

**EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 31, 2014
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held an Emergency Meeting on July 31, 2014 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1
Commissioner, Jim Selph, Dist#2
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3
Chairman, Elton Langford, Dist#4
Commissioner Bob Miller, Dist#5
Interim Administrator, Mandy Hines
Office Manager, Lauri Terry

Facilities Director, Richard Metzger
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson
Fire Chief, Larry Taylor
Admin. Services Director, Linda Nipper
Purchasing Director, Cindy Talamantez

CALL TO ORDER 8:30AM

TENTATIVE AD VALOREM MILLAGE

Linda Nipper requested the Board to set the maximum tentative millage for the MSTU and confirm what was discussed at the last workshop. The maximum tentative Ad Valorem was set at 9.0.

Ms. Hines commented a formal vote is being requested.

Commissioner Quave confirmed that this meeting was noticed correctly. Ms. Hines replied yes, also it was advertised as a workshop and meeting. The Budget Workshops will be titled and advertised as Budget Meetings in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to set the Tentative Millage at 9 mil. Seconded by Commissioner Quave. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS-MSTU MILLAGE RATE

Chairman Langford confirmed the previous millage rate for MSTU was .4514; Linda Nipper agreed.

Commissioner Mansfield questioned where this number came from? He commented it is not enough money to fund the department. He questioned what would it take to fund the department so money does not come out of the General Fund? Ms. Nipper stated the figures she just completed would double the millage to .9028 and that would bring the revenue up to \$1,066,626 which would eliminate the General Fund transfer to EMS.

Ms. Nipper stated \$1,200,000 represents the transfer for Fire Rescue and EMS. So we have an MSBU to cover part of the Fire Rescue and an MSTU to cover part of the EMS.

Chairman Langford commented legally the Board can do the MSTU and it makes this more transparent as to where the tax dollars are actually going. Also, if the millage rate is re-adjusted, we would be able to lower it this much more on the other side; our millage rate would lower further.

Commissioner Quave questioned why this is not also done for Fire Rescue? Ms. Nipper commented that department is currently funded partially with the MSBU. This is a topic that will be discussed for next year.

Ms. Hines stated there are legal reasons as to when you can use the MSTU versus MSBU.

Commissioner Selph questioned how the role with the City comes in? Ms. Hines stated there is

language in the Fire Merger Acquisition Agreement that speaks to when and if the City does assessments they will be equal to the County's. Essentially, the City would give the County the authority to leverage the MSTUs and MSBUs countywide and the County would collect those. That has not occurred yet and there is a difference in the commercial rate on the MSBU assessment side. Further discussion ensued.

Ms. Nipper commented that she understood the agreement with the City that if the County increases the MSTU, the City is to adjust their payment to the County to mimic that amount. She also stated that ambulance runs decrease each year at around \$50,000. Chief Taylor commented he believes that amount is for the equipment that the County accepted from the City during the merger.

Commissioner Miller highly suggested the Boards know everything there is regarding this topic.

Commissioner Mansfield made a motion to tentatively adopt the millage rate for the MSTU for EMS at .9028. Seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion was not voted on. Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Quave questioned if there needed to be any buffer in this? If there is any error found at the next meeting, we cannot go back.

Ed Johnson clarified if the tentative millage rate for the MSTU for EMS is set at .9028 that it will be offset that on the ad valorem side equally; if that is the case, the county taxpayers will be getting doubled while the city taxpayers will get a reduction? Is that is what happening?

Chairman Langford stated the City has to mirror the County. Further discussion ensued.

Ms. Hines stated she is not prepared today to give definite answers regarding the City Fire Merger Agreement. Today she is asking the Board to set a tentative millage rate and before the final is set, there will be firm answers as to how it affects the City. Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Quave questioned if there is any percentage less that we will collect on the ad valorem side? He also commented that just because property is exempt, in this situation only, it is exempt on both sides.

Commissioner Mansfield commented the Board has two ways to increase the amount of money; increase the millage or the taxpayer.

Chairman Langford commented every resident pays the same on the MSBU for Fire Safety at the moment. He also commented if we lower the millage rate by increasing the MSTU, in return we are able to lower the County's millage rate for ad valorem. City residents would receive the benefits as well.

Commissioner Mansfield requested to modify his original motion.

Commissioner Miller retracted his second.

Commissioner Mansfield made a motion to tentatively set the millage rate for the EMS at .9128. Seconded by Commissioner Quave. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Selph commented we need to work on this over the next year and work with our Legislators on more flexibility on the MSBU side. Further discussion ensued.

2014/15 BUDGET

Linda Nipper commented the list of changes is included on the first page. One adjustment that was made was the Sheriff's. There is a 3 year plan.

Chairman Langford questioned if anyone knew the amount of reserves for the School Board? Discussion was had regarding the amount of reserves for the School Board.

Mandy Hines explained the payment process to the School Board by the County.

Commissioner Miller questioned if there is Florida Statute that dictates a minimum or maximum reserve? Ms. Hines responded that Florida Statute does not.

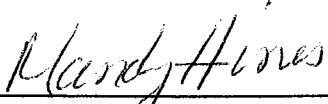
Linda Nipper commented she is working on a minimum reserve requirement to work into a better one over the next few years. Ms. Hines stated that unless the Board has any further direction, the current

book distributed today will be utilized for the next workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Langford adjourned the workshop at 9:23 am.

ATTEST:



MANDY HINES
INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**



ELTON A. LANGFORD
CHAIRMAN