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JEFFREY R. SMITH

Clerk to the Board



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

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JEFFREY R. SMITH
Clerk to the Board



September 18, 2013

FINAL BUDGET HEARING
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 18, 2013, to conduct the Final 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

Stan Boling, Planning Director, delivered the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Flescher led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JOSEPH A. BAIRD

Chairman Flescher announced that Management & Budget Director Jason Brown would provide the budget overview.

Director Brown, through a PowerPoint Presentation (on file), gave an overview of the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget. He relayed that there has been an increase in the tax rolls for the first time in six years with a rise of around 1.40%, and staff accordingly recommends phasing out the use of the reserves that was begun during the economic downturn. He announced that the proposed budget is \$255,107, 975, a decrease of around \$36 million or 12.6% from the current budget, or an increase of around \$2 million using what is referred to as “Commissioner Solari’s comparison”.

(Clerk’s Note: At the Preliminary Budget Hearing of September 11, 2013, Commissioner Solari advised that he had asked his figure to be included in the budget message, 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).

Director Brown conveyed that the partial early payoff of the Spring Training Bonds has freed up about \$250,000 that has gone into the General and Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) Funds; there have been five new employment positions; an increase of \$2,225,850 to the budget of the Constitutional Officers; and a Florida Retirement System (FRS) rate increase of about \$1.8 million countywide. He recalled that at the Budget Workshop Meeting (the Workshop) of July 17, 2013, a total of \$1,175,054 was added to the budgets of the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections, resulting in an increased millage rate

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recommendation in the General Fund. Director Brown revealed several additions to the budget that were made subsequent to the Workshop: (1) \$92,539 related to the hiring of a new stormwater employee to oversee the enforcement and educational components of Ordinance 2013-012 (the fertilizer ordinance), and associated expenses; (2) \$100,000 for a lobbyist to help effect the sale of the Vero Beach Electric Utility to Florida Power and Light (FPL); and (3) around \$150,000 to increase the operating hours of the GoLine Transit System.

5. AD VALOREM FUNDS

AD VALOREM MILLAGE AND AD VALOREM BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

Director Brown announced that the proposed millage rate is 3.2620, 6.14% above the rollback rate of 3.0733, and the proposed budget is \$70,920,776, 0.6% or \$417,152 above the current budget. The FRS rate increase impacted the Constitutional Officers' Budgets by an estimated \$1 million, and the Board of County Commission budget by \$195,000; total increases to the Constitutionals' budgets were about \$2.2 million. He reported that the Board of County Commissioner's overall budget declined approximately \$800,000 or 5.5%, and that the fund balance usage is being reduced from \$1.8 million in the current year to \$900,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, in accordance with the recommendation to phase out the usage of the reserves.

Commissioner Solari mentioned that the Press Journal had misreported the County's fund balance for the General Fund as \$24 million, whereas it is presently \$48 million. He explained that the Motion he had made at the Preliminary Budget Hearing of September 11, 2013 was to take the excess of the 20% fund balance threshold (established in the County's fund balance policies), and use an additional \$1 million of that to lower the proposed millage rate.

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MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Solari to reduce the proposed millage rate to 3.1% and make up the difference with the excess of the General Fund Balance.

MOTION DIED for lack of a SECOND.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

Bob Johnson, Coral Wind Subdivision, expressed concerns that Ballard Partners, the lobbyist that was approved by the Board on September 17, 2013, would have a conflict of interest in representing the County, as they also lobby for Florida Power and Light (FPL).

County Administrator Joseph Baird responded that there was no conflict of interest with Ballard Partners representing FPL.

Althea McKenzie, 4876 30th Avenue, discussed the various budget allotments that have been designated for improvements in Gifford over the past several years. She urged the Board to make a larger commitment to invest in said community as the Gifford Neighborhood Plan progresses and necessary improvements are made.

Administrator Baird spoke of the funding that was allocated for the ball fields and multipurpose fields, and mentioned that seven streetlights have been installed this year.

Vincent Outler, President, Gifford Youth Little League, requested that the Board commit to making the improvements to the ball field at Gifford Park before the baseball season starts in January.

Administrator Baird specified that \$160,000 was set aside for improvements on the ball field at Gifford Park and the multi-purpose field, and that the plans are in the design stages. He explained that although all the improvements cannot be made prior to the commencement of ball

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season, a portion of the playing field that needs improvement (disclosed to him by Mr. Outler) will be leveled out before said time.

The following persons commented favorably on the advocacy role of the Gifford Progressive Civic League (GPCL) in the Gifford community. Mr. Idlette III and Mr. Brown also affirmed the positive working relationship between the organization and the County with regards to the installation of streetlights.

Joe Idlette III, 4570 57th Avenue

Anthony Brown, 4159 57th Court

Joe Idlette, 4730 58th Avenue

Wilford (*inaudible*), 617 19th Place SW

Reverend William Shelly, 4630 32nd Avenue

Chairman Flescher attested to the positive relationship between the County and the GPCL.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, by a 4-1 vote (Commissioner Solari opposed), the Board approved the millage rate of 3.2620, and approved **Resolution 2013-095**, establishing the tax millage rate to be levied upon all real and personal taxable property in Indian River County, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for the General Fund.

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ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously approved the dollar amount of \$70,920,776, and approved **Resolution 2013-096**, amending the County Budget Officer's estimates of receipts other than taxes and of balances to be brought forward for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and adopting a final budget for the General Fund.

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

Director Brown read into the record the proposed millage of 1.0733, 0.43% above the rollback rate, and the proposed budget of \$24,942,596. He noted that the M.S.T.U. was impacted by the partial payoff of the Spring Training Bonds, a modest increase in franchise fee revenues, a slight decrease in local communication services tax, and an increase in the FRS rate of about \$38,000.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. McKenzie inquired as to when the East Gifford Stormwater Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) would be discussed.

Director Brown replied that discussion would ensue under Item 7, Adoption of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Charges.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously approved the millage rate of 1.0733 (.43% above the rollback rate of 1.0687), and approved **Resolution 2013-097**, establishing

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the tax millage rate to be levied upon all real and personal taxable property in Indian River County, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for the Indian River County General Purpose Municipal Service Taxing Unit.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously approved the budget in the amount of \$24,942,596, and approved **Resolution 2013-098**, amending the County Budget Officer's estimates of receipts other than taxes and of balances to be brought forward for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and adopting a Final Budget for the Indian River County General Purpose Municipal Service Taxing Unit.

TRANSPORTATION FUND (NO MILLAGE)

Director Brown announced that the proposed budget for the Transportation Fund is \$13,296,874, an increase of a \$270,592 or 2.1%. He disclosed that impacts to this budget are two additional full-time positions, a slight decrease in gas tax, and an increase of \$89,000 in FRS costs. There is no millage.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

Bob Johnson, Coral Wind Subdivision, asked if there is an increase in gas tax in the proposed budget, and was informed that there is not.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously approved

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the budget in the amount of \$13,296,874, and approved **Resolution 2013-099**, amending the County Budget Officer's estimates of receipts other than taxes and of balances to be brought forward for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and adopting a Final Budget for the Transportation Fund.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

Director Brown reported that the Emergency Service District's (EMS) proposed millage is 1.9799, 16.0% above the rollback rate of 1.7063, and the proposed budget of \$26,667,288, an increase of 1.2%. He conveyed that the tax roll for the EMS increased 1.4%, and we are proposing using \$500,000 of fund balance as opposed to the \$2.5 million in the current year. He also disclosed FRS increases of about \$450,000.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

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

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously approved the millage rate of 1.9799 (16.0% above the rollback rate of 1.7063), and approved **Resolution 2013-100**, establishing the tax millage rate to be levied upon all real and personal taxable property in Indian River County, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for the Indian River County Emergency Services District.

Commissioner Solari emphasized that the 16.03% increase is not to the EMS budget itself; it is a rise in the millage rate, associated with not using the reserve balances.

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ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously approved the dollar amount of \$26,667,288, and approved **Resolution 2013-101**, amending the County Budget Officer's estimates of receipts other than taxes and of balances to be brought forward for fiscal year 2013-2014 and adopting a Final Budget for the Indian River County Emergency Services District.

LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM

Director Brown related that the proposed millage is 0.3788, and the rollback rate does not apply; the proposed budget is \$4,775,560.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

No speakers came forward, and the Chairman closed the floor to public comments.

ON MOTION by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously approved the millage rate of 0.3788 (rollback rate does not apply), and approved **Resolution 2013-102**, establishing the tax millage rate to be levied upon all real and personal taxable property in Indian River County, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for the General Obligation Land Acquisition Bond Issue – 2004 Referendum.

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously approved the tentative budget of \$4,775,560 for the Land

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Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum, and approved **Resolution 2013-103**, amending the County Budget Officer’s estimates of receipts other than taxes and of balances to be brought forward for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and adopting a Final Budget for the General Obligation Land Acquisition Bond Issue – 2004 Referendum.

AGGREGATE (MILLAGE)

Director Brown declared that the proposed aggregate millage is 5.4611, 8.1% above rollback.

No vote was required.

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

Director Brown summarized the rates as follows: (1) \$44.29 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$70.86 per house), a 4.5% increase from the current year; (2) \$30.44 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit, a 3.6% increase from the current year; (3) \$18.81 Readiness-to-Use Fee, a 3.8% increase from the current year; and Landfill Ash Product Disposal Fee, \$18.81, no change from the current year. He disclosed that the proposed Budget is \$11,200,862, up \$112,461 or 1%.

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. MAKE A MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NON-AD VALOREM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE GENERATION UNIT CHARGES, READINESS-TO-USE FEE, AND LANDFILL ASH PRODUCT DISPOSAL FEE

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously approved the tentative Non-Ad Valorem assessment rates of \$44.29 per Residential Waste Generation Unit; \$30.44 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit; \$18.81 Readiness-to-Use Fee; and Landfill Ash Product Disposal Fee of \$18.81 per ton for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD), and approved **Resolution 2013-104**, establishing the Assessment Rate to be levied upon all real taxable property in Indian River County, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for the Solid Waste Disposal District.

E. MAKE A MOTION TO ADOPT BUDGET RESOLUTION

ON MOTION by Commissioner O’Bryan, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously approved the budget of \$11,200,862, and approved **Resolution 2013-105**, amending the County Budget Officer’s estimates of receipts other than taxes and of balances to be brought forward for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and adopting a Final Budget for the Solid Waste Disposal District.

7. ADOPTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES

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

Director Brown announced the 2013-2014 proposed charges for each Non-Ad Valorem Assessment District per parcel area 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 (up \$5.00)
5. Rockridge	\$ 8.00
6. Vero Highlands	\$28.00
7. Porpoise Point	\$11.00
8. Laurel Court	\$27.00

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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 (up \$7.00)
19. West Wabasso	\$21.00

B. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairman Flescher opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. McKenzie said there is a need for better lighting in Gifford, and asked the Board to bring in more lights, or increase the brightness of the existing lights. Regarding the East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U. charges, she wondered if there were entities benefitting from the stormwater pond that might contribute to the East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U. charges, and relieve the Gifford property owners from that annual cost.

Discussion/debate followed between the Board, staff, and Ms. McKenzie regarding the geographic region, purpose, and laws governing the M.S.B.U.

Myra Ferguson, 3000 49th Street, petitioned the Board for a light on her street, going west of Old Dixie Highway to 32nd Street.

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Following a lengthy discussion regarding the best way for Ms. Ferguson to indicate the need for lighting, she was advised that Administrator Baird had made note of her request and address, but that she was also welcome to notify the Gifford Progressive Civic League, or email/telephone a Board member.

Mr. Brown discussed an area with poor drainage that he had investigated with Chairman Flescher, and wanted to know what area the M.S.B.U. encompasses.

Reverend Shelly disclosed that there was a right-of-way issue with said property.

Chairman Flescher stated that this situation would be addressed.

There were no more 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. MAKE A MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES

ON MOTION by Commissioner Zorc, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously approved the charges read into the record for each of the above-mentioned nineteen Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Districts, and approved **Resolution 2013-106**, establishing the assessment rates to be levied upon certain real property in Indian River County for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for all the Non-Ad Valorem assessments.

8. APPROVE NON-AD VALOREM DOLLAR BUDGETS

A. ANNOUNCE 2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

Chairman Flescher announced 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.

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

C. CONSIDER ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

There were no proposed amendments.

D. MAKE A MOTION TO ADOPT BUDGET RESOLUTION

ON MOTION by Commissioner O’Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Solari, the Board unanimously approved the Non-Ad Valorem Dollar Budgets for the Special

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Revenue Funds, Other Debt Service Fund, Capital Projects, Enterprise Funds, and Internal Service Funds, and approved **Resolution 2012-107**, adopting a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for certain non-taxing funds of Indian River County.

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Final Budget Hearing adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeffrey R. Smith,
Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

Minutes Approved: _____