



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2026 @ 10:00 AM**

John A. Titkanich, Jr. – County Administrator
Michael Zito – Deputy County Administrator
Nancy Bunt – Assistant County Administrator
Kathy Copeland – Legislative Affairs & Communications Manager
Kristin Daniels – Director, Office of Management & Budget
Elise Kriss – Senior Budget Analyst
Kailey Fairchild – Budget Analyst

Meeting Summary:

1. Meeting Minutes from Prior Meeting – None

2. Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

- ❖ Thursday April 16th, 2026, at 3:00 PM
- ❖ Friday July 17th, 2026, at 10:00 AM
- ❖ Friday October 16th, 2026, at 10:00 AM

3. Revenue Diversification – Options for Increases

- Motor Fuel and Diesel Fuel Tax - Ninth Cent
 - Currently levy on diesel
 - Option to levy on motor fuel, est. \$751k
- Motor Fuel and Diesel Fuel Tax - 1 to 5 Cents (3rd tax)
 - Option to levy 3rd tax, est. \$3.5M
- Emergency Fire Rescue Services and Facilities Surtax
 - This levy would have to reduce ESD millage by the same amount, est. \$28.5M
- Vessel Registration
 - Currently receive state portion
 - Option to collect county portion, which is 50% of the state portion, est. \$33k
- Stormwater Utility Fee
 - Option to collect Stormwater Utility Fee
 - Could be used to fund new services, such as projects in the stormwater master plan.
- Next quarterly report will review fees other counties collect that IRC does not collect.

4. February 2026 Workshop Discussion

- Focus on potential impacts of legislation on Indian River County budget and impact on Indian River County residents, such as service reductions.
- Review potential budget reduction scenarios relating to new tax reform implementation (5%, 10%, 15%), which align with potential additional homestead exemptions.

5. April 2026 Budget Priorities Workshop Discussion

- 3/31 Budget update
- Board to give direction on priorities for FY26/27 budget.

6. Quarterly Budget Report Discussion

- Reviewed Quarter 1 Financial Indicators
 - 9 year-to-date percentages increased and 7 year-to-date percentages decreased compared to prior year.

- Reviewed Quarter 1 Budget to Actual Revenue Comparison
 - Most total revenues by fund exceed 25% due to the majority of ad valorem taxes being paid by November.
 - MSTU is lower due to communication and business taxes also being collected in this fund.
- Reviewed Quarter 1 Budget to Actual Expense Comparison
 - Many expenses across all funds are down due to insurance charges completed in January, capital purchases not yet made, payroll timing due to 20% of pay period processed at 25% mark.
- Expense Analysis as of December 31, 2025
 - Identified and reviewed major discrepancies in expenses compared to prior year
 - Sheriff expenses increased due to increased Sheriff budget
 - Fire Station #7 construction currently ongoing
 - New County Animal Shelter – purchase and buildout
 - Insurance claims increased due to higher claim volume and costs.

7. Permit History Review

- Building permits issued in February, March, June, and October 2025 increased compared to 2024, but all other months are down, including total permits for the year.

8. Grant Update

- New staff member starting 1/23/2026
- New position will focus on the following:
 - Grants Review Committee
 - Create and implement Grants Policy
 - Coordinate with departments to research grant opportunities and assist with applying and managing
 - Managing FEMA Public Assistance
 - Will also be 50% budget and cross-trained on budget-related tasks, as well as budget liaison for OMB, BCC Office, County Attorney, and County Administration.

9. Legislative Update

- Bill Filing Deadline: January 13, 2026
- Regularly Scheduled Legislative Committee Meetings End: February 28, 2026
- Last Day of Regular Session: March 13, 2026
 - Vetoes in March and April 2026
- Major Legislative Concerns
 - Taxes or fees (reduction in ad valorem collections)
- A preliminary list of bills impacting budget was presented; however, Legislative Affairs will have more finite list of bills at the April 2026 Quarterly Review Meeting.

10. Sheriff's Office Budget Appeal

- Sheriff Budget Appeal
 - 2 Property Appraisers and multiple other Sheriffs are appealing their budget to the Governor. There has not been a timeline established for IRC. IRC SO must work off the currently approved budget until the state makes a determination.
- Lawsuit: Sheriff v. IRC
 - Denied motion for dismissal, as only events prior to the motion being filed have been presented.

11. Other Matters/Open Forum

- N/A

Next Scheduled Meeting, Thursday April 16th, 2026, 3:00 PM