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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

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September 3, 2008

**2008/2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN
RIVER COUNTY**

The Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, met in the County Commission Chambers, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, to conduct the Preliminary Budget Hearing for 2008/2009. Present were Chairman Sandra L. Bowden, Vice Chairman Wesley S. Davis, and Commissioners Joseph E. Flescher and Peter D. O'Bryan. Commissioner Gary C. Wheeler was absent. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, Management and Budget Director Jason E. Brown, County Attorney William G. Collins II, and Deputy Clerk Maureen Gelfo.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. INVOCATION – STAN BOLING, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Planning Director Stan Boling delivered the Invocation.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – SANDRA L. BOWDEN,
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Bowden led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, **JOSEPH A. BAIRD**

County Administrator Joseph Baird presented an overview of the 2008/2009 proposed Budget totaling \$289,650,399, showing a decrease of about \$175 million, about 37% from last year. He advised that the County was proposing a reduction in ad valorem taxes of \$5.2 million, a decrease of 6.3%. He reported that the tax roll was down by 5.6%, and the passage of Amendment 1 had resulted in a decrease in taxing funds of 4.9%. Additionally, the ½ cent sales tax revenue decreased by \$406,000, or 5.1%; and State Revenue Sharing decreased by 5.5% or \$158,000.

Administrator Baird outlined this year's budget cuts, noting the elimination of 85 full-time positions, 74 under the Board of County Commissioners and 11 under the Constitutional Officers, which accounted for about a \$4.7 million reduction. He reported that a new accounting requirement to document employee benefits (retirement and health insurance), has increased budget expenses by \$2.7 million. Fuel costs rose by about \$620,000. Estimated electrical costs were reduced by about \$170,000, and over \$100,000 in travel expenses were reduced. Administrator Baird divulged that the County was looking at a \$1.2 million reduction in interest earnings. He thereafter conveyed that, in view of the current local and national economic environments, it had been a very challenging budget to put together.

5. AD VALOREM FUNDS

A. AD VALOREM MILLAGE AND AD VALOREM BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

Administrator Baird announced that the proposed budget for the General Fund is \$82,016,250, about \$2.8 million less than the current year. The millage for the current year is 3.2885, and the proposed millage is 3.0689, 6.7 % below rollback. He

reported that the proposed budget includes the elimination of twenty-six (26) full-time positions, fifteen (15) under Board of County Commissioners, and eleven (11) under Constitutional Officers, a savings of about \$1.3 million, and clarified that the majority of those positions had been vacant and were capped. Administrator Baird conveyed that the ad valorem taxes were down about \$2.3 million, and due to the decline in values, the County lost about 1.9 million in ad valorem taxes. He related that the funding required under the new accounting for employee retirement benefits, increased our expenses by 1.5 million.

Chairman Bowden opened the floor to public comments.

Harry Hall, Comptroller, Sheriff's Office, representing Sheriff Roy Raymond, was on hand to answer any questions regarding the Sheriff's budget.

There were no other speakers and the Chairman closed the public comments.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher,
SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative millage of 3.0689 for the
General Fund.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher,
SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative budget in the amount of
\$82,016.250, for the General Fund.

M.S.T.U.

Administrator Baird read into the record the proposed millage of 1.0804 (9.03% below rollback), and the proposed budget of \$29,125,672, a reduction of about \$1 million from the current year's \$30,168,918 budget. He explained that the majority of the decrease resulted from transfers to the Sheriff's and the Road and Bridge Departments' budgets, the latter which accounted for approximately a \$508,000 reduction. Administrator Baird announced that the ½ cent sales tax revenue had decreased by about \$700,000; State Revenue Sharing dropped \$290,000 or 15%; franchise revenue fees increased by \$432,000; and the overall tax roll decreased by 6%.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. Seeing no one, the Chairman closed the public comments.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan,
SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative millage of 1.0804 for the
M.S.T.U.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan,
SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative budget in the amount of
\$29,125,672, for the M.S.T.U.

TRANSPORTATION FUND

Administrator Baird explained that this fund derives 70% of its revenues from transfers from the taxing funds. He read into the record the proposed budget of

\$16,306,066, a reduction of \$1.2 million in the current year. He observed that the transportation budget includes Public Works, Traffic Engineering, County Engineering, Road and Bridge, Land Acquisition and Stormwater departments. He remarked that twelve (12) positions were eliminated in the Road and Bridge budget; nine (9) full-time positions were eliminated in Engineering; three (3) full-time positions were eliminated in Traffic Engineering; and two (2) full-time positions were eliminated in Stormwater, to effect a \$1.4 million reduction in expenses.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. Seeing no one, the Chairman closed the public comments.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis,
SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative budget in the amount of
\$16,306.066, for the Transportation Fund.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

Administrator Baird read into the record the proposed millage of 1.7148, which is 9.7% below rollback; and the proposed budget of \$28,501,218.00., a decrease of \$5,872,499 million below the current year's \$34,373,717 budget. Mr. Baird explained that about \$4 million of the reduction was due to capital improvements, which were done to bring the stations up to date after the hurricanes. The passage of Amendment 1 resulted in reduced revenues of about \$1.4 million, and there was about a \$32,000 cost increase due to manning Stations 6 and 11 for the full year. He reported that one position for a delivery person (which was vacant) had been eliminated, but there was no reduction in the fire or paramedic positions.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. Seeing no one, the Chairman closed the public comments.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage of 1.7148 for the Emergency Services District.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget of \$28,501,218.00 for the Emergency Services District.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND ACQUISITION

Administrator Baird explained that this fund covered the outstanding principal and interest on the \$11 million Land Acquisition Bond Series 2001 and the \$7.8 million Land Acquisition Bond Series 2003. He read into the record the proposed millage rate of 0.1357 (rollback rate does not apply), and the proposed budget of \$2,428,658.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comment. There were no speakers and the Chairman closed the public comment.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage of 0.1357 for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds fund.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan
SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative budget of \$2,428,658 for the
Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition
Bonds fund.

LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM

Administrator Baird observed that these bonds covered the outstanding principal and interest on the \$48,600,000 GO (General Obligation) bonds. He announced the proposed Bond millage rate of 0.2863 (rollback rate does not apply), and the proposed budget amount of \$4,797,340.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. There were no speakers and the Chairman closed the public comment.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis,
SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative millage rate of 0.2863 for the
Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis,
SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative budget of \$4,797,340 for the
Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

AGGREGATE

Administrator Baird stated that this was a benchmark millage rate that no one in the County pays; it is an averaging of all the taxing funds that fall under the Board of County Commissioners. After noting that no vote was required on this, he announced the proposed aggregate millage of 5.1628, 8% below rollback.

Commissioner O'Bryan asked whether the County's millage rate for the General Fund would be one of the lowest in the State, if the other 67 Counties adopt their proposed budgets, and learned from Budget Director Jason Brown that the County would have the lowest General Fund millage, with that provision.

6. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT BUDGET (NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL DISTRICT)

A. ANNOUNCE 2008/2009 PROPOSED CHARGE AND BUDGET

Administrator Baird announced that the charges in the Solid Waste Disposal District were per parcel acre. He read into the record the following proposed charges: (1) Residential Waste Generation at \$40.94 per unit, a 7.04% decrease from the current year; (2) Commercial Waste Generation at \$28.32 per unit, a 5.16% decrease from the current year; and (3) Readiness-to-Use Fee at \$17.41, a 7.74% decrease from the current year. He noted that two (2) full-time positions had been eliminated from this budget and announced the proposed budget of \$11,621,986.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. Seeing no one, the Chairman closed the public comments.

C. CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

There was no discussion on the proposed amendments.

D. ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT

RATES

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan
SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative Non-Ad Valorem assessment
rates of \$40.94 per Residential Waste Generation
Unit; \$28.32 per Commercial Waste Generation
Unit; and Readiness-to-Use Fees of \$17.41, for the
Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD).

E. ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan,
SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0
vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
adopted the tentative budget of \$11,621,986 for the
SWDD.

7. ADOPTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES

A. ANNOUNCE 2008/2009 PROPOSED CHARGE FOR EACH NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Administrator Baird said that these were per parcel acre charges. He read into the record the 2008/2009 proposed charges for each of the following Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Districts:

1.	Vero Lake Estates M.S.B.U.	\$19.00
2.	East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U.	\$15.00
3.	Gifford Street Lighting District	\$25.00
4.	Laurelwood Street Lighting District	\$18.00
5.	Rockridge Street Lighting District	\$10.00
6.	Vero Highlands Street Lighting District	\$23.00
7.	Porpoise Point Street Lighting District	\$13.00
8.	Laurel Court Street Lighting District	\$27.00
9.	Tierra Linda Street Lighting District	\$23.00
10.	Vero Shores Street Lighting District	\$21.00
11.	Ixora Park Street Lighting District	\$19.00
12.	Royal Poinciana Street Lighting District	\$28.00
13.	Roseland Road Street Lighting District	\$ 1.50

14.	Whispering Pines Street Lighting District	\$18.00
15.	Moorings Street Lighting District	\$12.00
16.	Walker's Glen Street Lighting District	\$24.00
17.	Glendale Lakes Street Lighting District	\$40.00
18.	Floralton Beach Street Lighting District	\$38.00
19.	West Wabasso	\$21.00

Administrator Baird reported that four districts, which had experienced electrical utility increases, had the following increases on their street lights. Gifford went up \$4.00, from \$21.00 to \$25.00; Laurel Court went up \$2.00, from \$25.00 to \$27.00; Glendale Lakes went up \$2.00, from \$38.00 to \$40.00; and Floralton Beach had a \$9.00 increase, from \$29.00 to \$38.00.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman opened the floor to public comment. Seeing no one, the Chairman closed the public comments.

C. CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

There was no discussion on the proposed amendments.

D. ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT

RATES

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher
 SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-0
 vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board
 adopted the tentative charge for each of the
 nineteen (19) aforementioned Non-Ad Valorem
 Assessment Districts.

8. APPROVE NON-AD VALOREM DOLLAR BUDGETS

A. ANNOUNCE 2008/2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

Administrator Baird announced that the proposed budget for the Housing Authority was \$141,470, a decrease of \$21,331 from the prior year. He revealed that the Housing Authority was a federal agency requiring a separate Motion.

ON MOTION BY Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget of \$141,470 for the Housing Authority.

Administrator Baird revealed the dollar amounts for the remaining non-ad valorem budgets as follows:

2.	Special Revenue Funds	\$ 24,808,453
3.	Other Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,239,633
4.	Capital Projects	\$ 12,973,749
5.	Enterprise Funds	\$ 49,451,188
6.	Internal Service Funds	\$ 26,238,716

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. There being no speakers, she closed the public comments.

C. CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

There were no proposed amendments.

D. TENTATIVE BUDGET ADOPTED

ON MOTION BY Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative Non-Ad Valorem Budgets for Special Revenue Funds; Other Debt Service Fund; Capital Projects; Enterprise Funds; and Internal Service Funds.

9. ANNOUNCE TIME AND PLACE OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Administrator Baird announced that the Final Budget hearing would be held at 5:01 P.M. on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at the County Administration Building, Commission Chambers, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

ALL BACKUP DOCUMENTATION, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at
5:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeffrey K. Barton, Clerk

Sandra L. Bowden, Chairman

Minutes Approved: _____

BCC/MG/2008Minutes