

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SECOND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

September 28, 1998

A meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida was held in Room 422 of the Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 1998, with the following members present: Commissioners Lori N. Parrish, Chair; Ilene Lieberman, Vice Chair; Norman Abramowitz; Scott I. Cowan; Suzanne N. Gunzburger; Sylvia Poitier; and John E. Rodstrom, Jr. Also present were County Administrator Roger J. Desjarlais; Interim County Attorney Sharon L. Cruz., Assistant County Attorney Mary Frances Bakke; Deputy County Attorney Norman M. Ostrau; Commission Auditor Norman Thabit; Director, Office of Budget and Management Policy, John Canada; and Deputy Vera Giles.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mr. Jean Fitzgerald.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - FILE PROOF OF PUBLICATION

By unanimous consent, the Board directed the clerk to file proof of publication for tonight's public hearings in the records of these minutes and opened the public hearings.

SECOND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 - INTRODUCTIONS - PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING (I)

The Chair advised that the Board of County Commissioners will conduct public hearings on final millage rates and budgets which provide funds to support County services during Fiscal Year 1998-1999. The public hearings will be conducted in three sections. The first section will include public hearings on County-wide and unincorporated area millage rates and budgets. The second section will include public hearings on the millage rates and budgets for the County's dependent water control districts. The third section will include adoption of the FY 1999-2003 Capital Program. An agenda listing all items and the order of discussion is available at the front door. If you are interested in addressing the Board of County Commissioners on an item on the agenda, please register with a County staff member at the front door. The staff is also available at the front door to answer questions about the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes.

The Chair introduced the members of the County Commission as well as staff members and the other County officials present, as noted above.

The Chair advised that this is the second of two (2) public hearings held as required by law upon the millage rates and budget for Fiscal Year 1998-1999. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments and requests regarding the County's budget and tax levies and to explain the budget and any amendments to it.

The Chair explained that there will be nine (9) separate millage and budget public hearings held as follows:

- o a public hearing upon the general county millage rate and budget;

o a public hearing upon the millage rate and budget for the municipal service taxing unit comprising the entire unincorporated area of the County;

o a public hearing upon the millage rate and budget for the street lighting subdistrict in the unincorporated area of the County;

o a public hearing upon the millage rate and budget for Water Control District No. 2;

o a public hearing upon the millage rate and budget for Water Control District No. 3;

o A public hearing upon the millage rate and budget for Water Control District No. 4 and the four (4) subdistricts;

o a public hearing upon the millage rate and budget for Cocomar Water Control District;

o a public hearing upon the budget for the Lauderdale Isles Water Control District;

o A public hearing upon the budget for the Twin Lakes Water Control District.

COUNTY-WIDE AND UNINCORPORATED AREA PUBLIC HEARINGS (1)

County-wide Millage & Budget (A)

The Chair advised that for Fiscal Year 1998-1999, there is a 1.4 percent aggregate increase in property taxes. The aggregate millage rate of 7.0817, as compared to an aggregate rolled-back rate of 6.9842, includes all ad valorem taxes except debt service, and constitutes the basis for the state-required advertisement concerning the budget and taxes.

The Chair now opened the public hearing upon the general county millage rate and budget based on the following:

o the proposed millage rate for general county purposes, exclusive of debt service, is 6.9145.

o the proposed millage rate for debt service only is .6565.

o by combining the above two elements of county millage, the proposed millage rate for all general county purposes including debt service is 7.5710 which represents a 1.25 percent increase in property taxes compared with a rolled-back rate of 7.4779.

The County Administrator gave an overview of the budget, saying that the countywide portion of the tax bill increased approximately 1.25 percent next fiscal year, primarily to fund the following items: operation of new jail facilities; continuation of improvements to primary health care programs for partnerships with the hospital districts; multi-year impact of emergency communication partnerships with cities; and operating costs for the Pembroke Pines Library. The County budget will increase from \$1.69 billion to \$1.77 billion. The \$80 million increase is primarily due to increases in the operating budget to maintain existing levels of service and to provide a few enhancements in key areas to support the goals established by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Chair now called for comments from the public.

Hugh Buchanan residing on N.W. 6th Street in Plantation said that he is representing the SAILS FOUNDATION which is an organization that tries to work with youngsters who are in danger of dropping out of school. The Foundation raises funds to help in encouraging these children to remain in school and graduate, and there are colleges who have offered scholarships to these youngsters. They work with students who have broken the law, have problems with parents, etc. They have two counselors who are working for the School Board and council about 400 youngsters, and there is a chance of losing their services. They are requesting approval of the necessary funds that would enable them to keep the two counselors.

Commissioner Parrish asked the reason for cutting the services of the counselors, saying that the County Commission put over \$1 million into a program that did not go through a competitive process. In order to fund the scholarships, the program was transferred to Broward Community College on the revenue received from telephone calls made by inmates of the jail. That was based on certain commitments made to the Commission from the president of the organization at that time, and several members of the Boards with respect to additional community participation.

Brian Cohen, the incoming president of the SAILS FOUNDATION advised that he was here two years ago when the Commission awarded this money to the Sales Foundation and awarded \$753,000 from the telephone trust fund. The County matched it and they were able to go ahead and get \$1 million from the lotto fund from the state of Florida. They put that money into the Broward County College Foundation.

Commissioner Cowan asked if these were requests made in the normal time frame and were rejected; were they extraneous that never went through any process? John Canada, Director, Office of Budget & Management Policy stated that he does not believe these requests have been reviewed by his office. Commissioner Cowan said then these requests have never been made to the County to date, and have not gone through the normal process. Mr. Canada declared "not to his knowledge". Commissioner Cowan stated that this is not an item in the budget; it is not on the unfunded supplement.

Mr. Cohen explained that he is asking the Commission to understand there is a cause and effect. There is \$600,000 being alleviated from the budget for the County for social workers, two of which take care of the students that they take care of. Their organization is voluntary. They only have one part-time paid secretary. He is the incoming president and the previous president has asked and talked to Mr. Canada about the counselors leaving the Foundation. Keeping the youngsters in school is their goal and that is what they are trying to do.

Commissioner Parrish asked Angelo Castillo, Director of Broward County Human Services Department, if his staff has reviewed it and recommended that the County stop funding these positions. Mr. Castillo advised that is correct. Commissioner Parrish asked for a rationale for that.

Fred Murray, Bureau of Children & Family Services, explained that they had two choices; either to cut direct services which they provide, or cut positions they have out loaned to community partnerships. If they had to reduce staff levels, that would mean that they could not provide the emergency assistance they provide in a timely manner, so they had one other choice and that was to cut community partnerships. If these positions are not cut, there will be a reduction of other level of services at their centers.

In response to Commissioner Parrish's query, Mr. Castillo advised that in this instance it is believed that there is an ability to fund the positions out of the funding they are currently getting. Commissioner Parrish asked whether the School Board ever donated any money toward this program. Mr. Murray advised that there is one position that is currently funded by the School Board for the SALES program.

In explanation, Commissioner Parrish stated that the County funded \$753,000 and then Law Enforcement Trust Fund money funded \$753,000 which was \$1.5 million. It was transferred to BCC and BCC applied for a \$1. million lottery grant. All that money went into a trust and the interest funds the scholarships and the County funded two more with its own money. The Commission was also told at the time it was presented to the Board that the volunteers were going to raise money to support the program which they did not and the County ended up funding them.

The Chair now asked for comments from the Commission

Commissioner Gunzburger said that she is supporting this budget with the understanding that, as discussed with the County Administrator, zero base budgeting will be mirrored in future years.

The County Administrator declared that may be a little stronger than his understanding of their conversation. What he said was that he thought zero base budgeting was not practical in an organization of this size. However, when the 10/20/30 reduction scenarios are done, it will require the Departments to completely cost out their programs which, essentially, accomplishes what Commissioner Gunzburger is looking for. The end result is the same, but they do not go back and completely reconstruct a budget from zero. The goal setting sessions with the Board of County Commissioners will be scheduled sometime about the first of the year, at which time the Commissioners can discuss what their expectations are for taxation the following year.

On motion of Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Abramowitz and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-950 establishing the final millage rate for general county purposes.

On motion of Commissioner Abramowitz, seconded by Commissioner Gunzburger and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-951 establishing the final budget for general county purposes.

By unanimous consent, the Chair declared the public hearing closed on the general county millage rate and budget.

Municipal Service Taxing District Millage & Budget (B)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the millage rate and budget for the municipal service taxing unit comprising the unincorporated area and the proposed millage rate for this purpose is 2.1340 which represents a 4.1 percent increase in property taxes as compared with a rolled-back rate of 2.0509. The County Administrator will explain the reasons for the increase in ad valorem tax revenues. The County Administrator explained the reasons for the increase in ad valorem tax revenues.

The County Administrator advised that the Municipal Service District portion of the tax bill increases 4.1 percent primarily due to reductions in the property tax roll and other revenues attributable to annexation. The average residential property owner will pay an additional \$22 next year.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Poitier, seconded by Commissioner Lieberman, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-952 establishing the final millage rate for the MSTU.

On motion of Commissioner Lieberman, seconded by Commissioner Cowan, and unanimously carried,

the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-953 establishing the final budget for the MSTU.

By unanimous consent, the Chair declared the public hearing is now closed on the millage rate and budget for the MSTU.

Streetlighting District Millage & Budget (C)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the final millage rate and budget for the street lighting subdistrict in the unincorporated area of the County. The proposed millage rate for this purpose is .5132 which represents a 1.2 percent increase in property taxes compared with a rolled-back rate of .5073. The County Administrator will explain the reasons for the increase in the ad valorem tax revenues.

The County Administrator advised that the millage rate for the Streetlighting District increases 1.2 percent in order to maintain current service levels.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Gunzburger and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-954 establishing the final millage rate for the street lighting subdistrict.

On motion of Commissioner Abramowitz, seconded by Commissioner Gunzburger and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-955 establishing the final budget for the consolidated street lighting subdistrict in the unincorporated area of the County.

By unanimous consent, the Chair declared the public hearing closed on the millage rate and budget for the street lighting subdistrict.

WATER CONTROL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARINGS (II)

Water Control District #2 Millage & Budget (A)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the millage rate and budget for Water Control District No. 2. The proposed millage rate for this purpose is .2144. which represents no increase in property taxes compared with a rolled-back rate of .2144.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Gunzburger, seconded by Commissioner Poitier and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-956 establishing the final millage rate for Water Control District No. 2

On motion of Commissioner Poitier, seconded by Commissioner Lieberman and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-957 establishing the final budget for Water Control District No. 2.

By unanimous consent, the Chair declared the public hearing closed on the millage rate and budget for the Water Control District No. 2.

Water Control District #3 Millage & Budget (B)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the millage rate and budget for Water Control District No. 3. The proposed millage rate for this purpose is .3839, which represents no increase in property taxes compared with a rolled-back rate of .3839.

There were no comments from the public or Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Lieberman, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-958 establishing the final budget for the Water Control District No. 3.

On motion of Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Abramowitz and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-959 establishing the final budget for Water Control District No. 3.

By unanimous consent, the Chair declared the public hearing is now closed on the millage rate and budget for the Water Control District No. 3.

Water Control District #4 Millage & Budget (C)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the millage rates and budget for Water Control District No. 4, the subdistricts of which include 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D. The proposed millage rate, the change in property taxes, and the rolled-back rates for each subdistrict are as follows:

SUB- PROPOSED CHANGE IN ROLLED

DISTRICT MILLAGE RATE PROPERTY TAXES BACK RATE

4A .0379 no increase .0379

4B .0844 no increase .0844

4C .1819 no increase .1819

4D .5776 no increase .5776

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Abramowitz, seconded by Commissioner Gunzburger and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-960 establishing the final millage rates for Water Control District No. 4.

On motion of Commissioner Gunzburger, seconded by Commissioner Poitier and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-961 establishing the final budget for Water Control District No. 4.

By unanimous consent the Chair now closed the public hearing on the millage rate and budget for the Water Control District No. 4.

Cocomar Water Control District Millage & Budget (D)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the millage rate and budget for Cocomar Water Control District. The proposed millage rate for Cocomar Water Control District Unit Area No. 1 for this purpose is .4894, which represents no increase in property taxes compared with a rolled-back rate of .4894.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Lieberman, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-962 establishing the final millage rate for Unit Area No. 1 of Cocomar Water Control District.

On motion of Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Abramowitz and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-963 establishing the final budget for Cocomar Water Control District.

By unanimous consent, the Chair now closed the public hearing on the millage rate and budget for the Cocomar Water Control District.

Lauderdale Isles Water Control District Budget (E)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the budget for the Lauderdale Isles Water Control District.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Abramowitz, seconded by Commissioner Gunzburger and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-964 establishing the final budget for the Lauderdale Isles Water Control District.

By unanimous consent, the Chair now closed the public hearing on the budget for the Lauderdale Isles Water Control District.

Twin Lakes Water Control District Budget (F)

The Chair advised that the public hearing is now open upon the budget for the Twin Lakes Water Control District.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Gunzburger, seconded by Commissioner Poitier and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-965 establishing the final budget for the Twin Lakes Water Control District.

By unanimous consent, the Chair now closed the public hearing on the budget for the Twin Lakes Water Control District.

FY 1999-2003 CAPITAL PROGRAM (III)

FY 1999-2003 Capital Program Adoption (A)

The Chair advised that Article XI, Section 90.031 of the Administrative Code provides for the annual adoption of the Five Year Capital Program by the Board of County Commissioners. The proposed capital program includes the changes directed by the Board of County Commissioners during budget workshops.

There were no comments from the public or the Commission at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Poitier, seconded by Commissioner Lieberman and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1998-966 accepting and approving the five year capital program for FY 1999-2003.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on Cassette 98-110.

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