

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
February 10, 2026**

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

Present were:


Tal Siddique, Chairman District 3  
Amanda Ballard, First Vice-Chairman District 2  
George Kruse, Second Vice-Chairman, District 7  
Carol Ann Felts, Third Vice-Chairman, District 1  
Dr. Bob McCann, District 5  
Jason Bearden, District 6  
Mike Rahn, District 4

Present were:


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

 Chairman Siddique called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

 Reverend Brock Patterson, Longboat Island Chapel, delivered the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

 Diane Condon, Manatee County resident and real estate professional, led the Pledge of Allegiance, in honor of her mentor, Rich Tyson, U.S. Navy Veteran.

**AGENDA**

- Agenda Update Memorandum 1 (2/3/26) BC20260210DOC001
- Item 21, Adoption of Resolution R-26-023, approving Development Agreement for Project Grace, and Authorizing execution of the Development Agreement – Deleted from Agenda BC20260210DOC002
- Item 22, Adoption of Resolution R-26-024, approving Development Agreement for Project Phoenix, and authorizing execution of Development Agreement – Deleted from Agenda BC20260210DOC003
- Item 35, Adjustments to Board Rules – Public Hearings – This agenda item was revised to update the Attorney Review Section from RLS Submitted for Review (Opinion Memo Pending) to Other (Requires explanation in field below) in strikethrough/underline format BC20260210DOC004
- Item 38, 2026 Ballot Referendum Ensuring Continuation of Children’s Services Coverage Through Age 21 – Deleted from Agenda BC20260210DOC005
- Agenda Update Memorandum 2 (2/4/26) BC20260210DOC006
- Generic Public Comments – Updated with additional public comments
- Item 33, Update on the Solid Waste Collection Program – Updated with public comment
- Item 35, Adjustments to Board Rules – Public Hearings – Updated with revised Exhibit A and Background Discussion

Agenda Update Memorandum 3 (2/5/26)

BC20260210DOC007


- Generic Public Comments – Updated with additional public comments
- Item 33, Adoption of Resolution R-26-020, authorizing Implementation of the Lead Service Line Inventory Project, Execution and Delivery of Florida State Revolving Fund Loan Application related to the Project, and Pledging Utilities Revenues to the Project –
  - Updated with revised Instructions to Board Records deleting: Record Resolution, Charge Recording Fees to Manatee County Utilities AR 700001; and
  - Updated with a public comment
- Item 36, Juneteenth 2026 Sponsorship – Updated with attachments

Agenda Update Memorandum 4 (2/9/26)



BC20260210DOC008

- Generic Public Comments – Updated with additional public comments
- Item 12, Execution of Interlocal Agreement with City of Anna Maria for the City of Anna Maria Pier Repair/Rebuild Project – This agenda item was updated to correct the Action Requested in strikethrough/underline format: Authorization for the ~~Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners~~ County Administrator to execute Interlocal Agreement with City of Anna Maria for the City of Anna Maria Pier Repair/Rebuild Project
- Item 23, Adoption of Resolution R-26-021, authorizing execution of Public Transit Grant Agreements (PTGA) funded by Federal Section 5310 for FY 2025/2026 FDOT State Projects: FPID 438959-1-84-23, FPID 438959-2-94-23, and FPID 438959-1-84-25 – Revised to update the title and Background Discussion to correct one of the Agreement Numbers from 438959-1-94-23 to 438959-2-94-23
- Item 30, Execution of Annual Joint Funding Agreement 26MCJAF0019 with U.S. Geological Survey for FY 2025-2026 – Deleted from Agenda BC20260210DOC009
- Item 33, Update on the Solid Waste Collection – Updated with additional public comment
- Item 34, On Call Report Process – Updated to include an attachment
- Item 35, Adjustments to Board Rules – Public Hearings – Updated with Revised Exhibit A, Amendment to Board Rules 5.5.4


**ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES TO THE AGENDA**


 Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, stated all updates were published with the revised agenda. Additional public comments received after the publishing of the agenda were received and submitted. BC20260210DOC010




**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1.  Florida Fire Chiefs Association Awards were presented by Chief Ben Rigney, West Manatee Fire, to three of their firemen, Josh Adkins, Fire Inspector of the Year, Rodney Kwiatkowski, Fire Marshall of the Year, and Deputy Chief Jay Johnson. BC20260210DOC011
2. A Heroism Award was presented to the wife of Brian McAllister, Building Inspector, Development Services. BC20260210DOC012
3.  February 2026 Team Member of the Month was presented to Clayton McCurry, Senior Ranger, Natural Resources. BC20260210DOC013

**PROCLAMATIONS**

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Rahn, and carried 7-0, to adopt the following Proclamations.

4.  Proclamation designating February 14-15, 2026, as 44th Annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival, was accepted by Jane von Hahmann. BC20260210DOC014


- 6.  Proclamation designating February 14-21, 2026, as Florida Cracker Trail Ride Week, was accepted by Robert Wolfe, Trail Boss. A video clip of Trail Riders was shown. BC20260210DOC015
- 7.  Proclamation designating February 7, 2026, as Lakewood Ranch Community Emergency Response Team (LWR CERT) Day, was accepted by Team members. BC20260210DOC016
- 5.  Proclamation designating February 10, 2026, as CWC-FPRA (Central West Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association) 60th Anniversary. BC20260210DOC017


**ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA** 

Items 9, 12, 13, and 28 pulled by Commissioner Felts  
Items 26 and 29 pulled by Commissioner McCann

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** (Consent Agenda Only)

 A motion was made by Commissioner Rahn, and seconded by Commissioner Kruse, to approve the Consent Agenda, with the changes incorporated in the Agenda Update Memorandum, with deletion of Items 9, 12, 13, 26, 28, and 29 (separate actions).

 Ed Ference stated the Vac-Con truck (Item 17) has several unnecessary features that could reduce the purchase price.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Siddique closed citizen comments.

 The motion carried 7-0.

- 8. **CLERK'S CONSENT** BC20260210DOC018
  - A. **MINUTES**  
Approved the Minutes of January 6, 2026 (State of Chair)
  - B. **REFUNDS**  
Approved:
    - 1. 2017 1IH Borrower LP – Billing Adjustment, \$2,499.37 BC20260210DOC019
    - 2. Arrow Realty – Billing Adjustment, \$1,726.22 BC20260210DOC020
    - 3. Coach Homes IV Lakewood National – Billing Adjustment, \$13,533.51 BC20260210DOC021
    - 4. Homes By Laura, Inc. – Facility Investment Fee (FIF), \$5,888 BC20260210DOC022
    - 5. Taylor Morrison – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260210DOC023
    - 6. Taylor Morrison – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260210DOC024

10. **COUNTY ATTORNEY/LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT**

Authorized County Attorney's Office to take no action regarding Defendant, Duncan Seawall, Dock and Boat Lift LLC's, January 15, 2026, Proposal for Settlement in the amount of \$250,000 to Manatee County, and to allow the Proposal for Settlement to expire in the matter of Manatee County v. Duncan Seawall, Dock and Boat Lift LLC, Case 2025-CA-002593 BC20260210DOC025

11. **CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU/WATER TAXI OPERATING AGREEMENT**

Executed Amendment Five to Water Taxi Operating Agreement (6/15/23) with Gulf Coast Water Taxi LLC, increasing the annual subsidy sum not to exceed \$660,000, revises the

monthly subsidy amount to accommodate additional expenses of the third water ferry vessel, and revises the fee schedule to increase ticket prices an additional one dollar  
BC20260210DOC026

14. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional departmental budgeted funding to Agreement 19-R071230SR with Richard’s Plumbing and Electric and Synergy Electric and Lighting for Electrical Services (estimated annual expenditure \$400,000)  
BC20260210DOC027

15. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/PIGGYBACK BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional departmental budgeted funding to Piggyback Blanket Purchase Order P2500630 for Security Guard Services with Allied Universal Security Services LLC (estimated annual expenditure \$564,000)  
BC20260210DOC028

16. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/PIGGYBACK PURCHASE ORDER**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to issue Piggyback Purchase Order to Southern Sewer Equipment Sales, for one Vac-Con Dual Engine Combination Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner (estimated expenditure \$698,351.01)  
BC20260210DOC029

17. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/PIGGYBACK PURCHASE ORDER**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to issue Piggyback Purchase Order to Southern Sewer Equipment Sales for one Vac-Con Dual Engine Combination Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner (estimated expenditure \$629,961.11)  
BC20260210DOC030

18. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Change Order 1 to Agreement 25-TA005806JH with McIntyre Elwell & Strammer General Contractors, Inc., for Manatee County Jail Chiller Replacement, authorizing an additional \$552,285.65, for a revised, not-to-exceed amount of \$2,714,198.81  
BC20260210D0C031

19. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum to Agreement 25-TA006005LP, Construction Management at Risk Services for King Middle School Park, with P.J. Hayes, Inc., dba Tandem Construction, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,406,312.31, with a construction schedule of 187 calendar days  
BC20260210DOC032

20. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/DONATION**

- Accepted 2024 and 2025 Robinson Preserve Twilight Race Donation from Fit2Run amounting to \$11,293.51 by Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; and
- Authorized Chairman, County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, or designee, to execute all necessary documents related to the monetary acceptance and all relevant documents required for administration and any non-monetary amendments  
BC20260210DOC033

23. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/RESOLUTION/GRANT**

- Adopted Resolution R-26-021, authorizing the Chairman, or designee, to execute Public Transit Grant Agreements (PTGA) funded by Federal Section 5310 for FY 2025/2026 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) State Projects: FPID 438959-1-84-23 (\$787,306), FPID 438959-1-94-23 (\$594,000), and FPID 438959-1-84-25 (\$212,694); and
- Authorized County Administrator, or designee, to execute amended applications, assurances, payment requests, reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications, grant agreement time extensions, supplemental notification of funding awards, and

other documents which may be required in connection with the application or subsequent agreements

BC20260210DOC034

24. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/RESOLUTION/GRANT**

- Adopted Resolution R-26-022, authorizing the Chairperson, or designee, to execute PTGA Financial Project Number 410895-1-84-13 with FDOT, providing for reimbursement of eligible operating expenses for the Anna Maria Island Trolley in the amount of \$635,082; and
- Authorized County Administrator, or designee, to execute amended applications, assurances, payment requests, reimbursement invoices, warranties, certifications, grant agreement time extensions, supplemental notification of funding awards, and other documents which may be required in connection with the application or subsequent agreements

BC20260210DOC035

25. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/WCIND OFF-CYCLE FUNDING**

- Authorized to apply for West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Off-Cycle (CNIF) funding for Bowlees Creek Dredging Project Design and Permitting; and
- Authorized County Administrator, or designee, to execute non-monetary changes, amendments, and reports

BC20260210DOC036


27. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/DEEDS AND EASEMENTS**


Accepted and authorized recording of Permanent Utilities Easement for CNL Parrish Fort Hamer LLC (includes Consent and Joinder from Kish Bank), for property located at 12065 U.S. 301 North, Parrish, required in accordance with Final Site Plan requirements for a commercial development


BC20260210DOC037


(End Consent Agenda)


**CITIZEN COMMENTS** (Future Agenda Items Only, and Generic Comments submitted online)


 Patricia Simmons submitted information and spoke about a Proclamation for Persons with Disabilities.


 Glen Gibellina submitted information and spoke about YIGBY (Yes, In God's Backyard) faith-based development, public comments, and Commissioner accountability.


 Heidi Minihkeim requested an update on the management of the Myakka River.


 Cathy Bridwell submitted information on the costs and design of Manatee County Parks versus the new animal shelters at Bishop Animal Shelter.


 Susan Parker, animal shelter volunteer, raised concern with the prefabricated kennels and safety at the new animal shelter. She asked the Board to halt activity at the shelter.


 Jane von Hahmann commented on adverse effects to the Florida Institute of Saltwater Heritage (F.I.S.H.) Preserve, wildlife habitat, and ecosystems if a new cruise terminal is developed near Terra Ceia.

 Ed Ference requested placing a policy regarding specialty equipment on a future agenda for discussion.


 Linda Warner, animal shelter volunteer, stated the prefabricated kennels are not quality and will not last. She asked Commissioners to visit Palmetto Animal Shelter to observe the day-to-day logistics of operating a shelter.

 Marjorie Struck thanked Commissioners for allowing her to speak in the last Board meeting (1/27/26) about her condominium association.


 By telephone, Andra Griffin spoke on the need for a Canopy Road Ordinance, the status of removing pet restrictions from the County, designating Manatee County as an America First Jobs County, and the status of County operations with the downsizing of Administration and staff.

 By telephone, Cynthia Harris questioned Manatee County's plans to address water shortages, as growth is occurring at the cost of destroying ecosystems.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Siddique closed citizen comments.


 Discussion ensued that the Board has heard citizens' concerns regarding a potential cruise terminal, Board cannot intervene on development applications nor regulate/oversee water permits, Board is transparent on public record requests, concerns should be relayed to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), items are pulled from the Consent Agenda for more information, need to focus on what we can do versus what we cannot do, staff changes, what can be done to protect Canopy Roads, update on the two staff positions to oversee the protection of Myakka River (discussed 9/16/25), parents can place restrictions on the Parent Choice Library Card for their children, mission by Commissioner Ballard to make sure tax dollars are not going to illegal aliens, community involvement is needed, bring back home rule, Senate Bill (SB) 180 is the priority of Legislators, House Bill 399 has a companion bill, SB 840 is a good bill, and citizens can reach out to their Legislators on the status of bills.


BC202602310DOC038


 Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, stated the Board approved two staff positions in Development Services to oversee the management of Myakka River.  
(Further Citizen Comments continued later in the meeting)


**RECESS/RECONVENE:** 10:39 a.m. – 10:31 a.m. All Commissioner were present.


9. **COUNTY ATTORNEY/AIRCRAFT LIABILITY INSURANCE (DRONES)**


 Commissioner Felts pulled this item to ask how many County-owned drones made in China need to be returned.


 Mr. Bishop stated all DJI drones had to be surplused and replaced. Drones are critical to infrastructure and used by Public Works for pre/post storm imagery, Natural Resources, and Utilities. The Drone Program is overseen by Property Management.

 Commissioner Felts said the drones have been used to capture issues in District 1. The public has asked if the drones can be used to monitor activity on the Myakka River and construction on environmental lands. She would like to see the Drone Program expanded to capture accurate data for Development Services and Public Safety.


 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, stated the County has 16 unmanned aircraft/drones and five payload/cameras.


 Cary Knight, Property Management Director, stated the County has both high- and low-level drones for different reasons, unmanned aerial drones, drone boats, and submersible drones for bridge and pier inspections in the survey and mapping department, drone services was contracted prior to the County owning drones, and multiple drone contractors were hired to examine flooding in Myakka following Hurricane Irma. Staff has been expanding the ability of the drone program, and users will present to the Board in March during Surveying and Mapping Week. The drones can be placed on display in the Administrative Center Lobby for view.

 Discussion was held on the cost per drone, \$80,000 in payload cameras, combined cost of the drone equipment \$380,000, make/model information is attached to the agenda item, how the County determined the need for these products, less expensive alternatives, presentation to the Board will address all the uses of the drones and the savings realized by not contracting out drones, identify County drones, drones are being used recreationally, and notify citizens when the County is using drones in the.

 Glen Gibellina stated the County cannot purchase drones from China, and the existing drones should be used and not surplus.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Siddique closed public comments.


 Commissioner Kruse agreed this is a waste of taxpayer money, but there is legislation requiring the discontinuation of drones made in China as they pose a security risk.


 A motion was made by Commissioner Felts, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 7-0, to approve proposed and future changes to insured equipment covered by aircraft liability insurance policy for County-owned, unmanned aircraft/drones and payload/cameras in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and, to authorize the County Attorney, or his/her designee, to execute and deliver to the appropriate parties all necessary documents consistent with approving any changes to the equipment covered by this insurance, provided the aggregate insurance costs do not exceed \$50,000 for the term of this policy.


BC20260210DOC039


12. **CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU/INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**


 Commissioner Felts pulled this Agenda item for more information.


 Elliott Falcione, Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Director, stated the Anna Maria City Pier sustained significant structural damage and destruction due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The City of Anna Maria (City) has requested assistance in an amount not to exceed \$2 million to repair/rebuild the Pier including design work, debris clean up, and new construction. The City is working with FEMA and the State appropriations process to secure funding between \$7-\$9 million (amount not confirmed), with the City contributing an estimated \$1-\$2 million by end of calendar year 2026.


 The Tourist Development Council (TDC) unanimously recommended moving this forward to the County Commission for approval. The project would be funded 100 percent by eligible tourism tax proceeds.


 Mr. Falcione stated the City is working diligently to get the Pier rebuilt. The County is also working concurrently with the City to find a location in that geographic area to land the new, large water ferry.

 Discussion ensued regarding other locations for the ferry if the City Pier cannot be used, additional funding is unknown at this time, there are not many landing options in Holmes Beach, the ferries are used to transport people to the Island and benefit Island communities, the County has a good relationship with Island Officials, Bradenton Beach would be a great stop for the ferries, Manatee County is making the investment now, review the interlocal agreement, and Manatee County is willing to work with the Municipalities.


 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, and seconded by Chairman Siddique, to authorize the County Administrator to execute Interlocal Agreement with the City of Anna Maria, for the Anna Maria City Pier Repair/Rebuilt Project.

 City of Anna Maria Mayor Mark Short understands the County's concerns regarding the water ferry landing at City Pier and has been working with the TDC on different options. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that the Pier must stay within the footprint of the former Pier. Dialogue was held with the TDC on building the Pier according to DEP requirements. The walkway is well underway, and the pilings are the primary focus. The intent is to have the later this fall.

 Glen Gibellina stated the ferry program is great, but there should be assurances for the ferry to land at the City Pier, and it should be put in writing in perpetuity.


 Ed Ference commented on other sites to dock the ferry.


There being no further public comments, Chairman Siddique closed public comments.


 Discussion ensued regarding concern that the County may have to make another large monetary investment to build another structure along the Pier to accommodate the ferry, and the investment that has been approved by the Tourist Development Council.


 The motion carried 6-1, with Commissioner Ballard voting nay. BC20260210DOC040

13. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTIONS**

 Commissioner Felts pulled this item to request staff to condense the supporting documents for the budget resolutions and simplify the agenda coversheets for the public.

 Claudia Campos, Interim Financial Management Director, stated the motion on the agenda memorandum is incorrect, as it references Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-051, which is already on the agenda under Item 32. The motion should be corrected to remove Budget Amendment B-26-051 from the Requested Action for Item 13.

 Chairman Siddique stated the motion is to adopt Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-043.


 A motion was made by Commissioner Felts, and seconded by Chairman Siddique, to adopt Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-043.

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

The motion carried 7-0.

BC20260210DOC041

26. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/GRANT/AGREEMENT/BRIDGE ARTIFICIAL REEF**

 Commissioner McCann pulled this Item for information.

 Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, presented Requested Action:

- Authorize the Chair to execute Recipient/Subrecipient Grant Agreement 25014 with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, for Manatee County Artificial Reef Construction 2025-2026 (to improve and create hard bottom habitat on the County-permitted, 40-acre Bridge Artificial Reef site, located west of Passage Key, Anna Maria Island), in the one-time amount of \$120,000 (FWC \$60,000; County Match \$60,000); and
- Authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to execute any non-monetary changes, amendments, and reports


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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Felts, seconded by Chairman Siddique, and carried 7-0, to approve Item 26 as presented.

BC20260210DOC042

28. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Commissioner Felts pulled this Item for information.

 Carmine DeMilio, Deputy Director of Parks and County Grounds, stated the Agreement with FDOT is for the installation of specialized landscape improvements in two medians within the right-of-way of State Road 64 (Gulf Drive) and Perico Bay Boulevard, at the expense of the County. He presented the Requestion Action:

- Adopt Resolution R-26-016; and
- Authorize the Chairman, or designee, to execute Landscape Maintenance and Installation Agreement with FDOT, for installation of specialized landscape improvements within right-of-way of S.R. 64 (Gulf Drive), at the expense of the County (estimated expense \$2,000)


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

A motion was made by Commissioner Felts, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 7-0, to approve the request as presented.

BC220260210DOC043

29. **UTILITIES/RESOLUTION**

 Commissioner McCann pulled this Item for information.

 Patrick Shea, Utilities Director, stated the Utilities Department is applying for funding of the Lead Service Line Inventory Project under DEP, Division of Water Restoration Assistance Lead and Copper Funding Assistance Program. The funding is available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to provide assistance for planning and design to comply with the Environmental Protection Agencies Revised Lead and Copper Rule. Manatee County has been listed in the intended use plan for funding, and a formal application is required for a 49 percent reimbursement of expended funds.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Rahn, seconded by Commissioner Kruse, and carried 7-0, to approve Item 29 as follows:


- Adopt Resolution R-26-020, authorizing Implementation of the Lead Service Line Inventory Project;
- Authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to execute and deliver the Florida State Revolving Fund Loan Application related to the Project; and
- Authorize a pledge of Utilities Revenues held in a Loan Reserve account for the County's share of the funds for the Project

BC20260210DOC044


**RECESS/RECONVENE:** 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Felts.

**ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS – LEGISLATIVE** (Presentations Upon Request)

31. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/RESOLUTION**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Resolution R-26-003, vacating a portion of right-of-way lying between Tract 15 and Tract 18, Section 35, in Pomello Park Subdivision, located in Myakka City.


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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 6-0, with Commissioner Felts absent, to adopt Resolution R-26-003.


BC20260210DOC045

(Enter Commissioner Felts)


32. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/RESOLUTION**

 A duly-advertised public hearing was held to consider Adoption of proposed Resolution R-26-018, Approval of changes to the Infrastructure Sales Tax Project and Equipment List to add one (1) project in the Parks and Community Facilities Category – Recreation Buildings and Playgrounds (King Middle Neighborhood Park – Other Improvements, \$537,000) remove one (1) project in the Parks and Community Facilities Category – District Parks and Aquatic Facilities (Lakewood Ranch Park Improvements, \$537,000), remove one (1) project in the Public Safety and Law Enforcement Category (New Animal Shelter – Animal Services, \$1,000,000), and remove one (1) project (PSD Additional ALS Ambulance, \$688,986), and amend one (1) project name, scope and rationale in the Public Safety and Law Enforcement Category – Criminal Justice and Public Safety Facility Improvements (The Musgrave Property EMS/MSO combined Substation and Ambulance Addition, \$8,939,588); and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-051.


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


 A motion was made by Commissioner Rahn, seconded by Commissioner Kruse, and carried 7-0, to approve the Action Requested, as presented on the Agenda Memorandum. BC20260210DOC046


33. **UTILITIES/SOLID WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM**


 Patrick Shea, Utilities Director, stated staff was instructed (1/27/26) to reach out to the County's franchise haulers to discuss improvements/enhancements to the Solid Waste Collection Program. The numbers and details are preliminary estimates given the compressed timeline. The Utilities Department and franchise haulers evaluated service alternatives that are operationally feasible, cost-conscious, and capable of near-term implementation. Customers can downsize to a 64-gallon bin at no additional cost, by using the customer, self-service portal at [www.mymanatee.org/css](http://www.mymanatee.org/css).

Mr. Shea utilized a slide presentation on the history since Board direction to proceed with once-a-week garbage pickup (8/1/23), a 65 percent increase for residential service from \$14.33 to \$23.65 (current rate set 10/1/23), solid waste collection and miscellaneous services fees/charges updated to reflect new hauler contracts (9/2/25), and new hauler contract and current garbage collection system begins (10/25).


 Mr. Shea continued with slides on what is working, same day residential service for garbage, recycling and yard waste, user pay option with a second bin available for \$13.32/month, automated trucks, missed pickup rate remains steady at 0.05 percent, multiple ways to dispose of bulk items (fee-based bulk pickup, community cleanup event, landfill residential drop off), community concerns of user pay model for bulk, consider option to return to twice-a-week pickup, on-call bulk pickup, monthly zoned curbside bulk, rapid deployment, monthly zoned bulk collection and how it would work, and potential adjustments to residential solid waste services following implementation of the automated collection system.


 Mr. Shea distributed a Technical Memorandum consolidated in a summary of hauler feedback on Solid Waste Service Options, reflecting alignment between both franchise haulers, and continued with slides regarding the one-time bulk service pickup rate of \$59 remains unchanged, monthly zoned bulk collection with customer text notification sign-up option to remind people of their bulk pickup day, and a graph of a monthly zoned bulk pickup would work. He requested Board direction.


 Discussion ensued that the \$59 charge is arbitrary, garbage along the road is everywhere, rural areas have bulk items, but does not generate yard trash, concern about the fee for two bulk item pickup, the franchise agreement arrangement is a different discussion, the \$0.96 monthly zoned curbside bulk collection for two items seems reasonable, tires have to be handled in a different way on a different truck, the \$59 charge for personalized pickup is boutique service, more in favor of the bulk pickup service rather than a twice-a-week pickup, a two-day pickup would include a Saturday pickup, and haulers are not staffed on Sundays.

 Discussion ensued regarding collection service options, the on-call pickup is potentially a better option versus the monthly zoned curbside bulk, would like to see a two-time pickup come back and investigate the one, curbside collection per month on normal service day, on-call versus monthly zoned curbside bulk, the on-call pickup would be in

isolated situations, and subsidizing a quarterly or twice annual pickup would require everyone to pay at a little over \$2.00/month per customer.

 Mr. Shea summarized the direction of the Board, for monthly zoned, two items bulk pickup, along with a one-time a year larger bulk pick-up on demand and bring forward a rate for this.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, to direct staff to bring back a rate for monthly zoned curbside pick-up of up to two items, as well as an on-call, bulk pickup once annually for all customers. The motion was seconded by Chairman Siddique.


 By telephone, Dalton Nelson stated there are other haulers willing to work with a modified, pickup schedule.


There being no further public comments, Chairman Siddique closed public comments.

 The motion carried 7-0.

BC20260210DOC047

34. **PUBLIC WORKS/ON-CALL REPORT PROCESS**


 Chad Butzow, Public Works Director, stated that during the weekend of January 17-18, 2026, a strong weather front moved through the area, which caused heavy winds resulting in residents experiencing dust blowing from farms and construction sites. Commissioners requested an update on the system in place for residents to notify the County of non-emergency issues outside of standard business hours, weekends, and holidays. The 311 Customer Experience Call Center operates Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and serves as the County's primary point of contact for information and service requests. An answering service provides coverage after hours, weekends, and holidays. Public Works and Utilities have procedures to determine what should be reported to County staff immediately and what to document as a 311 request. There are scripts within the service to respond to general inquiries. The script used by the answering service to notify on-call staff is being updated.

 Discussion ensued regarding identifying a call as a public safety issue, Public Works is changing the answering service scripts to include dust blowing concerns, and a change to 311 closed service tickets indicating the issue has been resolved, and what integration can be done.


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**COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS**


35. **ADJUSTMENTS TO BOARD RULES – PUBLIC HEARINGS**

 Chairman Siddique stated the Board amended Rules of Procedure (January 2025) to establish a uniform, five-minute speaking time for members of the public at all public hearings, both quasi-judicial and legislative. While well intended to increase public participation, the Board has concentrated more time with fewer people thereby discouraging more individuals from coming to speak. A general re-balance is in order for both applicants and individuals. He distributed options (Revised Exhibit A per Update Memo 2/9/26), as a general slate of changes, which support meaningful public participation, informed decision-making, and supports the Board's responsibility to conduct hearings that are both thorough and efficiently managed:


- 5.5.4 Time Limits for Public Hearing Matters. The following time limits shall apply to presentations in public hearings:
- 5.5.4.1 – An applicant in a public hearing shall be entitled to a total of twenty (20) minutes without interruption to make their presentation;
- 5.5.4.2 – Persons authorized to represent an organization with at least five (5) members shall be entitled to speak for ten (10) minutes without interruption upon presenting written documentation containing at least five (5) signatures of members of the organization. A speaker representing an organization must state as such;
- 5.5.4.3 – Any person may request, for good cause, six (6) minutes to provide technical input on a subject matter relevant to the hearing;
- 5.5.4.4. – All other persons shall be entitled to speak for three (3) minutes each;
- 5.5.4.5 – An applicant’s rebuttal shall be limited to five (5) minutes, with an additional two (2) minutes granted for each hour of public testimony; and
- 5.5.4.6 – The Chair may grant extensions of time for good cause.

 Discussion ensued that former Chairman Kruse granted citizens five minutes for quasi-judicial public comments, his reason for extending the public comment time limits, most people did not use the five minutes, does not agree with six minutes, keep five minutes for quasi-judicial and three minutes for public comment during regular Board meetings, and the perception that the Board is limiting the public to speak and to be involved.


 Chairman Siddique stated his concern extends to all hearings, excluding the public, and causing more issues. He spoke with the County Administrator and Development Services Director on running more productive meetings. Paper sign-in sheets will be kept to manage the list of speakers.


 Discussion continued that the issue is communication from the beginning to the final step of hearings, there is a tie-in when the County notifies the public, Districts 1 and 5 are most affected, the entire Board should examine the big picture and review options if any changes are desired, citizens favor a hard stop time, the School Board holds night meetings, and no decisions are being made at this meeting to change Board procedures.

 Monty Knight stated the proposed rules appear to restrict citizens from speaking.

 Elizabeth Arnold encouraged the Board to keep the rules as is, and that everyone be given the opportunity to speak.

 By telephone, Cynthia Keel thanked Commissioner Kruse for his comments.


 By telephone, Mark Vanderee spoke in favor of keeping the current rules on public hearings. The idea of five minutes for quasi-judicial – legislative hearings is not sufficient. The Board needs to do a better job of managing agendas, and the Zipperer Road/Bus Barn land use items (1/28/26) should have been scheduled as a separate meeting.

 By telephone, Dalton Nelson thanked Commissioner Kruse for his comments. The public has expressed great opposition to the proposed rules on social media.


 By telephone, Glen Gibellina suggested the Board keep the current rules.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Siddique closed public comments. BC20260210DOC049


36. **JUNETEENTH 2026 SPONSORSHIP**

 Commissioner Ballard requested a motion to allocate \$5,000 from Discretionary Fund to sponsor the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration to the Rosalyn Wilson Education Foundation. The Board sponsored this event last year and encouraged everyone to attend.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard and seconded by Commissioner Rahn, to allocate \$5,000 from Discretionary Fund for sponsorship of the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration to the Rosalyn Wilson Education Foundation.

 Discussion ensued as to why the funding is not coming from the General Fund, and the Discretionary Fund has more flexibility.


 By telephone, Cynthia Keel commented.


 Commissioner Ballard stated she had asked for special permission for Toys for Tots to use the Mixon Farm facility during the holiday season next year. They initially said it would be for the holiday season, and the County was happy to provide the space free of charge. However, it is not a safe, permanent location for the toys. She is still working with Toys for Tots to help them find a permanent location.


There being no further public comments, Chairman Siddique closed public comments.


 The motion carried 7-0. BC20260210DOC050


37. **MANATEE COUNTY GRANT FUNDING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND TREATMENT FACILITIES**

 Commissioner Ballard stated this item is related to residential facilities and recovery homes. Currently, there are no grant funding requirements for these facilities to be licensed, certified, or have oversight. She commented about a local center where horrible things have happened. As it stands now, grant funding could go to a center in that situation; however, she would like to encourage facilities to obtain some type of certification to have oversight. Public Safety advised this cannot be an immediate thing, because there is only one certified facility in Manatee County that has oversight, while many facilities have zero oversight and are not regulated. To ensure that vulnerable people in these facilities are getting appropriate care and that there is some level of oversight, restrictions should be placed on the funds to these facilities.


 James Crutchfield, Public Safety Deputy Director, asked for Board direction to work with the County Attorney on the agreements in place, direct staff to do an assessment of where the funds are going, and if those facilities are licensed and who they are licensed by. Staff would also need direction to work with the County Attorney's office to determine if amendments can be made to the agreements, the ability to execute the amendments, and what documentation staff is legally allowed to request. There may be a way to collect additional information to ensure that the places where people are being referred to, meet the specifications outlined by the Board.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, and seconded by Commissioner Rahn, to direct staff to do an assessment of all agreements we have with residential treatment centers, recovery homes, and residential mental health treatment facilities, and authorize staff to work with the County Attorney, to make amendments to said agreements and determine what documentation can legally be requested to encourage oversight.

 Discussion ensued that the State of Florida regulates rehabilitation centers and recovery homes but not the voluntary certification process, a licensing team is already in place, a licensed center is not permitted by law to make referrals to non-certified centers, would the County become recovery home police, all facilities should be licensed by the State of Florida, certification requirements should be spelled out in the agreement with the facility, County funds would not be allocated to facilities that are not certified or licensed, the Florida Association of Recovery Residents (FARR) sets standards, provides certifications, and offers oversight for recovery residences across the state, funds come from grants and County non-profit funding, the County has authority to deny funding, the amount of funding allocated to facilities to provide services, \$1 million is set aside from the Opioid Impact Fund, facilities are not kept on a registered list, and some type of certification and standard is needed that must be adhered to.

 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, commented on the challenge of trying to retrieve back funds that were given and spent.

 Chairman Siddique restated the motion.


 By telephone, Glen Gibellina spoke in favor of accountability, and questioned what level of medication is needed for a person going into a half-way house. He does not agree with over regulation for facilities that do not need regulations. He suggested erring on the side of caution and regulating everyone.


There being no further public comments, Chairman Siddique closed public comments.

 The motion carried 7-0.

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS** (Future Agenda Items Only continued)

 By telephone, Dalton Nelson expressed concern on low ground water levels, sink holes, and traffic conditions on CR 675.


 By telephone, Mark Vanderee expressed concern regarding County resources. He requested a future agenda item to discuss the County's escalation from a severe to an extreme drought, and retention and drainage ponds in new developments.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Siddique closed citizen comments.


**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kruse 

- Commented about next Tuesday's Board meeting (2/17/26)
- Thanked everyone for a successful 2026 Manatee County Day in Tallahassee

Commissioner McCann 

- Stated Ed Bailey is no longer his Aide, and Kelly O'Malley has offered to assist him until a replacement is found

Chairman Siddique 

- Commented on Lobby Days in Tallahassee and looks forward to conversations with the Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Reminded everyone of tomorrow's work session at 9:00 a.m., in the Manatee Room on the 5th floor, to discuss Property Taxes and Comprehensive Planning

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Siddique adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_