

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
May 19, 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 5
Jason Bearden, District 6
Mike Rahn, District 4

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 Mark Gibbens, Mill Creek Baptist Church, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 Scott Zempel, Air Force and Vietnam War Veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance, honoring his father, Marine Jack Ellis Zempel, and his late father-in-law, George Stilen, a Korean War Veteran.

AGENDA

Agenda Update Memorandum 1 (5/12/26)

BC20260519DOC001

BC20260519DOC002

Generic Public Comments – Updated with additional generic comments

BC20260519DOC003

- Item 6, Fifth Amendment to Employment Contract with County Administrator – Updated with a public comment
- Item 26, Authorization to Issue Letter of Non-Opposition for the SUNSKY 10K Temporary Closure of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge – Updated with an attachment titled, "Request for Letter of Non-Opposition"
- Item 31, Adoption of Resolution R-26-056, revising the Water Well Construction Permitting Program Schedule of Fees for administration and enforcement of rules and regulations governing water well permitting and water well contractors within Manatee County, including the addition of a fee for processing Water Well Abandonment Permits – Updated to include two Request for Legal Services responses, finalized Resolution R-26-056, and revisions to Attorney Review Section shown in strikethrough/underline format
- Item 34, Execution of the Water Well Construction Permitting Agreement with Southwest Florida Water Management District for administration and enforcement of rules and regulations governing water wells permitting and water well contractors within the geographical jurisdiction of Manatee County – Updated to include Request for Legal

Services response and revisions to the Attorney Review Section in strikethrough/underline format

Agenda Update Memorandum 2 (5/13/26)

BC20260519DOC004

Generic Public Comments – Updated with additional generic comments

BC20260519DOC005

- Item 14, Execution of Change Order 1 to GMP Addendum 1 to Agreement 24-TA005354JK for North Regional Water Reclamation Facility Storage Expansion – Updated to correct the presenter from Daniel Valazquez, Project Manager, to Patrick Shea, Utilities Director
- Item 15, Execution of Change Order 3 to Agreement 20-TA003404CD for Southwest Water Reclamation Facility Electrical Distribution System Rehabilitation – Updated to correct the presenter from Daniel Velazquez, Project Manager, to Patrick Shea, Utilities Director
- Item 32, Follow-Up Presentation of Results from the Manatee County AI Pilot with Digibuild – Deferred to June 16, 2026
- Item 35, Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000 – Updated with a public comment
- Item 37, Old Memphis Cemetery Desecration and County Response – Added to Agenda
- Item 38, Advertising Revenue for Public Transit System – Added to Agenda
- Item 39, Old Memphis Cemetery – Added to Agenda

BC20260519DOC006

Agenda Update Memorandum 3 (5/14/26)

BC20260519DOC007

- Item 20, Execution of Updated Non-Profit Agreement with Manatee Educational Television Consortium (METV), Stephanie Garrison, Director of Government Relations – Updated to include revised Non-Profit Agreement
- Item 21, Authorization to submit recommended census tracts for Opportunity Zone designation through Florida Commerce, Stephanie Garrison, Government Relations Director – Updated with a revised Action Requested and Attorney Review designation in strikethrough/underline format
- Item 28, Execution of Agreement for Charitable Services with The Patterson Foundation
- for the 2026 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge – Updated with revised Charitable Services Agreement
- Item 38, Advertising Revenue for Public Transit System – Updated to revise Background Discussion in strikethrough/underline format

Agenda Update Memorandum 4 (5/18/26)

BC20260519DOC008

Generic Public Comments - Updated with additional generic comments

BC20260519DOC009

- Item 11, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069 – Updated with revised Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069
- Item 20, Execution of Updated Non-Profit Agreement with Manatee Educational Television Consortium (METV) – Updated with Letters of Support
- Item 26, Authorization to Issue Letter of Non-Opposition for the SUNSKY 10K Temporary Closure of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge – Updated with a public comment
- Item 27, Execution of Mangrove Point Mitigation Bank Purchase Agreement with Mangrove Point Mitigation Point LLC, for .57 Dual Estuarine Forested UMAM Credits and .08 Dual Estuarine Herbaceous UMAM Credits for a total of .65 Credits from the Mangrove Point Mitigation Bank for the Fort Hamer Bridge Four-Lane Project located in the Manatee River Basin – Deferred to June 2, 2026
- Item 33, Update on infrastructure phase of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant and Lasting Manatee Program – Updated with a PowerPoint Presentation
- Item 35, Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000 – Deferred to June 16, 2026

BC20260519DOC010

BC20260519DOC011

- Item 37, Old Memphis Cemetery Desecration and County Response – Updated with public comments and attachments
- Item 39, Old Memphis Cemetery – Updated with Public Comments

RECESS/RECONVENE: 9:00 a.m. – 9:14 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.

PRESENTATION – 2026 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

1.  Kate Rucker, Human Resources Director, introduced Interns for 2026 Summer Internship Program: Kyle Rodriguez, Morgan Lynch, Chase Shapiro, Alan Hernandez-Valdez, Arthur Dorvil, Marco Filice, Gabriella Casanova, Jared Wheeler, Hudson Knapp, and Justice Shaffer.

 Chairman Siddique stated two County programs are being implemented this year that originated from last year's Interns. BC20260519DOC012

PROCLAMATIONS

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 6-0, to adopt the following Proclamations:

2.  Proclamation designating May 19, 2026, as Manasota Youth Soccer League Day, was accepted by Chris Hehn, Manasota Youth Soccer Club President. BC20260519DOC013
3.  Proclamation designating May 25, 2026, as Memorial Day, was accepted by Renée Medina, Veterans Services Manager. Memorial Day ceremonies will be held throughout the County to honor all military service members.

 Chairman Siddique encouraged everyone to view the Gold Star memorial in the Lobby. BC20260519DOC014

4.  Proclamation designating May 21, 2026, as National Stop the Bleed Day was accepted by Carol Bissinger, Trauma Program Manager at Bayfront Medical Center. BC20260519DOC015

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES TO THE AGENDA

 Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, stated all updates were published with the online Agenda. Additional attachments for Item 20, and public comments were received after the publishing of the Agenda. BC20260519DOC016

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Items 6, 19, and 25 pulled by Commissioner McCann
Items 18 and 23 pulled by Commissioner Ballard

CONSENT AGENDA

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Consent Agenda Only)

 Ken Piper was advised that Item 27 is deferred to June 2, 2026.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, and seconded by Commissioner Kruse, to approve the Consent Agenda, with the changes incorporated in the Agenda Update Memorandum, with deletion of Items 6, 18, 19, 23, and 25 (separate action). The motion carried 6-0.

5. **CLERK'S CONSENT**

BC20260519DOC017

A. **WARRANT LISTING**

Accepted the Warrant (Check) Listing for the Month of April 2026, issued by the Finance Department

BC20260519DOC018

B. **MINUTES**

Approved the Minutes of April 7, 2026

C. **REFUNDS**

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Pape Dawson – Preliminary Site Plan, \$6,000 | BC20260519DOC019 |
| 2. | DD LR HTL LLC – Billing Adjustment, \$237,607.81 | BC20260519DOC020 |
| 3. | DR Horton, Inc. – Impact Fees, \$6,662.75 | BC20260519DOC021 |
| 4. | DR Horton, Inc. – Impact Fees, \$6,662.75 | BC20260519DOC022 |
| 5. | Kimley Horn – Final Site Plan, \$5,250 | BC20260519DOC023 |
| 6. | Kimley Horn – Final Site Plan, \$5,250 | BC20260519DOC024 |
| 7. | Michael Kyzer – Final Site Plan, \$4,500 | BC20260519DOC025 |
| 8. | Lennar Homes LLC – Southeast Transportation Impact Fee, \$58,220 | BC20260519DOC026 |
| 9. | Lennar Homes LLC – Impact Fees, \$54,470 | BC20260519DOC027 |
| 10. | Lennar Homes LLC – Impact Fees, \$59,470 | BC20260519DOC028 |
| 11. | Taylor Morrison – Utility Fees, \$5,588 | BC20260519DOC029 |
| 12. | Wholesale Landscape Supply – Billing Adjustment, \$2,155.35 | BC20260519DOC030 |

D. **REPORTS**

Accepted:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Prosperity Lakes Community Development District – Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2025 | BC20260519DOC031 |
| 2. | State of Florida Annual Local Government Financial Report for Manatee County, FY24/25 | BC20260519DOC032 |

E. **PARTIAL RELEASE OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT LIEN**

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | 3138 – 47th Avenue East Sewer Project, Weymouth, Thomas Scott, Carducci, Dana, Lambert, Lori | BC20260519DOC033 |
|----|--|------------------|

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

Authorized the County Attorney's Office to take no action regarding Plaintiff's April 22, 2026, Proposal for Settlement in the amount of \$200,000 to Manatee County, and to allow the Proposal for Settlement to expire in the matter of Moises Hernandez Claros v. Manatee County, Case 2025-CA-1898AX

BC20260519DOC034

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

1. Authorized the County Attorney's Office to take no action regarding Plaintiff, Thomas Eppich's, April 27, 2026, Proposal for Settlement in the amount of \$55,000 to Manatee County, and to allow same to expire in the matter of Thomas Eppich v. Manatee County and City of Holmes Beach, Case 2025-CA-000742; and
2. Authorized the County Attorney's Office to settle this matter on behalf of Manatee County and issue a settlement check in the amount of \$42,500 to Plaintiff, Thomas Eppich, in Manatee County Circuit Court Case, Thomas Eppich v. Manatee County and City of Holmes Beach, Case 2025-CA-000742, in exchange for a full and

complete release of any and all of Plaintiff's claims against the County, a dismissal of Plaintiff's lawsuit against the County with prejudice, and to authorize the County Attorney, or her designee, to execute all related documents in connection with the settlement

BC20260519DOC035

9. **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Authorized staff to secure the perimeter of the pool located at 4634 Classique Drive, Sarasota (PID 2041320959)

BC20260519DOC036

10. **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/CODE ENFORCEMENT LIENS**

- Authorized staff to record Satisfactions of Multiple Code Enforcement Liens (3); and
- Authorized the County Administrator, or Nicole Knapp, Development Services Director, to execute the Satisfactions: CE2408-0678 (Dawn L. Vaughn, \$314.63), CE2504-0777 (Dawn L. Vaughn, \$850.84), and CE2506-1125 (Margaret Johnson, \$5,745.41)

BC20260519DOC037

11. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

Adopted Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069

BC20260519DOC038

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

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional departmental budgeted funding to Piggyback Blanket Purchase Order Agreement P2401140 with Callaghan Enterprises Inc., for Tires, Tubes, and Services (estimated annual expenditure \$500,000)

BC20260519DOC039

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

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to allocate additional budgeted, departmental funding to Piggyback Blanket Purchase Order Agreement T2500560 with Stewart Courts & Fencings, Inc., for Fencing Installation, Maintenance and Repair Services

BC20260519DOC040

14. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Change Order 1 to GMP Addendum 1 to Agreement 24-TA005354JK with Wharton-Smith, Inc., for North Regional Water Reclamation Facility Storage Expansion, authorizing an additional 192 calendar days to the construction schedule, for a new, final completion date of May 14, 2026

BC20260519DOC041

15. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Authorized Purchasing Official, or designee, to execute Change Order 3 to Agreement 20-TA003404CD with Wharton-Smith, Inc., authorizing an additional 44 calendar days to the construction schedule and a funding increase of \$307,744.73, for a new final completion date of September 29, 2026

BC20260519DOC042

16. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/RESOLUTION**

Adopted Resolution R-26-058, authorizing the Manatee County Commissioners to participate in a Joint Meeting with the Longboat Key Town Commission on September 24, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Fifth Floor, Manatee Room

BC20260519DOC043

17. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/GRANT**

1. Authorized submission of an Office of Juvenil Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) FY25 Opioid Affected Youth Initiative grant application; and

2. Authorized Chairman, County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Director of Public Safety, any of their designees, Director of Government Relations, any of their designees, and Grant Division Manager, to execute all necessary subsequent documents related to the grant submission BC20260519DOC044

20. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/AGREEMENT**

Executed updated Non-Profit Agreement with Manatee Educational Television Consortium, Inc., (METV), for \$186,000 for FY 25/26, to provide educational broadcasting and production services benefitting Manatee County residents, to include 12 months of educational broadcasting and the production of 84 new community-focused programs annually, with specific targets for 48 long-form programs and 36 short-form programs BC20260519DOC045

21. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/OPPORTUNITY ZONE DESIGNATION**

Authorized County Administrator, or his designee, to submit to FloridaCommerce on behalf of the County, the tracts identified and listed in Exhibits A and B to this agenda item for consideration as Opportunity Zones under the Opportunity Zone 2.0 Program BC20260519DOC046

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

Accepted and authorized recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from BayCare Health System, Inc., a Florida, not-for-profit corporation, for property located at 6618 BayCare Way, Palmetto, in accordance with final site plan requirements for commercial development BC20260519DOC047

24. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/AGREEMENT**

Executed First Amendment to License Agreement with Valkyries of Manatee, Inc., for property located at 634 Woodstock Road, Bradenton, modifying Exhibit A to provide a revised legal description and sketch delineating the area designated for the Valkyries use, and update notice addresses BC20260519DOC048

26. **PUBLIC SAFETY/SUNSKY 10K EVENT**

Authorized execution and transmittal of a Letter of Non-Opposition to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), supporting the temporary closure of the northbound span of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge for the SUNSKY 10K event on Sunday, March 21, 2027, from 3:30 a.m., to 11:00 a.m. BC20260519DOC049

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

Executed Agreement for Charitable Services with The Patterson Foundation for the 2026 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge (for a period of one year) BC20260519DOC050

(End Consent Agenda)

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Future Agenda Items Only)



Andrew Stillman commented about the person escorted out of Chambers, and the County's purchase of 51, solar-powered trash cans.



Patricia Simmons displayed information and commented on Accessible Traveling information.



Heidi Minihkeim questioned the reason on trying to move forward swiftly with the rewriting of the Comprehensive Plan, expanding 44th Avenue East to four lanes at

Rangeland Road (aka Rangeland Parkway), why Kimley-Horn is involved to rewrite the Comprehensive Plan, and that Clay Gully Road is still not paved.

 Marjorie Struck questioned the source of SHIP Funds.

 Julie Maddison requested a motion be made at the next meeting that a new animal facility be approved.

 Lance Lee stated Rebuilding Together Greater Florida (RTGFL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping families safe, healthy, and housed by providing critical home repairs, disaster recovery, and disaster residence services to low-income homeowners, seniors, and people with disabilities. Many homeowners still struggle in the aftermath of Hurricanes Milton and Helene and do not have the resources to recover on their own. RTGFL has dedicated funding for homeowners impacted by the storms, and all repairs are provided at no cost. RTGFL looks forward to working with the County, and Mr. Lee was referred to the Stephanie Garrison, Government Relations Director.

 Susie Copeland has been working with Commissioner Ballard to get sidewalks and streetlights in the areas of 30th Avenue, south to 38th Avenue in Bradenton, and 27th Street East and U.S. 301 in Palmetto and requested when the improvements will be made.

 Ken Piper requested the Board consider an ordinance or resolution pursuant to Florida Statute (F.S.) Section 286.0115, which removes the presumption of prejudice from ex parte communications. This would prevent any person from discussing the merits of any matter which may be taken up by the County Commission.

 Andra Griffin commented on The America First Agenda, traffic issues throughout the County, citizens' concerns are not being heard, questioned the funding sources for roads, and stated taxes are too high. She also questioned the reason for pushing to approve a revised Comprehensive Plan and requested it be tabled until after the November election.

 By telephone, Kathy Bridwell spoke about a recent newspaper article of comments by Commissioner Kruse regarding demands by activists for a new East County animal shelter. She asked the Board to figure out how to provide a humane animal shelter.

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

 Discussion ensued regarding the purpose and cost of solar trash cans, clarification that Comprehensive Plan conceptual maps reflect future roads that may not be built for 20 years, SHIP Funds come from William Sadowski Funds from the State with very strict criteria, Rebuild Florida is a great organization and staff should reach out to them, thanks to Pat Simmons for attending the recent Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting to address accessibility improvements throughout the County and she was encouraged to continue offering suggestions, Resolution R-05-179 exists related to Florida Statute 286.0115, the Comprehensive Plan is lengthy, several work sessions were held this past year on the Comprehensive Plan and no concerns were presented, and people are encouraged to read the Comprehensive Plan.

 Commissioner Ballard spoke with staff about Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) priorities and comments by Susie Copeland and stated she will follow up with staff and respond to Ms. Copeland.

 Commissioner Kruse commented on the gentleman removed from Chambers and referenced Florida Statute 286 and Resolution R-25-013, Section 5.3.1.5 – Public Comment.

BC20260519DOC051

RECESS/RECONVENE: 10:16 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. All Commissioners were present.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY/FIFTH AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

 Commissioner McCann stated previous Board action was taken on the County Administrator's Employment Contract to extend his contract for six months and to pay his attorney's fees up to \$3,000 (4/21/26). The payment of the Administrator's attorney's fees was denied by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and concluded that reimbursing the Administrator's personal legal fees served no lawful public purpose. Another reason has been found to pay the Administrator's fees in the form of a one-time, lump sum merit/performance bonus of \$3,000 in recognition of meritorious performance, as presented in the Fifth Amendment to his Employment Contract. He submitted correspondence of strong public objection to the \$3,000 merit performance bonus which is not warranted.

Motion – Drop \$3,000 Payment (Not Approve Fifth Amendment)

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, that the \$3,000 payment to the County Administrator be dropped. The motion was seconded by Chairman Siddique.

 Chairman Siddique requested Commissioner McCann confirm that he does not approve the Fifth Amendment to the contract, which is to pay the \$3,000, but the Employment Contract is still extended. Commissioner McCann confirmed.

 Discussion ensued regarding the reason behind the \$3,000 payment, the Board decided to pivot on action while the contract was being addressed, the motion for the \$3,000 reimbursement was for the right reason, there are other ways to achieve a goal that the Board deems appropriate, and expending Clerk and County Attorney time to dispute the nature of the \$3,000.

Motion clarified

 Upon request by Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, for clarification of the motion, Commissioner McCann stated the motion is to continue with the Contract extension (Fourth Amendment), absent of the \$3,000 attorney fees, because it is identified as a meritorious performance bonus, and it was declined by the Clerk.

 Ms. D'Agostino respectively explained that the \$3,000 attorney fees were approved with the Fourth Amendment to Mr. Bishop's Employment Contract (4/21/26). Mr. Bishop would have to agree to the motion to continue with the Contract without the \$3,000 (in his attorney fees, and this would have to be brought back in an appropriate document.

 Chairman Siddique stated his understanding is that the Contract extension (Fourth Amendment) was approved (4/21/26), and the Fifth Amendment as presented today, is just for the \$3,000 one-time, lump sum meritorious performance bonus. He did not understand Commissioner McCann's motion to extend the existing Contract. He does not support the Fifth Amendment.

 Commissioner McCann stated his motion is to not approve the Fifth Amendment.

 Upon question, Ms. D'Agostino stated the Fourth Amendment has been executed by all parties. The proposed Fifth Amendment is signed by Mr. Bishop only and is awaiting Board approval or rejection.

 Andra Griffin questioned how much tax dollars will be paid to negotiate a contract with the County Administrator.

 Ken Piper stated this is an insult to taxpayers that the Board is still being asked to award the County Administrator \$3,000 under the identity of meritorious service by way of a Fifth Amendment to his employment contract.

 By telephone, David Daniels stated that approval of the Fifth Amendment condones improper payment, as taxpayer dollars should not be used for employment benefit. He urged the Board to deny approval of the Fifth Amendment.

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

 Chairman Siddique stated the Board should be mindful of declaring a public purpose or finding one to pay for attorney fees. The standard should be higher in defining and declaring a public purpose. He stated he would not vote to approve the Fifth Amendment.

 Commissioner Bearden stated he would vote to continue with the existing contract.

 Commissioner McCann stated he made the motion (4/21/26) to approve the Fourth Amendment to the County Administrator's Employment Contract to extend the contract for six months (to 2/8/27) and pay the County Administrator's attorney fees (which were subsequently denied by the Clerk). Trying now to identify the \$3,000 payment for a different reason, as presented in the Fifth Amendment, is inappropriate. The County Administrator can negotiate without an attorney, but it was his personal choice to use an attorney to protect his rights. These fees are not going toward public a public purpose. Commissioner McCann stated he would not vote to approve the \$3,000 payment to Mr. Bishop as presented in the Fifth Amendment.

Motion to not Approve Fifth Amendment - Failed

 The motion to not approve the Fifth Amendment to County Administrator Employment Contract between Charles Bishop and the County failed 2-4, with Commissioner McCann and Chairman Siddique voting aye, and Commissioners Ballard, Bearden, Kruse, and Rahn voting nay (in favor of the Fifth Amendment).

Motion to Approve the Fifth Amendment - Carried

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, and seconded by Commissioner Rahn, to approve the Fifth Amendment to County Administrator Employment Contract between Charles Bishop and the County, and to authorize the Chairperson to execute same on behalf of the County. The motion carried 4-2, with Commissioner McCann and Chairman Siddique voting nay.

BC20260519DOC052

18. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/GRANT**

 Commissioner Ballard pulled this item. Staff proposes to submit a Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application for federal funding for the construction of 15th Street East/301 Boulevard East, from south of 63rd Avenue to south of 53rd Avenue (excluding the 57th Avenue roundabout that has federal earmark funding). This is a very narrow corridor that runs through both hers and Commissioner Rahn's District and has been a concern for a long time. There are a lot of pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns on this road, and the requested improvements are badly needed.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, and seconded by Commissioner Rahn, to approve the Requested Action:

1. Authorize the submission of a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application; and
2. Authorize the Chairman, County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Director of Public Works, any of their designees, Director of Government Relations, any of their designees, and Grant Division Manager, to execute all necessary subsequent documents related to the grant submission

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

The motion carried 6-0.

BC20260519DOC053

19. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

 Commissioner McCann pulled this item to question why Manatee County government is involved in this private venture that should be done between employers. He asked how much this will cost and if there is a cap.

 Stephanie Garrison, Government Relations Director, explained the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a partnership opportunity between Manatee County and Suncoast Workforce Board, Inc., dba CareerSource Suncoast, to support enhancement and expansion of apprenticeship programs within the County. The partnership is intended to strengthen workforce development efforts by aligning training opportunities with the needs of new and existing businesses.

 Josh Matlock, President of CareerSource Suncoast, stated CareerSource as grant recipient, sets goals for public/private partnerships that have interest in workforce development tools and to develop a program approved by the Department of Education to remove barriers to offer higher wages and higher skills. There are no costs to Manatee County at this time, and CareerSource continues to receive federal grant dollars.

 There was discussion that strong policy is needed for economic development and job creation, Section 7 of the MOU addresses funding, there are no funds being approved with

this action at this time, this is not the first time Manatee County has entered into this kind of relationship, and the partnership with CareerSource can be worked out with staff.

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

 By telephone, Glen Gibellina questioned the metrics, last year's cost, and why this program has to flow through Manatee County.

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

 Discussion ensued to watch the video of the April 8, Board meeting to get questions answered, and the Manatee County School Board is working diligently to turn Bayshore School into a technical school.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Rahn, and carried 6-0, to authorize the Chairman to execute Memorandum of Understanding between Suncoast Workforce Board, Inc., dba CareerSource Suncoast, Inc., and Manatee County, for Apprenticeship Program Support, development, and expand apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in Manatee County (agreement to remain in effect for a period of one year, unless terminated earlier).

BC20060519DOC054

23. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/TREE TRUST FUND**

 Commissioner Ballard discussed the Tree Trust Fund with an operator in the tree nursery industry, who suggested the County examine its procurement costs for trees and landscape materials to see what can be done to reduce costs for projects of this nature. Trees cost approximately \$150; why is the County spending \$300 per tree.

 Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, stated Property Management is requesting funding from the Tree Trust fund in the amount of \$13,390, to purchase and plant a large row of trees along the residential property line to screen the expanding Natural Resources Department Lay-down yard/staging area at the Geraldson Community Farm Site. The trees are 25-gallon, landscaping grade at a lower price of \$227/tree. To also reduce the amount of funds requested from the Tree Trust fund, staff and park rangers built the landscaping berms where the trees will be planted and installed the irrigation for the trees.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, and seconded by Chairman Siddique, to approve the FY26 Tree Trust Fund Application Funding Request for \$13,390 to purchase and install trees for the Green Screen of Geraldson Farm Site Staging Areas and adopt Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-073.

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

The motion carried 6-0.

BC20260519DOC055

25. **PUBLIC SAFETY/RESOLUTION**

 Thu Lee, Health Information Services Manager, requested adoption of Resolution R-26-031, establishing a Health and Human Services Investment Review Committee.

 James Crutchfield, Deputy Director, Public Safety, stated the purpose of the Human Services Investment Review Committee is to provide a transparent process to review and score funding applications for County-funded adult health and human services programs.

 Discussion ensued that the Board previously discussed the establishment of the Committee, and the public deserves accountability and transparency on non-profit investments.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, seconded by Chairman Siddique, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution R-26-031, establishing a Health and Human Services Investment Review Committee to serve in an advisory capacity regarding health and human services funding allocations. BC20260519DOC056

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS – LEGISLATIVE (Presentations Upon Request)

29. **HUMAN RESOURCES/ORDINANCE 26-11**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of Ordinance 26-11, regarding Criminal Background Screening for Safety and Security Critical Positions and restricting access to results of Criminal History Records Checks to authorized individuals.

A presentation was not needed.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Rahn, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 6-0, to adopt Ordinance 26-11. BC20260519DOC057

30. **SPORTS AND LEISURE SERVICES/CHRISTINA TURLEY DOG PARK**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of Resolution R-26-26, naming the dog park at Blackstone Park as the "Christina Turley Dog Park."

A presentation was not needed.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, seconded by Commissioner Rahn, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution R-26-026. BC20260519DOC058

31. **NATURAL RESOURCES/RESOLUTION**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of Resolution R-26-056, revising the Water Well Construction Permitting Program Schedule of Fees for the administration and enforcement of rules and regulations governing water well permitting and water well contractors within Manatee County, including the addition of a fee for processing Water Well Abandonment Permits.

(Depart Commissioner McCann)

 Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, introduced the request.

 Alissa Powers, Environmental Protection Division Manager, stated the fee schedule must be adopted, followed by the execution of the Water Well Agreement.

 Pam D'Agostino, County Attorney, recommended separate action for Item 34.

 Paul Panik, Program Manager, stated the proposed fee schedule update was based on a comprehensive audit, it has been approved and revised by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and the proposed agreement renews Manatee County delegated authority.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Rahn, and carried 5-0, with Commissioner McCann absent, to adopt Resolution R-26-056.

BC20260519DOC059

(Enter Commissioner McCann)

34. **NATURAL RESOURCES/AGREEMENT**

 Alissa Powers, Environmental Protection Division Manager, requested execution of the Water Well Construction Permitting Agreement with SWFWMD, for the administration and enforcement of rules and regulations governing water wells permitting and water well contractors within the geographical jurisdiction of Manatee County.

Paul Panik, Program Manager, stated this item is tied to Resolution R-26-056 (Item 31) and renews the County authority to provide continued oversight of public safety of ground water resources.

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

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Rahn, and carried 6-0, to authorize the Chairperson to execute the Water Well Construction Permitting Agreement between SWFWMD and Manatee County.

BC20290519DOC060

33. **GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS/GRANT**

 Stephanie Garrison, Government Relations Director, introduced Ashley Schnitker, Grants Division Manager.

 Odugo Ohizu, Communications Coordinator, utilized a slide presentation to address updates on the Infrastructure phase of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant and Lasting Manatee Program, May 2026 estimated percentage allocations of \$125 million of infrastructure funds to the six municipalities for CDGB-DR Program projects, rationale behind the allocations, pre-application and funding application timelines, staff verification of eligibility and criteria, five-year timeline by HUD to use the funds, infrastructure workstream, and national objective.

 Ashley Schnitker, Grants Division Manager, continued the slides on a housing recovery update, Lasting Manatee Procurement Process overview, and LastingManatee.org website and informational links.

 Discussion ensued as to whether projects are ready, some preliminary project concepts have been identified, and making sure the Municipalities understand the process.

 Jerremy Givens, City of Bradenton, stated the City has several projects ready to submit for review.

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

 No action is required.

BC20260519DOC061

36. **PUBLIC WORKS/SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

 Clarke Davis, Traffic Management Deputy Director, requested the appointment of one at-large citizen representative to the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Citizen Advisory Committee. Nine applications were received and each applicant appears to be eligible. The appointment will be sent to the MPO for confirmation.

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

 Pam D'Agostino, County Attorney, opened the floor for nominations.

Nominations

Charles Richards by Commissioner Kruse

 Nominations were closed.

By unanimous vote, Charles Richards was appointed as Citizen Representative to the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's Citizen Advisory Committee.

BC20260519DOC062

RECESS/RECONVENE: 11:52 a.m. – 12:02 p.m. All Commissioners were present.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

39. **OLD MEMPHIS CEMETERY**

Agenda Item from Commissioner McCann

and

37. **MEMPHIS CEMETERY DESECRATION AND COUNTY RESPONSE**

 Commissioner Ballard was notified by a citizen that the Old Memphis Cemetery in Palmetto, had been vandalized. The Sheriff was notified of the crime; however, as more information emerged, it became clear that the Cemetery had been in this condition for months, but no one reported this. Concerns regarding Old Memphis Cemetery go back 40 years. Ordinance 88-34 authorized the County to secure and maintain the Cemetery pursuant to Florida Statutes. Florida Statute (F.S.) 497.284, empowers local governments, counties, or municipalities to clean, restore, or secure an abandoned cemetery, but does not create an ongoing obligation to maintain the cemetery. The County has taken interest in the Cemetery since the 1980s.

There was an Historic Cemetery Advisory Board, and the County has used the Offender Work Program to mow the grass and maintain basic order, but no one at the Program notified County staff about the vandalism.



Chris Green has done voluntary cleanup at the cemetery since January. Once the County learned about the vandalism, the County jumped into action with Mr. Green, Tracey Washington, NAACP, and City of Palmetto Mayor West to hold a one-time, volunteer cleanup event on May 23, at 9:00 a.m.



Commissioner Ballard initially requested funding in the amount of \$100,000 from the Commissioner Discretionary Fund, for the restoration of the graves; however, because so much has been donated by the community, any funds allocated by the Board can be used to install a fence to secure the perimeter, as well as lighting and/or cameras. Old Memphis Cemetery is an abandoned Cemetery pursuant to F.S., and the County does not own the cemetery. The County has chosen to provide maintenance and repair pursuant to the Abandoned Cemetery Statute but does not have ownership obligation. The Offender Work Program will continue to do basic mowing, but once the cemetery is restored, the County will rely on the community to keep it maintained. Chris Mullinex, a local contractor, has offered to replace the vault lids, and action will come back to accept the donation. Rick Groover, Groover Funeral Home, has offered to repair broken headstones and monuments, City of Bradenton Mayor Gene Brown has committed to removing graffiti from the monuments, local restaurants have offered to provide food for the May 23 cleanup, and donations are being accepted through the Manatee County Community Foundation to offset the costs of fencing and lighting.

Motion



A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, and seconded by Commissioner Rahn, to allocate \$100,000 from the Commissioner Discretionary Fund, to help pay for fencing and lighting for the Cemetery to protect it for the future.



Discussion ensued that the County is seeking cost estimates for security cameras, F.S. requires certain security cameras to retain data for at least 30 days, there is a consistent pattern of neglected cemeteries and a long-term solution is needed, there is no law preventing the County or anyone else going in to maintain the property, the Offender Work Program is effective, any remaining funds from the \$100,000 allocation will be returned to the Commissioner Discretionary Fund, all donations will help offset cost, if the County can incorporate this into the budget cycle, seek grant funding opportunities, if the General Fund can be used, prepare a cost estimate for an ongoing long-term maintenance plan, a one-time cleanup of the heavy amount of overgrowth at Old Memphis Cemetery, Adams Cemetery is worse than Old Memphis, and develop an annual maintenance plan.

Chairman Siddique stated that part of the motion for Adams and Rogers Cemetery is to come back to the Board, and maybe include Memphis, with a long-term maintenance plan. At least for Adams and Rogers, the long-term maintenance plan would be annual cleanup done by Property Management at a nominal cost. Adams and Rogers have fencing, but Old Memphis could benefit from a four-foot chain link fence like Adams has, which would be the bulk of the cost.

 Commissioner Ballard also communicated with the Freedmen Reparations Fund Trust non-profit, and they are willing to provide long-term support to assist with restoration, coordination, preservation planning, documentation, and long-term historical preservation efforts. A meeting is being organized, and the community will be included.

 Chairman Siddique thanked Commissioner Ballard and staff for presenting this issue and organizing a community response.

 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, stated that relative to the motion on the floor for the Old Memphis Cemetery, there is a requirement pursuant to F.S. 497.284 for the County to notify the Department of Financial Services, which is under the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), if the Board is going to engage in maintenance or security of an abandoned or otherwise neglected cemetery. She asked the Board to consider amending the motion to direct County Administration to effectuate the required notice pursuant to F.S.

 Ms. D'Agostino also stated that this is the first she has heard that the County already went out to Adams and Rogers Cemetery and did maintenance. She asked the Board to direct staff on the same protocol pursuant to F.S. 497.284.

 Commissioner Ballard agreed to add that wording to the motion for both Old Memphis and Adams and Rogers Cemeteries.

Amendment

 Chairman Siddique clarified to add an amendment to the very end of the motion to include notifying the Department of Financial Services and the CFO's office of the County's intention to perform ongoing maintenance and support at Old Memphis Cemetery and the Adams and Rogers Cemeteries. The motioner and seconder agreed.

 Chairman Siddique stated the CFO's office also needs to be notified to be eligible for the \$50,000 grant.

 Susie Copeland spoke in support of increased security.

 Betty Sailes Rhodes thanked the Board for taking this action.

 Peyton Hoey spoke in support of the allocation of public funds and long-term plans for the restoration and maintenance of Old Memphis Cemetery.

 Tracey Washington, Manatee County NAACP President, thanked Commissioner Ballard for her motion and questioned the source of funding for a long-term solution.

 By telephone, Glen Gibellina stated the Property Appraiser's records on Memphis Cemetery indicate the County Administration Building holds ownership of the property. Manatee County owns and has been maintaining the property as a public site since 1988.

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

 Discussion ensued that the May 23 scheduled cleanup is the beginning, fencing will help keep the property safe, ongoing work has been done by the Offender Work Program, several nonprofits are willing to provide long-term support, and there is a new commitment for maintenance and restoration.

 Chairman Siddique requested staff prioritize Old Memphis, install a new trash can, prioritize fencing at Adams Cemetery, and thanked the Community for assisting in the cleanup of the headstones.

 Commissioner Ballard stated the Clerk's Historical Resources staff has worked on this project and will be onsite on May 23 to provide historic grave cleaning training.

 Commissioner Rahn suggested looking into declaring the property as a historical site, which would make it eligible for historic preservation and grant funding.

 Discussion continued to update the ordinance, create a maintenance schedule, some grave sites are destroyed, and non-profits and volunteers could assist in the interim.

 The motion as amended, carried 6-0.

 The County Administrator stated the donation for the vault restoration from Mr. Mullinex falls below the threshold, and a donation form is not necessary.

Motion – Staff to Research

 A motion was made by Commissioner MCann and seconded by Commissioner Ballard to direct staff to research the ordinance.

 The County Attorney recommended research be done on Resolution R-88-152 and Ordinance 88-34.

Motion Restated

 Chairman Siddique restated the motion to direct staff to research, review, and present options to amend or appeal Ordinance 88-34 and Resolution R-88-152. The motioner and seconder agreed, and the motion carried 6-0.

 Upon question as to whether a motion is needed to direct the Sheriff's office for the ongoing maintenance, Commissioner Ballard stated the Sheriff's office (Offender Work Program) is already doing the maintenance, and no motion is required.

 Chairman Siddique summarized that the Offender Work Program is ongoing, and staff will come back and present an annual maintenance plan with Property Management. The Sheriff's office is already performing what we have already discussed.

 Commissioner Ballard further stated that what is being discussed also goes with the discussion about researching Ordinance 88-34 and Resolution R-88-152, because the County continuing with the on-going responsibility and knowing whether we really should be doing it that way, will depend on the research.

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38. ADVERTISING REVENUE FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM

 Chairman Siddique stated Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) does not have a funding source outside of property taxes. MCAT is currently fare-free and does not sell advertising space. In 2025, the Board reallocated a portion of the library millage to the transit millage to address operating cost increases, which outpaced the ability of the millage to sustain them. It is imperative that MCAT evaluate leveraging transit assets (alternative funding sources to reduce reliance on property taxes and eliminate impacts to other services outside of transit). The need to diversify funding sources for County services is intensifying, and an advertising business model for leveraging public transit assets (bus benches, bus stops, and advertising on buses) to generate revenue.

Action Requested

 He requested a motion be made to direct staff to research and evaluate options for implementing a public transit advertising program, including, but not limited to, advertisements on transit vehicles, shelters, benches, digital platforms, and related transit assets, and to return to the Board with potential business models, estimated revenues, legal considerations, operational impacts, and any policy recommendations necessary for implementation.

 Discussion ensued regarding where the funds go, most municipalities have a vendor involved, and this is a great idea.

 Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, discussed the legal concerns with an endeavor like this. Having a vendor handle this process, manage the vetting and decision-making leads to the policy of what can and cannot be advertised with this action. If the Board wants the County Administrator and staff to be the gate keeper and decision maker, which is not recommended, it will put staff in a more difficult situation that could be costly. She could brief Commissioners individually at another time.

 Discussion ensued that this was a lot of premature information when the motion is to research and present all options, this is a good idea to look into and there will be legal questions which will be part of the global motion.

 A motion was made by Commissioner McCann, to approve the Action Requested as presented on the agenda memorandum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ballard.

 By telephone, Glen Gibellina asked the Board to also research the ability to use Tourist Development funds.

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

 The motion carried 6-0.

BC20260519DOC065

(Commissioner Bearden departed during Citizen Comments)

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Continuation of consideration of Future Agenda Items)

 Louise DeGroot stated that 58 percent of the homeowners in Forest Pines Subdivision oppose the speed humps on Linden Lane and want them removed.

 Commissioner Rahn has been involved in this situation. The temporary speed bumps have since been removed on Linden Lane due to the fact there was not a full majority to support the calming devices. Based on traffic studies, the speed bumps will not be going in unless neighbors can achieve a vote of 100 percent in favor of having them within 100 feet of residences.

 April Stout explained that the Traffic Division is only being asked to accept the official votes of the homeowners that would be affected by this action.

 Audrey Plumely thanked the Board for their work.

 By telephone, Dalton Nelson stated he tried to reach staff on issues but has not received a response, and requested all citizens be treated equal during public comment.

 By telephone, Glen Gibellina commented on a surplus property located at 1114 15th Street East. He asked what Property Management is doing with a buildable lot and suggested it be donated to a non-profit.

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, stated that Alyssa Zern, Liberty University, is serving as a 2026 Summer Intern in the County Attorney's office.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

 Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, recognized Quantana Acevedo, Agenda Coordinator, on her birthday.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

 Commissioner Ballard invited everyone to attend a volunteer community cleanup at the historic Old Memphis Cemetery in Palmetto, tomorrow, and Saturday.

 Commissioner Kruse stated the Tunnel to Towers Foundation will be at Booker Elementary School tonight, to observe the 25th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

 Commissioner Kruse looks forward to visiting the new Boys and Girls Club location at the Rubonia Community Center.

 Commissioner Kruse stated he will be participating in The Salvation Army of Manatee County's, Over The Edge fundraiser, by rappelling down the side of the eight-story Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa, on Friday, May 22, to raise awareness and funds for local programs fighting child hunger.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Siddique adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Minutes Approved: August 25, 2026