

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
September 12, 2024**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCULgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>


Present were:

Mike Rahn, Chairman, District 4
Amanda Ballard, First Vice-Chairman, District 2
Ray Turner, Second Vice-Chairman, District 5
Jason Bearden, District 6
George Kruse, District 7
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, District 3

District 1 seat is vacant.

Present were:

Charlie Bishop, County Administrator
Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney
Hannah Bishop, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

 Chairman Rahn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Bearden, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge.

AGENDA

BC20240912DOC001

Agenda Update Memorandum 1 (9/11/24)


- Item 2, Adoption of Tentative Millage and Budget – First Public Hearing towards Adoption of FY25 Budget; and Adoption of Resolutions B-25-001, B-25-002, and B-25-003
Adoption of Tentative Millage and Budget - First Public Hearing towards Adoption of FY25 Budget; and Adoption of Resolutions B-25-001, B-25-002, and B-25-003, and B-25-004 - Updated Action Requested:
 - Motion (1): Move to adopt Resolution B-25-001, for tentative millage rates for FY 24-25.
 - Motion (2): Move to adopt Resolution B-25-002, which adopts the tentative budget for FY 24-25 and includes the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxing Unit and the Palm Aire Municipal Services Tax Unit.
 - Motion (3): Move to adopt Resolution B-25-003, which adopts the tentative budget for FY 24-25 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts.
 - Motion (4): Move to adopt Resolution B-25-004, which adopts the Tentative Budget for FY 24-25 for the Supervisor of Elections

Agenda Update Memorandum 2 (9/12/24):

BC20240912DOC003


- Item 2, Adoption of Tentative Millage and Budget – First Public Hearing towards Adoption of FY25 Budget; and Adoption of Resolutions B-25-001, B-25-002, B-25-003, and B-25-004 - Updated to Budget B-25-003 - Replaced the exhibit

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS


 Charlie Bishop, County Administrator, introduced the agenda for this evening.

Motion

 A motion was made by Commissioner Bearden to reduce the Tentative Millage by 0.3 mills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge.


 Discussion ensued regarding the revenue will be cut by \$17 million, looking at areas of the budget to make reductions, provide a one-time tax rebate at a 0.3 reduction for this year, the timing of this request should have been brought up before this meeting, there have been prior conversation to lower taxes, inflation, and this is an opportunity to reduce taxes.

Sheila McLean, Chief Financial Officer, stated there can be a cut to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for infrastructure, a 0.3 reduction will have a negative roll back rate which can damage the County's ratings, will have to reduce Levels of Service (LOS), seek other revenues to make up for the reduction, could increase sales tax, stormwater fee to make up for impact, there are other implications, bond rating reduced, the County will have to seek larger debt, decision as to what areas to reduce would be administrative, timing related to the Truth in Millage (TRIM) process, publish the second public hearing tomorrow, recalculate documents submitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR), this will make a large impact on the County, the DOR is strict with the TRIM process, and adopt the millage as it is currently set.


 Mike Meehan displayed a document regarding surplus, and shared his concerns regarding the budget and supported reducing the millage. BC20240912DOC004


There being no further public comments, Chairman Rahn closed public comments.

Motion - Failed

 The motion failed 2-4, with Chairman Rahn and Commissioners Ballard, Kruse, and Turner voting nay.

Motion

 A motion was made by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge and seconded by Commissioner Bearden, to reduce the Tentative Millage by 0.2 mills.


 Mike Meehan referenced Florida Statute 129.01, and supports reducing the millage.

 Sharlene Kow expressed her concerns regarding the Millage and supported the reduction.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Rahn closed public comments.

Ms. McLean stated the County is not in violation of Florida Statute.

Motion - Failed

 Following a brief discussion the motion failed 3-3, with Commissioners Ballard, Kruse, and Turner voting nay.

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge and seconded by Commissioner Bearden, to reduce the Tentative Millage to 0.15 mills.

 Mike Meehan again addressed Florida Statute 129.01.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Rahn closed public comments.

Ms. McLean stated 0.05 would be the only reduction that would not cut services.

 Discussion ensued regarding concerns with lowering the millage to this extent, a one-time rebate to help the citizens, asking Administration to locate \$10 million in the, what are the next steps for this meeting, and John Marble Park has new staff already budgeted.

Ms. McLean stated the 0.15 reduction would create a negative roll back, there are 27 positions in the budget, there is an understanding of the importance of Public Safety, there needs to be time to find the money through attrition, and the Tentative Millage has to be set.

Motion - Carried

The motion carried 4-2, with Commissioners Kruse and Turner voting nay.

RECESS/RECONVENE: 7:05 p.m. – 7:20 All Commissioners present.

2. **STAFF PRESENTATION**


Ms. McLean stated the publications have to be revised for the next meeting, a referendum has to be done, the roll back is different, and she has to meet the statutory requirements.


3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**


There being no citizen comments, Chairman Rahn closed citizen comments.


PUBLIC HEARINGS


4. **TENTATIVE MILLAGE/BUDGET ADOPTION**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed budget amendments B-25-001 adopting the tentative millage rates, B-25-002 adopting the FY 24/25 tentative budget, B-25-003 adopting the tentative budget for Dependent Special Districts, and B-25-004 adopting the tentative budget for the Supervisor of Elections.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge, seconded by Commissioner Bearden, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-25-001 for tentative millage rates for FY 2024 to 2025.


 A motion was made by Commissioner Ballard, seconded by Commissioner Bearden, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-25-002 which adopts the tentative budget for FY 2024 to 2025, which also includes the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxing Unit and the Palm Aire Municipal Services Tax Unit.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Bearden, and carried 6-0, to adopt Resolution B-25-003 which adopts the tentative budget for FY 2024 to 2025 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Van Ostenbridge, seconded by Commissioner Bearden, and carried 5-0, with Commissioner Ballard abstaining (Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict filed), to adopt Resolution B-25-004 which adopts the tentative budget for FY 2024 to 2025 for the Supervisor of Elections.

BC20240912DOC005

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE COMPARISON**

 The aggregate millage rate for FY 2024 to 2025 is 6.5415 mills and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of 6.6271 mills for the operating millage is hereby determined to be negative 1.2923 percent.

6. **NEXT PUBLIC HEARING**

 The second public hearing will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, at the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Rahn adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes Approved: October 17, 2024