

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER, LONGBOAT KEY ROOM
One Haben Boulevard
Palmetto, Florida
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Vanessa Baugh, Chairman
George Kruse, First Vice-Chairman
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Second Vice-Chairman
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman
Misty Servia
James A. Satcher III
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Cheri Coryea, County Administrator
William Clague, County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Baugh called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Satcher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

 Chairman Baugh announced that public comment will be limited to the topics on the agenda.

AGENDA

BC20210202DOC001

2. **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2021 AND BEYOND GOAL SETTING**

 Cheri Coryea, County Administrator, used a slide presentation to provide an overview of the goals to be discussed for today's session. Commissioners are encouraged to participate to express their thoughts and desires for the County. This work session should be one of many.

BC20210202DOC002

 Ms. Coryea referenced the County Calendar for Board of County Commission meetings. The calendar is adopted once a year. A summary of work sessions was included in the agenda package including a draft work schedule of timelines for creating agenda packages. Commissioners expressed a desire to increase the number of days that agenda materials are posted to the public and to have additional days for Commissioners to review the material prior to the briefings. The proposal is for regular Board meetings be posted 10 to 12 days in advance of the meeting. Land use meetings would be 12 days in advance. Briefings with Commissioners can occur as early as the Wednesday prior to the next meeting.

 Discussion ensued regarding the current timeline, possible amendments to the agenda, staff timelines have been moved back to avoid changes, agendas published earlier for the benefit of the public rather than the Board, Grant deadlines could be placed on an update memo, staff should be able to meet the deadline requirements, everyone needs a break on the weekend, need to be more transparent, has there been outreach to the development community, there could be issues the first couple of months, trying to work on land use items, this is an internal process, provide more notice to attend meetings, and Commissioners cannot speak to quasi-judicial matters prior to a hearing.

 Ms. Coryea explained the first Thursday of the month will be quasi-judicial hearings, and another meeting will be set for legislative items. She questioned if the Board has a preference regarding the format of work sessions.

 Discussion ensued regarding work sessions are based on policy the Board has already set, items should be presented at work sessions prior to going to the Board for a decision, sometimes things need to be done quickly, give the Board more control over work session agendas and topics, preset work sessions and give Commissioners the opportunity to have open discussions on items they are interested in, need more strategic planning sessions each year, because things change rapidly, the Board as a collective body should decide the topics to be discussed at work sessions, and previous plans have always been focused on the budget.

 Ms. Coryea continued the slides to discuss restructuring the meeting and agenda format. If there is an item that a Commissioner wants to discuss there is Commissioner Agenda items on the agenda.

 Discussion took place regarding having a special day, once a month, to present awards and proclamations, current format is not problematic, move awards and proclamations to 8:30 a.m., future agenda public comment is not time sensitive so have one day a month when citizens can come in the evening and speak, important to have quality discussion at time certain, to move the meeting along, not in favor of limiting public comment at meetings, staff is needed for additional meetings especially after hours and on weekends, difficult for families to attend evening meetings, no need to repeat ideas, stop business to keep time certain items, discussion of future agenda items at 1:00 p.m., Commissioners hold themselves responsible to follow protocol, guidelines for Commissioners to follow during discussions, consider Robert's Rules of Procedure, time certain or as soon thereafter, cannot interrupt a discussion to go to a different item, more efficiency and decorum at meetings, need to finish an item prior to moving on to a different topic, reminder of a time certain, run into issues with too many time certain items, and Commissioners make comments and ask questions of staff so the public can hear the information.

 Ms. Coryea summarized that the Commissioners approve of the format, and would like to have awards presented earlier in the meeting. She referenced a list of pending work session topics and timeline available in the agenda package. A list is provided with topics, target dates, and whether the Commissioners want to keep, remove, or modify the topics.

 Discussion continued regarding pending items, add the Environmental lands discussion to work session topics, overall vision for the County and helping citizens, would like to include a set of values to tie into work session topics such as security and quality of life, and establish guiding principles and a matrix.

 Ms. Coryea continued the slides to present establishing a strategic planning annual sequence. The Board could select someone to lead a discussion in a day long format to develop a vision, mission, and goal setting.

 Discussion continued that March or April would be a good time, and the Board wants to be more involved in decisions made.

 Ms. Coryea discussed setting expectations to evaluate results and establish the method of how/when to measure results. Goals can be measured annually, but need to be addressed to evaluate the benchmarks, trends, and performance. Departments do their own measurements and report back to the Board. The Board can review the general government structure by reviewing the history of the departments and staffing levels, and can identify opportunities to reduce costs and maintain service levels. There have been 12 departments since 2014. After the recession, many services were consolidated, and staff is awaiting census results.

 Ms. Coryea concluded the presentation to discuss setting meetings to be more accessible to the public and securing offsite locations or Zoom calls to engage the community. Possibilities include developing a series of informational topics citizens want to hear about, meeting formats that increase citizen engagement, district meetings, and expanding the use of social media.

 Discussion continued to keep up social media updates, importance of district meetings, and the need to correct inaccurate information.

 Ms. Coryea stated the budget work session will be led by Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, and her team, which allows more discussion up front before items are finalized. Commissioner comments have been taken into consideration to focus on revenues and the current status of the budget, public safety, water quality, quality of life, roads, and economic prosperity for individuals and businesses. This will be the first year of a new two-year budget. February 18 is a follow-up work session on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). There are projects that need to be modified, and those are presented at regular meetings.

 Discussion continued regarding being careful to not change the CIP too much, CIP driven by the budget, and the County Administrator position is questionable pending the February 17 meeting.

 William Clague, County Attorney, stated the Board will have to make a decision, as to who is going to step in as the acting County Administrator if needed. .

(Depart Commissioner Bellamy during discussion)

 Discussion took place regarding seeking someone to serve as an interim County Administrator, Commissioner Van Ostenbridge has spoken to people about stepping in for one year, including Dennis Cooley and Scott Hopes with the School Board, Commissioners have short lists of who they think could step in, is it up to Commissioners to speak to individuals regarding finding an interim County Administrator, need someone who has government experience, this is not the appropriate time to discuss this, important to have a contingency plan, be respectful, important to have someone within to be an interim since they are familiar with the workings of the County to avoid disruption, need to find someone who is a good fit, and is willing to take on the role of interim, go out to Florida Association of Counties to find someone who is retired to act as interim, need to have a voting meeting next week to plan for the future, accomplished individuals with ties to the community, bring in someone to provide stabilization for a year, Commissioners have a right to discuss this with other people, and begin discussion next Tuesday.

 Mr. Clague forwarded a copy of the contract to Commissioners and will have individual briefings with Commissioners next week prior to the meeting on February 17, 2021. The Board will need an acting Administrator prior to getting a County Administrator.

 Andra Griffin stated the discussion today was beneficial to the public, and publishing the agenda early is for the citizens to have an opportunity to do their research. There should be time to have weekend or after hours meetings.

 Glen Gibellina encouraged the idea of having awards and proclamations on a different day, and suggested Commissioners hold Zoom meetings with citizen regarding what can be placed on the agenda.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Baugh closed public comment.

 Discussion ensued regarding Commissioners having Zoom meetings with citizens is a good way to meet and get their ideas, and it is important to follow the Rules of procedure.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Minutes Approved: February 23, 2021