

# CITIZEN'S BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

## Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Atlantic Room, Building C, 3rd Floor

Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera

### Call to order:

The regular meeting of the Citizen's Budget Review Committee was called to order at 3:00 pm on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera

### Roll Call:

- a) Sign in sheet was circulated among the attendees.
- b) Present:
  - 1. D1- Jennifer Parrish
  - 2. D2- Stephen Burdett
  - 3. D3- Kevin Gholston
  - 4. D4-Peter Fusscas
  - 5. Jill Hayes- Budget Office Director
  - 6. Keith Neterer- Budget Office- Assistant Budget Office Director
  - 7. Jake Morris- Budget Office - Management and Budget Analyst I
  - 8. Judy Myers – Budget Office- Administrative Assistant to Budget Director
  - 9. Virginia Barker – Natural Resources Management Department Director
- c) Absent
  - 1. D5 – John Coloaiacovo

### Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

Minutes approved from the last meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

### Meeting Discussion:

Jennifer Parrish discussed that she has reviewed the draft budgets submitted by departments for FY 2025-2026, focusing on the Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Discussion was centered around capital outlay and equipment, specifically related to the County's process for replacing equipment. County staff explained Asset Management's function and role in tracking County equipment. Stephen Burdett explained the County's process for holding surplus sales to auction equipment that has exceeded its useful life and explained how Asset Management takes inventory of all County equipment on an annual basis.

Discussions related to equipment continued, with a focus on lawn care equipment, particularly the costs and longevity of Parks and Rec lawnmowers. The committee touched on the use of term contracts for equipment procurement across various departments, as well as the difference in pricing between various programs and departments, primarily due to varying specifications. The Committee deliberated whether certain vehicles or equipment could be shared by multiple programs or agencies. Jill Hayes indicated that the departments would have the expertise related to operational requirements, and would be able to answer those questions, and stated that the funding source of the equipment purchase is also a consideration.

The Committee discussed the annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Parks and Recreation, specifically the Septic-to-Sewer conversion project at Rotary Park, which is in the proposed budgeted at \$1.2 million. It was noted that Courtenay Parkway won't be available for this transition for several years.

The Committee moved on to a discussion related to Reserves, which represent funding set-aside for a variety of purposes including but not limited to cash flow requirements, responding to emergencies, obligations such as bond covenants and future year requirements. It was also explained that some reserves are restricted. For example, Solid Waste has a legal obligation related to landfills, requiring funds to be placed in escrow to cover closure costs once a landfill has reached its capacity.

Mr. Gholston emphasized the County's responsibility for Waste Management (including sewage), stressing the need to address capacity, and the associated expenses and how these costs will be funded.

The Committee discussed the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which includes audited financial statements, disclosures, and other required supplementary information at the end of each fiscal year.

Stephen Burdett referred to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) trust fund, and that the cash balance in the trust fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2024 was approximately \$413 million. Mr. Burdett requested an update of the program, and Natural Resources Director, Virginia Barker, was available to come and discuss the SOIRL plan with the Committee.

Ms. Barker gave an overview of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) program, highlighting the following topics: SOIRL plan approval process and annual updates; staffing levels; design and permitting time associated with projects; septic upgrade mandates and FDEP moratorium on permits; nitrogen and phosphorus as it relates to algae blooms; monitoring stations; derelict vessel removal; and oyster beds. The Committee asked about a potential extension of the tax in 2026, and Ms. Barker pointed out that staff cannot advocate or take a political position regarding an extension of the tax. The Committee asked questions related to project delays, which happen for a wide range of reasons including long lead times on certain commodities like electrical panels; recent demand in the wastewater industry; availability of sites for muck removal.

The Committee discussed topics related to the upcoming meetings. It was requested that Parks and Recreation and Utilities present at the next meeting, and Solid Waste at the following meeting. For Parks and Recreation, the Committee would like an overview of the department's operations and budget, with a focus on EELs, and capital equipment. For Utilities and Solid Waste, the Committee would like an overview of the department's operations and budget, with a focus on future capacity needs.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is Thursday September 25, 2025, at 3:00 PM in the Florida Room

Public Comments: N/A

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm