

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

5:30 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, met in special session on August 13, 2019 at 5:30 PM in the Ted Whitlock Community Center, Fred Poppe Regional Park, 1951 Malabar Rd., Palm Bay, Florida.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rita Pritchett	Commissioner District 1	Absent	
Bryan Lober	Vice Chair/Commissioner District 2	Present	
John Tobia	Commissioner District 3	Absent	
Curt Smith	Commissioner District 4	Present	
Kristine Isnardi	Chair/Commissioner District 5	Present	

ITEM A., CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

ITEM B., MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Isnardi called for a moment of silence.

ITEM C., PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Isnardi led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM E.1. ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING USER FEES FOR FY 2019-2020 FOR THE MELBOURNE-TILLMAN WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

Chair Isnardi called for the public hearing to consider statement of proposed user fee rates for the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District Fiscal Year 2019-2020; she advised the Item requires for the Commissioner of District 3 to be present; and the Item will have to be continued to another date.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated the Board has a copy of the resolution; it can take any comments on it from the public before the Board discusses it; the Board will want to discuss the Item under public hearing; and the Board can vote on it tonight, but it has to come back for approval with Commissioner Tobia, because his District has to participate in it.

Chair Isnardi stated basically what Melbourne-Tillman is asking for is a 2.44 percent increase, which is well below the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and she inquired if Dan Anderson, Melbourne-Tillman District Manager, would like to say anything.

Mr. Anderson replied no, he would just like to thank the Board for being there, and to let it know they are asking for the CPI increase; that increase will amount to about \$54,000; that money will be put towards water quality projects in the District; and other than that, that is basically all he has.

Chair Isnardi stated she does not want to put him on the spot, she would like for Mr. Anderson to describe how much canal they manage and what they do for Commissioner Lober, because he is new to the Board; and this is far away from his District.

Mr. Anderson stated the District is 100 square miles, approximately 163 to 164 miles of canals within the District boundaries; they take care of all of the canals; and the original intent of the District was a water control district for hurricanes. He noted that has changed into more of a

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water quality and flood control district; they have been doing a lot to try to clean the water up with the western diversion, a bunch of harvesting, and cutting down on their herbicide uses throughout the District in order to try and clean the water up before it makes its way to Turkey Creek then the Indian River.

Chair Isnardi stated that is the shortened version, but what they do is pretty amazing; and she inquired if Mr. Anderson would like to introduce any of his staff and/or Board Members.

Mr. Anderson replied yes, he would like to introduce the Board Members, Joseph Hale, President; Drew Powshock, and Philip Weinberg; and the staff present are Debbie Leclair, Assistant Manager of Administration; John Gergen, Assistant Manager of Operations; Lisa Blackett, Administrative Assistant; and Mike McCabe, District Engineer.

Chair Isnardi stated the Board knows Mr. McCabe well; if one wants to know anything about the Indian River Lagoon, he is pretty amazing, he has historic value, and is a pretty awesome guy to sit with.

Commissioner Lober stated they have run across each other a couple of times.

Chair Isnardi stated that was good; and she inquired if the Board had any questions or concerns.

Commissioner Lober inquired how it would impact their services if they did not get the increase.

Mr. Anderson responded each year they have a reserve account; they go into reserves in order to make up the deficit of their budget; right now the deficit is approximately \$150,000; and they have been cutting back each year on Capital expenses and their overall costs. He added in doing that, they have had a little bit of a problem with Capital equipment; they did not want to deplete their reserves, because they have to use that for the deficit each year; and they are also cutting back an extreme amount on the use of herbicides. He went on to say in doing that, they are doing a lot more mechanical cleaning; they are using long reach backhoes, harvesters, and a dredge; and their operation has kind of changed. He advised it is a lot more labor intensive than it was when they were applying more herbicides.

Chair Isnardi inquired how many employees they have.

Mr. Anderson replied 19.

Chair Isnardi stated all the work that they do, and they only have 19 employees; that is pretty amazing.

Commissioner Lober pointed out the increase is essentially going to offset the amount that they have to dip in to reserves.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively.

Chair Isnardi apologized for butting in; and she asked Mr. Anderson to explain how the reserves came about.

Mr. Anderson replied what they did was back when General Development Corporation, which was the major landowner in the District, went bankrupt, there was a settlement with the District; the District was able to attain the money in the bankruptcy settlement; and in the original plan, they were going to use the reserve accounts for Capital Equipment, but they went seven or eight years without any type of increase, so with the things that were added to their plate, they

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got to a point where they were able to make the budget without utilizing reserve accounts. He explained it is a window of roughly 40 percent over the last five or six years.

Chair Isnardi stated they had equipment from the 1980's they were repairing, and that is how old it is.

Commissioner Lober stated it basically sounds like the odds are impossible, even with the increase they are not enough to sustain the level of service for the long haul.

Mr. Anderson stated that is what they have always done; they have tried to be able to do the mission and what was expected of them and do it within budget; but with all the added responsibilities that have been added to the District for the long haul, there are concerns; and of course the Indian River Lagoon, they have got to where with all the years without an increase, they have always been more than creative in coming up with ways to do what they need to do. He pointed out they are just getting to a point now where the expectations are higher than their budget can do.

Commissioner Lober stated he understood; and expressed his thanks.

Chair Isnardi stated the Board has been re-vamping and looking at the Indian River Lagoon fund and re-prioritizing projects and things; their system has a direct impact on Turkey Creek and therefore the Lagoon; and she would like to sit with them for them to come up with a Capital need or something the Board can tie directly to the Indian River Lagoon where it is something that can be put on the list and requested as a Board. She went on to say it is something to consider as long as it can be tied to positively impacting the Lagoon it is something the Board can at least help out with since their budget is so small.

Mr. Anderson explained last year or several years ago they did a western diversion where they were sending some of their water out to the St. Johns River; by doing that, it changed their control elevation at the dam structure, and they were holding 10-foot water elevation year-round they were holding the water back in the system, retaining it, and discharging it at a slower rate; and in doing that, they are getting a higher concentration of nutrients; and with that, they are getting a lot more vegetation. He went on to say a lot of the protocols for some of the funding is the fact of how much nitrogen and phosphorus, as the Board knows, that goes through the system; and with them, it is more of the bio-mass that they are creating with all of the aquatic vegetation. He added if one was to send that through the bio-master in a storm event down through the creek and into the river, there will be that much more muck in the bottom of the river; they are creating a lot more bio-mass just in the last five to 10 years than they ever have; that has to be mechanically cleaned; and it is a lot more labor intensive than treating it with herbicide.

Commissioner Lober stated he is sure there is a much more indirect way to calculate it, but he is sure there is a way to take the bio-mass and figure out even a rough amount of nitrogen and phosphorus before allowing that to pass through and decompose, one would be adding it to the Lagoon; and he does not know how precise the science is with respect to that, but he is sure there is a way to get a number, even if it is a rough number.

Mr. Anderson stated Mr. McCabe is working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to come up with those numbers and that, and even looking towards maybe getting some credits for that, because with a long reach backhoe and harvester, they have been unloading tons of vegetation that otherwise would have went to the river.

Chair Isnardi stated maybe the Board could get Melbourne-Tillman in front of the Lagoon council to talk about what their needs are.

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Mr. Anderson stated they would be more than happy to come before them.

Chair Isnardi reiterated if there is anything her office can do to help, to let her know.

Mr. Anderson stated they have had long conversations with Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director, and because of the criteria with the nitrogen and phosphorus, a lot of their water does not meet that criteria because of the removal of the nitrogen and phosphorus; and his only concern is with the vegetation and the bio-mass, they have had instances where they have had events where they have had to let it go; and Ms. Barker knows firsthand, because she lives on the creek, that sometimes some of the vegetation has to go that way, and it just blows his mind that they are out there trying to dredge the river out, but then sending this stuff right back into it again.

Chair Isnardi stated that may be, she is not speaking for her, but that may be because of where she lives, or part of her hesitation of pushing projects forward that directly impact her place of residents; and maybe it is the Board that needs to do that.

Mr. Anderson stated their vegetation growth is ten-fold what it was ten years ago; one has to think about it as an analogy, there is sunlight, the water, and all of the nutrients in the water is like pouring miracle grow on it.

Chair Isnardi stated that is true; and asked if the Board had anything else.

Commissioner Lober stated he appreciated the background.

Chair Isnardi stated they have done this once or twice.

Mr. Anderson stated he welcomed Commissioner Lober down to go ahead and do a tour on an airboat; Commissioner Smith has been there, and Chair Isnardi has been there; and one gets a whole different perspective when one is able to get out there and see it.

Commissioner Lober stated he would take him up on that.

Chair Isnardi stated it is pretty massive.

Commissioner Smith stated it is pretty amazing, what they do, how big it is, and how much vegetation is out there.

Commissioner Lober stated he would bring a wide brim hat.

The Board continued consideration of the proposed rates for Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District for FY 2019/2020, to the August 20, 2019, Board meeting.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bryan Lober, Vice Chair/Commissioner District 2
SECONDER:	Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4
AYES:	Curt Smith, Kristine Isnardi
ABSENT:	John Tobia, Rita Pritchett

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Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

KRISTINE ISNARDI, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK