

MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

I. CALL TO ORDER: September 19, 2002, at 7:01 p.m. in the Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

I.A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Warren H. Newell
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts
Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Commissioner Addie L. Greene
Commissioner Mary McCarty
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus
Commissioner Tony Masilotti - Absent
County Administrator Robert Weisman
County Attorney Denise Dytrych
Financial Management and Budget Director Richard Roberts
Deputy Clerk Judith Crosbie

I.B. PRAYER: Commissioner Roberts

I.C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I.D. PROOF OF PUBLICATION

MOTION to receive and file proofs of publication 457393 and 457394. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner McCarty, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION to adopt the agenda. Motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

III.A.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MILLAGE OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR INCREASE. DISCUSSED 9-19-2002

County Administrator Weisman outlined that in accordance with the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Bill, the commissioners shall hold public hearings on the tentative budget and proposed millage rates.

As stipulated in the TRIM Bill, Mr. Weisman continued, the first substantive issue to be discussed should be the percentage increase/decrease in the millage over the rolled-back rate necessary to fund the budget, if any, and the specific purpose for which ad valorem tax revenues were being increased.

III.A.- CONTINUED

1.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE/DECREASE IN MILLAGE OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE. DISCUSSED 9-19-2002

Mr. Weisman read into the record the millage over rolled-back rates for fiscal year 2003 with the proposed taxes and percent increase/decrease for the county, the Library District, Fire-Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), Jupiter Fire-Rescue and Glades Regional Fire MSTU.

2.

SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR AD VALOREM TAX INCREASES. DISCUSSED 9-19-2002.

Mr. Weisman read the explanation for specific increases over rolled-back revenue for fiscal year 2003 for the county, the Library District, Fire-Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), Jupiter Fire-Rescue and Glades Regional Fire MSTU.

III.B.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, AND DISCUSSION ON BUDGET. DISCUSSED 9-19-2002

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John O. Parsons of Jupiter encouraged the board to put control on spending. He said state government had cut 10,000 positions in four years under Governor Jeb Bush, who vetoed \$1 billion in budget-line items during the last four budget cycles. He contended that the state tax burden had been at its lowest rate since 1992. He suggested commissioners examine their individual budgets for possible reduction. He said the cities should fund their own projects instead of the board seeking voters' support to a \$50 million bond issue.

Commissioner Aaronson commented that it was easier for the state to reduce taxes because the burden was being shifted to county government. Commissioner Marcus added that residents might not have shown up to protest the budget because they were contented with the county's performance.

John Earley said that if the board could find eight percent waste in the \$2.9 billion budget, property owners could get a 40 percent reduction on property taxes.

In response to a request from Commissioner Newell, Finance and Budget Director Richard Roberts explained that the amount derived from countywide property taxes was \$779 million, of which about \$400 million was property tax dollars from residential and commercial properties. He said the \$2.9 billion budget included revenue from airports, water utilities, federal grants, and other sources.

III.B. - CONTINUED

Mr. Earley contended that county records showed that expenditures had gone up 55.8 percent since 1997 while the population had increased only 19.7 percent. He commented that about 80 percent of Palm Tran routes were not being used, the county motor pool was expensively fleeted, and that the new governmental center for Environmental Resources Management (ERM) was not needed.

Commissioner McCarty said she had been approached several times about the 55 percent increase issue. She explained that when adjustments were made for inflation, property tax remained the same with the increased population. She said the difference was voted debts that taxpayers approved. Mr. Weisman would send a memo to address Mr. Earley's concerns, the commissioner suggested.

Commissioner Newell stated that the building where ERM operates was a 1942 army barrack that had been used extensively. He said it was time for the department to be provided housing elsewhere.

1.

COUNTYWIDE FUNDS.- FUND BUDGETS - NO DISCUSSION 9-19-2002

2.

COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FUNDS - FUND BUDGETS. NO DISCUSSION 9-19-2002

3.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING DISTRICT FUNDS - FUND BUDGETS. NO DISCUSSION 9-19-2002

4.

FIRE-RESCUE FUNDS - FUND BUDGETS. NO DISCUSSION 9-19-2002

5.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNITS - FUND BUDGETS: DISTRICTS A, B, C, D, E, AND F. NO DISCUSSION 9-19-2002

6.

ANNOUNCE THE PERCENT, IF ANY, BY WHICH THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE EXCEEDS THE ROLLED-BACK RATE. DISCUSSED 9-19-2002

Mr. Weisman read the list of percentage increase/decrease in millage over rolled-back rate.

III.C. MILLAGE AND BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION R-2002-1618

RESOLUTION TO LEVY A MILLAGE RATE OF 4.5000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 THAT IS GREATER THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 4.2434 FOR THE COUNTYWIDE FUNDS. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

2. RESOLUTION R-2002-1619

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$2,529,429,477 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE PALM BEACH COUNTYWIDE FUNDS. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

3. RESOLUTION R-2002-1620

RESOLUTION TO LEVY A MILLAGE RATE OF .5403 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 IN EXCESS OF THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF .5032 FOR THE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

4. RESOLUTION R-2002-1621

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$42,009,688 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FUND. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

5. RESOLUTION R-2002-1622

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$20,991,173 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING DISTRICT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Marcus, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

III.C. - CONTINUED

6. RESOLUTION R-2002-1623

RESOLUTION TO LEVY A MILLAGE RATE OF 3.05 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 IN EXCESS OF THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 2.8507 FOR THE FIRE-RESCUE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

7. RESOLUTION R-2002-1624

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$214,034,569 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE FIRE-RESCUE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Marcus, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

8. RESOLUTION R-2002-1625

RESOLUTION TO LEVY A MILLAGE RATE OF 1.0212 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 IN EXCESS OF THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 1.0422 FOR THE GLADES REGIONAL FIRE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Marcus, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

9. RESOLUTION R-2002-1626

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$1,588,556 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE GLADES REGIONAL FIRE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Marcus, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

10. RESOLUTION R-2002-1627

RESOLUTION TO LEVY A MILLAGE RATE OF 1.7373 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 IN EXCESS OF THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 1.6573 FOR THE JUPITER FIRE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Aaronson, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

11. RESOLUTION R-2002-1628

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$7,429,377 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE JUPITER FIRE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Marcus, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

III.C.- CONTINUED

12. RESOLUTION R-2002-1629

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$1,040,406 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT DISTRICT "A". ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

13. RESOLUTION R-2002-1630

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$1,323,560 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT DISTRICT "B". ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

14. RESOLUTION R-2002-1631

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$1,858,160 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT DISTRICT "C". ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

15. RESOLUTION R-2002-1632

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$1,885,236 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT DISTRICT "D". ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

16. RESOLUTION R-2002-1633

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$78,170 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT DISTRICT "E". ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

17. RESOLUTION R-2002-1634

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$5,856,582 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT DISTRICT "F". ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

III.C.17. - CONTINUED

MOTION to adopt the aggregate millage rate. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene, and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

County Administrator Weisman read the percentage increase (decrease) in millage over rolled-back rate for the budget of \$2.9 billion.

18. RESOLUTION R-2002-1635

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE OF 6.0725 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 IN EXCESS OF THE AGGREGATE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 5.7054 FOR THE COUNTY. ADOPTED 9-19-2002

MOTION to adopt the resolution. Motion by Commissioner Aaronson, seconded by Commissioner Greene and carried 6-0. Commissioner Masilotti absent.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTESTED

APPROVED

Clerk

Chair