

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

A Public Hearing on Proposed County Budget Fiscal 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 was held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, 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 Lindo, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. 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, 8/29/2025, Added attachment – Resolution Packet. 9/2/2025, Added attachment – Revised Presentation.

Requested by: Budget & Administrative Services

Change #2: Item 7, Added attachment – Resolution Packet.

Requested by: Budget & Administrative Services

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

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

1. Review of FY2025/2026 and FY2026/27 Budget Process

(Change #1) 8/29/2025, Added attachment – Resolution Packet. 9/2/2025, Added attachment – Revised Presentation.

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Stages of the Budget Process and Calendar.

2. Millage Rates

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Assessed Valuation, Property Valuations, Neighboring Counties Valuation Increase, Ad Valorem Revenues, Tentative Millage Rates, History of Millage Rates, Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Tentative Millage Rates, Revised Ad Valorem Revenues, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only), and How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026.

Chair Tiseo discussed How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026.

3. Presentation of Budget

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Adjustments, Changes made since July 24th, Ad Valorem Long Range Projection – Variables & Uncertainties, General Fund Long Range Projection – Assumptions, General Fund Five Year Financial Plan – Revenue/Expenditures, Emergency Medical Services: FY 2011 – 2025, General Fund: Revenues versus (vs) Expenditures Updated Projection, Budget vs Cashflow, Law Enforcement Fund Projection, Capital Projects Fund Projection, General Government, Lighting District Millage Scenario Updated Projection, Proposed 2025/2026 & 2026/2027 Total County-wide Budget, Net Amended Budgets, Net Budget - Capital vs Operating, Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Countywide Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Counts, Charlotte County: 20 Year Debt Position, Debt Breakdown, Ad Valorem Reserves, Projected County Share, Reserves, Cashflow, responded to millage rate factors and reduction history, funding allocation, hurricane damage assessment dashboard, and out-of-pocket expenses.

Chair Tiseo mentioned History of Millage Rates, reduction history and options, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only), How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026, infrastructure, service levels, community surveys, budget cut options, personnel costs, millage rate and MSBU assessment reductions, Ad Valorem Reserves, Disaster Retention Fund uses, recovery efforts, Hurricane Ian, Reserves, Cashflow, damage expense reimbursement and assessment totals, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reform and Category G, and Murdock Village principal reduction requirement. **Commissioner Constance** commented on millage rate reduction options, generalities, BCC Countywide FTE Counts, Net Amended Budgets, tax and rate payer based obligations, Ad Valorem Reserves, Disaster Retention Fund percentage requirement, Projected County Share, Cashflow, hurricane damage expenses and recovery costs, Charlotte County: 20 Year Debt Position, resiliency, General Fund, and Murdock Village. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted economy, hurricane recovery, community and budget impacts, millage rate reductions, increased valuations, responsibilities, position requests and cuts, financial difficulties, FEMA reimbursements, 1% Local Option Sales Tax, Murdock Village Debt, How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2025/2026, growth, provided services, recession, infrastructure, project postponement, foreclosed properties, and Ad Valorem Reserves. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to September 3, 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, parks and playing field budget cuts, October 21, 2025 Board Workshop, Net Amended Budgets, Charlotte County Utilities, tax and rate payer contributions and obligations, Englewood Water District, City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte Harbor Water Association, Ad Valorem Reserves, September 3, 2025 Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Community & Urban Affairs Meeting, FEMA hurricane recovery reimbursements, landfill closure, and Disaster Retention Fund use restrictions. **Commissioner Truex** discussed property tax, community service levels and surveys, recession service level cutback and public safety impacts, Ad Valorem Reserves, Disaster Retention Fund percentage, financial responsibility and reimbursements, Projected County Share, Reserves, Building Industry Oversight Committee, future needs, and permit fee funding.

County Administrator Flores replied to personnel request budgeted costs and cuts.

4. Public Hearing to Adopt County-wide Tentative Millage Rate and Proposed Budget RES 2025-280 / RES 2025-281

Ms. Lisby gave a brief overview of Adopt Tentative Millage Rates, Adopt Tentative Rates & Budget, and read into the record the County-Wide millage rates, roll back rates, and proposed budgets.

Public Input

Laura Cane mentioned personnel budget constraints and costs, population, Charlotte County School Board percentage and education quality, attendance incentive, budget cuts and documentation, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) vehicle and customization costs, and hurricane impacts.

Stacy Wear, Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Assistant Finance Director commented on Clerk's Office budget request and reductions, Florida Agency for Fiscal Oversight, fiscal conservative oversight, improved efficiencies, returned excess funds, Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), service and advanced technology improvements, citizen focused experience, accountability, and transparency.

David Kalin noted Charlotte Ranchettes, budgets, financial hardships, real estate market, hurricanes, Charlotte County Property Appraiser and private property appraisals, Assessed Valuation, golf course purchases, Murdock Village, City of Punta Gorda, MSBU assessments and benefits, South Charlotte Stormwater Unit, Code Enforcement legal right of entry, priorities, road improvements, priorities, beautification, and public confrontation.

Denny Acosta spoke to Charlotte Ranchettes, Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice, assessed property value, Charlotte County Tax Collector, Greater Charlotte Lighting District, South Charlotte Stormwater Unit, hurricanes, fruit tree and property damages, and flooding issues.

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Chair Tiseo discussed adjustment time limitations, Charlotte County Property Appraiser's Office, value adjustment petition filing deadline and filing fee, Charlotte Ranchettes, public access agreement, and road ownership. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned Charlotte County Property Appraiser's Office, Value Adjustment Board, and market value adjustment process.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-280 ADOPTING A TENTATIVE COUNTY-WIDE MILLAGE LEVY FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, SECONDED BY CHAIR TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-281 ADOPTING A TENTATIVE COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND APPROVE A PLANNED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

5. Public Comment Prior to the Adoption of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Millage Rate and Proposed Budget **RES 2025-282 / RES 2025-283**

Ms. Lisby read into the record the Environmentally Sensitive Lands millage rate and proposed budget.

Public Input

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Chair Tiseo commented on Value Adjustment Board September 16, 2025 petition filing deadline.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-282 ADOPTING A TENTATIVE SERIES 2008 (GOB) DEBT SERVICE FUND MILLAGE LEVY FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-283 ADOPTING A TENTATIVE SERIES 2008 (GOB) DEBT SERVICE FUND BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND APPROVE A PLANNED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 4:1, COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

6. Public Hearing to Adopt the MSTU Millage Rates and Proposed Budgets **RES 2025-284 / RES 2025-285**

Ms. Lisby read into the record the Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) millage rates, roll back rates, and proposed budgets.

Public Input

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-0284 ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE TO THE LEVIED WITHIN THE GREATER CHARLOTTE STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT, STUMP PASS DREDGING MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT, DON PEDRO/KNIGHT ISLAND STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT, MANASOTA KEY STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT, CHARLOTTE COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SANDHILL MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-285 ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR GREATER CHARLOTTE STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT, STUMP PASS DREDGING MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAXING UNIT, DON PEDRO/KNIGHT ISLAND STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT, MANASOTA KEY STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT, CHARLOTTE COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SANDHILL MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND APPROVE A PLANNED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. Public Hearing to Adopt Amended Final and Final MSBU Rates and Proposed Budgets for the Remaining Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Enterprise Funds and MSBU Funds RES 2025-286 / RES 2025-287 / RES 2025-288 / RES 2025-289/ RES 2025-290

(Change #2) Added attachment – Resolution Packet.

Ms. Lisby read into the record the proposed budgets for the remaining Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Enterprise Funds, and MSBU Funds.

Public Input

David Kalin remarked on Charlotte Ranchettes, MSBU assessments and provided services, legal right of entry, Code Enforcement, road and drainage repairs, health, safety, and welfare.

Linda Souza noted MSBU assessments, July 17, 2025 MSBU Public Hearing, Gardens of Gulf Cove, paving program and financing, road conditions, spending, sidewalks, debt, and South Gulf Cove.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Chair Tiseo spoke to South Charlotte Stormwater Unit. **Commissioner Constance** discussed Stormwater Utility Unit and Special Revenue Funds. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned South Charlotte Stormwater Unit, MSBU Rates, Placida Street and Drainage Stormwater Unit, and amended rates.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on Placida Area Street and Drainage Unit, staff rate recommendation, occupied and vacant Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), and amended Resolutions.

Deputy County Attorney Thomas David commented on July 17, 2025 MSBU Public Hearing, Placida Area Street and Drainage Unit amended assessment rate and calculations, August 19, 2025 MSBU/Budget Workshop, and MSBU final assessment and amended rate adoption procedure.

John Elias, Public Works Director noted suggested and revised work program rate.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE AMENDED RESOLUTIONS 2025-288, 2025-289, and 2025-290 ADOPTING AMENDED FINAL MSBU RATES FOR COOK & BROWN, GARDENS OF GULF COVE AND PLACIDA STREET AND DRAINAGE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1, COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-286 ADOPTING ALL FINAL MSBU RATES AS LISTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD SETTING THE AMENDED ASSESSMENT RATE FOR THE PLACIDA AREA STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT TO \$367 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, \$385 FOR THE MAXIMUM RATE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION 2025-287 ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGETS FOR THE REMAINING SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUNDS AND MSBU FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 TOTALING \$1,865,254,614 AND APPROVE A PLANNED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 TOTALING \$1,694,951,595, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO RECONSIDER RESOLUTION 2025-290 FOR CLARIFICATION AND CORRECTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBSTITUTE THE AMENDED NUMBERS AS PART OF THE AMENDED FINAL RESOLUTION 2025-290 AS \$367 FOR THE AMENDED 2025-2026 ASSESSMENT RATE AND \$385 FOR THE MAXIMUM RATE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1, COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

ADJOURNED: 6:47 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