



Public Comment 38 and 39

Public Comment received after publishing of the agenda, for Items 37,

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 06:02PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Brandan Last Name: Kools
Email	bhardie@yahoo.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop animal shelter
Comment	Everything the dedicated volunteers are saying... the county board dropped the ball. The county board needs to fix the bishop shelter for the safety of the animals, staff and volunteers. Here is the latest account from a dedicated volunteer (I believe all this to be true based on years of experience working with animals and I believe the county board royally, if not legally, dropped the ball through fiscal misuse and straight out lies (where is the USF report based on an onsite visit?) From the people close to the situation. Please submit this with my comment as I feel it represents the overall concerns: The most recent updates for the Bishop Animal Shelter fiasco. Quotes from the ground: "The reactivity is so bad Dog you are trying to get out + dogs behind barriers within inches= Reactivity bite danger. Dogs are cutting paws & mouths on the kennel doors. There were 5 staff working adoption kennels when I was there. No mister fans on outside of trailers. There is one under the new walkway tent (pictured) but it wasn't on. The different gate latches are really tricky" "Functionally, this is tough. I have never been concerned for my safety the entire time at Palmetto but today I was. There are so many ways people, and dogs, can be hurt. This is just sad" "Most dogs in outside kennels either spilled water or deficated. The RV shower type floor does not prevent the dogs slipping, causing injury & disease. The flies were bad." "I twisted my ankle in one of the catch pens. Not bad but if I had a puller dog it could have been different. Be careful!!" "It was the first time that I felt on edge the whole time I was volunteering since I started 2 years ago. It was never this bad at Palmetto. I felt like I was on high alert the whole time, and could never relax and enjoy being the with dogs. The catch pens for the dogs is WAY to small and narrow. Uneven grounds. So many dogs are becoming reactive when trying to take a dog from outside kennel. A handful of them will pull you towards the other dogs in the outside kennel because there is not enough room to safely pass the other dogs. They need to fix the damn catch pens and put in the correct setup because there is only one way out, the really reactive dogs are on the ends, and EVERY dog you pass by with them, they go nuts and try to attack. It's so incredibly unsafe. The outside kennels are too high for some of the smaller or older dogs to jump up and down. They said the catch pens are loaned out, and it's the county we are waiting to install the new ones...well they should have been put in BEFORE they moved the dogs for safety. Another dog snuck under the fence and got out of one of the play yards. Thank goodness a staff member was close by and able to get the dog. A dog got away from me, but thankfully I was able to get him before anything bad happened. It is a stressful nightmare." "I can totally see how we are going to lose volunteers because they will be too scared to walk dogs...which is horrible because we need more volunteers to help with the amount of dogs we have." "Due to the stress of the animals and behavior changes more dogs are being bumped up to black" (black=most difficult to handle) And then we have the newest addition, the tents. There isn't enough space to safely anchor the tents appropriately. So we have shade which is great, but we add tripping hazards and then the potential for tent movement during significant weather. Staff will always have to be aware, on guard just for that. The facility itself self threatening their and the dogs safety. Supposedly project management will be designing something more permanent. When? Why is this even an issue for a BRAND NEW FACILITY?

For a decade our community was promised a facility that would be safe and functional. Those in charge didn't budget for it, didn't plan for it, didn't care two iotas about the boots on the ground, or what the facility would look like in practice. Basic weather considerations weren't accounted for. Dogs were fire drilled into a facility that wasn't even close to being ready for them. Everyone knew. County Commissioner's knew, the County Administrator knew, upper management knew. They were told, they were warned. Now we are not even a month into this facility and all it is one bandaid after another. Everything the volunteers warned about coming to fruition. All the problems so far are just the tip of the iceberg. These aren't "breaking in kinks", they are monstrously complex design flaws and the utter failure of those in charge to care and protect those most vulnerable.

Are we really going to keep trying to bandaid this for a decade? When every bandaid creates more problems or doesn't resolve fundamental core issues. Even "IF" we get shade designed that's appropriately fixed, it doesn't resolve the issues that there's no safe and easy way to dump mop buckets. It doesn't fix the reactivity, it's not going to fix how oppressive the heat is going to be come June. The same goes for the corrals. The Astroturf getting installed will make the yards safer, but most of them are still practically too far away.

Why can't we just budget for an addition to the adoption center which would be cost effectively and efficiently resolve the safety concerns? Do they really hate this community this much to make them try to continue to work this facility? It's not safe, nothing about it is safe, and the project has been so entirely f***ed that there is no bandaid that can make it safe. Why is there no accountability for the county administrator for putting together a facility that clearly does not meet the basic needs of the community of being safe and functional? Why is there no accountability to the county administrator who listened to ALL the concerns over the last few months and unilaterally (with Dr. Johnson and Sarah Brown apparently) decided that without addressing the "the time was now" to move the dogs? AFTER the BoCC had voted to wait for the UF report, which was downgrade to a zoom, and then lying to the community about a forth coming report. We need a concrete addition to the adoption center and we needed it prior to the move, and we need accountability for how we got here. Every day we wait to plan adds another day on before we see an acceptable resolution.

Tomorrow the kennels are on the agenda. They are also voting on whether or not to recommend the State Attorney General drop misdemeanor charges against volunteers and concerned citizens who saw issues, showed up to try to figure out what would be the best SOP, then brought the evidence that there really isn't a good SOP to the BoCC; as well as Charlie Bishops contract who shares a large part of the responsibility for how we got here. Call in, write in, show up. Make your voice heard.

✨ Board of County Commissioners

Fourth Revised Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting

📍 Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

This meeting can be viewed live on <https://www.mymanatee.org/services-and-amenities/service-listing/service-details/watch-live-county-meetings> and on Manatee Government Access (MGA) Spectrum Channel 644, Frontier Channel 30, and Comcast Channel 20 (within Manatee County).

Written comments can be submitted at <https://mymanatee.org/services-and-amenities/service-listing/service-details/submit-public-comment>. For non-quasi-judicial items only, the public can offer comments by phone by dialing 1-888-788-0099 or 1-877-853-5247. Enter Meeting ID Number: 870 0723 7254 (followed by #).

Dial-in Instructions:

Dial one of the zoom numbers and enter the Meeting ID number: 870 0723 7254 (followed by #)

There are no participant IDs, please press (#)

You will be placed into the call on mute

(*) 9 to raise hand

(*) 6 to unmute

I would also give serious consideration to supporting other candidates in August and November and start researching them and supporting them now. When these problems were brought initially to the BoCC in January, and we asked the BoCC to keep the dogs at Palmetto until we figured out an appropriate solution, we were told we were lying and no one in their right mind would want to leave the dogs at Palmetto. In actuality that's how bad this project was executed, as demonstrated by the last month. It was safer to deal with the mold, the rats, the ventilation, plumbing, and electrical issues than it was to move the

dogs to the facility. Then after brining more people who were intimately familiar with the issues to address all the issues neglected by the staff report the community was told, "your advocacy as a group is swiftly becoming unreasonable and it's hurting your cause"



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 06:31PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Dena Last Name: Sabou
Email	denasabou@gmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Animal shelter
Comment	Posting for a volunteer that is choosing to remain anonymous. The volunteer wrote the following to me- "Since being at the new shelter, this is the first time I have ever been concerned for my safety as a volunteer. Functionally, the set up is poorly designed and will lead to injuries for people and dogs. On a small scale, I twisted my ankle several times due to rough, uneven grassy spots. If this were to happen with a stronger dog that pulls, it could certainly cause injury, There are tent poles and equipment strewn about everywhere. Dogs will easily pull you into these things where you can fall, drop a leash and let go of a dog, or worse. Fences are unstable. Areas are tightly confined. It's very easy to unknowingly find yourself face to face with another dog who may be aggressive. The area is so big that one could easily have an incident with a dog and no one would know. It almost happened while I was there. The dogs, even the lower level more relaxed dogs, are on edge and come out of their kennels reactive. Fence fighting between dogs is a real risk, and it's causing injuries. I witnessed multiple black level dogs standing and sitting in their feces. Volunteers are not allowed to assist with these dogs, which means they are left to sit like this for longer. Because of the spread out layout, a dog could remain in this condition for quite some time before being noticed, and even then have to wait longer for a staff member to properly address. The black dogs are not able to get out as they should, and this is only worsening because more dogs are being moved up to this level without adequate volunteers trained to work with them. I took a dog out but couldn't walk him far because he was already heavily panting. We sat outside in one of the little shaded areas for a bit, but it's only April. It's heartbreaking because these outs are the only time the dogs get a taste of freedom and it's so restricted already. I cannot imagine how bad it will be in just a few short weeks. The atmosphere is depressing. The energy and morale is visibly low. Volunteers are going to be quitting or reducing their time there because of how stressful it is. We come because we love the dogs, but consensus is we are nervous about injury and burnout. These dogs were moved prematurely. Their safety and wellbeing, as well as that of the humans interacting with them, was not a consideration. It's not if this house of cards tumbles, it's when. Sadly, we are seeing more dogs euthanized already. This snowball won't stop rolling down the mountain unless real change happens. I don't want to think about how many will suffer in the meantime.



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 09:07PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Kimberly Last Name: King
Email	radglama@gmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Misty Evans
Comment	I am writing on behalf of the trespassing charges brought against Misty Evans. I believe Misty and the other person being charged is in retaliation by Charlie Bishop. They have put heart and soul into the dogs and their being on property was not to vandalize or do harm but for the better good of the animals. To be punished for caring for something that has no voice of their own is ludicrous. The County and Charlie must have better things to do with their time rather than use scare tactics and retaliate against a person(s) who has a passion for the animals and was only on property for the betterment of their housing. They only want to be heard and their voices matter and to be treated with respect while at the meetings. Please reconsider the charges for both parties. Misty is the most compassionate, caring person I know not only for animals but for her family, friends and colleagues. She has a huge heart and dropping the charges would be the right thing to do.



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 09:18PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Nicole Last Name: Cabrera
Email	nicolej.cabrera@yahoo.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Misty Evans
Comment	My name is Nicole Cabrera, and I am a resident of Manatee County. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent trespassing charges brought against Misty Evans. Misty has consistently demonstrated compassion and dedication in her support of the shelter dogs. She has spent her time helping these animals find loving homes, taking them on doggy days out, and ensuring they receive the care and attention they deserve. Her actions have always reflected a genuine commitment to improving the lives of these dogs. It is difficult to reconcile these charges with the person I know Misty to be. She would never intentionally do anything that could jeopardize her ability to volunteer or assist at the shelter. Her love for these dogs is sincere, and her intentions have always been to help—not harm. Given her character and long-standing contributions, I respectfully ask that you reconsider and drop the charges against her. This situation appears to be inconsistent with her history of positive involvement and dedication to the shelter community. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Nicole Cabrera



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 09:37PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Caroline Last Name: Liljencrantz
Email	liljencrantz@hotmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop Trailer Kennels
Comment	The current set up with the trailers at Bishop is unsafe for the dogs, the staff and volunteers. Dogs will be put to sleep, staff will quit and volunteers will stop coming because they are scared to get hurt. Please do what is right and budget for an addition to the adoption center which would be cost effectively and efficiently resolve the safety concerns.



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 09:39PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Jamie Last Name: Molnar
Email	molnar.jamie@gmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Manatee County Animal Services
Comment	As a concerned citizen, a Manatee county resident and taxpayer, animal lover, and former MCAS volunteer, I am absolutely appalled at the mishandling of the construction of the new shelter. I am also shocked at the lack of care and concern from the BOCC about the safety of the dogs or the humans caring for them. The reports coming in from volunteers with boots on the ground is terrifying. Animal advocates, current and former volunteers, and experts in the field have been shouting from the rooftops for months now about how insufficient this facility is - why is the BOCC not listening? Why do you refuse to do anything? I am requesting a full investigation into Charlie Bishop and Sarah Brown, as they are ultimately responsible for this mess and should be held accountable. Thank you.



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 09:41PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Caroline Last Name: Liljencrantz
Email	liljencrantz@hotmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Misdemeanor charges against MCAW volunteers
Comment	Please, please recommend the State Attorney General drop misdemeanor charges against volunteers who allegedly trespassed at Bishop though there were no signs telling them they were.



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 10:32PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Martha Last Name: Jacobs
Email	mjorders@verizon.net
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Agenda Items 37, 38, AND 39
Comment	I am a Manatee County resident, voter, taxpayer who has been clearly shown exactly how no good deed goes unpunished in this county. Or, perhaps these are only coincidences? I'm now up to three of these "coincidences" and counting, I'm sure. I was asked to join two MCAW registered volunteers to handle privately owned dogs at the new shelter on 12/26/2025 so tweaks to the MCAW SOPs could be sorted out. As I understood it, we had permission to be there. We arrived to find the gate unlocked and wide open with no one around. There were no signs or blue cloth on the fence identifying the kennel area as a construction zone. The area around the concrete adoption center building was clearly identified as a construction zone and it was respected. Shortly after arrival I was asked by a county employee who drove by if I "needed help" with anything. I explained why we were there and he thanked me then went on with his work. We were there for close to 2 hours. More than enough time to be asked to leave. Security cameras were on at the time as well. Fast forward to January 6th when the two volunteers spoke out at the BOCC meeting about the concerning issues they found. Coincidence #1 – 48 hours after that meeting (11 days after being at the shelter) I was contacted by a MCSO Detective who let me know I was under investigation for felony trespass for entering an active construction zone and it seems there were destruction of property charges in there as well. Apparently, the Certificate of Occupancy hadn't been issued so technically it was still under construction. Who would have known? As to the destruction of property charges, well they stemmed from water being sprayed in one of the outside runs. Really?? The Detective told me on 1/15/26 that he was wrapping up his investigation and if I was going to be charged, it would be a misdemeanor trespass and I would be charged within a few days. I attended the 1/27/26 meeting to speak out about the issues at the new shelter and to let the bully who had us investigated know they hadn't silenced me. At that meeting, one of the commissioners asked Charlie Bishop if he knew who filed the charges – he said it was "the county" and the contractor. Coincidence #2 – On April 6th I submitted a comment for the BOCC meeting the next day regarding Mr. Bishop's contract renewal. I summarized Coincidence #1 and wondered if he really is the type of person we want as a top employee in this county. The next day I listened in on the meeting. I looked at the public comments and discovered mine was no where to be found. During the meeting I copied my comment into an email and sent it to all Commissioners. I am please to see my email did make it to the comment section for this 4/21/26 meeting. Its absence was ?Coincidence? #2. Coincidence #3 – More than 3 months went by after the Detective said I'd be charged within days if I was going to be charged and during that time, I heard nothing. Yet LESS THAN 48 hours after submitting my disappearing public comment, a Manatee County Sherrif was knocking on my door to hand me a summons to appear to answer to charges of misdemeanor trespass. What a coincidence that was!! In these last 4 months I have heard stories of county employees working under Mr. Bishop who were afraid to submit whistleblower complaints for fear of losing their jobs. Yes, there are federal laws that would protect them but who can afford to lose a job or easily find another job in this economy? Additionally, filing a lawsuit to get a job back costs the wronged party money up front! I have also read and heard things about Mr. Bishop using his personal cell phone instead of the county issued one and a number of other shady and slimy antics. Personally, I'm not a believer in coincidences. I am a firm believer that when someone shows you who they really are you should believe them. Charlie Bishop appears to have shown the county over and over again just who he really is. As I stated in my comment for 4/7, Mr. Bishop's attempts to silence, intimidate and even willingly destroy the lives of anyone who speaks against him without considering his and the county's own complicity are, in

my opinion, unethical if not immoral. Is this really the type of person the taxpayers of Manatee County should be paying a \$255K+ salary to? I think not.

Thank you and I hope this one makes it to the agenda. If not, I guess I'll just email it in again!



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 11:23PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Karen Last Name: Ciemniecki
Email	karenciemniecki@verizon.net
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop Animal shelter and Charlie Bishop's lack of fiscal spending practices and leadership along with lawsuits designed to waste more taxpayer money
Comment	I am so ashamed of the BOCC and Charlie Bishop that I hate to tell people I live in Manatee County. Charlie needs to step up and take responsibility for his failure and stop trying to sugar coat in. Promises were made on a new animal facility so animals would be safely housed, volunteers would be able to work in a new improved safe environment, and taxpayer money would not be wasted. This is not the case. The new improved shelter is unsafe for dogs and volunteers. Volunteers are quitting because of the working atmosphere. Without your volunteers, you have a poorly run shelter. I worked as a volunteer at Nates since the time they opened and I always felt secure in the care for the dogs and the safety of the volunteers. Taxpayer money was ill spend on an overpriced facility that put animals and people in unsafe situation. It was not modeled after Nates. It's a cheap knock off. You plan to keep dogs in unsafe conditions during hurricane season. There are so many things that were done wrong and you all are so proud of your failure. Charle Bishop is one of the most overpaid, inefficient administer that we've had. I have been in the county for over 40 years and have always been proud of our commitment to shelter animals. Not any more. Are you even listening to citizens and volunteers?? "To top it all off, the county is wasting taxpayer money again by prosecuting citizen for caring about the facility. That States Attorney needs to drop all charges now. The law suit appears to be some sort of power play that BOCC is pushing." Volunteers will not work with threats hang over them. Excuses are given for all the problems, but the problem are not being solved. The Palmetto shelter was old and had some problem, but animal and volunteers were happy and safe. Each one of you need to show up at the shelter and spent part of the day walking and socializing with the animals. Then give an informed response. Hopefully it will be a rainy windy day or a 90 degrees day. Get involved personally. The animals and volunteers deserve no less. Find the funds, raise money, whatever it takes before our brutal summer arrives. Do the right thing for once! Fix the situation no more band aides. Manatee County citizen Karen Ciemniecki Meeting ID number 87007237254



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 20, 2026, 11:23PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Karen Last Name: Ciemniecki
Email	karenciemniecki@verizon.net
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop Animal shelter and Charlie Bishop's lack of fiscal spending practices and leadership along with lawsuits designed to waste more taxpayer money
Comment	I am so ashamed of the BOCC and Charlie Bishop that I hate to tell people I live in Manatee County. Charlie needs to step up and take responsibility for his failure and stop trying to sugar coat in. Promises were made on a new animal facility so animals would be safely housed, volunteers would be able to work in a new improved safe environment, and taxpayer money would not be wasted. This is not the case. The new improved shelter is unsafe for dogs and volunteers. Volunteers are quitting because of the working atmosphere. Without your volunteers, you have a poorly run shelter. I worked as a volunteer at Nates since the time they opened and I always felt secure in the care for the dogs and the safety of the volunteers. Taxpayer money was ill spend on an overpriced facility that put animals and people in unsafe situation. It was not modeled after Nates. It's a cheap knock off. You plan to keep dogs in unsafe conditions during hurricane season. There are so many things that were done wrong and you all are so proud of your failure. Charle Bishop is one of the most overpaid, inefficient administer that we've had. I have been in the county for over 40 years and have always been proud of our commitment to shelter animals. Not any more. Are you even listening to citizens and volunteers?? "To top it all off, the county is wasting taxpayer money again by prosecuting citizen for caring about the facility. That States Attorney needs to drop all charges now. The law suit appears to be some sort of power play that BOCC is pushing." Volunteers will not work with threats hang over them. Excuses are given for all the problems, but the problem are not being solved. The Palmetto shelter was old and had some problem, but animal and volunteers were happy and safe. Each one of you need to show up at the shelter and spent part of the day walking and socializing with the animals. Then give an informed response. Hopefully it will be a rainy windy day or a 90 degrees day. Get involved personally. The animals and volunteers deserve no less. Find the funds, raise money, whatever it takes before our brutal summer arrives. Do the right thing for once! Fix the situation no more band aides. Manatee County citizen Karen Ciemniecki Meeting ID number 87007237254



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 21, 2026, 01:08AM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Glen GADFLY Last Name: Gibellina
Email	glengibellina@gmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Future agenda mosaic
Comment	I am writing to express my absolute outrage regarding the continued "business as usual" approach this Board maintains with Mosaic. For too long, this body has operated as a rubber stamp for a corporate entity that has demonstrated, time and again, a complete and utter disregard for the environmental safety, economic stability, and the fundamental trust of the residents of this community. The track record is not just concerning; it is a roadmap of negligence. Over the last decade, Mosaic has been forced to settle nearly \$2 billion in fines and environmental remediation costs related to the improper management of hazardous waste at its facilities. These are not minor clerical errors; these are massive, systemic failures in handling phosphogypsum stacks and wastewater that threaten our groundwater—the very lifeblood of our region. When a company is hit with a settlement of that magnitude, it is a clear signal that their operational model is fundamentally broken. If the environmental devastation weren't enough, we are now seeing the true colors of their corporate ethics through recent and ongoing investigations into price-fixing. While our local farmers and residents struggle with rising costs and economic uncertainty, Mosaic is being scrutinized for allegedly manipulating the market to line their own pockets at the expense of the American food supply chain. This is a betrayal of the very "community partner" image they spend millions in PR to cultivate. How much more evidence do you need? How many more sinkholes, stack leaks, and billion-dollar fines must occur before this Board finds the backbone to prioritize the citizens of Manatee County over the interests of a multinational polluter? Your primary obligation is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people you represent—not to facilitate the expansion of a company that treats our environment like a private dump and our economy like a rigged game. We are watching your votes, and we will no longer accept a "wait and see" approach to a company that has already shown us exactly who they are. I demand that this Board immediately implement stricter local oversight, cease the expedited approval of any new mining permits or stack expansions, and conduct a full, independent audit of the impact these operations have on our local infrastructure and water security. The time for cozying up to corporate lobbyists is over. The community is awake, and we demand accountability. For the Record GADFLY



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 21, 2026, 07:43AM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: DARLENE Last Name: THEURER
Email	darlene.theurer@yahoo.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Misdemeanor charges against Misty Evans
Comment	I am writing on behalf of Misty Evans, a dedicated volunteer in our community, regarding a current misdemeanor charge they are facing. I have had the privilege of knowing her for 20 years, and I can confidently say they are a person of integrity, compassion and strong commitment to helping. Through her volunteer work, she has made a meaningful and positive impact at MCAS. Our community benefits from individuals like Misty, and she is a much needed advocate especially with the current situation at Bishop. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.