BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES ADOPTED
July 22, 2026
12:30 PM
Community Center

Commissioners Present: K. Stevens, *Chair;* S. Malinowski, *Secretary;* M. Doyen *Vice-Chair, Treasurer*; I. Lockey

Staff Present: J. Theodore, *Operations Supervisor;* C. Panza, *Business Office Administrator*

1. Additions to the Agenda: none

2. Public Comment: Dumpster Leachate. Residents have reported leachate on their vehicles when driving through the facility. Current mitigation is a twice-daily dry sweep and rinse, with absorbent material returned to the MSW compactor. This is labor-intensive and only partially effective, and the containment dams break down quickly under manual maintenance. A gravel-lined trough or canal was proposed as a low-cost drainage improvement and judged feasible. The MSW compactor would not leak if everyone brought their household organics to to the compost station to be composted.

3. Business Office Report

Warrant. A motion to approve the warrant transfer in the amount of $52,000 was duly made by I. Lockey and seconded by M. Doyen. On a vote of 4-0 the motion carried.

Insurance. A motion to approve the health, dental, and life insurance renewals at a 10.47% increase was duly made I. Lockey and seconded by M. Doyen. On a vote of 4-0 the motion carried.

4. Budget Workshop

2027 Budget The workshop focused on building a 2027 draft within the 2% tax cap. Known increases make that a stretch: health insurance +10.47%, ferry transport +10%, and dental +5%.

5. Other Reports

Staff Communications. The regular Tuesday staff meetings have lapsed with all hands-on deck this summer, and communication has been informal since. Slack (free tier) was advocated as a team platform — it creates a persistent, accountable record and lets staff flag issues such as low supplies or equipment needs in real time.

Solar Zoning Update. Solar field zoning change passed at the town level. R-120 zoning will be replaced by Light Industrial in the area of the solar field and equipment (cap and immediately adjacent areas), with a covenant to revert back to R-120 when the solar field is eventually decomissioned.

Water Loop Proposal. FIUC is considering extending a water loop which will increase water pressure for fire suppression and has asked if FIWMD would like to be part of that project. It was agreed that FIUC reps should be invited to an upcoming meeting to explain the project in detail and answer questions.

Upcoming Meetings. Budget session #2 is set for Wednesday, July 29 at 12:30 PM. The public budget meeting is Wednesday, August 26, 12:30–1:30 PM, to be posted to the website and Fishnet. T. Collins returns Tuesday, August 11 to present the invasive species / conservation proposal, with the sub-committee meeting set for the morning. Invasive species work with the Conservancy was flagged for staff input ahead of a future meeting.

6. Executive Session

A motion by I. Lockey to adjourn to executive session at 2:27 pm to discuss HR was duly seconded by M. Doyen. On a vote of 4-0, the motion carried.

A motion by I. Lockey to adjourn from executive session and return to public session was duly seconded by M. Doyen. On a vote of 4–0, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41.

Respectfully Submitted by,

S. Malinowski

August 5, 2026