

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT MEETING WITH LONGBOAT KEY  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
October 31, 2023**

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

**Present were Board of County Commissioners:**

Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Chairman  
Mike Rahn, First Vice-Chairman  
Amanda Ballard, Second Vice-Chairman  
Jason Bearden, Third Vice-Chairman  
George Kruse  
James A. Satcher, III  
Ray Turner

**Present were Longboat Key Commissioners:**

Ken Schneier, Mayor  
Mike Haycock, Vice-Mayor  
Gary Coffin  
Penny Gold  
Debbie Murphy  
B.J. Bishop

**Absent was:**

Debra Williams, Longboat Key Commissioner

**Also present were:**

Charlie Bishop, County Administrator  
Courtney DePol, Deputy County Administrator  
Bryan Parnell, Deputy County Administrator  
William Clague, County Attorney  
Howard Tipton, Longboat Key Town Manager  
Robin Toth, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court



Chairman Van Ostenbridge called the Joint Meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Joan Irwin, Baha'i Faith of Manatee County.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Jason Bearden.

**INTRODUCTIONS**



Officials in attendance introduced themselves.

**AGENDA**

BC20231031DOC001

**6. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**




Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director, discussed high water rescue vehicles, power restoration, upcoming trainings, storm surge and informational briefings and updates.

Discussion ensued on storm activation, evacuation procedures, how Manatee and Sarasota Counties are no longer in the same Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) regions, and communication efforts between counties and municipalities.

BC20231031DOC002

4. **DISCUSSION ON WATER TURNOFF POLICY**

 Jim Renneberg, Interim Utilities Director, reviewed the water shut-off policy for storms including communication efforts, review of wastewater systems and restoration process. Staff is working with Island communities on an Interlocal Agreement pertaining to shut-off policy.

There was discussion on whether reverse 9-1-1 covers both counties, Longboat Key would initiate the process, and whether the shut-off policy coincides with evacuation plans.

BC20231031DOC003


1. **LONGBOAT KEY UPDATES ON GREER ISLAND DREDGING, BROADWAY STREET AT GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE (S.R. 789) ROUNDABOUT PROJECT, SUBAQUEOUS FORCE MAIN PROJECT, TOWN CENTER UPDATE AND ST. REGIS HOTEL AND RESIDENCES**

 Isaac Brownman, Longboat Key (LBK) Public Works Director, reviewed slide presentations for Greer Island Dredging, Broadway Street at Gulf of Mexico Drive (S.R. 789) Roundabout Project, Subaqueous Force Main Project and Town Center Update.

Greer Island Dredging

Mr. Brownman gave an overview of the Town's recently completed Greer Island Sand Spit and Canal Dredge project.

Broadway Street at Gulf of Mexico Drive (S.R. 789) Roundabout

 Howard Tipton, LBK Town Manager, asked the County Commission in conjunction with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to consider funding construction costs associated with the roundabout project.


Subaqueous Force Main Project

LBK Mayor Ken Schneier reported LBK is seeking funding from the State, Federal and Local Government pertaining to force main projects.

Town Center Update


Mr. Brownman reviewed the Town Center design and construction progress, grand opening November 11, and upcoming events on the site.


St. Regis Hotel and Residences

 Allen Parsons, LBK Planning, Zoning and Development Director, gave an overview of the St. Regis Hotel and Residences (former Colony Beach Club). There was discussion on economic impacts including job creation, a \$600 million project opening July 2024, and how the resort would be open to the public.

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2. **DISCUSSION ON TRANSIT ON LONGBOAT KEY**

 Mr. Tipton noted there has been discussion on an island-wide solution for transit on Longboat Key, which resulted in a proposal.


 Chad Butzow, Public Works Director, used a slide presentation and stated he received the proposed Interlocal Agreement for review. He discussed how bus service on the Manatee County side is free and the proposal is for the same service to LBK residents and the rest of the island including costs per trip.


There was discussion on costs, utilization of Sarasota bus service, on demand service, desire for County to provide current funding to Sarasota for this service, proposed service map, a simple solution is hard to facilitate when it comes to traffic, and reconfiguring parking lots for drop-offs.

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**RECESS/RECONVENE:** 3:07 p.m. – 3:22 p.m. All County Commissioners were present.

3. **DISCUSSION ON WHITNEY BEACH PLAZA COMMUNITY/EDUCATION CENTER**


 Chairman Van Ostenbridge commented about mending fences with the Town of Longboat Key and rebuilding the relationship.

 Charles Meador, Property Acquisition Division Manager, discussed the partnership with the School Board and details pertaining to the remodel and proposed plans for the Center.

Discussion took place on a non-compete clause with existing uses in the Plaza, class types and studio space, and School involvement.

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5. **WATER TAXI UPDATE**

 Elliott Falcione, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, provided an update on the status of the water taxi. The ferries are within 30-45 days of being operational, ferries are docked at Pier 22, handicap ramps are being installed, signage, blessing of the ferries by officials with a familiarizing tour, advertising to tourists, service worker express, hours of operation and proposed future expansion, funding consists of tourism tax proceeds and beach concession revenues, locations, and additional points of service could be in Longboat Key and Rye Preserve.

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**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

 LBK Commissioner Murphy expressed concern with how traffic would be managed on the beaches near Bradenton Beach and Coquina Beach during peak season.

Commissioner comments centered around on how nice it is to have Commissioners that can work together on matters of mutual interest and congratulations on the St. Regis Hotel.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

 There were no citizen comments.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Van Ostenbridge adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Minutes Approved: December 12, 2023