

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 20, 2026

A Board 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 David, Minutes Clerk Gerace, 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 Board Workshop.

1. Property Tax Reform Impacts

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis gave a brief overview of What is a Millage, Who sets it, What affects your property tax bill, What does it pay for, County Responsibilities, Charlotte County by the Numbers, Charlotte County Millage History, How Your Tax Dollar is Spent, What's next, Keep Florida Thriving, replied to Constitutional budgets and state mandated services, unfunded mandates, cost increases, service level and new resident infrastructure impacts, impact fee restrictions, and property insurance cost increases and reform.

Eve Sweeting, Legislative Manager gave a brief overview of Proposed Property Tax Reform: Florida House Property Tax Reform, Governor DeSantis, House Proposals, Impacts to Charlotte County, Unfunded State Mandates, responded to law enforcement budgets, and provided service impacts.

Francine Lisby, Assistant Budget Director gave a brief overview of How Your Tax Dollar is Spent, Impacts to Charlotte County - House Bill (HB) Impacts to County Ad Valorem Revenues, What Your Local Taxes Do For You, Where Your Tax Dollars Go, Timeline of Key Events, and replied to alternative revenue sources.

Chair Tiseo discussed How Your Tax Dollar is Spent, House Proposals, exemption language, budget constraints, staffing funding and public service impacts, Impacts to Charlotte County, Governor Ron DeSantis, relocation invitation, Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) and General Fund balance increase, property tax reform population impacts, property insurance reform, Senate President Ben Albritton statement, and Florida Association of Counties (FAC). **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Impacts to Charlotte County - HB Impacts to County Ad Valorem Reserves, Charlotte County School Board and Constitutional budgets, HB 201 and 209, state mandated functions, House Proposals, intended and unintended consequences, essential service impacts, Wakulla County Commissioner Ralph Thomas, alternative revenue sources, information accessibility, CC-TV videos, Sales Tax Projects, Tourism property tax savings, and Unfunded State Mandates. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on Charlotte County - HB Impacts to County Ad Valorem Reserves, alternative revenue sources, House Proposals, public safety exemption, Timeline of Key Events, ballot deadlines, and FAC. **Commissioner Truex** noted previous budget cut impacts, tax payer dollars savings, infrastructure maintenance costs, Select Committee on Property Taxes Chair Toby Overdorf, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, revenue replacement options, Disaster Recovery (DR) and public service funding, and media markets.

2. Animal Welfare

Brian Jones, Animal Control Division Manager gave a brief overview of Animal Control Overview, Animal Control Regulations & Requirements: Ordinance Requirements - Charlotte County Ordinance Section 1-4-26. - Administration and enforcement, Ordinance Requirements - Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 Stats, Statutorial Requirements - Florida Administrative Code 64D-3 - Rabies Control & Quarantines, Statutorial Requirements - §767.12 - Dangerous Dog Enforcement, Animal Intake Trends, Contract Overview: Current Animal Welfare League (AWL) Contract Scope of Services, Current Contract Details, Cost to Pet Owners, Facility Details, Key Details, In July 2011, The contract was last renegotiated in 2013, AWL Expense, Help End Local Pet-overpopulation (HELP) Program, AWL Request for Contract Update, Key Elements of AWL Proposal, Annual Dog/Cat Intake Exceeding 50 per Month, Capacity Thresholds & Overage Cost Analysis, Extended Holding Periods: Annual Overall Percentage, Estimated Additional Boarding Costs, Reasons animals may remain beyond their required holding period at the request of Animal Control, Animal Welfare League Contract Proposal, Contract Comparisons, Scope of Services Comparison, and Scope of Services Comparison – Side by Side Comparison.

Chair Tiseo discussed required holding periods, Scope of Services Comparison, contract negotiation and termination clause, population and call volume growth, alternative housing services, property tax reform and implementation, and public safety core requirement. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to AWL, contract negotiation, property tax reform and ballot, Sarasota County Animal Control and Sheriff's Office, and Lee County Domestic Animal Services and Shelter. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned AWL and Animal Control, property tax reform impacts and category, and contract negotiations. **Commissioner Truex** commented on property tax reform impacts, population, contract negotiations, AWL, service need and responsibility, and public safety concerns.

Chief Matthew McElroy, Public Safety Director remarked on fee schedule.

3. Public Safety Training Academy

Chief McElroy gave a brief overview of Statewide Snapshot (Florida), Approximate Florida Firefighter Vacancies (December 2025), Kelly days + 42-hour workweek trend (2025), Charlotte County Fire & EMS – Current Staffing Snapshot, Training & Certification Pathway (Florida), Pipeline output: certification & training snapshots, What slows hiring and “throughput”, Commission levers: growing the local pipeline, Charlotte County Solution: Benefit of a County-based Fire Academy (local pipeline), What a Charlotte County academy could look like, What Charlotte County Fire-EMS Public Safety Training Institute could look like – Fire Academy Options (practice pathways), What Charlotte County Fire-EMS Public Safety Training Institute could look like – Credentialing Process, Florida Administrative Code Ann. R. 69A-37.060 Certification, Current Training Tower Deficiencies, Charlotte County Program, Proposed Training Center, Bottom line, and responded to community engagement.

Chair Tiseo noted Sales Tax Project and appropriation request impacts. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to What a Charlotte County academy could look like, community engagement, Current Training Tower Deficiencies, Economic Development Director Kay Tracy, workforce development and funding options, 2026 Sales Tax Projects, appropriation request, Hurricane Ian lost reimbursements, and Florida Department of Commerce. **Commissioner Deutsch** discussed children's explorer program, Public Safety Pancake Breakfast, and training facility locations. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned community partnerships and outreach and project budget. **Commissioner Truex** commented on American Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Simulator Program, Proposed Training Center, appropriations request, and project budget.

Deputy County Administrator Lewis replied to January 27, 2026 Regular and Land Use Meeting, 2026 Sales Tax Projects and Focus Group, ARFF, state appropriation requests and budget deficit, funding process and sources, community workforce talent pipeline and partnerships, and reimbursement challenges.

AA. County Administrator Comments

County Administrator Flores remarked on Hurricane Ian requested reimbursements, Federal Legislative Agenda, offshore drilling feedback request and deadline, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Thorn Run Partners Vice President Greg Burns, and draft delegation letter.

BB. County Attorney Comments - None

CC. Commissioner Comments

Chair Tiseo noted offshore drilling opposition, Representative Vanessa Oliver withdrawal request letter, draft economic impact statement certification and distribution, committee requirements, delegation letter utilities boundaries, Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee meeting attendance, and liaison appointments. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Deepwater Horizon penalty dollar utilization, Tourism, Florida Gulf Consortium, offshore drilling opposition, water improvements, and County Attorney David. **Commissioner Deutsch** discussed offshore drilling opposition. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned Senators Rick Scott and Ashley Moody, offshore drilling opposition, and Ad Hoc and liaison appointments. **Commissioner Truex** commented on offshore drilling opposition, Senators Rick Scott and Ashley Moody, Tourism impacts, Workshop presentations, and Public Safety Training Academy benefits and Director Chief Matthew McElroy.

Ms. Sweeting remarked on Senators Ashley Moody and Rick Scott, offshore drilling prevention bill, and draft economic impact statements distribution.

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