Manatee County
FLORIDA
POPULAR REPORT

A FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR ITS CITIZENS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017
Manatee County

Photo credit: Manatee County Library Historical Image Digital Collection
Since settlers first arrived on the Manatee River in the 1840s, the area that became Manatee County has been a tourist destination. After building a home and clearing land for farming, Josiah and Mary Gates constructed a hotel and advertised that travelers to the Manatee Lands could enjoy boating, hunting and fishing, be cured of diseases, and relax amidst the tropical environment and salt air.

What if you had to swim across a river to get to work? County Commissioner William Vanderipe did when a hurricane washed out the crossing across the Braden River. What if the only library was on the other side of a mile wide river? With help from the Carnegie Foundation, Manatee County residents built two libraries, one in Palmetto and one in Bradenton. What if our barrier islands were so inaccessible they were reserved only for vacations or special excursions? While the Manatee River and other area waterways provided a means of transportation, delivery of goods, services and crops, they also created a barrier to growth. As long as the only form of transportation was by water, the small communities scattered along the Manatee River’s twenty-two miles of shoreline clustered close to that source. For many years, the Manatee River was like our modern Interstate system. Everyone who came to the area, from the prehistoric tribes to the arrival of the early settlers in 1842 and on up until the railroad’s construction in the early 1900s, wanted to be near the water and access to boat transportation. Of the present day county’s 893 square miles, 150 square miles are water. When government and civic organizations finally spanned creeks, bays and rivers with bridges, horses, wagons, automobiles and trucks opened communication and transferred goods and ideas throughout the area and the world. These wooden bridges, while they did not last, foreshadowed the transit system we rely upon today. Today, thousands of people cross our county’s bridges each day as they commute to and from work, school or entertainment. Modern bridges are constructed of concrete and steel and designed to withstand hurricane force winds. Though commuters often complain about rush hour traffic on the bridges, imagine what life would be like if we all rushed to ferries or trundled across wooden one lane structures at ten miles per hour? Bridges helped the county grow and impacted who we are today. Therefore, as part of the 2016-2017 Manatee County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, we present, “The Bridges of Manatee County.”

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Accomplishments at a Glance .......................................................................................................................... 2
A Message from Angelina “Angel” Colonneso ................................................................................................. 3
About This Report ............................................................................................................................................ 5
Manatee County Government ......................................................................................................................... 6
Fiscal Responsibility ........................................................................................................................................ 6
Summary Financial Information ...................................................................................................................... 7
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller .................................................................................................... 12
Other Constitutional Officers ....................................................................................................................... 16
Board of County Commissioners ................................................................................................................ 17
County Operations ........................................................................................................................................ 18
Investment Information .................................................................................................................................. 24
Other Financial Data .................................................................................................................................... 25
Collected in excess of $25 million in child support for the children of Manatee County. Manatee County exceeded expectations for the percentage of cases with support orders.

The Violence Protection division aided in the filing of 1,114 injunctions for protection, commonly referred to as “restraining orders,” for victims of domestic, repeat, sexual, stalking and dating violence during the past fiscal year.

The Department of Financial Recovery (DFR) collects fines and court costs legally owed this fiscal year. Since it’s inception in July, 2004, the DFR has collected in excess of $10.1 million in fines and courts costs which may have gone uncollected.

Our Indigence Examiners, since January, 2008, have collected a cumulative total of over $1.1 million. These monies previously went uncollected until responsibility was given to the Clerk.

284 children ages 10 to 17 participated in Teen Court and Teen Court Too and contributed over 5,737 community service hours to the community. Additionally, 191 youth volunteers donated over 2,259 hours of volunteer time to the community.

3,675 Manatee County students participated in the school programs offered at the Manatee Village Historical Park, the Florida Maritime Museum, the Palmetto Historical Park and the Manatee County Agricultural Museum. Over 46,000 residents and visitors attended special events and programs at these parks throughout 2017.

Volunteers at the Manatee Village Historical Park, Florida Maritime Museum, Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum donated almost 9,000 hours of community service.

1,100 local students participated in the Manatee County History Fair, hosted each year by the Manatee County Historical Commission and our Historical Resources department.

Received our 38th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for our 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Received our 19th consecutive GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for our 2016 Popular Report.

The Internal Audit Department issued 10 audit reports and 6 project reports. The department also provided more than 850 consulting and project hours in the form of assistance to other departments and agencies. In addition, the department allocates 500 hours each year to assist the external audit firm in performing the annual audit of the County’s financial statements, thereby reducing the cost of the audit services.

Kept minutes at 140 meetings and work sessions for 12 Boards or Committees.
A Message from Angelina “Angel” Colonnese
Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

I am pleased to share with you the 2017 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for Manatee County. This document will help you understand our county’s financial performance and well-being for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 in valuable, summarized format that every resident can use. Our stewardship of the county’s investments, on behalf of our citizens, is a responsibility we take very seriously.

We are also proud that this issue of Manatee County’s PAFR includes photographs of some of the important bridges that have in the past or currently span the waterways of our county. Surrounded by water, the Manatee River and other waterways define who we are. These bridges opened communication and the transfer of goods and ideas throughout the area. While the Manatee River shaped our county’s growth, so did the bridges that spanned it.

My father owned a business in Palmetto while we lived in Bradenton. As a child, I remember crossing the Manatee River on the old Green Bridge. Riding in the back seat of my parents’ car with my brother, the rumble of the tires on the concrete pavement was a song that made me feel secure and at home. As a child I never understood why they called it the Green Bridge when it was not even the color green. My dad explained to me that it was named for Emmet P. Green, a citizen of Manatee County who served on the all-important state road board and helped to secure one million dollars to build the old bridge in 1927. Today, one million dollars is still a lot of money, but it takes more than that to build a bridge. Since 1986, cars travel across the higher, modern span of a new bridge which still bears Green’s name. The Manatee River and all of our county’s waterways, creeks, rivers and bays shaped our community, but, it is the bridges that help us communicate, share ideas and offer assistance. On a personal level, the Green Bridge was a bridge to my heritage since my dad was born and raised in Palmetto and grew up there as a child along with his six siblings. In the 1940’s my grandfather even owned a store on the other side of the bridge called Frank’s Market. That was back in the day when business was transacted using ledger books. Without our bridges, we might still live in the isolated communities of the past century, relying on boats for transportation. Currently, we are engaging in discussions about how to replace some of these older spans without damaging historic neighborhoods and businesses. Because of this community discussion, our office thought it would be appropriate to highlight some of the bridges from our past and present. Who knows what the future will hold? One thing I do know, it will take citizens with the same commitment and passion as the ones who erected our current bridges to determine our county’s future. Just as I am committed to helping Manatee County residents understand the importance of how we became the community we are today, I am committed to fiscal integrity and stewardship in my job as the Manatee County Clerk and Comptroller.

Within the pages of this year’s Popular Annual Financial Report, we have not only provided an explanation of the County’s finances, but have also introduced you to some of the stories and photographs of the bridges which have served us and still span our waterways today. Should you desire more information, the Finance Department of the Clerk of Circuit Court’s Office also produces the more detailed Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR meets stringent governmental accounting standards and is evaluated by rating agencies to assess Manatee County’s financial stability, leading to favorable interest and insurance rates.

It is also with great pleasure that I can report that for the 38th year, our 2016 CAFR received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. While the responsibility for the accuracy of the data lies with me, the recognition of receiving this prestigious award goes to our Finance Department. All four financial reports prepared by this office; this Popular Report, the Manatee County CAFR, the Port Manatee CAFR and the Manatee County Public Utilities System Annual Report, are available on-line at www.manateeclerk.com, or on CD. These reports are available by contacting our Finance Department at (941) 749-1800, Ext. 6102. In addition, this Popular Report is available in hard copy and available in many location throughout the county, including this office and the public libraries.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Manatee County’s financial strengths. If you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve our Popular Report, please contact my office at (941) 749-1800 or by visiting our web site at www.manateeclerk.com.

Respectfully,

Angelina “Angel” Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Manatee County, Florida for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual financial reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.
ABOUT THIS REPORT

THE POPULAR REPORT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF MANATEE COUNTY’S CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES:

Board of County Commissioners and Port Authority
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Property Appraiser
Sheriff
Supervisor of Elections
Tax Collector

This report also provides an overview of the areas of responsibility for each county department and the Constitutional Officers.

The financial information presented here is in summarized form, is expressed in thousands, and does not substitute for the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR outlines the County’s financial position and operating activities for the year in great detail and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Our Popular Report includes condensed information from its statement of net position and a condensed statement of activities with previous year comparative data as well as an overview of county functions and historical data. This Popular Report, because of its summary nature, does not conform to generally accepted accounting principles and associated reporting standards set forth by applicable governing bodies.

The presentation reflects county operations divided into two major categories: governmental and business-type.

**Governmental activities** are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as libraries, emergency medical services, law enforcement and transportation. The governmental category can be further subdivided between operations and capital activities. Capital project activities are dollars spent to construct, acquire or improve major facilities of the government.

**Business-type activities** offer goods and services of the county for sale and are intended to be self-supporting. Examples are Port Manatee and the County’s water and sewer system.

👍
Manatee County is a non-charter county established under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida. The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative body for Manatee County and is made up of seven residents elected by county voters. The commissioners’ offices are in the County Administrative Center where public meetings are held. The commissioners also serve as the Port Authority board.

In addition to the seven County Commissioners, voters elect five constitutional officers: Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and the Tax Collector.

Encompassing 740 square miles, Manatee County has six incorporated cities within its borders: Anna Maria, Bradenton, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach, Longboat Key and Palmetto. Each is governed by city councils elected by residents of the respective city.

The Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller share in the fiscal responsibility of Manatee County. The Commission and the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller are separately elected constitutional officers and vested with separate powers, according to Florida law. This separation of power provides checks and balances within the county government to help safeguard the assets of the county.

The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for adopting an annual budget for all departments under the commissioners. The budget is prepared by the Department of Financial Management and presented to the commissioners for approval. The budget governs expenditures by the departments. It is illegal for department managers to exceed their budget.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is responsible for safeguarding Manatee County assets and is personally liable for any losses due to illegal payments. A key part of this responsibility is the control of county funds. Only the Clerk can disburse funds. Before monies are disbursed, all expenditures go through a rigorous pre-audit process. The Clerk must ensure that all expenditures are legal, budgeted and in compliance with county policies and procedures. As an extension of these responsibilities, the Clerk’s office also prepares the financial statements of the county.
The following graphs provide comparative government-wide information, giving a broad overview of Manatee County’s financial position for both its governmental and business-type activities. The values are computed under similar financial rules as private sector financial statements. Governmental activities are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as public safety, transportation, human services and general government. Business-type activities offer goods and services for sale and are intended to be self-supporting through the charges for those goods and services.

Current and other assets are assets that one can realistically expect to convert to cash, sell, or consume within one year. Capital assets include the County’s long-term investments in land, buildings, equipment, improvements, infrastructure, and construction in progress. These assets are used to provide services to the community and are not available for future spending. Deferred outflows of resources are the use of assets that relate to a future reporting period. Long-term liabilities represent debt obligations that exceed more than one year. These include pension liability, compensated absences, other post-employment benefits, closure liability, as well as bonds, notes, and loans payable that are used to finance large projects and equipment purchases. Other liabilities include debt obligations due within one year. These are also made up of the debt obligations similar to long-term debt, but also include accounts and claims payable, accrued payroll, unearned revenue, and deposits. Deferred inflows of resources are the acquisition of net assets that pertains to a future reporting period. Total net position is comprised of three categories; net investment in capital assets, restricted net position and unrestricted net position. The value of all of the County’s capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and any debt outstanding that is associated with their purchase or construction, make up the category of net investment in capital assets. Restricted net position are those assets that have a restriction placed on them, typically by third parties; unspent bond proceeds and related debt and funds set aside for the payment of debt are good examples of these asset types. Unrestricted net position makes up the last component of net position, representing the resources that are available to finance the County’s on-going operations.

These graphs present the County’s assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources and net position. Changes in net position over time are an indication of an improving or deteriorating financial position. Governmental activities’ net position increased by $35,000 and business-type net position had a $63,207 increase in total

Continued on next page….
net position from September 30, 2016 to 2017, reflecting a positive and stable fiscal position for the County.

In the below graphs depicting the changes in net position, we can see that Manatee’s County’s governmental activities show substantial differences in various categories from the prior year’s amount. The $23,171 increase in capital assets and the $26,017 increase in investment in capital assets are mostly the result of land acquisitions and public domain infrastructure. The decrease in deferred outflows in resources is related to deferred pension outflows as determined by the Florida Retirement System.

The business-type activities of Manatee County show significant differences in various categories from the prior year’s amounts. The increase of $43,380 in capital assets and $31,403 increase in net investment in capital assets are due to continuing increases by the utility system for capacity enlargement, connectivity and processing improvements, and the new Transit Fleet Facility being placed into service. The $29,672 increase in unrestricted net position reflects continued growth within the County in its tax base and charges for services.

The following comparative, government-wide Condensed Statement of Activities and related graphs present the revenues, expenses and changes in net position. Increasing revenues which out-pace increased expenses, suggests that Manatee County is continuing to experience an increase in overall growth, coupled with controlled spending.

Program revenues consist of charges for services, operating grants (grants for daily business activities), capital grants (grants for capital projects and assets) and contributions. General revenues consist of property taxes, other taxes, state revenue sharing, interest income, miscellaneous revenues and intergovernmental transfers. Other expenses for governmental activities consist of physical and economic environment, human services, culture and recreation functions, interest payments on debt and intergovernmental transfers.

Overall, revenues increased by around $40 million in the current year and expenses increased $25 million over the prior year’s levels, compared to a $59 and $36 million increase in revenues and expenditures, respectively, between fiscal years 2016 and 2015. In the general revenue category,
Manatee County Statement of Activities
(In Thousands)

a $14.8 million increase in property taxes represents an ongoing increase in assessed property values. General revenue also increased $17.4 million from the new Infrastructure surtax that was effective January 1, 2017. Expenses for governmental activities increased $25 million resulting from increased allocations for public safety, the County’s role in helping to host the World Rowing Championship, and transportation projects, while the prior year also saw increased expenditure activity of $28 million due to public safety and insurance claim severity. An increase of $10.5 million in the current year and $16.6 million in the prior year for business-type activity charges for services is largely related to rate increases for water and sewer accounts combined with increases in the number of metered accounts. Water and sewer continues to show an increase in charges for service although it is waning compared to the increase in the prior year. Capital grants and contributions decreased by $12 million, as the county completed construction of its new Transit Fleet Facility. In fiscal year 2016 capital grants and contributions increased by $14.3 million, primarily in the Water and Sewer and Port funds, the result of increases in donated infrastructure and reimbursable grants associated with the reconstruction of Berth 9, respectively. Reflected in the spending, the County continues to be committed to providing basic governmental services and public safety expected by its citizens, balanced with those functions whose costs can be managed in the near term with increasing revenues. The County continues to monitor its workforce in order to continue to provide high levels of customer service. Continued spending for general government, public safety and utilities activities accounted for 79% of the expenses in the current year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program revenues</td>
<td>$115,748</td>
<td>$111,513</td>
<td>$104,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General revenues</td>
<td>324,245</td>
<td>287,857</td>
<td>265,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>439,993</td>
<td>399,370</td>
<td>369,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General government</td>
<td>95,465</td>
<td>89,085</td>
<td>83,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety</td>
<td>182,534</td>
<td>173,306</td>
<td>152,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>41,154</td>
<td>38,006</td>
<td>36,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Authority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>82,384</td>
<td>76,151</td>
<td>76,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>401,537</td>
<td>376,548</td>
<td>348,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>(3,456)</td>
<td>(2,237)</td>
<td>(4,146)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Transfers</td>
<td>401,537</td>
<td>401,537</td>
<td>401,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in net position</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>20,585</td>
<td>17,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning net position</td>
<td>1,072,867</td>
<td>1,052,282</td>
<td>1,035,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending net position</td>
<td>$1,107,867</td>
<td>$1,072,867</td>
<td>$1,052,282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are used to account for tax supported activities. The classifications of certain financial transactions are recorded per fund accounting requirements. The primary differences between the government-wide statement of revenues and expenses on the preceding pages and the governmental fund statistics on this page are:

✦ GOVERNMENT FUND REVENUES include all proceeds from the sale of capital assets, but exclude donations, net revenue of internal service funds and certain deferred revenues.

✦ GOVERNMENT FUND EXPENDITURES include capital outlays for the acquisition of new assets, expenditures for debt issuance costs and the repayment of principal of long term debt, but exclude deferred expenses and annual depreciation and amortization charges.

Revenues

During fiscal year 2017, revenues in the general government funds increased by approximately $37 million from the prior fiscal year, with $18.5 million attributable to an increase in other taxes principally from the new voter-approved infrastructure surtax. Ad valorem taxes increased by $14.8 million due to increasing assessed property values. Licenses and permits were up $1.9 million, related to impact fee collections. The increase in intergovernmental revenue of $4.7 million is mostly due to state funding and increased property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ad valorem taxes</td>
<td>$202,515</td>
<td>$187,729</td>
<td>$172,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other taxes</td>
<td>56,096</td>
<td>37,591</td>
<td>35,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses and permits</td>
<td>35,581</td>
<td>33,652</td>
<td>25,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>76,688</td>
<td>72,021</td>
<td>68,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>42,362</td>
<td>45,541</td>
<td>43,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines and forfeitures</td>
<td>5,591</td>
<td>5,718</td>
<td>6,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>3,448</td>
<td>2,806</td>
<td>2,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>2,699</td>
<td>3,125</td>
<td>5,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>6,770</td>
<td>6,719</td>
<td>7,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>$431,840</td>
<td>$395,016</td>
<td>$366,735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Amounts expressed in thousands)
values. A decrease in charges for services of $3.1 million is attributed to an increase in ambulance fee write-offs. For fiscal 2016, revenues in the general government funds increased by approximately $28 million from the prior fiscal year, with $15.3 million attributable to an increase in ad valorem taxes primarily from rising assessed property values. Licenses and permits were up $7.8 million, related to impact fee collections. The increase in intergovernmental revenue of $3.2 million is mostly due to state funding for continued beach erosion projects. Ambulance fee write-off decreases combined with corresponding EMS revenue increases contributed to the rise of $2.3 million in charges for services.

Expenditures

For fiscal year 2017, expenditures increased $11.5 million from the prior fiscal year. Public safety expenditures increased $6.4 million related to the continued Sheriff’s office renovations and vehicle replacement programs. Capital project expenditures decreased $8.4 million as the 44th Avenue East road expansion project, Fort Hamer Bridge and other major projects were near completion. The $3.5 million increase in economic environment is primarily due to the County’s participation in helping to host the 2017 World Rowing Championships. During fiscal year 2016, expenditures increased $16.4 million from the prior fiscal year. Public safety expenditures increased $7.2 million related to the Sheriff’s office renovations and improvement of facilities and vehicle replacements. Capital project expenditures increased $5 million as the 44th Avenue East road expansion project continued. The $2 million increase in general government is largely related to the Supervisor of Elections acquiring a new voting system used in the 2016 general election and continuing software improvements county-wide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General government</td>
<td>77,807</td>
<td>77,303</td>
<td>75,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety</td>
<td>163,698</td>
<td>157,314</td>
<td>150,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical environment</td>
<td>5,765</td>
<td>5,407</td>
<td>5,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>26,454</td>
<td>23,980</td>
<td>22,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic environment</td>
<td>19,696</td>
<td>16,171</td>
<td>15,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human services</td>
<td>30,057</td>
<td>28,149</td>
<td>29,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and recreation</td>
<td>16,667</td>
<td>15,357</td>
<td>15,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>5,545</td>
<td>4,643</td>
<td>4,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt service</td>
<td>21,353</td>
<td>18,840</td>
<td>17,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital projects</td>
<td>49,053</td>
<td>57,455</td>
<td>52,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$416,095</td>
<td>$404,619</td>
<td>$388,256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, an elected public trustee, was established by the Florida Constitution over 175 years ago. Responsible for over 925 separate duties, the Clerk is accountable to the citizens of Manatee County, not to any elected official, thereby creating a system of “checks and balances” at the county level that has served the public well.

The Clerk oversees a complex organization that performs a wide range of record keeping, information management and financial management in the judicial system and county government.

The Clerk serves as the:

- Chief Financial Officer, accountant and auditor to the Board of County Commissioners, and Port Authority.
- Custodian of public records, public funds and public property.
- Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts 12th Judicial District.
- Collector and distributor of court fines and fees, child support and alimony payments and statutory assessments.
- Custodian of court records and ensures that the courts’ orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law.

Finance
The Finance Department is responsible for carrying out the Clerk’s duties as the county’s chief financial officer and comptroller for the Board of County Commissioners and Port Authority. Those duties include pre-auditing disbursements made on behalf of the county.

The Finance Department also processes payroll for the Board and the Clerk, manages the county’s investment portfolio, maintains the records and conducts annual physical inventories of capital assets for the Board, Clerk, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector and, as the accountant to the Board, prepares financial reports.

Each year, the Finance Department produces the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the Public Utilities System Annual Financial Report, the Manatee County Port Authority Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the Popular Report, as well as individual statements and reports for the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The Clerk of the Court is the official record keeper of all instruments required by law to be recorded. Official records are documents such as deeds, leases, mortgages, tax warrants, evictions or other documents relating to the ownership, transfer or encumbrance of real or personal property. Examples of other types of documents recorded in the official
records are items such as judgments entered by the courts, tax liens, and bankruptcy petitions and orders.

Official record documents are electronically scanned, indexed and made available on the Clerk's website, www.ManateeClerk.com, upon being recorded. The indexing of documents allows various searches to review the history of property or legal documents and cases involving a person or business.

**Internal Audit**

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization’s operations. As a service to management and the taxpayers of Manatee County, the Internal Audit Department measures and evaluates the operational efficiency and effectiveness of various Manatee County departments and agencies. They evaluate internal controls as well as compliance with a complex environment of federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures. They report to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and the public on how well Manatee County departments comply with these rules. In addition, the Internal Audit department provides consulting services to Manatee County departments that include independent analysis, review, and recommendations for new and continuing processes upon management’s request.

The Internal Audit department is also staffed with Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) who can professionally investigate allegations of fraud, irregularities, abuse, other illegal acts, and employee misconduct. Employees reporting suspected wrongdoing are protected by the Whistle Blower’s Act from retaliation by management and other employees. Reporting may be done anonymously using the department’s fraud hotline at (941) 742 - 5938, or by using an on-line fraud reporting form.

**Courts**

The Florida Constitution charges the Clerk of the Court with the responsibility of maintaining the records of both the circuit and county courts, and ensuring that the court’s orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law. The Clerk’s office does this by processing new cases, preparing court dockets, attending all criminal proceedings and recording disposition of cases, determining indigence, collecting criminal fines, pursuing financial recovery, and preparing and recording judgments.

The Clerk is required by law to summon jurors who are needed in trial courts and pay the jurors for their service.

Criminal, civil and traffic court case management information is available on-line on the Clerk’s website, www.ManateeClerk.com. 

Photo credit: Melissa Matisko
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Child Support Program
Child Support Program began operation under the Clerk in 1985, when collections were approximately $5,000 per month. That figure has grown to over $2 million per month.

Staff attorneys represent the Department of Revenue in civil litigation involving paternity establishment, child support establishment, modification and enforcement. This department handles cases in which the person owing support or the person due support lives either in Manatee County, Florida, another state, or a foreign country where reciprocal agreements exist for child support services.

By law, these services are provided to parents or caretaker relatives who receive public assistance, Medicaid and/or food stamps for the child in their care. Parents not receiving such assistance may request child support services free of charge.

Enforcement of Child Support orders for non compliant parents can be done through several methods such as drivers’ license suspension, wage withholding and interception of Internal Revenue Service refunds, unemployment compensation and lottery winnings.

Funds paid for court-ordered support cases are processed through the State Disbursement Unit.

Teen Court & Teen Court Too
Teen Court and Teen Court Too were established by the Clerk to provide early intervention of young offenders to prevent a pattern of criminal behavior.

Children, ages 10-17 who meet certain criteria are referred to the programs by the Juvenile Assessment Center, the State Attorney’s Office, law enforcement agencies, juvenile court and school resource officers. Teen Court and Teen Court Too volunteers, who are in elementary, middle and high school, perform the roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys, clerks, bailiffs and jury. Local attorneys, who volunteer their time, act as the judge and are the only adults directly involved in the proceedings.

Offenders accept the consequences of their acts through community service, serving on jury duty for other Teen Court cases and any other disciplinary measures sanctioned by the Teen Court jury. In 2017, 284 children successfully completed Teen Court and Teen Court Too and contributed over 5,737 community service hours to the community. An additional 191 youth volunteers donated over 2,259 hours of volunteer time to the community.

Violence Protection
The Clerk’s Violence Protection Advocate division provides assistance to victims of domestic, repeat, dating, stalking and sexual violence. They help victims by explaining the procedures involved in filing a petition, processing the temporary injunction, attending the hearing for final injunction and requesting modifications, reporting violations of injunctions and assisting in the criminal prosecutions.

Historical Resources
The Historical Resources Division is responsible for the management of the Manatee Historical Village Park, Manatee County Historical Records Library, the Palmetto Historical Park, the Manatee County Agricultural Museum and the Florida Maritime Museum.

Visitors to the Manatee Historical Village Park experience the lifestyles of pioneer families. The park includes the first county courthouse, a sugar cane mill, a pioneer farm, a boat works, a schoolhouse, a steam train, a blacksmith shop and a church as well as the Wiggins General Store. Many
of the structures have been moved to the park and carefully maintained or restored as closely as possible to their original state.

The Manatee County Historical Records Library, the first archival library of its kind in Florida, was opened in 1979. It is housed in a 1918 Carnegie Library. Deed books, marriage licenses, probate files and County commission records, as well as court minute books, are archived there for use by historians and genealogists.

At the Palmetto Historical Park, visitors experience life through the eyes of local pioneers. They can visit Palmetto’s first post office and library, do a lesson on the slates in the one-room schoolhouse, and even experience old-fashioned chores in the turn-of-the-century cottage. The park also features a military museum and a re-imagined chapel.

The Manatee County Agricultural Museum highlights the important role agriculture has played in our community. At the museum, visitors can explore the past through photographs, machinery, exhibits, slides and video presentations.

The Florida Maritime Museum is housed in the restored 1912 Cortez Schoolhouse. The museum is dedicated to the gathering, presentation and interpretation of Florida’s maritime heritage, with special emphasis on the historic fishing village of Cortez as a traditional maritime community within the greater context of Florida’s maritime history.

Public Access
The Public Access Department centralizes the everyday public records requests and provides access to the public for electronic records searches. They also review all electronically filed documents and perform necessary redactions of confidential information pursuant to Florida law. Public Access completed 6,859 phone, email, postal mail and walk-in record requests during fiscal year 2017.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Board Records
Board Records maintains the records of the official actions of 12 boards and committees in Manatee County. This includes taking minutes of the board meeting and keeping the official records, as well as files and exhibits of official actions. Board Records keeps electronic minute books, scans documents, and offers on-line verification of those minutes and documents. These actions improve the on-line availability of the records to the public. The Board Records Department also takes on the role of administrator for the Value Adjustment Board and Tax Deed Sales.

Human Resources
The Human Resources Department (HR) is responsible for all typical human resource functions within the Clerk’s Office. From recruiting new employees to training and supporting staff, HR maintains productive working relationships with Clerk employees, while also administering policies, programs and benefits packages, looking for new approaches and innovative practices in all areas of HR management to help develop the Clerk’s employees’ full potential for serving the citizens of Manatee County.

Clerk’s Technology Services
Clerk’s Technology Services plans, assembles and maintains the information systems needed to support the duties of the Clerk of the Court in a timely efficient manner. The department’s Chief Technology Officer, analysts, programmers, technicians and support staff ensure that the Clerk’s computer system and software applications fulfill present needs, as well as plans for the future. They are also responsible for storing and destroying, as approved by law, the records of various court departments.

Clerk of Circuit Court

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$13,099</td>
<td>$12,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$11,588</td>
<td>$11,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

PROPERTY APPRAISER • CHARLES E. HACKNEY

- Annually appraises over 184,600 parcels, including 2,800 new homes added to the tax roll for 2017
- Annually appraises over 12,700 tangible personal property accounts
- Maintains current property ownership records for assessment purposes
- Maintains the county section maps and aerial photos
- Administers all property tax exemptions
- Analyzes and approves all new homestead applications, including over 8,676 in 2017
- Produces the ad valorem tax roll annually
- Provides data updates at: www.Manateepao.com

Sheriff • RICK WELLS

- Provides law enforcement services to Manatee County
- Responsible for all county inmate care, custody and control
- Provides bailiffs and security for court system
- Provides county-wide, specialized explosive response capability
- Conducts education programs at the jail (LIFE-Leading Inmates to Future Employment) to train inmates in a trade to enhance their return to society after their release from jail, i.e. engine repair, carpentry, construction, meat processing, horticulture, GED classes, auto body repair/paint, hydroponics, aquaculture (fish farming), custom garment and sewing, mattress production and grist mill operation
- Conducts the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Pod program at the jail
- Provides support to the Manatee County School System through the School Resource Officer Program
- Provides Special Team Support, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Dive Team, Marine, Aviation, Mounted Patrol, Special Response Team (SRT) as requested to city law enforcement jurisdictions
- Contracts with DCF to provide child protection services
- Provides sexual predator unit to monitor sexual offenders
- Maintains comprehensive emergency services unit to respond to natural disasters
- Operates an accredited corrections officer training academy
- Provides Sheriff’s Patrol TV show, Traffic hotline, Teen Challenge Driver Training, Citizens Academy
- Road Gangs for County maintenance
- Operates juvenile booking facility
- Contracts with the City of Anna Maria for law enforcement services
- Provides drug drop boxes for secure disposal of prescription drugs
- Provides the Parking SAFEZONES for citizen’s internet transactions (i.e. Craigslist)
- Provides Sheriff’s Patrol TV show, Traffic hotline, Teen Challenge Driver Training, Citizens Academy
- For additional information visit: www.ManateeSheriff.com

Superintendent • MICHAEL BENNETT

- Registers voters and maintains accurate voter registration files
- Educates voters
- Expanded website: www.votemanatee.com
- Conducts all national, state, local and special taxing district elections
- Uses the state certified optical scan voting system
- All precincts equipped with disability compliant voting equipment
- Provides electronic poll book at all precincts and early voting sites
- Registered voters as of September 30, 2017: 230,654
- Eligible voters in the last general election (November 2016): 231,056
Eligible voters in the last primary election (August 2016): 221,981

Supervisor of Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$2,416</td>
<td>$5,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$1,869</td>
<td>$3,260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAX COLLECTOR • KEN BURTON, JR

- Collects ad valorem taxes
- Collects tourist taxes
- Registers and titles vehicles, boats and mobile homes
- Issues concealed weapon licenses
- Issues disabled parking permits
- Issues hunting and fishing licenses
- Provides Florida driver license services, including driving tests, and transfers of valid out-of-state driver licenses
- $3.1 million in unused revenue returned to the County
- Pre-registers driver license customers to vote in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act
- Service links available on www.taxcollector.com
  - Schedule appointments
  - Renew Florida driver license
  - Renew vehicle, boat or mobile registrations
  - Pay tourist taxes
  - Obtain Florida hunting and fishing licenses

Tax Collector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$10,930</td>
<td>$10,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$10,246</td>
<td>$10,104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BETSY BENAC, Chairman
Vanessa Baugh
Robin DiSabatino
Stephen Jonsson
Charles Smith
Carol Whitmore
Priscilla Whisenant Trace

The Board of County Commissioners governs Manatee County. It has seven members: one elected from each of five districts and two elected at-large for alternating four-year terms. The members select their chairman and vice-chairman for one-year terms.

Board meetings are held Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and are open to the public. The Commissioners also sit as the Manatee County Port Authority and elect officers separately for those entities.

The board makes policy decisions, which are implemented by an appointed county administrator who directs the activities of employees.

The Board of County Commissioners budgets and provides funding for the various county departments and the operations of the constitutional officers. Fees collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller and the Tax Collector provide funding for the budgets of those offices.
COUNTY DEPARTMENTS
General Government Operations

ADMINISTRATION
The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to implement the Board’s policies, budget and programs. The Administrator oversees all County staff and departments and is responsible for managing County programs, facilities and services to residents. Public relations, intergovernmental relations, legislative affairs, long range planning, impact fees and the Citizen’s Action Center are managed through the County Administrator’s Office.

COUNTY ATTORNEY
The County Attorney’s Office functions as an in-house law firm providing legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners and its various operating departments. The County Attorney’s Office also represents the Board in state and federal courts and in administrative law settings. The Risk Management Division of the County Attorney’s Office works to reduce the County’s exposure to liability and to enhance the operational safety of County employees and of the general public. Risk Management administers the County’s self-insurance program by evaluating and adjusting claims against the County. The County Attorney reports directly to the Board of County Commissioners.

BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
The Building and Development Services Department is responsible for maintaining the County’s Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan for unincorporated Manatee County, as well as monitoring and regulating construction to protect public health and safety. The Building/Regulation Compliance program consists of permitting intake, contractor licensing, plans review, floodplain management, inspections, and administrative functions. The Planning and Development program provides land development information and requirements to developers and citizens. Code Enforcement conducts compliance for the land development code, county ordinances and building codes and responds to and follows up on complaints of potential violators.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
The Financial Management Department (FMD) develops, reviews and implements the county budget, capital improvements program and related county policies. They work closely with county departments, the county administrator and the Board of County Commissioners in all areas of financial management. FMD provides procurement services for county departments and other agencies. Many budget and related documents are available online at www.mymanatee.org/budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES
The Human Resources Department (HR) administers the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Personnel policies of the Board of County Commissioners; provides employment services, including recruitment, onboarding, orientation, employee retention and retirement programs; provides employee career development and training programs; administers the County’s performance management and merit pay programs; administers the drug free workplace program; provides labor relations services; and provides workforce planning and job classification services. HR also administers the County’s employee health benefits program, including medical, dental, prescription, deferred compensation, life insurance, long term disability, health care spending.
accounts and wellness programs and services.

### Human Resources

**2017** | **2016**
---|---
**Budget** | $1,472 | $1,161
**Expenditures** | $1,300 | $1,023

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Information Technology Services Department (ITS) promotes the successful day to day business of Manatee County Government. ITS provides technical guidance and realization to our County partners who are seeking effective, quality business solutions, and embrace opportunities to create business process efficiencies balanced with good financial stewardship. Under the direction of the County Administrator, we collaborate and partner with BCC Agencies, Constitutional Officers, and the Courts. The Department manages services that offer and support Applications and Systems, County fiber network, Telecommunications, Radio Repair, Network Infrastructure, Security, and Customer and Business Services.

### Neighborhood Services

**2017** | **2016**
---|---
**Budget** | $22,186 | $11,594
**Expenditures** | $19,077 | $9,586

### PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Parks and Natural Resources Department is a diverse department that oversees a multitude of recreational and athletic opportunities throughout our public parks and natural preserves system. The Recreation Division supervises, coordinates and implements county recreational programs and facilities. Administrative Services provides administrative, contract management, grants management, policy guidance and oversight for recreational programs, personnel, budget and fiscal management. The Natural Resources division manages approximately 30,000 acres of County preserved lands and coastal resources. Responsibilities include acquisition, restoration and passive recreational development of environmentally-sensitive land. They also oversee projects such as beach renourishment, boat ramps, artificial reefs, navigation aids and abandoned vessel removal. The Environmental Protection Division protects ground water through its involvement with governmental permits related to pollutant storage tanks, hazardous waste, water wells, phosphate and mining, and mining and shell pit operations.

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Property Management Department consists of

### NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

The Neighborhood Services Department is made up of four divisions. **NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS** division nurtures the establishment of new neighborhoods, assists with the revitalization of existing or aging neighborhoods. They are active in the community and collaborate with many other departments and agencies throughout the County providing citizens with upcoming changes in the area. This division also includes the award-winning Neighborhood Connections online newsletter which reaches over 5,000 households each month and is growing rapidly due to the useful information generated in the newsletter. **LIBRARY SERVICES** division oversees the function of system wide services and learning opportunities as well as a vital online presence featuring digital resources. The libraries provide materials, added value services such as technology training via library professionals and engaging programs for all citizens. They provide many children’s early literacy programs and hands on events at each of the library locations targeted for each age and interest. The libraries also offer meeting space for small businesses, organizations and tutors. **COMMUNITY SERVICES**, this division oversees services and programs designed to assist vulnerable and/or at risk youth, disabled, elderly or economically/socially disadvantaged individuals meet the most basic of human needs. The division administers funds through not-for-profit agencies providing community based services. Within this division, the department manages grant revenues and/or contracts for a number of federal and state mandated human services programs that focus on services to maintain independence for aging seniors, prescriptions, burials and mental health. This division manages the mandated health services and program areas that meet the needs of the jail medical component of the Sheriff’s office, mental/behavioral health and the indigent medical care. Veteran Services, is charged with assisting Veterans and their dependents in obtaining services related to benefits, addressing their health care and transportation needs. **PROBATION SERVICES** provides pre-and post-sentence services to residents based on court assignments and charges. This division supervises the Offender Work Program, which enables first time and misdemeanor offenders to work throughout the community to avoid jail time in order to continue to provide for themselves and their families.

### Parks & Natural Resources

**2017** | **2016**
---|---
**Budget** | $6,469 | $5,204
**Expenditures** | $5,947 | $4,658
of six unique divisions: BUILDING MANAGEMENT maintains and manages County facilities providing electrical, air conditioning, plumbing and maintenance services. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES completes minor construction and renovation projects and provides vertical construction management resources for County owned facilities. PROPERTY ACQUISITION manages land purchases, easements, land exchanges, leases, vacations and acquisition of property for capital improvement road projects. The SURVEY DIVISION provides survey services for County departments and ensures compliance with State and County rules and regulations for recorded plats. RECORDS MANAGEMENT oversees electronic records retention and copy services for County departments and is responsible for mail and courier services for both the County departments and Constitutional officers. PARKS MAINTENANCE maintains all County parks and certain other non-park facilities covering over 1,162 acres and approximately 2.6 miles of beaches.

PUBLIC SAFETY
The Public Safety Department’s mission is to serve and protect its community with compassion, honor and commitment. ANIMAL SERVICES enforces state and local animal control statutes and ordinances, shelters impounded animals, promotes responsible pet ownership through education of owners on spay/neuter and leash rules, and facilitates adoptions through its own programs and those of its animal rescue partners in the community. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC/911) processes 911 calls from the community, dispatching and coordinating fire, emergency medical services resources and law enforcement agencies throughout the county. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT plans for and assists in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for countywide disasters, including training, public awareness, and technical assistance for disaster plans and procedures. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) provides basic and advanced life support treatment along with transport services throughout the entire County. MARINE RESCUE is responsible for protecting our residents and visitors while they visit our public beaches. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE Community paramedics participate in the 911 system by responding to calls with the intent of redirecting non-emergent patients to appropriate resources. The Community Paramedic program is geared towards improving access to appropriate healthcare for Manatee County’s medically vulnerable, underinsured, and medically underserved citizens.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
The Public Works Department is comprised of administrative services as well as twelve divisions within three operational business centers:

ENGINEERING SERVICES:
ROAD/BRIDGE ENGINEERING performs engineering for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) projects involving roadway, sidewalk, and intersection improvements, along with computer aided design (CAD) operations. Staff successfully designed, permitted and supervised the construction of the recently opened 44th Ave E from US 41 to 19th St Ct E. In-house staff also designed and permitted Fort Hamer Road, Upper Manatee Road and 53rd Ave W projects, all currently under construction. UTILITY ENGINEERING reviews private residential and commercial development utility plans and completes conflict resolutions with FDOT. Various CIP related activities are ongoing for construction projects. They continue to support County operations and provide CAD support, permit preparation and water/wastewater computer modeling. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT performs tasks from review through certification activities related to stormwater facilities, public and private development plans, and growth management. They provide permit acquisition and design services for County, federal and state agency sponsored CIP projects, review and approve no-rise certificates for FEMA floodway improvements, participate in renewing the FEMA Community Rating System for flood insurance discounts, and ensure NPDES permit compliance for the EPA. The division inspects and certifies county owned and maintained stormwater
facilities subject to state water management permits. INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS inspects all horizontal commercial and development construction projects. PROJECT MANAGEMENT oversees all phases of Manatee County’s roadway, potable water, waste water, reclaimed water, stormwater and landfill projects. Notable projects this year include the Fort Hamer Bridge, along with functional improvement projects on both Upper Manatee River Road and Fort Hamer Road to add bike lanes, grassed shoulders, sidewalks and to mill and resurface the existing pavement. The 44th Ave East roadway is partially open with two segments up to 45th St. E. under construction. Surveying, geotechnical and environmental reviews were conducted for segments of 44th Ave E over the Braden River and I-75, with preliminary engineering and design ongoing. Widening of 45th Street East from SR70 to 44th Avenue will commence construction in early 2018.

FIELD OPERATIONS SERVICES:
FIELD MAINTENANCE maintains, repairs and improves approximately 1,448 miles of paved and unpaved roadway and related rights-of-way. They maintain over 166 miles of canals, an estimated 21,015 stormwater inlets, all roadside ditches, retention ponds, storm water pipes and off-road pipes and associated structures. Road gangs enhance the labor force as part of a cooperative program with the Sheriff’s Office. FLEET SERVICES operates a County-wide fleet management program, consisting of four service facilities, each with a parts distribution center. They collect and analyze vehicle repair, utilization, and life cycle data while managing the vehicle replacement process to maintain a safe and efficient vehicle fleet. FUEL/ INVENTORY OPERATIONS maintains inventory used by all Public Works’ divisions and disposes of County-wide surplus items. Staff manages fuel and distributes over 1.5 million gallons of gasoline and diesel annually. Customers include all County departments, Sheriff’s office, School Board and Fire Rescue.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING responsibilities include transportation concurrency implementation, updates to the traffic section of the Comprehensive Plan, impact fee review, determining right-of-way needs, preparing transportation related development orders, maintenance of the concurrency database system for both transportation and non-transportation components and undertaking traffic study reviews;

TRAFFIC DESIGN develops, implements, and administers various traffic engineering studies, construction plan review, vehicle count and crash data. In addition, they conduct signal timing and coordination for over 200 traffic signals throughout the County. The Traffic Design division includes the regional Traffic Management Center, providing a unified intelligent transportation management traffic control system for Manatee and Sarasota counties and cities.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS provides all maintenance of over 200 State and County signalized intersections, over 3,000 street lights, 136 school zone flashers, 20 permanent count stations, 4 dynamic message signs, 109 miles of fiber optic cable communication, over 150 Intelligent Transportation System devices, approximately 50,000 traffic signs on County roads, and pavement marking maintenance on almost 400 miles of paved County roads.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Works</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$19,563</td>
<td>$18,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$18,185</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DEPARTMENT
The Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Department (REO) was created in October 2016 to focus county efforts on the redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas of the county and to create greater economic opportunities for residents and businesses with our housing, community and economic development projects and programs. This includes a strong emphasis on job retention and creation through working with local businesses; implementing redevelopment strategies in the Southwest District (SWD); and providing opportunities for affordable rental and homeownership projects. The department consists of three programs: Redevelopment, Economic Development and Community Development.

REO provides administrative and policy leadership in these areas and explores enhanced and new projects and programs crossing the broad spectrum of business types and income groups. Department goals are accomplished through attracting additional investment, business and employment growth; creating new infill, mixed-use and housing opportunities through targeted incentive programs and engaging in strategic partnerships.

The REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM encompasses the Southwest County Improvement District, commonly referred to as SWTIF or SWD, adopted by the Board on June 3, 2014. This tax increment district became effective October 1, 2014 with a 30-year life span. In the district, 50% of tax increment revenues are directed to support redevelopment, economic development, and infrastructure improvements that attract investment, increase the tax base, create jobs, improve connections, and brand the district.
The ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM seeks to retain and expand existing local business, and attract new businesses to the area. Growing the economic base of the County through targeted industry jobs in manufacturing, bio/clean technology, life sciences, information technology, financial and professional services, corporate headquarters, and sports performance makes this happen. Job opportunities at or above 115% of the average annual County wage may be eligible for financial incentives. Rapid response permitting provides a time and cost savings to businesses. The Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDAVTE) provides an additional incentive in the County’s Economic Development toolbox for qualified new or existing businesses to relocate or expand to foster local economic growth and increase employment.

The COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM administers over $16 million in grant program funds from the state and federal governments for affordable housing and community development activities for low to moderate-income residents. These programs include the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. These programs work together to realize the County’s goals of a diversified economic tax base and improved quality of life with better economic opportunities for residents and businesses.

### BCC Court Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$3,020</td>
<td>$2,916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$2,678</td>
<td>$2,523</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM

The County provides utility services through various operational and fiscal management divisions under a number of county departments. In 1991, the County combined its existing Water and Wastewater Systems, Solid Waste System and Stormwater Management System into one public utility.

The UTILITIES DEPARTMENT operates the County’s water, wastewater and solid waste systems. The Water Division operates, maintains and monitors the County’s drinking water supply, water treatment facility, laboratory and distribution system including meter reading and water conservation efforts. The Wastewater Division manages pumping stations, gravity and force main lines and three regional treatment plants that process wastewater into effluent usable for urban and agricultural irrigation. The Solid Waste division operates and maintains the Lena Road Landfill, scalehouse and recycling program. Utilities Customer Service and Billing Collections division provides services to system customers.

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT through the Stormwater Division maintains and ensures the flood carrying capacity of the Stormwater drainage system and develops and implements the Stormwater Management Plan. The department also provides engineering services for utilities projects, reviews constructions plans, and provides survey locations and record support services for the Utilities System.
The **INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT** develops and maintains a digital base of geo-referenced information about the County’s public utilities infrastructure and produces graphic displays of the information.

The **AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT** administers the water conservation education program for the County Utilities System.

The Public Utilities System’s capacity to pay the principal and interest due on its bonds is referred to as “revenue bond coverage.” Although the system is required to maintain revenue bond coverage of 115%, the coverage during the current fiscal year was 369%.

### CONVENTION CENTER

The Bradenton Area Convention & Civic Center provides meeting space for trade shows, sporting events, exhibitions, conferences and private parties. The Powel Crosley Estate provides conference space and an indoor/outdoor venue for both public and private events. Both facilities are managed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### TRANSIT SYSTEM

**MANATEE COUNTY AREA TRANSIT (MCAT)**, administered by the Public Works department, provides bus service with over 900 designated bus stops along 15 defined route corridors. Buses along these fixed route corridors generally operate Monday-Saturday, from 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM. A trolley service is provided on Anna Maria Island (i.e., AMI Trolley), which provides 20-minute service frequency and operates daily until 10:30 PM. The Manatee County Transit Division operations also include a demand response paratransit service (i.e., Handy Bus) for people with disabilities that cannot utilize the fixed route bus service. The Transit Division also provides transportation to area shelters during emergency events.

### PORT MANATEE

Port Manatee is one of the largest of Florida’s 14 deepwater seaports. The Manatee County Port Authority manages the major shipping gateway to our community, an 1,100-acre facility home to the importing and exporting of many agricultural and industrial products. It hosts shipments of orange juice and other citrus juices and beverages, forestry products, bananas, melons, aluminum, steel, paper products, linerboard, wood pulp, petroleum products, construction-grade aggregate, cement and fertilizer.

Port Manatee opened its expanded south gate complex in December 2016 offering enhanced capabilities for movement of oversized cargo. The $1.1 million project features new gates, guard kiosk, canopy and lighting, as well as reconfigured security fencing.

Port Manatee’s Berth 9 is now able to accommodate heavier loads thanks to the completion in June 2017 of a reconstruction project. The Florida Department of Transportation funded three-quarters of the project’s $10.3 million cost. The fortified 625-foot-long berth can now handle uniform loads of as many as 1,000 pounds per square foot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONVENTION CENTER</th>
<th>2017 (000’s omitted)</th>
<th>2016 (000’s omitted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating and non-operating revenues</td>
<td>$1,874</td>
<td>$1,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>(2,214)</td>
<td>(2,022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenses over revenues</td>
<td>(340)</td>
<td>(247)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017 Transfer from Tourist Development Fund and transfer out to Fuel Services Fund. FY 2016 Transfer from Tourist Development Fund</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(301)</td>
<td>(289)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$ (43)</td>
<td>$ 64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSIT SYSTEM</th>
<th>2017 (000’s omitted)</th>
<th>2016 (000’s omitted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenues and interest income</td>
<td>$1,434</td>
<td>$1,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant and Contributions</td>
<td>6,026</td>
<td>16,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>(12,644)</td>
<td>(11,919)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of expenses over revenues</td>
<td>(5,184)</td>
<td>6,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidy from Transportation &amp; General Funds</td>
<td>5,841</td>
<td>4,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(2,148)</td>
<td>(2,146)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$ (1,761)</td>
<td>$ 8,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PORT MANATEE</th>
<th>2017 (000’s omitted)</th>
<th>2016 (000’s omitted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenues and interest income</td>
<td>$13,832</td>
<td>$12,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant and Contributions</td>
<td>5,425</td>
<td>6,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>(8,865)</td>
<td>(9,197)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenues over expense</td>
<td>10,392</td>
<td>9,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of sales tax revenue</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(5,149)</td>
<td>(4,932)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net after depreciation</td>
<td>$ 5,673</td>
<td>$ 4,954</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In June 2017, an additional 128 refrigerated plugs were installed in the intermodal container yard to accommodate the increase in containerized perishable cargo.

Port Manatee’s fiscal year 2017 container volume is up 52 percent from fiscal year 2016’s volumes, helping the Port report its top year ever for total cargo tons moved in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. The Port Authority has loans and revenue bonds payable outstanding. The bonds are secured by and are solely payable from pledged revenues of the Port, primarily net operating revenues and investment earnings. The Port Authority has committed in its bond authorization resolution to maintain certain financial ratios while these bonds are outstanding. The Port Authority was in compliance with its covenants for the year ended September 30, 2017.

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

During fiscal year 2017, the County’s investment portfolio ranged from $732 to $896 million. Although most of this money is obligated to various projects, it is invested to provide interest income that is budgeted as a revenue source. The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller invests this money according to a written investment policy approved by the Board.

This policy dictates how the County’s money or portfolio can be invested. The policy first assures that any investments are of a minimum risk. Although sometimes higher interest rates are bypassed to do this, the primary concern is to prevent any principal being lost through unsafe investments. The policy also assures liquidity, or that cash will be available as needed to pay any bills. The third criteria to be considered is yield or interest rate. If risk and liquidity are the same for different investments, the final selection will be based on the highest yield.

The Clerk invests frequently, diversifying the portfolio to generate the highest yield possible. During fiscal year 2017, the investments made by the Clerk earned an average of .9780 % and generated $7.8 million in investment earnings. The chart below is a breakdown of the portfolio at fair value, by types of investments.
OTHER FINANCIAL DATA

PRINCIPAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAXPAYER</th>
<th>ASSESSED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Power and Light Company</td>
<td>$ 904,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropicana Products, Inc.</td>
<td>$ 366,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosaic Fertilizer LLC</td>
<td>$ 166,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfstream Natural Gas System LLC</td>
<td>$ 161,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace River Electric Co Op, Inc.</td>
<td>$ 114,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>$ 114,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Coast Factory Shops</td>
<td>$ 110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verizon Florida, Inc.</td>
<td>$ 82,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.</td>
<td>$ 74,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publix Super Markets, Inc.</td>
<td>$ 63,238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals                                   $2,158,822

ASSESSED VALUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Net Assessed Value</th>
<th>Tax Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$34,453,086</td>
<td>$226,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$33,493,766</td>
<td>$209,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$28,673,792</td>
<td>$189,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$24,844,685</td>
<td>$164,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$23,756,729</td>
<td>$157,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$23,257,910</td>
<td>$154,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$24,156,807</td>
<td>$160,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$25,951,635</td>
<td>$172,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$28,219,084</td>
<td>$187,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$30,541,289</td>
<td>$202,699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPERTY TAX RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
<td>6.4326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL BOARD</td>
<td>6.9200</td>
<td>7.2670</td>
<td>7.3760</td>
<td>7.5720</td>
<td>7.5890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>0.5061</td>
<td>0.5104</td>
<td>0.5274</td>
<td>0.5498</td>
<td>0.5608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNINCORPORATED MSTU</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
<td>0.6109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEMOGRAPHIC/ECONOMIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Total Government Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>323,374</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>3,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>330,201</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>3,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>318,176</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>3,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>324,168</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>3,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>330,862</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>3,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>333,687</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>3,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>337,546</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>341,405</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>356,133</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>3,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>368,782</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3,455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Percentage of Total County Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manatee County School Board</td>
<td>5,695</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee County Government</td>
<td>1,858</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beall’s Inc.</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee County Sheriff’s Department</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropicana Products, Inc.</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publix</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Medical Center</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMG Academies</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feld Entertainment</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TriNet</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of individuals employed within Manatee County: 169,711

Sources:
(1) Manatee Chamber of Commerce: Economic Development Council, Manatee County Government and Manatee County Sheriff’s Department.
(2) Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
How to Contact Manatee County Government

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Manatee County Courthouse
1115 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateeclerk.com
(941) 749-1800

Other Clerk Services Locations:

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM
1115 Manatee Ave. West
2nd floor
Bradenton, Florida 34205

CHILD SUPPORT
Judicial Center
Enforcement Hearings
1051 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

HISTORICAL RECORDS LIBRARY
(Carnegie Library)
1405 Fourth Ave West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK
1404 Manatee Ave. East
Bradenton, Florida 34208

PALMETTO CARNEGIE LIBRARY
Palmetto Historical Park
515 Tenth Ave. West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

FLORIDA MARITIME MUSEUM
AT CORTEZ
4415 119th Street West
Cortez, Florida 34215

MANATEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM
1015 6th Street West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Center
1112 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.mymanatee.org
(941) 748-4501

PROPERTY APPRAISER
915 Fourth Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateeappraiser.com
(941) 748-8208

SHERIFF
600 U.S. Highway 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateeshielder.com
(941) 747-3011

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
600 U.S. Highway 301 Boulevard West
Suite 108
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.votemanatee.com
(941) 741-3823

TAX COLLECTOR
819 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.taxcollector.com
(941) 741-4800

Other Tax Collector Services Locations:

Lakewood Ranch
6007 111th Street East
Bradenton, Florida 34211

North River
4333 U.S. Highway 301 North
Ellenton, Florida 34222

Palma Sola
7411 Manatee Ave. West, Suite 200
Bradenton, Florida 32409

Driver License Office
904 301 Blvd W
Bradenton, FL 34205

First Manatee South County Tag Agency
5756 14th ST W
Bradenton, FL 34207

Produced by Onesource Printing
941.350.7088

Photo credit: Melissa Matsko