

Town of Melbourne Beach

EMERGENCY TOWN COMMISSION MEETING

February 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members:

Town Manager A. Marie Smith
Town Clerk Amber Brown

1. Call to Order

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call.

Commission Members Present

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members Present

Town Manager A. Marie Smith
Fire Chief Gavin Brown
Public Works Director Tom Davis
Town Clerk Amber Brown

Commission Members Absent

Mayor Alison Dennington

3. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, and Civility Pledge

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin led the Pledge of Allegiance, a Moment of Silence and read the Civility Pledge.

4. Public Comments

5. New Business

- A. Consideration of the costs to access and remove a live manatee from a stormwater pipe and then do the necessary repairs – Town Manager A. Marie Smith

Town Manager A. Marie Smith spoke about how a manatee swam up the stormwater pipe and is stuck in a baffle box. Thought they could turn the manatee around, but it won't be possible. Also cannot push him out backwards, the space is too small. The only option is to open the pavement on the road and take the lid off the baffle box which takes a special excavating crane and would need a contractor to do that. Said this would cost \$50,000-\$60,000. The County Manager said they would send out Public Works people to break up the road and have an excavator that can take the large lid off the baffle box. Florida Wildlife and staff from Seaworld said they have a large sling they can put under the animal. Said this route could cost less than hiring a contractor to do the work. - 2:00

Public Works Director Tim Davis said if we pay a contractor we would be paying \$50,000 to \$60,000, but suggesting going with the amount up to \$60,000, which would be more than ample to compensate Brevard County. Said there should be \$60,000 in Basin One funds.

Commissioner Anna Butler made a motion that the Commission approve funds to alleviate this emergency situation up to \$60,000; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded;

Commissioner Tim Reed spoke about extracting the animal and asked if someone else is transporting it. Said he would like to amend the motion to limit the work to the extraction and repair work associated.

Town Manager A. Marie Smith said Florida Wildlife is going to handle transporting the animal.

Commissioner Anna Butler amended the motion for the Commission to approve funding to extricate the manatee and repair the road not to exceed \$60,000; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded;

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie asked if the Town's personnel were going to be involved in the extraction and cost to the Town, overtime, etc.

Town Manager A Marie Smith said the Town's Fire Department will be there but does not know if the Town's Public Works will be there or just the County's Public Works.

Public Works Director Tom Davis said he did not think he would need to be involved but if he did, he is exempt from overtime so it should not affect pay.

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin said if the budget is up to \$60,000, then usually things in that situation end up costing \$60,000. Suggested approving up to \$30,000 and if it needs to go to \$60,000, then the Commission could vote for that. - 12:00

Commissioner Anna Butler amended the motion to approve up to \$30,000 with a cap, if the cost goes above that, it will have to come to the Commission for a second vote for up to \$60,000 and that is for the extrication of the manatee and the repairs of the road; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded;

Commissioner Tim Reed confirmed this is happening now and the crane is on its way.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about wanting to see the Town Attorney investigate what the Town's financial part will have to be versus how much the County will have to be. Said they could figure that out at the next meeting.

Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about having the funds conversation at the next meeting so the Town Attorney and Town Manager could have time to look into that.

Public Works Director Tom Davis said they should try to get clarification about the shared baffle box and the line and asked if the Town bears all the expense for draining the line. Said he is concerned that there is nothing in writing about the status of that box.

Commissioner Anna Butler confirmed there would be police in the area.

Town Manager A Marie Smith spoke about how, in regards to the story or the takeaway with the people and press, we are working together in collaboration with Brevard County and Florida Wildlife to save this manatee quickly and safely.

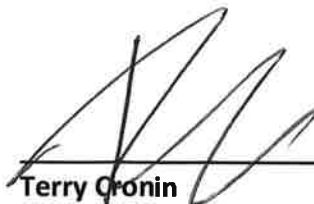
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie suggested putting that message on the Town website.

Town Clerk Amber Brown made the Commission aware that this exact same agenda item will have to be ratified at the Regular Town Commission Meeting. It won't slow anything down, but there was no time for notice for the public so it will just need to be ratified.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Anna Butler moved to adjourn; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.



Terry Cronin
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Pembrook
Transcriptionist

