

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
September 14, 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:

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, Acting County Administrator
William Clague, County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court

 Chairman Baugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.


INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AGENDA

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1. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

 Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator, stated this is the end of the budget process, which started six months ago. The budget is a living document and there are opportunities to amend the budget. Individual briefings are scheduled with Commissioners regarding the animal shelter and the East County Library. She encouraged everyone to visit the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) page on www.mymanatee.org, where the top projects are highlighted.


2. **STAFF PRESENTATION**


and


4. **AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE**


 Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator, announced the aggregate millage rate for the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners for Fiscal Year (FY) 20/21 is: 6.8322 and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of: 6.6288 for the operating millage is hereby determined to be +3.07 percent. Again, there is a decrease of .20 in overall tax rates.


She used a slide presentation to review the total tentative millage for FY 22 from FY 21. The millage has been decreased .05 below, after the initial increase of 0.15. Environmental lands are being funded via reserves for FY 22. She continued the slides to review the budget summary by uses, the net budget (revenues by source), total revenue of \$923.4 million, and uses by function.

 Discussion ensued regarding library costs, final costs and the chiller, the library project needed to be divided so that each department involved in the project is covering their own costs, the chiller (free-standing) was never a project on its own, appreciate seeing the division of the costs, the environmental lands levy will begin October 1, 2022, and the sidewalk on 75th Street West from Cortez Road to S.R.70 should be pulled from the budget.


 Dr. Scott L. Hopes, County Administrator, clarified the environmental lands are being funded this year from the stabilization funds, which are excess of the surplus funds, and the program will be fully funded at the level that would have been generated if the County was taxing the public for the funds. A work session is scheduled October 27 to provide guidance and begin the program as directed by the referendum. There is also an opportunity to bond the program without taxing residents this year.


 Discussion ensued that the library started out with a \$7 million budget.


 Ms. Brewer responded to questions and noted per the Infrastructure Sales Tax (IST) resolution, there are items that have either been deleted or the prices changed.

 Candice Cruz, Senior Budget Manager, explained the East Bradenton playground replacement is not an IST project because it does not meet the qualifications of the IST, but will be paid for with operating funds. Timeline for replacement remains the same.


 Discussion ensued that the Peninsula Bay Boat Ramp will be fully funded in FY 24-26.

 Ms. Brewer provided a breakdown of funding for the animal shelter including what is being budgeted for the Bishop Animal Shelter. Overall funding is broken down in the project sheets. She clarified how funding is distributed in the IST. The John Marble splash pad has a total of \$400,000 allocated. IST funding is not being used to fund the hardening of John Marble, but State funding will be used with the County funding the additional \$1 million.


 Discussion ensued that although the CIP will be adopted tonight, there are still projects that require discussion.


 Ms. Brewer stated changes can be made to the CIP throughout the year with a budget amendment.

 Dr. Hopes clarified any change over \$500,000 requires Board approval.

 Discussion continued regarding concern that the projects will start prior to the Board having an opportunity to discuss projects of concern.


 Mr. Brewer reiterated that individual discussions will take place with the Board, followed by open discussion during a meeting with direction given regarding items of concern.

 Dr. Hopes explained the library is designed at 100 percent, and there will be regular meetings for the Board to provide guidance and move projects forward.


 Discussion was held that projects under \$500,000 will not go before the Board, desire to keep projects moving forward, and a dashboard is being created with real time updates on the CIP.


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3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

 Sue Kolze submitted a statement and encouraged the Board to move forward with an east county animal shelter, and explained that the Humane Society Lakewood Ranch, will not be able to accept animals from Animal Services.

Lori Gurley spoke regarding the need for a new animal shelter out east, and noted east county rescues are not going to act as animal shelters. She requested funds be left in the budget for an east county animal shelter.


 Alicia Daugherty, Animal Services Advisory Board, spoke regarding transporting dogs from the Manatee County Animal Shelter to other areas in the country. The shelter cannot find homes for all of the dogs surrendered at the shelter.

 Dr. Sue Ann Miller distributed a chart regarding library services in Manatee County, and encouraged building the east county library.

 Karen Bridge encouraged building the animal shelter.

 Glen Gibellina questioned reporting for CDBG funding and funding for a Veterans shelter.

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

 Discussion ensued regarding appreciating the volunteers at the animal shelter, non-profits who help fund services at Animal Services including medical bills, defer building the shelter until it is known exactly what is needed, build the library as it is designed, prices inflate, there were changes to the library design by staff, other projects were added to the library that were not part of the library itself, and do not want library paying for other things.

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5. **MILLAGE/BUDGET ADOPTION**

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Resolutions: B-22-004, setting the final ad valorem millage rates for FY 21/22; B-22-005, adopting the Annual Budget for Manatee County for FY 21/22; and Resolution B-22-006 adopting the final budget for Manatee County Dependent Special Taxing Districts including the Manatee County Port Authority, the Housing Authority of Manatee County, and the Manatee County Law Library for FY 21/22.

A motion was made by Commissioner Servia and seconded by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge, to adopt Resolution B-22-004 setting final millage rates FY 21/22.

Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator, announced aggregate millage rate for the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners for FY 20/21 is: 6.8322 and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of: 6.6288 for the operating millage is hereby determined to be +3.07 percent. Again, there is a decrease of .20 in the overall tax rates.


The motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Servia, seconded by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-22-005 adopting the Budget for FY 21/22, which also includes the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxing Unit and the Palm Are Municipal Services Tax Unit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Servia, seconded by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-22-006, which adopts the Budget for FY 21/22 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts.

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6. **FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

 A motion was made by Commissioner Servia, seconded by Commissioner Satcher, and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution R-21-154 adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and

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(Continued)

Policy regarding the Administration of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for FY 22-26.
Ms. Brewer thanked the Board for approving the budget and staff for their hard work.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes Approved: October 12, 2021