

Citizen's Budget Review Committee

Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 3:00 pm

**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 3:10 pm on Thursday, March 24 2022, at the Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamison Way, Viera.

Roll Call

a) Sign-in sheet was circulated among the attendees.

b) Present:

1. D1 - Eric Hoppenbrouwer
2. D2 - Stephen Burdett
3. D4 - Peter Fuscas
4. D5 - John Silvers
5. Jill Hayes – Budget Office Director
6. Boris Soudakoff – Budget Office, Administrative Assistant
7. Justin Caron – County Attorney Office

c) Absent:

1. D3 - Kevin Gholston

Approval of minutes from last meeting.

Minutes approved from the previous meeting on January 25, 2022.

Motion passed 3-0 with no specific comments. – John Silvers not present at that time – was delayed and arrived at 3:30pm

New Business

B. Open Discussion

While waiting for John Silver's arrival, Peter Fuscas starts the Open Discussion as listed on the Agenda regarding the goals and objectives of the CBRC for the fiscal year 2022-2023, including achievements of the past years and the three presentations that contributed to recommendations in 2015 by Peter Fuscas, Dale Young, and Dr. Slotkin.

Peter Fuscas explains the decrease in meetings and productivity in the subsequent years due to external factors, personal situations, illnesses, and the recent pandemic, and while referring to the recent cost/benefit analysis, questioned how cost effective it would be to terminate the Citizens' Budget Review Committee, citing in example the "Uniform Fiscal Impact Statement" concerning the purchase of helicopters by Mosquito Control, the Waste Management contract for which the lower bidder was recommended, and the handling of the retirees who switched from Health Insurance to Medicare.

Peter Fuscass elaborates on road construction and Stephen Burdett recalls his presentation when working at the Clerk Office, focusing on Public Works cash flow.

John Silvers arrives at 3:30pm, the open discussion is interrupted. Item A of the Agenda can be presented by Justin Caron.

A. County Attorney's Office presentation of Robert's Rules of Order and the Sunshine Law

Peter Fuscas mentions that the Sunshine Law should not apply to an advisory board as it is an oversight committee that only makes recommendations, not voting on anything, the goal is being to share knowledge.

John Silvers questions the limited amount of time to make recommendations if all communication and meeting requests have to pass through County Staff.

Peter Fuscas raises the question of adding 5 alternates to secure a quorum at all times, and having subcommittees working on different projects.

Justin Caron confirms that these would still be subject to the Sunshine Law, and Jill Hayes highlights the difficulty and timing to organize meetings with a very limited staff.

Item A is closed.

At 4:18pm Peter Fuscas announces his resignation as a Chair of the CBRC, and nominates Stephen Burdett to be the new Chair.

The motion is passed 4-0 and the Open Discussion resumes

Item B. resumes.

B. Open Discussion

Peter Fuscas recommends that all the Committee past recommendations, and work product be part of these minutes.

Stephen Burdett states that he is not sure that he is going to read documentation back to 2015, as based on a thirty plus year career he can tell which office carries money, and instead of looking at all aspects of the County Government, he indicates that the County is already equipped with internal and external auditors, as well as an Audit Committee, and prefers to focus on specific issues.

Eric Hoppenbrouwer expresses his interest in focusing on specific questions such as how do we better administer the financial system and make uniform financial analysis, while also concerned with the revenue from the gas tax.

Peter Fuscas cites the need of a “Rainy Day Fund”, and echoed by Eric Hoppenbrouwer, a more centered focus on the Constitutional Officers, while Stephen Burdett explains challenges with SAP and the Constitutional Officers being separate elected officials.

John Silvers asks about the status of Peter Fuscas’ resolution and the addition of alternates – Jill Hayes responds that the proposed resolution was brought to the Board of County Commissioners on February 22, 2022, and that the Board took no action on amending the resolution.

John Silvers as a new Committee Member is also asking what is actually expected of the Board and how the Board can accomplish a significant goal, while suggesting that each Committee Member refers to his respective Commissioner to see what each of them would like to bring up on the Agenda.

Stephen Burdett considers reviewing the following focal points:

- **Building Permit Fees**
- **The cash forward by fund, especially focusing on the Building and the Planning Departments**

As a conclusion the Committee Members under the lead of the new Chair, Stephen Burdett, and the Vice-Chair Eric Hoppenbrouwer have requested the following documents to be submitted by County Staff to their attention:

- **Information regarding retirees and health insurance**
- **Public Works Financial Condition Assessment**
- **FY21 Balance forward and Worksheet**
- **FY21 Building Fund Revenues and Expenses**
- **FY21 Supervisor of Elections Financial Data (County Finance)**

C. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date has been approved as Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 3:00pm

Public Comments

- **Ms. Sandra Sullivan**
- **Mr. Jurgutis**

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm