

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

September 3, 2024

5:30 P.M.

**Bradford County Courthouse
945 North Temple Avenue
Starke, Florida 32091**

PUBLIC HEARING

ADOPTION OF FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025

TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AND TENTATIVE BUDGET

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner District 1 – Chair Carolyn Spooner
Commissioner District 4 – Vice Chair Danny Riddick
Commissioner District 3 – Joseph C. Dougherty
Commissioner District 5 - Chair Diane Andrews

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Commissioner District 2 – Kenny Thompson

PRESS PRESENT: none

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: County Manager Scott Kornegay; Executive Assistant Amanda Brown; Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden; Finance Director Dana LaFollette; Sheriff Gordon Smith; and Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- 2. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025. GENERAL FUND – 10.0000 MILLS.**

Ms. LaFollette advised that 10.000 mills needed to fund the budget is greater than the rolled-back rate of 9.5178 by a margin of 5.0663%. 10.0000 mills is expected to generate ad-valorem tax revenue of approximately \$14,045,335.00; an increase from the prior fiscal-year of \$1,134,314, due to an increase in property values.

- 3. CHAIR SPOONER - CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE.**
none
- 4. CHAIR SPOONER – CALL FOR COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE.** none
- 5. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 10.0000 MILLS FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025.**

Ms. LaFollette presented the resolution for consideration, reading it by title: “A RESOLUTION OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR BRADFORD COUNTY FOR FISCAL-YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

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It was MOVED by Commissioner Dougherty and SECONDED by Vice-Chair Riddick to adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion Carries 4-0

6. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025.

Ms. LaFollette reported that the total operating tentative budget, including interfund transfers and bond reserves, for fiscal year 2024-2025 is: \$93,877,714.00.

7. CHAIR SPOONER - CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025. none

8. CHAIR SPOONER – CALL FOR COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS ON TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025. none

9. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF \$93,877,714.00 FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2024-2025.

Ms. LaFollette presented a resolution for consideration, reading it by title: “A RESOLUTION OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR BRADFORD COUNTY FOR FISCAL-YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

It was MOVED by Commissioner Dougherty and SECONDED by Vice Chair Riddick to adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion Carries 4-0

10. ANNOUNCE FINAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING DATE.

Ms. LaFollette announced that the final budget hearing date is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., in the commission meeting room.

Chair Spooner recognized County Manager Scott Kornegay who presented the following items:

❖ PRESENTATION OF A REPORT ON COMPLETED WORK ASSIGNMENTS IN EACH DISTRICT BETWEEN JULY AND AUGUST.

Following discussion from the board’s morning meeting concerning work activities from the public works – road department, Mr. Kornegay presented a report of duties that the department completed in each district between the months of July and August.

❖ CONSIDER PURCHASING MOWING EQUIPMENT AND HIRING ADDITIONAL STAFFING IN PUBLIC WORKS.

Following discussion from the board's morning meeting concerning operations of the public works – road department, Mr. Kornegay presented the board with a proposal to purchase two batwing mowers and hire three additional personnel.

Discussion:

- Remarks not in favor of hiring and purchasing additional staff given the county's financial state.
- Remarks made that if the board does not take action to purchase new equipment or hire additional staff then it should refrain from complaining about operations.
- Comments expressing interest in exploring alternative options such as hiring seasonal workers, equipment lease program, additional inmate labor, revised work schedule, and partnerships with other agencies for support.
- Remarks made that some parts of the county were too wet to mow because of Hurricane Debby and the rainy season.
- Public works current inventory includes two batwing mowers.
- Public works has been working every Friday and Saturday since Hurricane Debby.

No action taken by the board to purchase additional equipment or hire additional staff.

❖ **HCA TRANSFER REVENUE UPDATE**

Chief Carter reported that HCA Florida Starke Emergency will begin to handle non-emergency transfers, while the county will continue emergency transfers. This arrangement will reduce the revenue the county receives from HCA for transport services, but it will free up additional units to respond to emergency calls.

Discussion:

- Total number of interfacility transfers in FY 22-23 is 1,682 annually, or 4.6 per day. Gross revenue generated from interfacility transfers in FY 22-23 is \$1,247,219. Taking the gross revenue (\$1,247,219) and dividing it by the total number of transfers (1,682) determines that interfacility transfers in FY 22-23 generated \$741.51 gross revenue per call. According to the FY 22-23 Florida EMS Cost Report, the average cost per transport for BCFR was \$730. To determine the cost of interfacility transfers, take the average cost per call (\$730) and multiply it by the total number of transfers (1,682), which equals \$1,227,860. To calculate the NET revenue generated from interfacility transfers, take the gross revenue (\$1,247,219) and subtract the cost of the interfacility transfers (\$1,227,860), leaving the NET revenue generated from interfacility transfers at \$19,359.
- Per Chief Carter, on 05/21/2020 the board entered into an agreement with HCA with an effective date of 05/01/2020. On 04/15/2020 the county added a fifth ambulance to accommodate the anticipated increase call volume for interfaculty transfers. The fifth ambulance went out of serve on 03/17/2022.
- Since 03/17/2022, transfers have been handled with four ambulances on a rotating cycle.
- Revenue from billing hospitals for wall-time (staff wait time) at hospitals prior to patient admission will help offset the loss of revenue from interfacility transfers.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA



CAROLYN SPOONER, CHAIR

ATTEST: 

DENNY THOMPSON, CLERK OF COURT

Minutes prepared by: 

Rachel Rhoden, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved by the BoCC durign a scheduled meeting on October 17, 2024.