CITIZEN QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. John Drury, Tavares City Administrator, relayed his understanding that Cities were looking to be better prepared for the next pandemic, and that there was Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding available for Cities that must be passed through the County. He commented that they wanted to do things that kept their government open for the business and leisure communities, such as installing sneeze guards for library circulation desks, which he felt would allow them to keep their libraries open during pandemics. He also thought that having bank pass-through windows for their permitting would allow them to keep their business community going. He indicated an understanding that the County was evaluating an allocation of the CARES Act funding, and he shared that many Cities had some needs to keep their community active, engaged and operating; however, he opined that they needed help with the CARES Act funding to do this.

DISCUSSION

The Board approved a motion for the following items: funding the School Board’s request in the amount of $1,676,245 to assist with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) related expenses; to adopt an agreement with the School Board; to continue their commitment to fully fund the business and nonprofit needs with CARES Act funding of up to $16 million and possibly beyond; to only use reserves if they needed to bridge the gap between the time of expenditures and the time of receipt of additional funding from the $48 million; to memorialize their agreement with the School Board in a memorandum of agreement; and to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement once it had been drafted and approved by the County Attorney’s Office.