

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 19, 2025

A Board MSBU/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, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

**The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Flores highlighted Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU)/Budget Workshop.

### 1. MSBU Rate Reduction Options & Revised Work Programs

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager gave a brief overview of Agenda, Stages of the Budget Process, Budget Process Calendar, Reserve Policy, Rate Reductions As presented at MSBU Workshop – May 20, 2025, and Additional Reduction Options.

**Commissioner Constance** discussed Rate Reductions As presented at MSBU Workshop – May 20, 2025, Suncoast Waterway current and proposed rates, work program activities, and bathometric survey frequency.

John Elias, Public Works Director responded to navigational trimming, bathometric survey frequency, and administrative time.

#### a. Cook and Brown Street Unit

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Cook and Brown Street Unit: Revised Work Program, Options, replied to MSBU Workshops, Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notices, property tax bills, and financial challenges.

**Chair Tiseo** mentioned service level alternatives, rate history and reduction request, incremental increase, work program levels, signage replacement, advisory board creation, Options, budget cycles, and TRIM Notice. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Options, incremental rate increase process, and advisory board. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted staff efforts, financial challenges and impacts, Options, project deferment, and proposed rate. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to assessment methodology, Options, incremental rate increase, revised work program, and right of way watering.

Mr. Elias responded to mowing frequency and data, agricultural land reduction, drainage work, revised work program, established sod watering, signage, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), road shoulder repairs, illegal dumping surveillance, advisory board creation, and established maximum rates.

#### b. Englewood East Street and Drainage Unit

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Englewood East Street and Drainage: Revised Work Program, and Options.

**Chair Tiseo** discussed Options. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Englewood East Street and Drainage and paving program phases. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on drainage issues, revised work program, and Options. **Commissioner Truex** noted paving program, Option 3, and service request increases.

Mr. Elias remarked on paving program phases, drainage work, Gulfstream Boulevard (Blvd), and Options.

#### c. Placida Area Street and Drainage Unit

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Placida Area Street and Drainage Unit: Revised Work Program, Options, replied to paving loan proceeds and contract review, and September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing.

**Chair Tiseo** spoke to paving contract, efficiency of scale, and deferral impacts. **Commissioner Constance** discussed collected assessment benefit delivery timeframe, Options, paving contract and preparation, pipe failure probability, Olean Blvd, and underground infrastructure improvements. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned Options, paving program deferral option and preparation, benefit timeframe, pipe lining, and September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing. **Commissioner Truex** commented on contract language and penalties, Options, approved rate, reduction alternatives, and work program prioritization.

Mr. Elias responded to paving program and contract, Options, assessment collection benefit timeframe, proposed maximum rate, and open excavation pipe replacement.

#### d. Gardens of Gulf Cove Street and Drainage Unit

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Gardens of Gardens of Gulf Cove Street and Drainage: Revised Work Program, Options, remarked on MSBU Reserve Policy and Fund balance, and restricted uses.

Mr. Elias gave a brief overview of Road Condition Update, Options, replied to Revised Work Program, and MSBU Reserve levels and allowed uses.

**Chair Tiseo** noted Revised Work Program, paving contractor, striping frequency and maintenance, MSBU Reserve Policy and usage, standards, and Options. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Options and approved assessment rate. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed Reserve categories, Options, and scenarios. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned MSBU Reserves, pipe conditions, drainage, maximum and actual assessment rates, Options, and loan repayment.

#### e. Harbour Heights Waterway Unit

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Harbour Heights Waterway and Harbour Heights Waterway - Options.

**Chair Tiseo** commented on Options, July 16, 2025 MSBU Public Hearing, citizen feedback, and spot dredging. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Options. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to Options.

Mr. Elias responded to citizen feedback, bathometric survey, and spot dredging.

#### f. Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway Unit

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway and Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway - Options.

Mr. Elias remarked on Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway - Options, public input, and dredging.

**Commissioner Doherty** discussed Option 1. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned Option 1.

## 2. FY26 & FY27 Ad Valorem Budgets

Francine Lisby, Assistant Budget Director gave a brief overview of Agenda, Set Tentative Millage Rates, Ad Valorem Revenues, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill As presented at Tentative Budget Meeting 7/24/2025, Law Enforcement Millage & Valuation Impact, Law Enforcement Proposed Budget, Law Enforcement Fund Projection, Capital Projects Millage Projection As presented at Tentative Budget Meeting 7/24/2025, General Government As presented at Efficient & Effective Government Workshop 6/19/2025, Tentative Millage Rates - Capital Projects Fund Reduction Option, Capital Projects Millage Projection, General Government, Lighting District Revenues versus (vs) Expenditures Updated Projection, Tentative Millage Rates - Lighting District Reduction Option, Lighting District Millage Scenario Updated Projection, General Fund: Five Year Financial Plan – Revenue/Expenditures, Revenues vs Expenditures Updated Projection, Reserves Policy, Cashflow, Projected County Share, Reserves, Reserves - Total, Ad Valorem Reserves, Ad Valorem Long Range Projection Variables & Uncertainties, Millage Rates, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only), replied to TRIM Notices, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements, light emitting diode (LED) conversion, and policy changes.

**Chair Tiseo** commented on TRIM Notices, Law Enforcement Fund Projection, full-time equivalent (FTE) and benefit budget impacts, cost increases, General Government, Sales and Ad Valorem Tax impacts, Tentative Millage Rates - Capital Projects Fund Reduction Option, infrastructure improvements, engineer cost estimates, entitlement community classification and qualifications, expedited funding reimbursements, Lighting District Millage Scenario Updated Projection, LED conversion process and net benefit, Florida Power and Light (FPL), Cashflow, Reserves, flexibility, Retention Fund, FEMA obligations, Millage Rates, General Fund Five Year Financial Plan – Revenue/Expenditures, departmental budget and interest rate cuts, Ad Valorem Long Range Projection Variables & Uncertainties, budget policy, tax payer dollars, and housing market. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Law Enforcement Fund Projection, budget impacts, FEMA shortfalls, General Fund, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, Capital Projects Millage Projection, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) reimbursements, Millage Rates, Environmentally Sensitive Land Program, 2026 Voter Ballot initiatives, Sales Tax impacts, rate reductions, September 23, 2025 Final Budget Public Hearing, and meeting venue change. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted entitlement community classification benefits and Millage Rates. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed Tentative Millage Rates - Capital Projects Fund Reduction Option, Ad Valorem Taxes, Tentative Millage Rates - Lighting District Reduction Option, Reserves, Retention and General Funds, flexibility, Reserves - Total, Ad Valorem Reserves, Millage Rates, Public Safety, Fiscal Stabilization, financial hardships, budget cuts, Former Senator Rick Scott, water management districts reduced funding mandate, and MSBU assessment rates. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned engineers cost estimates, infrastructure and property acquisition public requests, tax payer dollars, Sales Tax impacts, housing costs, community needs, Ad Valorem Reserves, policy changes, Millage Rates, Reserves - Total, Fiscal Stabilization, cost increases and reductions, position vacancies and review, housing rebuilding impacts, interest forecast, and tax rolls.

County Administrator Flores responded to Law Enforcement Proposed Budget, millage rate history and reductions, CCSO partnership, Public Safety, Lighting District, Capital Projects and General Funds, growth, staffing, Community Services, future fire stations, and Ad Valorem Reserves.

Mr. Elias remarked on FPL LED conversion project, Reserves, maintenance and operations (M&O) cost reductions, and Lighting District.

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director replied to Cashflow, Reserves, Reserves - Total, millage rate reduction, and FEMA reimbursements.

**ADJOURNED: 10:58 am**

---

**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**