

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

A Public Hearing on Proposed County Budget 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 was held at the Charlotte Harbor Event & 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 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.

1. Announce Total Proposed Net Budget

Francine Lisby, Assistant Budget Director gave a brief overview of Agenda, Changes made since September 4th, and Total Proposed Net Countywide Budget.

2. Public Hearing

3. Board Discussion

4. Adopt Final Millage Rates & Budgets by Resolution

I. Ad Valorem – Countywide Funds RES 2025-319 / RES 2025-320

Mr. Lisby read into record County Wide millage rates, roll back rates, and proposed budgets.

Chair Tiseo discussed budget cuts and process, efforts, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, millage rate reductions, Board discussion and staff direction opportunities, public input, and Proposed list reduce millage to 5.999. **Commissioner Constance** commented on late budget reduction suggestions, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) owed obligations, Reserves impacts, millage rate reductions, and efforts. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned budget saving concepts and surplus, Fiscal Department, September 4, 2025 First Budget Public Hearing, hurricane damage and tax roll impacts, financial difficulties, inflation, fiscally conservative, millage rate and Commission Office position reductions, temporary hiring freeze savings, travel and training expenses, Tourism funding options, calculations source, July 18, 2025 Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Public Hearing, and meeting attendance. **Commissioner Doherty** noted efforts, budget cycle and review opportunities, full-time equivalent (FTE) service level impacts and options, October 21, 2025 Board Workshop, Community Services, September 3, 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, property taxes, and millage rate and MSBU assessment reductions. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to calculations source.

County Administrator Flores responded to General Fund surpluses, budget statutory requirements, Fiscal Stabilization and Hurricane Recovery Funds, training and development importance and costs, employee support, Reserve levels, July 16 and July 17, 2025 MSBU Public Hearings, assessment and millage rate reductions, service levels, Community Services Master Plan, and gave a brief overview of Proposed list reduce millage to 5.999.

Public Hearing

Stacy Wear, Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Assistant Finance Director discussed Clerk's Office budget request and reductions, fiscal oversight, efficiency, returned excess funds, transparency, and accountability.

Jeff Lustig mentioned property taxes, contingency plans, budget impacts, home values, millage rates, and County-wide spending reduction.

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Cynthia O'Hara spoke against Charlotte County Sheriff Office Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026 Budget and Planned FY 2026/2027 Budget.

Dave Kalin commented on budget cut proposals, public input opportunities, community meetings, partnership, financial difficulties, and housing market.

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-319 ADOPTING A FINAL COUNTY-WIDE MILLAGE LEVY FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-320 ADOPTING A FINAL COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

II. Voted Debt Service Fund (Environmentally Sensitive Lands) – Ad Valorem RES 2025-321 / RES 2025-322

Mr. Lisby read into record Environmentally Sensitive Lands millage rates and proposed budgets.

Commissioner Constance spoke to Series 2008 (GOB) Debt Service Fund Proposed FY 2025/2026 and Planned FY 2026/2027 Budgets difference, debt payment, and Environmentally Sensitive Funds.

Public Comment

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-321 ADOPTING A FINAL SERIES 2008 (GOB) DEBT SERVICE FUND MILLAGE LEVY FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-322 ADOPTING A FINAL SERIES 2008 (GOB) DEBT SERVICE FUND BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

III. Ad Valorem – Municipal Service Taxing Units – MSTUs RES 2025-323 / RES 2025-324

Mr. Lisby read into record MSTU millage rates, roll back rates, and proposed budgets.

Public Hearing

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-323 ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE 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 MSTU FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SANDHILL MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-324 ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR 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 DEUTSCH

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

IV. Non-Ad Valorem Funds and Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBU) RES 2025-325

Ms. Lisby read into record Non-Ad Valorem Funds and MSBUs.

Public Hearing

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

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-325 ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGETS FOR THE REMAINING SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND MSBU FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 TOTALING \$1,865,219,059, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Chair Tiseo noted Charlotte County Sheriff's Office millage rate reductions, partnership, and community service.

ADJOURNED: 5:54 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