

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 13, 2026

A Regular Meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: Clerk of the Circuit Court Roger D. Eaton, County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, Minutes Clerk Gerace, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

The Invocation was given by **Commissioner Deutsch**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda

Change #1: S-1, 01/08/2026, Added attachment, Utility Public Hearing Presentation. 01/09/2026, Added attachment, Raftelis Connection Fee Presentation.

Requested by: Budget/Fiscal

Change #2: R-2, Added attachment, Punta Gorda Utility District Boundary Codification and Utility Transfer Act.

Requested by: Administration

Change #3: D-1, Added attachment, Revised Organizational Updates.

Requested by: Administration

Change #4: F-1, Added attachment, Attachment A. Added attachment, Attachment B.

Requested by: Budget/Fiscal

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Proclamations - Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATIONS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Artist of the Month- January/February

Pamela Jones accepted the Proclamation.

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Reverend Ellison Haddock accepted the Proclamation.

Commissioner Deutsch discussed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events.

National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Week

Proclamation to be mailed to Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Native Tree and Shrub Preservation Week

David Wilson, Florida Native Plant Society accepted the Proclamation.

Employee Recognition

Years of Service - December 2025

5 Years: Chad Campbell, Community Services; 10 Years: Edward Perry, Community Development; Billy Dennison Jr., Utilities; Gary Rodehorst, Community Development; Kenna Hubai, Public Works; 15 Years: Bonnie Sauer, Utilities; 20 Years: Gary Zoia II, Public Works; Tracy Doherty, Communications; Elizabeth Robling, Utilities; 25 Years: Bruce Schellinger, Utilities; and 35 Years: Denise Caruthers, Utilities.

Award Presentations

PUBLIC INPUT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Robin Wilkins mentioned Boca Grande Parking Suggestions.

Captain Marian Schneider commented on Boca Grande Parking Suggestions.

Skip Wilkins noted Boca Grande Parking Suggestions.

Tim Ritchie spoke against Annual Peace River Water Supply Authority Water Demand Projections Submittal.

Michael Muscari spoke against Annual Peace River Water Supply Authority Water Demand Projections Submittal.

Jack Vanderheyden spoke against 26-151, Award Piggyback, Purchase of Peterbilt 567 Dump Trucks (Public Works), 26-170, Award, Piggyback, Purchase of Four (4) 2026 Freightliner Ambulance Rescues (Public Safety), and 26-172, Award, Piggyback, Purchase of Two (2) E-One Cyclone Fire Rescue Pumpers (Public Safety).

Jeff Lustig spoke to Boca Grande Parking Suggestions.

Carol McDonald spoke against Legislative Update.

Shirley Stewart discussed Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Firing Range Noise.

Connie Wendt mentioned Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Firing Range Noise.

Cathy Kruse commented on Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Firing Range Noise.

William Krause noted Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Firing Range Noise.

Marie Nellenback spoke to Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Firing Range Noise.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The committee vacancy list below is for informational purposes only. It is not part of the County Commission agenda upon which action is to be taken, and therefore not a topic on which public input is allowed at the beginning of this meeting.

Barrier Island Fire Service Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Advisory Board is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacant position with term ending October 31, 2026. Applicants must be residents of Charlotte County and reside within the Unit. Submit applications to Public Safety Department, 26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, Florida 33982; call 941-833-5602 or email Dawn.Johnston@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

The following **MSBU/TU Advisory Boards** are seeking volunteers who must be both a property owner within and reside within the Unit. Submit applications to Public Works Department, 7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950; call 941-575-3600 or e-mail MSBU-TU@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

- **Boca Grande Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026, and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Cook & Brown Street Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026, and two members to fill positions with terms through October 31, 2027 and two members to fill positions with terms through October 31, 2028.
- **Edgewater North Waterway Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Gardens of Gulf Cove Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027, and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026.
- **Grove City Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Gulf Cove Street & Drainage** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Gulf Cove Waterway** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Harbour Heights Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027, and two members to fill positions with terms through October 31, 2028.
- **Manasota Key Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking two members to fill positions with terms through October 31, 2028.
- **Manchester Waterway Benefit Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027, and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Mid-Charlotte Stormwater Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Northwest Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking two members to fill positions with terms through October 31, 2028.
- **Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026.

- **Pirate Harbor Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking two members to fill positions with terms through October 31, 2028.
- **Placida Area Street & Drainage Maintenance Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Rotonda Heights Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Rotonda Lakes Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **Rotonda Sands North Street and Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.
- **South Burnt Store Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **South Charlotte Stormwater Utility Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **South Gulf Cove Street & Drainage Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2027.
- **Suncoast Waterway Maintenance Unit** is seeking one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2026 and one member to fill a position with a term through October 31, 2028.

REPORTS RECEIVED AND FILED

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Constance discussed Subrecipient Agreement between Charlotte County and Charlotte Behavioral Health Center- Opioid Funds.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF D-1 AND P-2, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

A. Comptroller Division

1. Finance

Recommended Action: Approve the Clerk's Finance Memorandum.

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

B. Minutes Division

1. Minutes

Recommended Action: Approve the following Minutes:

November 25, 2025 BCC Regular and Land Use Meeting
December 4, 2025 BCC Pre-Agenda

December 9, 2025 BCC Regular and Land Use Meeting
December 16, 2025 BCC Board Workshop
December 16, 2025 BCC Special Meeting

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

Board of County Commissioners

C. Commission Office

1. Appointment - Northwest Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Advisory Board

Recommended Action: Approve the appointment of Natalia Shea to the Northwest Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Advisory Board. This will be a three-year term replacing Robert Cable who has chosen not to seek reappointment. This appointment will be effective immediately and will expire on October 31, 2028.

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

D. County Administration

1. Organizational Updates

(Change #3) Added attachment, Revised Organizational Updates.

Recommended Action: a) Approve the appointment of Matthew McElroy as Public Safety Director; and b) Approve Patrick Fuller as Director of the newly established independent department of Emergency Management; and c) Affirm the realignment of the Transit Division from Budget and Administrative Services to the Human Services Department; and d) Affirm the department name change of Human Resources to People Operations. These changes to be made effective as of January 14, 2026.

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

Chair Tiseo mentioned Public Safety Director Matthew McElroy, staff support and feedback, Human Resources, and department name change. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Public Safety Director Matthew McElroy, community and staff support, Emergency Management Director Patrick Fuller, growth, and department name change. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted department name change, artificial intelligence (AI), and Human Resources. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to department name changes. **Commissioner Truex** discussed staff efforts, public safety, community support, Emergency Management Department, partnership, and mindset change.

County Administrator Flores responded to department name and culture change, People Operations Director Mary Shelley, and employee support and resources.

COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW MCELROY AS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR; AND APPROVE PATRICK FULLER AS DIRECTOR OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; AND AFFIRM THE REALIGNMENT OF THE TRANSIT DIVISION FROM BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT; AND AFFIRM THE DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO PEOPLE OPERATIONS. THESE CHANGES TO BE MADE EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 14, 2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

E. County Attorney

1. Animal Control Enforcement and Compliance

Recommended Action: a) Approve Resolution authorizing the County Attorney, or designee, to initiate litigation, in the name of the County, to enforce animal control statutes, ordinances and regulations against violators; and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution. **RES 2026-005**

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

F. Budget and Administrative Services

Fiscal Services

1. Subrecipient Agreement between Charlotte County and Charlotte Behavioral Health Center- Opioid Funds

(Change #4) Added attachment, Attachment A. Added attachment, Attachment B.

Recommended Action: a) Authorize Subrecipient Agreement between Charlotte County Charlotte Behavioral Health; and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. **AGR 2026-003**

Budgeted Action: No action needed. A quarterly budget amendment will be brought to the Board for approval.

Information Technology

Purchasing

2. 23-464, Amendment 1, Transportation Development Plan (Transit)

Recommended Action: a) Approve Amendment 1 to Contract 23-464, Transportation Development Plan with Alfred Benesch & Company of Tampa, FL in the amount of \$49,038.33; and b) Authorize the chairman to sign Amendment 1. This an additional study that will provide support for Transit to assess and optimize the existing on-demand services.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. A quarterly budget will be brought to the Board for approval. Grant funding will be provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Grant. Transportation Development Credits will be used as a "soft match", which allows the federal share to be reimbursed up to 100% as authorized by Chapter 53 of Title 49 U.S.C.

3. 24-131, Approve, Work Assignment, Port Charlotte Beach Park Shoreline Stabilization (Public Works)

Recommended Action: Approve Work Assignment #10 under Contract #24-131, with Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. of Bonita Springs, Florida, for Port Charlotte Beach Park Shoreline Stabilization in the amount of \$194,882. This is for the Port Charlotte Beach Park Erosion and Navigation Channel Study, which will provide design, permitting, conduct bathymetric surveys, locate existing features, map submerged resources, measure facility details, and identify site constraints that could affect construction and implementation.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the Capital Improvement Project "Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center" as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding is provided from the 2020 Sales Tax Extension.

4. 25-693, Approve, Demolition of Commercial/ Residential Structures - Annual Contract (Community Development)

Recommended Action: a) Approve award of Request for Bid #25-693, Demolition of Commercial/Residential Structures- Annual Contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidders, R.S. Development of SW Florida LLC, of Port Charlotte, Florida the Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte and Englewood and the islands, for the period of date of award through and including December 31, 2026, at the unit prices indicated on the bid tabulation; and b) Authorize the County Administrator, or his designee, to approve renewal options for up to two (2) additional one-year terms, at the same prices, terms and conditions, by mutual consent.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the General Fund - Code Compliance budget as approved in the FY2026 budget process. Funding for this expenditure comes from fines.

5. 25-601, Award, Bunker Gear and Accessories - Annual Contract (Public Safety)

Recommended Action: a) Approve award of Request for Bid #25-601, Bunker Gear and Accessories - Annual Contract as follows: Group A (Bunker Gear) and Group B (Helmets and Hardware) to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Bennett Fire Products Company of Woodstock, Georgia; Group C (Boots) to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, North America Fire Equipment Company of Decatur, Alabama; and Group D (Gloves) to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Read's Uniforms of Asheville, North Carolina, at the unit prices indicated in the bid tabulations for the contract period from January 1, 2026 through and including December 31, 2026; and b) Authorize the County Administrator, or his designee, to approve renewal options up to two (2) additional one-year terms at the same prices, terms, and conditions, by mutual consent.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the Fire Rescue Fund - Fire budget as approved in the FY2026 budget process. Funding for this expenditure comes from Fire Rescue MSBU assessments.

6. 25-697, Award, Ackerman Vacuum Zones 1 and 2 - Plumbing Contract 6 (Utilities)

Recommended Action: Approve award of Request for Bid 25-697, Ackerman Vacuum Sewer Zones 1 and 2 - Plumbing Contract 6, to the lowest responsive, responsible, bidder, Quality Plumbing of Sarasota, located in Bradenton, Florida, in the amount of \$367,657.50. This is to furnish and install all piping and appurtenances, abandon septic tanks, and restore all affected properties to successfully connect approximately 100 properties in Phase 2 of Ackerman Countryman Plumbing Contract Zones 1 & 2 area to the vacuum central sewer system.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in Capital Improvement Project "Ackerman Septic to Sewer and Water Expansion" as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding will be supplied by the Ackerman MSBU Fund through Ackerman Sewer MSBU Assessments and Base Rates.

7. 26-001, Award, Standby Generator Replacement - East Port (Utilities)

Recommended Action: Approve award of Request for Bid #26-001, Standby Generator Replacement - East Port, to GenServe of Cape Coral, Florida for a total amount of \$196,486.50. This is to replace the standby generator at the East Port Operations Building, located at 3100 Loveland Boulevard, Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

Budgeted Action: No Action Needed. Budgeted in the Utility Capital Maintenance Plan as approved in the FY25 budget. Funding is provided from Utility Renewal & Replacement Fund.

8. 26-151, Award Piggyback, Purchase of Peterbilt 567 Dump Trucks (Public Works)

Recommended Action: a) Approve award of Piggyback File #26-151, for the purchase of three (3) Peterbilt 567 Dump Trucks per the Florida Sheriff's Association Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract #FSA25-VEH23.0: Heavy Trucks and Buses, and award to The Peterbilt Store South Florida, LLC of Fort Myers, Florida for a purchase price of \$219,036 per unit; and b) Approve Asset #35425, 35427, and 35430 to be sold via auction.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the Heavy Equipment Replacement Plan as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding is provided from the Vehicle Replacement fund and will be charged back to Public Works, Maintenance and Operations division.

9. 25-738, Award, Fiber Optic Infrastructure - Annual Contract (Information Technology)

Recommended Action: a) Approve award of Request for Bid #25-738, Fiber Optic Infrastructure - Annual Contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Intelligent Infrastructure Solutions LLC of Fort Myers, Florida at the unit prices bid for a period of January 1, 2026, through and including December 31, 2026; and b) Authorize County Administrator, or his designee, to approve renewal options for up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods at the same prices, terms and conditions, by mutual consent.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in various funds, information technology budget as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding for this expenditure comes from various sources.

10. 26-170, Award, Piggyback, Purchase of Four (4) 2026 Freightliner Ambulance Rescues (Public Safety)

Recommended Action: a) Approve File #26-170, for the purchase of four (4) 2026 Freightliner M2 2-Door AEV Type I Ambulances including Stryker Power Pro XT cot, FLIR K2 camera and Activetek Induct Active Pure Technology, to ETR, LLC, of Altamonte Springs, Florida, to piggyback off the Florida Sheriff's Association Contract #FSA25-VEF19.0, at the unit cost of \$493,800 and one (1) Stryker Pro Model 6252 at the unit cost of \$4,682; and b) Authorize Property #35927, #35929, and #36018 to be sold at auction.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the Heavy Equipment Replacement Plan as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding is provided from General Fund revenues reimbursed from Capital Projects, ad valorem.

11. 26-172, Award, Piggyback, Purchase of Two (2) E-One Cyclone Fire Rescue Pumpers (Public Safety)

Recommended Action: a) Approve File #26-172, for the purchase of two (2) 2028 E-One Cyclone Fire Rescue Pumpers, from Matheny Fire & Emergency, of Ocala, Florida; piggybacking off the Florida Sheriff's Association Contract #FSA25-VEF19.0, at the unit cost of \$1,154,844.17; and b) Authorize Property #30579 and #31199 to be sold at auction.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the Heavy Equipment Replacement Plan as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding is provided from Fire/Rescue Municipal Service Benefit Unit assessments.

12. 25-740, Award, Pool Chemicals - Annual Contract (Community Services)

Recommended Action: a) Approve split award of Request for Bid #25-740, Pool Chemicals - Annual Contract, to the lowest responsive responsible bidders by chemical, as indicated on the attached bid tabulation, to Hawkins Incorporated of LaBelle, Florida and Commercial Energy Specialist of Jupiter, Florida, at the unit prices submitted, or the term of January 1, 2026, through and including December 31, 2026; and b) Authorize the County Administrator to approve two (2) additional one-year terms, at the same prices, terms, and conditions, by mutual consent. This is an annual contract for the supply and delivery of pool chemicals.

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the General Fund - Recreation budget as approved in the FY26 budget process. Funding for this expenditure comes from ad valorem.

13. Property Deletions for the Month of January, 2026 (Purchasing)

Recommended Action: Approve the deletion of additional property inventory items listed on the attached for the month of January, 2026.

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

Real Estate Services

Risk Management

Transit

G. Community Development

H. Community Services

1. Placida Passive Park Florida Communities Trust Grant Application

Recommended Action: a) Approve grant application between Florida Communities Trust and Charlotte County with proceeds in the amount of \$3,447,000 to be used for acquisition of property in Placida Florida; and b) Authorize the Chairman, or his designee, to sign memo and any other grant related documents. **GRT 2026-002**

Budgeted Action: No action needed. A budget adjustment and capital improvements project amendment will be brought to the Board for approval, if awarded. Adjustment will be made to the Capital Improvement Project "Placida Passive Park Phase 2". Grant funding in the amount of \$3,447,000.00 will be provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. There is a required County match of 25% in the amount of \$1,149,000.00. The source of the local cost share in the anticipated amount of \$5,503,000.00 has yet to be identified but will need to be determined at the time of acceptance.

2. West Coast Inland Navigation District January 23, 2026, Agenda

Recommended Action: Discussion and direction on the West Coast Inland District (WCIND) agenda for the upcoming meeting on January 23, 2026.

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

I. Economic Development

J. Facilities Management

K. People Operations

L. Human Services

M. Public Safety

N. Public Works

1. Fourth Amendment to Mosquito Control Interlocal Agreement between Charlotte County and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Recommended Action: a) Approve Amendment 4 to the Interlocal agreement between Charlotte County and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO); and b) Authorize the Chairman to sign Amendment 4. **A.AGR 2020-016**

Budgeted Action: No action needed. Budgeted in the General Fund - Mosquito Control budget as approved in the FY2026 budget process. Funding for the expenditure comes from Ad Valorem.

O. Tourism Development

P. Utilities

1. Firelight CDD Off-Site Utilities Agreement

Recommended Action: a) Approve Off-Site Utilities Agreement between the County and Firelight Community Development District (CDD); and b) Authorize Chairman to sign the Off-Site Utilities Agreement. **AGR 2026-004**

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

2. Annual Peace River Water Supply Authority Water Demand Projections Submittal

Recommended Action: Approve Charlotte County 20-year projected water demands and available water quantities for transfer to the distribution pool information for submittal to the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA).

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

Chair Tiseo mentioned City of Punta Gorda, Agreement 2025-245, and concurrency. **Commissioner Constance** commented on data source, Permanent/Seasonal/Transient Population, Metro Forecasting, Total Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) Service Area Population Estimate and Projections, Board action, Master Water Supply contract requirement, Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) 2025 Charlotte County – CCU Demands, excess pooled water, Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) utilization and capacity expansion, costs, and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). **Commissioner Doherty** noted surface water expansion, 3 million gallons per day (MGD), Agreement 2025-245, City of Punta Gorda, BEBR 2025 Charlotte County – CCU Demands, additional wells, Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA), and Burnt Store WRF.

Kenneth Stecher, Utilities Operations Manager replied to Jones Edmunds, projections and modeling data source, and Metro Forecasting David Farmer.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE CHARLOTTE COUNTY 20-YEAR PROJECTED WATER DEMANDS AND AVAILABLE WATER QUANTITIES FOR TRANSFER TO THE DISTRIBUTION POOL INFORMATION FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE PEACE RIVER/MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY (PRMRWSA), SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Q. Other Agencies

1. Crime Stoppers Program

Recommended Action: Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letter of agreement with Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers Program, Inc. designating them as the County's agent for receiving funds from the State Crime Stoppers Trust Fund pursuant to Section 16.555 and 938.06, Florida Statutes. **AGR 2026-005**

Budgeted Action: No action needed.

REGULAR AGENDA

R. Regular Agenda

1. County Attorney Contract

Commission Office

Request Board of County Commissioners' approval of the attached contract for Thomas M. David, County Attorney. AGR 2026-006

County Attorney Knowlton highlighted County Attorney Contract and interjected on contract effective date.

Chair Tiseo discussed County Attorney Knowlton's dedication, service, character, and integrity. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Deputy County Attorney Thomas David and County Attorney Knowlton's service and dedication. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned contract consistency.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVAL OF THE ATTACHED CONTRACT AGREEMENT 2026-006 FOR THOMAS M. DAVID, COUNTY ATTORNEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRUEX

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

2. Legislative Update

County Administration

(Change #2) Added attachment, Punta Gorda Utility District Boundary Codification and Utility Transfer Act.

Discussion and direction on local bill.

Deputy County Attorney Thomas David gave a brief overview of Overlapping Authority, Punta Gorda Ordinance No. 1363-03, Conclusion, interjected on service area requirements, property annexation, Florida Supreme Court, House Bill (HB) 4077 versions, and City of Punta Gorda boundaries and jurisdictions.

Chair Tiseo commented on City of Punta Gorda Ordinances 759-84, 1363-03, and 1860-16, language modification, Conclusion, service area development and legal description, Overlapping Authority, Florida Statutes 166 and 180, HB 4077 withdrawal request and language, cost responsibility, bond impacts, appropriation request and proposal, December 16, 2025 Special Meeting, water pressure impairment source, annexation documentation discrepancies, independent statutory and utilities review, Annual Peace River Water Supply Authority Water Demand Projections Submittal, and water purchase permit provisions and capacity. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), joint staff meetings, HB 4077 intended purpose, City of Punta Gorda partnership, appropriations request, SWFWMD water purchase prohibition, and January 13, 2026 Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted legislative bill submittal and implication, Representative Vanessa Oliver, City of Punta Gorda partnership and annexation, Dearborn Street, Home Rule, unfunded mandates, impact fees, zoning control, HB 4077 withdrawal request letter, and joint meetings. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed City of Punta Gorda Ordinance 1860-16 and partnership, service area exclusivity and boundaries, Florida Statutes, HB 4077 amended language and withdrawal request, financial components, timeframe, December 16, 2025 Special Meeting, Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting attendance and Punta Gorda Utilities updates, Shell Creek permit, interlocal agreement, transition process and requirements, state funding, Home Rule, joint meetings, capacity issues, and Cubic Foot Per Second (CFS) limits. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned staff collaborative efforts, utility service and capacity issues, HB 4077 timeline, 20-year projections, Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP), transparency and data concerns, withdrawal request letter, independent utilities review, and appropriations request.

County Administration Flores responded to City of Punta Gorda communications and Agreement 2025-245.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on HB 4077.

Eve Sweeting, Legislative Manager replied to withdrawal request, City of Punta Gorda partnership, data issues and concerns, and appropriations funding request.

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis responded to appropriation and HB 4077 withdrawal requests.

COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT A LETTER TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE, STATING THE BOARD'S POSITION, REQUESTING THAT THEY WITHDRAW HOUSE BILL 4077, SECONDED BY CHAIR TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

3. Boca Grande Parking Suggestions

Commission Office

a) Discussion and direction on Boca Grande parking; and b) Set potential joint meeting dates.

Chair Tiseo commented on potential joint meeting dates, suggestion list, January 5, 2026 Conflict Resolution Meeting, Gasparilla Beach Access Coalition members and suggestions, Lee County Commissioners Brian Hamman, Kevin Ruane, and Cecil Pendergrass, Port Charlotte growth and beach closure impacts, arbitrary and capricious standards, Boca Grande Parking Ordinance origin conflicts, Attorney Neale Montgomery, and dispute resolution process. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to January 5, 2026 Conflict Resolution Meeting, decorum, Boca Beacon, Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane, potential joint meeting dates, and February 17, 2026 Board Workshop. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted meeting representation and attendance, January 5, 2026 Conflict Resolution Meeting, Lee County, potential joint meeting dates, limitations, and February 17, 2026 Board Workshop. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed January 5, 2026 Conflict Resolution Meeting and Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane unprofessional conduct. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane inaccurate comments, West County development, density restrictions and transfer requirements, and potential joint meeting dates.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on statutory negotiation procedure process, citizen lawsuit option, and potential joint meeting dates.

County Administrator Flores replied to potential joint meeting dates and February 17, 2026 Board Workshop.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO USE THE FIVE LISTED TALKING POINTS ON THE AGENDA AND PROVIDE LEE COUNTY WITH POTENTIAL MEETING DATES ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AND MARCH 2, 2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

4. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Firing Range Noise

Facilities Management

Discussion and direction on the Firing Range.

Travis Perdue, Facilities Management Director gave a brief overview of Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Firing Range Noise Attenuation, responded to Waterford Estates, noise mitigation options, facility modification safety and risk concerns, feasibility study costs, alternate training locations, and Request for Proposal (RFP) funding source.

Chair Tiseo commented on public comments, CCSO Firing Range original construction date and improvement options, construction deficiency litigation, Waterford Estates contract disclosure, Planning and Zoning Board, property rights, flash bang usage location, long-range gun feasibility study and off-site training options, noise mitigation costs, homeowner's association (HOA) decibel reading report distribution and location, facility management and regulations, and compromise. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to long-range gun training location, CCSO Firing Range enclosure and sound mitigation options, lead exposure, facility modification feasibility study, and DeSoto County. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted CCSO Firing Range complaints, noise mitigation and vegetation options, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell responsibility and cooperation, training requirements and schedule publication, long-range gun training, Cecil M. Webb Shooting Range, property contract disclosure, Airport Road signage, Charlotte County Fairgrounds, professional assessment, and decibel reading locations. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed long-range gun sound mitigation and professional facility modification options, phased approach, professional engineer, RFP and feasibility fee funding source, affordability, property taxes, ad valorem dollars, off-site training, and DeSoto County partnership. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned CCSO Firing Range construction date, filtration equipment, sound mitigation options, facility design and modification, sound engineer and indoor gun range professional costs, and funding source.

CCSO Executive Director Andres Rodriguez remarked on firearms training certification and safety requirements, training schedule adjustments and publication, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team flash bang usage location, community partnership, public facility and sidearm utilization challenges, and Sarasota County.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on legal obligation to provide facility,

County Administrator Flores replied to RFP funding source.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

S. 10:00 A.M. Public Hearing or soon thereafter, as the agenda allows.

1. Charlotte County Utilities Rates, Charges, and Fees increase

Budget & Admin Services

(Change #1) 01/08/2026, Added attachment, Utility Public Hearing Presentation. 01/09/2026, Added attachment, Raftelis Connection Fee Presentation.

Conduct a public hearing approving the Rate Resolution to adopt increases for Charlotte County Utilities user rates, miscellaneous charges, and connections fees effective on or after April 1, 2026. **RES 2026-006**

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager gave a brief overview of Agenda, Connection Fees, Current & Proposed: Water, Wastewater, Miscellaneous Fees & Charges, User Rates, responded to Wastewater Connection Fee Results, transmission and plant capacity fee history, impact and connection fee collection shortfalls, cost distribution, rate payer cost impacts, reserved capacity and infrastructure, indexing and model update, and Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) project funding non-approval impacts.

Chair Tiseo commented on impact fee categories, methodology, connection fee history and review frequency, statutory requirements, technical report, rational nexus, engineers cost estimate, base rate fees, financial certainty and commitments, reserved infrastructure, indexing, transparency, Schedule A language modification, and non-approval rate payer and bond impacts. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to Wastewater Connection Fee Results, Raftelis Vice President Murray Hamilton, new development cost and impact fee responsibility, current rate payers, base charges, CCU, PRMRWSA regional customers, future capacity, General Development, septic to sewer conversion project costs, Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC), connection fee increases, indexing review frequency, and effective date. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted connection fee history, Current & Proposed: Water, cost increase concerns, motion, and user rate increases.

Commissioner Doherty discussed Schedule A language modification, LPS installation costs, duplex plumbing service requirement code, and septic to sewer conversion costs. **Commissioner Truex** mentioned LPS and gravity systems, duplex connection fees, user rates, FPSC, water and wastewater connection fees, new development capacity increase cost responsibility, community benefit, financing costs and certainty, and reduced exposure.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb remarked on duplex connection fees and amended language.

Murray Hamilton, Raftelis Vice President replied to recommended indexing review frequency.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on connection fee and user rate separation motions.

Public Hearing

John Fleming, Burnt Store Lakes President commented on Resolution 2012-019, Burnt Store Corridor Coalition, annual rate increase, revenue shortfalls, subsidized development, public hearing publications, Sunshine Law, Burnt Store Area Plan, connection fees, and public servants.

Jack Vanderheyden noted impact fee and utility rate increases, piggyback contracts, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) payment convenience fee, Florida Power & Light (FPL), and new development cost responsibility.

A citizen spoke to rate increase history, surrounding neighborhoods comparison, customer service and administrative charges, and CCU convenience fee disclosure.

Jeff Lustig discussed connection fees, septic tank renewal and installation charges, homeowner's insurance, property taxes and cost increase impacts, drought, Charlotte County Public Schools, and Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court.

Chuck Phillips mentioned water utilization and billing methodology.

Mary Ellen Kiss, Burnt Store Corridor Coalition commented on Burnt Store WRF staff and aquifers, transportation and provided service costs, impact and connection fees, new development cost responsibility, CCU, water supply, and wastewater treatment capacity.

Craig Williams noted staff efforts, public comments, and utility rate increases.

Tim Ritchie spoke to public comments, financial difficulties, impact fees, mismanaged growth, developers, rezoned agricultural lands, water quality and capacity, building moratorium, Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane, and January 5, 2026 Conflict Resolution Meeting.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-006 TO ADOPT A NEW SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE, WITH A MODIFICATION TO SCHEDULE A LOW PRESSURE SEWER (LPS) INSTALLATION CHARGE TO READ "UP TO SIX INCH SERVICE (SEWER ONLY, PER LPS TANK)", SECONDED BY CHAIR TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 4:1., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH OPPOSED

COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO REMOVE THE CONNECTION FEES FROM THE MOTION AND VOTE INDIVIDUALLY

MOTION FAILS DUE TO LACK OF SECOND

PRESENTATION AGENDA

T. 10:00 A.M. Presentation or soon thereafter, as the agenda allows.

PUBLIC INPUT - ANY SUBJECT

Craig Williams discussed impact fees, public safety, Burnt Store WRF, boil water order and expiration, press release, Next Door, and communication failures.

Jack Vanderheyden mentioned Port Charlotte Beach renourishment project and overcrowding, bathroom amenities, signs, dogs, and parking allowances.

Joseph Brooks commented on electricity costs and sources, alternatives, and solar power initiative.

Robin Wilkins noted Manasota Key Resort, Robert and Victoria Bray, zoning category and density, public hearing, elevation concerns, light pollution, seawall, speeding concerns, State Road 776, traffic study and impacts, Boca Grande, utility connections, infrastructure repairs, local businesses, and parking meters.

Cindy O'Hara spoke to fiscal irresponsibility, citizen concerns, First Amendment violations, and Punta Gorda Utility District Boundary Codification and Utility Transfer Act.

Dede Hedlund remarked on boil water notice, social media posts, and CCU convenience fee.

Jeff Lustig discussed e-bike safety and lighting concerns, Harold Avenue Recreation Center water fountain, Loveland and Peachland Boulevard pedestrian crossing, infrastructure costs, duplexes, Homestead Exemption, and rental unit prices.

Rob Robbins mentioned Rural Settlement Area Overlay District (RSAOD) density condition requirements and history, December 9, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting, Records Department, Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) mandatory stipulations, 2010 Comprehensive Plan, RSAOD.com, US-17 Corridor Study, cost responsibility disclosure, and Florida Public Records Act.

Tim Ritchie, March Against Mosaic President commented on December 9, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting public comments, Economic Development Former Director Dave Gammon and Director Kay Tracy, Mosaic Fertilizer land acquisitions and facilities, Hardee and Manatee Counties, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), SWFWMD, Myakka River, Heal Our Harbor, staffing changes, and January 5, 2026 Conflict Resolution Meeting.

Anne Mac Fadyen noted US 17, TCP-24-04 Revisions to Rural Settlement Area Overlay District, Pulte Homes, development and growth management concerns, and Peace River pipe installation.

AA. County Administrator Comments

County Administrator Flores discussed boil advisory news release dates, publication compliance, Next Door, Organizational Updates, Deputy County Attorney Thomas David promotion, and County Attorney Knowlton's retirement.

Chair Tiseo mentioned boil water advisory press release and notification methods and department name change. **Commissioner Constance** commented on boil water advisory email subscription and distribution, notification methods, FDEP, and Community Development name change.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb responded to press release and notification and alternative methods.

BB. County Attorney Comments

County Attorney Knowlton noted retirement, service, staff efforts, dedication, and Department Directors.

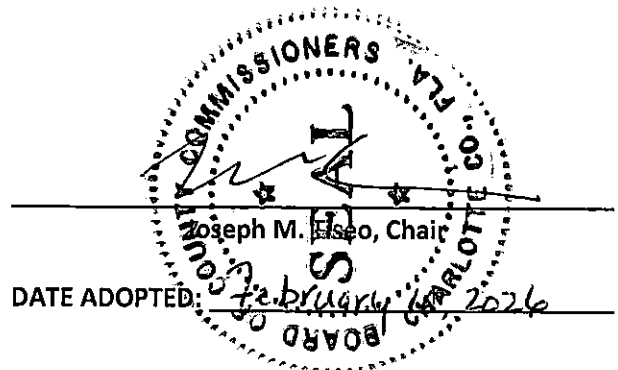
CC. Economic Development Director Comments

Kay Tracy, Economic Development Director spoke to County Attorney Knowlton's community service and retirement.

DD. County Commissioner Comments

Chair Tiseo discussed Port Charlotte Beach Complex parking challenges, construction zone, dog prohibition signage, Peachland Boulevard crosswalk, boil water advisory notification, and County Attorney Knowlton's trustworthiness and retirement. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned County Attorney Knowlton's retirement. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on public attendance and comments, County Attorney Knowlton's retirement, water quality report and comparison, Martin Luther King Jr. events, dogs, and Port Charlotte Beach. **Commissioner Doherty** noted County Attorney Knowlton's service and retirement. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to County Attorney Knowlton's professionalism, leadership, and retirement.

ADJOURNED: 1:28 pm



ATTEST:

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

By: Kimberly Walsh
Deputy Clerk