

JEFFREY K. BARTON
Clerk to the Board



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BUDGET HEARING

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

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JEFFREY K. BARTON
Clerk to the Board



September 7, 2011

2011-2012 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 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 to conduct a Preliminary Budget Hearing. Present were Chairman Bob Solari and Commissioners Wesley S. Davis, Joseph E. Flescher, and Peter D. O'Bryan. Vice Chairman Wheeler was absent. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, Management and Budget Director Jason E. Brown, County Attorney Alan S. Polackwich, Sr., and Deputy Clerk Maureen Gelfo.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INVOCATION

Jeffrey R. Smith, Chief Deputy, Clerk of Circuit Court, delivered the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

~~Vice Chairman Wheeler~~ Chairman Solari led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JOSEPH A. BAIRD

County Administrator Joseph Baird used a PowerPoint Presentation (on file) to support his budget synopsis for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. He announced that the proposed budget was \$258,404,842, a reduction of \$60,359,981 or 18.9% from last year. He reported that Ad Valorem tax revenues have declined by \$5 million or 6.4% and the Ad Valorem Taxing Fund budget for 2011-2012 has decreased by approximately 11% or \$18.4 million from last year. He explained that \$1,660,000 of General Fund reserves were used to balance the proposed budget. Administrator Baird related that some savings had been accomplished through staffing reductions and decreases in overtime, and that the County has saved around \$4.2 million as a result of the Senate Bill 2100 (SB 2100) requirement for employees to contribute 3% to their pension plans.

5. AD VALOREM FUNDS

5.A. AD VALOREM MILLAGE AND AD VALOREM BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

Administrator Baird announced that under the General Fund, the proposed millage is 3.0892, 7.03% below rollback, and the proposed budget is \$69,680,951, 11.7% or \$9,236,767 less than last year. He reported that fifty-two positions were eliminated, five full-time under the County Commissioners (one Commissioner's Assistant; two librarians; and two park attendants) and approximately 46 positions that the Sheriff has left vacant or eliminated. He conveyed that Ad Valorem tax revenues in the General Fund have decreased by \$2,810,982 or 6.4%, and that interest income has decreased by \$205,000 or 51.9%.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage of 3.0892 (7.03% below rollback) for the General Fund.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the proposed budget in the amount of \$69,680,951 for the General Fund.

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

Chairman Solari read into the record the proposed millage of 1.0733, 9.03% below rollback, and the proposed budget of \$24,470,418.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

Bob Johnson, Coral Wind Subdivision, proposed reducing the Utilities franchise fee from 6% to 5%, noting that it would reduce by 1% the bills of County utility customers.

There were no additional speakers and the Chairman closed the public comments session.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage of 1.0733 (9.03% below rollback) for the M.S.T.U.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$24,470,418 for the M.S.T.U.

TRANSPORTATION FUND (NO MILLAGE)

Chairman Solari announced that the proposed budget for the Transportation Fund is \$13,016,157.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, the Board by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$13,016,157, for the Transportation Fund.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

Chairman Solari read into the record the Emergency Service District's proposed millage of 1.7148, 8.12% below rollback, and the proposed budget of \$25,696,785.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

Walter Geiger, 3944 58th Circle, wanted to see if procedural and/or personnel changes could be made to reduce the Emergency Services budget and avoid having to use reserve funds to keep the department going. He also suggested that prior to the renewal of the International

Associations of Fire Fighters (IAFF) contract, Administrator Baird investigate the possibility of adjusting the sick and annual leave of the fire fighters.

Administrator Baird, responding to the above comments, pointed out some of the sacrifices made by the IAFF.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage of 1.7148 (8.12% below rollback) for the Emergency Services District.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget of \$25,696,785, for the Emergency Services District.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND ACQUISITION

Chairman Solari, noting that rollback does not apply, presented the proposed millage of 0.0717 and the proposed budget of \$1,057,596.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Solari, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage of 0.0717 (rollback rate does not apply) for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds Fund.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget of \$1,057,596 for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds Fund.

LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM

Chairman Solari announced that the proposed budget is \$4,748,441, and the proposed millage is 0.3647; the rollback rate does not apply.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative millage rate of 0.3647 (rollback rate does not apply) for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget of \$4,748,441 for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

AGGREGATE

Chairman Solari reported the proposed aggregate millage to be 5.0663, 7.66% below the rollback rate.

**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 2011-2012 PROPOSED CHARGE AND BUDGET

Administrator Baird reported that due to declining revenues, an increase had to be made to SWDD rates for the first time in over ten years. He added that this is the only rate increase in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 proposed budget. He announced that the proposed budget is \$10,474,340, \$242,117 or 2.3% below the past year, and summarized the rates as follows: (1) \$42.40 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$67.84 per house), a 5.00% increase from last year; (2) \$29.39 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit, a 4.63% increase from last year; (3) \$18.13 Readiness-to-Use Fee, a 6.02% increase from last year; and a new fee for Landfill Ash Product Disposal (partly due to INEOS New Planet BioEnergy), of \$18.46 per ton.

B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

Bob Johnson, Coral Wind Subdivision, objected to citizens having to pay increased SWDD rates, in addition to the 6% utility franchise tax. He also questioned why homeowners have to pay not only SWDD taxes, but also landfill fees to dispose of trees or oversize brush.

Administrator Baird, with input from Budget and Management Director Jason Brown, addressed Mr. Johnson's questions and comments.

There were no additional speakers, and the Chairman closed the floor to 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 Davis, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative Non-Ad Valorem assessment rates of \$42.40 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$67.84 per house; a 5.0% increase from current year); \$29.39 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit (4.63% increase from current year); \$18.13 for Readiness-to-Use Fee, a 6.02% increase from current year); and Landfill Ash Product

Disposal Fee of \$18.46 per ton, for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD).

E. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET

ON MOTION by Commissioner O’Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Davis, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative budget of \$10,474,340 for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD).

7. ADOPTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES

A. ANNOUNCE 2011-2012 PROPOSED CHARGE FOR EACH NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Director Brown, affirming that there were no rate changes, announced the 2011-2012 proposed charge for each Non-Ad Valorem Assessment District as follows:

<u>Municipal Services Benefit Unit</u>	Charge Per Parcel Acre
1. Vero Lake Estates M.S.B.U.	\$19.00
2. East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U.	\$10.00
<u>Street Lighting Districts</u>	
3. Gifford	\$25.00
4. Laurelwood	\$18.00
5. Rockridge	\$ 8.00
6. Vero Highlands	\$23.00
7. Porpoise Point	\$11.00
8. Laurel Court	\$27.00

9. Tierra Linda	\$21.00
10. Vero Shores	\$19.00
11. Ixora Park	\$17.00
12. Royal Poinciana	\$28.00
13. Roseland Road	\$ 1.00
14. Whispering Pines	\$16.00
15. Moorings	\$10.00
16. Walker's Glen	\$22.00
17. Glendale Lakes	\$40.00
18. Floralton Beach	\$38.00
19. West Wabasso	\$21.00

B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

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 Davis, by a 4-0 vote (Vice Chairman Wheeler absent), the Board adopted the tentative charges read into the record for each of the above-mentioned nineteen Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Districts.

8. APPROVE NON-AD VALOREM DOLLAR BUDGETS

A. ANNOUNCE 2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

Director Brown announced the 2011-2012 proposed budget as follows:

1. Other Special Revenue Funds	\$29,513,396
2. Other Debt Service Fund	\$1,238,423
3. Capital Projects	\$14,843,099
4. Enterprise Funds	\$41,208,699
5. Internal Service Funds	\$22,456,537

B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

C. CONSIDER ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

There were no proposed amendments.

D. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET

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

The Commissioners and Administrator Baird extended kudos to the Constitutional Officers and County staff, acknowledging they have worked hard to fulfill their obligations within budget constraints. It was noted that despite the lack of pay increases in three years, and a new responsibility of contributing 3% of their take home pay towards their pension plans, County employees have continued to maintain levels of service for the public.

Commissioner Davis acknowledged that some of the private contractors have also been cooperating to provide services within the County's budget.

9. ANNOUNCE TIME AND PLACE OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Chairman Solari announced that the Final Budget Hearing will be held at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at the County Administration Building A, 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 declared the Preliminary Budget Hearing adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeffrey K. Barton, Clerk

Bob Solari, Chairman

Minutes Approved: _____
MG/Preliminary Budget Hearing