ANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY LIAISON COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
May 26, 2026

Present were:
David Otterness, Chairman
Jeff Covert, Vice-Chairman
Don Berg
John Settineri

Present were:
Brent Anderson, Government Relations
Crosley Jones, Legislative Aide
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chairman Otterness called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

INVOCATION
Chairman Otterness delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chairman Otterness led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES
A motion was made by Member Covert, seconded by Member Settineri, and carried 4-0, to approve the minutes of April 14, 2026.

The next meeting is June 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA GE20260526DOC001

2. **LETTER TO FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**
Brent Anderson, Government Relations, noted they are still waiting on a response.

3. **GULF ISLANDS FERRY**
Crosley Jones, Government Relations, provided updated ridership numbers for the ferry service for 2024-2026 including days of service.

Discussion ensued regarding 40 percent of ridership is from riders living outside the County, capacity for the ferries, a stop in the City of Anna Maria is planned, currently the ferry is not profitable, and Tourist Development Funds were used to purchase the ferries.
GE20260526DOC002

4. **9000 BUILDING**
Crosley Jones and Brent Anderson, Government Relations, reviewed departments that moved to the 9000 Building, and either Natural Resources or Community and Veterans Services may move there. Public Safety remains at the Emergency Operations Center. The County Seat is in the City of Bradenton, therefore County Commission offices must remain in the County Administrative Building, although some Commissioners have offices at the 9000 Building. The County Attorney and State Attorney Offices remain in the

County Administrative Building, and the City of Bradenton may also lease space in the Administrative Building.

5. **GELC PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Brent Anderson, Government Relations, used a slide presentation to review what would be included in the slides for the report to the Board, back-up information in the report, avoid putting too much in the slides, and add graphs if needed.

Discussion ensued regarding general information slide regarding Interlocal Agreements, not known how long Commissioners will discuss this item, have the report on SharePointe prior to the next meeting, scope of the Study is only looking at the General Fund spending, General Fund revenue has been consistent, dollar bill graphic is for public clarification, and include an overview slide for each topic. GE20260526DOC003

6. **BUDGET SURPLUS**

Member Covert explained there have been some questions from citizens and the media regarding surplus funds. Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and other organizations oversee spending and government funding. Government has different restrictions they must follow regarding finances, and there are restricted funds. The article in the Observer reported false information.

7. **SUBMITTED CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Brent Anderson explained there were letters submitted regarding surplus funds.

8. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mike Meehan submitted a budget summary he created and discussed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), revenues and surplus, his suggestion for the amount to be collected in property taxes, balance sheet, Florida Statute requirements for the amount of reserves to be held, and unrestricted cash. Mr. Meehan's backup documents were submitted by staff.

Discussion ensued regarding what property taxes are actually paying for, look into the reserve issue, there are several items listed, complex issue, look at certain line items, grants, and utility surplus which is part of an enterprise fund.

Mr. Anderson explained there are surplus funds that are restricted, enterprise funds are not funded by property tax, grants are tied to individual funding blocks, and every penny outside the $0.14 is tied to specific needs (dollar bill graphic).

Discussion ensued regarding accounting for certain dynamics in the budget, could there be some money that could be used for other general fund items, government finance is a complicated issue, communication opportunities to describe these issues in a way the public understands, and what part of the reserves is actually available.

9. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no Member Comments

10. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Otterness adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m. Minutes Approved: June 23, 2026