



Indian River County, Florida

Indian River County
Administration Complex
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960
indianriver.gov

Draft Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners

Deryl Loar, District 4, Chairman

Laura Moss, District 5, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams, District 1

Joseph Flescher, District 2

Joseph H. Earman, District 3

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

Jennifer W. Shuler, County Attorney

Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

2.B. INVOCATION

Deacon Wilfred Hart, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jennifer Shuler, County Attorney

3.A. ELECTION OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Chairman Flescher reflected on his year as Chairman before passing the gavel to the County Attorney who would be Acting Chair.

County Attorney Jenifer Shuler opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Earman nominated Commissioner Loar for Chairman, and was seconded by Commissioner Flescher.

The County Attorney called the vote to close the floor for further nominations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to close the floor for further nominations. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Flescher, to elect Commissioner Loar as the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3.B. ELECTION OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN

County Attorney Jenifer Shuler opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Adams nominated Commissioner Moss, and was seconded by Commissioner Earman.

The County Attorney called the vote to close the floor for further nominations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Vice Chairman Moss, to close the floor for further nominations. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to elect Commissioner Moss as Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA / EMERGENCY ITEMS

Item 10.D. was moved to follow Item 10.F.

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

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

5. PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

5.A. Presentation of Proclamation Honoring the Vero Beach Art Club & Judy Burgarella for the Mural Creation & Restoration

Judy Burgarella was present to accept the Proclamation honoring the Vero Beach Art Club. The Commissioners expressed appreciation for the multi-panel mural on display in the Administration Building which depicted Indian River County's natural and cultural highlights. Ms. Burgarella recounted how the mural had been damaged during Hurricane Milton, and said she was pleased the artwork was in a safe place for all to enjoy.

Read and presented by Commissioner Flescher

5.B. Presentation of Proclamation Honoring the Life & Legacy of Mr. Joe Idlette, Jr.

Joe Idlette III accepted the Proclamation on behalf of his father, Joe Idlette, Jr., in honor of his legacy to the Indian River County School system. Mr. Idlette III thanked the Board for acknowledging his father's impact and contributions to the community.

Read and Presented by Commissioner Earman

5.C. Presentation of Proclamation for GIS Day as November 19, 2025

GIS Manager Rachelle Benken discussed the myriad ways data from Geographic Information Systems (GIS) enhanced people's lives, and spoke of the future role of the evolving technology. Ms. Benken introduced her team and closed with the GIS saying, "For where there's a where, there's a way."

Read and presented by Chairman Loar

5.D. Indian River Community Foundation 2025 Community Needs Update

Jeff Pickering, President and CEO of the Community Foundation, used a slide deck to present the Community Foundation's Indian River County Community Needs Assessment 2025. He began with key insights from the last report in 2020 and listed the surveys and data used to compile the report. While the majority of residents believed the County was headed in the right direction, there were areas of concern: healthcare access and affordability, affordable childcare and education, low wages and limited transportation, housing affordability, and public safety. Outlier observations included the importance of local maternity care, satisfaction with public schools, and a higher number of homeless students.

The report continued with promising and concerning trends in the areas of health, education, economic opportunities and employment, and housing. In the area of health, there were increases in healthy habits contrasted with high-risk pregnancies, mental health struggles, and high food insecurity. Promising education trends were seen in high enrollment and graduation rates. However, almost half of students were unprepared for kindergarten, and 32 percent of public school students were chronically absent. Economic trends showed a reported rise in median income to \$72,000. Of concern were higher poverty levels, low wages, economically disadvantaged students, and relatively high unemployment. Lastly, housing trends included a lower homeless count and reduced domestic violence. Concerning trends in the high number of homeless students, increased evictions, housing-burdened residents, and senior isolation were seen.

Recommendations to improve the community included increased collaboration, targeted government resources, and a balance between public and private resources; the County had an unusually high level of household giving. Mr. Pickering closed with a call to action for civic engagement.

Presented

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**6.A. Regular Meeting of September 09, 2025**

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

7. INFORMATION ITEMS FROM STAFF OR COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: AGENDA-RELATED MATTERS (EXCEPT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS)**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, pulling Item 9.I. for discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

- 9.A.** Review of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee 2025 Incentives Review and Recommendation Report
- Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-071, approving the Indian River County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) 2025 Report and directing staff to submit the AHAC Report to Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC).**
- 9.B.** Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a Section 5311 Grant
- Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-072, authorizing the execution of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation.**
- 9.C.** Travel Authorization for the County Attorney for Fiscal Year 2025/2026
- Approved staff's recommendation**
- 9.D.** Partial Release of Drainage Easement - 13620 Indian River Drive
- Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-073, releasing an easement (or portion thereof) on 13620 Indian River Drive.**
- 9.E.** Change Order 1 - Work Order No. 2018029-13 - APTIM, Sector 5 Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Dune Restoration Pre-Construction and Engineering Services
- Approved staff's recommendation**
- 9.F.** Purchase of Traffic Operations Division replacement maintenance sign truck for on-call purposes
- Approved staff's recommendation**
- 9.G.** Notice of Application for Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Grants for Various Projects
- Approved staff's recommendation**

- 9.H.** Award of Bid 2025067 for Gifford Water Tank Structural Rehabilitation Phase 2, IRCDUS Project ID 13.23.538
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.I.** AtkinsRéalisis Work Order No. 10 for Sebastian Septic to Sewer Conversion Feasibility Study, IRCDUS Project ID 21.26.502
County Administration John Titkanich introduced the item commissioning a Septic to Sewer Conversion Feasibility Study in Sebastian by the firm AtkinsRéalisis. He noted the Board had approved conducting the study in June of this year. Utilities Director Sean Lieske stated that the purpose of the study would be to obtain costs, options, and the feasibility of converting the entire community to sewer services. He assured the Board that his department would collaborate with Sebastian in the evaluation process, and a report would be brought back before the Board.
A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Moss, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:
Aye: 5 - Chairman Loar, Vice Chairman Moss, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Flescher, and Commissioner Earman
- 9.J.** Aviation Boulevard Extension (33rd Street to 36th Street) Corridor Study / S.C.A.L.E. Report] (IRC-1761)
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.K.** Interlocal Agreement Between Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach Regarding the Maintenance of Traffic Signal Infrastructure within its Rights of Way
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.L.** Change Order No. 2 and Release of Retainage - Bathroom Renovations IRC Main Library and North County Library (IRC-2403 / CP-2510)
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.M.** Amendment to Add Porte Cochere for Sandridge Golf Club New Clubhouse
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.N.** Amendment to Agreement for EDSAP (RFP 2024059)
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.O.** Agreement for 2025-2026 Use of Facilities as Voting Polling Location – Intergenerational Recreation Center
Approved staff's recommendation

- 9.P.** Draft Memorandum of Agreement Between the St. John's River Water Management District and Indian River County for Coastal Habitat Rehabilitation and Restoration

Approved staff's recommendation

10. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS and GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

- 10.A.** Property Appraiser Annual Fiscal Report

Property Appraiser Wesley Davis presented his budget to the Board, noting they were under budgeted by \$585,025.43. He explained that his office had open positions awaiting experienced personnel and needed to have the latitude to hire staff, especially considering impending staff retirements. Mr. Davis added that he was able to hire a Certified Appraiser and an additional GIS staffer during this budget cycle.

Accepted the Report

- 10.B.** Tax Collector Annual Fiscal Report

Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan presented her Office's 2025 Excess Fee Report. Ms. Jordan informed the Board that her office was fee-based, and read Florida Statute 195.87 into the record. Finance Director Brad Newman reported the budget figures, noting that \$2,586,182 would be returned to the County.

Accepted the Report

- 10.C.** Clerk of Circuit Court Annual Fiscal Report

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ryan Butler informed the Board that 98 percent of the funds being returned represented excess fee revenue received from the Recording Department. After a better-than-expected year, his Office was able to return \$592,379.60 to the taxpayers, the largest return in the last 10 years.

Accepted the Report

10.D. Sheriff Flowers Budget Request

Indian River County Sheriff Eric Flowers referred to his letter dated November 13, 2025, in which he proposed a solution to the ongoing budget disagreement with the Board of County Commissioners. He requested the Board's approval of his proposal to allocate funds to the Sheriff's Office from a variety of sources; the total request was approximately \$3.5 million.

Under discussion, Vice Chairman Moss advocated balancing fiduciary responsibility with support for the Sheriff's Office and making an effort to repair the relationship. Sheriff Flowers had returned \$1,417,951.16 in unspent funds to the County from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25, and the Vice Chairman suggested giving back that amount to the Sheriff's Office.

County Administrator John Titkanich confirmed he had met with the Sheriff. He noted that of the \$1.4 million returned, \$495,664.63 were roll-over funds for equipment which had been purchased in FY 2024/25, but not yet received due to manufacturing delays. The Administrator informed the Board that roll-over funds were traditionally returned to the department or office in question. He also mentioned the Sheriff's request for an additional \$963,808.69 from the County's reserve for non-annually recurring equipment such as body armor.

Chairman Loar received confirmation of the figures from the Administrator, as well as verifying these funds would not re-set the Sheriff's baseline budget. Commissioner Adams requested clarification on Vice Chairman Moss' suggestion. The Vice Chairman made a motion to return to the Sheriff what he would be returning to the County.

Vice Chairman Moss made a motion to return \$1,417,951.16 in unspent funds from Fiscal Year 2024/25 to the Sheriff's Office. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Earman requested further discussion and a restatement of the Sheriff's proposal. Administrator Titkanich informed the Board that the Sheriff's letter requested his unspent funds be returned to his office in the amount of \$1,417,951.16; included in that amount was \$495,664.63 of carryover funds for equipment ordered in 2025 but not yet received. The second request from the Sheriff was for the Board to allocate the approximately \$1.1 million in unspent funds received from the Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections to the Sheriff's Office. The third funding request was for \$963,808.69 from the County's reserves to help purchase equipment, which was not an annually recurring expense.

Administrator Titkanich recommended returning at least the \$495,664.63 in carryover funds, as this was a common practice for other departments/offices. Commissioner Flescher agreed with returning this amount in the interest of budgetary fairness. Administrator Titkanich confirmed that returning the carryover funds would not reset the Sheriff's baseline budget. The Commissioner made a motion to return those funds only.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve returning \$495,664.63 in carryover funds from outstanding Purchase Orders in Fiscal Year 2024/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Following the vote, Commissioner Adams asked the Sheriff if his offer to withdraw the appeal and writ of mandamus would still be considered even though the Board did not approve his entire funding request. Sheriff Flowers said no, the legal action would remain in effect because the carryover funds did not get his office where they needed to be budget-wise.

10.E. Supervisor of Elections Annual Fiscal Report

[Clerk Note: This Item was heard following Item 10.C.]

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan noted this budget cycle included the 2024 Presidential Election which had an 83 percent turnout. She detailed the measures taken to contact the 28,000 voters whose mail-in ballot requests had expired, saving her office \$20,000. Ms. Swan reported returning \$68,363 to taxpayers, the largest amount during her tenure.

Accepted the Report

10.F. Supervisor of Elections Carpet Replacement

County Administrator John Titkanich recalled the discussion and staff's investigation into the Elections office's carpeting, which was determined to need replacing. The funds would be made available via budget amendment to the General Fund Facilities Management Maintenance account.

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

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

The Chairman called for a recess at 10:30 a.m., and reconvened the meeting at 10:36 a.m. with all members present.

11. PUBLIC ITEMS**A. PUBLIC HEARINGS****B. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS****12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MATTERS**

12.A. Fellsmere Water Control District

County Administrator John Titkanich informed the Board that following the County's Legislative Delegation Meeting and the approval of its priorities, an important issue had arisen regarding the maintenance of the canals managed by the Fellsmere Water Control District (FWCD). In response to past flooding incidents, which involved coordination between the City of Fellsmere (City), the FWCD and the County, there were discussions about legislative changes to convert the FWCD into a Dependent Special District, which could place its responsibilities under either The City or the County.

Representative Brackett requested that an item be brought Board so there could be an opportunity to discuss this as various solutions and options were being considered. The FWCD could potentially be dissolved, leading to challenges in managing canals that cross jurisdictional lines. To protect the County's interests, staff recommended authorization to engage in discussions and review any proposed legislation regarding the transfer of responsibilities from the FWCD to the County.

Commissioner Adams, who represented Fellsmere, agreed that a solution involving all parties was important, and that the County should have representation during the process. The Board agreed with staff's recommendation.

Kathy Copeland, Legislative and Communications Director, clarified that Representative Brackett wanted to get a sense of whether the Board thought it best to transition to a Dependent District under the County's control, or to split up the FWCD. County Attorney Shuler discussed the qualities of a Dependent District, noting it could be formed either by Ordinance or legislation, and an Independent District which was formed only through legislation.

Commissioner Adams named the Solid Waste Disposal District as an example of an Independent District, adding this would allow for a funding source, County oversight, and would keep the system intact. The City has been in support of this path. Attorney Shuler expressed curiosity as to how the proposals would work considering parts of the FWCD were in the County and in the City. Considering these concerns, discussion was had about the importance of having a seat at the table when the legislation was created. Commissioner Earman suggested some other districts may need to be evaluated in light of the changes since they were created.

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

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

13. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**A. Building and Facilities Services****B. Community Services****C. Emergency Services****D. Human Resources****E. Information Technology****F. Natural Resources****13.F.1. The Nature Conservancy Runoff to Resilience Pilot Project**

Natural Resources Director Kylie Yanchula introduced James Byrne, Director of Strategy and Policy for the Nature Conservancy, who sought support for bringing its Runoff to Resilience Pilot Project to Indian River County. Mr. Byrne used slides to detail the program, which aimed to improve the quality of stormwater from developments before it reached the Indian River Lagoon.

The Pilot Project would work with Homeowner Associations (HOAs) to network and monitor their stormwater ponds. Added technology managed water levels to reduce the build-up of nutrients, which would eventually be released into the Lagoon. Much of the program was funded privately, with plans to request legislative funding for infrastructure costs. Mr. Byrne provided additional information on the components of the project that would also help counties reach their BMAP compliance goals. He sought the Board's approval for a letter supporting the funding request.

Commissioner Earman added that the Indian River Lagoon Council (IRLC) also supported the Pilot Project which would not require funds from the County. The Commissioner mentioned similar projects in other estuaries.

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

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

G. Office of Management and Budget**H. Parks, Recreation, and Conservation**

13.H.1. Consideration of a Sale Agreement for the Purchase of the 36.99-acre Winter Beach 73rd Site through the Environmental Lands Acquisition Bond

Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Director Beth Powell noted the details of the "Winter Beach 73rd" property had been presented to the Board previously. The Board was asked for its approval to execute the purchase agreement since the public notice time frame had passed.

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

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

13.H.2. ELAP Ranking List of Environmental Lands Acquisition Properties for Nomination Periods 2 & 3

Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Director Beth Powell presented the Environmental Land Acquisition Panel's (ELAP) final ranking and tiered list of nominations for periods 2 and 3. In her presentation, Ms. Powell reviewed past bond referendums, the creation of the Program Guide and ELAP, and matrix evaluation factors. A chart of pending agreements showed \$19.5 million in expenditures, not including additional costs for appraisals and surveys. The first batch of funds totaled \$25 million of the referendum-approved \$50 million total. Ms. Powell also informed the Board that staff would leverage the bond funds by applying for grants. Her presentation concluded with a ranking of the next group of Tier 1, 2, and 3 properties nominated for purchase.

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

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

I. Planning and Development Services

J. Public Works

K. Sandridge Golf Club

L. Utilities Services

14. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

14.A. Indian River County Committees - Annual Member Reappointments for 2026

There was no discussion regarding this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Flescher, to approve the list of committee members requesting reappointment as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14.B. Disposition of Calcutta Dock Property

Deputy County Attorney Susan Prado began by providing context for the disposition of the Calcutta dock property in the Country Club Point neighborhood. Ms. Prado informed the Board that the County had been approached by a new not-for-profit Country Club Pointe Dock Association (Association) requesting that the County use Riverboat Club as a model to deed over title and rights to the Association; the Association would take over management of the docks from the County. Ms. Prado noted the Attorney's Office recommendation was to dispose of the property under State Statute 125.38 because the Association was a not-for-profit organization looking to promote its community's welfare. Additionally, the docks do not hold a public interest as they only serve the members of the Country Club Pointe Community. There were three letters submitted from residents in favor of this proposal, and one objection submitted through an attorney representing a homeowner who was on the waitlist for a dock.

The Board entered into discussion, with Commissioner Flescher expressing encouragement for a solution. Vice Chairman Moss questioned what would happen to the residents on the waitlist after the turnover. Attorney for the Association, Barry Segal, explained that any owner wanting to get rid of the dock would notify the Association, which would then hold a silent auction; he suggested there would now be an incentive to turn over docks. The funds raised through the sale would go to the owner of the dock to recover the premium paid for their property, which was purchased with a dock. The Vice Chairman suggested the County should be the one to auction the docks. Attorney Segal argued the County did not have anything to sell as it did not own the riparian rights to the water.

Attorney Prado informed the Board that a judgment would be required to definitively determine ownership because the original plat was illegible regarding ownership and maintenance. She added information on the title work that was done on the dock ownership. The Vice Chairman reiterated her rationale for putting the matter before a judge. Attorney Segal confirmed that the docks were not open to the public for use. Attorney Prado stated there was no clear chain of ownership to the docks; the spaces could be turned over to the Association, or allow a judge to decide the ownership question.

Vice Chairman Moss read the letter from the attorneys at Block and Scarpa into the record on behalf of their client who objected to the sale. County Attorney Shuler commented on the idea of the County's exposure to legal action, noting it would be the most responsible path to turn over the docks to the Association so they could protect their interests. The Board briefly discussed a similar situation in the Riverboat Club Community, where the County relinquished its riparian rights. Commissioner Earman wanted the County to get out of the business of managing the docks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-074, declaring a portion of land located in Country Club Point Subdivision Unit 1 surplus and deeding any and all interest to the Country Club Pointe Dock Association. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Flescher, and Commissioner Earman

Nay: 1 - Vice Chairman Moss

15. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

A. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher

B. Commissioner Deryl Loar

15.B.1. Quarterly Updates from County Administrator & County Attorney

Vice Chairman Moss requested a procedure change to allow the County Administrator and County Attorney to add their reports to the Agenda themselves. Chairman Loar confirmed this was the arrangement for future quarterly reports.

County Administrator John Titkanich expressed that it had been a busy year focused on the budget cycle, and he sought to highlight the teamwork of departments, staff, and leadership in promoting the county's mission of service excellence and core values of integrity, responsiveness, and collaboration. He reflected on a year filled with events celebrating the County's Centennial and thanked the staff who made it possible. The Administrator began with updates on the year's infrastructure and capital projects, including the adoption of the Capital Improvements Plan and the creation of a Building Facility Services Department for in-house management of capital projects. Data was provided showing measurable progress in reduced permit times and improved customer satisfaction. Administrator Titkanich discussed the progress Human Resources made on several key initiatives before providing updates on Planning and Community issues, including the Urban Service Boundary study, Oslo Corridor study, Integrated Water Masterplan, and improvements in Gifford. Investments in the workforce included more than 200 new hires, training and retention programs, and the return of the Health Fair. The Administrator closed his report, noting that while there were still improvements to be made, he was proud of the accomplishments made over the past year.

County Attorney Jennifer Shuler started by celebrating the addition of a staff assistant to the team. She informed the Board of her department's initiative to handle more litigation in-house and discussed efforts to expand their expertise. Attorney Shuler then discussed their real estate work, the goal of reviewing and revising the County's code regarding land real estate procedures, and initiatives undertaken by their Land Acquisition and Lease Specialist. She mentioned the upcoming legislative session and their strategy to handle the challenges presented by Senate Bill 180, which would restrict the County's ability to manage development regulations. Lastly, Attorney Shuler reported a sharp increase in public information requests and described staff's commitment to successfully fulfilling them.

No Action Taken or Required

C. Commissioner Susan Adams

D. Commissioner Joseph H. Earman

E. Commissioner Laura Moss**16. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS****A. Emergency Services District****B. Solid Waste Disposal District****C. Environmental Control Board****17. PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA-RELATED MATTERS**

County resident Vivian Bryant voiced concerns over Solid Waste Management and increased property taxes. She emphasized the financial burden imposed by the charge for universal garbage service, which she did not use, and expressed a belief that her right to due process was not being honored. The Board acknowledged her concerns but maintained that the Solid Waste Assessment had been publicly noticed and adopted; there was no current process for appeal.

No Action Taken or Required

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.