MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
September 10, 2026
Meeting video link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA

Present were:
Tal Siddique, Chairman District 3
Amanda Ballard, First Vice-Chairman District 2
George Kruse, Second Vice-Chairman, District 7
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
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Siddique called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION
Commissioner Ballard delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Commissioner Kruse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA BC20260910DOC001
Agenda Update Memorandum 1 (dated 9/9/2026) BC20260910DOC002
- Generic Public Comment attached
- Item 1, Adoption of Tentative Millage and Budget - First Public Hearing towards Adoption of FY27 Budget; and Adoption of Resolutions B-27-001, B-27-002 and B-27-003 - Added the following attachments: Capital Improvement FY27-31 New Project Request, Exhibit A Revenue Changes, Exhibit B Expense Changes and Public Comments

Agenda Update Memorandum 2 (9/10/2026) BC20260910DOC003
- Item 1, Adoption of Tentative Millage and Budget - First Public Hearing towards Adoption of FY27 Budget; and Adoption of Resolutions B-27-001, B-27-002 and B-27-003 - Revised Agenda attachment, FY26 Tentative Budget Snapshot, Tentative Net Budget Summary FY27, Final Presentation FY27 Tentative Budget, and additional Public Comment

1. **TENTATVE MILLAGE AND BUDGET**

Claudia Campos, Chief Financial Officer, used a slide presentation to review the budget process, including Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices, Executive Summary of the FY27 tentative budget, $3,703,953,637 gross budget, $1,511,954,399 total net budget, and $2.3 billion Capital Improvement Plan, investment strategy, FY27 budget changes – proposed to tentative, revenue changes, expense changes, dependent special districts, business operations and detailed changes, Property Tax revenues of $523,968,976, revenue changes, operating expense changes, proactively prepared for possible tax

reductions, 48 positions were removed from the budget for $5.3 million, total current positions of 2,562, Constitutional Officer budgets were decreased by $6.3 million, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)decreased as projects were reviewed, CIP total sources and uses, the Parrish Tax Increment Funding is not being used for capital projects (only around $2 million), Impact Fee numbers reflect the new schedule, millage summary, and no total millage change.

Ms. Campos continued the slides to review reserves, reserves for contingencies, reserve for cash balance, 20 percent calculation for reserves, reserves based on gross total budget, reserves for contingency are not used for operating expenses, reserves for capital are specifically earmarked for projects, reserves for cash balances with breakdown, Board direction would be needed to spend any of the reserves, and the required motions.

Ms. Campos stated the aggregate millage rate for FY2026-2027 is 6.5032 mills and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of 6.5739 mills for the operating millage is hereby determined to be -1.08 percent.

Ms. Campos announced the next steps, and stated the next public hearing will be held on September 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding keeping the millage the same, based on the possibility of Amendment 3 passing and can make meaningful changes after the November 3, 2026, election.

Commissioner Ballard suggested funding Keep Manatee Beautiful with an additional $75,000 to assist with keeping the County clean.

Discussion continued regarding needing to see the full numbers for Keep Manatee Beautiful, and this could be a regular agenda item to have a full discussion, September 24, 2024, is the last day to change the millage, and a breakdown for CIP Project 14.

Ms. Campos and Andrea Berggren, Senior Budget Manager, stated the 10 requested positions are for two positions in Natural Resources, and eight positions in Utilities. CIP Project Item 14 is the Southeast Water Reclamation Facility, and it is a brand-new project. The Commissioner Discretionary funds of $1 million are still in the budget.

Commissioner McCann suggested cutting the millage by 0.2 percent and deleting the Commissioner discretionary funds.

Discussion ensued regarding additional revenue, SeaPort Manatee is included in the budget, operating expenditure, and a $1 billion gross increase.

Ms. Campos responded to questions and referred to the tentative budget summary with uses and read through the line items. Numbers come directly from departments, and staff gathers departmental budget information in November, for the next fiscal year. The only true unrestricted fund that can be used for anything is the General Fund. The 10 percent contingency is $12 million, and that is the Port's reserve. Manatee County is a coastal community which is why the 20 percent reserves are held to protect the County if there is a storm. The projected increase in ad valorem tax revenue is eight percent. All

48 positions eliminated were vacant and extracted from the budget. Each department addressed their needs, and the additional Utilities positions are due to increased call volume. During the recommended presentation in June, a link was provided to Commissioners with the justification for the additional 10 positions.

Ms. Campos stated starting next year, all counties must do a 10 percent budget reduction exercise. There is an agenda item for the October 14, 2024, work session, with this information, and allowing the Board to determine what the absolute items are that cannot be touched. A line-of-credit was taken out for Utilities infrastructure needs, through the enterprise fund, and that debt service is paid for by the Utility rates. Most projects go through change orders, and these are brought forward to the Board for approval. Lorraine Road is set for future funding, and impact fees can only be used within the area they are collected.

Discussion continued that the public needs to know where impact fees are being spent and what they are being spent on, Impact fees are highly regulated and the first pot of money that is used for capital projects, staff works closely with Development Services to ensure the fees are spent the way they are meant to be spent, $1.5 million allocated from the General Fund, and everything has to be taken into consideration when calculating costs for projects.

Ms. Campos displayed a map of the impact fee districts.

Discussion continued regarding the size of the impact fee districts, the Southeast district and Northeast district encompass too much area, based on tentative budget summary, the County has $536 million in unrestricted funds in the General Fund, as that is the only unrestricted fund, reserves cover two months of operations, the Board tried for several years to increase impact fees, impact fee studies determine the quadrants (districts), there is no documentation for CIP project 14, CIP has been moved and changed many times, multiple change orders coming in, price increases are usually based on inflation, citizens can make a public records request to see budget information, the budget book and the CIP are online, and the online CIP project cards identify the funding mechanisms.

Ms. Campos read the description for Item 14 on the CIP for the Southeast tower to allow for better service, due to growth. The County administrator can designate funding up to $500,000, per project, but the funds need to be budgeted. The Procurement Code must be followed, and the policy is being updated.

Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney, explained there is a Procurement Code that lays out categories, administrative procedures and rules and processes that are to be followed, based on the type of procurement.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 7:13 p.m. - 7:24 p.m. All Commissioners were present.

Ms. D'Agostino stated Resolution R-18-168 established the Procurement Code and the amount for administrative approval at $500,000.

Ken Piper submitted Florida Statutes and addressed Statutory requirements for reserves, and taking funds out of reserves to give back to the taxpayers.

Katherine Edwards expressed concern regarding the infrastructure sales tax as it relates to the Public Safety Department and the Sheriff's Office.

 Cynthia Con addressed concerns with the Bishop Animal Shelter.

Shirley O'Brien requested the Board build a brick-and-mortar animal shelter.

 Julie Madison expressed concern regarding the conditions at the Bishop Animal Shelter.

 Victoria Rubietta stressed the need for a brick-and-mortar animal shelter.

 Anthony Sciullo requested clarification regarding the proposed millage for conservation lands being restricted funds, the two positions for Natural Resources, and what are plans for unappropriated funds.

 Martha Jacobs requested proper funding for a permanent animal shelter and animal welfare operating budget.

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

Discussion ensued regarding the reserve policy needs to be redone, funding for an animal shelter, the conservation land millage is a restricted fund, the Natural Resources positions have not been filled, and Commissioner Bearden requested a complete report regarding Bishop Animal Shelter funding to be delivered by noon, Friday, September 11, 2026.

Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, explained it may take longer than 12 hours to provide the requested information to Commissioner Bearden.

Ms. Campos explained there is not an automatic report, and she requested a week to get the financial information to Commissioner Bearden.

 Bryan Parnell, Deputy County Administrator, stated Property Management is working on gathering information for Commissioner McCann regarding the costs of building a brick-and-mortar animal shelter.

Motion
A motion was made by Commissioner McCann to decrease the Millage by 0.2 percent, and to eliminate the discretionary funds and return discretionary funds to the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bearden.

Discussion ensued regarding this is 0.0120652 mills, there is a purpose for the discretionary fund, and this type of reduction is equal to approximately $4 per home.

Ms. D'Agostino requested clarification of the actual millage reduction.

Motion - Amended
 The motion was amended to clarify the millage cut by 0.012 mills.

Ms. Campos requested clarification that the cut is to the General Fund.

Discussion ensued regarding spending from the discretionary fund, and there is $375,000 left in the fund.

The motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-27-001 for tentative millage rates for FY26-27.

A motion was made Commissioner McCann, seconded by Chairman Siddique, and carried 6-0, to vacate the motion adopting Resolution B-27-001.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 8:22 p.m. – 8:52 p.m. All Commissioners were present.

Chairman Siddique announced the meeting will recess for another 15 minutes.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 8:52 p.m. – 9:10 p.m. All Commissioners were present.

Ms. Campos stated the aggregate millage rate for FY2026-2027 is 6.4912 mills and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of 6.5739 mills for the operating millage is hereby determined to be -1.26 percent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Ballard, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-27-001 for tentative millage rates for FY26-27.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rahn, seconded by Chairman Siddique , and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-27-002 which adopts the Tentative Budget for FY26-27, which also includes the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxing Unit and the Palm Aire Municipal Services Tax Unit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, seconded by Commissioner Rahn, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-27-003 which adopts the Tentative Budget for FY26-27 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts. BC20260910DOC004

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Siddique adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Minutes Approved: October 20, 2026