

**JEFFREY R. SMITH**

Clerk to the Board



**INDEX TO MINUTES OF 2013-2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**  
**HEARING**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 11, 2013**

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JEFFREY R. SMITH  
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September 11, 2013

**2012-2013 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING 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 11, 2013, to conduct the 2013-2014 Preliminary Budget Hearing. Present were Chairman Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman Wesley S. Davis, and Commissioners Peter D. O'Bryan, Bob Solari, and Tim Zorc. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, County Attorney Dylan Reingold, and Deputy Clerk Maureen Gelfo.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. INVOCATION**

Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller, delivered the Invocation.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman Davis 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 overall budget synopsis for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. He reported that there is a 1.4% gain in the tax roll this year, the first increase in six years. Administrator Baird announced that the total proposed operating budget is \$255,107,975, a decrease of \$36,684,220 from the current year. He noted that if staff uses what is referred to as “Commissioner Solari’s comparison”, the budget is \$2,972,458 more.

Commissioner Solari stated that he had asked Administrator Baird to present his figure to better clarify the budget changes from year to year. He explained that using last year’s proposed allocation of \$252,135,490, he had factored in government accounting, the uncertainty of grant monies, and the transfer of unfinished projects from one year to another, to arrive at his comparison figure, an increase of \$2,972,458 to the upcoming fiscal year budget.

Administrator Baird resumed the budget overview. He conveyed that there is an additional \$250,000 in the General and Municipal Services Taxing Unit (M.S.T.U.) funds, due to the payoff of the Spring Training Bonds and elimination of the debt service. He revealed the following budget increases: the Board of County Commissioners, \$188,080; Constitutional Officers, \$2,225,850; Florida Retirement System (FRS), \$1.8 million; and \$1.2 million in Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for County employees. Administrator Baird also mentioned that staff proposes to phase out the reliance on the General and Emergency Services Fund reserves to balance the budget.

#### **5. AD VALOREM FUNDS**

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

###### **GENERAL FUND**

Administrator Baird reported that the proposed millage for the General Fund is 3.2620, 6.1% above the rollback rate; and the proposed budget is \$70,920,776, 0.6% above the current year. He noted that the main reasons for the increase are a new position in the Public Works Department; an additional \$2,225,850 for the Constitutional Officers; and a Florida Retirement System rate hike of \$1.8 million countywide.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

**Walter Geiger**, 3944 58<sup>th</sup> Circle, wished to comment on the Emergency Services District (EMS) budget, and was requested to speak during the EMS presentation.

The Chairman closed the public comments session.

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Solari, to not raise the millage rate to 3.2620, and to split the difference between that rate and the rollback rate of 3.0733, which would be approximately \$2.6 million in dollar terms; and to take \$1.3 million out of the excess fund balance of almost \$25 million, and leave another \$1.3 million in the taxpayer's coffers. Motion FAILED due to lack of a second.

*(Clerk's Note: The \$25 million pertains to the \$48 million fund balance in the General Fund, and the excess amounts in the 20% fund balance threshold established in the County's fund balance policies).*

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-1 vote (Commissioner Solari opposed), the Board adopted the tentative millage rate of 3.2620 for the General Fund.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$70,920,776 for the General Fund.

A brief discussion ensued about the additional allocations that will be required in the amounts of \$100,000 for a lobbyist to advocate for the sale of the Vero Electric Utility to Florida Power and Light (FPL); and \$150,000 to extend the operating hours of the GoLine Bus Line.

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

Administrator Baird announced that the M.S.T.U. is the taxing fund for all the services in the unincorporated areas of the County. The proposed millage is 1.0733, .43% above the rollback rate of 1.0687, and the proposed budget is \$24,942,596, 1.95% or \$476,094 more than the current year's budget of \$24,466,502. The primary increases are in funding for the Road and Bridge Department and the Sheriff's Office. There is a \$55,000 climb in the County's franchise fees, and the FRS rates have gone up \$38,428 in this fund.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

**Althea McKenzie**, 4876 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked the Board to address the need for additional street lights in the Gifford area. She also expressed concerns about paying for the anticipated improvements in the Gifford Neighborhood Plan (GNP), and requested that the funding sources be included in the GNP if the information is available.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners, staff, and Ms. McKenzie. Among topics mentioned were the five new streetlights installed this year; funds that have been designated for improvements to the multipurpose field lighting and to the Gifford Ball Field; and what the cost savings might be if FPL acquires the City of Vero Beach Electric Utility. Director Brown noted that the County plans to install five new streetlights in Gifford annually.

After further discussion, the Board advised Ms. McKenzie to either email the Commissioners or have the Gifford Progressive Civic League (GPCL) let the Board know where streetlights need repair or replacement.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 1.0733 for the M.S.T.U.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$24,942,596 for the M.S.T.U.

### **TRANSPORTATION FUND (NO MILLAGE)**

Administrator Baird announced that the Transportation Fund encompasses the Road and Bridge, Public Works, Stormwater, and Traffic Engineering Divisions. The proposed budget is \$13,296,874, a \$270,592 increase from the current year. He attributed the change to: (1) two new employee positions, one in the Stormwater Division for fertilizer education/enforcement, and one in the Maintenance Department; (2) a new vehicle for the new Stormwater staff member; and (3) the FRS rates adding an additional \$89,933 to the budget.

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

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$13,296,874, for the Transportation Fund.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT**

Administrator Baird advised that these taxes are for Advanced Life Support and Fire Protection services; they are paid by all homeowners with the exception of Indian River Shores residents. He conveyed that the Emergency Service District's proposed millage is 1.9799, a 16.03% increase above the rollback rate of 1.7063; and its proposed budget is \$26,667,288. He pointed out that the budget has increased only \$327,957 from the 2012-2013 budget of \$26,339,331, and that the tax roll has risen 1.2% in this district. Administrator Baird mentioned that the \$2.5 million of reserves currently being used to offset the budget is being reduced to \$500,000 to stop reliance on the fund balance; and that mounting FRS rates have impacted this fund by \$453,399.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

**Walter Geiger**, 3944 58<sup>th</sup> Circle, commented on what he deemed to be a substantial increase in EMS.

Commissioner Solari explained to Mr. Geiger that he was noting a rise in the millage rate, not the actual budget, and that the increase in the actual dollar amount is approximately 1.3%.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 1.9799 for the Emergency Services District.



A brief discussion ensued about the necessity to budget for capital expenditures, such as new Emergency Services vehicles. The Board hoped to address these types of items in the next budget cycle.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION, and the Motion carried unanimously.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$26,667,288, for the Emergency Services District.

### **LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM**

Administrator Baird announced that this item covers the debt service on the 2004 General Obligation Land Acquisition Bond Issue. The proposed millage is 0.3788, a decrease of .0011, and the rollback rate does not apply. The proposed budget is \$4,775,560.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

**Meredith Farrington**, 4715 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Gifford, asked what areas were included in the land acquisitions.

A brief discussion followed regarding the purpose and scope of the voter-approved bond issue. Mr. Farrington was advised to leave his contact information with Management and Budget Director Jason Brown, so that the Environmental Planner can provide him with further details on the purchases.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage rate of 0.3788 (rollback rate does not apply) for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$4,775,560 for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

**AGGREGATE**

Administrator Baird reported that this is a benchmark that the State of Florida uses; no one actually pays it. The proposed aggregate millage is 5.4611, 8% above the rollback rate of 5.0525.

**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 2013-2014 PROPOSED CHARGE AND BUDGET**

Administrator Baird presented the proposed 2013-2014 charges for the Solid Waste District as follows:

1. \$44.29 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$70.86 per house), a 4.46% increase from last year
2. \$30.44 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit (3.57% increase from last year)
3. Readiness-to-Use Fee \$18.81 (3.75% increase from last year)
4. Landfill Ash Product Disposal Fee \$18.81 per ton (0.0% increase from last year)

He disclosed that the proposed budget for 2013-2014 is \$11,200,862.

**B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman 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 NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT RATES**

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative Non-Ad Valorem assessment rates of \$44.29 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$70.86 per house); \$30.44 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit; \$18.81 for Readiness-to-Use Fee; and the Landfill Ash Product Disposal Fee of \$18.81 per ton, for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD).

**E. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET**

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Solari, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$11,200,862 for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD).

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

**A. ANNOUNCE 2013-2014 PROPOSED CHARGE FOR EACH NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

Administrator Baird explained that these are per parcel acre charges.

Director Brown announced the 2013-2014 proposed charges 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                           | \$23.00                |
| 5. Rockridge                            | \$ 8.00                |
| 6. Vero Highlands                       | \$28.00                |
| 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  | \$32.00 |
| 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  | \$45.00 |
| 19. West Wabasso     | \$21.00 |

**B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Flescher opened the floor to public comments.

**Ms. McKenzie** was concerned that some of the Gifford residents were paying into the East Gifford Stormwater MSBU, but not getting relief from their drainage problems.

A lengthy discussion followed as Commissioners and staff provided commentary on the purpose, geographic boundaries, and service area of the MSBU, and responded to a series of questions/comments posed by Ms. McKenzie.

**Ms. McKenzie** stated that she hoped the County would take the demographics of the Gifford area into consideration and find alternative funding to absorb the costs of some of the improvements that are needed in the community.

Discussion ensued about a Community Development Block Grant that was transferred from the Gifford Community to offset other projects, and Ms. McKenzie asked the Board to henceforth make sure whatever resources are available stay within the community.

Commissioner Solari pointed out that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has just voted to accelerate the proposed expansion of the GoLine Transit System weekday service hours, and those dollars are being approved at tonight's meeting. The new schedule, with buses running from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., will particularly benefit individuals who need transportation to and from their jobs.

**Reverend Edward Spencer**, 3830 46<sup>th</sup> Street, echoed Ms. McKenzie's concerns about drainage problems in Gifford.

He was advised to provide his contact information to staff to get further information about the East Gifford MSBU.

**Mr. Farrington** asked to be added to the list of people who will be receiving information on the MSBU.

There were no additional 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 Zorc, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative charges read into the record for each of the above Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Districts.

**8. APPROVE NON-AD VALOREM DOLLAR BUDGETS**

**A. ANNOUNCE 2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Administrator Baird outlined the 2013-2014 proposed Non-Ad Valorem dollar budgets as follows:

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Special Revenue Funds   | \$19,794,698 |
| 2. Other Debt Service Fund | \$ 877,513   |
| 3. Capital Projects        | \$17,311.556 |
| 4. Enterprise Funds        | \$42,120,544 |
| 5. Internal Service Funds  | \$23,199,708 |

**B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Flescher opened the floor to public comments.

**Mr. Farrington** requested further information about the budget meetings, and Vice Chairman Davis provided an explanation of the budget workshop and budget hearing schedules.

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 BUDGET**

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously 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.

**9. ANNOUNCE TIME AND PLACE OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING**

Chairman Flescher announced that the Final Budget Hearing will be held at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at County Administration Building A, County 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 meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



ATTEST:

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Jeffrey R. Smith,  
Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller

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Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

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