

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
April 21, 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
Dr. Bob McCann, District
Mike Rahn, District 4

Absent was:

Jason Bearden, 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



Chairman Siddique called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION



Pastor Burnard Scott, Bayside Community Church, East Campus, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



Commissioner Mike Rahn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Agenda Update Memorandum 1 (4/14/26)

BC20260421DOC001

Port Authority – Updated to include the Port Authority Agenda for April 21, 2026

BC20260421DOC002

- Item 41, No Compression Release Braking Signage – Added to Agenda

Agenda Update Memorandum 2 (4/14/26)

BC20260421DOC003

- Item 37, Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop Animal Shelter and Jail facilities – The following changes to the Background and Discussion:
 - With the Administrator absence at the last meeting, questions remained unanswered for the movement of the dogs. The Commission voted to have a complete update at the next BOCC meeting. ~~This motion passed unanimously.~~ This update did not appear on the preliminary draft of the April 21st meeting. The following motion passed unanimously as the last meeting
 - 48. Motion to direct staff to provide detailed information on how many dogs were moved, when were they moved, who directed the move, who is doing the evaluations on the dogs prior to the move, what evaluation was completed post move.
- Item 38, County Administrator Contract Renewal – The following language added to the Background and Discussion:

FINDINGS AND JUSTIFICATION:

- Election Year: 2026 is an election year in Manatee County Florida. Four seats are up for election at the BOCC. The County Administrator's contract is due to renew on August 8, 2026. The primary election is only 10 days later, August 18, 2026.
- Board Continuity: The current Board recognizes that the selection and retention of a County Administrator is one of the most significant policy decisions a governing body makes. Extending the current contract through the end of the calendar year ensures that the seated Board following the upcoming election cycle has the direct authority to negotiate and vote on a long-term agreement.
- Operational Stability: This extension prevents a lapse in leadership during the transition period, ensuring that County operations, department management, and ongoing capital projects continue without interruption.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: By maintaining the current "status quo" terms for the remainder of the year, the Board avoids committing the County to long-term financial obligations or structural changes immediately prior to a shift in Board composition.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this extension will be accounted for within this Fiscal Budget.

- Item 39, Dismissal of Trespass Charges at Bishop Animal Shelter – The following language added to the Background and Discussion:
 - A vote was previously taken by the County Commission to continue charges despite Charlie Bishop, the County Administrator, stating for the County and its vendors to drop the felony trespass charges, the Commission has the authority by vote to direct the County and its vendors to "drop" the charges. The investigation revealed that the elements of a felony were not present and first-degree misdemeanor charges were presented. The individuals were Summoned to appear on 5/6/2026 at 9 am
 - Note: If a complainant drops charges for misdemeanor trespass in Florida, the charges are not automatically dismissed. Because the State, not the victim, prosecutes crimes, the State Attorney has the final authority to continue or drop the case. However, a victim's request to drop charges is highly persuasive and often leads to dismissal.
 - The specific charge states, "Trespass to dwelling – "entered and remained with the intent to commit an offense thereon."

Agenda Update Memorandum 3 (4/15/26)

BC20260421DOC004

- Generic Public Comments were updated with additional public comment BC20260421DOC005
- Item 44, Draft County Administrator Contract – Added to Agenda
- Item 37, Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop Animal Shelter and Jail facilities – Updated with public comment
- Item 38, County Administrator Contract Renewal – Updated with public comment
- Item 39, Dismissal of Trespass Charges at Bishop Animal Shelter – Updated with public comment
- Item 42, Update on ONDCP White House Homeless Summit Update – Added to Agenda
- Item 43, Letter of Agreement authorizing Crime Stoppers of Manatee County, Inc., (to act as the County's agent for the purpose of receiving and expending Crime Stoppers Trust Fund monies) – Added to Agenda

Agenda Update Memorandum 4 (4/16/26)

BC20260421DOC006

- Item 24, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-062 and Approval to Purchase Rip Current Simulator – Deleted from the Agenda BC20260421DOC007

- Item 26, Execution of Cooperative Funding Agreement 26CF004890 with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the Lake Manatee Watershed Management Plan Project Q421 – Updated with revised Cooperative Funding Agreement and additional language on the Cover Sheet under the Attorney Review Section
- Item 28, Execution of Seven Agreements with The Friends Groups of Manatee County Library – Updated with revised Agreements (Memorandums of Understanding)
- Item 34, Execution of Temporary Use Agreements BOT 410337453 and BOT 410140533 to allow Manatee County to continue to use the sovereign lands and water column adjacent to the Cortez Marina located at 4334 127th Street West – Updated with revised Action Requested (in strikethrough and underline format), Request for Legal Services Email, and Temporary Use Agreements BOT 410337453 and BOT 410140533
- Item 35, Adoption of Resolution R-26-025, and Execution of Lease Agreement with Friends of the Pelicans, Inc., for the property located at the Palmetto Animal Shelter, 305 25th Street West, Palmetto – Updated with revised Lease Agreement and public comment

Agenda Update Memorandum 5 (4/20/26)

BC20260421DOC008

- Item 44, Draft County Administrator Contract – Updated with public comment
- Item 33, Update of progress on Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant and Lasting Manatee Program – Updated to reflect presenters as Robert Burke, Business Manager, and Odugo Ohizu, Communications Coordinator – CDBG-DR
- Item 36, Report on Environmental Compliance Field Solutions – follow-up to Agenda Item 50 on April 7, 2026 – Updated with public comment
- Item 37, Update on the Movement of the Dogs to the Bishop Animal Shelter and Jail facilities – Updated with public comment
- Item 38, County Administrator Contract Renewal – Updated with public comment
- Item 39, Dismissal of Trespass Charges at Bishop Animal Shelter Kennel Facility – Updated with public comment
- Item 43, Letter of Agreement authorizing Crime Stoppers of Manatee County, Inc. – Updated with Letter of Support from Ed Brodsky, State Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES TO THE AGENDA

 Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, stated all updates were published with the online, revised Agenda. Additional public comments were received after the publishing of the agenda for Agenda Items 37, 38, and 39.

BC20260421DOC0009

RECESS/RECONVENE: 9:00 a.m. – 9:02 a.m. The County Commission meeting recessed for the purpose of holding a Port Authority meeting. The County Commission meeting reconvened with all Commissioners present, except Commissioner Bearden.

PROCLAMATIONS

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent, to approve the following Proclamations:

1.  Proclamation designating April 21, 2026, as the 100th Anniversary of Cox Chevrolet, was accepted by members of the Cox family
2.  Proclamation designating April 2026, as Autism Awareness Month, was accepted by Tom Waters, Chief Executive Officer, Easter Seals Southwest Florida

BC20260421DOC010

BC20260421DOC011

3.  Proclamation designating May 10-16, 2026, as National Hospital Week BC20260421DOC012
4.  Proclamation designating April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week BC20260421DOC013
5.  Proclamation designating April 12-18, 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week BC20260421DOC014

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

-  No items were pulled.

CONSENT AGENDA

CITIZENS COMMENTS (Consent Agenda Items Only)

-  A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, and seconded by Commissioner Ballard, to approve the Consent Agenda, with the changes incorporated in the Agenda Update Memorandum.

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

The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

6. **CLERK'S CONSENT** BC20260421DOC0015
 - A. **MINUTES**

Approved the Minutes of February 10, 17, March 3, and 5, 2026
 - B. **REFUNDS**

Approved:

 1. Deborah Perron – Impact Fees, \$8,587 BC20260421DOC016
 2. DR Horton, Inc. – Impact Fees, \$7,482 BC20260421DOC017
 3. DR Horton, Inc. – Impact Fees, \$7,482 BC20260421DOC018
 4. Frank Dagostino – Withdrawn Application, \$3,230 BC20260421DOC019
 5. Gold Coast Premier Properties VIII LLC – Billing Adjustment, \$14,683.96 BC20260421DOC020
 6. Homes By West Bay – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260421DOC021
 7. Homes By West Bay – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260421DOC022
 8. Homes By West Bay – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260421DOC023
 9. Homes By West Bay – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260421DOC024
 10. Homes By West Bay – Utility Fees, \$5,588 BC20260421DOC025
 11. Lennar Homes – Impact Fees, \$55,720 BC20260421DOC026
 12. SHAHID 9 LLC – Billing Adjustment, \$2,606.33 BC20260421DOC027
 - C. **SCRIVENER ERROR**

Adopted corrected Resolution R-23-043, Upon review of the recorded Resolution dated February 28, 2023, it was discovered the fee table (1 page) for Inspection and Miscellaneous fees was inadvertently omitted from the filed/recorded document. These fees are listed in the title of the ordinance, as well as throughout the body of the Resolution document BC20260421DOC028

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY/PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT**

Authorized the County Attorney's Office to take no action regarding Plaintiff's April 6, 2026, Proposal for Settlement in the amount of \$50,000 to Manatee County, and to allow the Proposal for Settlement to expire in the matter Patrick Henry v. Manatee County, Case 2025-CA-00989-AX
BC20260421DOC029

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY/PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT**

Authorized the County Attorney's Office to serve a Proposal for Settlement in the amount of \$35,000 to Plaintiff, Thomas Eppich, in the matter of Thomas Eppich v. Manatee County and City of Holmes Beach, Case 2025-CA-000742, in exchange for a dismissal with prejudice of Plaintiff's claims against the County, and to execute all necessary and related documents in connection with the settlement
BC20260421DOC030

9. **COMMUNITY AND VETERANS SERVICES/AGREEMENT**

Executed Amendment 001 to Agreement EH-25/26-MAN with Senior Connection Center, Inc., for the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program, shifting \$2,477 of funds from the Weather Related/Supply Shortage (WRSS) line item and extending delivery of services end date from June 15, 2026, to June 30, 2026
BC20260421DOC031

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

Adopted Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-062 and Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-068 for Infrastructure Sales Tax
BC20260421DOC032

11. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/RESOLUTION**

Adopted Resolution R-26-050, requesting the Department of Revenue continue providing a monthly list of all new and relocated sales tax accounts within ZIP codes 34228, 33598, 34240, 34251, and 34243 in Manatee County, including counties where taxes are remitted
BC20260421DOC033

12. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/RESOLUTION**

Adopted Resolution R-26-041:

- Establishing May 1, 2026, as the due date for Fiscal Year (FY) 26-27 budget requests from the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff, and Supervisor of Elections; and
- Provision for a complete budget submission highlighting all revenues and expenses within the year of budget submission of the offices of the Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Supervisor of Elections, Property Appraiser, Court Administration, State Attorney, Public Defender, and Guardian Ad Litem
BC20260421DOC034

13. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional departmental budgeted funding to Agreement 22-R078489BB with Transit Solutions LLC, dba TSI Video, for Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) Onboard Camera System
BC20260421DOC035

14. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional departmental budgeted funding to Agreement 25-TA005947RB with Bayside Dredging LLC, for Stormwater Discharge Maintenance Program on an as-needed basis
BC20260421DOC036

15. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional departmental budgeted funding to Agreement 23-R081406SB with Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch, for Marine Turtle Nest and Shore Bird Survey, Monitoring and Relocation Services BC20260421DOC037

16. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Agreement 25-TA005878SAM with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for Professional Engineering Design Services for 15th Street East/301 Boulevard East, south of 63rd Avenue South to south of 51st Avenue Drive Intersection, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,096,775.01 BC20260421DOC038

17. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Agreement 26-R089354LP with DeJonge Excavating Contractors, Inc., for Satellite Lift Station R&R 2026 Group 1, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,251,335.84, with a construction schedule of 360 calendar days from notice to proceed BC20260421DOC039

18. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

- Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Agreement 26-R089722LP with Waterfront Property Services LLC, dba Gator Dredging LLC, for Washington Park Cap Fill, for a total, not-to-exceed amount of \$2,793,550, based on a construction completion time of 90 calendar days; and
- Accepted and dated Public Construction Bond BC20260421DOC040

19. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Change Order 1 to Agreement 23-TA004893DJ with TLC Diversified, Inc., Master Lift Station 1D Electrical Rehabilitation, authorizing an additional 120 calendar days to the construction schedule, for a new completion date of May 16, 2026 BC20260421DOC041

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

Accepted and authorized recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from DRP Multistate 1 LLC, for property located at 5330 Riversong Parkway, Parrish, required in accordance with final site plan requirements for a residential development BC20260421DOC042

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

Accepted and authorized recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from CNL Parrish Lakes West LLC, (including two Consent and Joinders from The Park National Bank and AutoZone Stores LLC), for property located at 7725 Moccasin Wallow Road, Parrish, required in accordance with final site Plan requirements for a commercial development BC20260421DOC043

22. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/RESOLUTION**

Adopted Resolution R-26-042, declaring a public hearing on June 2, 2026, to vacate two portions of platted and maintained rights-of-way (Parcel A, 1,659 square feet) and (Parcel B, 8,339 square feet), located at 7104 9th Avenue Northwest, Bradenton BC20260421DOC044

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

Executed and authorized recording of Temporary Construction Easement to Manatee County Port Authority, to allow access on right-of-way to the north of Harlee Road, Palmetto, to install a new weir at the Dredge Master Management Area (DMMA) at Port Manatee, at part of Manatee Harbor Florida Navigation Project BC20260421DOC045

25. **PUBLIC SAFETY/AGREEMENT**

- Executed 2025-2026 Suncoast Remake Learning Days Letter of Agreement with The Patterson Foundation, to host a Suncoast Remake Learning Days event (Safety Fest) to be held at the Public Safety Center on May 2, 2026; and
- Authorized acceptance of Event Stipend up to \$2,500 toward this event

BC20260421DOC046

26. **PUBLIC WORKS/COOPERATIVE FUNDING AGREEMENT**

- Executed Cooperative Funding Agreement with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), for the Lake Manatee Watershed Management Plan Project Q421; and
- Designated Kenneth Kohn, P.E., as Project Manager for the County

BC20260421DOC047

27. **SPORTS AND LEISURE SERVICES/RESOLUTION RENAMING POST BOULEVARD**

Adopted Resolution R-26-015, renaming Post Boulevard to Premier Sports Boulevard (request presented 1/6/26)

BC20260421DOC048

28. **SPORTS AND LEISURE SERVICES/AGREEMENTS**

Executed Seven Agreements (Memorandums of Understanding) between Manatee County and Friends Groups of Manatee County Library: Friends of The Braden River Library, Inc., Friends of The Central Library, Inc., Friends of The Island Library, Inc., Friends of The Lakewood Ranch Library, Inc., Palmetto Friends of the Library, Inc., Friends of The Rocky Bluff Library, Inc., and Friends of the South Manatee Library, Inc., formalizing the partnership and reaffirming the Library's responsibility for program planning and public service oversight

BC20260421DOC049

29. **UTILITIES/WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS**

Authorized to write off bad debts of the Utilities Department not to exceed \$104,957.63 in Fund 401 (Potable Water/Wastewater), and \$46,573.16 in Fund 480 (Solid Waste); for a total of \$151,530.79

BC20260421DOC050

(End Consent Agenda)

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



Patricia Simmons submitted information about the American Council of the Blind and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (D.E.I.).



Mark Vanderee, Waterline Road Preservation Group, thanked Commissioners for honoring the life and legacy of Commissioner Carol Ann Billberry Felts with a dedication and public memorial service at Carol Ann Billberry Felts Preserve at David J. Crane Park, located at 37655 State Road 70 East in Myakka City.



Mike Meehan submitted information regarding the County's 2025 Surplus of \$363.9 million, FY 2024/2025 unrestricted cash in a money market fund, and suggestions.



Marjorie Struck thanked Code Enforcement for addressing issues in her community.



By telephone, Glen Gibellina commented on the lack of live video streaming of the meeting, and the Agreement with Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation (approved 4/7/26) should have been displayed on the overhead television screens.

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

Chairman Siddique responded to Glen Gibellina.

BC20260421DOC051

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS - LEGISLATIVE (Presentations Upon Request)

30. **INFRASTRUCTURE SALES TAX**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of Resolution R-26-046, approving changes to the Infrastructure Sales Tax Project and Equipment List, to remove one project in the Parks and Community Facilities category, and adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-070.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, and seconded by Commissioner Rahn, to adopt Resolution R-26-046, approving changes to the Infrastructure Sales Tax Project and Equipment List, to remove one project in the Parks and Community Facilities category and adopt Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-070.

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

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC052

31. **TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL AEROMED'S CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held for consideration and approval of Florida Health Sciences, Inc., d/b/a Tampa General Hospital, Aeromed application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) to provide Advanced Life Support transport services within Manatee County.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, and seconded by Commissioner Ballard, to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Approval of Tampa General Hospital Aeromed's COPCN Application for Renewal Letter.

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

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC053

(Items 38 and 44 were addressed together)

38. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT RENEWAL – FOURTH AMENDMENT**

Commissioner McCann addressed the Fourth Amendment to County Administrator Employment Contract with Charles Bishop, County Administrator.

BC20260421DOC054

and

44. **DRAFT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT**

Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, requested direction from the Board on edits to business terms for incorporation into the proposed, draft County Administrator Employment Contract with Charlie Bishop (redlined version of the proposed contract attached to the agenda packet).

 Chairman Siddique stated he spoke with Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Bishop requested his Employment Contract be extended (via Fourth Amendment), for six months to February 8, 2027.

 Commissioner Kruse stated he also spoke with Mr. Bishop and agreed that extending his Employment Contract makes sense at this time. There was a lot of misinformation for reasons outside the scope of the Contract, and he agreed that having contracts expire so close to elections is not good for the public or the Board. He expressed confidence in Mr. Bishop, and when the contract expires, the new Board can have meaningful discussion on a long-term contract. It is in everyone's best interest to extend this Contract. The only recommended change is to correct the date in the first paragraph of the contract to state the 21st day of April 2026.

 Chairman Siddique agreed to continue operations with Mr. Bishop, as he has extensive, institutional knowledge and can help build the next bench of leadership.

 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, identified the scrivener's error in the version of the contract provided by Mr. Bishop's attorney, who had who indicated no objection to inserting the word April, and the correction has been made in the contract presented for approval. She recommended a motion to approve the Fourth Amendment with the correction of the scrivener's error.

Motion – Fourth Amendment

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, for the Manatee Board of County Commissioners to authorize the Chair to execute Fourth Amendment to County Administrator Employment Contract with the County Administrator, extending the term of the existing Contract for six months (to 2/8/27), under all current conditions and compensation level, and that we should pay the County Administrator's Attorney's fees up to \$3,000, because this is something that we are stopping negotiations at this time, and will let the next Board make the decision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kruse.

Amendment to Motion

 Ms. D'Agostino asked Commissioner McCann to amend his motion to remove reference that she is executing the Amendment, as it is usually executed by the Chair.

Commissioners McCann and Kruse agreed to the requested Amendment to the motion.

 By telephone, Glen Gibellina stated this decision should have been made a long time ago.

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

 Commissioner Kruse clarified that this issue was addressed at the last meeting, the turnaround has been one week, and this is a good decision by this Board.

 The motion as amended, carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC055

32. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/RESOLUTION/MODEL MANATEE COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

 Brent Anderson, Government Relations Manager, requested adoption of Resolution R-26-048, approving development of a Model Manatee County Government Civics Education Program. The Program is an annual, multi-session educational experience for

Manatee County students, who have completed 10th grade and are enrolled full-time in public, private, or home education programs. The goal is to cultivate civic understanding, engagement, and leadership among Manatee County youth through experimental learning and direct interaction with local government. The Program is modeled after similar programs around the State.

 There was discussion to involve Bright Future Scholars.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, and seconded by Commissioner Siddique, to adopt Resolution R-26-048.

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

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC056

33. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR)
GRANT AND LASTING MANATEE PROGRAM**

 Robert Burke, Interim Grants Team Manager, stated the purpose of this item is to discuss the Lasting Manatee Program, future direction, and timeline.

 Odugo Ohizu, Communications Coordinator, announced the Manatee County Home Recovery Program and pre-application process will launch May 1, 2026. She utilized a slide presentation to explain the Program in which eligible homeowners can receive repair, reconstruction, or elevation assistance to restore safety and stability to storm-damaged homes from Hurricanes Debby, Helene, or Milton. Lasting Manatee community outreach tools, informational resources, and helpful links for residents and organizations can be found at www.LastingManatee.org. A full presentation will be given on May 19.

 Discussion ensued regarding expectation that the funding reimbursement timeline will be shorter than the previous Disaster Recovery Fund process, reimbursements for repairs are based on strict criteria, Program obstacles are unknown at this time, a disaster recovery team is pioneering the Program, staff is working as expeditiously as possible, this is a great Program and will be done right, pre-application opening is going through press release and Neighborhood Connections, best practices from HUD, the 60-day timeline is to make sure staff reaches everyone, slide presentation to be posted on the County's website, most residents have made home repairs on their own to return to their home sooner, could there be a reimbursement model, allocations are changing, and funding criteria can be done with amendments to the Action Plan to incorporate reimbursement.

 Lauren Pollock, Senior Grant Project Manager, stated reimbursement will be assessed throughout the process. Action Plan changes and modifications take a minimum of 30 days to go through HUD. Staff can work on policy provision as an amendment now, address needs, and circle back to address questions.

 There was further discussion to make sure people who need help are getting it, federal limitations, criteria for reimbursement and inspections oversight will be strong, and make sure the process is done correctly.

 Based on discussion with the County Attorney, Chairman Siddique suggested formal direction to staff to research and develop a process to present to the Board on reimbursements from Lasting Manatee for home repair.

 Commissioner McCann so moved (the formal direction to staff). Commissioner Rahn seconded.

Staff will provide a list of certified, vetted contractors and vendors for homeowners.

Direction Clarified

 Chairman Siddique clarified the direction in the form of a motion: Motion to direct staff to research and develop a process on home repair reimbursements and present that back to the Board. Commissioners McCann and Rahn agreed to the motion.

 By telephone, Anthony Scullo endorsed the program but expressed concern regarding the reimbursement process and the need for adequate time to analyze the criteria.

 By telephone, Veronica DiMaggio stated there is no livestreaming of the meeting and she wanted to comment.

 Marjorie Struck questioned if the Program includes condominium apartments and was referred to staff.

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

 Chairman Siddique explained that the reimbursement idea is to give options to citizens to respond, hundreds of people are affected, and no one is hindering the process.

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC057

RECESS/RECONVENE: 10:28 a.m. – 10:36 a.m. All Commissioners were present, except Commissioner Bearden

34. **NATURAL RESOURCES/TEMPORARY USE AGREEMENTS**

 Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, requested authorization for the Chairperson to execute the Temporary Use Agreements (TUA) BOT No. 410337453 and BOT No. 410140533 between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida and Manatee County, to allow Manatee County to continue to use the sovereign lands and water column adjacent to the Cortez Marina located at 4334 127th Street West.

 Discussion ensued regarding what the County is leasing and the cost, and there is no lease payment as long as Manatee County uses the land for a public purpose.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Rahn, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent, to authorize the Chairperson to execute

Temporary Use Agreements BOT 410337453 and BOT 410140533 between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida and Manatee County.

BC20260421DOC058

35. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/PALMETTO ANIMAL SHELTER**

 Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager, recommended adoption of Resolution R-26-025, and execution of Lease Agreement with Friends of the Pelicans, Inc., (FOTP), to lease the Palmetto Animal Shelter property, located at 305 25th Street West, Palmetto, for a seabird rehabilitation facility.

It was recently determined that for FOTP to assume ownership of the property and operate a seabird rehabilitation facility, the property would have to undergo a rezone and Comprehensive Plan Amendment. In the interim of FOTP completing both of these processes, the County proposes to lease the property to FOTP until March 31, 2027.

 Jeanette Edwards, (FOTP), stated over 1,000 Pelicans are rescued annually. It was determined that a seabird habilitation facility should be located near the Skyway Bridge.

 Discussion ensued that this is a wonderful idea to care for the Pelicans, lease timeline, if this action is related to moving the dogs to Bishop Animal Shelter, and this is a great use of the property.

 Mr. Morrow stated the County proposes to lease the property to FOTP until March 31, 2027, in as-is condition to operate the seabird rehabilitation facility.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse and seconded by Chairman Siddique, to adopt Resolution R-26-025, and authorize execution of Lease Agreement between Manatee County and Friends of the Pelicans, Inc., (FOTP).

 Julie Madison stated the concerns regarding the Palmetto Animal Shelter have been documented and she hoped the FOTP is aware of the condition of the building.

 By telephone, Anthony Scullo spoke in support of the seabird rehabilitation facility.

 By telephone, David Daniels expressed appreciation to the Board for this facility.

 By telephone, Charlene Kow thanked the Board for this action.

 By telephone, Wendy Warner anticipates volunteering at the facility, but voiced concern regarding removing the dogs and if rehabilitating pelicans at the facility is a safe transition.

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

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC059

36. **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FIELD SOLUTIONS**

 Nicole Knapp, Development Services Director, presented a report for Environmental Compliance Field Solutions as an update to discussion from the April 7, 2026, County Commission meeting, regarding Agenda Item 50: (Motion to have Nicole Knapp and Charlie Bishop bring this back and clarify what is going on related to the request from September 16, 2025, regarding positions hired to work on the Myakka River).

 Following a presentation by Myakka River Coordinating Council (9/16/25), the Board discussed what staff could do better regarding monitoring and enforcement, increasing inspections and coordination between Development Services and Natural Resources Departments and other agencies, and increasing land acquisition and conservation easements. Comments were made to open the confines of staffing levels, but three Commissioners asked to stay within the confines, evaluate the problem first and develop a plan, determine after a period of time if monitoring could be done without two additional staff, and staff would have to subsequently return with data and metrics to support this.

 Two previous budget-approved Development Services positions were posted over the fall, and staff evaluated what could be done better. The September discussion evolved from the monitoring of the Myakka River to discuss adopting a protection overlay for the Myakka River.

 Denise Greer, Deputy Director of Development Services, explained that another tech was requested and approved for the Environmental Planning position. Upon Board direction to work within confines, three existing positions were reassigned as another tech, a team lead position, and a new division manager position, resulting in a zero net increase. The two additional techs were added, and Development Services and Natural Resources discussed what could be done as a team. Staff completed interdepartmental training with Natural Resources. All techs are certified, and staff has worked in the field with Natural Resources. It is hoped these changes will give the community a sense that the County wants to be seen out in the Myakka River Basin area and the community.

 Discussion ensued that reporting is in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, Development Services team monitors for unpermitted construction, ensuring erosion control is in place and there are no impacts to the area waterway, Development Services monitors existing construction in the area while Natural Resources oversees different monitoring, the September 16 motion by the late Commissioner Felts was to protect the Manatee River and assign two additional staff, there was a hiring freeze at that time, how to explain to the public two staff were hired but not to monitor the River, the motion intended is not the motion that was approved, staff will come back with the verbatim motion by Commissioner Felts from September 16, Manatee County has two full-time people to do very little, and an evaluation has not been done because the two staff have only been in the positions since January.

 Commissioner McCann stated it sounds like staff was given a period of time to reevaluate, and we are only three months into this. He questioned why two staff were hired if they were not hired for Commissioner Felts' intended purpose.

 Ms. Knapp stated existing Development Services staff were reassigned and additional staff were not hired in order to maintain efficiency.

 Chairman Siddique pulled up the September 16, 2025, Minutes and read the motion into the record. This motion is not very clear and clearer direction is needed.

 Commissioner Kruse fundamentally disagreed with Chairman Siddique's assessment, as staff did exactly what the Board directed. The Board is starting to encroach on overstepping statutory rights. The Board does not hire or select staff but sets a budget and direction on policy. Development Services was given a budget to use efficiently for the good of Manatee County. The Board set policy for better oversight on rivers and waterways inclusive of and with special focus on the Myakka River. The County Administrator and directors are then directed to determine how quickly to enact the policy based on the budget given. The County Administrator and staff are following the intent of the September 16 motion.

 Chairman Siddique stated the September 16, 2025, motion is not explicit direction. The next step is for staff to come back to the Board on June 16, 2026, to lay out the responsibilities of Development Services, Natural Resources, and other agencies to determine if further clarification and direction is needed.

 Commissioner McCann agreed to wait for the June 16 report.

 Chairman Siddique thanked staff for the presentation.

 Heidi Minihkeim thanked the Board for this presentation and hopes something is done with the Myakka River.

 By telephone, Lindsey Leigh stated the protection of Myakka River is not a function of Development Services. The same department responsible for permitting and facilitating development oversees compliance for development, which is a conflict of interest, and requested accountability.

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

 Discussion ensued that no one on the dais promised to eliminate Senate Bill (SB) 180 or place restrictions, no other Board in Florida has put more effort into repealing SB 180 than Manatee County but it must be done within the confines of State and federal law, Manatee County is taking steps and meaningful action, preempted by the State, staff is working hard on environmental protection in District 1, and thanks to staff for work being done based on Board direction given at this time.

 Commissioner Rahn stated there are 14 miles of wild, scenic banks along the Myakka River overseen by Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He asked what State monitoring agencies are doing on the Myakka River and what are the protection measures on the Sarasota side.

No action is required.

BC20260421DOC060

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

37. UPDATE ON THE MOVEMENT OF DOGS TO BISHOP ANIMAL SHELTER AND JAIL FACILITIES

 For the benefit of the public, Commissioner McCann requested an update on the movement of the dogs to the Bishop Animal Shelter and Jail facilities.

 Dr. Syna Johnson, Chief Veterinarian of Shelter Operations, stated several dogs are still at the facility, dogs were not injured but have minor abrasions from wire drain covers, dogs were moved by Animal Control staff and she was not present during the move, visitors are not allowed in the shelter, volunteers started April 4, every dog being moved is examined, and all of the dogs are examined daily. Following the move, a shade area and tents were placed along the play yard for dogs and the public.

 Chairman Siddique thanked Dr. Johnson and staff for the work at Bishop Animal Shelter.

 Victoria Ruby, former Palmetto Shelter volunteer, asked if the new shelter has adequate air conditioning, ventilation, and water.

 Cathy Bridwell stated the new shelter is worse and has unsafe conditions.

 Heidi Minihkeim stated citizens were promised concrete kennels but were given disposal plastic kennels that are too small, volunteers are being discouraged from talking to the public, what will happen when temperatures soar, and she questioned Sarah Brown's credentials and managing process.

 Susan Parker, volunteer, stated the conditions at the facility are taking a mental toll on volunteers.

 John Dunn stated the Board should not be proud of this facility.

 Julie Madison asked the Board in January to pause on the animal facility. Despite concern, she was given a zoom call and told that all concerns were being addressed. Facility improvements and the play yard should have been completed before animals were moved onto the site. She requested the facility be inspected.

 Sari Zindroos-Valimaki spoke on the need for accountability and asked the Board to re-evaluate the facility.

 Patricia Roberts, former Palmetto Shelter volunteer, stated the Board did not provide the animal shelter that was promised, and early morning adjacent construction is disturbing the animals.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 12:00 p.m. – 12:09 p.m. All Commissioners were present, except Commissioner Bearden.

 By telephone, Kristin Martin attended the Board meeting when the \$8 Million was approved for a new shelter (4/23/19). She donated toward the new shelter but learned

that donations were re-directed. The Bishop Animal Shelter is chaotic and unsafe. She asked the Board to restore the vision and construct a new facility in East County.

(Depart Commissioner McCann)

 By telephone, Linda Warner voiced concern of safety and functionality of the prefabricated kennels citing safety concerns.

 By telephone, David Daniels asked the Board to listen to public concern that dogs are kept outside all day in the heat, and the plastic kennels are terrible.

(Enter Commissioner McCann)

 By telephone, Charlene Kow voiced concern on the conditions at the facility.

 By telephone, Dena Sabou agreed with previous public comment. She questioned why the dogs were moved when citizens were told it would take several months to complete facility improvements, and why a facility was not constructed in east county as promised.

 By telephone, Alicia Hopkins stated citizen concerns are falling on deaf ears and questioned why the Board does not take a step back and make changes.

 By telephone, Anthony Scullo suggested the Board do a video walkthrough of the facility and speak to the volunteers to promote the facility.

 Allison Minardi agreed with public comment. She questioned the reason for the rush to move the dogs to Bishop, why citizens are not allowed in the animal trailers, and the shelter does not have any washers or dryers to clean mats and towels.

 Veronica DiMaggio stated she was the adoption supervisor for five years and spent 20 years in animal rescue. She visited Bishop Animal Shelter this past weekend and was taken to a mobile trailer to look at dogs online for adoption, or she could select a dog from a catalog inventory, and the dog would be brought to her. She requested third party involvement to observe shelter activity. Dogs bark during early hours due to adjacent construction, and puppies are not examined and are being adopted.

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

BC20260421DOC061

39. **DISMISSAL OF TRESSPASS CHARGES REGARDING BISHOP ANIMAL SHELTER**

 Commissioner McCann presented this agenda item to discuss the felony trespass charges at Bishop Animal Shelter. The specific charge states, "Trespass to dwelling – entered and remained with the intent to commit an offense thereon." The Board cannot stop the process but can recommend that the County does not want to participate in this process and that the charges should be dismissed.

Motion

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, that Manatee County and its vendors shall inform the prosecutor of its intent to voluntarily dismiss its trespass charges and no longer participate in any criminal proceedings regarding actions against any citizens for

alleged trespassing to the Bishop Kennel Facility, and request that the prosecutor dismiss this action. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kruse.

 Commissioner McCann stated there is no precedent being set here; these are individual occurrences. The individuals were summoned to appear in Court on May 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

 Chairman Siddique stated the Board does not have the authority to dismiss charges. All the Board can do is to suggest that a letter be sent to State Attorney Ed Brodsky's office stating the Board's opinion that the trespassing charges should be dropped.

 In looking at the information, Commissioner Kruse stated it does not appear the Board has any legal ability to compel the vendors to do anything.

 Chairman Siddique agreed and stated the motion would have to be amended such as sending a letter on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners to Ed Brodsky's office, recommending the charges be dropped.

 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, stated the Board can direct her to draft the letter.

Amendment

 Commissioner McCann amended motion that we send a letter to prosecutor Ed Brodsky's office, saying that the Manatee County Commission does not want to participate in this any longer, and we suggest that the action be dismissed. Commissioner Kruse agreed to the Amendment.

Motion Restated

 Chairman Siddique restated the motion to direct the County Attorney to draft a letter indicating that the Board no longer wants to participate in this case and that the charges should be dismissed.

 Ms. D'Agostino suggested and Chairman Siddique agreed to add the wording and to authorize the Chair to sign and submit said letter on behalf of the Board.

 Ms. D'Agostino stated the letter could be done tomorrow.

 Chairman Siddique restated his opposition to this and that crime was committed, and he does not think people should be trespassing on County property under construction. and does not think the Board should recommend to the State Attorney's office to drop these charges.

 Discussion continued regarding unreasonable behavior, citizens can request a tour of this property once it is done, many things being said about this property and the kennels prior to it being completed that are not accurate, the individuals had no intention to vandalize, but to look at the facility, the posted sign says No Trespassing, this area is a designated construction site, and under Florida Statute 810.09, and anyone who trespasses on this property commits a felony.

 Heidi Minihkeim stated Misty Evans was invited by Sarah Brown to visit the facility.

 Cathy Bridwell stated the Shelter visit was not malicious and felony charges were reduced to a misdemeanor. Charges should be dropped and the letter should be sent.

 Susan Parker stated that clear No Trespassing signs were not posted. She urged the Board to authorize the charges to be dismissed against Misty Evans.

 Patricia Roberts stated the dogs should not have been on a designated construction site and urged the Board to visit the facility.

 By telephone, John Dunn stated it is his understanding that No Trespassing signs were not posted, and he requested charges be dropped.

 Julie Madison stated she and Misty Evans went on the property as volunteers to determine best practices and standard operating procedures. They did not find good operating procedures. Video footage was taken and No Trespassing signs were not posted. They did not access the marked construction zone.

 By telephone, David Daniels visited the site a week prior to the trespass activity and found the entrance gate open with no trespassing signs.

 By telephone, Charlene Kow stated this situation is unnecessary, as there were invitations to people to visit the property.

(Depart Commissioner Kruse)

 By telephone, Elizabeth Arnold expressed sadness regarding this situation.

 By telephone, Tracie Lipkin stated those who entered the Bishop site were invited by Sarah Brown.

 By telephone, Deena Sabou stated this is not the first time those in authority are abusing their power. Former volunteers were let go and never told the reason.

 By telephone, Martha Jacobs stated she was the non-volunteer that visited the shelter and was told she would meet someone there from the Palmetto Shelter to see how things were being done. A County employee in a vehicle asked her why she was there and then left. The shelter area was unmarked, there were no, No Trespassing signs, the entrance gate was wide open, but the active construction zone was very clearly marked, and she did not enter this area.

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

 Chairman Siddique stated that staff has a responsibility to report crimes on all property and that is why the charges are filed. Mr. Bishop did not go out of his way to press charges, and suggested citizens address any harassment and vindictive comments

with law enforcement. The facts of the case can be taken up in Court. He urged citizens to communicate with the Animal Services Advisory Board.

 Commissioner Ballard stated the Board could say they have no objection to pretrial intervention and questioned whether this would be acceptable to other Board members.

 The County Attorney explained that pretrial intervention is a concept offered to certain offenders if they qualify; and, depending on the type of intervention offered in some instances, the charge is dropped after the individual successfully completes the program, so they have no criminal record. This is an option that could be included in the letter.

Motion Changed

 Commissioner McCann stated he still believes this is vindictive. He changed his motion to the Board of County Commissioners, through letter, instruct the County Attorney to write a letter to Ed Brodsky the prosecutor, saying that we no longer want to participate in any criminal proceedings or actions regarding the citizen for alleged trespass at the Bishop Kennel Facility.

 At the request of Commissioner Kruse, Commissioner McCann stated the amended motion takes out the recommendation that the charges be dropped. The inference is that the Board no longer wants to participate. Commissioner Kruse spoke in support of the amended wording.

 The County Attorney requested clarity on what is meant by “no longer want to participate” because she does not want staff to be in an awkward circumstance where the prosecutor decides to go forward with charges, and then staff is faced with a subpoena and being compelled to testify. She would feel more comfortable from a legal perspective that the letter state that the County, as the victim, is no longer requesting criminal prosecution.

 Commissioner Ballard asked the County Attorney to repeat her proposed change but then indicated that the Restated Motion was fine just as it was.

Motion Recited

 For the record, Chairman Siddique recited the motion to direct the County Attorney’s office to draft a letter authorizing the Chairman of the Board to inform the Prosecutor’s office of our suggestion that he drops these charges.

 The motion by Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Kruse, carried 3-2, with Commissioner Rahn and Chairman Siddique voting nay, and Commissioner Bearden absent.

BC20260421DOC062

40. **RECONSIDERATION OF NO THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC DESIGNATION ON 37TH STREET EAST**

 Commissioner Ballard stated the decision to request reconsideration of the April 7 discussion to restrict engine compression release breaking by commercial vehicles was based on residents’ feedback, who have commercial trucks for their business and live in the area. Their concerns about using 37th Street East are that their generational business

or destinations are on this road, and will negatively impact many small businesses. They also have trucks that are much heavier than garbage trucks, and anything that would impact a garbage truck or very large transport truck would also impact them. She does not believe the Board wants to impact those businesses, potentially landlock them, or cause issues in order to have the No Through Traffic. She would be very open to no compression release braking as an alternative on 37th Street East.

 Chairman Siddique spoke with Taylor Nursery on their concerns on the road and how the County classifies trucks. The solution would be no compression release braking signage followed by enforcement, and that the County have a road maintenance plan to account for the extra usage by the trucks.

 Discussion ensued regarding if there is a certain time the trucks travel, could there be a compromise of no-through trucks at a certain times of the day, reach out to the businesses on their operation requirements, Honore Avenue goes through a residential area in District 4, and there is no compression release braking, and restricting the time of day would create problems.

Motion

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, to reconsider the vote made at the last meeting of April 7, 2026, and to eliminate the ask from staff to bring back an ordinance for No Through Trucks on 37th Street East. The motion was seconded by Chairman Siddique.

 The County Attorney stated there was some confusion at the last meeting regarding the direction given. The action summary states the motion that passed was to authorize staff to prepare an ordinance to define and restrict truck traffic by commercial vehicles on 37th Street East, from State Road 70 East to 38th Avenue East, and advertise for adoption of the ordinance through a public hearing at a regular Board meeting.

Motion Amended

 She recommended the cleanest motion is to direct staff to now cease all action in furtherance of the motion made for Agenda Item 47 at the April 7 meeting.

 Commissioner Ballard clarified her motion to state exactly what the County Attorney suggested and Chairman Siddique agreed.

 Nick Gerkin commented on the loud noise from exhaust brakes. He suggested weight limit signs on 37th Street East and trailers should use State roadways.

 By telephone, John Taylor (Taylor Nursery) stated his business uses 44th Avenue and U.S. 301, as 38th Avenue East is tight at the two roundabouts and trailers cannot fit; whereas 37th Street East is a straight turn in. He desires to collaborate with staff and does not know of any other solution other than restricting compression release braking.

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

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent.

 Commissioner Ballard will bring back compression release braking at a future meeting. BC20260421DOC063

41. **NO COMPRESSION RELEASE BRAKING SIGNAGE ON VERNA BETHANY ROAD**

 Commissioner McCann presented the following motion:
Motion for Public Works to install No Compression Release Braking signage on Verna Bethany Road, a rural roadway designated as an FDOT detour during construction of the SR 70/675 roundabout, as the entering and exiting portion of 675 will be closed. The detour is scheduled to begin April 20 and continue for approximately two months. Residents in the area have previously requested placement of such signage on Verna Bethany Road, but the issue has not yet been addressed.

 The motion as presented was made by Commissioner McCann and seconded by Chairman Siddique.

 Heidi Minihkeim requested deputies monitor speed on Verna Bethany Road.

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent. BC20260421DOC064

42. **UPDATE ON WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION**

 Commissioner Ballard showed a video on the two-day Best Practices for Additional Treatment within Homelessness Summit she attended at the White House in Washington, D.C., on April 13-14, 2026, https://youtu.be/U9NaGepa_Oc?si=SxOnhPekAawuAUBB.

No action is required. BC20260421DOC065

43. **LETTER OF AGREEMENT – CRIME STOPPERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, INC.**

 Chairman Siddique requested approval and authorization for the Chair to execute a Letter of Agreement on behalf of Manatee County, Florida, designating Crime Stoppers of Manatee County, Inc., as the County's agent for the purpose of applying for, receiving, and expending Crime Stoppers Trust Fund monies for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

 Commissioner McCann so moved the request as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kruse.

 Commissioner Ballard received a telephone call from City of Palmetto Mayor West on this item.

 The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Bearden absent. BC20260421DOC066

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Continuation of consideration for Future Agenda Items)

 Heidi Minihkeim requested flashing signs on Verna Bethany Road, voiced concern that the water wells in Myakka are running dry and about the Parrish well drilling company. Myakka Citizens do not want City water and asked the Board to be mindful of approving cluster housing.

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, had no comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

District 1 Water Crisis

 Commissioner McCann stated citizens in District 1 contacted him that the wells are running dry. The National Weather Service issued both a Fire Weather Watch and a Red Flag Warning today triggered by severe drought conditions.

Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation

 Commissioner Rahn stated the Board voted at the last meeting (4/7/26) on the Services Agreement with Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Manatee County will be the single biggest investor and does not have a seat at the Executive Committee level. He recommended the Chairman be authorized to secure a voting seat on the EDC.

 The County Attorney stated Manatee County has a legally binding Agreement with the EDC and questioned if the Board is considering terminating this Agreement.

 Commissioner Rahn clarified that he does not want to terminate the Agreement but wants Manatee County to have a seat at the table.

 The County Attorney stated the Board can direct staff to reach out to negotiate an amendment to the Agreement, which would grant the County some position at the table.

 Discussion ensued that prior to the Agreement with the EDC, Manatee County did not have a seat at the table, due to the EDC representing multiple municipalities and it would give unfavorable advantage to unincorporated Manatee County versus the six incorporated municipalities that also fund the EDC, it was decided to keep Officials off the EDC board, the EDC is searching for a new executive director, and Chairman Siddique is one ex-officio voice.

Tingley Memorial Library

 Chairman Siddique stated the Board met with the City of Bradenton Beach last year to discuss long-term maintenance of the City's privately funded Tingley Memorial Library. The Library requested a one-time, County finding request of \$350,000 to replace the front and back stairs, a ramp, and an AC unit. This matter will be addressed at the May 5 meeting to discuss options on how staff should negotiate with the City on operation maintenance.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Siddique adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 28, 2026