

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 16, 2025

A Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Public Hearing 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, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, Minutes Clerk Welsh, and various County staff members. The following members were absent: None.

**The Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Changes to the Agenda**

**Change #1:** Item 1, Added attachment - How Your Dollar is Spent.

Requested by: Budget & Administrative Services

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

### **1. Public Hearings to Set MSBU Rates**

**(Change #1)** Added attachment - How Your Dollar is Spent.

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager gave a brief overview of How Your Tax Dollar is Spent - Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026, Agenda, Stages of the Budget Process, and Budget Process Calendar.

#### **a. Cook and Brown Street and Drainage Unit (RES 2025-229)**

John Elias, Public Works Director gave a brief overview of Cook and Brown Street and Drainage, Cook and Brown Street and Drainage - Proposed Maximum Rate, Where Does Your Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Dollar Go - Cook and Brown Street and Drainage, replied to work program frequency, dirt road grading challenges and materials, Florida Power and Light (FPL) easement and driveways, private road signage, drainage flow obstruction, work order documentation, recreational vehicle usage, illegal dumping investigations and fine calculations, invert elevations, and advisory boards.

**Chair Tiseo** discussed Cook and Brown Street and Drainage, work program, advisory board creation, mailed notices, MSBU requirements and assessments, natural sheet flows, drainage challenges, line and grade process, swales, statutory limitations, and public input. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Cook and Brown Street and Drainage - Proposed Maximum Rate, Cook and Brown Street and Drainage, proposed work program activities and costs, community outreach, stop signs, illegal dumping fine, assessment rate process, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, paving, Reserves, Resolution language, proposed taxes, Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice, Agenda backup, transparency, information

distribution, advisory board creation process, requirements, and meetings, and Sunshine Law. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on hurricanes, challenges, stop signs, illegal dumping, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) enforcement, documentation, and public safety. **Commissioner Doherty** noted assessment rate process, Resolution language, Cook and Brown Street and Drainage - Proposed Maximum Rate, work program expenditures, balance carryforward, and Charter Review Commission (CRC) MSBU advisory board creation process. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to swales, FPL easements, drainage issues, illegal dumping, trees, and road erosion.

Mr. Arthur responded to Reserve Policy, tentative and final assessment rates, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, and advisory boards.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on Resolution language, approval process, and advisory board creation.

Karlene McDonald, Public Works Operations Supervisor replied to Cook and Brown Street and Drainage - Proposed Maximum Rate and roadway grading expenditures.

Deputy County Attorney Thomas David interjected on TRIM notices, proposed assessment rate, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, and advisory boards.

### **Public Input**

The following citizens spoke against increasing the rate to \$53 to continue the work program approved by the board on May 21, 2024: Bruce Dees, Justin Gibson, and Nick Spiller.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-229 ADOPTING THE FINAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE COOK AND BROWN STREET UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

### b. Harbour Heights Waterway Unit

Mr. Elias gave a brief overview of Harbour Heights Waterway, Harbour Heights Waterway - Proposed Maximum Rate, Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go - Harbour Heights Waterway, responded to equivalent residential unit (ERU) limitations, dredging costs and needs, bathometric surveys, benefit, bid process, benefit delivery timeframe, and meeting notice publication methods.

**Chair Tiseo** discussed MSBU meeting public input and recommendations, seawall, dredging costs and impacts, advisory committee members, bathometric survey, cost determination and bid process, standards, inflation, timing, hurricane damages, assessment increases, meeting notice publication and distribution methods, email database, and citizen input opportunities. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned dredging history, unit and property owner totals, Harbour Heights Waterway - Proposed Maximum Rate, MSBU Fund balance and assessment changes, September 4, 2025 First Budget

Public Hearing, TRIM Notices, meeting notice publication methods and distribution options, and email database. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on public input, transparency, meeting notices, advisory committee members, canal dredging, weather and cost impacts, and deferred action. **Commissioner Doherty** noted challenges, Suncoast Waterway District, assessment rates, ERUs, dredging options, MSBU advisory committees, information sharing, Workshop, deferred action, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, BCC Schedule, and meeting publications. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to ERU totals, cost reductions, benefit delivery timeline, alternative scenarios, project funding, and financial options.

Mr. Arthur replied to Harbour Heights Waterway - Proposed Maximum Rate, MSBU Fund balance and assessment changes, May 20, 2025 MSBU Workshop, Stages of the Budget Process, and dredging project cost.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on timeframe, benefit delivery timeframe, advisory boards, public outreach, and Harbour Heights Waterway Advisory Board Members and July 17, 2025 Board Meeting.

### **Public Input**

The following citizens spoke against increasing the rate by \$475 to \$775 for dredging: Kathy J. Coultas, Larry Barker, Robert Allyn, Mike Doolittle, Dreama Doolittle, Jerome Petta, Eric Frohn, Brian Fiegel, Jim Goeke, Rebecca Scholl, and Joe Ferro.

The following citizens spoke in favor of increasing the rate by \$475 to \$775 for dredging: Lee Phillips.

Patrick Bautz remarked on July 17, 2025 Harbour Heights Waterway Advisory Board Meeting, increased assessment rate, deferred action, dredging project, July 17, 2025 MSBU Public Hearing, property ownership and maintenance requirement, and information gathering.

Laura Johnson discussed San Marino and San Salvador Canals, dredging costs, transparency, informed decisions, deferred action, fiscal responsibility, stormwater runoff, brine water, property maintenance responsibility and accountability, and MSBU Funds.

Jean Tuggle mentioned dredging, assessment increases, MSBU Funds, Dover Canal maintenance, and advisory board.

Margie Blackwell commented on dredging process, public input, advisory board meetings, Balboa Canal, transparency, information accessibility, and cost sharing.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO KEEP THE CURRENT ASSESSMENT RATE OF THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER ERU FOR THE HARBOUR HEIGHTS WATERWAY UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

c. Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway Unit (RES 2025-230)

Mr. Elias gave a brief overview of Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway, Northwest Port Charlotte – Proposed Maximum Rate, Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go – Northwest Port Charlotte, responded to spot dredging and project history, bathometric survey date, service levels, and minimum depth limits.

**Chair Tiseo** noted County website, advisory board meeting schedules, dredge work scope and reduction, public comments, and cost savings. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to dredging history and benefits, bathometric survey date and cost, proposed expenses, cost increases, weather and adverse economic events, canal debris, communication, advisory board landing page, and meeting schedules. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed dredging work scope and benefit.

Ms. McDonald replied to bathometric study date and cost.

### **Public Input**

Mark Fitzpatrick mentioned dredging benefit, advisory committee members, Sunshine Law, hurricane impacts, financial challenges, and assessment increases.

Robert Gaddis commented on ERU, dredging work program and funding, FY 2024 spending, Apollo Waterway, Myakka River, email database, communication methods, and information distribution.

Robert Dal Bianco noted Juno Waterway, MSBU meeting attendance and publications, waterway maintenance, dredging project and funding allocation, bathometric survey, email distribution list, and assessment increases.

Judy Sansburry spoke to property tax and assessment increases, dredging, hurricane damages, and financial impacts.

Kristy Knapp remarked on communication, advisory board, dredging project information and cost, transparency, and meeting notices.

Wayne Knapp discussed Apollo Waterway, dredging responsibility and schedule, Myakka River, communication, meeting notices, assessment increases, Hurricane Ian, waterflow erosion, cost sharing, and City of North Port.

Paul Cermak mentioned Apollo Waterway entrance, dredging history and need, cost, and impacts.

Art Krell commented on dredging, dirt removal and fill costs, and meeting notices.

David Taylor noted meeting notices, advisory boards, canal dredging and navigation, communication, Hurricane Ian impacts, costs, contractors, bid process, inspections, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Randy Adlington spoke against increasing the rate by \$210 to \$310 for dredging.

Maryann Barrett spoke against increasing the rate by \$210 to \$310 for dredging.

Beth Ann Dal Bianco spoke to dredging, canal maintenance and navigation, bathometric survey, advisory board meetings, tree trimming, Apollo Waterway, property value, and communication.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-230 ADOPTING THE FINAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE NORTHWEST PORT CHARLOTTE WATERWAY UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**AA. County Administrator Comments - None**

**BB. County Attorney Comments**

County Attorney Knowlton discussed MSBU advisory board creation, Charlotte County Home Rule Charter Section 2-2H: Municipal service taxing or benefit units, Ordinance, email distribution list, and public record disclosure.

**Chair Tiseo** mentioned public record disclosure. **Commissioner Constance** commented on MSBU advisory boards, Home Rule Charter Section 2-2H and statutory requirements, email distribution list, and public record requests and disclosure.

**CC. Commissioner Comments**

**ADJOURNED: 8:22 pm**

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**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**