VC-Special County Council Meeting   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Which is having some technical difficulties, but we will call this meeting to order. We will call the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, would you call the roll please?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Ms. Wheeler?   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
Here.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Ms. Girtman?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
She should be online.   
  
SPEAKER:   
I will call her name again at the end. (Roll call)   
  
SPEAKER:   
I understand she is having technical difficulties, we will keep an eye for her to connect shortly.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
When she does connect, I will make a motion that she can participate. Can I get a motion?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Motion.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Seconded by (indiscernible). So Barbara, when you come on, you are good to go. Fred is not going to be here. We still have quoram.   
  
Moving on to item 1, the current state of American rescue plan, ARPA money. Who is going to lead to the discussion? George?   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
(indiscernible)   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good morning everyone, sorry, I had some technical difficulties that are now resolved.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Good morning, you have been approved for full participation. The motion has been made to participate virtually.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Thank you very much. I am disappointed not to be there, I certainly wanted to. Current circumstancesâ€¦ It is just a challenge the way things are right now.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Would you pause just for a moment? It is not on the agenda, but we feel like we ought to have the pledge of allegiance. If everybody would just stand and join with me.   
  
(Pledge of allegiance)   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you, Billie. There is also something on here for public participation. I don't know if you'd like to hear those first, counsel? They are both on item 1. Brian, have a seat. You don't get nervous, right? You are so well prepared.   
  
The first one was vice mayor, Kelly Marx. You sat through the whole meeting last time. (Laughs)   
  
SPEAKER:   
Excuse me, Mr. Chair, but I just got a text from a constituent saying that the video for the meeting says off air.   
  
SPEAKER:   
We are aware, thank you.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. It's going to be a fun day.   
  
SPEAKER:   
(indiscernible) good morning, counsel and Mr. chair. Thank you for the opportunity to come back and speak again. I am president and CEO and of backpack buddies which is a local organization that feeds kids of Volusia County. Early in the pandemic we did food drops, and the reason I'm speaking today is because of (indiscernible) saying that food drops are not needed because of (indiscernible). I can tell you that it is being felt right now.   
  
Our numbers have tripled in our schools. We started out serving to schools in the first couple of years and now we are up to four. One of our schools was 250 kids in the second week of school that need food. If you do the numbers, 250 kids times five dollars is a lot of money for little organization like us.   
  
We actually are one of the leading organizations in West Volusia that are serving the kids and their families over the pandemic. We served almost 5000 people. That is not even completing 2021 yet.   
  
There is a couple proposals on the table for you to look at in future, and I understand that one is from second harvest. They have been a backbone for us and I support them 100%. In their proposal, it is allocating very little money to our organization, and I think that you need to know that we are actually leading in West Volusia, and we feed a lot of kids. We are up to about 500 kids right now in the second week of school.   
  
Keep in mind, last year most of the kids were not in school, they were on virtual. So we had nearly 1/4 of that, now they are all coming back and the need is growing. I want you to think about reallocating the money, extra money, I'll say, because it is important to Volusia County. We know that without you allocating the food, those kids will not get fed.   
  
Our program cannot handle that many people. We are serious and we are here to stay, we hope that you will reallocate that money. We are asking for $50,000 on our program and that will go to purchasing and shipping. Thank you for your time.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. Donna (Name)?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good morning. My name is Donna Craig, I live in Ormond by the sea. In 1989, educator Stuart Brower coined the phrase, "Think globally, act locally." It has been used in various contexts since then, but most locally regarding the environment. We have a very obvious deteriorating situation locally, the water in the lagoon is being contaminated by pollutants and algae blooms. Our animal population is suffering as a result.   
  
That is not all. Ultimately, as a result of the pollution and the way water naturally cycles through our environment, our drinking water is in danger. Think about that. Our drinking water supply is in danger. We need to act locally and we need to do it quickly. It is incumbent to do something about the water whenever we have a chance. We have to make it a high priority to clean up the lagoon.   
  
We have an opportunity to work on this problem using the money from ARPA. Please be wise about how this money should be spent. Volusia County is a tourist destination first and foremost, defined by the natural setting and the activities that setting provides. We must protect the water. It is a central resource for the health of our economy. We need to protect it and make sure there's enough to go around.   
  
As I said before, please. The health of our economy depends on it and so does the health of the people who live here. Thank you.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. We will go to item 1. Barbara is waving her flag. How did you see that? Is there a screen up here? Barbara Girtman, would you like to speak?   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I would like to make one statement if you would allow me. One is that Backpack Buddies certainly is a great resource for West Volusia and certainly I support and encourage including them as a resource for West Volusia, for the needs of children and families. They have done a great job. I have worked with them and being on the front line with them from the beginning, and certainly would hope that we would support that request.   
  
The other thing that I wanted to say is, I wanted to be in the room this morning and I'm really concerned that the reason we are here talking about ARPA is because of COVID. And because COVID is real within our community. Every time I've got to talk about what's happening, but also what is happening within our own Council chambers, in our own area where our staff are getting ill and we have unmasked representatives that could be infecting.   
  
We have had multiple staff members infected in recent weeks, and the last 10 hour Council meeting. You don't know, but it is highly probable that that could be having an impact. We have a responsibility to ourselves, our family and our community to take all precautions and if you are not going to do anything else, wear a mask to protect others. I asked that we encourage that within the council chambers each and every time for the entire time because, again, where we are with this current search is really difficult.   
  
I talked to her recent funeral home who has gone from two services per month to five per week. It is just not in a good place. So I asked each of us to take those necessary precautions and care and concern for each other. Ok. Thank you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
The intent of this item 2 weeks ago is the same as â€“ lost track of time â€“ is the same as the intent today. It is counsel's direction on the list. We had a workshop and then I asked a couple of questions, if anything was needed to clarify, and I have compiled what was the result of those meetings. I am aware there are potentially other things the individual councilmembers would want to add to this.   
  
However, since the Council as a body is reacting on this, I did not add any of those things, administratively, until it gets discussed here.   
  
Before I proceed, I do want to inform that we have been working on the actual calculation of revenue loss for the calendar year's September 30 first 2020, and due to the shifting way the revenue works, specifically with the property tax, revenue loss may not be quite as high as I had originally projected.   
  
We are still finalizing what the projections will be for the future years. But it is about $3 million less for calendar year 2010 projected for fiscal year 20. If you take that $3 million and extrapolated over a four-year period, that might mean my original $80 million estimate would only be about $68 million. Therefore, there could be a need to have additional projects that are directly eligible instead of projects that are only eligible through revenue loss provisions.   
  
I will have a better feel for that after I actually take our December 31, 2020 numbers, and project on the calendar year basis. I have not had time to do that yet. We have been very busy â€“ it is actually due to the treasury today. Any actions we take here today, or the Council takes here today, are not necessarily... Unless you pull the project we were originally going to report.   
  
Generally based off the action that was proved by the body on July 27, this has been changed or removed from that yet.   
  
That being said, with the revenue loss number potentially a little bit less, that might mean that the $10 million that we have set aside for reserves for other projects, while it is still set aside, it might have to be set aside for projects that are directly eligible. Not revenue loss projects. We will know more when we can actually do that calculation. That is the nature of something that you are forecasting three years in the future.   
  
Because the revenue loss calculation is four times December 31, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Right now we are looking at approximately $12 million from December 31, 2020 and 2021 should be a larger number than that, but when we get to 22 or 23, there is a lot that can happen between now and then.   
  
So the original revenue loss estimate of 70 million â€“ 80 million, it might be closer to 70 million now. But we will know more when I actually have time to do that extrapolation. We have been very busy just converting actual numbers, entire County division have been on this project now... To make sure that when I test the treasury today for the report that is due today, the numbers are accurate to the best of my knowledge.   
  
That being said, the intent of this item was direction on the list that was provided, and really what it is if there is something the council would like to add or leave from that list. So that we can then proceed on planning for these projects. Because like I described before, there is several years worth of revenue loss. In some of these projects will not be able to actually be done until the revenue loss for 2021 has actually been calculated for 2022 or 2023.   
  
That is OK, because some of the projects proposed on this list are capital in nature. So you might not need the revenue loss dollars for the capital projects until a later year, because it is going to author a design phase 1st and then a construction phase.   
  
Enough with me talking. (Laughs)   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Before you continue I think we already have a question from Councilwoman Kirkman.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I do... It is not me trying to be cute, something is going on with my pewter. â€“ My computer. I heard something from a couple of municipalities where they allocated a certain amount to each Council member or commissioner, that they would be able to target specifically to their district. And I like the sound of that.   
  
So one of the municipalities allowed $250,000 to be directly associated with projects and programs that they can target within their district. Is that something the council would be open to doing?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Is that something we can do at this point?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Depending on the nature of the project, if councilmember decides to spend it on COVID response then that would be directly eligible project and potentiallyâ€¦   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I am not saying what the projects would be, would we be able to tell specifically within our region and work with various programs and other needs within.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Right now, I guess â€“ let me try to answer it a different way â€“ as far as the revenue loss eligible dollars, we originally had 77 million in here â€“ 70 70 million and change. It might only be 67 million in change. The 10 million that is flexible, for future needs, while it is still there, it might only be for COVID eligible ARPA eligible, directly COVID related expenses or... Premium pay that has the qualifications of ARPA as opposed revenue loss... If you were to do a blanket allocation, 250,000 per councilmember, depending on what the projects are, you might have to underfund another project just to do that.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Let me jump in. I think the thing to think about here, right now you are actually getting to review the entire (indiscernible), and if you were to do what is suggested there, you would still have to bring it back for the entire body and work that out amongst yourselves.   
  
You are essentially doing that now with the projects that are there. And actually in larger fashion, a lot of new projects are larger than 240,000, so I think the idea that we always are really careful to try and make sure there is an even spread across the county, and we work that way all the time as we look at the entire county.   
  
That may be a better method then to confine yourself, really, to a smaller amount per area. Essentially what you are doing is coming here today, or whatever day we want to work on this, and as a group you must make these decisions as a full body.   
  
So you can have your list, which would essentially cover what you want to do, you bring it here, like we have done already, and have it on a list we had more or less, like Ryan is saying. But I would avoid â€“ unless you guys would have to agree ahead of time, you are not going to touch what is going on in each other's area, as Ryan is saying, you may have to trade.   
  
That is essentially what you are doing now. So I do not know what you want to do it twice, and on top of that, you are doing it with the entire $107 million.   
  
So think about versus putting yourselves in seven different little silos.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Again, I am talking about a smaller allocated amount that we can touch smaller opportunities within our district that typically do not get touched because, as you say, we do the broader, bigger bang for your buck projects. The smaller projects and the smaller opportunities go untouched many times.   
  
So I am saying with the funds that we said that we would have over, and even if they had to go into one of the four categories, if that is where the funds came from, you are still touching people within the community in a different way than if you are investing the $5 million. If you put $20,000 in our project, that touches people on a small, more organic level. I still think that is a good opportunity for representation within our own district.   
  
Now, if the Council does not agree, I am good with moving on.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Democratic comment on this.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
This monumental task of mine and all of us have been working on for months, and we each had our chance to input all the way through the whole program. Some past... But you do this now, it almost does you can almost get into worse, more of like a political move than a good move, if we are not careful. We will not want to do that. I just do not think this is a good idea at this time, to start going to each of us to find where to put it.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Billie Wheeler?   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
I get it, I agree with that, because Daytona is my district and I know each one of those tonsil people had 250,000 to deal with. But if you like we have worked on this, and all of us brought projects, I have another one that we all just got a letter from on the Volusia recovery alliance, a very well needed opioid addiction program. That is state known. And encouraged to continue growth.   
  
I think we all have contributed, and a lot of these items, it takes the consolidation of all of the money to get to a bigger item if we need it. And so many of these are affecting each and every one of our districts. If we do the mental health thing, are there going to be other projects that we can put in like this Volusia recovery alliance? How does that work?   
  
SPEAKER:   
What is â€“ I am glad you brought that up because this is one change where there was some number that staff had to come up with. At the August 3 meeting it was to increase the amount of mental health funding. Councilmembers post recommendation was to advise specific products and bring us back.   
  
That is not on this list here because staff is not able, without additional details and without doing a notice of availability, and seeing all of the projects that are out there, as opposed to just what has been pre-submitted to us, to make a recommendation for this project.   
  
In addition, it actually is helpful at this point to leave it to a notice of availability because that is a process that is federally recognized and will allow us to claim those expenses under the direct categories as opposed to the revenue loss categories.   
  
So if we did our notice of funding availability with what is listed on here is the increased number from one and a half-million to two and a half-million, any project that meets the scope, the funding availability, could provide.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Danny? Thanks Ryan.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Like I said, it is for discussion. And if it is not agreed upon we will go forward.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Sorry chair, I was jumping the gun a bit. Barbara, I do not want to jump in front of you. This was going to be in addition to what we were about to talk about.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK. Any other comment on what Barb brought up? Sounds like to meet there is going to be some pause here until you know exactly what we have. And then know exactly what the projects are that the Council might want.   
  
SPEAKER:   
The only additional unknown at this point is revenue loss with the calendar year basis... Right now, just based off of this year, all I would recommend is we pause the $10 million we set aside, and went to see what we have to set those aside for. We may have to set those aside for revenue loss projects, we may have to set them aside for COVID or other things that are directly eligible. Other than that, there is still 67 and change million dollars worth of projects that are on this list but we still think will have revenue loss for that are still proposed. If there are projects that need to come off the list or projects that need to go on, there might be a need to swap those projects unless they are directly eligible at this point.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you for explanation. Danny?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
I was wondering how open this counsel would be to looking at some relief for our landlords and property owners and possibly retro that back in terms ofâ€¦ Now they are paying for the evictions, four â€“ $600 for something they were not responsible for. So something to help those folks out as well.   
  
Also, our nurses are not getting a lot of attention right now, but they are just as much on the front line, if there's something we can do that. Lastly, we are having a heck of a time down in southeast Volusia for runoff. This may fit under a water quality project, possibly like the Borja canal project that we did, a two to $3 million project. Anything we can do to target that runoff.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
There is a couple things you might want to know. On rental Assistance, that is directly eligible, I have labeled as under category A. We were given -- almost 13 million in the ARPA act, for rental assistance program. We have a total of $30 million in a problem -- program already related to rental assistance. Were you looking to go beyond that?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
What I was looking at is the reaction now where our people are having to evict folks know that they can. Legally. They are still being charged that 400 â€“ $600. If we could use some of those release funds. They have to pay. Do they qualify under the current plan that you are talking about?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
My mistake. I thought you were talking about paying rental assistance. I would have to research paying the landlord an eviction fee.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
I believe the landlords themselves apply for the rental assistance because they have had reluctant users of their place. This is where the landlord could apply, and I think this is happening. They could use the money then to pay whatever they decide, I think it is an allegation -- allocation to not evict people. I could have Donna speak to the specifics of the program.   
  
Again, I am pretty sure it would have to go along the lines of them getting paid. We do understand a lot of them are not getting paid.   
  
SPEAKER:   
You'd actually be approving the funds at our next meeting. We are already accepting applications from landlords, I think we are up to about 30 the last time I checked. We are looking into whether eviction fees can be included. But they can get past rent just like a tenant would get. They have to get all the information from the tenant on their work background and whether they have income as well. We are accepting applications directly, they just call our office and we help them fill out the application.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
I received a couple of phone calls. There's some landlords that do not want the money, they just want to move on. And they are feeling that pain on top of now paying 400 â€“ $600 to go through the legal process of this. I was looking for something to ease that.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Please have them contact us. (unknown term) is much more broad in the way that we are able to assist tenants and landlords.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Thank you.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
With regards to the water quality project, whether it is eligible for drinking water loan or a (unknown term) fund loan. Instead of the treasury coming up with a whole set of what is a project that is eligible for sewer, they leaned on an existing federal standard for drinking water, so we would need to (indiscernible) to know if it was eligible for direct allocation.   
  
You mentioned school nurses? Specifically?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Either frontline nurses or school nurses. I'm not sure if they qualify. Some of them are teachers, some of them are not. If they could get that assistance there.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
If it is the will of the Council, we would need to get additional information to see what you are looking to do and whether that would be premium pay that they are looking at orâ€¦ What exactly you are trying to do.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Anything like premium pay. We are doing it for our first responders and law enforcement, but nurses are as much in that category as anybody else. Just kind of addressing them as well.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
Are you looking to potentially talk equivalent to what the governor did for nurses?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Yes. Thank you.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I have a question about the water quality project. I am looking at a number of things Southeast, Southwest, Springsâ€¦ But not really saying anything for the Halifax River. There has been discussion over the years about the quality of water in the Halifax River.   
  
I am wonderingâ€¦ Do I see Ginger? Oh, Mike! If there is any possibility of using these funds to work on the water quality in the Halifax River. That I think is the mainstay of Volusia County on the east side.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
As long as the project that is proposed is either coming from (indiscernible) or clean water, stage revolving project. If it is coming from revenue loss, with $10 million being in question that needs to be directly spent, you would always be looking at taking from another project at this point. If it is eligible for the revolving fund, then the $10 million could be used for a project like that.   
  
I know that with our utility projects, you are specifically looking at utility service areas, and there is a Ormond Beach project that is on the list but it is not specificâ€¦   
  
HEATHER POST:   
It is not specifically for the Halifax River, it's very different.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
I think it would be a good opportunity to work with our Eastside cities who also receive this funding, because that is really where the stormwaterâ€¦ A lot of that has to do with the cities and the fertilizers that runs off. In a lot of cases, it's our canals, canals that we have to maintain, that were established years ago.   
  
Search is a very good opportunity, a very good point, and we will elaborate on some opportunities.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
So it's two different things. The water quality of the Halifax River, because it is stagnant in the middle. Or whatever you want to call it. And then a separate, secondary issue of looking at all of the cities and who is dumping want, what is actually going into the rivers itself.   
  
I would look at that as two separate projects. I am hoping that she will look at it that way as well. I would love to hear your thoughts on both.   
  
SPEAKER:   
We have (indiscernible) established by the state. Those TMDLs are over 10 years old. Both of them were looked at for nutrients, however, it wasn't because the concentrations of the nutrients were high. They looked at other things (audio issues) that could be contributing causes that could indicate an impairment for nutrients.   
  
We are actually in the process right now of taking a look at these team DLs because some of the rulemaking has changed, and we are taking a look at and reviewing these team DLs with our consultant to make sure that they still apply, because the data that was used to generate these was so old.   
  
As I have talked about before, with the lagoon reasonable assurance (?) plan. The team DL processes, they looked at it and they said you've got to look at this water body, and we've got to take some action. The next step is an action plan.   
  
The state hasn't gotten around to doing the process from Halifax, or the (Name) River. They have prioritized water bodies based on a number of factors, and they are working their way through the list of team DLs. That being said, we don't want to wait on the state. These are water bodies that are precious to us and our citizens.   
  
We are taking a look at these right now, going through the information that they use, updating them if necessary and seeing what steps we can take.   
  
One of the other things that the state has done is we have a general stormwater permit for all of our stormwater activities. Our permit required that we added language that forces us to address some of the issues with Halifax or any of these water bodies, so we are looking at that right now.   
  
To your point as far as projects, because we are still in the TMDL phase, there is nothing identified as a project. We know there is some level of impairment, and we have to figure out what is causing it. Is it stormwater runoff? Septic tanks? They haven't got to that stage. Once you get to that stage, you can start developing projects to address it. We are not at that point yet.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
So we really cannot do anything? Our hands are tied until (indiscernible)?   
  
SPEAKER:   
We are actively doing projects to reduce nutrients because we understand we need to do that. We are replacing age stormwaterâ€¦ The process would allocate loading rates to the county or the city. Once that process does occur, when they get to that point, all the projects that we are doing right now, we will get credit for in that BMAP. "You are supposed to reduce your nutrients here, you have reduced your loading there." We have gone through until an update and look at all the projects we have done and how much nutrient loading we have reduced.   
  
We are not just waiting on that process, we are taking steps to do that, however that process will identify the stormwater or septic tank or fertilizer runoff. That process solidifies that and that's when you can do projects and start applying for grants.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Is there anything additional that we can do? I know the goat we put in, and you can explain to the public what goat means. But that got that we put inâ€¦ Not a lot of moneyâ€¦ Are there things like that that we can be doing that are not a lot of money that have a great impact?   
  
SPEAKER:   
The water is basically a giant floating that, if you will, it stretches across LG PA canal that a local community group got a grant to install, and they worked with us on the permitting and it seems to be working great. It acts as a Giants net for trash and collects all of that trash that works its way through the canal before it gets to the Halifax River. That is a great thing, anytime you can remove that level of debris from getting into the water body, it is great.   
  
We did some other things. We did our (Name) project where we had 20 homes that kept flooding, we purchased those homes and created a stormwater pond that flows into the canal and works its way up to where the water is.   
  
We are working on projects from a stormwater standpoint everywhere because we know we have impaired water bodies in the Halifax River, Spruce Creek, anytime we can identifyâ€¦ Even on the west side of the county, those kinds of things. We are always working, whether or not there is a (unknown term), we are working to identify those projects.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Are you aware of any places we can put another goat?   
  
BEN BARTLETT:   
We have a lot of mosquito control canals. Those areas have become urbanized over the years, whenever you have urbanized stormwater runoff moving into these canals, you are going to get a lot of trash. So there is multiple locations â€“ I believe there is one down in (unknown name) for a while. And one of the canals down there.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Counsel, I know we get a lot of â€“ or I get quite a few emails from citizens about the canals. And on the garbage in the canals, especially that area. But certainly more. If that is a very tiny amount, respectively, that we could be putting in, to do some of those tiny projects, just to keep that from getting into a river in the interim... Larger projects, I would definitely like to have more information on that. Do you know the estimated cost for the LPGA one?   
  
BEN BARTLETT:   
We are not maintaining it, to be clear. Because it was a private group... I actually see them on Facebook. They are out there cleaning it. They seem to be doing a great job of cleaning up. This is something that when in with no cost to the county, in no maintenance to the county. So it really is a good project.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
What would the number be?   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
We can commit to, we will look for â€“ if we know that this is a source, which we feel it is, of funding. Because we do have a particular issue in that area, and that we find most of our stormwater through stormwater utility fee. That covers the unincorporated county, but does not cover in the cities. So where we cannot use it. Yet we have these outfalls.   
  
So this will consider ARPA a source for some of these projects, if it is the Council... Which I can see that it is... Again, this is a living list. We will come back to, we have to program it when we do. I will ask Mr Bartlett to look at his stormwater needs. Especially in the Halifax area were we do not have the ability to use our stormwater utility fees. So this would be a great place for that.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I want to add that I agree with you. The Halifax River is part of the Indian Riverâ€¦ We are both names. The lagoon is severely impaired. We are losing grass, fish, manatees, industry to survive, make a living off all that. I think we need to â€“ we need to detect the source of pollution. Then we need to also clean it up.   
  
I think we ought to do everything. Robbins brought the underdog. Many reefs, we need to do that. I have talked to the County manager and staff about a larger reef system. And we have talked about funding it through various means. It is not on here yet because I would not bring it to the entire counsel, have a presentation made to the Council, let the Council decide we move forward.   
  
You are going to love it. It is a really exceptional system. And then, another one that is not on the list yet, but I have talked about it with County manager and staff. It has to do with commercial composting.   
  
Michael (unknown name) is doing a tremendous job at reducing the volume of biosolids we have. We can take that a step further and compost the biosolids and at the same time reduce what we are putting into our landfills. We can use the cardboard, paper product with food from the schools, prisons, with waste food.   
  
And that was received very well. Because it put us first in the state, with projects like that. It cleans up... The problem with biosolids right now are reducing the size. But it is still going on the land somewhere. And it is toxic.   
  
And I do not want it to end up back in our water. So we do have projects â€“ let's do everything that we can. So I am hoping as we go through this list, we will have some alterations where we have money involved for water projects. Some of them might qualify currently. Some might not. Because of what you are telling us.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
... Directly eligible. To be directly eligible means to one of the state revolving fund programs that has long been around, that thankfully, there are consultants that can tell us whether it is eligible.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
It is completed.   
  
SPEAKER:   
We are going to look at those projects you are mentioning, definitely the Halifax water projects. Other projects that are coming in that are more along the lines of cleaning the existing water with the oyster beds and reef type and other projects. We will look at those as well. And we can come back. It may mean â€“ we will try to get a bit of an analysis of where it is eligible to be in. If it is in the â€“ I call it the more competitive revenue loss area, then we will come back with some recommendations on where we might want to swap some money. Because you do have some projects on their that if you remember as well, we identified alternate funding sources. So one of the criteria we were looking at the list originally, so we can go back and say "well this could be funded this other way" - it might take a little longer, but like I said, there is opportunity here in the Halifax area that makes it difficult for us to use some of our funding to begin with. So this is a good opportunity to look at that very issue.   
  
And we will handle it that way. And as I said, he has a program of things as well. So that is another thing, he finishes his calculations and we will have an idea of what we can do in our particular year. So that will be important as well.   
  
Like I said, almost all of these things, there's gonna be some design or element to it, so a lot of this will not occur until the next calendar year. And that is where a lot of his focus will be I am sure.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Ryan, did you want the Council to go through the list and comment on each one or anyone that anybody wants to comment on? How can we best help you this morning to know â€“ because this just keeps growing.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
At this point, if there is any project that I have added, that you do nothing counsel talked about or that might be talked about during the workshop and you want to talk about that project, that is fine. I am looking for direction on thisâ€¦   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post then Billie Wheeler.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I had two things I wanted to ask about. Would love to see more projects on the Halifax, for sure. Current quality and entryâ€¦ The other thing is, you know that I had requested for the drug work funding. We had the judge come in and say that that money was needed.   
  
So what I would ask, is less look at that, and what really was the endgame and asking for the monies for the specialty courts. For the veterans court, the DUI court, the drug court. It was to focus on recidivism, and having that revolving circle. There is an article that came out yesterday that had local law enforcement officials, that had representative from the (unknown name) office, all sing that funding is desperately needed to combat that area.   
  
So I would really like to look at that endgame and see if we can push some of those monies toward that area. I know that some of the discussion amongst staff, when the suggestion was made for those courts, was also to look more at the domestic violence end. And it is certainly COVID -related for sure. I think we can show that correlation.   
  
So I would ask, counsel, it may be we can push some of that monies into the batter programs. Is Angieâ€¦ Is Angie (unknown name) here? If I could have Angie with the domestic violence, with the beacon center, just talked for one second... Kind of program. That I am talking about.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
The intent is to push this money back out into the community where it is needed and to have the most impact.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good morning. Thank you for giving me a second. One of the things that we have not been able to do that would be really great to do here... That really focuses on managing better behavior. Which keeps children out of foster care. Helps stabilize the families, and creates safety. We have over 2000 kids in care in this county. Over 250 of them have been in care for 24 months or more. About 25% of them... Related to domestic violence. There is a huge correlation... Falls to the side as we focus on substance issues. Which we need to do. But that is a real symptom of the trauma going on in the family when we are talking about domestic violence. So being able to address the violence in the home, focus on perpetrator accountability and victim safety, would really go a long way to strengthen families and create independence. The numbers are really high in Volusia County.   
  
We did see a decrease in 2020. But we saw a huge decrease... Due to the COVID epidemic and the isolation of the victims. A lot of the violence we are seeing is more severe, the violence is getting a lot more severe. Homicides continue to go up in Volusia County. So in order to see the benefit of these programs that we should see... Stability with some of these families, to keep them safe for longer periods of time. These are successful projects that have worked throughout the nation. Within our circuit in St. John's County. That has been very beneficial to keeping children out of foster care, safely with the parent, and focus services on the perpetrator of the crime as opposed to dumping the pressure on the victim to manage the relationship.   
  
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Ben Johnson? No? Billie Wheeler.   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
I'm just wondering, this is not a one-time thing? It is a one-time only?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Absolutely.   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
This is one-time only? How is it going to continue?   
  
SPEAKER:   
There are grant funds that would come available over the next couple of years with some establishment, just as full families have similar projects that they fund. So there is a possibility for sustainability which I can investigate further. The sustainability isâ€¦   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
That would be important to me.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Definitely.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
We had talked about that as well. If you think about how many families and how many people of Volusia County that could help within whatever timeframe it is that they are using it for. Just that impact. A large impact.   
  
SPEAKER:   
And if I just could add, we see hundreds of children -- families through our program. That is only focused on victim safety right now. We are the new ones in the state that have ever been able to have this opportunity. It is a program that the state is looking to expand as a result of the success.   
  
We have been able to represent families from the moment of the abuse cold. So within 24 hours we are able to help them secure legal rights and remedies that protect the victim and the children and told the perpetrator accountable.   
  
This would be an amazing complement to that program and expand our outreach. We could certainly develop outcomes that would show benefit to the families here in Volusia County.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Danny Robins?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
I agree with Ms. Post and Miss Wheeler. But we do have to definitely see what we are actually dealing with before I could commit. I think the anything I could commit right now was the part about veterans. Whatever we could do for veterans. I would pay for immediately. But we definitely have to not put the cart before the horse, and see we can help out, for sure.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
That's twice, Ben. Ok. Thank you, very much. Appreciate it. You know what? I'm going to ask each councilperson if they have a project they would like to ask you about to discuss.   
  
Barbara, did you have any projects on this list you would like to question or alter?   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I would prefer not to be first. I will hold until the end.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
(Laughs) is there anybodyâ€¦ Billie Wheeler.   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
I want to talk about the veteran homeless shelter. 21 â€“ three. There ask was full $1 million. That is through home. They have received a grant also in the amount of $1 million. This isn't a match, it is justâ€¦ They got the confirmation that they can use the $1 million for the veterans homeless shelter. That is to set it up for a property that has beenâ€¦ May I have and speak on that?   
  
SPEAKER:   
We received a grant from the VA to relocate our veterans also which is now on secretive. If you know that area of Daytona Beach, it is not a positive environment for our veterans. We were able to ask for this money because the veterans in our shelter now do not have private bathrooms, they have private rooms.   
  
The VA, during COVID would like to see our veterans made safer with their own bathrooms. We have a property that is available to us on (unknown name) and we have looked at by the same architect and builder that helped us with hope place to make sure it was feasible before we applied for the grant. This money is to help us retrofit that property like he did with hope place. It is not for operations.   
  
VA pays for operations. It is called the GPD, the grand per diem. We do not need money for operations, it is strictly to retrofit the building.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I don't think you're going to get a lot of opposition on that. Danny? Johnson?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
I strongly support that. We can make a big impact now.   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
That was one of my top priorities. I also still would like to go back to the marine science center, this is on page 1 â€“ 10. To do this in the entirety is possibly 2,945,000, and my correct? Are we on that?   
  
Again, I find this really important. These projects have been on our capitalist for quite some time. Way before I got on counsel. Things certainly haven't gotten better in that period of time, and these are greatly needed.   
  
If you walk through the building, you will realize how badly needed it is. This would be a great opportunity to get it resolved, taking care of, and we would not have to wait for it to be completed from the capital projects, this could be funded out of this?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
That is correct. As the presentation has been published, you will see that that is also in the next item, is a discussion point.   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
I just wanted to throw that one out there. That is really important to me.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I would like to ask George her question about that. Just so we all fully understand. The note is County managers continue to fundâ€¦ Is that money set aside?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
That is in the budget on the forecast. That recommendation was on July 23. Before we were given direction on the 3% and 5%. You will see a different recommendation if we were to proceed with 3% and 5% reductions in the next item.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you.   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
Again, however we do it. That Volusia recovery alliance is such an important thing throughout our community with the overdoseâ€¦ This is such an awareness program, taking the stigma off of addiction. I just cannot tell you enough what this program is already doing in a short time. Getting a large off confirmations from the state, so I would sincerelyâ€¦ She wrote us all a letter of their asked. I would also like to have that considered. However we do it with the mental health or whatever.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Danny?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
One more thing. I think we should also adjust some of our projects to see if we can help out our corrections guides a bit more, what they are going through with their sign-on bonus if we can put some money aside to give them some aid and also retention, as long as we don't overstep our boundaries with contract negotiation. I would be open for that. They need help as well.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Are we already doing that, George? My understanding was we are doing that.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Currently, our program right now, the only official one we have right now is EMS. We are in negotiations right now with the corrections folks. Anything like that that requires that kind of negotiation.   
  
The money that is in the plan, there is money that drew some criticism. That is what that money is set aside for, those type of plans. We are not sureâ€¦ Again, there is rules on how we can implement this. It has to be attached to some performance or some issue like retention. It cannot just be given out.   
  
There is money in there to do that. We are actively negotiating right now.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
I do have one request for the chair. If all of counsel has spoken, I believe Commander Morgan from the Sheriff's Department had a comment on ARPA projects.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Ok. I don't think we are done, but it would be fine to do it now. Please. Is this a project that is on the list? Do you know what page it is on?   
  
SPEAKER:   
12, I believe, sir.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Before we get started, I would like to thank County Counsel for this tentative budget. I cannot tell you how hard we have worked with County management to try to do something that helps our employees and recognizes the importance of public safety.   
  
My compatriots south of us are basically being defunded, losing 45 positions in this up-and-coming budget and next year is projected to lose 100. So I really appreciate the fact that our budget was scrutinized to the best that we can do in these conditions.   
  
We asked for $4.89 million increase to cover general wage and benefit increases that also includesâ€¦ We got hit with a 6% insurance increase after we submitted our budget. FRS is a 9% increase. This change costs cover the million dollars of our already submitted budget which requires operating cutbacks.   
  
The combined increases over $1 million due to increases of liability insurance increases. There is misinformation about amendment 10 causing tax increase. I want to point out that what we have done, and it is backed up by all of our financial documents, the sheriff created a new HR department and finance department, implemented a new (unknown term) system, all of these changes were accomplished with the same number of employees that I had before this started.   
  
No new funds were allocated at all, and all the changes were approved by the County Council. We have always been (indiscernible). I cannot voice my support to you enough. This is an extremely difficult process to go through, and I implore you for being financially astute. And with that, I turn it over to the point man for the new project.   
  
SPEAKER:   
How are you doing. Thanks for having me up here. If you told me 22 years ago (indiscernible) here I am. We are looking at a new (unknown term) course. Our old course is not within the range of (indiscernible) grandfathered in. This is a perfect opportunity to get a new classroom facility as (unknown term) requires. As we are looking at this, I started thinking about something that I know you have all thought about, and that is (indiscernible) from the Sheriff's office.   
  
Thanks to ARPA giving us this one-time funding to get us started, it is looking at is getting headquarters out there instead of just a classroom. I know we have seen in New Orleans when these communities have hurricanes. We had no place to go when our deputies (indiscernible) we had no place to go. All your deputies are going to be out in the field with no place to go. That is one of the main reasons I'm standing before you today to look at considering changing the plans of this currently and going towards headquarters, Sheriff's office through headquarters for storms.   
  
At this moment, I do not have the total cost, public record has $15 million set aside of ARPA money. That's a great start. I don't know if we could come in at $5 million-$10 million more. But so they are like you to consider. If anyone has any questions I am more than happy to answer.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
You are talking about adding â€“ you are not changing the course. You are adding the headquarters. So it would be $15 million plus...   
  
SPEAKER:   
15 million included a building. A building with large classrooms, a standalone building. This will be this one big law enforcement facility. But everything is still includedâ€¦   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
It is an absolute necessity really.   
  
Back into the 80s, it was state-of-the-art at the time. It is antiquated, would not pass today's standards, that needs to be looked at. You do have to look at the future of a new building, there is no doubt about that. But we need to have a better financial plan.   
  
One thing we have to remember, you have separate money sitting there, and that property on North 17, you need to sit down and start crunching the numbers. How much can we get out of that property? Where else can we go? It is coming â€“ you need it. But I cannot see us doing it today. We are putting a big investment today. Come back with a bottle plan as to how to do it correctly.   
  
One other thing you have to research â€“ I do not know if it is still there or not â€“ it used to be the sheriff had to be located in the County... And that is something that needs to be researched there also.   
  
Although I will agree the better (indiscernible) but just to make sure that before you go too far, just to check that back again with the historic sit down and start to put pencil to paper, and how can we do it the best possible manner and where can you start. Putting the money together to do this in the next few years. Not this year.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Absently agree with you sir. Fell into her lap (indiscernible) to actually look at that. On top of that we can look about relocating, and taxpayers cost of rentals, up currently in Ormond Beach area. So yes, we will take everything into consideration. I do not expect this to be launched off the ground this year. It is something I would like to look at, have some plans put together, come back and have everybody look at it from there.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I think we had Heather and Danny?   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
For clarification, 15 million, they would like to add (indiscernible) to their request. And then as was stated, we would work with the sheriff department on a financial plan on how to achieve that.   
  
I think Mr Johnson brought up there are assets we can look at that we can sell, then there are other things, the sheriff himself mentioned, they are pretty good at coming up with savings. Then we can direct that savings, like we have done in the past, toward our capital projects. And then there are other vehicles we can look at as well. So I think today the idea was, to expand the thought on the 15 to get him started with the overall project. Which I think is very doable.   
  
SPEAKER:   
If I could add one more thing. (indiscernible) I think we should clear... But my opinion is that I think we should leave records here. Everybody in the county knows records is here. And I think it is big enough to accommodate the sheriff to have a sheriff office actually for the sheriff in that part of the building (indiscernible).   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Go back to the road course just for a second. If we shut that down, that becomes very valuable property. That could be sold to lessen the blow of $15 million. Am I correct.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Correct. Remember the other discussion we had originally, in the larger scheme, we are looking at moving the road and bridge facility a little bit to the last on that property that is out there. And then the eastern side of that would be available for industrial use, we would help. Along the river trap. So eventually getting some more value out of that truck out there as well.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Danny Robins?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Sure, thank you for coming. You remember how much â€“ just as a gauge, to remember how much cost would that be, kind of comparable?   
  
SPEAKER:   
(unknown name) was a four-story building when we started and it was probably around 28 million. Then the construction coursed over we took the fourth offâ€¦ One of the things we are looking at is a footprint on the (unknown name) building. We build up for not quite $12 million we built that for. So there was a lot of play there to see which way we want to go. Again, we are working with the engineers to see what is the best way, we do not expect you to wave a magic wand and say you are going to start breaking ground on October 1. It is just strategically planning out how do we do this with the least amount of impact to the residence.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Then did you have something else? I see wheels turning. Go ahead, Heather Post.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
A number of my questions have been answered now, which is good. I just wanted to clarify, the 15 million is not only being used for that emergency vehicle course, but also for a jump start for the headquarters?   
  
SPEAKER:   
I am not a builder. I thinkâ€¦ Entire thing for $15 million. The conversation with George and Angie, there is a way to do this with that money and not having to touch any other taxes. Again, I am not a builder. But I can tell you, with getting the Academy, and people who are coming around the country, these young kids, facilities means a lot. A means a lot. There is one thing that none of us can control here, the pension. That is when we see people spin on the heels and say "well, 30 years?" A working hard with our legislators to try and carve out an exception for public safety, not back down to 25 to make us more appealing around the country. Because people come here, and when we talk to them, and I listen to interviews, Volusia County sits... From Jacksonville, Orlando, people love it. But then they look and say, "30 years," and I think the same thing on the correction side... There comes a point in time when you just physically cannot do it.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Was very excited to see a representative in the area... All the questions, very excited to even think in the next few years Florida State retirement system might be revamped a little bit.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Just run back a bit on your request, with Andy, we had a meeting with DCF. There is a term of money and a turn of projects out there that we do not think Volusia County is being properly served because of that. They put together a task force to study that. Right now, the first step to be implemented is we now have a coordinator. So what we need now from the family, their kids out of control, did -- domestic violence issue, we can follow that... Work them through the portal... That are available. There is a lot of money there. It is being... In Volusia County, and the answer is no.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
As a side note, counseling part of the ask for the domestic violence issues was... And allowing that process to build, and be able to serve more people. It allows for more access to that money and other things when you can show that is... I appreciate you bringing that up as well. But I certainly am in favor of of the 15.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Danny Robins?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Is there anything we can get started on just with the price â€“ with the inflation going up and then the price of cost material, labors, it is skyrocketing daily. Is there anything we can do to help?   
  
SPEAKER:   
I think we have already begun to look at the best way to proceed. I know they told me the... The back build was one of the things we are looking at.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Phil is a big part of this in a big part of the price. All of the easy land has been used. So we are looking â€“ this would be a little more of a challenge. But it is mainly a dirt challenge. So we will look at that. We have some thoughts. And we will identify those later on.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Thank you for your time.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Thank you for your support. Thank you for looking out for your employees.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK. I think we were on you, weren't we Billie? I just have a couple of questions for clarification. If we could start at page 111. The top line. George, this is probably â€“ well, accompany you Ryan. Ryan probably knows, he seems to know everything when it comes to money and numbers. The 2,500,000, does that include â€“ we are self-funded in insurance. We have a lot of employees, we are just starting to get these bills. Correct? Does this include that? Is that looking forward to that or no?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
The breakdown of what we intended for the 2.5 million is not finalized. I had originally done a breakdown of 1 million if you recall. The additional 1.5 million, that was part of a consideration, but you also know with the surge there is an increased demand as well. I actually, couple of weeks ago got a call... Maybe not as big as during the first push, but the 2.5 million was an increase because we know there is more COVID cost. It might even have to be more than that. Those are directly eligible expenses that could come from the 10 million.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
10 million is pretty popular. And it is getting chipped away at.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
... Sitting out there. That is a great point, Mr chair. It has been an unknown. And if I could just do the example of, when we went through the first big surge, we had very few hospitalizations. This time, and actually, when that happened, I think we actually saw a lot of other people not doing other procedures. So there was a little bit of a leveling off.   
  
Now, we have a lot of people have gone to the hospital. These hospital stays are not short. They are weeks, sometimes. So we are seeing larger bills come in. I have talked to some of the other city managers, some of the city managers have seen bills as high as three or $400,000 for a particular patient. So yes, this is a concern. It is likely going to grow based on what we are seeing out there right now. So that number will likely be coming back to you to say, this is what we think is going to be.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I have a question. We have Elizabeth (unknown name) who is working diligently and has just put through the bill for COVID relief to put the onus on the agencies for responders who end up with COVID to say that if you get it, you can say that it is part of duty. I know we have had that question quite a bit from the moment that COVID started within our own realms.   
  
Absolutely agree that we should be covering that, but now that we are looking at it being mandatory to cover that, how will that affect things? And are we looking at?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
If there are additional claims, that would be not in the health insurance fund but in the other fund. Liability and all of that.   
  
That fund could experience an increase in claims because of that, and if they are related to COVID, this could be a potential source for reimbursement.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
We are likely going to see an increase. I have seen already several hundred Worker's Comp. claims in this area alone. Soâ€¦   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I know EMS catches it, but some of the family gets it beforehandâ€¦ Is it through EMS or something else? Butâ€¦ Looking for this to actually pass, so should that happen then it would be mandatory to cover that. Again, I totally agree. But that is a lot more funding certainly coming out.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
I think we can look at how much that has been and maybe it will be part of the 10 million, that is 12 million and now 13 millionâ€¦ And put in line for those types of issues.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Ok, thank you.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
You had one more, Billie? I just have a question for clarification on page 113 concerning all of the fire stations. Relocate 13, relocate 23â€¦ Remodel 15. Two of those are expensive projects that would be nice to get out of the fire service fund, but I am understanding your recommendation was to keep it in the fire service fund? George?   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Hold on there.   
  
That's an Avenue we can look at, but my recommendation was based on the fact that the fire fund is healthy and cannot afford these projects. When we went through this, again, we looked at areas that may be did not have those opportunities and tried to find them. But certainly that's an areaâ€¦   
  
Again, our mind, what we did look at was some of the things like the fire alarming system which was not fully funded yet and was a large, countywide project. We were looking at other things we can do with COVID money to do these projects.   
  
Right now my recommendation was that we could afford these in the fire fund, so they could stay there at this time. Again, that is something that, I knew the demand is going to grow in these other areas. So I was a little conservative and should we certainly have money, I would have no problem looking at reevaluating that.   
  
As I said, the fire chief and the team over there have done a great job, and they are in good financial shape. I know they would like to have more and they would like to have it faster, and I want that as well. We have some thoughts in the future on how to do that as well. Things are looking bright over there.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. Barbara Girtman.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Thank you, chair. I wanted to reiterate the concern around the COVID impact and on mental health. I know we talked about increasing, so I'm certainly in support of that. A lot of the concerns that are brought up in our regional discussion were said to be among community services and the need to, I guess, have resources and funds available to work with some of those programs.   
  
I think that's important. I am also looking at some of the health impact on the community with services in the community that are no longer in the community and have also been impacted by COVID.   
  
One of those areas is sickle-cell, the sickle-cell programs have kind of come and gone over time, and talking again with the Department of Health about how to support and initiate upcoming pilot program for sickle-cell in Volusia County. That is one of the concerns that I want to bring to the table under community services and under COVID impact.   
  
Because a lot of times they are not getting the care and services needed because of limited access to healthcare.   
  
Lastly, I am on board with any of the water projects. Certainly for West Volusia. I know how critical those concerns are for our Springs, and the impact on environment. I think we are all on a similar page with those concerns.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I think I've run through most of the project ideas, but the last project idea I had, and I really want to try and squeeze it into the ARPA funds. Councilman Robbins mentioned corrections, working to get more people in corrections. We have mandatory retirement, fire, mandatory (unknown term). We have been working for a while to get (audio issues) to fill the 32 ambulances on a daily basis and EMS.   
  
All of that really boils down to personnel. When I look at the proposed budgets for corrections, EMS and fire, all of them have proposed hiring of personnel getting us through fiscal year 24 â€“ 25. To get us to that adequate or perfect synopsis. Right? Ensuring that we would have three on a truck with fire which is what everyone is working to attain. Getting us to fill 32 spots on the road for EMS which would provide adequate response time.   
  
But it is all budgeted out in each of those three divisions for the next two years. (audio issues) with us having ARPA, it would only be a few million for us to go ahead and get the personnel now instead of dragging it out for two â€“ three fiscal years to get us to where we need to be. We can get to where we need to be now in each of those divisions by using a very small amount of the ARPA funds to provide that boost.   
  
With the proposed budgets, it is showing that we have a total expectation in budget to be hiring those people in those coming years. It wouldn't be one-time monies for long-term stuff, it would be just providing that initial boost now, and still doing what we are being provided that is going to be occurring anyway.   
  
So in staffing requests, I'm looking at three firefighter positions each year for a four year period. So three firefighters for four years, could we fill those positions now and that would get us to three on a truck? And same with EMS and corrections?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
We would need to do further analysis on some of these things. George?   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
I think we have discussedâ€¦ We would have to do more analysis. The thing to remember is it is occurring. I notice like a (unknown term) grant on steroids, I suppose. The idea would be that she would hope that the revenue would catch with growth, would catch the end of the so-called grant.   
  
If we go down that road, one thing you have to remember is that you can't be touching that funds growth in future years. A few years ago, we did an exercise to raise the fire fund Milledge (?) it is an area where people are willing to pay for. There's no question about that.   
  
That is the way you would have to approach that. If you were to speed up, the idea being you have to capture it with growth. One thing just to be careful of the fire fund a little bit is the area it serves, it is unique and not you have a couple of areas, especially on the coastal areas, from time to time there is talk about annexation. That would change the funding structure of the fire department.   
  
In other words, those areas subsidize the poor areas and the cultural areas that do not pay the same. While everything is good and solid and everything, but as I mentioned, I always worry about getting too far out there because of the fact that that could occur.   
  
If that were, it would mean a pretty big change to the structure of the fire department. Let's probably take a more steady growth approach to it and try to get the cities to work with us as much as possible. We do not have great reciprocal agent agreement some things, especially on the east side. As we are doing this, we are also trying to work with cities to make sure that they are helping us in covering some of these areas where we have a reasonable price. It is an ongoing problem.   
  
That's my caution, we have to analyze a bit better to make sure that we catch it. EMS and corrections, of course, EMSâ€¦ It is free and general fund, they are growing. As we put these on, we are analyzing what they are able to bring in in fees. They are subsidized so it is taking that accommodation, I guess.   
  
I have to say, Ryan and his team for the PEMT program where we pay the state's share of Medicaid and that has allowed us to bring in a couple million more dollars a year than we previously had. He can talk about that in the next meeting. Those are good things that are happening there.   
  
And of course, correctionsâ€¦ We are in negotiations. We are adding and we hope to see may be an offset a little bit and over time as we add those positions on that we are adding today. So we have a full complement, is my understanding, in the Academy, so things are working there. There are sign-on bonuses, if we are to get that, I think it would only enhance bringing that on.   
  
It can be done. I just caution about getting your next deck out too far, because we are there any way. One other thing to remember: we can always, as we do this, we can look six months from now, and make an adjustment in the budget if we want to speed something up. Nothing stops us from doing that later in the year. We can analyze that budget, and therefore we can adjust it to what you guys want to do.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
So if we are not looking to do the full term for both, or for all three, would it be possible then just to simplyâ€¦ Can you hear me? So the proposed budget that we got for FY 21/22 was three additional firefighter positions to provide shift relief were mandated over time, to provide... Reduce overtime. Again, that was scheduled out per year for this year and three additional years. Would it be possible just to get even one year ahead in each of the divisions? Even that would help. We have all been getting the emails. So even when your head in the budgeting for each of the divisions to acquire...   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Let me look at the effect of that, we can certainly look at that. A good measured approach. We will look at that as well as â€“ and we are really working hard â€“ one of the things that hit everybody hard this year with overtime was obviously the amount of people we had out. So it is a double-edged sword, like I mentioned a few minutes ago. A lot of people have gotten COVID, and therefore that causes a lot of the issues we have had with overtime.   
  
We have always maybe just been a little bit ahead of the wave, but we have not been able to get extra ground because this is where you are adding things. COVID hit, then we lost ground, because the people were actually up sick. But that is a good point. We will look at a one year measure, we will look at it.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
The one thing I would add to that, if we do look at the long-term effect on those funds, that would â€“ if you include the marine science, which is part of the 3% and 5% we are going to discuss here, and you factor in the $10 million as potentially needing to be directly eligible for COVID, you are left at a horse trading situation. If you find â€“ if it is feasible, long-term forecast of those other funds to advance those things, you would be looking at... Another project in order to use that money on that purpose.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
For me to advance the personnel of each of those divisions would beâ€¦ Would be number one priority.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Audit. I think the Council understands that you are at the situation... One thing or another. It is always tough, like I said, let's understand we are lucky to have it. We have it and we will use it wisely. That is part of it and that is part of why we have a Senate member board or commission here, the Council that is supposed to work together and get these good decisions out of it. That is part of it. That is what we should do.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Have a question about the analysis, though. What is the analysisâ€¦ I understand you are looking long-termâ€¦   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Long term, I believe what he is going to do, but Ryan and Aaron will do, we live with that forecast, which is a powerful tool. And he will look in because it is about â€“ in this case you are adding a recurring, ongoing cost. So what does that do in our years? Because whatever it is this year, it is this year and next year and the year after that they have to analyze the effect of that and therefore cost, along with what growth to be doing as well. And like I say, it is easier in an area where you know you are going to have growth, because you are going to catch up to it.   
  
It is not as easy if we are in a situation where we may not have growth in that fund for revenue. Then it is going to be a little bit of an issue or problem.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
So that is my question.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
We need to look at in the general fund, we can tell you that forwarding you just fund the first three years out of the ARPA funds, if you recall the five-year forecast for the (unknown name) fund and the second to the last in the last year, both of them had 9 million deficits. See you are taking part of the expenses in that $9 million deficit and saying... And that is on a flat rate. In all years. In the forecast. That was the five-year forecast back in June. So that is the caution I think George is referring to.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Just a little conflicting to me, because when I and provided the staffing request for that look, for the coming years, I would assume staff is already done that analysis onâ€¦ If we are proposing that this year we are going to hire these people, and when the approval on that, then we are looking at next year and next year, I would assume that that has already been looked at. Right?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
Those positions are in the forecast but there is also a $9 million deficit in the forecast. A flat village rate for the next three years.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I hear you. It is being proposed, thenâ€¦   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
Advancing the deficit causing...   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Right. OK. Thank you.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Danny had something today. I just wanted to add, what is going to come down to in the final analysis is we are going to have to decide what the priorities are. Public safety, clean water, Mr Robbins?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
They can also be thought about if we are willing to commit to that right now... Commit to raising taxes in the future if we are going to jump to other things. At another angle you could possibly look at is, can we ride or council manager, is there a model of their where we can strengthen our part-time program, to fill some of the slots. Heather do you know anything like that?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
If we canceled a number of part-time positions.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
What I am saying, look up with a successful model and we may see a cost savings... In the meantime as we play catch up, but we are not getting all of these extra fees associated with getting us further and further.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Ben?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
A lot of people this year wanted to go... Which grates a major budget issue in the future. And even any kind at all. So you start putting funding in the future, three years down the road, nine or $10 million deficit, not even counting the things we have no clue can come up, you are in a lot of trouble. I am against adding anything that we are not planning.   
  
He starts using these funds to put on people now, where we have to pay the piper later, and then you are really going to have people upset when you start looking and say, "we have one of two choices. Lay off people, which is your biggest group, that is where most of your money is. Or totally do away with a lot of good projects we have out there that affects the citizens, such as parks, children's programs, being able to help the rental programs, all of this. All of a sudden for today's game, we are going to cut on the throat in the future. Or whoever is sitting here in the future. And we have to remember that. That no matter what, we have to leave this place thinking about that here. And right now we are not. He is doing it. Interest as hard as he is doing it, we are fighting it. And we have to be careful there.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I do want to make a comment. My stance for a long time has actually been that I am not willing to tax the citizens any further until I see priorities shifting to cover the areas that I feel are of the greatest need. And not to shift toward EMS fire, corrections, any of those areas where we desperately need it. And until those kind of things are priority, I am absolutely not willing to tax the citizens one more time. Until those kinds of things are put into priority. Things like water quality, things like that. But certainly, Public Safety number one. And that has not been there. We keep hearing about the staffing. Need I keep trying to say "let's use some of the ARPA funds to address this, let's try to address in any way possible." So that is where I stand on taxing the citizens.   
  
If we were running smooth and our priorities were totally on track and we were â€“ EMS had adequate response times, I was not getting emails from corrections daily, from their guys, and I was not hearing that our fire departments are responding with two people on a truck, then I might be looking at OK, absolutely. I am willing to look at anything, if we are providing the adequate service.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
I think we do have to remember we are doing â€“ there is already multiple things in the works here â€“ EMS, we know that corrections is getting adjusted, but two, when it comes to the fire, the union president was inherent meeting or two ago that supported this current budget. That is not saying that it is toward looking things in the future, but it also comes down to that word, budget. Once again, it is like changing the tires. Or putting the cart in front of the horse.   
  
We do have to budget for these things. But if we get ahead of ourselves, and jump forward â€“ the money does not grow on trees. We are going to have to come up with it somewhere. We have to pick a direction...   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Ben Johnson?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
We are in a pandemic. We are using resources that normally you never have to use. We are not the only people there, last meeting we talked about (unknown name) County, both of them commending the paper saying "do not call us if you do not have to because we are at the limit" last weekend Lake County added to that also, on TV, that because of the pandemic they are short... You cannot always... For the always worst scenario. You cannot afford to do it that way.   
  
A good job, power is pretty much up to far, ambulances are doing pretty good, but right now we cannot even fill the positions that we have working on that. So to keep adding positions, especially when we get back to some part of the norm, you just got to take in remember, you up to play for the course but you have to budget the best you can. We cannot keep adding, adding, adding, and one day we break the bank and break those people's back. Because that is what is going to happen. Because what we do today affects you from now on, because when you at a person. No matter how you of them. If you put them on previous year, you have to pay them next year. That is added to the budget. And the year after that it is going to jump some more.   
  
So the more you add, the more it is. We have already heard from nine or $10 million, going on three or four years. We do not want use our emergency funds. If we thing about that we better think about Louisiana today and how many of those people have the funds to sit down and start trying to recover. That is something we have looked at, so we sure do not want to get into that. This pandemic money is going to go away and we are going to pay the price for that someday from the federal government. We have to be more responsible. We have to take and live with what we can.   
  
They are constantly between Joe's people, the Sheriff's office, the dispatch, they are trying to find more and more ways... To keep people out of the ambulances. The key is not just "let's add people, add people and add ambulances" that was my second time on this and I think we need to start thinking about Roberts rules about how we beat this kind of round.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
We need to have discussion on priorities. Attracting entrepreneurs that start new business, attracting new business. There are certain things that they are looking at, we have a responsibility to keep the county financially sound. But we also have a responsibility to all the people that sit out here that faced the same things that we face. Everything is going up with inflation, insurance has gone up, beer has gone up, wheat has gone up, everything that you buy at the store, everything that you do costs more.   
  
We have to look at rising taxes from the public's point of view and from the point of view of government. It is not easy. It comes down to priorities. Right now, after 9 o'clock, don't have a heart attack.   
  
Public Safety is number one for local government. In our county, water quality is a high priority unless we want to just stand by and watch the lagoon died, the St. John's River died, soâ€¦ We have to put all the priorities on the table. We have to make reductions.   
  
When I look at the full rollback, there are no cuts. We are gaining $5.2 million even at full rollback. What we are talking about is a reduction in the rate of increase because of very real fact is that I just mentioned. The county faces all those same factors.   
  
We are going to have to reduce the rate of increase in some areas as a compromise to provide a budget that doesn't require our residents to continually have tax increases and doesn't jeopardize our county's financial status. It's not easy but we have to do it.   
  
Does anyone else have a question for Ryan? Thank you, Ryan.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
You are not matching today.   
  
AARON VAN KLEECK:   
That was intentional.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
He said every counsel day he is not wearing black anymore.   
  
AARON VAN KLEECK:   
True story.   
  
SPEAKER:   
There is a public comment card.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
You are here for item 2? We have one public comment. I want to thank both of you publicly. What's the public doesn't know is within the last four weeks probably everyone on this counsel has sent you special requests for, "let's look at this a different wayâ€¦" And you have produced everything that we asked for plus you are in the midst of getting something elseâ€¦ Some other horrendous monster that is due today. Public comment: John Nicholson.   
  
SPEAKER:   
John Nicholson, Daytona Beach. I know you are under a lot of pressure because there is an election year coming up and you have to hold the line. (unknown name) was extremely proud that he did rollback for seven years. We had a 27 increase in our taxes after he retired because it had to be done.   
  
Voters asked you to raise taxes for amendment 10. We knew there was going to be at cost for that. They asked for a $15 minimum wage, they knew there was going to be a cost for that. They approved echo, Volusia forever. They elected Biden, they knew there was going to be a cost for that. Like what you are going through today.   
  
They knew that we were going to raise taxes. And now they are saying, "We don't want you to raise taxes, we want you to get all of these things for free." There is no free lunch. When you ask for things, you have to pay for them. I am asking you to resist the temptation not to explain, because you have to explain to them. You asked for these things. We voted.   
  
When the majority votes, they get what they ask for. You have to give $3 million a year, for five years. And down the line, you will have to pay the piper. We have been told by staff, and I believe it to be true, because I lived through it, been there done that. There will be a consequence in two or three years to what you are doing today. Alright?   
  
In addition to what you already know, we have been told that that $12 million will be a recurring fund in five years. 3 million a year for five years. That $15 million will have to be paid every year. (unknown name) will have to be paid $8 million every year. You don't get a pass on any of this amount. You have to explain to the public that this is what is coming down the pipeline.   
  
You can go through the 3% and save them a couple of pennies, or you can go through the 5%, but Jeff, you didn't know when he ran for office that the pandemic was going to hit. You didn't know that all of these things were going to hit. It is nice to save money, but at some pointâ€¦ We have had rollback for 11 years? You have gone through 11 years of no increase. Can any of you say that nobody got a raise increase in their pay? You have never seen gas or bread or anything else increase?   
  
We cannot live in a society where nothing increases. Taxes at some point have to increase. Thank you.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. Another comment. Jeremy (unknown name)?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Mr. chair, counsel, good morning. My name is Jeremy (unknown name), I am president of the firefighters Association 35574. I would like to thank the Council for the true passion that shows in every meeting.   
  
I cannot imagine the decisions you face every day, especially now. I am here to comment on the general funding and allocation of ARPA funds. Fire rescue greatly relies on the services of the general fund. It helps keep our fleet running. Our road and bridge department clears the way for emergency vehicles, our corrections department ensures that lifesaving personal protection equipment is decontaminated, and our service department works hard to keep our aging fire stations working the best they can.   
  
A cut to the general fund is a catch to fire rescue. It is a huge loss to our community which is already stressed and antiquated fire and EMS system. The fund suffered a massive blow of $1 million due to last year's rollback. And didn't receive any money to assist with this shortfall. It is not currently selected for any relief with ARPA funds.   
  
The $1 million shortfall could have provided a relief factor to assist with 1300 forced shifts members have worked and a $2.2 million overtime budget. Our stations with ambulance in the farthest areas in the county from hospitals are routinely stripped off personnel to help elsewhere. Leaving even more resources should an emergency arise.   
  
With an exhausted EMS system, overstressed firefighter paramedic, and labor union ready to work through problems, ARPA funds would kill two birds with one stone. We definitely need updates and relocations forecast for our growth. Firefighter paramedics continue to work thousands of force hours beyond their normal schedule to keep the community safe. We continue to sacrifice health on time with loved ones and are proud to do so.   
  
Many of these force hours and stations infested with rats are problem and our station works tirelessly to resolve it. New updated stations are desperately needed. I do not represent other departments and don't wish them to experience a rollback. We deserve safe work areas and restoring off work life balance. I support the fund Mr. Reckenwald has proposed. He truly cares about the safety of our systems and the prosperity of our community and our county employees.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. Tricia Cobb is our final speaker unless you have more? Good.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good morning, everyone. I know you are having a busy day but thank you for taking time to listen to me. I do appreciate your service.   
  
Of the many years I have lived in Volusia County, this is the year you are in the best position to give us tax relief. My head is swirling thinking of $96 million in cares act. 170,000,004 ARPA. I know you can easily allow us to pay our taxes with the rollback rate of 5.20. Let's look at Echo and forever. We are now paying double for each.   
  
Did voters understand how you presented it on the budget? 1/5 mill is .20, many voters did not know they would be paying double. The wording on the ballot was remiss.   
  
Let's look at another way government seems to be growing. We are paying for the Port Authority coastal division and now Echo has grown with funding and staffing. Your mission statements convey that these are three quality of life benefits to residents and visitors. Please reduce your 3% and 5% options in these overlapping areas, just a suggestion.   
  
Closing beach ramps would give residents who can walk or bike to the beach an opportunity to enjoy it again. I propose closing these ramps. I like them, but it is not silly for you to propose closing ramps when it gives you more money? I could go on and on about these reductions, but I know you can do better for us, and manage what we give you better. Thank you for your time.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Thank you. You are back on. (Laughs) she didn't really want that attention.   
  
SPEAKER:   
She really didn't want that attention (Laughs).   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good morning. At the August 3 Council meeting, Council give us direction to look at a 3% and 5% reduction to recommended budget in the general fund for public nonpublic safety or external areas. These areas include community services, roads and resource management, coastal, business services, finance, human resources, recreation and culture, facilities, and information technology. I guess I can get rid of that right now.   
  
Also included were subsidies to economic development. The budget for these areas totaled 75 million, $372,974, or 21.3% of the general fund recommended budget of 352 million... 3% reduction would be the 2,000,261... A 5% reduction would be $3,700,000.   
  
Leadership met to discuss the most logical way to approach these reductions, and based on discussions with counsel we were told to look at reductions that made sense and Outlook to defer facility maintenance needs. Any reductions presented today would have to be ongoing, unless funding is reallocated.   
  
So if directed by counsel to implement the 3% reduction, we are recommending the following reductions. We would reduce economic development new infrastructure incentive funding by $1,593,439. Each year, the general fund transfers money to economic development fund. Approximately 50% of those transfers defined personal and operating cost, which includes team Volusia, the small business in Cabinda program and legislative program. The remaining 50% is allocated to infrastructure incentive funding to attract new industries or launch new economic programs.   
  
To be clear, counsel approves all new infrastructure or incentive programs, so the money is not spent by staff without oversight. But with this reduction, that would still be 8.2 million available for such programs. The reduction to parks and recreation programs of $62,750 represents the elimination of the have more thought event held in conjunction with the Daytona international Speedway. This event no longer fits into the Speedway's plans. The counting reduction of 30,000 is made possible by the new audit contract Council adopted on August 17 Council meeting. When creating the budget months in advance, staff was unsure which agency would be awarded or the total value of the new contract. Now that the contract has been on boarded this amount can be reduced from the budget or appropriate word reserves for reduction...   
  
Our other option is to find the marine science center capital â€“ we already spoke about that during the last item. The total would be $2.9 million, $2,945,000. The reduction for FY two would be $575,000 and the balance would be in the forecasters that would allow us to get those reductions annually. The total reductions under the 3% scenario equal $2,261,189. And the new general fund millage will be 5.3950.   
  
If directed by counsel to implement the 5% reductions, we are recommending the following reductions. The same reductions that we just talked about in the 3% scenario, with an additional $221,164 reduction to the economic development infrastructure funding. With this reduction, we would still be a .1 million available for infrastructure and incentives. We are also recommend eliminating new staffing requests for the internal auditors office. Our internal auditors request to add a staff auditor, and his request was included in the recommended budget. Currently, there is no support staff in his office. In his request was to add staff in order to increase the number of audit reports released annually.   
  
We are also recommending that we reduce the general fund â€“ funding for land management. In 21/22, staff included an annual transfer of $250,000 into the land management fund to supplement Volusia forever funding. With general funds. The intent of this transfer was to provide some level of funding to manage the lens that were purchased prior to the Volusia forever program. This reduction would mean that all expenditures are paid from Volusia forever regardless of the funding source used for the purpose. It is important to note, that once and forever expires, the general fund will be burdened with the total cost of the land management unless that item is extended again.   
  
Another recommendation is to eliminate the conversion to micro soft exchange email... Implementation of a new Microsoft outlook email system. Eliminating this request with me the county would continue on our current email system.   
  
The remaining reductions needed to achieve the 5% scenario worse adjusted by the following divisions.   
  
The coastal division, reductions include closing 3B tramps during off-season. Williams rep and Florida shores ramp in Daytona would be closed during the off-season completely. Crawford ramp would be reduced to weekends only in the off-season. Reductions are realized from reduced toll taker and ramp reading cost.   
  
Coastal is also suggesting reducing a number of times poured a service during the year round... Currently during... This reduction would make it four times a week annually, year-round. They are also suggesting to reduce the beach ramp sweeping. This is done multiple times a year to prevent beach sand from being blown up. So they are recommending reducing that activity.   
  
Another reduction option is the beach kiosk found near the restrooms that feature educational information and are currently printed and maintained by coastal staff. This reduction would eliminates such printing. They are also recommending to and find a current vacant position responsible for operational contract maintenance in the coastal division.   
  
Parks and Recreation is recommended to reduce the number of summer field trips for their summer recreation program. Down from three weekly to two. The savings would come from entry fees and bus costs related to the field trips. An alternative to this reduction could be to increase the summer recreation fee that is currently set at $65 per week.   
  
Parks is also a committee to unfound a currently vacant position responsible for office administration and financial management within the parks division, and the duties would be split amongst current staff.   
  
Growth and resource management reductions. Growth and resource management is commending to downgrade to position classifications. One would be at the Marine science Center, and the other one would be reducing a full-time environment a specialist to part-time. The full-time to part-time reduction will reduce the division's ability to conduct water quality sampling by increasing the workload on other staff members. We are also recommending to reduce grant match funding for the water quality and sustainability projects. Currently, there is 95,000 allocated to the grant match line. The reduction would be $57,411.   
  
The river clean up allocation reduction would leave 3674 budgeted within additional funds available through the Florida inland navigation District. Another option for the growth and resource management division would be to raise the entry fees at the Marine science center by one dollar, which could generate an estimated 64,000 in annual revenue. Currently, the rates are five dollars for adults, four dollars for seniors and three dollars for youth.   
  
Community information would under this scenario, they would unfriend a currently vacant position, which will have some impact on the division's ability to fulfill a demand for information services. Total reductions under the 5% scenario equal $3,768,649, into the general fund millage rate would be 5.3583.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I am sorry Aaron, say again the one position...   
  
SPEAKER:   
It is a senior bargaining specialist, part-time.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Could you go over one more time the growth and resource management, the reduce grant matching funds, I want to make sure I understand what you are proposing.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Every year growth and resource management has great match funding for water quality and sustainability project so that that money is available to match other dollars from other entities. So they are recommending to reduce that funding to $57,411 from their $95,000 budget.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
We could replace that with ARPA funds. Would it qualify?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Under the resolute -- revenue loss provision it would qualify.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
What you are looking at here... At the beginning of this presentation, every one of these, some sort of ongoing effect. The main reason that is viewed as ongoing as there is so much in the forecast here. Everything else here has an ongoing reduction to it. So if you could fund the reduction and grant match, approximately 40,000 out of ARPA funds you would be looking at doing that every year. Obviously there is an end to the ARPA funds. In order to make these reductions â€“ reduce the millage rate... Rollback discussion and everything else. It is kind of like the baseline. Our new baseline budget for grant match funding is 57,000.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
What was the amount we gave last year for grants?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Last year, 45,000 was expended in FY 20, and to date there is a $25,000 match process will and here this is budgeted, any unspent funds in the great mesh liner returned to the general fund. The river cleanup is done in conjunction with the Florida and land navigation district every year. This would reduce the amount we put toward that program, there would still be funds available from the Florida inland navigation district. And we would still put $370,000 into the river cleanup.   
  
SPEAKER:   
What would we put in without a reduction?   
  
SPEAKER:   
$13,674. A $10,000 reduction has been suggested.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Did you purposely pick things you know I like?   
  
SPEAKER:   
I did not purposely pick anything from the divisions... Management met and we try to find areas that would at least be impactful first. That is why you saw the first page of the 5% reductions, that was George, Suzanne, Ryan and I sitting in trying to identify the areas that would have the least impact on the community and on our divisions. And under the 3% scenario, we did not have to ask anything from the divisions because we were able to achieve that 3% with the recommendations that we came up with. The 5% we still had a little bit of a shortfall, so we went to these divisions and asked for their reductions, and this is what's was submitted from...   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Good answer.   
  
SPEAKER:   
This is the last slide. It must have any other questions, what we are looking for today is a direction on what to bring back at the September 7 public budget hearing. No reductions to the recommended budget would be a general fund flat millage rate of 5.45. Again, the 3% reduction would be $2.3 million reduction without general fund partial millage rate rollback of 5.3950. 5% reduction would be $3.8 million with a partial rollback millage rate of 5.3583.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Question on eliminating the conversion of Microsoft a change email. Personally, natural way that is not even on there. Because that is really... Current technology. That to me seems like a definitive thing that absolutely would need to be done, period. But it is $472,000 to get us to inappropriate email system across the board. But that is one time monies. So we could use ARPA funds for that, correct? Isn't there an ongoing cost to the current email system?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
The first year additional cost or additional cost, surprise it is less expensive, that is the truth.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
How much less are we looking at to get us where we need to be for maintenance every year?   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
Currently, what was submitted I think the highest that year was 100. However, there is a lot of further analysis that needs to be done. This was the first are moving forward. IT has been working painfully with our approved vendor, (unknown name), to get the cost of actually doing this conversion. And there are several ways you can do the conversion. Whether that is going to be palatable to all users is unknown, there is a lot of exploring that is being done. There are different ways you could do an email conversion. You could go with an on premises Microsoft exchange server. You can go with Microsoft 365. Microsoft 3625 has many different levels of service. In order to make the cost in that year's a little less expensive, they are proposing to do a lower level tier of Microsoft 365, which would actually remove the local clients office sweep. And all of those would only be accessible via the cloud. However, we have not piloted whether that is actually going to be palatable. It is cheaper, and makes this appear to be a cheaper alternative, and that is what we submitted in the budget to lessen the effect of that. But they are still testing that needs to be done. Brian is here, he knows a lot more about this.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
My suggestion on that would be whatever we need to do to get us to Microsoft email. Which is what everyone else is using. And it actually works as well. Consistently. To use ARPA funds for that and not use that as part of the reduction rate. It seems like any annual â€“ we would need to pay annual fees to get us to 2021 in technology across the board anyway. We have learned our lesson there as well. I do not look at it as a continuing cost in that way. That would be my suggestion for that. Not using it as part of the reduction. But as part of the ARPA.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
We did not actually propose a reduction of the entire amount, so there are additional recurring transfers in both of these scenarios. If you wanted to fund the Microsoft exchange project still, we can look at that. Funding it out of ARPA when we don't know what the costs are, we put in an estimate because we thought it would be possible. That was months ago, they have been researching further and they are still not sure whether office in the cloud is going to work the way staff needs it to work. It is just unknown, really.   
  
There could be a recurring cost to that. That is why ARPA was not recommended for this particular project.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Barb is raising the flag. Danny, do you want to let Barb go first? Go ahead.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Thank you, chair. I asked staff to consider or bring back the 3% reduction and I'm satisfied with what was represented there. I would support the 3%.   
  
RYAN OSSOWSKI:   
I want to circle back to make it really clear. If you want to do the 3%, that doesn't affect Microsoft anyway, nevermind.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Danny Robins?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
I did some research, and this might sound crazy, but there is cities and counties all across America saving up to 75% of their energy just switching so they don't lose some of the services we are providing to folks and keep what we have here. Switching to LED lights and looking at these ticket items that we use every day and reducing those costs long-term.   
  
I'm using an article right here where they are saving 75% over the course of many years on electricity. Can we take those savings to keep this or plan ahead and look at that area? Same thing with water, a high usage item that we have.   
  
AARON VAN KLEECK:   
Historically, we have done some initiatives.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
LED lighting is something we have done consistently. There is LED lighting at the (unknown name) center that is coming up. We are always looking for those opportunities. Same with water usage. They started as green initiatives, but the real green was saving money. We will continue that. That is an ongoing effort that will definitely continue.   
  
We have had a lot of success. I can tell you, you take the EEOC, and I think the electric bill for that is similar to what our other EEOC was, which was a fraction of the size. We put a lot of effort into money-saving and certainly energy-saving ideas. We will continue that. That will help.   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
I know there is technology out there about using graywater in facilities to cut down water consumption by using you so border, it goes down a toilet tank, but there are cities and other counties experiencing great cost savings, and there is tons of benefit to it.   
  
I like everything I see here, and the people taking the effect are our folks. Not to mention the layoffs we will have to do for our beach ramps in this time of recovery, putting people out on the streets, our employees. I'm not for that.   
  
AARON VAN KLEECK:   
On the beach ramps, you are right but they are not county employees their own contract.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Did touch on what you are saying, Danny, in the last conference I went to, I sat down and talked for an hour and 1/2 with the lady from F BNL and that was her focus and her job was to go to various municipalities and counties and go through and figure out how to lessen the cost for electric.   
  
It is my understanding she has talked with our facilities director on that and they are working on a couple of things. I would definitely support continuing that as well. There he is! How are you? We don't see that often.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good afternoon, councilmembers. We have been in contact with FP NL (?) this is an energy savings performance contract. So you would put in efficient technologies, the cost would be financed by third party. It will cost the county nothing. Utility bills remain the same. So you pay for those upgraded infrastructure via the savings you get from the upgraded technologies.   
  
We are working on that right now and hope to get something out on the street here this year.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Excellent, thank you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
thank you.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
We are getting away from the subject at hand. This is the kind of thing that definitely something you see there, you put it in writing and give it to them, because it is things we need to look at all year long is how we cut the budget. We are micromanaging where we are right now.   
  
I don't like the other things we lose at 5%. I wish I could live with their rollback but we will put ourselves in bad financial straits in the future if we do this. I will make a motion to accept the 3% reduction, making the the rate 5.390.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Who had the first second?   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
I think Danny.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Second by Danny Robins. Any discussion before I call for the vote on going to the partial rollback with 3% cuts? 3% reductions. Is that your motion? I don't want to miss state it.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
My comment would just be restating what I stated earlier.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I will call for the vote. Would you call the roll?   
  
(Roll Call)   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
The motion passes. Four to two, with one absent. This will come before the Council and the public at which meeting?   
  
SPEAKER:   
September 7 at 6 PM for another tentative vote. That is not the final budget hearing. We are recommending that will be on the 21st, but you will set that date at the September 7 hearing.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather Post.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
We voted on the 3%, but I'm wondering if we can take anyâ€¦ If the Council is not looking at the full 5% reduction, if there is any of these we can still put into effect to make some further reductions? Even though it is not the full 5%? Perhaps that is a management decision orâ€¦?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
What she is suggesting, and it is a good idea, that we just passed 3%, are there any reductions under 5% that we could also include to get just a little bit more?   
  
For me, reducing River cleanup is a nonstarter, we need to keep the river clean. But when I look at the beach stuff, I don't want to see anybody lose their position, but my responsibility is to all the taxpayers of Volusia County.   
  
If we have a contractor who will reduce three positions, maybe move them somewhere else, then I think that is a reasonable cost.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Who wants to reduce porta potty cleaning? Not me!   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I don't know if we are cleaning them every day or four days. I don't know what the difference would be. I know if you go for a week, it is a big difference, butâ€¦ Would you have recommended that if it was going to create a public nuisance? Here she comes. (Laughs)   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good morning. Currently we are in the off-season which is the day after Labor Day through February 1, we clean them four times per week. We focus them on busy weekends, and then from February 1 through Labor Day, we clean them daily.   
  
You can live with that, yes. Do we have a line of people using them? No. You do when you have 1000 people on Memorial Day weekend, but they are getting cleaned anyway by the Porter service. The impact might be on your morning walker who walks the same beach every morning and they kind of have a schedule. They always stop at a certain location and they do their morning business.   
  
We always respond, if there is graffiti, if it needs to be maintained, we will come within 24 hours. We just don't have scheduled daily service during off-season.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I would like to ask your question about eliminating educational printing. I don't know if it is true but I hear frequently that those are one of the things that the beach cleanup people are always picking up and cleaning up.   
  
Is that a wise investment? Are we getting information out, in your opinion, or are they all ending up blowing up and down the beach?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Are you talking about the pressures we hand out at tollbooths?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Yes.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Those are required according to conservation plan. We cannot eliminate them. In the next generation of tolls, we are looking at a different way other than in writing, but we need approval from the service on the state as well. What this references on the reduction proposal, is every single one of your restrooms have an old-school kiosk where we put our advertisements. We post for jobs ourselves.   
  
There are some nicer educational materials out there that are provided by NWC that you can pay for, this is eliminating those. It is switching more to a grassroots â€“ I get a PDF from a local volunteer group that wants to advertise. I may put that out instead.   
  
So it is using more free educational resources versus spending for higher-quality resources. You just have to remember that if I printed at my desk, it is going to fade within a week and 1/2 so I am just going to have to print more often.   
  
We also use that money to pay for some of the other signs that were mandated by councilmembers in certain areas. So that human trafficking signs, we use that money for. That is what that item reflects.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Do not go away. Barb is going to have a question. But my last one will have you there is, and fund one position. Is that a current position or an unfilled position?   
  
SPEAKER:   
It is a current position on our roster that is not filled at the moment. I knew this was coming down a couple of months ago so we held off on it, Mr Recktenwald and (unknown name) made the decision since we are going into the off-season to see how this would flush out.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Barb did you have a question?   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I did. I know when I came on counsel, one of my concerns at the beach was like a visible education and notice to the public. And I saw that enhanced and improved over the course of that time. So if this has anything to do with that impact, I do not support changing that. Because I think the more information, the more education to the public, the better.   
  
SPEAKER:   
This is completely separate (indiscernible) printing budget, they are the ones that... The risks and flag colors you spoke about with us previously. This is strictly for educational information on different issues, we talk about turtles, lighting, stuff we can print off internally. It is just not going to be a high-quality Manatee signposted. We are just going to cut down on that printing.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
OK, thank you. I think we have already voted on the 3%, if there are other areas to tweak, let the staff bring them back and let us discuss it on the seventh. I do not think we have to nickel and dime this at this moment.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
That is a good suggestion. I think I was going to ask George, because I want to make sure that he and his staff have plenty to work on. Suzanne I will talk to youâ€¦ Can you take this 5% page and bring us back at that meeting, things that you are comfortable with, things the Council could consider?   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
It is probably best if you are going to do that, if you were going to do it, to walk through some of that now. Because once we get there, we are going toâ€¦ It can be done. But in the hearing situation, it is just a little bit more difficult to work on the fly. Let's just say that. But he has got the ability to talk about each of those items if you want to see. And he can have the Association â€“ associated village removed. That is totally up to what you guys want to do.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
We already voted, since they did not support it, let them identify them.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I actually do not mind doing that. I cannot make a motion, but I would like to consider â€“ we voted on three, I am happy with that 3% reduction. I am glad for that. But I would not mind going through each one of these and having the Council decide, yes we could do that too. I cannot make a motion to do that if somebody else wants to, I would go through those and add to it.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I think you can suggest which ones you are concerned with.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK. What was your motion, Heather?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I would move to do that.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
He would move to consider each one?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Just to go through and see if counsel is interested. I think staff is looking for direction on each one as to whether or not we are good with taking one or the other off. The 3%, I was absolutely in favor of a reduction for sure. Of 3%. And I would be in favor of reducing more. And counsel agreed they did not want to do the full 5%. But again, certainly if there is some additional. My suggestion would be these unfilled positions is a good place to start.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Yes. In my feeling is, these kinds of reductions that have been offered here do not put us in the financially irresponsible position. It is savings, it is the reduction in the increase, so there is a motion on the table. Is there a second?   
  
DANNY ROBINS:   
Just for clarity, being that they are unfunded, does that money come back, it comes out of the general fund?   
  
SPEAKER:   
If we unfunded positions we just would not budget the money for those positions. We would not fill them the following year.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
I recommend the County manager come back next time with unfunded positions, I am not against it. I just want to hear more about it. Maybe we want one or two or all three of them, but we hear more of what their duties are. Just what are their duties, how much effect would it have, just something short of that. I would like to go back to the last screen again. I would take it and maybe ask â€“ what do you say, they do it five days a week? Seven days a week?   
  
SPEAKER:   
During the in season they service daily, seven days a week. What we are proposing is to drop it down to four days a week and save approximately, just under $51,000 a year. But we would still provide service calls. So you have a portal let that is in complete disrepair and has been trust -- trust and meets service. 24 hours tops.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
I have no problem with that. Look at it and see how it goes... Inspector all summer long, you like the beach?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Not that part of it.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
But I think we could look at that. How often do we sweep the beach? On the ramps?   
  
SPEAKER:   
The beach sweeping is usually done after major holidays due to sand that has trapped upland like a (unknown name) beach.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
It would be a little bit afraid of that because of safety. That sand gets up into the 818 and you have got bicycles, you have got cars, I would be a little afraid of that. I hate to do anything with the parks and recreation, you are dealing with children during the summer, we are doing something... I hate to do anything with the water quality and all of that.   
  
I think right there, that we look at those things right there and Jesse â€“ say we want them. Say we want to get an idea about it.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Unfunded does not mean unnecessary. Unfunded or unfilled just means right now it is not a filled position. If they had to sacrifice something in these departments, that is what they were willing to do. But not that that is the best thing to be done.   
  
(Multiple speakers)   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
To hear more about those positions.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I think the department heads did bring back these recommendations. I think what you did been, but the County manager give it back to us. Would that not be the best way to do it, would be?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
And I agree with that. But that is just a couple of things we could get right at the first of that meeting. So we can look at it and say "this is what these people do and here's what we need" and we will also be talking to them at our next one-on-one. They can pretty much fill us in one at a time there about what they found, and C, can we do this logically â€“ we do not have to more than we have to on the next meeting. I think we are going to have plenty anyway. So we have got a pretty good idea of what we might be able to look at to save a few more dollars.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK. We had a motion on the table. Did we get a second? I am not going to be so mean as to ask you to restate the motion, because it was too long. But the motion I believe Heather, was to look at these 5% reductions and decide if there is anything we can keep. Pardon me, say that again?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
On the things we instructed right here.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK. I do not see any more hands up. So I will call for the vote. Who is in favor of the motion? Say "I". Any opposed? So that motion carries, George is excited.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
Yes, sir.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Question on the expectations for the job. We went through each of the positions and said whether they were filled, unfilled, funded, and funded, what they did. Because I wrote that down. What is the expectation from staff to come back with additional information? Do you want a full job description? What are we asking staff to do other than?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
I want them to tell us how important they are â€“ tell us one on one, then we can decide when we get in our next meeting.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Again, the coastal position, it was explained that it is not currently failed. And she held off anticipating if you had to cut somewhere, that this is one of the areas she was willing to sacrifice. But she did not say it was an unneeded position. So I would like to hear the same for the parks position, and for the community service. Are they available to speak on it now?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
They are. Here comes Donna Butler.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Donna Butler, community services director. I think it was at least nine months ago, we have reorganized parks and not fill this position. This position, finance the budgeting, so each of the other activity contract managers now the budget, they helped put it together, they manage it. So we are fine.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
What about senior marketing? Is that under you as well?   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
I make a motion that we put this position out.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I agree. We have a motion to underfund one position from parks and recreation. A motion by Johnson, second by post. All in favor say "I." Any opposed?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Kevin Captain, community information director. Post mentioned a senior marketing specialist. I would like to just read a statement. Community information is tasked with providing information services both internally and to all economy departments and divisions. As well as externally to the news media and public. Like many areas of county government, the demands on community information for information and videography have increased exponentially in the last few years. Particularly, since the start of the pandemic. Which has continued to change the way we deliver information.   
  
Of primary importance, is the expansion of our presence on social media and the enhanced use of video production to penetrate different demographics and more effectively tell our story to a multigenerational audience that receives its information from a growing number of nontraditional sources. Dealing with giving information right now in five different generations. Community information also has a growing need to expand marketing efforts for all of the county divisions. Community information also has expanded its role in providing community information services to directly support the County Council.   
  
In doing all of this, community information, just like most county divisions, has learned to work harder and smarter and do more with less. However, the need, desire and demand for increasingly more information services will continue to challenge available resources. And as this occurs, this part-time marketing position â€“ marketing specialist position, will become increasingly more necessary in the order for the division to complete, continue the necessary expectations and effectively fulfill the growing need for information services.   
  
SPEAKER: I am many times one of those asking for more information and for us to be more visible and present in a variety of ways to a diverse and inclusive market.   
I am making the motion to maintain and not cut this position.   
  
SPEAKER: Seconded   
  
SPEAKER: Motion to maintain and keep this position. Let me state the motion so 2nd motion to maintain by Girtman seconded by everybody else.   
  
SPEAKER:   
One of our problems is not getting information out. We're causally hampered by social media. Our biggest problem is our failure to notify the public so they have an idea of what we're doing and the correct information. It's getting more and more social news media and less and less newspaper and less less TV. I don't know how we can do effectively do our job to let our citizens know what is happening.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I read this earlier I thought is a community services I was not sure what it was. Certainly have had many discussions with staff on this division and the fact that this division is not just responsible for social media you are responsible for branding and that has been consistent especially now that were working on the branding of the county and the County of administration. So your division is tremendously important especially in today's technological world. Everything needs to be out yesterday and on several different platforms and not just social media. So in keeping up with things that is so so important that Volusia County keep up whether it's an email system or this division or whatever it is we keep up with technology and we keep up with those types of things. Now that I know what this position is for to me it is a no-brainer I would absolutely pay for this position. I would not want to get rid of it.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Kevin? You know that your department has become one that I use every day. You and I sometimes communicate at midnight on Saturday night. This is for Monday, don't answer now and then you answer immediately.   
  
I know how important you are. I wish there was a way to charge the press for having you, and your staff do all the research for them. Then it would be a revenue source.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I think there is maybe we can talk about that later.   
  
SPEAKER: Yeah.   
  
SPEAKER: I think we want to blame him for reason the budget we gave him the position.   
  
SPEAKER: Priorities.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Here is my "however", and is not so much directed to this position. My however is if every department we are talking about in the general fund could reduce by one person for position that is not filled or just by attrition I think we solve our problem. We are all compassionate people. Nobody was to see somebody get laid off or fired.   
  
But I through attrition and I think there are positions we could do without. I may be this is it one. How many people understand?   
  
SPEAKER: We have 12 on communication, 3 production staff and a contractor that also helps because there's so much that goes on to just the videography alone. Even for this meeting there are literally wizards. RPIO works 24/7. We are a 24/7 service and we answer anytime day or night. Our job is to be responsive and provide adequate and factual information and our job is to serve you and the public. And I cannot tell you how grateful I am for every single team member on a team and for how hard they work. There's a worklife balance thing we have to be concerned about as well. And that is something that is always in the back of my mind because I will not call them on the weekend unless I really have to but I have to sometimes and sometimes many times.   
  
So with this position it is necessary and as you said in this day and age we need to get information out and be responsive because that is the expectation.   
  
SPEAKER: Please call the question.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
One quick question. You are a department of 12?   
  
SPEAKER: Yes, sir.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Why did you put this on here?   
  
SPEAKER: This is actually been on here it is a funded position and I have not yet filled it but I plan to fill it.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
We have departments that are much larger than yours. Who could probably do the same thing and that we would not be having this discussion. I will callâ€¦ Thank youâ€¦ I'm notâ€¦ You are my partner.   
  
SPEAKER: Just repeat we are too. We are here to serve. I can tell you every single person who works with the community information and the County Manager's office because we are all one team. They all come in ready to work and they will come through so we are here to continue to serve.   
  
SPEAKER: So I will call for the vote to keep this position which is basically the motion correct? All in favor say aye   
  
Aye   
  
Any opposed? Thank you   
  
SPEAKER: Thank you, Mister Chair and honorable members of Council.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I will make another motion to keep the coastal position.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
We have a motion to keep the one unfunded coastal position, you said there was a 2nd? Seconded by Danny.   
  
GEORGE RECKTENWALD:   
I wanted to point out that this is for the general fund. There are a lot of other departments that are larger and most of them are in funds that this would have not had any effect on. I wanted to keep that in mind as we discussed this. These are all very is funded by the general fund and not in any way a part of appropriated protection.   
  
That is why we are down into this area here because it is not in the general fund in the other areas are not in the general fund so were trying to understand that.   
  
SPEAKER: Yes, I think that was clear.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Question for Jessica. You said this was the general maintenance contract? Operational contract?   
  
SPEAKER: The formal position classification is project coordinator. With this position does is if you remember 2017 we had a big service discussion with the Council which would increase the daily rate and increased trash collection services. We got a new contract with concessions at that time. We have 3 positions and 3 project coordinator's approved at the discussion associate with the daily increased rate.   
  
In this position the primary responsibility is to be on the beach in an operational capacity on the weekends and holidays. On major days when the beach is going we need eyes and ears that can change a tollbooth, sitting ramp, move traffic, Colin Letts, say portal looks trashy and make sure everybody's where they need to be. Over time we have the 3â€¦ We had an ISP north and the we had ISP to the inlet and the inlet to the full beach and they also do janitorial inspections and make sure the bathroom janitors are cleaning up. If it is the Council's direction to underfund this one position, like always we pride ourselves on customer service and get the job done we will get the job done we will just expand the zones for each of the project coordinators.   
  
Where this would put us in the hindrance is if we get down position due to attrition or separation, then we are stuck with one person covering the whole zone and that would take away the resources.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
That would happen if you were down a position anywhere right?   
  
SPEAKER:   
That would we just promoted one that can happen sometimes.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Do we have a motion to have this?   
  
SPEAKER:   
A motion and 2nd to keep it and we are now discussing it.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I would just end after my question just saying certainly well I see the need it is being done right now and you feel confident it can still be done and we are looking for ways to tighten our belts so think this would be an opportune way to tighten our belt. So thank you.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Thanks, Mr. Chair, and at the risk of disagreeing with it. If it allowed to be filled in advertise. I will say were seen some of the highest rates on our beaches in history. It is the greatest beach in the world in my opinion and this would not be what I would relish and not feeling. One because we are constantly trying to keep our staff filled in the coastal section. It is hard to fill that and going back out with the contract for renewal this year which could bring a variety of additional things in and were continuously looking at adding new businesses on the beach especially for those outside of the contract.   
  
While I'm sure Jessica is right in this post is right that will do our best to maintain our beach this may be one area where I would suggest it would be imprudent. That is just my opinion.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Which is also why I made the motion considering where we are with COVID and outdoor activities being increase in utilization at our beaches and just the overall means for us to have a different presence for our visitors and users. What is the cost savings for this position? What would it be?   
  
SPEAKER:   
$62,094.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
For me, I have already made the motion, and if we can decide what's next, I would appreciate that.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I will call the question. It is my habit to give everybody appear a chance to ask questions and discuss. I think that is what we are here for. I find this painful that we must find ways to reduce the increase in government spending and government. We are arguing about one position here, one position there. We are going to have to do better than that, or the government is going to be out of control of the public (Coughs) â€“ excuse me â€“ to fund it.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Jeff, I hear you, but what people also don't get is that through attrition, we lost hundreds of people through the recession that were never recovered. I think you are not finding a lot of wasted over staffing. These people have been taking it on the chin for a very long time and done more than what would have been expected or learned how to be more efficient with what they have.   
  
I think things have grown. We have grown. The needs have grown. That's why I'm saying I don't think this one position for $60,000 is a make or break for us. I understand we need to cut where we can, but I think we have to be prudent about the resources that the public expects as well. When they call us and meet us, they want someone to show up.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
And I don't argue with any of that. You just said we've lost hundreds of people. Life went on. I don't get a lot of phone calls about "I call and nobody shows up." Parks and Recreation always shows up.   
  
I'm going to call the boat again. I respectfully disagree with you. When a director or department head put this on, if they don't think they survive, then they would do it. We have to find ways to reduce the rate of growth. We have to think about the public that is paying the taxes as well as the staff we see every day, that we respect, that we honor their hard work. There is a balance between both.   
  
I will call for the vote. All in favor of retaining this position in coastal? Say Aye.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
Aye.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Any opposed? Two opposed: Brower and Post. Motion carries, 4-2. Are there others?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Did we actually make a decision on the ramp and educational printing? What was the decision? It's a safety issue with the ramp if we don't sweep it?   
  
SPEAKER:   
We would not allow it to get to a safety issue. We would just reduce the frequency. If it does get to a point where the ramp becomes an issue, we will maintain it. I just won't be maintaining it as frequently. Our biggest times when we use this money are after holidays, but you also have your nor'easter's, your November, December, January. That is when you are going to have your based safety issue. We will not impact safety.   
  
SPEAKER:   
If it doesn't impact safety, I have no problem with cutting the frequency.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I move we do the sweeping and discuss the educational printing, just not doing the paid educational printing but still doing the actual advertising for County jobs or whatever. Just not doing the paid. I guess I combined the motion.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Would you consider adding one more?   
  
(Multiple speakers)   
  
HEATHER POST:   
(Laughs) Yes. Actually, I'm in favor of reducing everything on here except for the porta lets (?).   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Motion by Post to approve the closing of the three beach ramps, reduce ramp sweeping, and eliminate educational printing for beach kiosks.   
  
SPEAKER:   
I do want to clarify that you are closing them during off-season.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
All in favor say Aye. Any opposed? We are done with coastal. Anything else in Parks and Recreation?   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Where is Parks and rec? Do we know how much we spend on that and what kind of reduction we are looking at?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Reducing field trips.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I don't like that idea. I don't want to take it away from the kids. If you tell me it is $1,000,000, then we may reduce it.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good afternoon. When we are looking at field trips, there are bus costs as well as bus driver costs per hour. That is what we would be reducing, in addition to entrance fees. There are less participants right now.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
In fact, in this pandemic time, we have reduced that in the pandemic time anyway?   
  
SPEAKER:   
We reduced revenue by the entrance fee or participant fee, which is $65 per week. We reduced expenses by lower participation rates.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I see, but you have not reduced going out on the buses or anything due to COVID?   
  
SPEAKER:   
Instead of having 150 kids per side, we have 40. During COVID in the past summer, we had 40 participants per week. That reduced our operational expenses in the year that we are in. Going forward, after we leave COVID, our rates would go up. We believe they would go up to historical rates of 1200 kids per summer.   
  
What we are talking about here is that if you are doing one less field trip, instead of three field trips, you would be doing two field trips. That incremental difference would be the field trip entrance fee for each participant, as well as the bus driver cost. You only have two field trips versus three, so also less mileage for the bus costs. That is where the savings come from.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I guess my question is what portion of the $149366 is the unfunded position? To see what's left. That might be easier.   
  
SPEAKER:   
You want to know what the reduction for the field trip would be? $57,398 would be the reduction.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
When you say "reduce the number", you would maybe do...   
  
SPEAKER:   
Two instead of three.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
Two would be $57,000 less? I am asking if you are reducing, what are we looking at?   
  
SPEAKER:   
The amount reduced by is $57,398 by dropping one field trip.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
A field trip is $57,000? Wow. I was totally not...   
  
(Multiple speakers)   
  
SPEAKER:   
That is a total reduction, not one trip. Weekly field trips.   
  
SPEAKER:   
What is the age of your children?   
  
SPEAKER:   
It is between 5-12.   
  
SPEAKER:   
One of the things that aggravates me most is how I get emails from people that move somewhere else. They come down here and don't have children anymore all the sums he paid for their children to go to programs and go to school. Now, they don't want to keep this thing going that has been going on for years.   
  
I think it's awfully important that we take care of our children. These field trips, for some of them, it's the only way they ever get to have anything that's fun, that's educational and keep them off the streets! It's pretty good supervision and help us get by this problem of not being home in the neighborhood and being influenced by the wrong people.   
  
Our job is to take care of the citizens, and these are our youngest citizens, our most important assets that we have, our next generation. I'm not for taking that out.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
If I could finish? I was literally...   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
You can finish. I will just say again the priorities... The best thing we can do for our kids is to have safe streets and fire and EMS services when they need them. Go ahead, Heather.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
You took my thunder. (Laughs) I know how important these field trips are, especially for lower income students. Those are the ones that attend a lot of our parks and rec programs. Is there grant funding we could get for this kind of stuff?   
  
SPEAKER:   
A vast majority of our participants in our summer program already work with community assistance to help offset the cost of those $65/week charge. We also feed the children at lunch, in the mornings, and that's her thing. It is through a grant.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
In totality, when we are looking at everything across the county, I would leave that. I wouldn't want to nitpick, but certainly, that something to keep in mind. For $57,000, I'm still going to vote to keep it. Maybe you can come up with something else?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
I don't see anymore... I'm sorry, Billie?   
  
BILLIE WHEELER:   
I was going to make the motion that we don't reduce the number of field trips for the summer recreation program.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
OK, the motion is that we do not reduce field trips. Motion by Wheeler, second by Robins. Do we know how Ben is going to vote? All in favor, say Aye.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Aye.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
(Laughs) The man with the most kids is going to vote against it. I think it's reasonable to go from three to two because I happen to know this isn't the only program we have in the county for young people. There's a lot of programs and sports programs and other things. While I will be criticized for taking from the kids, I don't. I have a house full of young people. I think it's very important.   
  
BEN F JOHNSON:   
Mr. Chair, I might have missed a piece of that. Is the vote 3-2? What was the outcome?   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
The outcome is that we will keep three and not reduce it. Is that what you wanted to vote for? OK...   
  
Growth and resource management. Downgrading two position classifications.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Good afternoon. Environmental management director. The reductions in growth and resource management are because environment management is pretty much the only general fund. That is why you see environment management. One is a special coordination manager at the Marine science center. They recently left us for a fabulous position somewhere else. That position was originally intended to the management team at the science center. What we have found is that we have shuffled duties in a way that I think we have the management really dialed in. What I would like to do is downgrade that to an environment or specialist, and that person will report to our educator at the science center.   
  
Then, all of the department of the science center would have a manager and a staff person. At the education department, there are currently no county staff members. We do all of that through contract workers. That change is something that I actually want to do.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
You recommend? He is not twisting your arm?   
  
SPEAKER:   
No, sir. That would benefit us. That is a little over $30,000 of savings. The other position is a full-time environmental specialist one that is assigned to the water quality program here. It is currently unfilled, but that doesn't mean it's unnecessary. Those are the folks that go out every day on the water and collect the water samples. We do that in partnership with the Water Management District. We do a lot of the sampling for them, and in exchange, they do chemistry for us. Of the things on my list, that is the thing I would at least want to have cut. If we cut that to a half-time position, we will make do. That is what we do, right?   
  
Those folks are the ones that are out there every day, and having enough people is important because if someone is out sick We do use volunteers it is tricky because they have to be trained. It is a long day on the water. What we do is when we have folks out is that we put it out to all environmental management and pull people from other areas. And that works until it happens for a long period of time and then those other jobs fall behind. But we make do. But before they had that position we can do that.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I move that we reduce based on your recommendation.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Continue.   
  
SPEAKER:   
The grant match funding currently in the budget $95,000 annually and that so we can be really nimble when these grants come in. All of those are either in favor of water quality plan that were adopted by counsel or projects that promote sustainability action plan. We have in any one year spent the entire amount. So a reduction in that amount does not necessarily materially impact what we have done so far we do like to have that cushion there so we can react when things Kunkel, log right now are in the process of approving clams in the Indian River Lagoon and putting them out for good water quality. I have never spent the full amount in any given year.   
  
The river cleanup allocation I don't want to make sure that we pick the things you like. We are not proposing any change in the actual river cleanup. It's just that we budget the full amounts that it cost every year but every year we have done it for 20 something years we look for their reimbursement. So we don't have to have the full amount in the budget if we assume that financial reimbursement. We are not covering any river cleanups. But we actually do not spend all that money because we get reimbursed.   
  
JEFFREY S BROWER:   
Heather you made a motion I wanted to go through all of them in that case you wanted to add. A motion with other things.   
  
HEATHER POST:   
I would amend my motion to reduce these based on the recommendation but also to raise the fee one dollar at the science center as well. That was an additional 64,000 year.   
  
BARBARA E GIRTMAN:   
I will 2nd that.   
  
SPEAKER:   
In fact that is something we had proposed I COVID got in the way. We had an agenda item ready for you to ask you to raise the fee by one dollar because we were closed for a little over a year. We've done the analysis on that and move forward with that.   
  
SPEAKER:

Do you want us to do the increase immediately or wait until we are through the pandemic. Will do it whichever way you want us to do it we just want to make sure we raise it where you want us to and make sure they have the full service.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

What is the fee right now? So 4, 5, and 6.

SPEAKER:

It is a good question.

HEATHER POST:

My motion would stand.

SPEAKER:

We met have to come back with a separate agenda item for fee increase. We also proposed a family pass. We've done an analysis of what that would cause and how many people we thought would take advantage of that.

SPEAKER:

From the staff perspective what were hearing is an updated fee schedule to expand the fee schedule to address these concerns.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Let me talk to the county attorney and manager. Do you want this separate as a fee, or can we include this?

SPEAKER:

We were just discussing that, Mr. chair. We have not brought back a fee schedule. If you want to be consistent, we can make sure we're being uniform. Council has the authority to increase the stock and bring back a rate schedule so you can see in practice.

HEATHER POST:

I would say the motion stands, then.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

The motion stands to make all these reductions and increase, raise the fee by one dollar.

HEATHER POST:

Seconded.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Motion by Post and seconded by Girtman. All in favor say aye.

AYE

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Any opposed? Motion carries, 6 to 0.

SPEAKER:

We need to go back a slide.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Aaron, what will you talk about next?

SPEAKER:

We want clarification on 2 items.

SPEAKER:

I believe these were the additional things that were not in the 5% on that page. We do not see a desire for change on these. The other items on this page have yet to be discussed.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

OK. Same reductions of 3% with additional $221,164 reduction and economic development infrastructure program. Whether we take each one of these one at a time. Is there a motion on keeping that reduction?

HEATHER POST:

I would like to hear about it if we can.

SPEAKER:

With this additional item, $221,164 would leave how much left?

SPEAKER:

The additional reduction was to leave 3 or $79,627 towards new incentive funding you would be left with a $8.1 million in 2022.

SPEAKER:

If you don't touch it?

SPEAKER:

The 3% was already approved they would be left with 6007 or $91 towards new incentive infrastructure and they would have 8.2 million available for appropriation for 2021/2022

BILLIE WHEELER:

I'm OK with the 3% we already voted on that and I'm sticking with it.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Greta is one of my favorite departments to talk to. I think they do tremendous work. Greta, however, this is my most un-favorite part of economic development. These are the funds and if I understand it correctly and please correct me if I'm wrong, but these are funds that many of our taxpayers despise. This is where we are giving money as an incentive to another company to come into Volusia County to do business and I would much rather see those funds used for some tax relief for local citizens. Or for other programs in economic development. I am good with that reduction. Did you want to speak? Either one of you?

GEORGE RECKTENWALD:

The one thing I want to point out is we don't give money to those connate companies there for economic development and structure funding and the idea is typically goes to pay for something like a turn lane or an extension of a water line or something that allows a project to occur typically providing some infrastructure that probably should have been in there in the first place. Companies that come in to have to pay for that. They expect most of the infrastructure to be there.

So that is what this money is mostly used for in any kind of recent time associated which is to build some sort of infrastructure around it that is needed. Anything else you want to add.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

One second. Before you start, do you have questions?

HEATHER POST:

I do. I have a question about the amount because I want to make sure, with the 5% reduction we still have 8.2 million in reserve?

SPEAKER:

8.1.

HEATHER POST:

8.1 with the 5%?

SPEAKER:

The 8.2 million is under the 3% reduction. Under the 5% reduction you have 8.1 available.

HEATHER POST:

Gotcha. So 8.1 million for incentives with 5%?

SPEAKER:

I wanted to clarify that, as Mr Recktenwald had said, these are not really just given to businesses as incentives they are also used for infrastructure as he said but they can also be used for programs provided council approval it is not limited to specific monies.

GEORGE RECKTENWALD:

Do we have any obligations or is that a separate item for program that no longer exists. Is that money out of here or somewhere else?

SPEAKER:

We already take that money into account.

GEORGE RECKTENWALD:

Thank you I just wanted to make sure.

HEATHER POST:

I want to clarify the amount. So 8.1 million, we have already reduced it by 3% so reducing it further would reduce it an additional $221,164 in terms of 8.1 million. You know in your division that I back and fluff but I'm also looking for ways to try and reduce reduce in various areas in 221,000, although is a large number it is a small number.

Give me your thoughts on it. Other than just giving the numbers.

SPEAKER:

During the original conversation we felt it was an acceptable reduction. The granted dollars are there and not being used immediately but they are there for the event that we need to provide for infrastructure. For example the $4 million grant that we just got from the EDA, we got that because we were able to take $1 million out of those dollars and apply it to our lenders funds that had a matching requirement. So these funds are also used for those kinds of things. I'm not sure what amount would be reduced because we would like to keep these matched. It is what it is.

HEATHER POST:

So here's what I want to say in this area then. We have already reduced it by 1.5 million and $221,000 is really just a drop in the bucket. I am going to say that I'm willing to hold it at the 3% only and specifically because we had many discussions and I know that you are really looking at out-of-the-box thinking right now looking to move us in another direction. Even though 221,000 is not a whole lot in context I think you could probably do a lot with it and I'm hopeful that you can. So I would be in favor of keeping this at 3%..

JEFFREY S BROWER:

I went to point out we have done this three or four times now. This is not a lot of money. 60,000 here, 80,000 here, 221,000 there. Pretty soon, that starts to add up. I think Ryan did the best job I have ever seen anyone do proving that growth is not paying for itself and we have got to move to a position when we are attracting a company that if there are $3,000,000 required for infrastructure to make that happen, that they need to pay for it and not all of our taxpayers paying for it.

I think $8.1 million on that front is sufficient. Ben Johnson?

BEN F JOHNSON:

When I ran for office, the thing that got the most attention was jobs ? jobs for our children. People go other places because of the lack of jobs. Whether you like it or don't like it, you have to do in order to be in the ballgame. We have to get it more on a business industry.

If they have a choice of counties and are going to put the infrastructures in versus Volusia County, it is a short-term gain versus long-term loss. That's what we are looking up. How do we take and change our tax base around? Sometimes, you have to put a little bit into get there. I'm comfortable with the 3% and not cutting more.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

I'm going to respectfully disagree with you, then. I have studied this really closely for a number of years. What you just said is the common belief, that if we don't do this and don't use incentives because everybody else does, nobody's going to come here.

The fact is that's not what happens. Many companies will use that, and come back and say, "I got some, so I'm going to come back and ask for more incentives down the Road." What really works is spreading money around in our county that improves the roads, sidewalks, safety, water for every business, and that is what makes us attractive.

In fact, I am requesting to another board here that we have the presentation by traffic engineer groups that have proven that incentives hurt the tax base. I would like that on record because I keep hearing that "We have to do it because everybody else does that."

BEN F JOHNSON:

I am making a motion to leave the 3% as is.

HEATHER POST:

I have another question. It is labeled as economic development infrastructure funding. We keep talking about the incentives, but you can use it for things other than incentives, correct? That is my hope on pushing you towards that end.

SPEAKER:

Yes, as long as it has Council approval, it can be used for other programs as well.

HEATHER POST:

Again, that is what I am looking at using the $221,000 for. It's not necessarily for incentive money...

SPEAKER:

Any incentives would also need to come back before the Council.

HEATHER POST:

Specifically for businesses that already exist? I know that we had talked about that as well, so that would be my hope for that money, to invest in our community here to move us forward.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

OK, we have a motion on the table to not cut this? Did you get the motion and the second?

SPEAKER:

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wheeler.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Yes, just wanted to make sure. All in favor of not making this reduction, say Aye? Any opposed, say Aye. I will be the lone vote against it again. The motion carries, 5-1.

Three more. Eliminate new internal auditor requests.

SPEAKER:

Good afternoon. First of all, I just wanted to say thank you so much for this for the County manager has given me in approving this recommendation because this is different than the others. I appreciate the support of management and Council. When I was interviewing and starting this department, the suggestion by counsel numbers at the time was to potentially include a coordinator. I don't think an office coordinator would be the best approach for this. I think having another staff auditory, like entry-level or college graduate, would be more helpful. This is to create more reports and audits throughout the year.

There have been lots of discussion about different brands, COVID money, ARPA money. I also have other comparisons to counties are size and Florida population-wise and budget-wise. Some of those are two or three, but somewhere up to eight or 10 FTEs. This is trying to address those issues and produce more audits and results.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Questions? If no questions, is there a motion to keep this reduction or to eliminate it?

SPEAKER:

I will make the motion to keep it.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

To keep the reduction or to keep the request position?

SPEAKER:

To keep that position.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

The motion is to retain this position and not cut it and not have the savings of $82,000. Seconded by Wheeler? Any other questions? Is that a question? OK, all in favor say Aye. Any opposed?

BARBARA E GIRTMAN:

Aye.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Three opposed, 3-4. The motion carries.

SPEAKER:

The motion would fail. The motion fails.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

We had three opposed and...

SPEAKER:

It was a tied vote.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

The motion that you made stands and passed on a tie.

SPEAKER:

It fails on a tie.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

The last time, it passed.

HEATHER POST:

That's what I thought. I thought last time...

JEFFREY S BROWER:

OK, so the motion fails.

SPEAKER:

Mr. Barb, can you confirm who is against Ms Girtman?

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Against is Girtman, Brower, and Post. I need some of that high-priced Scott. OK, reduced general funding for land management. Donna, are you doing this one?

SPEAKER:

So, the five year forecast projects $250,000 from the general fund being contributed to the land management fund. Most of you are familiar that there is a reserve. Current reserves are at 12.6-$12.7 million. Those reserves are assumed to be used for the maintaining of our properties in perpetuity. If this is reduced, then the 15% that we are planning to bring to you next time will only take us so far. As we continue to increase our land and our forever program, it will take more staff. We are at your pleasure.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Say that again? If we do this, you are going to need more staff?

SPEAKER:

I'm letting you know that the budget is going to increase. We are contemplating using 15%. It will come to you at the next council meeting. 15% of the land acquisition ? sorry, the forever fund that comes in each year will be set aside for the maintaining of the land. If we have $250,000 taken out, we are going to need to use our reserve funds.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

As the tax comes in for this new year that just got approved, are we not taking more money out for land management for each project?

SPEAKER:

We are bringing to a resolution that we will provide 15% to be taken from the top of it for the ongoing maintenance costs. Is that correct?

GEORGE RECKTENWALD:

What we have here is historically, you have been funding land management with the $250,000 for the land that was not bought by Volusia forever. What they ask here is to take away that funding from the general fund for land management. To make that up, you would have to either have less management work done, or the management would have to occur out of the new funds that are coming in from Volusia Forever.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Isn't that a requirement for any project approved by Volusia Forever? There has to be a set aside to manage that forever?

SPEAKER:

There is a set aside for land management. The current set aside, which we will talk about at the next meeting, is currently 10%. Historically, the general fund has always paid for land management. Do you want to keep doing that, or do you want to have all of land management paid for out of Forever? That is what this boils down to.

BEN F JOHNSON:

Ryan, will the 15% to take care of what we need once we put that in?

SPEAKER:

The 15% right now pays for land management, but the question will become based on what projects get approved for the next 20 years, what will the land management cost be then? Will 15% be enough then?

BEN F JOHNSON:

That could be changed, could it not?

SPEAKER:

It could.

BEN F JOHNSON:

The Council could look and say, "It's costing us more, so we could go to 20%."

SPEAKER:

We could do that.

GEORGE RECKTENWALD:

We may add a lot of land to the portfolio, but maybe not all of it would need intensive land management because ? say there is an agricultural program. Essentially, they would be maintaining that land. There would be an easement over that to keep it in conservation. It would be less work. The other thing we have done is partner with other agencies, like St. John's Water Mgmt. District. Not every piece of land we buy or obtain through the conservation easement project require the same amount of work.

BARBARA E GIRTMAN:

I will make the motion.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

What's the motion?

BARBARA E GIRTMAN:

To reduce by $250,000.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

OK, motion by Girtman, second by Johnson. I don't see any other handle. All in favor say Aye?

AYE

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Any opposed? Motion carries, 6-0. Michael Dyer?

SPEAKER:

We were discussing and going back to... Can I revisit the internal auditor staff quest for a second? Counsel by majority vote accepted the 3% cost reductions and is revisiting each of the examples in the 5% list. The motion to keep the position failed, so it means it doesn't carry, but the original direction of counsel in the prior vote to accept the 3% reductions still carries.

The effect of where we are now is that there is not counsel direction to eliminate the internal auditor staff request position. You had a tied vote. You'd have to make another motion to eliminate the internal auditor position because you had a tie vote. I just wanted to bring that up. You are still at 3%. So if you did nothing now the fact would be that that staff request for that position would stand.

(Power outage)

HEATHER POST:

Whoa.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Be careful what you say when the Lord is watching.

BEN F JOHNSON:

When I talk ? you listen now. We may be taken a little bit on that and reducing the auditor. The reason we got the auditor was to make sure we were spending our money wisely, so we wanted to make sure we do not have people stealing. How much money was that?

SPEAKER:

82,000. The request for additional internal auditor staff position is 82,000.

BEN F JOHNSON:

I'm not sure we may not be making a mistake because that is somebody who's overlooking. They get into the kiosk on county barn which I know years ago people used to go in there and all this kind of stuff. But I'm not too sure we may not be looking at something that is not designed to make sure were spending our money wisely and to find better ways to spend the money or ways to save our money or looking for theft. We have a lot of people and a lot of things and Jonathan has done a good job but I'm not too sure we haven't made a lot of mistakes. I can't call for because I was on the losing side. Maybe if one if you changed your mind to think about the idea that maybe we should look at this again.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Michael Dyer, I think you are on the winning side as it turns out.

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:

Where we are now was a staff position of an internal auditor would proceed, the Council has not voted by majority vote to remove it.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

It was confusing.

SPEAKER:

It is confusing. Thank you, Mr Chair.

BARBARA E GIRTMAN:

I voted against it, and it is not that I do not think Jonathan is doing a good job. I think it is because he is doing a good job and he was able to audit a lot of the key areas, and if I have to sacrifice something, that additional position this coming year would be that. And we can look at it again the following year but if he is been able to provide the report and the detail and I think that he is found several inefficiencies but I am satisfied with what he is been able to provide.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

OK, thank you. Alright.

BARBARA E GIRTMAN:

Now can I make a motion for the Microsoft exchange email for us to not remove that and go forward with that so we can stay current on our exchange email? Because I really do not like GroupWise.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

You just made the motion? Not to eliminate the conversion. Let us make sure we are all voting on what we think we are voting on.

HEATHER POST:

Did we already do that though you said we would look at everything except we already discussed it.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

And you're going to look at ARPA funding for that?

HEATHER POST:

Yes. Are you clear?

JEFFREY S BROWER:

I wrote it down that you said that.

HEATHER POST:

Yes.

SPEAKER:

I think the motion is to leave it alone so would be funded in the general funding.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Right, but you said you would still like to see if we could do with ARPA money depending on the changes. But the motion on the floor is to not eliminate the conversion to Microsoft because there was a motion by Girtman. Is there a second?

HEATHER POST:

Seconded.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Seconded by Post.

BEN F JOHNSON:

Could that be split funding? Part of the ARPA, and part of a general? Because what were concerned about is the upkeep. That is our biggest concern. Whether we go by with ARPA money and if we buy with that the problem is next year were in a whole because we have to get the upkeep. It is not in the budget so next year we have to worry about something. Is there a way to split so you can buy the software but a funding part for the general upkeep over the years. Would that be feasible?

SPEAKER:

It could be done but I would preface that with IT, there's always the next implementation that needs to be done, and this just this year's implementation costs were a thing. There's always that next year's too.

BEN F JOHNSON:

I know dealing with the Sheriff's office is like that. That is the question I had and I will leave it as is.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Any other questions? I have a motion to not eliminate the conversion. I am losing my voice. That is a good thing that means we will adjourn here in a minute. All in favor say Aye.

BARBARA E GIRTMAN:

Aye

AYE

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Any opposed? Motion carries 6-0.

BEN F JOHNSON:

If you are losing your voice, we can start hollering at each other. Nobody will know it.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

I just want to grow up to sound like you, Ben.

(Laughter)

SPEAKER:

To give you an update with the votes made the reduction is 3.2%, 2,26,009 or $92. The rollback rate of 5.3812.

BEN F JOHNSON:

Motion to accept.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Motion to accept by Johnson, seconded by Wheeler. We will call for the vote. All in favor of the motion to reduce the rate of growth by 3.8% giving us an effective millage rate of 5.38.2 say aye

AYE

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Any opposed?

HEATHER POST:

Aye

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Two opposed. I appreciate the effort. We are making progress. Are you good? With that, County manager, County attorneys, do you have anything else you need from us?

SPEAKER:

No, we will see you at the next meeting.

JEFFREY S BROWER:

Next meeting is next Tuesday which is September 7. Can I have a motion to adjourn? Motion to adjourn by Wheeler and seconded by Robbins, all in favor say aye.

AYE

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