



May 19, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000, Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director

Category

REGULAR

Briefings

Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Jodie Fiske, Director of Public Safety
Deputy Chief Jay Johnson, West Manatee Fire

Action Requested

Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years in the amount of \$500,000; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

North River Fire Assistant Chief Joel Baker and West Manatee Fire Deputy Chief Jay Johnson have formed the first Manatee County Task Force. This team will be the only one of its kind in the county. The team is comprised of special operators who are credentialed and highly trained in vehicle/machinery rescue, structural collapse, trench rescue, confined space rescue, rope rescue and swift water rescue making them deployable for large scale disasters and providing additional specialized support to Manatee County Residents every day.

The Task Force is a unique team and due to their specialized capabilities will be housed under the Department of Public Safety and activated during large scale disasters. The Task Force will also be given an official designation and typing credential from the State of Florida making them accessible to our regional and state partners in times of disaster.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

See attached Agenda Update Memos 5.13.26 and 5.18.26

Instructions to Board Records

Please ensure that the Chairman signs page 1 of the Budget Amendment Resolution.
Please send a copy to Jodie Fiske, jodie.fiske@mymanatee.org

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

\$500,000.00

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs



May 19, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda – May 13, 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 5/13/26) for the meeting of May 19, 2026:

GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

- This agenda item was updated with additional generic comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Management

Item 14, Execution of Change Order No. 1 to GMP Addendum No. 1 to Agreement No. 24-TA005354JK for North Regional Water Reclamation Facility Storage Expansion, Daniel Velazquez, Project Manager - District 1

- This agenda item was updated to correct the presenter from Daniel Velazquez, Project Manager, to read Patrick Shea, Utilities Director.

Item 15, Execution of Change Order No. 3 to Agreement No. 20-TA003404CD for Southwest Water Reclamation Facility Electrical Distribution System Rehabilitation, Daniel Velazquez, Project Manager - District 4

- This agenda item was updated to correct the presenter from Daniel Velazquez, Project Manager, to read Patrick Shea, Utilities Director.

REGULAR

Item 32, Follow-Up Presentation of Results from the Manatee County AI Pilot with Digibuild

- This agenda item has been deferred to June 16, 2026.

Item 35, Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000, Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director

- This agenda item was updated with a public comment.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 37, Old Memphis Cemetery Desecration and County Response – District 2

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Item 38, Advertising Revenue for Public Transit System – District 3

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda

Item 39, Old Memphis Cemetery – District 5

- 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

From: Holly Brown <hollybrown2007@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 10:14 PM
To: Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>
Subject: 44th Drive East

Dear Manatee County Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed road project of 44th Drive East and 44th Ave East in Myakka City . This project would unnecessarily impact established homes, agricultural properties, and existing pastureland that residents have spent years building and maintaining.

The proposed roadway would directly affect livestock operations involving horses, dogs, cattle, and elephants, creating significant disruption and stress to the animals due to construction activity, increased traffic, noise, and loss of usable pasture. These properties are not undeveloped land; they are functioning homes, farms, and businesses that contribute to the character and economy of the community.

Many residents specifically chose this area for its rural environment and have invested their life savings into their properties. Placing a roadway immediately adjacent to homes and pastures will permanently alter the safety, privacy, and quality of life of those affected.

I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider this proposal and reevaluate, considering State Road 64 is 1 mile north and 61st Ave East is 2 miles south of 44th Drive East.

I urge you to go take a look at both sides of the road and see how connecting the 2 roads will cause unnecessary impacts to existing residences, agricultural operations, and rural landowners.

Thank you for your consideration
please keep the country
Country !

Sincerely,

Holly Brown

From: Rachel Ciufu <cciufu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 7:08 AM
To: 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: Request for Permanent Concrete Structure and Improved Resources for Manatee County **Animal Services**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the design and functionality of the new animal shelter facility in Manatee County. The current setup, which relies heavily on tents, is simply not appropriate for Florida's extreme weather conditions. Heat, humidity, heavy rain, hurricanes, and storms create unsafe and highly stressful conditions for both the dogs and the people caring for them. Quite frankly, this type of setup becomes a danger to animal welfare and public safety.

Research consistently shows that approximately 30–50% of dogs are surrendered or returned to shelters due to behavioral issues. Stable environments are critical for reducing stress, properly evaluating dogs, and helping them succeed in adoptive homes. The current layout of the facility will likely increase the number of dogs being returned after adoption because stressed, overstimulated animals are far more likely to display behavioral problems.

Additionally, when stray dogs are euthanized after entering the shelter system, those outcomes negatively impact shelter statistics. However, when adopted dogs are returned and owners are encouraged to sign euthanasia requests, those dogs are not reflected in the shelter's save rate. This creates a misleading picture of long-term placement success. The focus should not simply be on moving dogs out quickly, but on creating lasting, successful placements that prevent dogs from cycling back through the system.

Manatee County must invest in a permanent concrete addition to the adoption center that provides safe, climate-controlled housing and allows staff, volunteers, and the public reliable access regardless of inclement weather. A properly designed facility would help stabilize dogs, improve behavioral outcomes, increase adoption success, and reduce unnecessary euthanasia.

I respectfully urge the County to:

1. Build a permanent concrete addition to the adoption center that can safely house dogs and provide secure access during all weather conditions.
2. Properly staff the facility with qualified dog trainers and behavior professionals capable of evaluating, training, rehabilitating, and appropriately placing dogs with prospective families.
3. Provide staff with living wages to improve retention, morale, and overall quality of animal care.

4. Increase owner education and improve the matching process between dogs and adopters to support long-term successful placements.

Our community deserves an animal services facility that prioritizes humane treatment, public transparency, safety, and long-term adoption success. The current tent-based structure is not sustainable for Florida and does not adequately support the needs of these animals or the people working to save them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to take immediate action to improve conditions for the animals and the community members who care deeply about their welfare.

Sincerely,
Rachel Ciufo

CC: Governor DeSantos

From: dadamm <dadamm@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:43 AM

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

Subject: Establish a Dedicated **Short Term Rental** Nuisance Response and Compliance Program

Establish a Dedicated Short Term Rental Nuisance Response and Compliance Program

Future Agenda Public Comment for May 19, 2026- please place in public comment

To the Commissioners and Administration of Manatee County:

I appreciate the response provided by Nicole Knapp and acknowledge the County's concern regarding the limitations imposed by Florida Senate Bill 180, particularly its restrictions on adopting more restrictive or burdensome amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, procedures, and processes through at least October 1, 2027. However, the request outlined below does not seek new zoning restrictions, land-development limitations, or prohibitions on short-term rentals. This recommendation, although in a more simplified form, has **previously been submitted multiple times and was ignored**. The proposal instead seeks the creation of a coordinated public safety, nuisance-response, and transparency program focused on enforcement of existing laws, operational accountability, and protection of neighborhood quality of life specifically for short term rentals. Because the request is administrative and enforcement-based rather than a land-development regulation, it would have a **strong legal basis and should withstand challenges related to SB 180**.

With that in mind, I am requesting that **Manatee County establish a dedicated Short-Term Rental Nuisance Response and Compliance Program focused on public safety, nuisance abatement, accountability, and transparency**.

This program should include:

- A dedicated county department or division responsible for handling only short-term rental complaints and enforcement coordination.
- A mandatory registration system requiring each short-term rental operator to provide:
 - owner information
 - a responsible local property manager or 24/7 contact
 - and emergency response contact information
- A centralized complaint tracking database that records:
 - general complaints
 - noise complaints
 - parking violations
 - trash and sanitation issues

- occupancy and safety concerns
 - law enforcement responses
 - repeat violations tied to individual properties
- Public transparency tools allowing residents and county officials to review complaint histories and enforcement activity by property and by geographic area within the county.
- Coordination between code enforcement, law enforcement, emergency services, and neighborhood services to ensure rapid response to ongoing nuisance activity.

This request does not seek to prohibit short-term rentals, regulate the duration or frequency of rentals, impose zoning restrictions, establish density caps, or create new land-development limitations.

Instead, this request is narrowly focused on:

- Nuisance enforcement
- Operational accountability
- Public safety
- Emergency responsiveness
- Data collection
- Transparency

For that reason, this proposal should not be limited by Florida SB 180.

SB 180 was intended to restrict certain “more restrictive or burdensome” land development regulations and zoning controls. A nuisance-response and compliance program is fundamentally different. Requiring a responsible contact person, maintaining complaint records, coordinating emergency responses, and enforcing existing noise, parking, trash, occupancy, and safety ordinances are administrative and public-safety functions that fall within the County’s traditional police powers.

Florida law already recognizes that local governments may regulate operational and nuisance-related impacts associated with vacation rentals, including noise, parking, trash, life-safety concerns, and code compliance. This proposal simply provides the County with the structure necessary to responsibly enforce those existing protections.

The current lack of coordinated oversight has created growing impacts on neighborhoods throughout Manatee County. Residents are experiencing repeated disturbances, safety concerns, parking congestion, sanitation problems, and ongoing quality-of-life issues with little confidence that complaints are being meaningfully tracked or resolved.

Simply ignoring this situation is no longer acceptable.

Failure to act puts our community at risk.

The County has both the authority and responsibility to implement a transparent nuisance-response system that protects residents while preserving lawful property rights.

Residents' issues are being marginalized. This is evident at meetings during public comments and written comments. This administration is no longer meeting the needs of our community.

Respectfully,
Diana Adams



Public Comment

Submitted On: May 13, 2026, 02:42PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Tracy Last Name: Cornthwait
Email	dogdayhaven@hotmail.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	May 14, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Putting 44th though to Verna Bethany
Comment	I don't see the need for this road to go thought we have enought people driving a 100 miles hour on Verna Bethany and I don't think it's right to put it thought the elephant sanctuary. you just keep taking and taking your ruining the wild lifes homes and now you want to take the elephants home what is next it got to stop some were.



May 19, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - May 18, 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 5/18/26) for the meeting of May 19, 2026:

GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

- This agenda item was updated with additional generic comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Management

Item 11, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069, Claudia Campos, Interim Chief Financial Officer – Countywide

- This agenda item was updated with the revised Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069.

Government Relations

Item 20, Execution of Updated Non-Profit Agreement with Manatee Educational Television Consortium (METV), Stephanie Garrison, Director of Government Relations

- This agenda item was updated with Letters of Support.

Public Safety

Item 26, Authorization to Issue Letter of Non-Opposition for the SUNSKY 10K Temporary Closure of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director - Countywide

- This agenda item was updated with a public comment.

Public Works

Item 27, Execution of the Mangrove Point Mitigation Bank Purchase Agreement with Mangrove Point Mitigation Point LLC, for .57 Dual Estuarine Forested UMAM Credits and .08 Dual Estuarine Herbaceous UMAM Credits for a total of .65 Credits from the Mangrove Point Mitigation Bank for the Fort Hamer Bridge Four-Lane Project located in the Manatee River Basin, Scott May, P.E., County Engineer – District 1

- This agenda item was deferred to June 2, 2026.

REGULAR

Government Relations

Item 33, Update on infrastructure phase of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant and Lasting Manatee Program, Ashley Schnitker, Grants Division Manager, and Odugo Ohizu, Communications Coordinator

- This agenda was updated with a PowerPoint Presentation.

Public Safety

Item 35, Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000, Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director

- This agenda item was deferred to June 16, 2026.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 37, Old Memphis Cemetery Desecration and County Response – District 2

- This agenda item was updated with public comments and attachments.

Item 39, Old Memphis Cemetery – District 5

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

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