



Sanibel Fire & Rescue District
Final Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday September 20, 2023 @ 5:01 PM

ATTENDEES: Jerry Muench (Chairman) – via Microsoft Teams Meeting
Bruce Cochrane (Vice Chairman)
Richard McCurry (Secretary Treasurer)

Kevin Barbot (Fire Chief)
John DiMaria (Deputy Chief)
Greta Fulkerson (Administrative Assistant)
Chris Jackson (Captain)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cochrane. It was noted that Commissioner Muench was attending electronically via Microsoft Teams meeting. Commissioner Cochrane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Tentative Budget Hearing meeting held on September 7, 2023, were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Resolution 20230920: Adopting the Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024

Administrative Assistant Fulkerson read the resolution. Chief Barbot commented that the decision had been made to go to 1.400 mills, exceeding the rollback rate calculated by the State. Chief Barbot noted that last year's revenue was just under \$8 million with a millage rate of 1.2365, this year the revenue would be \$5.9 million. The State had admitted the calculation was flawed and had given a rollback rate of 1.1061, giving a tax increase of 26.57%. Commissioner Cochrane added that they were still the lowest taxing District in the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to accept Resolution 20230920 as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Muench. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Resolution 20230920-1: Establishing a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

Administrative Assistant Fulkerson read the resolution. Chief Barbot noted there had been a tentative hearing on the tentative millage and budgets and nothing had changed. Chief Barbot further noted that total revenue had been reduced from fiscal year 2023, for fiscal year 2024 a total revenue of \$5.6 million was expected. Chief Barbot reported that even though millage was increasing to 1.400, most residents would see a substantial decrease in what they had to pay for services. Chief Barbot noted that \$3 million was a direct impact from Hurricane Ian, which had not been refunded yet and was reflected in the budget summary. Chief Barbot envisaged budget amendments throughout fiscal year 2024 once funding came in to mitigate costs attributed to Hurricane Ian. Commissioner McCurry added that they were requesting the same as last year, the District had made cuts where they could. Chief Barbot reported the tentative millage rate of 1.8753 had been set in July, that had been reduced to 1.400.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to accept Resolution 20230920-1 as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cochrane adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.


Commissioner Jerry Muench


Commissioner Bruce Cochrane


Commissioner Richard McCurry