; he can just say thanks for the raise and bye, and the Board will not see him for three frigging months and pay him at the new rate; the County is also prorating that back it looks like; this one piece of paper on the Agenda says the Board is not, and the contract says it is; it is prorating it back to the day that it says he is it, so now he is owed back pay as well, holy crap; that budget he brought, dude, he is not cutting it, he is not impressing him one bit; and he hopes he stays out of the garbage contract negotiation, because that is the whole reason he got involved with this as that was a disaster. He remarked the Board should be ashamed, and Commissioner Delaney is the only one who can stand there with a little pride.

Sarah Hodge stated she wanted to say that now is not the time to spend extra money in this County; there are a lot of people who are not going to be able to afford their taxes this year, and she knows several; this budget needs to be looked at thoroughly to see what the County could not afford to pay firefighters; when it lost 108 or more firefighters, because they were not getting a living wage, and yet the County can afford this excess right now; she supports Commissioner Delaney and what she says; she is sorry, but the Board has got to understand where the budget is and where the people are now; and that is more important than giving an excessive raise right now.

Commissioner Delaney advised like she said before, she is not saying with more responsibility, he does not obviously deserve a different pay rate; she believes, especially compared to some of the other applicants the County had, that there are some experience holes; while she understands and hears the other Commissioners when he or she says that he has been here for 30-some years and so on, but there is a difference between being in the room and running the thing and being responsible for the thing, and that experience he does not have; part of the reason she is here is because her constituents did not like the way it was, they do not like the way it is being done; and she reiterated that is why she is here. She explained a lot of them are extremely troubled that the Board hired somebody, and she took a lot of heat for this; her constituents were pissed that she not only voted for it, but made the motion, so she has to own that; at the time she thought she was doing the best thing she could do, not only for this County, but for the Board; what she did say that night is that she promised to hold his feet to the fire; she feels like this is what she has to do to protect the taxpayers; and when she first got into office, the County, it spent far too much on her office renovation. She pointed out one does not know what one does not know; living through that experience, she has changed her behavior and the way she does things; she is not just going to trust that everything is hunky dory; even after all of the trouble that was brought forward about the renovations in her office, the County, which this was under Mr. Liesenfelt, the County decided to use her same floors in the renovations of the building she is sitting in today, and the other government complexes; and to her surprise, when she asked for the invoices, because one day she walked in for a Commission meeting, and she was like, wow, those are her floors. She noted when she was looking at two of the invoices, which are not all of them, they say that there is a rubber base to the flooring around the County buildings, and that is just not the case; when looking around, and wood, the exact same that is in her office, so rather than taking a step back and saying Facilities should relook at this, this got a lot of heat; she did not realize it was so expensive, and so on and so forth; they should put it out there to see if something more reasonable can be found; that did not happen; there are just two invoices for one floor in each of the buildings, one for \$29,000 and one for \$45,000; and the invoices are wrong, as it says there is a rubber base along the floors, which is just not what is in place, there is a beautiful wood trim. She stated that is what she is talking about when she is saying the experience, it is just not there; while she understands the average is \$280,000 who has extensive experience, which the County had applicants who had that experience, and it bypassed them; now she is advocating for a fair wage, not a bloated range, which the Board is going to make Mr. Liesenfelt a millionaire if this passes today; she just does not feel that is right; she does not believe that is right that the Board is not going to have yearly evaluations; many other places have these evaluations; the

superintendent right across the street has yearly evaluations; when Attorney Richardson was in West Melbourne, he had evaluations every year; and she asked if that hurt his morale.

Attorney Richardson replied not at all, those resulted in significant annual salary increases based on the evaluation.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out most cities, Cocoa Beach, West Melbourne, Titusville, Palm Bay, Melbourne, and Volusia County all have annual evaluations; she does not think it is an unreasonable ask to have that opportunity for not only the Board, but his or her constituents to have input on how the County is being run; while she understands he is an at-will employee, it takes an act of God practically to fire a County Manager, to be honest about that; not only that, but he is getting the legal limit, 60 weeks compensation, if he gets fired or decides to quit; she asked what the dollar amount this package is worth; the 65 percent of the average cost to own and operate a new vehicle 15,000 a year, as published by AAA, and shall be payable in monthly installments, what is the dollar amount to that; and she asked if it is a Maserati, or a Hyundai. She went on to say in Section 9, it talks about the County agreeing to pay registration fees and customary travel and meal expenses for the employee's travel to the Florida County and City Management Association's annual conference; this Board voted to be out of the Florida Association of Counties, but it is going to pay for the County Manager to go to this; then it says attendance at any other seminar, conference, and committee meetings as deems appropriate and approved by the Commission's actions; and she asked who knows what that will cost. She noted she feels like it is doing a disservice to the constituents, who, by the way, the Board is here to serve, not the County government; she reiterated it is doing them a disservice; she personally feels very frustrated because she feels like this negotiation was taken out of the Board's hands, and it was made by two of them; she repeated she does not think that is right, her constituents are pissed; when she agreed, in the heat of the moment, she wishes she would have thought about it a little bit more; but in the heat of the moment, she was just frustrated, she agreed to that. She advised she does not think she was treated as an equal member of this Board; her constituents feel that way as well; other people's constituents feels that way because they have reached out to her; she knows the County employees feel this way, because they have hit compression rates; a 19-year employee contacted her and said that they are getting paid the same amount as a new hire in their current role; but of course, she is going to be met with silence again.

Commissioner Goodson made a motion to approve the County Manager's agreement; and Commissioner Adkinson stated she seconded it.

Commissioner Altman explained the salary the Board is paying the County Manager is probably close to what plumber would be paid to work at one's home, an air conditioning contractor, or maybe a mechanic to work on his or her car, and they deserve those salaries, very important duties; he thinks the County Manager deserves the salary as well, an extremely important job, so there is no question whatsoever in his mind that his pay is well within the margin of a person that has got the job and the responsibilities, burdens, and the duties that are comparable to jobs in the private sector; one thing a person has to do in this job is allow one to be pummeled in the public with personal attacks, vicious personal attacks; that is not easy; and he thanks God the County has people who are willing to work with the public to stand up and receive such abuse. He stated people hear all of the time how hard it is to get people to work in the public sector; it is not easy to experience that or to watch it; it is undignified; nevertheless, that is what the Board deals with; looking at the region up and down the east coast of Florida, some of these are bigger counties, but they have similar challenges, coastal, environmental, and urban; Palm Beach is paying their County Administrator \$425,000, Broward \$461,000, Miami-Dade \$487,000, Duval \$330,000, and even Volusia County, a small county, at \$250,000; this is very much a fair salary for a job that is so important; he just had to say that, and he thinks the

County has somebody who has put together an amazing team; and he is very excited about moving forward and addressing the challenges the County has to address. He advised he supports the motion.

Commissioner Delaney stated she does not know if any of that was directed towards her or her comments, but her job here is not to make people feel good, her job is to be the voice for her constituents; she finds it undignified that the Board is asking the public to bear this burden; she finds it undignified that the Board agreed to a process that it abandoned; she is truly not trying not to be a team player here; her thing is that she has a lot of people she has to answer to who sent her here with a mandate; she does not know if the other Commissioners feel like she does, but it is very heavy on her shoulders; she would not be able to look at her constituency in the face and say to them, yep, she feels great that the County is giving him \$100,000; her question is why the Board feels the need, and she is hoping that some of the Commissioners answer this, why does it feel to not only give him an \$88,000 promotion, but also then two weeks later give an almost \$12,000 COLA raise; was the \$88,000 not enough; and is the County in such a bad place where it is suffering with an \$88,000 promotions that it needs the extra \$12,000. She stated she cannot imagine that is true, because there are families that are making it work here for \$50,000, so walking away with almost a \$300,000 salary, \$297,000, at the end of the day in two weeks, and that is not even counting the perks; that is not counting the 20 week's severance, not counting the car allowance, and not counting any other perks she may or may not know about; she asked why were the Commissioners not given a total of what this package costs; health insurance is one of the biggest things in the County that it is struggling with; this has nothing to do with her support or lack of support of the County Manager; he is the County Manager and she will support him because she wants him to do the best job for the County; and she thinks that he will. She went on by saying she thinks he will do a good job, it is nothing about that; she reiterated again what she is frustrated with is why somebody would need a \$100,000 promotion; just to make it clear for everybody, she does not believe the County's top people should be getting a four percent COLA raise, especially the County Attorney and County Manager; at their rate of pay, really, the Board really has to up their pay \$10,000 a year, every year, for the rest of the time they are working for the Board; that does not sound fiscally conservative to her; and she asked if they were to leave the County and the Board were to hire somebody new, it just gives that person what their salary was regardless of their experience, and it just keeps building these salaries till the end of time. She noted it is ludicrous, it is ludicrous.

Chairman Feltner called for a vote on the motion. The Board considered, approved, and accepted the terms of the County Manager's Agreement.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Tom Goodson

**Seconded:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**Nay:** Delaney

**I.4. Authorization of Settlement Agreements for Brevard County Shore Protection Project (Mid Reach Segment Re-Nourishment Easements BRP-133, BRP-172, and BRP-173)**

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, advised this Item relates to the Mid Reach Re-Nourishment Project and litigation that the County actually settled with one of the four properties, three property owners involved; the County previously settled with one of the property owners at a percentage and directed him if the County could negotiate the same terms with the other property owners that the Board would consider settlement with those property

owners as well; after some time, both of the other property owners, representing three of the properties, came in at the same percentage for proposed settlement of that litigation; the Agenda Report outlines the cost, including attorney's fees; the local share of that is going to be about 25 percent payable from the Beach Fund in Tourism; and the rest is eligible for Federal and State cost share.

The Board approved the settlement of Brevard County Circuit Court Case No. 05-2023-CA-015474-XXXX-XX, settling the case as to the remaining defendants, Hubbard Investments, Inc. and Daniel Hasratian and Karine Melkounian; authorized the Chairman to execute the Hubbard Settlement Agreement and any other documents necessary to finalize and effectuate the settlement; and authorized the Chairman to execute the Hasratian and Melkounian Settlement Agreement and any other documents necessary to finalize and effectuate the settlement, subject to County Attorney approval as to form.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, and Altman

**Nay:** Feltner

**J.1. Approval, Re: Tourist Development Office (TDO) Proposed FY 2025-2026 Marketing & Media Plan, Approval for the TDO Director to Make Vendor Selections, Negotiate and Execute Agreements with Media and Advertising Vendors**

Peter Cranis, Tourism Development Office Director, stated this is bringing the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Marketing Plan to the Board; it is just a touch over \$13 million, with \$1.4 million contingency for emergencies; this was reviewed by the Marketing Committee and the Tourist Development Council (TDC), and approved unanimously; and it is coming to the Board for approval.

The Board approved the proposed FY 2025-2026 Marketing and Media Plan for the Tourism Development Office (TDO) in the total amount of \$13,000,500, including the selection of the media vendors listed in the 2025-2026 Marketing Plan presentation; approved the TDO Director to negotiate and execute contracts, contract amendments, and any necessary contracts for selected marketing, media, and advertising firms within the Board-approved FY 2025-2026 Marketing and Media Plan, upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services in accordance with Administrative Order AO-29, "Contract and Grant Administration," up to and exceeding \$200,000, the total amount not to exceed \$13,000,500 without additional Board approval; approved the ability for the TDO to receive and accept revenue from cooperative advertising partners and grants from organizations (such as the Florida Sports Foundations, as well as other various cooperative partners); and authorized the TDO Director to be able to access Disaster Funds (Fund 1444) in the event of State or local emergency declaration, natural or manmade disaster for the purposes of advertising/marketing/promotional costs of up and exceeding \$200,000, the total amount not to exceed \$1,419,250.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Thad Altman

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

**Nay:** Delaney

### **J.3. Brevard County 2026 Legislative Program**

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated this is the proposed legislative program for 2026 that staff compiled for the Board; the main subjects are stormwater, water plants, Indian River Lagoon-related; there are actually some language in there as there have been a number of issues with the right-of-way with contractors; the Board remembers the crane from a couple of weeks ago, items like that, there is language in there asking for the Board to take the legislature; and staff also has two different languages for Senate Bill (SB) 180, regarding with the bill and with the area of critical concern. He noted if the Board would like it can give different priorities, add or delete any of the priorities; the Legislative Delegation meeting is September 30; and staff asks the Board to approve what it would like to approve, and identify somebody who would like to speak at the Delegation meeting.

Commissioner Delaney stated she was wondering about the funding for the Port St. John Wastewater Treatment Plant if that could be included; and she sees the South Brevard Water and Wastewater Treatment and the Mims Water Treatment Plant expansion.

Mr. Liesenfelt advised unless Eddie Fontanin, Utility Services Director, tells him no, he does not see why not.

Mr. Fontanin stated the reason why they did not include it is because when asking for funding, there has to be a game plan of how to implement it; right now they are looking at a potential site; but because they do not have a site, the issue becomes when putting verbiage or put a request for grants or funding, it is almost contractual, so until they know it is certain they have the site in hand, they are really not at a point of feeling comfortable asking for funding until then.

Commissioner Delaney asked if the wastewater treatment plant is at 90-something percent capacity in Port St. John.

Mr. Fontanin replied it fluctuates, it is actually dropping slightly because they have been doing an inflow and infiltration reduction program, so he cannot tell her today; some of it is seasonal, some of it is with regard to who is living when, and then some of it is related to the storm, the rainy season; and it has gone into the low 90s but it has also dropped into the low 80s.

Commissioner Delaney stated since she was elected, the County has been looking for this site; and she asked if there is something more that can be done to get this more shovel-ready.

Mr. Fontanin responded staff is actively working; the site that they are looking at is a piece of property on the Titusville Airport; they have met with the leadership of the Titusville Airport, they are all onboard; what staff is doing is they have an active task order with an engineering consultant that has a background in wastewater and in aviation; the reason being is there is a Federal law provision that specifically says how far a wastewater plant can be from the edge of the runway, so the County has to go through its due diligence to submit that to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to get a waiver; and if a waiver is received, then the County will be in a position where a land agreement can be talked about with Titusville Airport, at which point it would be in a position to say now it has a plan and it would be actively seeking sources of funding.

Commissioner Delaney asked if this is something she can hope to see on next year's legislative requests.

Mr. Fontanin replied without having schedules in front of him, and pending FAA approval, he does not want to commit right now.

Chairman Feltner commented the session after this one when they are in the odd year is later, so that buys a couple of months; in doing paperwork with the Legislature for member appropriations, that is the likely path, the County does have to give them quite a bit of information; without the site, that would probably be the first thing to hang the County up; and it is certainly a conversation for Commissioner Delaney to have with her member Representative Tramont.

Commissioner Delaney noted she thinks it would be Sirois in that area.

Chairman Feltner stated for Port St. John that is correct, but he has one session left.

Commissioner Delaney stated whoever the County's next State Representative will be; the second thing she wanted to bring forward, this got really close this past year, it got all the way to appropriations, but allowing for public safety to be an allowable expense for the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) money, the tourism dollars; but she does not know if the Board would support adding that to the legislative asks.

Chairman Feltner mentioned he is not opposed to that; he thinks based on the discussion that happened in the last session with TDT, sometimes it happens where an idea is floated and then they cannot get it over the hump; but it comes out pretty early, so he would not fight Commissioner Delaney on that one; and he thinks they are going to take it up.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned she did have one clarification question about Senate Bill (SB) 180, stuff in the Board's packet; and she asked if this is only into relation to the area of critical State concern, or is it a repeal across the board.

Chairman Feltner stated he thinks there will be a lot of discussion in the Legislature on that particular issue; and many municipalities, whether they join the suit or not, are probably going to be talking to their members.

Billy Prasad, Planning and Development Director, advised the simple answer to Commissioner Delaney's question is it reaches far beyond just the area of critical State concern; and Sections 18 and 28, they are suggesting that be repealed in its entirety.

Commissioner Adkinson provided the Board with copies of her notes; she stated short-term rentals affect everyone everywhere; she is proposing that the Board make as part of its legislative discussion a request; she will need staff's help to sort of flesh this out and the right way to say it; but she would like to have some of the Board's control back locally on short-term rentals.

Chairman Feltner asked if he could help Commissioner Adkinson just a little bit; he stated if she wants to put one line in here that says, 'End the State's preemption on short-term rentals', it will be clear; and he asked if she wants to do that.

Commissioner Adkinson replied affirmatively.

Chairman Feltner noted he does not think she will have to be wordy with it.

Commissioner Adkinson pointed out she likes brief.

Commissioner Delaney interjected by saying she has a question about that; where she believes in short-term rentals for the property owner who might want to rent out their room, in their house, or a military family who does not want to sell their house, they want to come back to

their house, but they want to do this instead of renting it, and there are many other examples; the one thing she is not for is major corporations coming in and buying whole neighborhoods of houses and making them short-term rentals; and she wonders if there is a middle there.

Chairman Feltner stated just saying that the Board wants to end, the State's preemption on short-term rentals would simply mean that local government would get to regulate it; that is all that he is saying that the State says no, the County will regulate it; for those municipalities who did not have an ordinance prior to that legislation, now they do not get to do anything; he feels for all of the municipal governments in Brevard who do not have the ability to regulate these things, so to Commissioner Delaney's point, if it were to come back where the State does not preempt on this; jokingly he said the Cunningham's did it with Arthur Fonzarelli; and he could only get into so much trouble because they were always there. He noted those things are a lot different than the absentee landlord that one never, ever sees; they live in another State; and maybe the only thing one see regularly over there at the short-term rental across the street from ones house is Molly Maid who goes in there and cleans it up; that is very troubling to him; he is not trying to be difficult, but he thinks the Board should put it in very simple terms that it would like to see the State's preemption on short-term rentals go away; and he thinks that would be an easy line.

Commissioner Adkinson remarked local government making the decisions.

Chair Feltner asked if that is amendable to Commissioners Adkinson and Delaney.

Commissioner Adkinson replied certainly to her.

Commissioner Delaney responded sure.

The Board discussed the 2026 Legislative program; and approved, as amended, by including for public safety to be an allowable expense for the Tourist Development Tax (TDT), and the preemption of the short-term rentals.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Katie Delaney

**Second:** Kim Adkinson

**Ayes:** Delaney, Goodson, Adkinson, Feltner, and Altman

The Board reached consensus to designate Chairman Feltner to present the Board's Legislative priorities to the Legislative Delegation meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, with Commissioner Adkinson as backup if Chairman Feltner is not able to attend.

**J.4. Legislative Intent and Permission to Advertise Ordinances Levying the Second Local Option Five Cents Gas Tax and the Ninth Cent Gas Tax to Increase County Revenue for Transportation Expenditures; Scheduling Special Meeting**

Commissioner Delaney stated she just wanted to bring this up because this is a time-sensitive topic; each Commissioner received the presentation of Marc Bernath, Public Works Director, regarding the County's transportation needs; through the balancing of the budget this year, the Board had to removed quite a bit of projects and some of the reconstruction of the roads; she wanted to bring this forward because it is a possible option to help the County bring in more revenue that is not totally on the backs of the residents here; but the tourists would have an opportunity to participate in funding the County's transportation that they use, so the Board has options; and the Board could do nothing, it could do one or the other, or it could do both. She went on to say it takes a supermajority for it to simply pass, a simple majority for it to go to the

voters for a referendum, so she committed if another Commissioner did not bring it up, she would bring it up.

Rick Heffelfinger commented he hopes the Board is going to tell him that if this is done it is going to be able to reduce the General Fund and unburden taxpayers on their real estate taxes; it can be put on those people that are coming here; he loves how they are being invited to participate; he encourages them to participate; he is retired, so he barely drives; it is not going to hurt him one bit; but he would really love to see some of that roadwork getting paid for by the people who are using that road, so he strongly recommends this out of the box thinking. He asked if Sandra Sullivan talked about moving stuff below, and asked is this below the line stuff; and he asked if that is what it is called, getting it off of there.

Chairman Feltner advised he would not call this below the line, as that is typically referred to as assessments; and that is what is meant on the tax bill as it goes below the line.

Mr. Heffelfinger explained he likes that idea of finding another source; he realizes it is still a little bit, unless the Board is going to waive it when he fills his gas can for his lawnmower; he asked if the Board is going to waive that; he advised no, it is not; and Chairman Feltner needs to burn that good fuel, too.

Chairman Feltner asked if he burns the good fuel.

Mr. Heffelfinger responded he has those classic cars.

Chairman Feltner replied he does put ethanol-free, alcohol-free gas, in his cars.

Mr. Heffelfinger stated he told him; he likes this idea; he does not know what it takes to get it to move; he asked if they are going to have to pay other taxes; he asked if they max out a certain amount of taxes; and he mentioned he would love to see Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) go away.

Chairman Feltner explained one of the things one needs to keep in mind here, and he is not picking on anybody, but this equation was a lot easier when the people who owned the gas pump were the tax collectors of this tax; that is the situation; but the world is changing; and now people are driving electric cars, and they do not pay this, so in the long, long-term, it is not sustainable. He noted the Commissioners have been to Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and heard the same presentation by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and even Federal transportation folks came and said as much that it will be different in the future; not for nothing, and he is not picking on anybody, but his little car that he drives every day weighs half of what the TESLA Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) weighs; if one considers that both are just going down the road and driving down the road, so one is a ton and a half and the other is three tons; and that affects the road surface, so it is not a perfect thing.

Commissioner Delaney advised maybe that is something the Board can add to its Legislative Delegation request is getting the County's electric vehicles contributing to the County's road costs.

Chairman Feltner commented he thinks the County is not alone in this, and he thinks it is just much bigger than Brevard County; jokingly, he said this week when receiving this Item, is that maybe what ought to be done is to get a Buc-ee's in Brevard County on I-95, because no one will drive through the County without stopping at Buc-ee's, so that would probably be a better way.



Commissioner Altman stated he agrees that it would be nice if the County could use this to give some property tax relief, so he supports that whole-heartedly; when the County passed the original Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT), that is the great thing Brevard County did; he commends the Commissioner for bringing this up, it is courageous and visionary; the County does need to generate revenue for its transportation programs and create a revenue stream that gives relief to Brevard County property owners, taxpayers, and capture some of the revenue that is being spent by people who are using the County's roads; he thinks it has the ability to generate some revenue for provided roadway improvements that could help the quality of life here; it can relinquish some of the inequities that are not being paid by people from outside, and also provide some needed relief to the property owners; and he is open to anything. He expressed his appreciation for bringing this up because there is a deadline.

Chairman Feltner asked what the deadline is, whether this goes potentially before the voters, or the Board could pass this, which could happen by supermajority vote; and he asked if that is correct.

Morris Richardson, County Attorney, replied it can, but it requires an ordinance, and the ordinance has to be advertised with at least a 10-day notice; and he thinks the deadline is probably October 1; it has to be adopted by October 1 in order to take effect January 1 of the following year; and if the Board were to adopt anything after October 1, it would be not the immediate year, but the following year.

Commissioner Delaney stated the second part of this would be to ask for a special meeting September 30 at 9:00 a.m. where the Board would vote on the ordinance, so it would be able to get that in front of the October 1 deadline so the Board could realize these dollars in January.

Commissioner Adkinson advised she is not completely opposed to this; she does not think it is going to solve all of the County's problems budget-wise by any means, but she would personally feel more comfortable hearing what the taxpayers have to say rather than the Board deciding on its own; and that is her two cents.

Commissioner Altman asked if Commissioner Adkinson prefers the referendum; he noted he is not opposed to that; if the County did give some property relief to somehow factor that into the referendum, if it can, maybe through a Multiple Services Taxing Unit (MSTU); and the County has interlocal agreement requirements in some of those things.

Attorney Richardson stated regarding the referendum, it has to be a referendum scheduled at a general election, so the referendum could not be held until November 2026, and therefore, any resultant increase could not take place until January 1, 2028, because that would be after the October 1 date when the referendum would occur; Commissioner Altman is absolutely correct with regard to the second LOGT, as those five pennies, are subject to the share with municipalities; and only the ninth cent is exclusively County and there is no share for that one, so if the Board were to enact that one, no share with municipalities; but the second LOGT, one through five cents, have a municipal share.

Chairman Feltner stated municipal share, to his recollection, is not 50/50, it is kind of a 48/52 kind of situation, roughly something like that.

Jill Hayes, Interim Assistant County Manager, explained it is based on the transportation expenditures, the average over the past five years; staff did look at that, so it would be around 50 percent, but it could fluctuate.

Chairman Feltner commented is was pretty much his recollection from the last time the Board had that up; he asked the Board to say something else about the referendum, then he will stop talking, just to point something out; if it is the desire of the Board to put something like this before the voters, again, it has to go in '26, not right now, as late as next summer, realistically, end of July, that decision can be made; if the Board is thinking referendum, it is not something it has to decide today, so time can be taken to gather the facts, understand what it is the Board is doing, what it is going to replace, and all of those kinds of things.

Commissioner Delaney asked, she does not have that number off of the top of her head, the amount of dollars the County had to reduce for the reconstruction of the roads, like the repaving of the roads, and was it close to \$3 million.

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, advised the amount is staying the same; and because of inflation and cost increase, the mileage is going down to 40, so to restore it back to 50 miles a year, it would be about \$3.8 million.

Commissioner Delaney mentioned she was wondering what the Board feels about possibly doing the ninth cent, because that would be the lowest impact and that the County could get some immediate relief; it could put the local one to five cents to referendum eventually if that is the will of the Board at that time; that way it can keep the road program going or at least putting more dollars to it; that one does not have to be shared with the rest of the County; and at least the majority of that hole could be filled.

Chairman Feltner noted he cannot do it today, but he will tell the Commissioners he has talked legislators and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regularly to beat the drum for road funding, do not take away road funding, and do not sweep all of the funds from FDOT; last year they wanted to do doc stamps to take that revenue away from them, so he would say this coming session, he would rather work real hard towards the County's road projects in Brevard County; and that is where he is going to put his efforts.

Commissioner Delaney stated the FDOT presentation that many saw is they are taking hundreds of millions of dollars from Brevard in State funding, so the County is having a huge, massive hole through FDOT; not that she is not with Chairman Feltner, she will be beating the drum with him; but she does not feel as comfortable relying on that.

Chairman Feltner remarked it has always been with road funding, the Board sits here with two legislators that can speak to it better than he can; when he worked up there, one was always fighting for a ranking, so he does not hold it against every other county and municipality who is going up there and trying to fight to get their share back; the Board should just simply all work on that; he is just very mindful of the calendar and when to make some of these asks, who is in a good position, and where in the legislature to try to get that done; and he is just committing to the Board that he is going to be working towards that.

Commissioner Altman asked if the ninth cent requires three or four votes.

Commissioner Delaney replied four.

Attorney Richardson advised a supermajority.

Commissioner Altman noted he thinks he heard two people against that; and he asked if he heard that right.

Commissioner Goodson stated he would definitely want it to go to referendum for the taxpayers to decide, that would be his choice.

Chairman Feltner commented realistically if the Board is thinking referendum, this issue is about 10 months early; and he thinks do all of the necessary work and get it in the proper posture next summer.

The Board discussed legislative intent and permission to advertise ordinances levying the second local option five cents gas tax and the ninth cent gas tax to increase County revenue for transportation expenditures, and to schedule a special meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, to hold a public hearing, but took no action.

#### **K. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pam Avery stated last week reminded the Board that standing up for the truth is not easy; Charlie believes that truth is not something one accepts blindly, it is something one examines, challenges, and lives; that kind of courage is exactly what is needed here today and moving forward; her ask is she is calling for this Board to formally admonish Commissioner Delaney, put it on the record, hold her accountable for her words, her actions, and her misuse of the public's trust; her record, so far, has not been so great; she ran on killing the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), her costly office renovations, and renovating Tom Statham Park again; and that right there is already too much loss in taxpayer dollars in a very short period of time. She went on to say she also has a Titusville City Council Member on her staff, another staffer sitting on a citizen's advisory board, and both of those are, at the least, a conflict of interest and may even render an ethics complaint; she stands with allies that attack the very people she claims to represent; she should know, she has been a victim; her lack of knowledge of how County government truly works shows at every meeting, and insulting Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, and his 35-year career from intern to County Manager by claiming his lack of experience; and she asked what experience does she have as Commissioner or any job. She asked the Board to ask the County Manager and County Attorney to investigate her actions; she mentioned Commissioner Delaney's rouge attitude is clear, and it is causing more harm than it will ever cause good for District 1 and the rest of the County; posting lies that paint this Board and the staff in a negative light is reckless; it may not be perfect, but all must work together, not against each other; and she needs to start building bridges instead of burning them down, if she ever truly wants to be effective. She commented it is this Board's responsibility to say enough is enough; if it does nothing, Commissioner Delaney's deceptive information will outweigh the truth, and the people will lose more faith in this Board; it is time to restore trust so they can get County business done together; to the public, education is key to understating local government; take a class, come to a meeting, do their own research, and when scrolling through social media to ask themselves if something is true; and if one takes the time to understand what is really happening instead of believing flashy headlines, choices can be made based on not false narrative. She advised she is far from knowing it all, but she did her research for months before she stood here at this podium; she is putting herself out there to speak the truth, because the truth matters too much to stay silent; division gets them nowhere; finger-pointing solves nothing; it is time for truth, teamwork, and for progress in Brevard County; that starts with the people who one elects, holding each other accountable; and the Board is only as good as its weakest link.

Commissioner Delaney pointed out nothing that she has put on her Facebook page has been false, so she is curious about that.

**L.1. Reports, Re: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager**

Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager, stated the Department of Commerce, he still wants to say DCA, rejected the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR); staff does not have anything to add to it; Billy Prasad, Planning and Development Director, put together a pretty comprehensive email to the Board Members yesterday; and staff will be working on the issue.

**L.5. Reports, Re: Kim Adkinson, Commissioner District 3**

Commissioner Adkinson stated Senate Bill (SB) 180, she would just, because it is affecting the County and the area of State of Critical Concern, the Board is going to have to, as a group, talk to its legislature; and she believes when they all voted for this they maybe did not understand the effects it is going to have to Brevard County, so all of the Commissioners need to know that Brevard is being affected. She went on by saying she is sure all of the Commissioner's thoughts and prayers are with the firefighter who is still in the hospital from last night's fire in Indialantic; she is told that he is recovering; but he has been in there overnight.

**L.7. Reports, Re: Rob Feltner, Commissioner District 4, Chairman**

Chairman Feltner stated today's employee recruitment spotlight video features Stefan Reed and Alan Marcum who both work for the County's Solid Waste Management Department. He provided the video to the Board. He stated the Board appreciates Don Walker, Rachel Horst, and all of the interns with SCGTV who worked for the County this summer.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

ATTEST:

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RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

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ROB FELTNER, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA