



April 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop and Jail facilities

Category

COMMISSIONER AGENDA/COMMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Commissioner Dr. Robert McCann

Action Requested

Direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation were completed post move. Unless Animal services are prepared to answer the following questions and give a presentation on April 21st: The final number of dogs moved and their destination locations, identification of personnel present on-site to oversee and direct the physical move, a summary of the minor injuries sustained by dogs during the relocation, pre-and post-move evaluation outcomes for the dogs, identification of who conducted these evaluations, a detailed description of the "sharp edges" identified for modification, an assessment of how effective those modifications have been, disclosure of any additional issues identified as problematic that require attention and the official start date for volunteers beginning work at the Bishop

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Commissioner

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

With the Administrator absence at the last meeting, questions remained unanswered for the movement of the dogs. The Commission voted to have a complete update at the next BOCC meeting. This update did not appear of the preliminary draft of the April 21st meeting. The following motion passed unanimously at the last meeting.

48. Motion to direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation were completed post move.

See attached Agenda Update Memo Version 2, 4/14/26 & Update Memo 3, 4/15/26

Attorney Review

Instructions to Board Records

Motion to direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation were completed post move.

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs



April 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - April 14, 2026 Version 2

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates(dated April 14, 2026 Version 2) for the meeting of April 21, 2026.

37. Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop and Jail facilities

The following changes to the background and discussion:

With the Administrator absence at the last meeting, questions remained unanswered for the movement of the dogs. The Commission voted to have a complete update at the next BOCC meeting. This update did not appear of the preliminary draft of the April 21st meeting. The following motion passed unanimously as the last meeting.

48. Motion to direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation were completed post move.

38. County Administrator Contract Renewal

The following language added to the Background and Discussion:

FINDINGS AND JUSTIFICATION:

- Election Year: 2026 is an election year in Manatee County Florida. Four seats are up for election at the BOCC. The County Administrator's contract is due to renew on August 8, 2026. The primary election is only 10 days later, August 18, 2026.
- Board Continuity: The current Board recognizes that the selection and retention of a County Administrator is one of the most significant policy decisions a governing body makes. Extending the current contract through the end of the calendar year ensures that the seated Board following the upcoming election cycle has the direct authority to negotiate and vote on a long-term agreement.
- Operational Stability: This extension prevents a lapse in leadership during the transition period, ensuring that county operations, department management, and ongoing capital projects continue without interruption.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: By maintaining the current "status quo" terms for the remainder of the year, the Board avoids committing the County to long-term financial obligations or structural changes immediately prior to a shift in Board composition.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this extension will be accounted for within this Fiscal Budget.

39. Dismissal of Trespass Charges at Bishop Kennel Facility

The following language added to Background/Discussion:

A vote was previously taken by the County Commission to continue charges despite Charlie Bishop, the County Administrator, stating for the County and its vendors to drop the felony trespass charges, the Commission has the authority by vote to direct the County and its vendors to "drop" the charges. The investigation revealed that the elements of a felony were not present and first-degree misdemeanor charges were presented. The individuals were Summoned to appear on 5/6/2026 at 9 am.

Note: If a complainant drops charges for misdemeanor trespass in Florida, the charges are not automatically dismissed. Because the State, not the victim, prosecutes crimes, the State Attorney has the final authority to continue or drop the case. However, a victim's request to drop charges is highly persuasive and often leads to dismissal.

The specific charge states, "Trespass to dwelling -"entered and remained with the intent to commit an offense thereon."

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A



April 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop and Jail facilities

Category

COMMISSIONER AGENDA/COMMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Commissioner Dr. Robert McCann

Action Requested

Direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation were completed post move. Unless Animal services are prepared to answer the following questions and give a presentation on April 21st: The final number of dogs moved and their destination locations, identification of personnel present on-site to oversee and direct the physical move, a summary of the minor injuries sustained by dogs during the relocation, pre-and post-move evaluation outcomes for the dogs, identification of who conducted these evaluations, a detailed description of the "sharp edges" identified for modification, an assessment of how effective those modifications have been, disclosure of any additional issues identified as problematic that require attention and the official start date for volunteers beginning work at the Bishop

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Commissioner

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

With the Administrator absence at the last meeting, questions remained unanswered for the movement of the dogs. The Commission voted to have a complete update at the next BOCC meeting. This motion passed unanimously. This update did not appear of the preliminary draft of the April 21st meeting.

Attorney Review

Instructions to Board Records

Motion to direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation were completed post move.

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name**Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs**

REVISED/REPLACED



Public Comment

Submitted On:

Apr 7, 2026, 05:53PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Julie Last Name: Madison
Email	julie.madison@toptierk9.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 07, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop kennels
Comment	I attended the ribbon cutting on December 16th for the Bishop animal shelter. At that point there had been enough push back that Comissioner Kruse made a comment in his speech about how no good deed goes unpunished. I want to be clear. The sloppiness, negligence, frugality, and general disregard for safety and functionality that went into the process of how we ended up with the catastrophe that is the current Bishop facility was not a good deed. Anyone involved in its layout, design, approval, as well as not actively to help us get what we need has and is participating in throwing a community already in crisis even deeper into that hole. Not all dogs are created equal, and this facility won't hold dogs with certain issues, which will lead to them being abandoned on our streets unless we figure out alternative options. Intentions don't matter, quality of performance does, CO's don't matter, functional space matters. The UF report was never for the volunteers or for the public. The BOCC wasn't "doing us a favor" by inviting UF out, we know what the problems are, and that this project is beyond repair. We know the reason that you keep ignoring us when we talk about sound proofing materials is because it's not a possible or realistic option to rip out the insides of the prefabs and redo them. For a decade, volunteers have been coming in with a laundry list of issues that they needed resolved. If the County had taken the time to build a facility that actually resolved those issues there would have been no need for UF. If you had looked at, listened, and acted upon the concerns of long time volunteers that were brought up at the January 27th BoCC meeting, there would have been no need for a UF report. The above and beyond section of the government presentation was as laughable as it was depressing, it was the bare minimum to get the property to function humanely, and yet the dogs were moved without even finishing those. Charlie Bishop asked when the appropriate time would have been to move the dogs, after the bare minimum was done. The BoCC/county has had to listen to concerns for a decade, and instead of designing a facility to remedy that, someone approved a design that will intensify the problems. We weren't looking for a Cadillac, we were looking

and are still looking for something middle of the road that runs reliably, instead we were delivered a lemon.

We keep hearing the CIP is full, the BoCC would have to find the money, and we are telling you to take the time to sit down, figure it out. and find the money to budget for a concrete block addition to the adoption center. It's necessary infrastructure to help us keep the public safe. This is the only municipal shelter for 450,000 people, it needs to be highly functional. You talk about there being no residual value in the prefabs, we know.... Which is why for a decade the community asked for a concrete block facility. This was not our choice, it does not meet our needs, and it is your responsibility as public servants to budget for and fix, and the fix is a concrete block addition to the adoption center.

From: Misty Evans <evans0143@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 5:55 PM

To: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <Tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Animal shelter

FYI on the volunteers per the Volunteer Coordinator, Ellie and more pictures.



- 1.) the dogs are going to chew off the zip ties
- 2.) at best they will rip and pull the fabric off, at worst the possibility of ingesting the material
- 3.) the dogs still shouldn't be outside for more than 30 minutes in weather over 85 degrees, even with shade
- 4.) I told their people this back at the ribbon cutting in December
- 5.) IMO this is wasting tax payer dollars and time on bandaids that no professional would recommend as a temporary solution
- 6.) this is why we need a concrete block structure that meets our needs



Comment as Misty Evans

CAREFUL! TOO HOT FOR PETS		
AIR TEMP	CONCRETE	ASPHALT
85°	105°	130°
91°	125°	140°
97°	145°	150°

Welcome to Bishop! Inbox x



Ellie Levine <message@volunteer2mai... 4:01PM (3 minutes ago)
to me ▾



↩ Reply

Hello MCAW Volunteers,

We're so excited to share that we are inviting Dog Volunteers back, starting this week - we've really missed you all! Please see start dates below based on your color/training level.

As we get settled into the new Bishop facility, all Dog Walkers will be **required** to complete a retraining session. The layout and procedures are a bit different from Palmetto, so this will help everyone feel confident and comfortable before getting back to walking dogs.

All current Black, Blue, and Red level Walkers will receive a separate email with a link to sign up for a Staff-led training session. Please be sure to register in advance, as we won't be able to accommodate walk-ins. We'll be offering a variety of session dates for each level to accommodate everyone's availability. If you are not available to attend any of the training sessions listed in the follow up email, please reach out and we will work with you on coordinating a date and time.

Here's when each group will begin (these are not all of the dates; please see follow-up email coming shortly with all dates for your Dog Walking level):

- Black Level Walkers and Dog Walking Trainers: 4-9-26
- Blue Level Walkers: 4-17-26
- Red Level Walkers: 4-30-26



April 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - April 15, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 4/15/26) for the meeting of April 21, 2026:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Generic Public Comments

- This agenda item was updated to include additional generic comments.

REGULAR

Attorney

Item 44, Draft County Administrator Contract

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 37, Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop and Jail facilities

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Item 38, County Administrator Contract Renewal

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Item 39, Dismissal of Trespass Charges at Bishop Kennel Facility

- This agenda item was updated with public comment.

Item 42, Update on ONDCP White House Homeless Summit Update

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Item 43, Letter of Agreement Authorizing Crime Stoppers of Manatee County, Inc.

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS – BISHOP ANIMAL SHELTER

From: Brandan Hardie <bhardie@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:23 AM

To: Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: What in the world is going on with County leadership and representation?

The below outline of issues is from one of the volunteers from the Manatee shelter. As a concerned citizen and tax payer and VOTER, these issues (in addition to the size of the kennels and kennel construction) need to be addressed immediately for the safety of the animals, volunteers and county workers.

The lack of oversight, lack of attempts to get insight from those most knowledgeable about animal care, and the lie about the UF "visit" are topics I am sharing with every friend and neighbor I have in Manatee County.

Fix this. Do it right. No more excuses.

Brandan Kools (New pet parent to 167 lb Maximus who would not have fit in one of these new pins).

Cortez, FL (From one of the neighborhoods you tried to blockade with a boat ramp).

From one of MANY concerned volunteers:

There is no laundry on site currently. They are using towels & blanks until they are too soiled & trashing them.

There is no way to sanitize laundry or collars.

Each "buliding" has a small storage type work area. Small sink. Not all have fridge for enrichment.

2 play yards are out of commission due to dogs digging out.

We're advised to "body block" when taking dogs from exterior kennel doors. If issues with equipment notify staff for assistance.

Shade is so limited and on walks only available in the extended walk area.

There are 3 different type of gate latches on property, 2 require 2 hands.

The temp catch pen areas around exterior of each building have gates that open in a direction leaving volunteers subject to reactivity bites (=dog death)when taking & bring back dogs.

Each building is identified with a "fire code" letter & a color coded letter, causing confusion identifying each building.

Each building has a small board listing dogs, no room for any notes about behaviors & such.

We heard at least 30 times in 2 hours. "The dogs are really loving the outside day & night. Its more stimulation for them & most seem happier"
Well yeah, the inside is like a comforter box size And what will be the mosquito plan?

My addition: The dogs are content to be outside now, it's April, how is this facility going to operate in heat of June/july/august/September? Zero thought went into the design of this facility in regards to safety and functionality, and even less went into the move. Yards should have bee Astro turfed prior to move, of course dogs are digging out. These are the issues since the volunteers got back on April 9th... 6 days... We weren't asking for a Cadillac, we were asking for a car that would get us from point A to point B reliably, instead our community was given a rusted out junker with no engine and four flat wheels. Our community is ALREADY in crisis, we need a facility that works for us, not against us.

Kennels are on the agenda for April 21st, please share, comment, write, and show up.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fagendaonline.mymanatee.org%2FOnBaseAgendaOnline%2FMeetings%2FViewMeeting%3Fid%3D757%26doctype%3D1&data=05%7C02%7Cpublic.comments%40mymanatee.org%7C2f85c0198df0480b0c6e08de9a487369%7Cc0bf18587742240f2a8f2eaa3a4ea4240%7C0%7C0%7C639117833125619418%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIiYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y1TvB6fDKRKL%2Bb1jPk6cNAr4mfBWtm4r%2FyfmbHQ7ewgo%3D&reserved=0>

tal.siddique@mymanatee.org george.kruse@mymanatee.org;
amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org; jason.bearden@mymanatee.org;
mike.rahn@mymanatee.org



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 13, 2026, 09:52PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: David Last Name: Daniels
Email	davidd4300@gmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 21, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	KENNEL UPDATE
Comment	I am still waiting for one of the commissioners to ask for accountability on the poor decision to buy cheaply made, poorly designed kennels. How about just ask whether anyone in the administration contacted another shelter that uses these 16-kennel trailers to ask how they are working out and whether they would recommend them? Doesn't that seem like something a \$255K employee would do before agreeing to go with something so different than what is standard in the industry? Or how about reviewing the July 25, 2023 BoCC meeting, agenda item "update on Manatee County Animal Welfare" (starts at about 2 hrs 45 minutes in) and try to square that discussion with what is at Bishop now. Because there has been no other public discussion or approval. There is no way a reasonable person can think these 16 kennel trailers were approved by the board. So who is responsible for this fiasco? How many more non-transparent embarrassments is this board willing to sweep under the rug? Had the previous board demanded accountability for the wetland buffer elimination, or the public records lawsuit, or the code enforcement corruption, we would not be in this situation. Actually, if this board would have listened to Dr McCann and held the administration accountable for the non-transparent underhanded way the LWR roundabout was slipped into the consent agenda, we might not be in this situation. How many more will it take? The ball is in this board's court. Do nothing, and eventually informed voters will elect a board that agrees with the overwhelming public opinion calling for accountability. It's time for a change. And this board needs to find the money for a decent shelter. We aren't looking for a Taj Mahal. We want something not to be embarrassed of. Something workable and safe for the staff volunteers and animals.

From: Gina Saroniero <gsaroniero@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6:50 PM

To: Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; mrbob.mccann@mymanatee.org;
George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden
<jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Amanda
Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Urgent: Immediate Action Needed for Conditions at Bishop Animal Shelter
Kennel Facility

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you as a taxpayer and a Manatee County resident of more than 30 years to demand immediate action regarding the unacceptable and inhumane conditions currently being reported at the Bishop kennel facility—an operation funded with approximately \$12 million in public tax dollars.

The conditions described by volunteers and those working directly with the animals are deeply alarming and require urgent attention:

- There is currently no on-site laundry capability. Towels and blankets are used until heavily soiled and then discarded, with no way to properly sanitize bedding or collars.
- Basic infrastructure is inadequate. Each building has only a small storage/work area with a sink, and not all buildings have refrigerators for enrichment or care needs.
- Two play yards are already out of service due to dogs digging out—an entirely predictable issue that appears to have gone unaddressed in the facility design.
- Volunteers are being instructed to “body block” dogs when moving them through exterior kennel doors, posing serious safety risks to both humans and animals.
- Shade is extremely limited, especially concerning as we approach the extreme heat of summer months.
- The facility contains inconsistent and confusing gate latch systems, some requiring two hands, further complicating safe handling.
- Exterior catch pen gate designs expose volunteers to potential reactive dog bites, which could result in unnecessary euthanasia of animals.
- Building identification systems are inconsistent and confusing, and there is insufficient space to document critical behavioral notes for each dog.
- Dogs are reportedly being left outside day and night, with claims that they are “happier,” despite indoor spaces being described as extremely cramped

These issues surfaced within just days of volunteers returning to the facility. That alone speaks volumes about the severity of the situation.

While the dogs may currently tolerate outdoor conditions in April, there appears to have been little to no planning for how this facility will function during the intense heat, humidity, and mosquito-heavy months of June through September. This raises serious concerns about animal welfare, safety, and long-term sustainability. This community did not ask for luxury—we asked for a facility that is safe, functional, and capable of meeting basic standards of care. Instead, what has been delivered appears to be fundamentally flawed in both design and execution, actively working against the needs of the animals, staff, and volunteers.

Manatee County is already facing an animal welfare crisis. We cannot afford a facility that exacerbates the problem rather than helps solve it.

I respectfully but firmly demand the following:

- Immediate review and correction of unsafe and unsanitary conditions
- Installation of proper laundry and sanitation facilities
- Infrastructure improvements to ensure safety for both animals and handlers
- A clear, transparent plan for summer heat mitigation
- Accountability for how taxpayer funds were allocated and why critical needs were overlooked

This issue is scheduled for discussion on April 21st. I urge you to take these concerns seriously, act swiftly, and ensure that this facility meets the standards our community and these animals deserve.

I, along with many others in this community, will be watching closely.

Gina Saroniero

Manatee County Resident (30+ years)

From: Julie Madison <julie.madison@toptierk9.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 8:06 AM

To: Sarah Brown <sarah.brown@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Bishop Band aids

Commissioners, County Administrator, and Sarah,

It has been less than a month since the dogs have moved into the new Bishop facility. In this time the band aids have taken on a life of their own.

Already, we have tried (and some have already failed):

1.) securing mesh shade to the outside of the runs, - Staff was told back in December that this wouldn't work because the dogs would eat through the zip ties securing it (FYI both plastic and metal), then they will start to rip and eat the mesh. Sarah, can you clarify if all the mesh shade was removed when the pop up tents went up? Or is this still a hazard for some of the dogs?

2.) the outside drains - when I originally met with commissioner Kruse this is one of the reasons (not the only) I primarily focused on building what we need, which is an addition to the adoption center, on the outside drains the covers have already been removed. Sarah, why were the drain covers on the outside removed? Are there any plans to put something over them? My educated guess would be the grate slits weren't wide enough to let debris into the drains and everything was going right over them and into/onto the ground. This is now causing unsafe conditions for your most experienced volunteers some of whom are mentioning issues with the uneven terrain EVERY time they take a dog out. The only fix for the drains is a custom designed piece that will somehow 1.) allow debris into the drains, 2.) not create a tripping hazard 3.) allow the door to still open, or we could just budget for an addition to the adoption center which would resolve the other issues

3.) the pop up tents- I understand why they did them, the dogs needed shade since this wasn't appropriately planned for. Unfortunately this is not an acceptable long term solution. Even if securely tied to the fences those pop up tents will be hazards in extreme weather.

In addition to the fixes that have been tried we also have other major issues:

1.) Dogs have dug out of the play yards, two of the play yards are out of commission, which is why the dogs should not have been moved until the AstroTurf was installed,

2.) the uneven terrain getting dogs out- sidewalks should have been installed when concrete was poured, it actually would have been super easy to extend the concrete pads by 6-8 feet on either side so the volunteers and staff should have a safe/even place to walk- this also should have been done prior to the move once you were made aware of it, this needs to be done to use the prefabs safely

3.) the dogs are now primarily being left outside because there is no safe way to access them inside. It isn't a huge issue today, but summer is coming. Sarah, what's the SOP going to be when it's too hot to leave the dogs in the outside runs?

These aren't small kinks that will work themselves out or be easily remedied, these are major design flaws that are going to daily impact quality of care and basic safety, every single day until an appropriate facility is budgeted for and built.

Sarah, will there be a laundry area in the adoption center? It seems that right now there is no way to do laundry.

Lastly, Sarah, why have all the dogs been removed from the Jail and transferred over to Bishop? I thought the deputy administrator said that we spent a year ensuring that would be a smooth transition and they would be ready for dogs.

Julie Madison

--

Julie Madison
Top Tier K9 - Bradenton
203-733-7183

12:05

5G 73

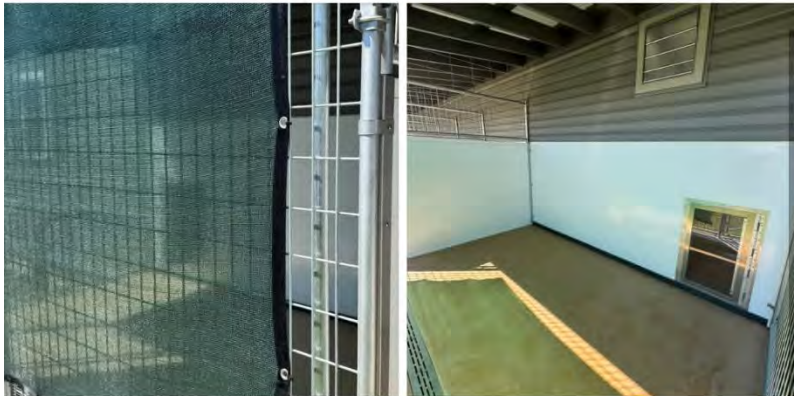


Manatee County Animal Welfare



51m · 🌐

best possible care for our animals.



9



1



Most relevant ▾



Julie Madison · Just now

That's not going to work the dogs will chew off the zip ties and rip the fabric through... which I told your people back in December at the ribbon cutting... but sure keep going with the 🦌 show

Reply



Comment as Julie Madison



2:54



Manatee County Animal Welfare 

3h · 



Shellie Burney Szeezil · 1h

Slapping together a prefab building.

Ok that's just peachy 🍑

Reply



Eva Wolbers · 21m

My chihuahua chewed this up in 5 minutes and the door is open. She's not trying to get through, this was just for fun, not desperation!



Reply



Jessica Schildgen · 1h

Yeah I'll give it 6 months before all the dogs are back at palmetto

Reply



Julie Madison · 1h

[Jessica Schildgen](#) we should get a pool going.

Reply



Maxwell Allen · 1h



Comment as Julie Madison







From: Julie Madison <julie.madison@toptierk9.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 8:59 AM
To: Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Sarah Brown <sarah.brown@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Oh... and this too apparently

A brand new facility shouldn't be dealing with these issues. Period. This is BASIC task that should have been factored into the design of the facility.

--

Julie Madison
Top Tier K9 - Bradenton
203-733-7183

Another thing to add to the Bishop fiasco... there is no where in the kennel pod to empty the dirty water in mop buckets.

The buckets of water are too heavy and awkward to lift to dump in the small sinks.

An option is for Staff to take the bucket outside to drains in the middle of the grass area between each pod. No good option has been identified. You could smell the dirty water in each kennel pod.

SUPPOSED to take the ^{waste} ~~urine/feces~~ away & it's at the FRONT of the kennel. This is what the step down looks like now.

Our goal USED to be to get the dogs out of their kennels three times a day. We're struggling to get the dogs out twice. It is NOT unusual for the morning outs to NOT be done until 11:30 AM.

The yards are at the far end of the property. It's a LONG hot walk to those yards which are already becoming dirt yards.

Everything is taking longer due to the poor layout. Can you imagine rainy season? Tromping & slipping through what will be mud?

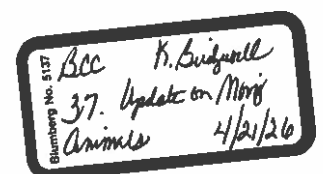
There are NO laundry machines for the dogs. Donated linens are being used until they are soiled & then thrown out.

There is NO bathing station for the dogs. I handled a feces covered dog & had to do the best I could for him in a yard without even a washcloth or shampoo.

All dogs are predominantly staying in their outside kennels so that they can see activity. Many are showing signs of heat sensitivity & we're not even in summer yet.

I picked up a senior dog late one afternoon. She was heavily panting when I got her. It took her 40 minutes to stop panting. What will the summer be like for her?

We MUST hold the BOCC responsible. This shelter is FAILING. There are MAJOR safety issues that CANNOT be fixed.



I was hoping that the new Bishop shelter would be better than I feared. Unfortunately it's WORSE.

At Palmetto we were REQUIRED to get a reactive dog out from the opposite side of it's kennel which was on the side that no other dogs were. At Bishop, due to the narrow & unusable interior aisle, ALL dogs are required to be taken from their outside kennel. This forces us to get dogs out in close proximity to each other. The reactive dogs are housed in the larger kennels at the ends of each trailer DIRECTLY ADJACENT to the gate to get out. As we try to open the gates, dogs are trying to get to each other making this a dangerous endeavor for EVERY dog & handler.

The next challenge is to get to a walking area away from other dogs. You have two choices to do that. Walk down the mid-section with 4 rows of barking dogs on either side of you or go up over & down these steps.

There are tripping hazards ALL over. The trailers do NOT have adequate hoses so hoses are stretched to multiple trailers.

The risk for dog bites has risen dramatically.

Dogs that used to be visually separated from each other are STARING at each other since the kennel trailers are lined up in two long vertical rows. Even what were EASY dogs to handle are acting out.

In less than a month, close to 15% of the dogs have deteriorated to the point that they are now labeled black or staff only dogs which means they will be handled less and deteriorate more.

The drain for the outside kennels is SO BAD that it's already had the cover removed. It's depth is less than 2 inches. THIS is what is



April 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - April 20, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 4/20/26) for the meeting of April 21, 2026:

REGULAR

Attorney

Item 44, Draft County Administrator Contract

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Government Relations

Item 33, Update of progress on Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant and Lasting Manatee Program, Robert Burke, Business Services Manager, and Edrick Sweeting, Grant Supervisor

- This agenda updated to reflect presenters as Robert Burke, Business Services Manager, and Odugo Ohizu, Communications Coordinator - CDBG-DR.

REPORTS

Development Services

Item 36, Report on Environmental Compliance Field Solutions - follow up to Agenda Item #50 on April 7, 2026, Nicole Knapp, Development Services Director, and Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director - District 1

- This agenda item was updated with a public comment.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 37, Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop and Jail facilities

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Item 38, County Administrator Contract Renewal

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Item 39, Dismissal of Trespass Charges at Bishop Kennel Facility

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Item 43, Letter of Agreement Authorizing Crime Stoppers of Manatee County, Inc.

- This agenda item was updated with a Letter of Support from Ed Brodsky, State Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS – BISHOP ANIMAL SHELTER

From: Misty Evans <evans0143@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:11 AM

To: George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>

Subject:

My name is Misty Lee Evans.

I am a Manatee County resident, living here now for over 30 years now.

As a child living up north was a wonderful experience with my family. I stayed with my grandparents a lot who lived off their land, farming, and their own garden. Having the opportunity to be around animals to include, cows, chickens, horses, dogs, cats and more, I grew a deep love for nature and appreciation for it.

My family serving the community goes all the way back to my grandparents on both sides with my grandfather being in the military serving his country. My grandmother opened her home to disabled vets, and I remember helping her cook and care for them as a child, giving them a home and a way to start over. My Dad a volunteer EMT and my brother a Fire Fighter. I realized as a very young age that I wanted to care for people, animals and help serve my community. I started waitressing full time at Perkins on 14th street in Bradenton when I was 16 years old, with my heart being pulled to our elders. Supporting myself I got my GED and was emancipated, living and supporting myself, living on my own at 16. I worked hard to fulfill my love for the medical field. I put myself through school at MTI, now MTC. I ended with my EMT certificate with my brother-in-law inspiring me and working himself up to the Manatee County EMS District Chief. He also works with the First Responders, ESD, emotional support dog. My sister-in-law an ER nurse at Blake for over 28 years, now running one of the HCA mini hospitals.

Having family that all serves our community extending to other states and counties has been a blessing. I have worked in the medical field for many years, at Blake Hospital, doctor offices and labs, now focused on helping injured employees with rehabilitation/recovery and getting their lives back.

I started volunteering at MCAW in June of 2003. I still remember my first day seeing our homeless animals and how excited they were to see me. I couldn't wait to help them feel loved and help them get homes. Not to long after 11 volunteers were fired including one of my mentors, I was in shock and it hit me hard wondering how volunteers could be fired, it broke my heart to be honest. I knew I had to be there and help even more so

I started going in a lot, introducing myself to all the new volunteers, and eventually started my own MCAW volunteers, group so we could help one another and work together to do what we had to get these dogs in homes. We all did our part communicating when some dogs were suffering from kennel stress. We all fostered, took dogs out for a break, spent hours with them at Palmetto walking and caring for them.

Hearing about our new shelter, I was looking forward to giving our dogs a new home, having all of us together at one location, and working even closer with staff and my fellow volunteers. I sent a congrats message to Sarah Brown for the December 16th, 2025, ribbon cutting, not being able to go in person. She thanked me and offered for me to see it before it officially opened. The public walked through the kennels and saw the grounds, at the time there were Christmas stockings on the doors, small stuffed dogs with small beds inside the kennels, it was quiet and it looked very appealing all decorated.

On December 26th, 2025, 10 days after the ribbon cutting, I decided to take up Sarah on her invite, Julie Madison did attend the ribbon cutting and wanted to see it up close, so we did so along with another experienced dog handler and friend. Julie started working with dogs at a young age. She worked me as a MCAW volunteer at adoption events, being a dear friend, she also helped a dog I had and saving many who would have been unadoptable, no fault of their own. Julie is seen in public with her trained dogs and has them with her often. We met up at bishop as we were talking about it and wanted to see it together to get a good feel for it.

Within minutes of seeing it in person, I was very worried.

I knew our requirements for distance as a volunteer was 10 feet, dog to dog immediately seeing how close the fabricated homes were to one another.

I saw a lot of blind spots.

I saw no windows in the doors going into the fabricated homes like at Palmetto.

I noticed a lot of grass on the outside runs, thinking of our heavy rainy season and excited dogs pulling us to get out.

I noticed how high the latches were on the outside runs.

Also seeing the play yards at the other end of the property, Julie walking and counting how many steps/timing her walk, as we know time is limited for these dogs, having 10-15 minutes each per walk is typical.

I did not see any shading, thinking of the hot sun, and dogs being 3x likely to have heat stroke. We had a couple MCAW pass away or need medical care from.

We also noted the drainage and concern for spread of disease

Narrow hallways.

Shallow,small kennels as we have big breed dogs, pittbulls, cane corso, shepherds and more, usually 40-60lbs easy and I have worked with many being up to 100lbs.

Slippery floors and it wasn't raining this day, just moisture build up on the outside runs.

It was one thing after another and we knew, being experienced volunteers, long time dog handlers, we had a very concerning shelter/situation.

Both being experienced with dogs and happened to have Julie's trained dogs, we felt it was our duty to get a better idea of the concerns we had, to get examples making sure everyone was aware before moving dogs into these kennels.

We wanted and emailed pictures to all the commissioners and listed our concerns within just a couple days of seeing the bishop grounds.

We attended the January BOCC meeting presenting our concerns and talking about them in person to bring awareness to the situation.

Within 48 hours of the meeting, a detective showed up at Julie and my home to advise us that we were being charged with 3rd degree felony trespassing charges. This now being a month after the ribbon cutting and weeks after our initial visit.

An invite was shared.

There were no construction zone or trespassing signs.

The gate was open to the completed grounds/kennels.

Staff was near by, saw us, nothing was said

There was no damage was done.

If there was any intention it was a last-minute decision to do what we felt was needed and best for our staff and MCAW homeless dogs.

I felt this had to be shared and I wanted all of you to know my past, my heart, my passion, and a better understanding of the situation.

We truly hope you understand.

Sincerely,

Misty Lee Evans

From: Traci <liptontra1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 9:29 PM

To: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Sarah Brown

Commissioners,

Julie Madison sent an email with questions for Sarah Brown to answer. The community is waiting for answers to those questions.

Could you please direct her to respond either via email or at the BOCC meeting on Tuesday.

Regards,

Traci Lipton

From: Maggie <magzzz3@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:33 AM

To: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Re: Bishop Kennels

Commissioners,

Julie Madison sent an email yesterday with specific questions for Sarah Brown to answer. Julie's not received the courtesy of a reply. The community is waiting for answers to those questions.

Maggie Marshall
Bradenton

From: Heidi <heidi@thenewyorkgroomer.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Sara Brown needs to respond to Julie Madison

Dear Commissioners,

We need some answers from Sara Brown Manatee County Animal Welfare. She has NOT responded to Julie Madison's email. When are you going to have Sara Brown accountable??? Please reach out to Sara Brown and ask her to respond.

--

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Heidi Minihkeim

Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: DD <davidd4300@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 9:54 AM

To: Tal Siddique <Tal@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Charlie Bishop and Accountability - It is long overdue

You may not think these kennels are a disaster, but the public does. And most important, the volunteers and experienced kennel workers (who don't collect a Manatee paycheck) do. I've been a kennel working volunteer for 8 years. Last year I logged close to 1600 hrs - nearly equivalent to a full time employee. I assure you - these way too small, cheaply made metal kennels, the unusable guillotine doors, the unturfed yards, THE LACK OF PLANNING, the lack of a proper walkways, the lack of interior access, proper sinks and plumbing are a disaster. The question is whether this board will, for once, hold Mr. Bishop accountable.

I can't help but think, what if this or a previous board had demanded accountability from Mr Bishop, would we be in this kennel disaster now?

What if, in 2023, our County Commission had demanded accountability for Bishop's public records violations, telling him: "we expect our Administrator to act transparently and with integrity. Violating public records law isn't acceptable." Would we now be in this kennel disaster?

Or what if, later in 2023, after Bishop violated county policy by allowing code enforcement to be controlled by a single commissioner, allowing Tom Wooten, the former convicted felon dirty cop that runs Code Enforcement, to text with and take direct orders from that commissioner so that code enforcement was used as a personal campaign police force - what if our County Commission had told Mr. Bishop: "We expect our Administrator to follow county policy and act with integrity. We told you last time, so if you do this again..."

Or what if, after Mr Bishop is caught abusing his public authority by leveraging his position as Administrator to call up the mayor of Brad beach for a favor so that he and his girlfriend can cut in line at the Daiquiri Deck. What if our BoCC had told Mr Bishop: "Look, we've been over this, we expect our Administrator to act with integrity and this is not acceptable, this time you are"...whatever suspended maybe? Would we be in this kennel disaster situation now?

Or what if, in 2024, when we learn that Mr. Bishop lied when he said that removing wetland buffers was a "county-initiated" idea. After we learn that actually, our own county environmental experts had warned that removing wetland buffers would result in more flooding - but that Mr. Bishop had silenced our own experts and, instead, used taxpayers money to hire Carlos Beruff's consultant to peddle the lie to the public and the Board.

What if at that point, after everything else, our county commission had confronted Mr. Bishop in the name of having a government of transparency and integrity?

What if, since then, just one commissioner would have demanded accountability - for hiding the roundabout on consent, for special treatment of Beruff's ADU permit, for

surplusing the old Brad City Hall so a developer got a sweetheart deal, for hiring an inexperienced aid of Joe Gruters at \$160K/yr... I could list many more... - would we be having this discussion about making Mr Bishop one of the highest paid county administrators in the state?

So now we are here, and the ball is in this board's court. Will this board finally demand accountability or will it continue to shirk its duty to the public and continue accepting a lack of integrity?

Will this board continue to sweep bad management under the rug? ACCOUNTABILITY is long overdue

David Daniels

From: Lynn Bronson <lynn.bronson7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 10:22 AM
To: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Failure to protect shelter animals

Dear BOCC,

While I can't attend your meetings due to working full time, I am following a matter very closely, and that is the disaster taking place at Bishop Shelter, and the personal attacks individual volunteers are under because they are passionate about protecting these animals. Enough is enough.

I want to address this matter with the seriousness it deserves. The conditions these animals are being kept in are unacceptable, and the level of suffering they are experiencing is something no living creature should be subjected to. This is not a situation that can be minimized, delayed, or overlooked.

ALL of you have an obligation, as a Board and we as a community, to intervene when harm is occurring. These animals cannot advocate for themselves. They rely entirely on us to ensure they are treated humanely and protected from neglect or mistreatment.

I am asking the Board to take **immediate, decisive action** to address this situation. The concerns have been raised for months, and the BOCC continues to stall with taking any immediate action. As the temperatures will rise in the coming days, this requires immediate attention. The current circumstances are causing preventable suffering, and allowing it to continue is inconsistent with our values, our responsibilities, and basic standards of humane treatment.

I expect this to be prioritized and addressed without further delay.

Lynn

From: Kerri Hughes <kerrih44@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:44 PM
To: Sarah Brown <sarah.brown@mymanatee.org>; Syna Johnson <syna.johnson@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Bishop Band aids from Julie Madison

Commissioners, County Administrator, Sarah, and Dr. Johnson

I am thankful to Julie Madison for the detailed update regarding the current conditions at the Bishop facility. As a member of the Citizens Advisory Board, I appreciate the level of attention being brought to these operational challenges so early in the transition.

It is evident that several of the issues raised—particularly those related to safety, drainage, shade structures, and access—are not minor adjustments but rather structural and design concerns that require timely evaluation and resolution. The concerns regarding unsecured materials (such as mesh shading), exposed drainage areas, and uneven terrain present legitimate safety risks to both staff, volunteers, and the animals in our care. These should be prioritized accordingly.

The points raised about the pop-up tents and lack of permanent shade solutions are also well taken. While temporary measures may have been necessary during the transition, it is important that a more durable and weather-appropriate solution be identified and implemented, especially with seasonal heat and storm risks approaching.

Additionally, the challenges surrounding accessibility—both for safely moving dogs and for routine operations—highlight the need for infrastructure adjustments. If modifications such as extended concrete walkways or improved surfacing can mitigate these risks, it would be worthwhile to evaluate feasibility and timelines for implementation.

Concerns about dogs being left outside due to limited safe interior access are particularly important given the approaching summer months. Clarification on standard operating procedures for extreme weather conditions would be beneficial to ensure both compliance with care standards and the well-being of the animals.

The operational questions raised—including drainage solutions, laundry capabilities within the adoption center, and the transition from the jail facility—also merit clear responses so that expectations and planning can be aligned moving forward.

Overall, this feedback underscores the importance of continued assessment of the Bishop facility's functionality in practice versus its intended design. Where gaps exist, it may be appropriate to consider both short-term mitigation strategies and longer-term capital improvements, including the possibility of facility expansion if warranted.

I would encourage open dialogue on these issues and a structured plan for addressing the most critical concerns in a timely manner. Ensuring safe conditions for staff, volunteers, and animals must remain the top priority.

Respectfully,
Kerri Hughes
Citizens Advisory Board Member

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

On Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1:22 PM, Julie Madison <julie.madison@toptierk9.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Julie Madison** <julie.madison@toptierk9.com>

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Subject: Bishop Band aids

To: Sarah Brown <sarah.brown@mymanatee.org>, Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>, Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>, George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>, Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>, Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>, Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>, Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>

Commissioners, County Administrator, and Sarah,

It has been less than a month since the dogs have moved into the new Bishop facility. In this time the band aids have taken on a life of their own.

Already, we have tried (and some have already failed):

1.) securing mesh shade to the outside of the runs, - Staff was told back in December that this wouldn't work because the dogs would eat through the zip ties securing it (FYI both plastic and metal), then they will start to rip and eat the mesh. Sarah, can you clarify if all the mesh shade was removed when the pop up tents went up? Or is this still a hazard for some of the dogs?

2.) the outside drains - when I originally met with commissioner Kruse this is one of the reasons (not the only) I primarily focused on building what we need, which is an addition to the adoption center, on the outside drains the covers have already been removed. Sarah, why were the drain covers on the outside removed? Are there any plans to put something over them? My educated guess would be the grate slits weren't wide enough to let debris into the drains and everything was going right over them and into/onto the

ground. This is now causing unsafe conditions for your most experienced volunteers some of whom are mentioning issues with the uneven terrain EVERY time they take a dog out. The only fix for the drains is a custom designed piece that will somehow 1.) allow debris into the drains, 2.) not create a tripping hazard 3.) allow the door to still open, or we could just budget for an addition to the adoption center which would resolve the other issues

3.) the pop up tents- I understand why they did them, the dogs needed shade since this wasn't appropriately planned for. Unfortunately this is not an acceptable long term solution. Even if securely tied to the fences those pop up tents will be hazards in extreme weather.

In addition to the fixes that have been tried we also have other major issues:

1.) Dogs have dug out of the play yards, two of the play yards are out of commission, which is why the dogs should not have been moved until the AstroTurf was installed,

2.) the uneven terrain getting dogs out- sidewalks should have been installed when concrete was poured, it actually would have been super easy to extend the concrete pads by 6-8 feet on either side so the volunteers and staff should have a safe/even place to walk- this also should have been done prior to the move once you were made aware of it, this needs to be done to use the prefabs safely

3.) the dogs are now primarily being left outside because there is no safe way to access them inside. It isn't a huge issue today, but summer is coming. Sarah, what's the SOP going to be when it's too hot to leave the dogs in the outside runs?

These aren't small kinks that will work themselves out or be easily remedied, these are major design flaws that are going to daily impact quality of care and basic safety, every single day until an appropriate facility is budgeted for and built.

Sarah, will there be a laundry area in the adoption center? It seems that right now there is no way to do laundry.

Lastly, Sarah, why have all the dogs been removed from the Jail and transferred over to Bishop? I thought the deputy administrator said that we spent a year ensuring that would be a smooth transition and they would be ready for dogs.

Julie Madison

--

Julie Madison
Top Tier K9 - Bradenton
203-733-7183

From: Becky Brothers <thebeckybrothers@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 9:02 PM
To: Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Attending April 21 Meeting – Question on Animal Shelter Concerns

Commissioners,

I'm writing because it's my understanding that Julie Madison submitted a number of questions and concerns regarding the animal shelter.

Can you please clarify whether those questions will be answered and addressed at the April 21 BOCC meeting, or if there is another process or timeline for providing those responses?

From a community perspective, many of these concerns appear to be ongoing and increasing as time passes, particularly with environmental factors that will only become more challenging in the coming months. It seems clear that there are issues that would benefit from timely clarification and practical solutions before they escalate further.

I plan to attend the meeting—this will be my first—with the intention of listening and gaining a better understanding of how these concerns are being addressed. I would genuinely appreciate the opportunity for it to be productive, with clear communication around next steps and the path forward.

Thank you for your time.

Becky Brothers
Constituent, Manatee County, District 3

From: Laura Liddell <thx4jesus@live.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 12:28 AM
To: Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Thoughts on Bishop Shelter and Contract

Hello Commissioner Bearden;

My name is Laura Liddell and I am a long time Manatee County resident, homeowner, and taxpayer. I live in Ellenton, District 1 where Carole Ann Felts was my commissioner, (may she rest in peace. I was shocked and extremely sad to learn of her passing).

I am writing to you at large because I would like express by extreme displeasure, concerns and dissatisfaction at the way the entire Bishop shelter situation has been handled. The animal community has to speak up for them. They have no voice.

I feel like promises were made and not kept, I'm very upset about it all; from it not being a promised concrete block facility, to a promised UF study that never happened, to the kennels being no larger than a large crate, not attached or built for incimate weather, lack of shade, the increased noise, the stress, the ongoing construction which causes more noise stress and leads to unnecessary aggression, no turf for the play yards, the drainage situation and just everything that has gone from bad to worse, dogs digging out -all of it. Not good. The dogs were moved way too soon and situation with the volunteers over the past year who were only trying to make things better; they are not the enemy but rather an integral part of the team. I feel like it's a disaster waiting to happen and I would like to ask; beg, for the animals to please be moved back to Palmetto until the construction and changes are finished so it is safer and more usable for the animals and the workers. Please! They are still property of Manatee County and have to live with decisions being made on their behalf.

On the subject of the county administrator's contract being up for renewal - I am very dissatisfied with how he has failed to handle The Bishop shelter as well as the other issues that have come to light with the use of his personal cell phone and many other things, please see David Daniels open letter for further. Oh my word. Had that been another county employee they would've been severely reprimanded if not fired. And you seriously want to pay him \$255,000? I read the Bradenton.com article where it pointed out your very thoughtful changes to his contract, which I agree with for future reference. I'm asking you to look at the big picture though, and please ask yourself if the benefits of keeping him as our administrator outweighs the liability he is currently causing the county? If it were up to me, I would vote heck no and look for somebody else who truly wants to make a difference that can do the job. There are too many problems with him aside from the Shelter fiasco which is disturbing enough, which is why he really needs to go. Please, please please vote no.

Lastly, and I do not mean any of this disrespectfully all. This Shelter is one huge issue among many others, but this one involves living creatures. Man's best friend. Dogs that

never thought they'd be living in a cramped noisy shelter with only an hour at best out of their kennels. I would like to know - do we really have to come out in droves for this shelter situation to be fixed and for people to do their jobs, in the best interest of the animals ? We should not have to, but what is it going to take? There has been plenty of expert advice and suggestions given to the commissioners from people who know, yet it seems like it's fallen on deaf ears. I would have been so thankful for their suggestions if I were in your shoes, and done my best to implement them. Again, these are living creatures who have to live with the decisions being made, and so do the employees and volunteers. I know when I'm not an expert in an area I personally find value relying on verified expertise and advice of others, and you all have this for free! Especially ones with no ulterior motives except love and concern for the animals, which should be a common goal. Maybe create an animal advisory board or steering committee of admin, experts and volunteers? Those work!

Please, please please, I would greatly appreciate your consideration in these matters. I am very distressed over this whole situation. Where there's a will there's a way, I hope and pray you find it.

Thank you for listening and I hope to see you all on Tuesday.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Liddell
Ellenton, Fl

Sent from my iPhone



Public Comment

Submitted On: Apr 17, 2026, 03:02PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Jessica Last Name: Moyer
Email	indepenjes@gmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	April 20, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Movement of the Dogs
Comment	I'm writing to request no further legal be taken against the citizens seeking transparency of the Bishop Shelter. This looks like retaliation and we take pride in these types of things not happening in Florida. I fully support my fellow citizens advocacy for the dogs who need help in Manatee County. Please restore our faith and trust in you; stop fighting these caring people and start partnering with them.

From: Julie Madison <julie.madison@toptierk9.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2026 12:33 PM
To: Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>; Sarah Brown <sarah.brown@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Bishop Shelter

As a private citizen, I can't tell you how much I don't enjoy getting texts like the ones I am sharing. I really don't like that the people that send me them feel so uncomfortable that they don't want to talk about the issues. I would greatly appreciate if we could just budget for what we need, which is a concrete addition to the adoption center and expedite that, whatever that looks like so I don't have to keep sharing their thoughts and feelings. And yes, morally I have to, I will not leave the dogs, staff, and volunteers without a voice.

I'm including the contact information for 3 architects that specialize in kennels that quoted me within the last month for \$400-\$600 per square ft.

Julie Madison

--

Julie Madison
Top Tier K9 - Bradenton
203-733-7183

It took them till 1130. I was told by a staff member the other day. To get all the dogs out. Everything is harder.

She told me they were exhausted by the time they were done and then late for their lunch.

Same yesterday.

The tents along the walkway are a HUGE help. When I went for orientation, they weren't up yet. It was blazing.

That being said... the rest of the area is hot. I can't imagine what it will be like during summer when we have heat advisories.



Well they also need to know that some dogs are not doing well there, and are becoming stressed and acting out. How about they ask staff how many dogs are not doing well, and how many have had to be bumped up to black dogs!!



I was thinking the same thing. Several dogs have been bumped to Black, plus the pleas to help the dogs who aren't doing well. Poor Milo on bite quarantine again



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Item 37 - Five photos submitted by Cathy Bridwell









