

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
August 1, 2024**

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

Present were:

Mike Rahn, Chairman, District 4
Amanda Ballard, First Vice-Chairman, District 2
George Kruse, District 7
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, District 3

Absent were:

Ray Turner, Second Vice-Chairman, District 5
Jason Bearden, Third Vice-Chairman, District 6

District 1 seat is vacant.

Present were:

Charlie Bishop, County Administrator
Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney
Robin Toth, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

CALL TO ORDER

 Chairman Rahn called the Budget Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION

1.  The Invocation was led by Missy Parmenter, Community Impact Pastor of Oasis Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andy Butterfield, Chief of Staff.

AGENDA

Public comment from Judith Karkhoff was received and made part of the record.


BC20240801DOC001

BC20240801DOC002


2. **PRESENTATION OF THE FY25 CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS BUDGET PART II, BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND APPROVAL OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE**


 Sheila McLean, Chief Financial Officer, summarized Budget Message Memorandum (7/27/24) and utilized slides to present Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Constitutional Officers Budgets Part II, Budget Reconciliation, and Tentative Millage Rate for FY25.


BC20240801DOC003


 Changes made to the recommended budget during the June 17 work session would be addressed today. Constitutional Officers presented their budgets at this work session with exception of the Property Appraiser, Sheriff, and Supervisor of Elections. The Sheriff and a Supervisor of Elections representative were present today to address their budgets. The Property Appraiser was not present.

Sheriff

 Sheriff Rick Wells stated previous, conservative budgets have not been enough for his office to keep up with a population growth increase of 29 percent over the past ten years. The Sheriff's office has grown by 12 percent.


 The Sheriff’s FY25 Budget of \$237,130,503 represents an increase of \$40,779,595 (21 percent), which includes \$12,846,669 for desperately needed personnel. The biggest driver is salary increases of \$19 million. New positions include 15 law enforcement road deputies, two crime analysts, two property crime detectives, a forensic deputy, two corrections sergeants, and a deputy for the Tax Collector’s office. Continuance of the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program for supervisors is also needed.


 Total jail bed capacity is 1,800 beds. An additional 15 deputies are needed to man the new Omega Building (Manatee County Juvenile Detention Facility, Harlee Road, Palmetto), to relieve over population in the jail, continue the recovery pods and increase jail bed space (80). State funding is being pursued for 20 vehicles. These are core needs of the requested budget to meet increasing growth. Sheriff Wells offered to assume responsibility of the Homeless Outreach Program and the animal kennels.


 Discussion occurred to thank the Sheriff for willingness to assume additional duties, proposed a law enforcement base salary increase to \$76,000, Manatee County invests \$200,000 per deputy for required training/experience and then they apply to other agencies offering higher salaries, and the need to increase deputy salaries to stay competitive.

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Supervisor of Elections


 David Ballard, Supervisor of Elections Office, presented the FY25 Budget of \$4,019, 615, reflecting same levels of service as the amended FY24 budget. Personnel services total \$2,547,781 (\$256,781 increase), attributed to the County’s commitment to recruitment, retention, and successful planning. Of the increase, \$79,104 will be used to maintain staffing levels consistent with the amended FY24 budget.

 Operating expenses total \$1,471,834 (\$259,151 decrease), which is the result of a single investment in election security in FY24 and updating funding objects to reflect actual and actuarial costs. All other services remain consistent. Approximately \$20,000 has been returned to the Supervisor of Elections.


 Discussion ensued on the General Election, FY24 postage is less than anticipated, cyclical expenses for on/off years so voter cards and mail-in ballots do not need to be mailed, costs savings by early voting ballots, and unexpected non-recurring expenses.

BC20240801DOC005

Property Appraiser


 In the absence of the Property Appraiser, Ms. McLean stated the Property Appraiser’s FY25 Budget is based on State budget and County contribution of 94.08 percent, for a total FY25 budget of \$7,712,891.

BC20240801DOC006


 The County also faces increases to health insurance, seven percent cost-of-living increase, and Florida Retirement System (FRS) adjustments.


BUDGET UPDATE

Impacts of July 1 Certification


 Ms. McLean continued with slides of Revenue Changes Detail (Exhibit A) and Expenditure Changes FY25 Budget (Exhibit B). Certification has brought challenges to the budget and affects many funding sources in 12 departments. Every budget and cash flow must be adjusted, including interest income. CIP Adjustments of \$39,899,44, and 39 paramedic positions funded by The American Rescue Plan Act, must be incorporated into the budget.

BC20240801DOC007

 The County Attorney was instructed to come back and discuss changes to their budget.

 Ms. McLean reviewed a FY25 Proposed Budget Summary and Reconciliation of Changes – Net Budget Summary FY25. Total, proposed net budget is \$1,307,098,789, total gross budget is \$2,421,787,827, which is an increase of \$42,492,564 from FY25 Recommended Budget of \$2,379,295,263. The new, proposed FY25-29 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) only is \$2,158,469,397, with a FY25 investment of \$503,338,537. There are a total of 725 projects, 63 new projects, 298 projects requiring additional funding, 427 projects requiring no additional funding, and 130 Infrastructure Sales Tax (IST) projects. New investment constitutes 39 percent of the total net budget.

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 Property Value Increases Countywide is 13.45 percent, Unincorporated MSTU increase of 14.34 percent, and Palm Aire MSTU decrease to 8 percent. Total increase to Ad Valorem taxes of \$13.8 million is incorporated into the proposed budget.


Pulled Items – Court Administration


 Pulled Items of Court Administration/IT Technology Courtroom Remodel (\$210,000 non-recurring), Assistant State Attorney and Legal Assistant positions for the Violation of Probation (VOP) Program (\$222,400), and two telecommunicators for Public Safety (\$185,234), are added to the previously-approved budget (6/17/24), for a total of \$617,634.

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Pulled Items – County Attorney


 Pam D’Agostino, County Attorney, stated during previous discussion on the County Attorney’s budget (6/12/24), the Board asked the County Attorney to come back with details on staffing needs to get the office performing at the desired level. She submitted a proposed request to Ms. McLean (6/14/24) for additional personnel. However, upon further review, she withdrew the June 14 budget request, and distributed a revised request for two Assistant County Attorneys and one legal assistant, for a total budget request of \$447,217.

 Ms. McLean pointed out \$150,630 of unused funds from the FY24 County Attorney budget are being applied to offset the FY25 revised budget request, for an adjusted total request of \$296,587.

 Ms. D’Agostino explained the County Attorney’s office is currently down four Attorneys; two Attorneys start Monday (8/6/24), and, as of October 1, there will be the ability to hire two, additional attorneys.

BC20240801DOC010

Motion – Approve County Attorney’s Revised Budget

 Upon request, Ms. D’Agostino offered a recommended motion: I move to approve the recommended budget for the County Attorney’s office, as presented by the County Attorney.

 Commissioner Ballard so moved the recommended motion by the County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge.

There being no public comment, Chairman Rahn closed public comment.

 The motion carried 4-0, with Commissioners Bearden and Turner absent.


Countywide Sources (Revenues)

 Property Taxes are the second largest Countywide funding source at 19.48 percent, or \$472 million annually, followed by Charges for Services (Utilities, Solid Waste, debt collection rates).


Countywide Uses (Expenses)

 The largest Countywide Uses Expense item is the Sheriff at \$235 million, followed by Utilities and Public Works.


General Fund Sources (Revenues)

 Property Taxes represent the largest revenue source for the General Fund at \$338 million.


General Fund Uses (Expenses)

 The Sheriff is the largest expense item in the General fund, followed by Public Safety and Property Management.

Business Operations Budget - Changes by Department/Agency


 This Budget consists of 14 departments; 12 of which were impacted by proposed budget changes. Constitutional Officers and other programs reflect a change of \$42,492,564 million.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 25-29/List of Deferred Projects


 Deferred projects totaled \$221.3 million; however, the impact of FY24 Board-approved adjustments to current projects resulted in an overall decrease of \$163,098,701 from the recommended CIP FY25-29 of \$2,321,568,098, for a FY25 proposed CIP of \$2,158,469,397. The entire CIP FY25-29, inclusive of existing and future projects, is \$5.3 billion.

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
Reserves

 The change in recommended FY25 Reserves of \$841,327,230 to Proposed FY25 Reserves of \$782,669,634, reflects a decrease in Reserves of \$58.7 million, which is attributed to all of the changes as outlined.


Summary of Changes in Cash Balance Reserves

 Proposed FY25 Total Reserve Cash Balance is \$708.8 million. Total Stabilization is \$189.7 million, leaving a General Fund stabilization of 6.1, and \$107 million of Reserves into the General Fund. General Fund Balance reflects the Sheriff FY25 budget adjustment.


ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE COMPARISON

 Certified taxable property values for the FY25 Budget increased over the prior year's final certified values by 13.45 percent Countywide, and 14.34 percent in the Unincorporated area. The Palm Aire MSTU increased over the prior year by eight percent. Total Countywide Operating Millage is 6.2326. The Save Our Homes will continue to be capped at three percent, as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remains unchanged at five percent in Florida. There is no millage rate increase for the proposed FY25 budget.


NEXT STEPS

 The next step is the September 12 public hearing on the tentative budget. Further CIP Plan changes approved by the Board will be brought forward, including the Port FY25 Budget, Special District (Housing Authority/Law Library), and Department of Revenue Estimate Adjustments (Sales Tax, Gas Tax, Infrastructure Sales Tax).

TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FY25

 Ms. McLean requested a motion to set the tentative, Countywide Operating Millage at 6.2326, Unincorporated MSTU at 0.6109, and the Palm Aire MSTU at 0.2546.


There being no public comment, Chairman Rahn closed public comment.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, and seconded by Chairman Rahn, to set the Countywide Operating Millage at 6.2326, Unincorporated MSTU at 0.6109, and Palm Aire MSTU at 0.2546; and, authorize the County Administrator to take all action necessary to certify existing Millage Rates approved herewith to the Property Appraiser. The motion carried 4-0, with Commissioners Bearden and Turner absent.

NEXT PUBLIC HEARING

Two public hearings on the budget are scheduled September 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., and September 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, at Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT - INVEST 97L/UNNAMED TROPICAL DISTURBANCE

 Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director, reported staff is monitoring an unnamed, tropical disturbance moving up from south of Cuba, currently identified as Invest 97L, (to be named Hurricane Debby). Tracking intensity is uncertain at this time. Some impact is anticipated by early next week. National Weather Service briefings will be held, followed by an Emergency Operations Center briefing at 3:00 p.m. Packets will be distributed following the update.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Rahn adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes Approved: December 10, 2024