

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 17, 2024

A Tentative Budget Workshop was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Truex, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Tiseo. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input - None**

County Administrator Flores highlighted Tentative Budget Workshop.

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director gave a brief overview of Agenda and Constitutional Budgets.

Charlotte County Sheriff Office (CCSO) Chief Deputy Mike Casarella remarked on Constitutional Budgets, highlighted fiscal responsibility, service levels, full-time equivalent (FTE), zone coverage, vacancies, process, Next Generation (NG) 911 Project, and communication challenges.

Leah Valenti, Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections highlighted proposed budget, fiscal responsibility, Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 budgets, election integrity, financial management, innovative tools, accuracy, transparency, enhancements, software and equipment upgrades, and improvements.

Charlotte County Property Appraiser Paul Polk highlighted FY 2022/2023, 2024/2025 budgets, savings, vacancies, salaries, surrounding counties, qualified applicants, challenges, property valuations, impacts, Sunseeker, Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI) appraiser, cost and income approach, and job postings.

Stacy Wear, Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Finance Director highlighted FY 2024/2025 proposed budget.

Vicki Potts, Charlotte County Tax Collector highlighted FY 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 budgets, revenues, personnel services, operating expenses, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), computer upgrades, capital outlay, spatial requirements, artificial intelligence (AI), and options.

**Commissioner Constance** mentioned Constitutional Budgets, CCSO, equipment and technology upgrades, staffing turnover, real estate sales, growth, AI, opportunities, permit review, innovation, and efficiency. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed Constitutional Budgets and CCSO. **Commissioner Tiseo** commented on transparency, Constitutional Budgets, staffing, vacancies, overtime, budget request, Boca Grande, communications, NG 911 Project, equipment upgrades, new construction, Sunseeker, pay scale comparison, spatial requirements, service appointment, innovation, and technology.

1. Certified County-wide Valuations

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of FY 2025 Property Valuations, Neighboring Counties Valuation Increase, Revised Ad Valorem Revenues, Ad Valorem Variance, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill, Residential Permits, Number of Units Sold per Calendar Year, Real Estate Transactions in \$ per Calendar Year, and Mean & Median of Residential Transactions.

Chair Truex noted Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill and Residential Permits. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to City of Punta Gorda, FY 2025 Property Valuations, Neighboring Counties Valuation Increase, Sunseeker, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill, and Residential Permits. **Commissioner Tiseo** mentioned Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill.

## 2. Changes to the FY24/25 Budget

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of Total County Budget, FY 2024/2025 Budget: Summary of Adjustments, Action by Other Agencies, New Action: Public Works, New Action: Capital Projects/Miscellaneous Adjustments, and Technical Adjustments.

**Commissioner Constance** discussed New Action: Public Works. **Commissioner Tiseo** commented on Technical Adjustments.

## 3. Review of Ad Valorem Budgets

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of Ad Valorem Long Range Projection - Assumptions & Variables, General Fund Five Year Financial Plan – Revenue/Expenditures, Allocated Expense vs Revenue Variance (BCC Functions), Revenues Going to Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), General Fund - Revenues vs Expenditures Updated Projection, Allocated Expense vs Revenue Variance (Capital Projects), Capital Projects: Expenditures by Category vs Capital Ad Valorem, Revenues vs Expenditures Cumulative Projection, Law Enforcement Fund, Law Enforcement Proposed Budget, and Ad Valorem Funds - Allocated Expense vs Revenue Variance.

**Commissioner Constance** spoke to Revenues Going to CRA, funding allocation, Capital Projects: Expenditures by Category vs Capital Ad Valorem, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), insurance, resiliency, and rating category. **Commissioner Doherty** noted General Fund: Five Year Financial Plan - Revenue/Expenditures, Set Tentative Millage Rates, and Law Enforcement Proposed Budget. **Commissioner Tiseo** mentioned Revenues Going to CRA, Sunseeker, loan repayment, policy, General Fund, Capital Projects: Expenditures by Category vs Capital Ad Valorem, and HGMP.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb remarked on HGMP, flood insurance rates, resiliency, Risk Rating 2.0, projects, Community Rating System (CRS) discount, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Florida Floodplain Managers Association.

## 4. Proposed FY24/25 Total County-wide Budgets

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of Proposed 2024/2025 Total Net County-wide Budget, Net Amended Budgets, Net Budget - Capital vs Operating, BCC Countywide FTE Count As of 10/1/2023, BCC Countywide Occupied FTE Count, Charlotte County: 20 Year Debt Position, Debt Breakdown, Ad Valorem Reserves, Reserves, Hurricane Impact Projection – Total Projected Impact, Hurricane Impact Projection, and replied to investment policy.

**Chair Truex** discussed Net Budget - Capital vs Operating and Ad Valorem Reserves. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Net Amended Budgets, Reserves, Net Budget - Capital vs Operating, Debt Breakdown, loan repayment, and interest

restrictions. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted Net Amended Budgets, Debt Breakdown, credit rating, impacts, Ad Valorem Reserves, Hurricane Impact Projection, and Hurricane Charley. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to Net Budget – Capital vs Operating, Technical Adjustments, value, need, prioritization, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), and Budget Workshop. **Commissioner Tiseo** mentioned Reserves, interest rates, and investment.

#### 5. Millage Options

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of Assessed Valuation and How Your Tax Dollar is Spent FY 2024/2025.

**Commissioner Constance** discussed Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices, Assessed Valuation, and Constitutional Budgets.

#### 6. Set Tentative Millage Rates

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of Set Tentative Millage Rates - Recommended, Set Tentative Millage Rates - Revenue and Expenses, and Set Tentative Millage Rates - Recommended Reduction.

**Chair Truex** discussed Set Tentative Millage Rates - Recommended Reduction, Reserves, standards, options, flexibility, staffing, and Capital Projects: Expenditures by Category vs Capital Ad Valorem. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Set Tentative Millage Rates - Recommended Reduction, BCC Meeting Schedule, valuations, decision making process, impacts, Reserves, department budgets, levels of service, economy, flexibility, Ad Valorem Variance, and Set Tentative Millage Rates - Recommended. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted Set Tentative Millage Rates - Recommended Reduction and inflation. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to Set Tentative Millage Rates – Recommended Reduction, CCSO, Transportation Trust and General Funds, CIP, workshop, priorities, budget adjustments, process, Charlotte Harbor Event Center, risk, and scenarios. **Commissioner Tiseo** mentioned Set Tentative Millage Rates – Recommended Reduction, CCSO, needs, Capital Projects Fund, revenue streams, construction inflation, Charlotte Public Safety Unit, FY 2025 Budget: Proposed Additional Positions & Equipment, department budgets, and service and staffing levels.

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis replied to Capital Projects Fund and Set Tentative Millage Rates – Recommended Reduction.

County Administrator Flores responded to staffing levels, operational challenges and options, and service needs.

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE SETTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND BEING CHANGED FROM 1.3822 MILLS TO 1.2654 MILLS AND CHARLOTTE PUBLIC SAFETY UNIT BEING REVISED TO 2.1449 MILLS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO SET THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF IN THE RECOMMENDED REDUCTION COLUMN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TISEO**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

#### 6. Approve Resolution for New Positions, New Vehicles and Equipment RES 2024-104

Mr. Burger gave a brief overview of FY 2025 Budget: Proposed Additional Positions & Equipment.


Commissioner Doherty discussed operating budget, staffing, CIP projects, funding options, prioritization, and Burnt Store Plan.

County Administrator Flores replied to hiring process, budget adjustments, approved positions, and timeline.

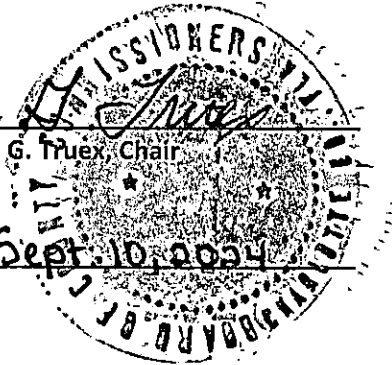
COMMISSIONER TISEO MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-104 APPROVING POSITION MODIFICATION REQUEST MOD25-00 FOR ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND EQUIPMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

ADJOURNED: 4:40 pm

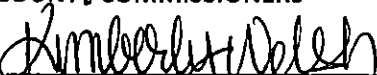
  
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William G. Truex, Chair

DATE ADOPTED: Sept. 10, 2024



ATTEST:

ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By:   
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Deputy Clerk