

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 24, 2025

A Tentative Budget Workshop was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, and Commissioner Doherty. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Savino. The following members were absent: Commissioner Truex.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

Jeff Lustig discussed Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and Jail, Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida Judge Sean Lux, court appearances, Sarasota County, Baker Act, and community service.

County Administrator Flores highlighted Tentative Budget Workshop, staff efforts, Constitutional Officers, budget process and adjustments, natural disasters, appropriate funding levels, replied to AI, Workshop, surrounding counties, positions funding, and cost recovery.

Francine Lisby, Assistant Budget Director gave a brief overview of Agenda.

Chair Tiseo mentioned Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force and communication tasks, cost and time savings, service levels, community surveys, life quality, Proposed New Positions: Infrastructure and Service Delivery, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Executive Assistants, efficiency improvements, Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Technology (TECH) Summit, ChatGPT, and Mike Mansfield Day Proclamation. **Commissioner Constance** commented on position requests and cap, AI implementation, workforce workload, efficiency improvements, additional revenues, Community Services, robotic lawn care and landscaping devices, National Association of Counties (NACo) Information Technology Standing Committee, FAC Future TECH Committee, and Information Technology Senior Division Manager Kevin Mangels. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Proposed New Positions: Infrastructure and Service Delivery, service levels, and revenues.

1. Review of Constitutional Budgets

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Constitutional Budgets.

Stacy Wear, Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Assistant Finance Director highlighted Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026 budget request and reduction, excess funds, operational efficiency, service improvements, advanced technology, permit process, transparency, accountability, and requested approval.

Faith Dangerfield, Charlotte County Property Appraiser Real Property Director highlighted FY 2025/2026 budget, Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR), Charlotte County Property Appraiser Paul Polk, Evergreen Solutions Salary Study, turnover rate, catastrophic event impacts, staffing challenges, excess funds, responded to hurricane damaged property owners, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s 50% Rule, Tax Refund Due to Catastrophic Event, property value reset and exemptions, and requested approval.

Leah Valenti, Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections highlighted FY 2025/2026 budget, voter precinct expansion and structure assessment, polling locations, population growth, historical turnout patterns, information cards, election technology, infrastructure enhancement and upgrades, long term savings, electoral process integrity and transparency, strategic improvements, website, reduction, and partnership.

CCSO Chief Deputy Mike Casarella highlighted FY 2025/2026 budget, helicopter purchase and rehabilitation, salary increases and studies, School Crossing Guard Program absorption, insurance and contracted services cost increases, personnel cost reductions, position requests, recruitment and retention improvements and challenges, vacancies, vehicle replacements and purchases, inmate population increases, unfunded mandates, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement, funding assistance, Axon body and vehicle video, accountability, service levels, replied to Federal mandated prisoner housing and transportation costs, Immigration Policies, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office budget and compensation package, departmental budget breakdown, surrounding counties, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), accounting practices, and requested approval.

Chair Tiseo discussed Charlotte County Property Appraiser Paul Polk and Tax Estimator site, staffing challenges, hurricane damaged properties, property value reset, departmental budget breakdown, technology, Federal mandate resource and cost impact tracking, and tax payer reimbursement. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Constitutional Budgets, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and Police Department budget presentation and breakdown, vacancy reduction, public safety, inflation, and tourism. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned Constitutional Budgets, CCSO, employee retention rate and training costs, City of North Port, salaries, Federal prisoners, unfunded mandates, budget increases, and public safety. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on FAC, property tax legislation impacts, Florida Sheriffs Association, and Ad Valorem taxes.

2. Certified County-wide Valuations

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of FY 2026 Property Valuations, Assessed Valuation, Neighboring Counties Valuation Increase, Revised Ad Valorem Revenues, Ad Valorem Variance, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only), Residential Permits, Number of Units Sold per Calendar Year, Real Estate Transactions in \$ per Calendar Year, Mean & Median of Residential Transactions, Adjustments - Technical, Long Range Operational Planning - Staffing Needs As presented at BCC Workshop 3/6/2025, Long Range Operational Planning - Staffing Needs, Adjustments - Positions & Equipment, Ad Valorem Long Range Projection - Variables & Uncertainties, and responded to hurricane impacts.

Chair Tiseo noted Adjustments - Technical, Ad Valorem Long Range Projection, Sales Tax Focus Group and Projects, staffing and operating costs, service levels, budget requests, and property tax impacts. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Adjustments - Technical and value volume.

County Administrator Flores replied to Sales Tax Projects, Revenues, and Transportation.

3. Review of Ad Valorem Budgets

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of General Fund Long Range Projection Assumptions, General Fund: Five Year Financial Plan - Revenue/Expenditures, Updated Projection, Revenues versus (vs) Expenditures Updated Projection, Budget vs Cash Flow, Law Enforcement Fund, Law Enforcement Fund Proposed Budget, Law Enforcement Fund - Projection, Capital

Projects Millage Projection, General Government, Lighting District - Revenues vs Expenditures Updated Projection, Ad Valorem Reserves, Reserves, Hurricane Cashflow, and replied to Ad Valorem Long Range Projection.

Chair Tiseo discussed Ad Valorem Long Range Projection, Community Action Agency Advisory Board (CAAAB) funding support letter, uncertainties, budget impacts, Revenues vs Expenditures Updated Projection, Lighting District - Revenues vs Expenditures Updated Projection, millage rate reduction, Ad Valorem Reserves, and Hurricane Cashflow.

4. Proposed FY26 and FY27 Total County-wide Budgets

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Proposed 2025/2026 & 2026/2027 Total County-wide Budget, Net Amended Budgets, Net Budget Capital vs Operating, BCC Countywide Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Counts as of 10/1/2024, Charlotte County: 20 Year Debt Position, and Debt Breakdown.

Chair Tiseo mentioned Proposed 2025/2026 & 2026/2027 Total County-wide Budget and Capital Projects.

5. Millage Options

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026, Community Services: Levels of Service Position Request, and Additional Millage.

Chair Tiseo commented on How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026, Community Services: Levels of Service Position Request, and phased approach. **Commissioner Doherty** noted How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026, percentage details, Community Services: Levels of Service Position Request, Additional Millage, and Position Modification Request MOD25-05 Resolution.

Tommy Scott, Community Services Director remarked on Parks and Recreation Master Plan, phased staffing approach, and service level adjustments.

County Administrator Flores responded to Community Services: Levels of Service Position Request and Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

6. Set Tentative Millage Rates

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Set Tentative Millage Rates, remarked on July 15, 2025 Board Workshop, Ad Valorem Reserves, hurricane recovery category, and neighboring counties.

Chair Tiseo spoke to lower rate options, Set Tentative Millage Rates, budget cycles, Revised Ad Valorem Reserves, July 17, 2025 Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Public Hearing, Hurricane Recovery Fund, methodology, and insurance impacts and costs. **Commissioner Constance** discussed meeting notice requirements, Set Tentative Millage Rates, rate reduction, Revenues vs Expenditures Updated Projection, July 17, 2025 MSBU Public Hearing, weather event impacts, property tax increases, homesteaded properties, Ad Valorem Reserves, and Hurricane Recovery Fund updates. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned millage rate reductions and Set Tentative Millage Rates. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on Set Tentative Millage Rates, August 19, 2025 Special Meeting, millage rate reduction options, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, Revised Ad Valorem Revenues, fiscal stabilization, flexibility, hurricane and recovery efforts.

County Attorney Knowlton interjection meeting notice requirements.

County Administrator Flores replied to Set Tentative Millage Rates, Reserves, challenges, uncertainties, and operational levels.

Gordon Burger, Budget & Administrative Services Director responded to insurance options and packages, Retention Fund, September 9, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting, hurricane expenses and reimbursements, and Category G.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE KEEPING MILLAGE RATES THE SAME AS 2024/2025, DIRECTING STAFF TO COME BACK WITH OPTIONS TO LOWER THE MILLAGE RATE ON ALL OF THE AD VALOREM FUNDS, SECONDED BY CHAIR TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

7. New Positions and Equipment Rentals **RES 2025-265**

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Proposed New Positions: Infrastructure, Service Delivery, Proposed New Equipment, remarked on September 4 and 23, 2025 Budget Public Hearing, venue change, and Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notices.

Chair Tiseo noted millage rate reduction, September 5 and 24, 2024 Budget Public Hearings, meeting venue change and attendance, August 19, 2025 Special Meeting, and public input opportunity. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to August 19, 2025 Special Meeting, meeting notice and attendance, TRIM Notices, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, and public input opportunity. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed August 19, 2025 Special Meeting, millage rate and position request reduction, Sunshine Law, and meeting venue change and attendance.

County Administrator Flores replied to position requests and staffing cost estimates.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on August 19, 2025 MSBU Special Meeting, additional agenda item process, and public input opportunity.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-265 APPROVING POSITION MODIFICATION REQUEST MOD25-05 FOR ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND EQUIPMENT, SECONDED BY CHAIR TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO ADD BCC SCHEDULE CHANGE TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

(Addition #1) 8. BCC Schedule Change

Chair Tiseo mentioned venue availability. **Commissioner Constance** commented on September 4 and September 23, 2025 Budget Public Hearings, venue change, TRIM Notice, Charlotte Harbor Event Center, September 5 and September 24, 2024 Budget Public Hearings, and consistency.

Ms. Lisby responded to September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, MSBU assessments, September 5 and 24, 2024 Budget Public Hearings, TRIM Notice, and Charlotte Harbor Event Center availability.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE BCC SCHEDULE: CHANGE LOCATION OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 AT 5:01 P.M. FROM ROOM 119 AT 18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, PORT CHARLOTTE TO THE CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, 75 TAYLOR STREET, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950; AND CHANGE LOCATION OF THE FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 AT 5:01 P.M. FROM ROOM 119 AT 18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, PORT CHARLOTTE TO THE CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, 75 TAYLOR STREET, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 4:0.

ADJOURNED: 4:10 pm

Joseph M. Tiseo, Chair

DATE ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST:

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk