

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**MARCH 11, 2025**

A Regular Meeting 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**

The Invocation was given by Reverend Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk, Lutheran Church of the Cross, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Changes to the Agenda**

**Addition #1:** R-1, Englewood Beach Update. Update on Englewood Beach.

Requested by: Community Services

**Addition #2:** R-2, Hands-Free Cell Phone Use Legislation. Adopt Resolution supporting hands-free cell phone use legislation.

Requested by: Commission Office

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

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**Proclamations - Commissioner Bill Truex**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**Artist of the Month - March/April**

Proclamation to be mailed to Tina Barnes.

**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**

Lory Weisensee accepted the Proclamation.

**National Vietnam Day**

**Commissioner Deutsch** discussed March 16, 2025 Port Charlotte Moose Lodge 2121 Festival of Music and Fun, March 29, 2025 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony, and accepted the Proclamation.

#### **Government Finance Professionals Week**

Rick Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager accepted the Proclamation.

#### **Employee Recognition**

##### Years of Service - February 2025

**5 Years:** Felix J. Hernandez, Public Safety; Breanna Jacobs, Public Safety; Brandon Hurley, Public Safety; Carson Baras, Public Safety; Caleb Van Helden, Public Safety; James D'Aniello, Community Services; Sharon Myrie, Utilities; Michele Winsor, Human Resources; Janet Johnson, Economic Development; Joy Estaris, Human Resources; Daniel Thoman, Facilities Management; Anthony Pribble, Facilities Management; Pedro Agosto, Facilities Management; Megan Hamrick, Budget & Administrative Services; Elizabeth Lee, Community Services; **10 Years:** Hana Brown, Community Services; Charles Peters, Public Works; Catherine Kerallah, Human Resources; Jason Dugan, Public Works; Michael Morse, Budget & Administration; **20 Years:** Kenneth Bowers, Public Safety; Delmis Castillo, Utilities; Karen Benak, County Attorney's Office; **30 Years:** Diane Whidden, Commission Office; Thomas Emmi, Public Safety; and Monty Rodriguez, Community Services.

#### **Award Presentations**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Jeff Lustig mentioned Finance, Set a Public Hearing to Consider Approving an Ordinance Amending the Code Relating to Security Alarm Systems Regulations, and Hands-Free Cell Phone Use Legislation.

#### **COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

The committee vacancy list below is for informational purposes only. It is not part of the County Commission agenda upon which action is to be taken, and therefore not a topic on which public input is allowed at the beginning of this meeting.

**Barrier Island Fire Service Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Advisory Board** is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacant position with term ending October 31, 2025. Applicants must be residents of Charlotte County and reside within the Unit. Submit applications to Public Safety Department, 26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, Florida 33982; call 941-833-5602 or email Carole.Thomas@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

The following **MSBU/TU Advisory Boards** are seeking volunteers who must be both a property owner within and reside within the Unit. Submit applications to Public Works Department, 7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950; call 941-575-3600 or e-mail MSBU-TU@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

- **Boca Grande Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026, and one member to a fill position with a term through October 31, 2027.

- **Edgewater North Waterway Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025.

- **Englewood East Non-Urban Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **Gardens of Gulf Cove Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking two members to fill position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025, and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **Gulf Cove Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025.
- **Gulf Cove Waterway Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025.
- **Harbour Heights Waterway Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **Manasota Key Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026.
- **Manchester Waterway Utility Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **Rotonda Sands Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025, and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **South Burnt Store Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025.
- **South Charlotte Stormwater Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025.
- **Suncoast Waterway Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2025 and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026.

#### **REPORTS RECEIVED AND FILED**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

#### **Clerk of the Circuit Court**

#### **A. Comptroller Division**

#### **1. Finance**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the Clerk's Finance Memorandum.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

**B. Minutes Division**

1. Minutes

**Recommended Action:** Approve the following Minutes:

February 18, 2025 BCC Board Workshop Capital Projects (CNA)

February 20, 2025 BCC Pre Agenda

February 20, 2025 BCC Strategic Focus Area Review Workshop

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

**Board of County Commissioners**

**C. Commission Office**

1. Reappointment - Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Advisory Board

**Recommended Action:** Approve the reappointment of Bob Logan to the Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Advisory Board. This appointment will be effective immediately and will expire on October 31, 2025.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

2. Reappointment - South Charlotte Stormwater Advisory Board

**Recommended Action:** Approve the reappointment of Robert DiMuzio to the South Charlotte Stormwater Advisory Board. This appointment will be effective immediately and will expire on October 31, 2025.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

**D. County Administration**

**E. County Attorney**

1. Set a Public Hearing to Consider Approving an Ordinance Amending the Code Relating to Security Alarm Systems Regulations

**Recommended Action:** Set a public hearing on March 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in Room 119 at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida to consider approving an Ordinance to amend the Security Alarm Systems Regulations.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

2. Set a Public Hearing to Consider Approving an Ordinance to Amend the General Ordinances and Special Acts Chapter 1-10 Entitled "Licenses and Business Regulations."

**Recommended Action:** Set a public hearing on March 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., or soon thereafter as may be heard, in Room 119 at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte Florida 33948 to consider approving an ordinance to Amend the General Ordinances and Special Acts Chapter 1-10 Entitled "Licenses and Business Regulations."

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

## **F. Budget and Administrative Services**

### **Fiscal Services**

### **Information Technology**

### **Purchasing**

#### **1. 25-204, Award, 2025 MSBU Paving Program (Public Works)**

**Recommended Action:** a) Approve award of Request for Bid #25-204, 2025 MSBU Paving Program to the overall lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, Ajax Paving Industries of Florida LLC of North Venice, Florida for a total amount of \$17,054,132. This is for resurfacing Charlotte County roadways within the Rotonda West area and Pioneer Trail; and b) Approve Resolution for budget adjustment BA25-162 in the amount of \$426,632 increasing the MSBU Capital Maintenance Paving Program. **RES 2025-059**

**Budgeted Action:** Approve Budget adjustment BA25-162 in the amount of \$426,632 to amend the MSBU Capital Maintenance Paving Program for Rotonda West. Funding is provided from Rotonda West Street and Drainage MSBU assessments. Sufficient budget is available in the Community Services Capital Maintenance Plan for Pioneer Trail with funding provided from Capital Projects Fund, ad valorem.

#### **2. 25-265, Award, Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility 2nd Set Membrane Replacement (Utilities)**

**Recommended Action:** a) Approve the Sole Source File #25-265, Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility 2nd Set Membrane Replacement, and award to Veolia (ZENON Environmental Corporation) of Trevose, Pennsylvania, for the total cost of \$966,360; and b) Authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement. **AGR 2025-048**

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed. Budgeted in the Utility Capital Maintenance Plan, as approved in the FY25 budget process. Funding comes from the Utility Renewal and Replacement Fund.

#### **3. 25-160, Award, Burnt Store Reverse Osmosis Plant Wellfield Improvements (Utilities)**

**Recommended Action:** Approve award of Request for Bid #25-160, Burnt Store Reverse Osmosis Plant Wellfield Improvements, to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, A.C. Schultes of Florida, Inc. of Gibsonton, Florida, in the amount of \$219,292.50. This is to secure the services of a licensed Well Contractor to perform pump drop pipe modifications for three (3) Lower Intermediate Aquifer (LIA) production wells and the acidization of one (1) LIA production well within the Burnt Store Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed. Budget for this item comes from savings in various account lines budgeted in the Utilities Operations and Maintenance Fund - Operations budget as approved in the FY2025 budget process. Funding for the expenditure comes from the rate revenues.

4. 24-642, Approve Change Order 2, County Right of Way Landscape Maintenance - Mid County - Annual Contract (Public Works)

**Recommended Action:** Recommend approval of Change Order #2 to Contract #24-642, County Right of Way Landscape Maintenance - Mid County - Annual Contract as awarded to Walkers Service, Inc. of Punta Gorda, Florida for an additional amount of \$359,110.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed. Budgeted in the Transportation Fund - Public Works Maintenance and Operation and in Harbour Heights Street and Drainage Unit as approved in the FY2025 budget process. Funding is supplied from gas taxes for Road & Bridge and MSBU assessments for Harbour Heights Street and Drainage.

5. 23-292, Approve Cancellation, Design Cape Haze Water Quality Improvement Project (Utilities)

**Recommended Action:** Approve the cancellation of Contract #23-393, Design Cape Haze Water Quality Improvement Project, with Giffels-Webster Engineering, Inc.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed. No additional financial impact at this time.

6. Property Deletions for the Month of March, 2025 (Purchasing)

**Recommended Action:** Approve the deletion of additional property inventory items listed on the attached for the month of March 2025.

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed.

Real Estate Services

Risk Management

Transit

**G. Community Development**

**H. Community Services**

**I. Economic Development**

1. Regional Planning Area Identification Request

**Recommended Action:** a) Approve Request for Regional Planning Area Identification requested by the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Consortium to formalize a regional planning area with Heartland; and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign the Request for Regional Planning Area Identification. **AGR 2025-049**

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed

**J. Facilities Management**

**K. Human Resources**

**L. Human Services**

**M. Public Safety**

**1. Public Safety Training Services Agreement**

**Recommended Action:** a) Approve Resolution authorizing the County Administrator, or designee, to enter into third party agreement related to training services provided by Public Safety; and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution. **RES 2025-060**

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed. Budgeted in the Fire Rescue fund.

**N. Public Works**

**1. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Maintenance Agreement BE-I32**

**Recommended Action:** a) Approve three-year agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for maintenance of US41 from the Peace River Bridge to South Toledo Blade Boulevard and SR776 from US41 to Cornelius Boulevard to include mowing, litter removal and edging/sweeping; and b) Approve Resolution authorizing the Chair to execute the agreement. **AGR 2025-050 / RES 2025-060**

**Budgeted Action:** No action needed

**2. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Priority Project Applications**

**Recommended Action:** a) Approve Resolution authorizing execution of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) priority project applications to the County Administrator or designee; and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution. **RES 2025-061**

**Budgeted Action:** A budget amendment will be brought to the Board for approval, if application is funded.

**3. Joint Partnership Agreement (JPA) Agreement BE-108 with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Public Education**

**Recommended Action:** a) Approval and acceptance of JPA BE-108 and corresponding Resolution; and b) Authorize the Chairman, or designee, to execute the JPA and Resolution; and c) Approve Resolution for BA25-164 in the amount of \$8,000.00. **AGR 2025-051 / RES 2025-063 / RES 2025-064**

**Budgeted Action:** Approve budget adjustment BA25-164 in the amount of \$8,000.00. Allowable grant expenses will be reimbursed by Florida Department of Transportation within the Mid-Charlotte, South Charlotte, and West Charlotte Stormwater MSBUs. There is no local match required.

**O. Tourism Development**

**P. Utilities**

**Q. Other Agencies**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### R. Regular Agenda

#### (Addition #1) 1. Englewood Beach Update

##### Community Services

Update on Englewood Beach.

Tommy Scott, Community Services Director gave a brief overview of Option 1: South end partial reopen, Englewood Beach Reopening - Option 1, Englewood Beach Park-n-Ride Circulator, Circulator route, Pick up/Drop off locations, Option 2: Full reopening, Englewood Beach Reopening - Option 2, responded to challenges, existing damages, Risk Management, parking options, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) language.

**Chair Tiseo** commented on options, phased approach, staff efforts, hurricane recovery processes, public services, FEMA, Hurricane Recovery Coordinator, job description, and efficiency. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to operating hours, Pick up/Drop off locations, Capital Projects Manager, and local emergencies. **Commissioner Doherty** noted phased approach. **Commissioner Truex** discussed Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, location options, parking, public safety, beach access, traffic impacts, staff and recovery efforts, Capital Projects/Recovery Manager position, and knowledge.

County Administrator Flores replied to Capital Projects Manager, budget process, Recovery Manager, and position request.

#### (Addition #2) 2. Hands-Free Cell Phone Use Legislation

##### Commission Office

Adopt Resolution supporting hands-free cell phone use legislation. **RES 2025-065**

**Chair Tiseo** mentioned distracted driving, cell phone use, House Bill (HB) 501, and 2025 Legislative Agenda amendment. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on distracted driving, cell phone use, and law enforcement. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to hands-free legislation, illegal activities, cell phone use, distracted driving, and common sense.

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-065 IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING HANDS-FREE PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO CHANGE THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 501 AND THE RESOLUTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-065 IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING HANDS-FREE PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING AND DIRECT STAFF TO CHANGE THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 501 AS AMENDED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**



**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**S. 10:00 A.M. Public Hearing**

**PRESENTATION AGENDA**

**T. 10:00 A.M. Presentations**

**PUBLIC INPUT - ANY SUBJECT**

Sandra Barnett noted Invocation, insubordination, discrepancies, employment, corrective action and response, personnel file, and termination.

Tim Ritchie, March Against Mosaic President remarked on water quality, Heal Our Harbor Director Dr. Richard Whitman, Peace River, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Mosaic Fertilizer, wastewater injection wells, phosphogypsum, leadership, Water Quality Manager Brandon Moody, funding requests, sediment testing, Charlotte Harbor, revenues, housing marketing, and building moratorium.

Terry Barnett discussed discipline, public servants, responsibility, corruption, equality, injustice, accountability, employment termination, poor language, bad behavior, arbitration process, Governor DeSantis, investigation, and abuse of power.

Jeff Lustig mentioned dishonor, resignation, veterans, Flag Day, non sequitur, and public employees and service.

Carl Steinhoff, Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 5 Chairman commented on nonprofit organization members and functions, community support and awareness, May 23-25, 2025 Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom Florida events, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) escort.

Richard Patrick noted Canadian visitors, Protecting American People Against Invasion Executive Order, tariffs, data, tourism, and real estate and economic impacts.

**AA. County Administrator Comments**

County Administrator Flores spoke to February 18, 2025 Board Capital Projects Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) Workshop, CCSO helicopter request, Sikorsky UH60 Blackhawk, funding source, intent letter, procurement process, Years of Service, and Administration staff.

Chair Tiseo discussed CCSO helicopter request. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned procurement process. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on timing and procurement process. **Commissioner Doherty** noted cost savings and helicopter request. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to procurement process, Agenda item, and intent letter.

**BB. County Attorney Comments – None**

**CC. Economic Development Director Comments**

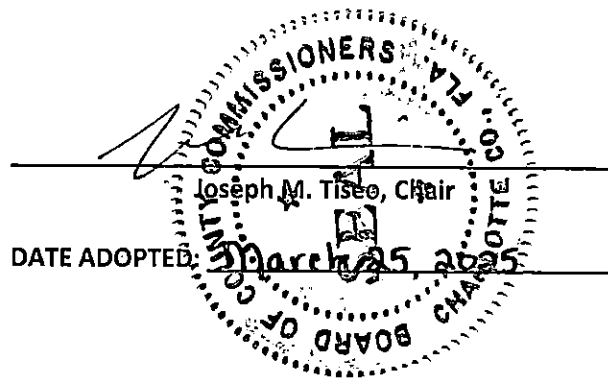
Kay Tracey, Economic Development Director discussed March 6, 2025 Budget Process Update Workshop, Bold Goals, and proposed revisions.

**Commissioner Truex** mentioned proposed revisions.

#### **DD. County Commissioner Comments**

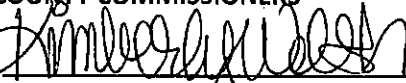
**Chair Tiseo** spoke to Englewood Beach, National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference 2025, Manchester Waterway Lock Removal and history, 2025 Legislative Agenda and delegation, misinformation, misrepresentation, elected officials, community, mistrust, data driven decisions, accountability, transparency, inconsistency, sworn testimony, D’Juan Harris, slander, and designated speaker. **Commissioner Constance** discussed Home Rule Charter 1.6 Casino Gambling, voting referendum, Tourist Tax and Development Director Sean Doherty, hurricane impacts, Englewood Beach, tourist season, NACo Legislative Conference 2025, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Director Alex Meyer and Associate Director Chase Wilson, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, community improvements, and regulatory agencies. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned March 16, 2025 Port Charlotte Moose Lodge 2121 Festival of Music and Fun, March 29, 2025 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony, transcript, sworn testimony, intent, Manchester Waterway, and history. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on NACo Legislative Conference 2025 and Transportation Policy Steering Committee, National Association of County Engineers (NACE), Coalition Against Bigger Trucks, bridge impact study, Congressman Greg Steube, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) members, electric vehicles (EV), charging stations, power infrastructure, challenges, and regulatory agencies. **Commissioner Truex** noted City of Punta Gorda, Sunseeker, Home Rule Charter Section 1.6 Casino Gambling, NACo Intergovernmental Disaster Reform and Immigration Reform Task Forces, FEMA Review Council, Congressman Greg Steube, budget and finance, emergency and policy representation, National Association of Home Builders Vice President Karl Eckhart, IGA Local and Tribal Government Deputy Director Christine Glassner, workforce, tariffs, US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Doug Collins, and service improvements.

**ADJOURNED: 10:34 am**



**ATTEST:**

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO OF THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By:   
Deputy Clerk