



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**2014-2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

County Commission Chamber
Indian River County Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building A
Vero Beach, FL 32960
www.ircgov.com

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Peter D. O'Bryan, Chairman	District 4 Present	Joseph A. Baird, County Administrator Present
Wesley S. Davis, Vice Chairman	District 1 Present	Dylan Reingold, County Attorney Present
Joseph E. Flescher	District 2 Present	Jason Brown, Management and Budget Director Present
Bob Solari	District 5 Present	Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of Circuit Court Present and Comptroller
Tim Zorc	District 3 Present	Maureen Gelfo, Deputy Clerk Present

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- CALL TO ORDER** **5:01 P.M.**
 - INVOCATION** **Wesley S. Davis, Vice-Chairman**
 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **Bob Solari, Commissioner**
 - BUDGET OVERVIEW BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, JOSEPH A. BAIRD**

County Administrator Joseph Baird announced that the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 proposed budget for the County is \$259,909,973, a decrease of \$43,308,568 or 14% from Fiscal Year 2013-2014. He said the total ad valorem taxes are up by about \$4.3 million or 5.8%, but down \$24 million from the all-time high in 2006-2007. He reviewed the following budget highlights:

- Net Increase of 9 Full-Time Positions \$388,055
- Incorporation of a Capital Equipment Replacement Schedule
- Building and Engineering Staff Increases
- Solid Waste Disposal District Assessment Increase

- Phasing Out Utilization of Fund Reserves
- Total Taxing Funds up \$2.5 million or 1.8%
- Increase of around 2% in One-Half Cent Sales Tax
- Increase in Tax Roll: General Fund 4.5%; Municipal Services Taxing Unit (M.S.T.U) 5.4%; and Emergency Services District 4.9%
- State Revenue Sharing Increased 6.1% or \$172,639
- Interest Earnings Decreased by \$479,758

Administrator Baird outlined the proposed Ad Valorem Funds as follows:

General Fund millage is 3.3375, 5.64% above the rollback rate of 3.1592, and 2.3% above the current millage rate. The proposed budget is \$72,912,258.

Municipal Services Taxing Unit (M.S.T.U.) is 1.0733, 3.9% above the rolled back rate and the same as the current year. The proposed budget is \$25,754,976, up \$771,920 from last year.

Transportation Fund is \$13,642,957; there is no millage.

Emergency Services District is 1.9799, 3.43% above rollback; the proposed budget is \$27,817,122.

Land Acquisition Bond – 2004 Referendum item covers the debt service on the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum. The proposed millage is 0.3694 (rollback rate does not apply), a 0.5% decrease from the current year, and the proposed budget is \$4,750,312.

Under the Non-Ad Valorem Special District, Administrator Baird announced that the proposed Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) budget for 2014-2015 is \$11,685,228, an increase of \$408,952 or 3.6% from the current year. He outlined the proposed 2014-2015 charges for the Solid Waste District (SWDD) as follows:

\$49.96 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$79.94 / House)
(\$5.67 or 12.80% increase from current year)

\$34.05 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit
(\$3.61 or 11.86% increase from current year)

Readiness-to-Use Fee \$19.37
(\$ 0.56 or 3% increase from current year)

Landfill Ash Product Disposal Fee \$19.06 per ton
(\$ 0.25 or 1.33% increase from current year)

Under the Non-Ad Valorem Dollar Budgets, Administrator Baird outlined the following proposed budgets under the Enterprise Funds:

Golf Course \$2,809,279, a \$66,580 decrease

Building Department \$1,991,252, an increase of \$174,493

Utilities \$37,743,535, a decrease of \$141,601

5. AD VALOREM FUNDS

A. AD VALOREM MILLAGE AND AD VALOREM BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

5:08 p.m.

Chairman O'Bryan provided a summary of the services that are covered under the General Fund.

Public Comments

Mr. John Romano, CEO, New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee, recalled his previous request for a \$5,473, or 2%, increase to the organization's operating budget, and asked the Board to approve the additional funding.

Vice Chairman Davis stated that in view of recent tragic events in the community, he had reversed his position and would support the additional funding.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zorc, by a 4-1 vote (Commissioner Solari opposed), the Board allocated an additional \$5,000 from the General Fund Contingency to Children's Services.

(Clerk's Note: the Board's Motion reflected a reduced figure than the one requested by Mr. Romano).

Bob Johnson, Coral Wind Subdivision, elaborated on his request for the Board to return to the current fiscal year's millage rate.

Freddie Woolfork discussed the success of the Gifford Youth Activity Center (GYAC) and thanked the Board for its partnership.

Joe Idlette, on behalf of the Gifford Progressive Civic League, thanked the Board for supporting the Gifford Community Center.

The Chairman closed the public comments session.

Proposed Changes to Tentative Budget

None

Adopt Tentative Millage

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage rate of 3.3375, 5.64% above the rollback rate of 3.1592, for the General Fund.

Adopt Tentative Budget

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$72,912,258 for the General Fund.

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

5:22 p.m.

Chairman O'Bryan explained what accounts are budgeted with the M.S.T.U. funds.

Public Comments

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments.

The following speakers explained that they wanted the Board to provide additional funding for the Gifford Aquatic Center (GAC), so the pool can have extended hours:

**Freddie Woolfork
Godfrey Gibson 4136 57 Court**

Commissioner Flescher explained his rationale for supporting increased operating hours (including additional months) for the Gifford Aquatic Center.

Mr. Gibson urged the Board to find ways to increase the pool's operating hours and keep the facility open during the normal 6-month closure period.

Several Board Members questioned how well-utilized the pool would be during the cooler months of the year.

Johnny Thornton, 4696 58th Avenue, Chairman Gifford Aquatic Center Committee (GACC), discussed the committee's proposed plan of activities/classes that would justify keeping the pool

open for the extra 6 months.

Director Brown said the proposed plan was based on keeping the pool open 45 hours a week from October through March. He reported that it would cost an estimated \$87,000 per year to open the Gifford Aquatic Center from October through April, with anticipated revenues about \$6,000, and a net cost of approximately \$81,000.

Discussion ensued on what the utilization rate of the pool would be if it remains open for the additional time, since most swimming lessons are held during the summer.

Chairman O'Bryan suggested adjusting the summer pool schedule hours to incorporate the proposed activities schedule and build up demand for the pool.

Crystal Bujol, 8 Vista Gardens Trail, urged the Board to keep the pool open for the additional 6 months so the programs can continue without interruption.

Frank Pepe, 6020 46th Lane, asked the Board to keep the pool open and give the citizens a chance to prove that they will take advantage of the extended hours at the Gifford Aquatic Center.

Wilford Hart, 617 19th Pl. SW, discussed the importance of keeping the pool open.

Sally Cooper, 1339 Damask Lane, Sebastian, described the events at the pool and urged the Board to keep it open all year.

Commissioner Solari stated that he said he was willing to keep the facility open year-round for one year if the community makes a commitment to use the pool and provide statistics on its usage.

Chairman O'Bryan suggested initiating GACC's proposed schedule on September 15 for three months, and revisiting the matter in December.

Mr. Gibson and Ms. Bujol reiterated the need to keep the pool open year-round.

Chairman O'Bryan opined that the citizens would be most successful if they initiated their programs next summer, when more people go to the pool.

6:43 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Flescher, **SECONDED** by Vice Chairman Davis, to leave the Gifford Aquatic Center open year-round, with the caveat that the community will report back to the Board with attendance records collected during that time period.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION, and by a 4-1 vote (Chairman O'Bryan opposed), the Motion carried.

Assistant County Administrator Michael Zito asked the GACC and residents to help recruit lifeguards for the pool.

The Chairman closed the public comments session.

Proposed Changes to Tentative Budget

Administrator Baird announced that the funding for the Gifford Aquatic Center will be taken from the M.S.T.U. contingencies.

Adopt Tentative Millage

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage rate of 1.0733, 3.91% above the rollback rate of 1.0329, for the M.S.T.U.

Adopt Tentative Budget

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$25,754,976 for the M.S.T.U.

TRANSPORTATION FUND (No Millage)

6:48

Chairman O'Bryan conveyed that the proposed budget is \$13,642,957.

Public Comments

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments; there were no speakers and the Chairman closed the public comments.

Proposed Changes Tentative Budget

None

Adopt Tentative Budget

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, **SECONDED** by Chairman O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget in the amount of \$13,642,957 for the Transportation Fund.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

6:48 p.m.

Chairman O'Bryan stated that this fund covers Emergency Service Care and Fire Rescue.

Public Comments

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments; there were no speakers and the Chairman closed the public comments.

Proposed Changes To Tentative Budget

None

Adopt Tentative Millage

ON MOTION by Commissioner Flescher, **SECONDED** by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage of 1.9799, 3.43% above the rollback rate of 1.9143, for the Emergency Services District.

Adopt Tentative Budget

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, **SECONDED** by Chairman O'Bryan, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$27,817,122 for the Emergency Services District.

LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM

6:49 p.m.

Chairman O'Bryan announced that this item is from the 2004 Referendum and no rollback rate

applies to the General Obligation Land Acquisition Bonds.

Public Comments

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments; there were no speakers and the Chairman closed the public comments.

Proposed Changes to Tentative Budget

None

Adopt Tentative Millage

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Flescher, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative millage rate of 0.3694 for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

Adopt Tentative Budget

ON MOTION by Commissioner Solari, **SECONDED** by Vice Chairman Davis, the Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget of \$4,750,312 for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

AGGREGATE

6:51 p.m.

Chairman O'Bryan explained that this is a benchmark that the State of Florida uses; no one actually pays it. The proposed millage is 5.5477 and is 4.75% above the rollback rate of 5.2959.

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

6:51 p.m.

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

Clerk's Note: For presentation and Board actions under this item, please refer to the Solid Waste Disposal District (S.W.D.D.) 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget Hearing minutes, which are prepared separately.

7. ADOPTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES

6:53 p.m.

A. Announce 2014-2015 proposed charge for each Non-Ad Valorem Assessment District.

Commissioner Zorc presented the 2014-2015 proposed charge for each Non-Ad Valorem Assessment District as follows:

	Charge Per Parcel Acre
1. Vero Lake Estates M.S.B.U.	\$50.00
2. East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U.	\$10.00
<u>Street Lighting Districts</u>	
3. Gifford	\$25.00
4. Laurelwood	\$30.00
5. Rockridge	\$8.00
6. Vero Highlands	\$33.00
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	\$50.00
19. West Wabasso	\$21.00

Public Comments

The Chairman opened the floor to public comments; there were no speakers and the Chairman closed the public comments.

Consider Proposed Amendments and Calculate Revised Charge

None

Adopt Tentative Charge

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner 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

6:56 p.m.

A. Announce 2014-2015 Proposed Budget

Chairman O’Bryan outlined the 2014-2015 proposed Non-Ad Valorem dollar budgets as follows:

1. Special Revenue Funds	\$19,189,189
2. Other Debt Service Fund	\$923,400
3. Capital Projects	\$15,484,306
4. Enterprise Funds	\$43,515,916
5. Internal Service Funds	\$24,234,309

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 Proposed Amendments

None

D. Adopt Tentative Budget

ON MOTION by Commissioner Zorc, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, 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
6:57 p.m.**

Chairman O'Bryan announced that the FINAL Budget Hearing will be held at 5:01 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at the County Administration Building A, Commission Chambers, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at **6:58 p.m.**

ATTEST:

**Jeffrey R. Smith, CPA, CGFO, CGMA
Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller**

Peter D. O'Bryan, Chairman

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved: _____