

# Republican Club of Southwest Florida

May 04, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Lions Club of Bonita Springs, FL

**Meeting Called to Order:** President Bill Ribble called the meeting to order at 6:00

**Invocation:** Secretary Larry Fiesel

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Vice-President Fred Forbes

**Officers Present:** President Bill Ribble, Vice-President Fred Forbes, Treasurer, Jim Sido, Secretary Larry Fiesel, Directors Joanne Ribble, Carolyn Forbes

**Recognition of Elected Officials:** Bonita Council Member, Deputy Mayor, Fred Forbes, District 6, Estero Council Member, Vice-Mayor, Joanne Ribble, Estero Council Member, District 2, Larry Fiesel, Estero Council Member District 5, Rafael Lopez, Estero Council Member, District 6, Jim Ward, Estero Council Member, District 7, George Zalucki, Lee County Mosquito Control Board, Brian Farrar

President Bill Ribble informed the Club that Cecil Pendergrass sent a check for \$500 to the Club.

**Recognition of Sponsor:** Engel & Volkers - Jim and Ellen Hollars

**Approval of January 05, 2022 Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve by Fran Mainella, Seconded by Ed Weil. Motion was unanimously approved.

## Treasurer's Report: May 04, 2023

### Disbursements: April 2023

April 10, 2023		Recurring Purchase at Wix.Com	\$ 12.00
April 13, 2023	Ck #136	Lions Club Deposit	\$100.00
April 20, 2023	Debit Card	Miklas Social Media	\$385.00

**Total Expenses** **\$497.00**

### Income: April 2023

April 17, 2023	Square	Denise McLaughlin	\$ 23.97
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**Total Deposits** **\$ 23.97**

### Summary:

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,050.78</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 23.97</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 497.00</b>

**Ending Balance** \$ 577.75

**Business Savings Account** \$ 967.48

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion by Fran Mainella, seconded by Nance Sido. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Order of Business and Introduction of Guest Speaker: Noelle Branning, Lee County Tax Collector**



Noelle Branning earnestly believes in the privilege of public service. As Lee County Tax Collector, Noelle Branning has distinguished herself as a highly effective servant leader committed to redefining the customer experience with government and becoming a role model tax collector agency in Florida.

Noelle is dedicated to serving the citizens of Lee County by providing exceptional service, financial transparency, and innovation. She wants customers in Lee County to enjoy their experience at the Lee County Tax Collector Office.

Noelle earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University in 1998 and a Juris Doctor degree from St. Thomas University School of Law in 2004. She first joined the Lee County Tax Collector in 2013 as General Counsel and was quickly promoted to Chief Deputy Tax Collector. She was elected county-wide as Lee County Tax Collector in 2020.

Since being sworn into office, Noelle has become an active member in the Florida Tax Collectors Association. As the elected Chair of FTCA District 10, which includes Lee, Hendry, Collier, Monroe, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties, Noelle is focused on sharing best practices to improve governmental efficiencies and the customer experience.

She is also active with the FTCA Legislative Committee, which works to develop and advocate for policies that protect Floridians and provide them with convenience and safety as they access state services.

Noelle keenly understands the role of the Tax Collector includes strong and effective partnerships within the larger community. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools and Community Cooperative.

Noelle is honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve her friends and neighbors as Lee County Tax Collector.

- Customer experience, excelling in providing government services is our vision
- Service should be better than you expect
- Working with Amazon data analytics platform and AI technology
- Have to provide 5-star service
- Tax Collector has implemented QR Codes and Survey Cards to aid the services of the office
- How are we meeting the needs of the community
- Lee County Tax Collector employs 236 people, half have been there less than five years, in six current locations
- Opening a new office in Estero January 2024
- Tax Collector is responsible for:
  - Issuing drivers licenses/ID cards
  - Motor vehicle titles and registrations
  - Disabled parking permits
  - Business tax receipts
  - Real estate tax payments
  - Tangible personal property tax payments
  - Hunting and fishing license
  - Concealed carry permits, HB543: concealed carry permits are no longer required
  - Florida birth certificates
- Florida tax system:
  - Property owner/taxpayer
  - Property Appraiser (PA)
  - Taxing Authority (TA)
  - Tax Collector (TC)
- Tax Collector budget is funded by fees and commissions, not by taxes
- FY22 revenue was \$33.6M, budget was \$23.7M, unused was \$9.9M
- Lee County Tax Collector office collected \$1.8B which gets distributed to the Lee County Schools, Fire and Police and all six Lee County municipalities
- Hurricane Ian affected the property tax bills being mailed causing the date for tax payments to be extended

**New Business:** The new Charter for our Republican Club of Southwest Florida was issued from the RPOF for years 2023 to 2024.

**Announcements:** Southwest Florida Legislative Victory Breakfast sponsored by Christian Family Coalition Saturday May 20, 9:00 AM at Pelican Preserve Golf Club.

Next meeting will be June 01, 2023 at the Lions Club, Bonita Springs, FL with guest speaker Sheriff Carmine Marceno.

September 07 meeting with Amira Fox

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion by Fran Mainella, seconded by George Zalucki, meeting was adjourned at 6:36