

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 September 15, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Government Center Commission Room, Building C, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Robin Fisher	Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 1	Present	
Jim Barfield	Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 2	Present	
Trudie Infantini	Commissioner District 3	Present	
Curt Smith	Commissioner District 4	Present	
Andy Anderson	Commissioner District 5	Present	

INVOCATION

The invocation was provided by Pastor Michael Carey, Trinity Wellsprings Church, Satellite Beach.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Robin Fisher led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM I.A.1., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 TENTATIVE AGGREGATE MILLAGE OVER THE AGGREGATE ROLLED BACK RATE

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing for the announcement of the percentage change in the FY 2015-2016 tentative aggregate millage over the aggregate rolled back rate.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated this Item allows for the reading of tentative aggregate operating millage rate to fund the portion of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget that is not supported by property taxes; and he asked the Budget Office to read into the record the tentative aggregate millage rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Tom Rosenberg, Budget Office Director, announced the aggregate tentative millage rate for the FY 2015-2016 budget is 6.7823; the tentative aggregate rate is 2.33 percent less than the aggregate current FY 2014-2015 millage rate of 6.9438; the aggregate rolled back rate for FY 2015-2016 budget is 6.7442; the aggregate tentative millage for the FY 2015-2016 budget is 6.7823; and the tentative aggregate rate is .56 percent more than the aggregate rolled back rate.

There being no comments, the Board acknowledged the announcement of the FY 2015-2016 aggregate rolled back rate at 6.7823 mills; the aggregate tentative rate is 6.9438; and the percentage change is .56 percent, including voted millages.

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ITEM I.A.2., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: REVISED TENTATIVE COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing to listen to public comment on the revised tentative County budget for FY 2015-2016.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated Item I.A.2. allows for the public to comment on the revised tentative County budget for FY 2015-2016; and before the public comment, he would ask the Budget Office to read into the record the revised tentative budget information.

Tom Rosenberg, Budget Office Director, stated the revised tentative County budget for FY 2015-2016 is \$1,035,142,411; and the budget represents a decrease of 3.15 percent, or \$33,713,781 from the FY 2014-2015 amended budget of \$1,068,856,192.

Chairman Fisher stated he does not have any public comment cards.

There were no public comments concerning the proposed budget and tentative millages for the County's 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, including Charter Officers and Dependent Special Districts.

ITEM I.A.3., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: ADOPTION: FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 TENTATIVE MILLAGES

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing to adopt the FY 2015-2016 tentative millages.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated it is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners discuss and tentatively adopt the FY 2015-2016 millages, and any changes to the millage rates under this Item will be recomputed and announced under Item I.A.4.

Commissioner Infantini stated she is not comfortable with the millage rate; she would like for the Board to adopt the rolled back rate; every year she suggests reductions in the budget areas the Board does not have to spend quite so much money in; and every year it gets turned down.

Commissioner Smith stated he is willing to listen to any budget cuts Commissioner Infantini may have; and anything the Board can find to put into roads, he would be willing to listen to.

Commissioner Infantini stated the Board is expecting to spend in the adopted budget, which includes the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), \$6.1 million for a speculation building to be built in the North Brevard County area; currently they had approximately 200 vacant positions; and while not all of those positions can be eliminated, many of them could, and it would be a savings to the budget. She went on to say there are improvements being made at Wickham Park that are not necessary; the Board has already spent over \$12 million; and she would like to cut back on that. She stated the way the leave is set up for the County employees, needs to be changed; she has seen other corporations looking toward changing to use it or lose it regarding vacation; and moving forward from this year, a person would have to use any leave accrued or lose it for that given year. She pointed out in 2005 the accrued liability was \$5 million; in 2014 it was \$14 million; and that is more than double. She stated it needs to be done similar to how the Clerk's Office does it.

Commissioner Smith stated he likes the ideas relating to the leave; it can be a real problem going forward; when he owned a business, he gave vacation time and required the people to take the vacation that year; and there was no accrual. He stated he does not see how that can be a hardship going forward. He went on to state it is a hardship to the County if it continues the same leave Policy.

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Commissioner Barfield asked Mr. Whitten to explain the actual Policy to the Board.

Mr. Whitten advised the Board that Frank Abbate, Assistant County Manager, will take the Board through the leave Policies and the use it or lose it scenario.

Mr. Abbate explained to the Board that the Board's Policy provides that for annual leave an employee can accrue up to a maximum of 240 hours at the end of a calendar year; at the end of that calendar year, if a person has not used it, it is a lose it unless the employer, the appointing authority, for some reason did not allow the employee to use it, in which case there are two options; one, the employee can request to carry over that additional leave and it has to be approved by the County Manager; and two, there can be a payout. He stated he would suggest to the Board that it is not as easy as saying accrued leave, if it is not allowed, will save the employee money; and in certain circumstances, especially since 400 to 500 employees have been lost over the last several years, if there is a position that needs to be filled, there is a lot of that in Utilities, Solid Waste, and Fire Rescue, any time an employee actually uses that leave, that position could be filled with time and a half. He pointed out if the Board forces people to utilize that annual leave, the Board may be paying them out straight time at the end whenever they leave, which is the 240 hour maximum accumulation annually, but the Board could be paying them every year for those positions where they take that annual leave and they have to be filled by someone else and pay time and a half for that. He noted there is an additional provision and that people are allowed when they get to the end of the employment, because of the DROP Program and retirement because of FRS benefits, which does not cost the County any additional funds at that point, he or she is allowed to accumulate, if they tell the County they are going to retire within a two-year period, they are allowed to accumulate up to 500 hours; and that is the same provision provided for by the State for its employees, and the Board's Policy mirrors that Policy.

Commissioner Barfield inquired how that affects the union agreements. Mr. Abbate replied the Board cannot unilaterally do it for any of the three units; there are 15 in the Supervisory Unit, over 500 employees in the Firefighter Rank and File, and over 600 employees in the LIU Blue Collar Unit; and if the Board were to look to change those provisions, it would have to negotiate it over time.

Commissioner Anderson stated a lot of jurisdictions struggle with this issue, but the Board cannot obviously budget for that reduction on this budget cycle because it would have to go through those contract negotiations; and it can be looked at next year as staff would need early direction on that.

Commissioner Infantini stated she has brought this up for about five years in a row and the Board has not taken any direction toward it; the liability has climbed from \$5 million to \$12 million; and that is in 10 years. She pointed out with the fire department, if there was adequate staffing, the staffing would accommodate for it; and there would not be a need to pay time and a half for people taking vacation.

Mr. Whitten clarified by saying it is a liability that is unfunded; and he stated when Commissioner Infantini said it had to be funded, it is not funded by the Board.

Commissioner Smith inquired if this is something that would be difficult to do now. Mr. Abbate replied it would have to be negotiated over time for the vast majority of the Board's employees; there are 2,200 employees, and 1,200 in the bargaining units; and the Board would have to negotiate that successfully through the Collective Bargaining Agreement session. Commissioner Smith inquired when he would recommend the process be started for the next budget year. Mr. Abbate responded those are three-year contracts and the Board is actually in the first year of those contracts, and there are two more years before that opportunity to re-

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negotiate would come up if the Board gave that direction. Commissioner Smith inquired how many of the 2,200 employees are union. Mr. Abbate replied about 1,200. Commissioner Smith inquired if that would prevent the Board from negotiating with the other 1,200 employees. Mr. Abbate responded there is no negotiating on the others, but he would suggest the Board's Policy has always been to try to treat the non-bargaining employees in a similar manner. Mr. Abbate explained Human Resources have looked at this in the past, and they would be happy to give the Board an analysis of those so it can see what the unfunded liability has been and where it is today, at least from staff's perspective. Commissioner Smith stated he would like to see that, and sooner rather than later target when the Board may do this so everyone can be made aware of the change if the Board agrees.

Commissioner Barfield stated he would like to see how other counties have done it and if they have found other creative ways to do this.

Mr. Whitten inquired what the direction is of the Board to carry over zero hours or what the clarification of what the new direction would be.

Chairman Fisher stated there will be situations where it will cost more money rather than to just continue like it is. He pointed out the Board has laid off over 400 people since 2007; and there are a lot of people who are working and would like to take a vacation but cannot.

Commissioner Infantini noted the County was actually over staffed in 2007; the fire department received a 12 percent pay raise over the course of a year in different steps; and the other employees only received a three percent raise. Mr. Abbate pointed out what he said was for the LIU Blue Collar Unit that was what was being compared.

Mr. Whitten stated Mr. Abbate will provide the Board with the data in the SAP system; it is not only resource and staffing issues for Fire Rescue, the permitting side of the house has a difficulty of meeting turnaround times; and in some instances, it will cost the Board actually more in double time than savings generated from whatever is revised in the Policy.

Commissioner Smith stated understaffing is not a permanent condition; the Board is on the hook for all of the accrued hours; and if the Board is responsible employers, it will cover the fact that it may be short in a department. He noted it is something that needs to be looked at.

Commissioner Barfield inquired if there has been input from the Citizens Budget Review Committee regarding this issue. Mr. Whitten responded no, and they are going to give the Board individual comments after the budget is adopted. He went on to say the unfunded liabilities with wages and benefits is not causing the Board to incur debt; there is only one county that actually went out and issued debt to fund that liability, which is Alachua County; and it is a balance sheet item, but the Board is not funding \$12 million on an annual basis.

Chairman Fisher stated the other employees could form a union to ask for the same benefits the others have. Mr. Abbate noted that is the case and he cannot add to Chairman Fisher's statement.

Mr. Whitten stated if every employee walked up tomorrow and said he or she wants to take the accrued leave and cash it in, that is \$12 million; not everyone will take the accrued leave at the same time; and it is one of those things that are consistent across companies both public and private. He noted there is a General Accounting Standard Board requirement that says it now has to be carried on the books.

Commissioner Infantini stated accrued pensions were the undoing of the auto industry because they are unfunded.

The Board discussed and reached consensus to tentatively adopt the FY 2015-2016 millages.

ITEM I.A.4., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: ANNOUNCEMENT: RECOMPUTED FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AGGREGATE TENTATIVE MILLAGE

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing of the announcement of the recomputed tentative aggregate millage.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated based upon the changes and the millage rates that were approved on Item I.A.3., he would now ask the Budget Office to read into the record the revised aggregate millage rates.

Tom Rosenberg, Budget Office Director, stated the aggregate rolled back rate for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget is 6.7442 mills; the aggregate tentative millage rate for the FY 2015-2016 budget is 6.7823; and the tentative aggregate rate is .56 percent more than the aggregate rolled back rate.

ITEM I.B.1., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: ADOPTION OF SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, FEES AND CHARGES AND RATIFICATION, CONFIRMATION AND CERTIFICATION OF THE SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLLS.

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing to consider resolutions adopting the Solid Waste Special Assessments, Fees and Charges, and Ratification, Confirmation and Certification of the Solid Waste Special Assessment Rolls.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated staff is requesting the adoption of the Solid Waste Disposal Special Assessment Rate resolution; and the Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Special Assessment Rate resolution, the Solid Waste Impact Fee resolution, the Schedule of Special Rates and Gate Charges, Special Rates and Charges for Improved Non-Residential Property, and Compensation Rates and other resolutions ratifying and confirming and certifying the annual disposal, collection, and recycling special assessment rolls.

There being no comments, the Board adopted Resolution Nos. 15-156, 15-157, 15-158, 15-159, 15-160, 15-161, and 15-162, for the Annual Solid Waste Disposal Special Assessment Rate; the Annual Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Special Assessment Rate; the Solid Waste Impact Fee Rate; the Schedule of Special Rates and Gate Charges; Special Rates and Charges for Improved Non-Residential Property and Compensation Rates to be paid the Collector; and other Resolutions Ratifying, Confirming, and Certifying the Annual Disposal, Collection, and Recycling Special Assessment Rolls.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
SECONDER:	Jim Barfield, Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 2
AYES:	Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

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ITEM I.B.2., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: ADOPTION OF FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGETS

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing to consider adoption of a resolution for the FY 2015-2016 final budgets for Solid Waste Management, Stormwater Utilities Department, Fire Rescue Operations, and Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District.

There being no comments, the Board adopted Resolution No. 15-163, adopting the final budgets for the districts and programs such as Solid Waste Management, Stormwater Utilities Department, Fire Rescue Operations, and Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
SECONDER:	Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4
AYES:	Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM I.C.1., PUBLIC HEARING, RE: TENTATIVE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BREVARD COUNTY BUDGET

Chairman Fisher called for a public hearing to consider tentative approval of a resolution for the FY 2015-2016 Brevard County budget.

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated based on the action taken on Item I.A.3., he asked the Budget Office to read into the record the revised tentative budget for FY 2015-2016.

Tom Rosenberg, Budget Office Director, stated it is recommended to the Board to tentatively approve the resolution adopting the County's total budget for FY 2015-2016; and as indicated in Agenda Item I.A.2., the County's total budget for FY 2015-2016 is \$1,035,142,411, which includes County agencies of \$836,954,469, Charter Officers of \$133,139,551, and Dependent Special Districts of \$65,048,391.

Commissioner Anderson stated one of the things in the tentative budget that he came across that is a small cost but a big reinvestment; the County is getting more highly skilled workers; one of the things he realized is there is a need for things to keep the young people in the County; and the young people say this place is boring and there is nothing to do. He went on to say he could tell some of these young people will leave Brevard County as soon as he or she could. He pointed out the Brevard Cultural Alliance Cultural Grant Program years ago was \$325,000; obviously it has been cut back; at the same time that organization has secured grants from the National Environment for the Arts and other organizations; and he inquired if it is possible to find \$50,000 to put back into the Cultural Grant Program to help ease that concern.

Chairman Fisher stated last year Harris Corporation said one of the challenges they had keeping young engineers in the County is that there was not a lot of cultural events compared to Orlando and other big cities; and because of that, they asked him if the Board could help them solve that issue.

Mr. Whitten stated if it is the Board's desire, staff can look at that between now and the second budget hearing.

Commissioner Infantini stated she would be glad to do that, but she would like for the Board to find a way to stop putting money out and giving up front cash, because the Board has offered to

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spend over \$24 million in upfront cash, not tax abatements; and that \$24 million would go really far if the Board stopped giving it away to companies.

The Board directed staff to find additional funding of no more than \$50,000 for the Cultural Grant Program, and bring it back to the Board.

Chairman Fisher stated when it comes to tax rates, the Board all went through the Budget workshop; the County has a low tax rate; and other counties have a high tax rate, which means they can do more. He noted maybe that is why the County is getting these jobs.

Commissioner Infantini stated she knows the Board is always hearing how it is so low in tax rates; she went to the State of Florida website to see; and according to the State, Brevard County is the 15th highest county for the total millage rate at 18.8053. Chairman Fisher inquired what about the rate the County controls. Commissioner Infantini replied it does not matter if the County controls it or not; the total millage rate shows the County as the 15th highest.

Commissioner Anderson stated people cannot beat the deal in the County.

Mr. Whitten stated so the general public will not think staff has actually misled them in terms of what Florida Tax Watch puts out as the comparables on the tax rates, the County is 62nd in terms of what the Board has control over; each year the Florida Department of Revenue compiles everyone's tax rate and revenue collections; and that includes County government, School Board, Special Districts, and cities.

Commissioner Anderson stated one mill in Brevard County does not generate near as much as one mill in Miami.

Chairman Fisher pointed out that looking at the chart under County Government Operating, Alachua is 8.7, Volusia is 6.3, and St. Lucie is 7.1; and every one of these is lower than Brevard.

Commissioner Infantini stated that is because Brevard County has so many millage rates; they accumulate much more in their county government general fund; and Brevard County isolates and has every item as a line item.

Mr. Whitten stated that is the Department of Revenue information and that is what the County certifies to the Department of Revenue; it is a combination of everybody; and when looking at Brevard County's tax liability, it compares favorably to the rest of the counties, and Brevard hangs with the very small counties. He pointed out the County's budgeting is consistent with how other counties budget; and Brevard County is not doing anything strange with the General Fund allocation of property taxes, because most of what is done is Statutory.

Commissioner Infantini noted for the record, Orange County is lower than Brevard County, and there are twice as many people. Mr. Whitten pointed out Orange County has a big mouse over there that allows them a whole lot of revenue that Brevard County does not have benefit of.

The Board reached consensus to direct staff to try to find additional funding, not to exceed \$50,000, for the Cultural Grant Program, and to bring it back to the Board.

There being no comments, the Board adopted Resolution No. No 15-164, adopting the County's total budget for FY 2015-2016, as indicated in Agenda Item I.A.2., at a total of \$1,035,142,411, which includes County agencies of \$836,954,469, Charter Officers of \$133,139,551, and Dependent Special Districts of \$65,048,391.

RESULT: ADOPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER: Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
SECONDER: Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4
AYES: Robin Fisher, Jim Barfield, Curt Smith, Andy Anderson
NAYS: Trudie Infantini

ITEM II.A., PERMISSION TO EXTEND EXISTING CONTRACT WITH DATALINK AND ISSUE RFPs FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR CONTRACT PERSONNEL FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Board approved extending the existing contract with Datalink, and the issuance of a Request for Proposals from qualified firms for contract personnel for the Information Technology Department; and authorized the Chairman to execute any resulting agreements.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
SECONDER: Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4
AYES: Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM IV.A., BAREFOOT BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated this is the resolution for the Barefoot Bay Water and Sewer District; and it is requested the Board approve the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget resolution for the District.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 15-165, adopting the FY 2015-2016 Budget for Barefoot Bay Water and Sewer District.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Trudie Infantini, Commissioner District 3
SECONDER: Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4
AYES: Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM IV.B., 2015 GROUP HEALTH PLAN DESIGN CHANGES

Frank Abbate, Assistant County Manager, stated for this Item staff is looking for the Board's approval of a variety of items to the group health insurance program; these have all gone through the Employee Benefits Advisory Committee; they came back unanimous on all counts; there was one additional item that came up yesterday; the Committee met yesterday; and it dealt with the issue of the Board's HRA Programs, they had an upfront deductible before an employee could use their HRA dollars, they had to meet a \$250 deductible, and a \$500 deductible for a family. He went on to say the Committee was looking to encourage to look at the EPO, which is a narrower network available through the Health First Plan and Cigna Plan; and through the analysis that was done, the premium increases that are occurring, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board that through the EPO Plan the costs

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the employee would pick up before they could use their HRA dollars be reduced from \$250 to \$125, and from \$500 for a family to \$250 per family.

Chairman Fisher inquired if a person is on the EPO and he or she has a need for a specialist in Orlando, can they go. Mr. Abbate replied it depends what EPO they take; for Health First EPO, as it exists today, a person can go to a Health First hospital or Florida Hospitals; if those services cannot be provided at one of their facilities, they can send them to a different facility; with Cigna, it is much broader; and all of the Center of Excellence's are in the EPO network.

The Board approved premiums and plan design changes to the Board's group health plan in accordance with Employee Benefits Insurance Advisory Committee (EBIAC) recommendations.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4
SECONDER:	Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
AYES:	Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM IV.C., AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO AN INTEREST RATE LOCK AGREEMENT WITH BANK OF AMERICA, CONSTITUTIONAL FUEL TAX REFUNDING REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2015

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated the Board had previously authorized the refunding of the Constitutional Fuel Tax; staff, along with the Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) per the Board's direction and received five responses, with the lowest interest rate coming from Bank of America at 1.38 percent; and staff is asking the Board to authorize a rate lock agreement with the County Manager signing that so that rate can be maintained prior to the closing of the refinancing of the refunding. He went on to say it would generate \$900,000 of net present value debt service savings, which is approximately \$190,000 annually through 2020.

Commissioner Smith inquired if this savings can be used for roads. Mr. Whitten responded that is exactly where these dollars are going.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 15-166, approving the form of an Interest Rate Lock Agreement with Bank of America, and authorized the County Manager to execute and deliver said Agreement.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
SECONDER:	Jim Barfield, Vice Chairman/Commissioner District 2
AYES:	Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM V.A., REPORT, RE: STOCKTON WHITTEN, COUNTY MANAGER

Stockton Whitten, County Manager, stated he sent to the Board Members a heads up he would be requesting it move the second budget hearing from September 29th to Thursday, September 24th; and Commissioner Anderson has a conflict.

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Commissioner Infantini advised the Board she has a conflict with the other date; and she stated she stated she made her plans based on the published schedule.

Mr. Whitten stated fearing that would happen, Tom Rosenberg, Budget Office Director, may have an alternative date.

Mr. Rosenberg stated by Statute the Board cannot meet on a Sunday; the second public hearing must be held within two to five days of the ad appearance; and the 25, 26, and 28 of September are fine. Commissioner Infantini stated she is available on September 28, 2015.

The Board approved moving the second budget hearing from September 29, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. to September 28, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andy Anderson, Commissioner District 5
SECONDER:	Trudie Infantini, Commissioner District 3
AYES:	Fisher, Barfield, Infantini, Smith, Anderson

ITEM V.C., REPORTS, RE: JIM BARFIELD, DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER, VICE CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Barfield stated Brevard Cultural Alliance is meeting September 16, 2015, at the Brevard Zoo to celebrate the 40th anniversary. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for the vote on September 3, 2015, for North Merritt Island to prevent the rail from going that route; it made a huge impact; and now they are exploring in detail going through Canaveral Air Force Station.

ITEM V.D., REPORT, RE: TRUDIE INFANTINI, DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Infantini stated on Thursday morning she found a Black Mouth Cur on Eau Gallie Boulevard darting back and forth across the road; she posted the dog on her Facebook; it is a wonderful dog about a year old; and she hopes someone will contact her if they know who the dog belongs to.

ITEM V.E., REPORT, RE: CURT SMITH, DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Smith stated he charged the residents of the 114 acres with coming up with ideas for that property; he advised them if they would not do anything with it, in six or eight years when there are new Commissioners, that Board may decide to sell it then; and they have taken the bull by the horns. He went on to say they have named themselves Suntree Viera Great Green Space Environmental Advocates; they have reached out to learning institutions, Florida Institute of Technology, and several high schools; there is a group called Eco Geeks that study aboard learning about the environment; and they are going in there to set up camera traps to take pictures of the tortoises.

ITEM V.G., REPORT, RE: ROBIN FISHER, DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER, CHAIRMAN

Chairman Fisher stated the Board wanted to figure out how to keep the Florida Manatees in its marketplace; there is conversation going on with Cocoa Expo today; and hopefully something will be put together. He went on to say he has been on the stage with Governor Rick Scott three times in the last 15 days with Boeing, Embraer, and Blue Origin Projects. He stated he thinks the Governor feels like him that everyone who wants to work needs help finding a job;

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there are a lot of people out there looking for opportunities; and this Board is doing a good job putting opportunities in the marketplace. He noted the Governor highlighted Brevard County for being proactive in creating jobs in the State of Florida. He stated Blue Origin announced they are not only manufacturing and building rockets and engines in the County, but they will fly out of here and do things on Pad 36A; and that is a game changer for Brevard County.

Commissioner Smith stated he came from an area in New Jersey that is very rural; when he grew up they had Dupont plants there that had a big presence; and they paid about 95 percent of the local purpose taxes, which is similar to Disney. He stated that is now gone; unemployment has sky rocketed; and those people would love to have just one of the businesses coming to Brevard County.

Commissioner Infantini stated she has family who lives in New Jersey, and they have one of the highest property tax rates in the country; her nephew's property taxes were the same as hers on a house she just sold on a river; and the house value was one-fourth of what hers was.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

ROBIN FISHER, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK