

JEFFREY K. BARTON  
Clerk to the Board



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**BUDGET HEARING**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

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JEFFREY K. BARTON

Clerk to the Board



September 9, 2009

**2009/2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD**  
**OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, met at the County Commission Chambers, 1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 to conduct a Preliminary Budget Hearing. Present were Chairman Wesley S. Davis, Vice Chairman Joseph E. Flescher, and Commissioners Peter D. O’ Bryan, Bob Solari, and Gary C. Wheeler. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, Management and Budget Director Jason E. Brown, County Attorney William G. Collins II, and Deputy Clerk Leona Adair Allen.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Davis called the Workshop to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2. INVOCATION**

Community Planning Director Stan Boling delivered the Invocation.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Davis 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 proposed 2009/2010 Budget totaling \$302,670,415, a decrease of about \$83,443,999, -21.6% from last year. He reported Ad Valorem taxes down by \$9,866,333, -10.1%. The budget cuts included eliminating 38 full-time positions, a savings of \$2,300,665; a decrease in deductible health plan changes of \$513,000; and a total decrease in revenues from the ½ cent sales tax revenue of \$400,000, -10%. He conveyed that this year's aggregate millage would be 5.1436, 10.5% below the current rate of 5.7466.

Administrator Baird stated that this year's budget rates stayed the same or decreased, with the exception of the golf course non-residents paying \$1.00 more per round.

**5. AD VALOREM FUNDS**

**A. AD VALOREM MILLAGE AND AD VALOREM BUDGET**

**GENERAL FUND**

Administrator Baird announced that the proposed budget is \$77,314,789, and the proposed millage is 3.0892, 9.38% below rollback. He reported that the elimination of nine positions is a savings of \$365,000; Ad Valorem taxes are down \$4,632,000; the health plan change savings amounts to \$280,000; travel is down \$28,000; and the estimated energy savings is \$176,000. He pointed out that there were no merit or cost of living raises for employees in this budget.

Attorney Collins requested the Board revise his budget to reflect the 12.3% decrease, rather than the 14.0%.

Management and Budget Director Jason Brown recalled that the action taken by the Board at the Budget Workshop on July 23, 2009, was to approve the County Attorney's Department budget cuts by inducing 26 days of furlough per year.

Attorney Collins disagreed to the action taken at the Budget Workshop, and clarified that the reduction in staff only works for the 12.3% reduction; and pointed out that it was not the first year his office had taken reductions. He felt a 14% reduction would be difficult to make.

Commissioner Solari wondered if the Board should revisit decreasing the number of attorneys in the office to balance the budget, and instead of the extensive furloughs, return the office to the same number of positions as in 2007.

Vice Chairman Flescher voiced concern over the furlough process, the cost of outside legal representation, and the value to the taxpayer. He believed furloughs were disruptive, and that there was no justification for four attorneys or seven people in the Legal office when other departments were required to downsize.

Director Brown reported that the cost for two outside counsel firms for right-of-way acquisitions in fiscal year 2006/2007 was about \$22,000, and that to date it is about \$73,000.

MOTION WAS MADE BY Vice Chairman Flescher,  
SECONDED by Commissioner Solari, to move forward  
with a reduction in the County Attorney's office.

Under discussion, Commissioner Wheeler did not believe furloughs were as disruptive as losing staff. He wanted additional information regarding the cost difference in reduction versus

furloughs. He suggested leaving the percentage set at 14% today, review the records from the Budget Workshop, then make a decision at the Final Budget Meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding Board and employee relations, micro-management, shifts in workload, and policy decisions.

Attorney Collins expressed his opinion that administering the decrease through furloughs would be a better approach than eliminating a position.

Chairman Davis mentioned earlier in the meeting that he felt the workload had shifted, and Attorney DeBaal elaborated on the comment.

Attorney DeBaal asked the Board to respect the decision of staff and the department's employees, approving furloughs rather than a reduction.

Director Brown provided the Board with figures and percentages of the decreases in the Legal Department's budget as it would be affected by the reduction of each staff attorney.

The Board briefly discussed the effectiveness of furlough days.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION, and by a 3-2 vote (Commissioners O'Bryan and Wheeler opposed), the Motion carried. The Board approved to eliminate one attorney position according to the County Attorney's recommended options to reduce the budget.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments. Seeing none, the Chairman closed the public comments.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 3.0892 (9.38% below rollback) for the General Fund.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$77,314,789, for the General Fund.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (M.S.T.U.)**

Administrator Baird reported the proposed millage to be 1.0774, 13.43% below rollback; and the proposed budget to be \$27,029,020, a reduction of \$5,171,831, -16% from the prior year. He summarized the reductions, saying that the nine positions eliminated were a savings of \$976,685; transfers between the Transportation Fund and General Fund for the Sheriff was a reduction of \$890,950; and eliminating life guards at the Tracking Station accounted for a savings of \$110,628. He pointed out that there were no merit or cost of living raises for employees in this budget.

Commissioner O'Bryan hoped the level of service for the Tracking Station could continue to work within the reduced budget parameters.

At the request of Vice Chairman Flescher, Management and Budget Director Brown shared the expense and revenue neutral basis option of extending the hours and availability of the Gifford Pool.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

**Joe McManus**, President of the United Savings Lifesaving Association for the Southeast Region, Indian River County Ocean Rescue Lifeguard II, complimented staff for keeping the Tracking Station open and guarded; and believed it would be possible to keep staffing at the Tracking Station for a reasonable cost.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 1.0774 (13.43% below rollback) for the M.S.T.U.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$27,029,020, for the M.S.T.U.

**TRANSPORTATION FUND – (NO MILLAGE)**

Administrator Baird explained that this fund derives 70% of its revenues from transfers from the taxing funds; and reported that the proposed budget is \$14,372,690, a reduction of \$3,101,368, down 17% from last year. He said the elimination of twelve full-time positions and one part-time position was a savings of \$853,108; and the reorganization and elimination of one manager and two foremen was a savings of \$243,423. The reduction in fuel costs for next year was estimated to be a savings of \$238,500; and the health plan changes will save \$47,160. He pointed out that there were no raises in this budget.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O’Bryan, SECONDED  
by Commissioner Solari, the Board unanimously  
adopted the tentative budget in the amount of  
\$14,372,690, for the Transportation Fund.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT**

Administrator Baird announced that the proposed millage of 1.7148 is 11.27% below rollback; and that the proposed budget is \$26,736,213, a decrease of \$4,286,039 from last year. He revealed that the new Fire Station (12) would be opening in the Gifford area with seven full time employees, at a cost of \$501,512. He mentioned that the budget is down because the station repairs, replacements, and upgrades were finished last year, decreasing this year’s budget by \$2,372,190; and that the fuel savings was about \$91,000. He informed the Board that the budget included a merit raise of \$273,918, but not a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) raise. He pointed out that some of the line items for operating were decreased, and that there was no new capital in this budget, as in years past.

Administrator Baird clarified for Chairman Davis that the new station would include dual certified individuals, and an ALS engine assigned (not an ALS engine and ambulance). He also noted that an Assistant Chief position was eliminated.

Commissioner O’Bryan explained that the grant extension would not postpone the opening of Station 12.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

**Walter Geiger**, 3944 58<sup>th</sup> Circle, voiced concerns as he outlined his handouts relating to proposed Firefighter and Rescue budget reductions (on file). The Commissioners and Administrator addressed Mr. Geiger's concerns.

**Daniel Fourmont**, 2267 Atlantis Drive, reiterated points from the previous speaker regarding Firefighter salary and benefit cuts.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Flescher, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 1.7148 (11.27% below rollback) for the Emergency Services District.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$26,736,213 for the Emergency Services District.

### **ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND ACQUISITION**

Administrator Baird acknowledged that the General Obligation Bond had been voted into place by the public, to purchase environmentally sensitive land. The proposed millage is 0.0725 (rollback rate does not apply); and the proposed budget amount is \$2,330,010. He said this makes the debt service payment on the bonds, and that one of the two bond issues would soon be paid.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 0.0725 (rollback rate does not apply) for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds Fund.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Flescher, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$2,330,010 for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds Fund.

**LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM**

Administrator Baird acknowledged this to be the debt service for the General Obligation Bond issue of \$50,000,000 that the public voted into place. The proposed millage rate is 0.3154 (rollback rate does not apply) and the proposed budget amount is \$4,793,098.

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

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Flescher, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage rate of 0.3154 (rollback rate does not apply) for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$4,793,098 for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

**AGGREGATE**

Administrator Baird stated the proposed millage to be 5.1436 and is 10.49% below the rollback rate. He felt our County's General Fund millage rate would be one of the lowest in the State, as established by the Board.

**6. INDIAN RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SITTING AS SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT BOARD**

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT BUDGET**

**(NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL DISTRICT)**

**A. ANNOUNCE 2009/2010 PROPOSED CHARGE AND BUDGET**

Administrator Baird reported the proposed charges as: (1) \$40.38 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$64.61 per house), a 1.37% decrease from the current year; (2) \$28.13 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit, a 0.67% decrease; (3) \$17.10 per Readiness-to-Use Fee, a 1.78% decrease; and announced the proposed budget as \$10,869,504, which is \$760,607 below the current year. He reported that there was a savings on fuel, a savings in renegotiated contracts, and that a management position was reduced to an operations coordinator.

**B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**C. CONSIDER ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

There were no proposed amendments.

**D. ADOPT TENTATIVE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT RATES**

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Solari, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative Non-Ad Valorem assessment rates of \$40.38 per Residential Waste Generation Unit; \$28.13 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit; and \$17.10 for Readiness-to-Use Fees, for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD).

**E. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET**

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$10,869,504 for the SWDD.

**7. ADOPTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES**

**A. ANNOUNCE 2009/2010 PROPOSED CHARGE FOR EACH NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

Administrator Baird and Director Brown read into the record the 2009/2010 proposed charges for 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

**B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**C. CONSIDER ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND CALCULATE  
REVISED CHARGE**

There were no proposed amendments.

**D. ADOPT TENTATIVE CHARGE**

ON MOTION by Commissioner O’Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Solari, the Board unanimously 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 2009/2010 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Administrator Baird announced the 2009/2010 proposed budget as follows:

1.	Housing Authority	\$ 141,047
2.	Special Revenue Funds	\$ 50,418,069
3.	Other Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,242,233
4.	Capital Projects	\$ 16,830,000
5.	Enterprise Funds	\$ 46,525,442
6.	Internal Service Funds	\$ 24,068,300

**B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**C. CONSIDER ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

There were no proposed amendments.

**D. ADOPT TENTATIVE CHARGE**

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Flescher, SECONDED by Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative Non-Ad Valorem Budgets for the Housing Authority; 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 16, 2009, at the County Administration Building, Commission Chambers, 1801 27<sup>th</sup> 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 declared the Budget Workshop adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey K. Barton, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wesley S. Davis, Chairman

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

LAA/Preliminary Budget