



Indian River County Florida

Indian River County
Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building
A
Vero Beach, Florida,
32960-3388
www.indianriver.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of County Commissioners

Susan Adams, District 1, Chairman
Joseph Flescher, District 2, Vice Chairman
Joseph H. Earman, District 3
Deryl Loar, District 4
Laura Moss, District 5

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Susan J. Prado, Deputy County Attorney
Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLLCALL

Present: 5 - Chairman Susan Adams
Vice Chairman Joseph Flescher
Commissioner Joe Earman
Commissioner Laura Moss
Commissioner Deryl Loar

2.A. A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

2.B. INVOCATION

Dr. Christina Moore, Sr. Pastor, Rhema Apostolic International Deliverance Center

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Laura Moss

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA / EMERGENCY ITEMS

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the Agenda as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

5. PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

- 5.A. [24-0705](#) Presentation of Proclamation Designating the Month of September 2024 As "Hunger Action Month"

Recommended Action: Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Treasure Coast Food Bank volunteer Debbie Neufeld announced that September was Hunger Action Month, also known as HAM. As a member of the Feeding America network of food banks, Treasure Coast Food Bank led the fight against hunger by providing millions of meals to people in need and partnering with over 300 local food providers. She announced that the 4th Annual 'Out Run Hunger' 5K would be held at Causeway Cove Marina on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

Read and Presented by Commissioner Moss

- 5.B. [24-0737](#) Presentation of Proclamation Designating Patricia Draper As The Poet Laureate of Indian River County, Florida

Recommended Action: Recommend Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Ms. Patricia Draper expressed her gratitude to the Board for the Proclamation and to the Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation for selecting her as the Poet Laureate of Indian River County. She also thanked the members of the Porch Poets for their support and encouragement. During her speech, she read an Ars Poetica that she had written for the occasion.

Read and Presented by Chairman Adams

- 5.C. [24-0739](#) Presentation of Proclamation Designating September 2024 As National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Recommended Action: Recommend Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Suncoast Mental Health Center (SMHC) Director of Development, Tracy Hernandez, accepted the Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to represent SMHC. She stated that SCMHC offers client-focused, community-based, and family-centered mental health care, serving over 1300 clients and hundreds of students. SCMHC was also running a new program, Wellness Without Walls Family Support Services, in collaboration with the Mental Health Association's Parent and Child SMHC, to empower families in Indian River County. In addition, the SMHC would be hosting its annual Suicide Symposium on September 20, 2024, in Stuart, welcoming everyone to join this free community event.

Read and Presented by Commissioner Earman

- 5.D. [24-0744](#) Recognition of Two Indian River County Chamber of Commerce Awards for Outstanding Tourism Marketing and the Henry Award for its redesigned consumer website

Recommended Action: Present

Vice Chairman Flescher introduced Ben Earman, Indian River County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) Vice President of Tourism and Marketing, noting his significant contribution to enhancing tourism in Indian River County. He expressed his gratitude to the entire team for their dedication and hard work that led to this accomplishment.

Mr. Earman and Chamber Tourism Communications Manager Krista Hoyt attended the annual Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism. He stated that during the ceremony, they were thrilled to receive the first-place award for their website [visitindianrivercounty.com](#), which was developed with the marketing agency Madden Media. Furthermore, the Chamber was awarded the Best of Show award in the budget category for Indian River County, which fell in the \$500,000 to \$2 million budget range. This marked the first time Indian River County had achieved First Place and Best of Show since joining the Chamber in 1986. It was a significant achievement for the Chamber and an honor to have received these awards.

The Board expressed their excitement and pride regarding the achievement.

Presented

5.E. [24-0746](#) Vero Beach All Stars 10U - 2024 Florida State Champions

Recommended Action: Presentation of Certificates

Attachments: [Commissioners Memorandum](#)
[Team Photo](#)

Commissioner Loar congratulated the Vero Beach Little League 10U All-Stars for winning the 2024 Florida State Championship Title, the first time since 1998. Coach George Williams introduced players Kohen Schofield, Stryder Schofield, Wyatt Partee, and Brody Vordermeier, and congratulated them on their great accomplishment.

Presented

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**7. INFORMATION ITEMS FROM STAFF OR COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION****7.A. [24-0728](#) Indian River County Poet Laureate**

Recommended Action: Informational Purposes Only

Attachments: [Commissioners Memo](#)
[Nomination Letter IRC Poet Laureate 2024](#)

No Action Taken or Required

7.B. [24-0734](#) State of Florida Special Olympics Aquatics Championships

Recommended Action: For Information Only. No Action Recommended

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

No Action Taken or Required

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, pulling Items 8.H., 8.J., 8.N., 8.Q., 8.S., 8.U., and 8.W. for discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

8.A. [24-0683](#) Checks and Electronic Payments August 2, 2024 to August 8, 2024

Recommended Action: Approve the list of checks and electronic payments for the time period of August 2, 2024 to August 8, 2024

Attachments: [Comptroller Division Staff Report](#)

Approved

8.B. [24-0685](#) Checks and Electronic Payments August 9, 2024 to August 15, 2024

Recommended Action: Approve the list of checks and electronic payments issued for the time period of August 9, 2024 to August 15, 2024

Attachments: [Comptroller Division Staff Report](#)

Approved

8.C. [24-0698](#) Checks and Electronic Payments August 16, 2024 to August 22, 2024

Recommended Action: Approve the list of checks and electronic payments for the time period of August 16, 2024 to August 22, 2024

Attachments: [Comptroller Division Staff Report](#)

Approved

8.D. [24-0733](#) Checks and Electronic Payments August 23, 2024 to August 29, 2024

Recommended Action: Approve the list of checks and electronic payments issued for the time period of August 23, 2024 to August 29, 2024

Attachments: [Comptroller Division Staff Report](#)

Approved

8.E. [24-0697](#) Subrecipient Award Contracts

Recommended Action: Approve the Subrecipient Award agreements with TCHSC and SRA and execute any related documents

Attachments: [Comptroller Division Staff Report](#)
 [TCHSC Subrecipient Agreement 2024](#)
 [SRA SubRecipient Grant Agreement 2024](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.F. [24-0696](#) Request to Extend the Tax Roll Prior to Completion of the VAB Hearings

Recommended Action: Approve Request

Attachments: [Memo from Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.G. [24-0677](#) Children's Services Contingency Funding for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board approve to award contingency funding for the children's programs and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreements after review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Letter of Deobligation](#)

[Second Amended Grant Contract](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

8.H. [24-0694](#) Consideration of the Indian River County SHIP Program 2024 Annual Report

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners: 1. approve the attached SHIP 2024 annual report and authorize its formal submission to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; and: 2. authorize the Chairman to sign the attached Certification form; and: 3. authorize staff to make any minor reporting changes to the annual report and Certification form that may be requested by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [SHIP Funds and Applicants Summary FY21-22](#)
 [SHIP Annual Report Certification Form](#)
 [SHIP Annual Closeout Report for FY21-22](#)

Chairman Adams highlighted the impact of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program, sharing that it had spent \$1.5 million to support 41 households and was expected to help 48 families. SHIP Administrator Siphi Chinyanganya reported that the total expenditure for FY 2022-2023 was \$1,581,211.85, leaving a balance of \$275,000, which she was confident would be allocated before the deadline. Chairman Adams emphasized the significant impact of SHIP's funds to help County residents, noting that the organization had effectively stretched those dollars through various programs despite the relatively small amount of money compared to other counties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

8.I. [24-0695](#) Approval of Resolution Establishing Fair Market Rental Rates for Housing Choice Voucher Program for Fiscal Year 2025

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the resolution setting the Fair Market Rental Rates for Fiscal Year 2025 and authorize the Chairman to execute the resolution on behalf of the Board.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Resolution](#)

Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2024-043, approving payment standards for beginning fiscal year 2025 for the Housing Choice Voucher program.

8.J. [24-0699](#) Children's Services Advisory Program FY 24/25 Agency Grant Contract

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board accept the revised FY24-25 Children's Services Program Sample Indian River County Grant Contract as submitted and authorize the County Administrator to execute the 47 program contracts for Fiscal Year 24-25 after review and approval by the County Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Sample Grant Contract](#)

Vice Chairman Flescher mentioned that he had no issues with the update and had received an inquiry about the application. He also stated that all executive salaries would be disclosed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Human Services Manager Megan Kendrick clarified that executive salaries would be specified in the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and included in the contract after approval by the Children's Services Advisory Committee (CSAC).

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Loar, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

8.K. [24-0700](#) Approval of Renewal of the Public Safety Communications System Software Services Agreement

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board authorize the Chairman to execute the Public Safety Communications System FX Software Services Agreement with Communications International Inc.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Quote](#)
 [Services Agreement](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.L. [24-0702](#) Approval of Renewal of the 700 MHz Communications System Infrastructure Maintenance Contract with Communications International, Inc.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the board approve the Renewal of the 700 MHz Communications System Master Service Agreement with Communications International, Inc.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Master Service Agreement](#)
[Master Service Agreement Renewal](#)
[Maintenance Cost Summary for 2024-2025](#)
[CPI Calculation Letter](#)
[Instructions for Consumer Price Index](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.M. [24-0703](#) Approval of Public Medical Transportation Letter of Agreement between Indian River County Emergency Services District and the Agency for Health Care Administration (Year Six)

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the approval and execution of the Letter of Agreement between the Indian River County Emergency Services District and the Agency for Health Care Administration.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Letter of Agreement](#)
[Allotments](#)
[Intergovernmental Transfers Questionnaire](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

8.N. [24-0693](#) Approval of County's Stop Loss Policy Transition to Highmark FY24/25

Recommended Action: Staff recommends and respectfully requests that the Board approve staff's recommendation to accept the stop loss insurance proposal from HM Insurance Group for the 2024/2025 plan year with the current \$300K ISL and \$100K ASD at a 12% reduction in premiums at a PEPM rate of \$52.42, reflecting a savings of \$146,794, and authorize the Chairman to execute the proposal acceptance after review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Stop Loss Proposal HM Insurance Group](#)

Commissioner Loar highlighted the successful negotiations with vendors, who provided reassurance for current health policies. He stated there was a slight reduction in the County's expenses over the last two years. He requested County Administrator John Titkanich provide an update on the initial vendor's proposed increase and how negotiations led to securing a different vendor.

Administrator Titkanich stated that insurance coverage had been an essential topic of discussion. The previous reports showed \$3.4 million in premiums paid out over the last three years without any stop-loss claims. However, in 2019-2020, there was a claim of \$1.2 million, emphasizing the importance of insurance in protecting County employees. The current provider proposed a 12% increase, however, after negotiations, offered zero increase due to zero claims over the last three years. Highmark, a stop-loss provider, offered a 12% decrease in premiums, resulting in approximately \$147,000 in savings for the upcoming year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

- 8.O. [24-0706](#) Authorization of 5-Year Agreement with USDA-APHIS-WS (2025-2029 Nesting Seasons)

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) authorize this Cooperative Services Agreement between Indian River County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) in the not to exceed amount of \$79,446. Staff also recommends that the BCC authorize the Chairman to execute the attached agreement.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Cooperative Service Agreement](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.P. [24-0623](#) Miscellaneous Budget Amendment 07

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the budget resolution amending the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Budget Resolution](#)
[Exhibit "A"](#)

Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2024-044, delegating authority to the County Administrator, the Deputy County Administrator or the Director of the Office of Management & Budget or their designee to execute all documents necessary to amend the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget during the period commencing November 12, 2024, through and including November 27, 2024.

8.Q. [24-0686](#) Rejection of RFP 2024054 for Gifford Aquatic Center Slide Replacement

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board reject the proposal received in response to request for proposals 2024054.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Commissioner Loar thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their work on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for reconditioning and rebuilding the Gifford Aquatic Park, including replacing the slide. He praised the department's commitment to saving money by quickly rejecting a \$1.6 million quote from an out-of-town vendor for work that was initially estimated to cost around \$300,000.

Beth Powell, the Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, shared that despite the department's unsuccessful application for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant two and a half years ago, they have taken steps to move the project forward. She discussed the challenges faced with the high cost of the slide and the limited experience of the selected general contractor. However, the purchasing department proactively explored purchasing options by meeting with multiple slide vendors and had obtained three quotes. Ms. Powell expressed optimism about working with the purchasing department to overcome these obstacles and complete the project by the beginning of 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

8.R. [24-0687](#) Award of Annual Bid 2025002 for Sulfuric Acid

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board award Bid 2025002 to Shrieve Chemical Company, LLC, and authorize the Purchasing Division to issue blanket purchase orders for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, with the recommended bidder. Staff also recommends the Board authorize the Purchasing Manager to renew this bid at the same rates for two (2) additional one (1) year periods subject to satisfactory performance, vendor acceptance, and the determination that renewal of this annual bid is in the best interest of the County.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.S. [24-0689](#) Award of Bid 2024047 for Gifford Elevated Storage Tank Modification and Rehabilitation (IRCDUS 13.23.538)

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board award bid 2024047 to Viking Painting, LLC., approve the sample agreement, and authorize the Chairman to execute it after review and approval of the agreement and required Public Construction Bond as to form and legal sufficiency by the County Attorney.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Agreement](#)

Vice Chairman Flescher discussed the maintenance challenges with the Gifford water tower and the outdated plans to update the tank for an additional water supply source. He noted that the presence of cell carrier antennas had complicated the process. As a result, the tank could not be used as an operational water resource for the community.

Howard Richards, Manager of Capital Projects for the Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS), confirmed the tank needed maintenance repairs to preserve its integrity and structural upgrades to accommodate additional load from cell carrier antennas. The IRCDUS was also developing a Water Master Plan to address future growth and demand for service. The current actions aimed to maintain the tank's integrity, prepare it for future hurricane seasons, and allow for potential future use as a water storage component.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Chairman Adams, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

- 8.T. [24-0712](#) Change Order 1 to Close Construction for Jones Pier Conservation Bungalow Renovation (Bid 2024009)

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board approve Change Order 1 to the contract with Close Construction, and authorize the Chairman to execute it. So long as there are no changes in the dollar amount under the agreement, upon adequate completion of the work set forth in the agreement, staff is directed to make final payment and release any retainage to Close Construction Services, LLC, after review and approval by the Purchasing Manager and the County Attorney's Office.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Change Order 1](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

8.U. [24-0735](#) Special Olympics Fall Classic

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners approve the License Agreement with Special Olympics Inc. and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement after review by the County Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Special Olympics Fall Classic Agreement](#)

Chairman Adams highlighted that the Special Olympics events in Indian River County being held on October 5, 2024 went beyond just aquatic competitions. The 2024 Special Olympics Fall Classic included flag football, pickleball, softball, and powerlifting. These events would take place at Dick Bird Park for outdoor activities and at the iG Center for indoor events. She stated volunteers were needed for this event and to contact the Recreation Department if interested.

Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, stated that the Regional Fall Classic events were being held for the first time this year, and this marked the 18th year of collaboration with Special Olympics. They were bringing the state Aquatics Championship to the North County Aquatic Center. The Grand Opening Ceremonies would take place at the iG Center, attracting families from all over the state. The Fall Classic provided an opportunity for the Recreation Department to showcase Indian River County and everything it has to offer. She noted that the local community's support for the athletes and their families was greatly appreciated. With this being an Olympic year, there was even more excitement for the athletes, who were feeling more ambitious and inspired.

Vice Chairman Flescher thanked Chairman Adams and Ms. Powell for acknowledging the event.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

8.V. [24-0736](#) NezFest Non-Profit Corporation Pickleball Tournament License Agreement

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners approve the License Agreement with NezFest Non-Profit Corporation and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement after review and approval by the County Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [NezFest License Agreement](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.W. [24-0752](#) Agreement for Drown Zero stations between Indian River County and The Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise Foundation, Inc.

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Agreement with The Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise Foundation, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement after review and approval by the County Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Drown Zero License Agreement](#)
[Drown Zero Signage](#)
[Drown Zero Stations Location Map](#)

Commissioner Earman stated that this Item had been approved in February 2024, but got lost in the shuffle. He thanked the Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise Foundation (Club) and recognized President Justin Lefebure. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to staff swiftly placing it on the meeting agenda. He then invited Mr. Lefebure to speak.

Mr. Lefebure was joined by Debbie Avery, Executive Secretary. He thanked the Board for approving this item and stated that the Club would be able to help save the lives of Indian River County citizens and visitors. He spoke of recent incidents and the goal to reduce the number of drownings in Indian River County to zero. He again thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the community.

Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, thanked the Club for their patience and expressed excitement about the agreement. She looked forward to expanding their relationship with other municipalities, and working with the Club.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Chairman Adams, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

- 8.X. [24-0707](#) Scope of Services for a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Scope of Services and authorize staff to issue a Work Order.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Scope of Services](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.Y. [24-0714](#) Request for Partial Release of an Easement at 11225 US Highway 1

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board, through adoption of the proposed resolution, approve the partial release of the County utility easement at 11225 US Highway 1.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Location Map](#)
[Draft Resolution](#)

Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2024-045, releasing an easement (or portion thereof) on Lot 00005.0, Block 0020.

- 8.Z. [24-0715](#) Approval of Work Order No. 1 to Arcadis U.S., Inc. for America's Water Infrastructure Act Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Updates, IRCDUS Project ID 00.24.518

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners approve Work Order No. 1 to Arcadis U.S., Inc. in the amount of \$456,330.10 to provide professional engineering and technical services related to America's Water Infrastructure Act Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Updates and authorize the Chair to execute the same. So long as there are no changes in the dollar amount under the work order and upon adequate completion of the work set forth in the work order, staff is directed to make final payment and release any retainage to Arcadis U.S., Inc., after review and approval by the Purchasing Manager and the County Attorney's Office

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Arcadis AWIA Final Scope](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

The Chairman called for a recess at 10:01 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:11 a.m. with all members present.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS and GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

10. PUBLIC ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[Clerks note: Following the recess, Item 15.B.1. was moved to be heard prior to Item 10.B.1]

B. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ITEMS**10.B.1. [24-0570](#)** Request to Speak from Bill Rigby re: RFP Policies

Recommended Action: No Action Required

Attachments: [Request to Speak B. Rigby](#)

Bill Rigby from the West Wabasso Progressive Civic League raised concerns about the fairness and transparency of the RFP process for the recycling collection program. He requested the Board ensure compliance with federal and state funding requirements and to promote economic opportunities for diverse businesses. He also called for change to ensure equal opportunities in the purchasing process.

No Action Taken or Required

10.B.2. [24-0727](#)

Request to Speak from Joe Idlette III re: Gifford Neighborhood Plan

Attachments: [Request-to-Speak J.Idlette](#)

Joe Idlette III, President of the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, expressed gratitude to the Gifford community for its support. He mentioned that the community had worked closely with the County on the Neighborhood Plan, which was approved in 2002. The plan was later updated in 2014, with the active involvement of the Progressive Civic League of Gifford. Mr. Idlette addressed the outstanding action items from the 2014 plan in detail.

He stated he had met with County Administrator John Titkanich twice to discuss the neighborhood plan. However, Administrator Titkanich seemed disinterested and mentioned that he and his assistant would investigate, but a response was never received. He also mentioned a letter he wrote to Administrator Titkanich and had copied to each Commissioner, expressing the community's concerns about the County's neglect in starting and completing projects outlined in the plan. He sought assistance in moving these projects forward.

Freddie Woolfork, representing the Gifford Youth Achievement Center (GYAC), wanted to handle matters diplomatically. He conveyed a sense of feeling overlooked and emphasized the importance of rekindling a spirit of mutual care. Mr. Woolfork stressed the significance of the ABC approach: A) obtaining bids and strategic planning for projects, B) adhering to a budget, and C) ensuring project completion. He underscored the Gifford community's aspiration for fairness and a collaborative partnership with the County.

Anthony "Tony" Brown, President of the Indian River County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), expressed that the recent meeting with Administrator Titkanich and Assistant Administrator Nancy Bundt left them feeling unheard and overlooked. He mentioned that the situation dated back to 2002, and the tension during the 2013 Civic League meeting. He stated that the community was considering legal action in response to the ongoing frustration with the situation. Mr. Brown shared his concerns about the impact on Gifford's under-resourced community of color, he expressed a desire to address the problem. He discussed the importance of holding the staff accountable for their commitments.

Vice Chairman Flescher expressed his appreciation for every word spoken. He stated that staff had been committed to this plan when it was originally developed,

designed, and revisited. However, the staff initially dedicated to this plan were no longer here. Commissioner Flescher discussed the concerns raised and assured that adjustments would be made to address those concerns.

Dana King, a resident of Vero Beach, shared an African greeting: "Casan Anda." She noted it was a Swahili greeting by the Maasai Warriors, which meant, "How are the children?" It symbolized the value placed on children and reflected society's overall well-being. She expressed concern about the well-being of children in Indian River County, citing the school district's past failure to comply with the 1967 desegregation order. She also addressed housing gentrification and redevelopment issues, emphasizing the impact of neighborhood conditions on children's future prospects. She urged community leaders to address these disparities.

Chairman Adams stressed the importance of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan in addressing the community's concerns and safeguarding its identity. She highlighted the increasing worries about issues like gentrification and encroachment, and emphasized the need to preserve the community's heritage for its continued growth and vitality. Chairman Adams also expressed gratitude for the input from the speaker and underscored the significance of protecting and respecting diverse neighborhoods and communities. She mentioned that staff had been developing new ideas to tackle the concerns related to the Neighborhood Plan and were working on an update to identify obstacles and expedite progress. She requested the staff to present this as an agenda item for one of the October meetings, providing an update, thoughts, and ideas to address the concerns that were raised. She stressed the importance of addressing this in October to prevent further delays.

Commissioner Moss remarked that the lack of progress over the past twenty years was concerning. She believed both sides could cooperate in good faith to address the Gifford Neighborhood Plan.

Chairman Adams underscored the necessity of engaging in a conversation in October to gain insight and feedback from the community regarding the County's intended direction. She expressed her commitment to facilitating this dialogue with staff and ensuring preparedness to address completed and outstanding tasks, as well as the underlying rationale. Additionally, it was important to note that moving forward would require making policy and budget decisions.

No Action Taken or Required

The Chairman called for a recess at 11:20 am and reconvened at 11:31 am with all members present.

C. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS

- 10.C.1.** [24-0692](#) Public Notice of Public Hearing for September 24, 2024, to Consider a Resolution Adopting a Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessment Roll on Hospitals for the Local Provider Participation Fund

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Read into the record by Deputy County Attorney Susan Prado

- 10.C.2.** [24-0709](#) Notice of Scheduled Public Hearing to Discuss and Approve a Resolution Adopting New Utility Rates and Fees

Recommended Action: This public hearing notification item is provided for the Board of County Commissioners information. No action is necessary at this time

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Read into the record by Deputy County Attorney Susan Prado

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MATTERS

- 11.A. [24-0713](#) Second Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the International Association of Firefighter's Local 2201 (IAFF) and the Indian River County Emergency Services District Providing for General Wage Increase

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully recommends approval of a 10% general wage increase for employees represented by the International Association of Firefighter's, Local 2201 effective the first full pay period in October 2024 and requests the Board authorize its Chair to sign the Second Amendment to the October 1, 2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 34 - Salaries providing for the general wage increase.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Second Amendment to IAFF Agreement](#)
[Exhibit A - Article 34 Wages](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced that a tentative agreement was reached to provide a 10% general wage increase for the third year of the current collective bargaining agreement between Indian River County and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 2201. The IAFF membership approved the agreement and was awaiting approval from the Board. The total cost of the wage increase, including benefits, was \$3,347,011.

Indian River County Fire Chief David Johnson thanked the Board for approving this agreement. And stated it would help immensely with retention and attracting other candidates from around the Treasure Coast and beyond. He also thanked the IAFF for their support.

Indian River County Fire Rescue Engineer Christen Brewer expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Board on behalf of the members of Indian River Firefighters for the general wage increase. The Boards commitment to their future was deeply appreciated.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Loar, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

12. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

A. Community Services

B. Emergency Services

C. Human Resources

12.C.1. [24-0738](#)

Approval of Implementation of Compensation and Classification Study for Non-Union and Exempt Employees effective October 4, 2024

Recommended Action: Staff recommends and respectfully requests that the Board approve staff's recommendation to implement the Compensation and Classification Study effective October 4, 2024 providing for a minimum increase and maximum increase based on each employee group for non-exempt, exempt, and Director level employees and approving 4% general wage increase for contract employees as recommended.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Compensation and Classification Study Final Report](#)

Human Resource Director Suzanne Boyll referred to staff's memo dated September 4, 2024, and gave a brief overview of the Compensation and Classification study from Evergreen Solutions LLC (Evergreen) which began in October of 2023. She stated that Evergreen recommended implementing new pay plans for Exempt, Non-Exempt, and Labor employee groups at 60% of the market, positioning the County above the market midpoint.

She stated that the County held meetings with employees to discuss Evergreen's recommendations and proposed implementation. During negotiations, they also presented the study's implementation to the Teamsters' employee group. Following employee feedback from these meetings, County Administrator John Titkanich requested further consideration for the minimum increase provided under the implementation.

Ms. Boyll responded to Chairman Adams that as the program was implemented, there would likely be some anomalies. Some individuals or groups may not be classified correctly, or there may be adjustments needed for certain budgets or jobs. The Budget Department had set aside specific funds to address these issues.

Chairman Adams requested that the motion allow the Department Heads, Assistant Deputy Administrator Mike Zito, Human Resources, and Administrator Titkanich to work together to address any anomalies as they arise to avoid hindering the process.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve staff's recommendation and to allow the Department Heads, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Human Resources, and the County Administrator to work together to address any anomalies as they arise. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman,
Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

D. Information Technology

E. Natural Resources

F. Office of Management and Budget

G. Parks, Recreation, and Conservation

H. Planning and Development Services

12.H.1. [24-0716](#) Indian River Mall Redevelopment Items

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners consider the proposed changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations, and authorize staff and the applicant to proceed with the formal amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Parcel and Future Land Use Map](#)

Ryan Sweeney, Assistant Planning and Development Services Director, delivered a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation to showcase the land use plan for the Indian River Mall development. The development comprised five parcels, including the four original department stores and the "common area" parcel. DTS Properties (DTS) had acquired the former Macy's, the former Sears parcels, and the common area parcel. After a thorough review, County staff evaluated DTS's proposal to revitalize these parcels and integrate the existing JC Penney and Dillard's parcels into the overall plans. DTS proposed demolishing the former Sears building and adding new retail spaces, a hotel, a private school, and residential apartments.

Mr. Sweeney stated that two "big picture" items were identified upon review of the conceptual proposal, which would require formal amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations (LDRs), respectively.

Item #1: Allowable uses within the RC, Regional Commercial future land use designation.

The subject mall and adjacent commercial parcels have a Regional Commercial (RC) land use designation. This designation was limited to regional retail and shopping uses, as outlined in Policy 1.30 of the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Element. The Indian River Mall and surrounding properties were the only areas in unincorporated Indian River County with this designation.

Item #2: Maximum building height within the Regional Commercial future land use designation.

During the July 8, 2024, pre-application conference and subsequent meeting, DTS proposed a five-story hotel with a 58-foot height, which exceeded the 35-foot maximum for unincorporated Indian River County. DTS expressed interest in a formal amendment to create a third exception area for the mall and

was willing to reduce the height to 45 feet for a four-story hotel.

Mr. Sweeney responded to Commissioner Moss that there were two different processes with different timelines. The Comprehensive Plan Tax Amendment required public hearings by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and the Board. The Height Text Amendment was a simpler LDR Amendment that only involved the PZC Board and would not require a state review. Both processes were planned to run simultaneously as they were connected. Staff would ensure compatibility and add setbacks to prevent a 45-foot height limit on the edge of the perimeter.

Following further discussions between the Board and staff, Commissioner Earman expressed his unwillingness to terminate the deal with developers based solely on building height concerns. He emphasized that this opportunity was significant and that unconventional approaches might be necessary to move forward.

Commissioner Moss noted that the area in question was not large-scale, and the request from DTS was only for an increase in hotel height. She was open to having further discussion. Vice Chairman Flescher pointed out that Indian River County was known as a sunrise county, not a high-rise county. While there had been exceptions, he believed DTS should adhere to the current height limits. Chairman Adams proposed incorporating affordable housing into the development as a way to waive the height limit.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize staff and the applicant to proceed with the formal amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations.

I. Public Works

J. Utilities Services

12.J.1. [24-0742](#)

Spoonbill Marsh Intake Pump Station Electric Power Cable Replacement Waiver of Bid Requirements and Award to Paragon Electric of Vero, Inc. and Approve Amendment No.2 to Work Order No. 5 to Masteller & Moler, IRCDUS Project ID 12.24.501

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners waive the bid requirements for construction of the Spoonbill Marsh Intake Pump Station Electric Power Cable Replacement and approve issuance of a purchase order to Paragon Electric of Vero, Inc. for material and construction in the amount of \$425,378.38 and approve Amendment No. 2 to Work Order No. 5 to Masteller & Moler in the amount of \$10,400.00 for additional design and permitting and authorize staff to hold a contingency reserve for unforeseen costs in the amount of \$85,076.00. So long as there are no changes in the dollar amounts and upon adequate completion of the work, staff is directed to make final payments.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Masteller & Moler Amendment No 2](#)

Howard Richards, Manager of Capital Projects for the Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS), provided an update regarding the October 2023 incident, where the cable supplying electrical power to Spoonbill Marsh's intake pump station failed. In response, IRCDUS promptly rented a generator to restore functionality to the pump station and initiated an urgent project to replace the electric power cable. He noted that IRCDUS proactively began a planned project to elevate the access roadway to the pump station, which aimed to enhance stability and minimize wetland impacts while integrating the new electric power cable, thereby optimizing construction costs.

After analyzing quotes for constructing an electric cable using open trench installation, IRCDUS decided to switch to a directional drilling method due to cost savings and fewer environmental impacts. Masteller & Moler (M&M) prepared Amendment No. 2 to Work Order No. 5 for the re-design, which cost \$10,400. IRCDUS requested a firm quote from Paragon for the directional drilling method, which came to \$425,378.38. With a 20% contingency reserve to cover unforeseen construction costs, the total proposed budget came to \$520,854.38.

No further discussion was had.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Loar, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

14. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

A. Commissioner Susan Adams, Chairman

14.A.1. [24-0743](#) Commissioner's Memo Regarding Leadership Opportunities with the Florida Association of Counties

Recommended Action: Request Discussion and Support

Attachments: [Commissioner's Memo](#)

Chairman Adams stated she had been in a leadership position with the Florida Association of Counties for several years. Every member progresses from second Vice President to first Vice President, then to President. The newly elected second Vice President did not get reelected, leaving an open spot. Chairman Adams expressed interest in running for this position, but noted that it would require the support of the Board.

The Board was in support of Chairman Adams running for the Second Vice President position with the Florida Association of Counties

The Chairman called for a recess at 12:13 am and reconvened at 12:20 am.

B. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman

C. Commissioner Joseph H. Earman

D. Commissioner Deryl Loar

14.D.1. [24-0745](#) County Administrator**Recommended Action:** Discussion**Attachments:** [Commissioner's Memorandum](#)

Commissioner Loar came forward to discuss County Administrator John Titkanich's performance. He expressed concern on Administrators communication, approach, and lack of feedback on the County's operations. Commissioner Loar requested an objective overview of Administrator Titkanich's tenure and vision for restructuring and plans to hold quarterly sessions to address these concerns.

Commissioner Loar was particularly troubled by Administrator Titkanich's steadfast adherence to a step-by-step process outlined in industry-accepted administrators' playbooks rather than opting to triage the more immediate problems confronting the County. The institutional knowledge loss due to turnover at all levels, excessive spending on external consultants, and a tendency to hire supervisory personnel from outside the organization had impacted morale and employee inspiration.

Administrator Titkanich defended his work by highlighting several achievements. These included reorganizing divisions and departments, making personnel changes, conducting more employee training sessions, and creating two high-level positions; Assistant County Administrator and County Administration Ombudsman. His emphasis to County employees on the importance of considering public service as customer service.

Vice Chairman Flescher stated that there was a surge in complaints in 2024. He referred to the County's troubled permitting process following the My Government Online (MGO) software transition. He expressed concerns about the system's failure and the challenges faced by contractors dealing with the Building Division. He was unhappy with the County's overall operations, citing the inability to fill key positions, which led to inefficiencies in multiple departments. He criticized Administrator Titkanich's performance and called for comprehensive solutions instead of patchwork fixes.

Commissioner Moss noted that the County had spent nearly \$35 million on consultants in the past two years, with over \$16 million in fiscal 2023-24. She believed the money was well spent as long as the information was used. She was confident that the Administrator would act on the consultants' recommendations. She stated she had already seen a positive change in the County's organizational culture.

Commissioner Earman endorsed the Administrator's work. He remarked that the Administrator inherited a financially stable County, but faced internal challenges. He praised Administrator Titkanich for doing a great job and likened his situation to a football coach who had to change his staff, resulting in some initial challenges.

Chairman Adams attributed much of Administrator Titkanich's initial difficulties to the Commissioners, stating that they did not effectively communicate what was expected of him. She stated that the Board wanted change, but did not specify what that change should entail. She added that the Commissioners should have prepared the organization for the impending changes. Additionally, she noted that the County remained a small and "insular" community and suggested that the Commission allow the Administrator more time to establish the connections crucial in the local public service network.

Commissioners Loar, Flescher, and Adams expressed a desire to see specific improvements when the Administrator provided his next quarterly update to the Commission on December 3, 2024.

The following speakers appeared before the Board.

Scott McCracken, Owner of Sawhorse Construction, raised concerns to the Board about the potential termination of Indian River County Building Official Scott McAdam. He discussed the negative impact of that decision, attributing most complaints to MGO software. McCracken praised Mr. McAdam's performance, including his active participation in meetings, ability to address challenging questions, and effective handling of complaints. Additionally, McCracken suggested further evaluation, acknowledging Mr. McAdam's consistent availability and prompt responsiveness.

Deb Frazier, the Executive Officer of the Treasure Coast Builders Association (TCBA), expressed her appreciation for the TCBA members who attended the meeting to discuss potential solutions and future actions. She agreed with Mr. McCracken that the new system had faced challenges and echoed his gratitude for Mr. McAdam. Ms. Frazier mentioned that she had invited builders to this meeting, but some had concerns about potential repercussions due to their permits currently being in the system. They were worried that speaking up could lead to negative consequences, and this perception was shared by many builders.

Anthony "Tony" Brown, President of Indian River County NAACP, concurred with Ms. Frazier and mentioned that he had several pending complaints. He highlighted that people were hesitant to file complaints due to fear of

repercussions.

Architect Richard Bialosky expressed optimism for a positive resolution and recommended that Administrator Titkanich offer apologies to Anthony Brown, Joe Idlette III, and Freddie Woolfork, as this gesture could have a meaningful impact.

Brian Hayes from Hayes Construction Group supported Mr. McAdam and the Building department, expressing appreciation for the MGO program's simplification of their work through electronic plans. Although he noted occasional hiccups, he emphasized the importance of working together for the community's benefit.

Chris Crawford, an architect at Crawford CM, emphasized the disparity between the Florida building code and the County Land Development Regulations (LDRs). He firmly endorsed the building official's strict adherence to the code and lauded the effectiveness of the MGO program. He spoke highly of Scott McAdam's capabilities as a building official and assured that the situation was under close scrutiny.

Commissioner Loar responded to Chairman Adams that there was nothing else to be delivered to Administrator Titkanich.

The Board unanimously agreed that the County Administrator and County Attorney would provide quarterly progress reports beginning with the December 03, 2024, Board of County Commissioners meeting.

E. Commissioner Laura Moss

15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Solid Waste Disposal District meeting.

A. Emergency Services District

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

15.B.1. [24-0710](#)**Indian River County SWDD Vape Pen Recycling Program**

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Solid Waste Disposal District Board approve the launching of a Vape Pen Collection program to support the proper disposal of these items in Indian River County

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Vape Pen Flyer](#)
[GAICA Proposal](#)

Managing Director of the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD), Himanshu Mehta, noted an increase in the disposal of rechargeable and lithium-ion batteries in the County, leading to safety hazards. Disposing of vape pen batteries, which were mixed with other hazardous materials, had proven to be particularly challenging and has resulted in incidents of explosions and fires.

Sue Flak, the SWDD Recycling Education and Marketing Coordinator, highlighted the challenges in disposing of vape pens containing hazardous materials like nicotine and THC. To address this issue, the SWDD staff was partnering with GAIACA Waste Revitalization to launch a Vape Pen Collection program, encouraging residents to dispose of vape pens at designated locations. GAIACA would provide lockable receptacles for disposal at an annual cost of \$5,200.

A representative from the Sheriff's Office stated that they work closely with the school district regarding the issue of vapes in schools and expressed support for this recycling program to ensure proper disposal of vapes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

15.B.2. [24-0711](#)

Work Order No. 2 to Jones Edmunds and Associates for 74th Avenue SW Widening Project

Recommended Action: Solid Waste Disposal District staff recommends that its Board approve Work Order No. 2 with Jones Edmunds and Associates, Inc. for \$174,920, to provide engineering services related to the 74th Avenue SW Widening project; and authorize the Chairman to execute the same, as presented

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Jones Edmunds Work Order No. 2](#)

There was no discussion on this Item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

C. Environmental Control Board**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.