

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET (AIIS)

DATE OF MEETING:

AGENDA ITEM : Meeting Minutes: 9-16-2021 Public Hearing Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Budget.

On 10/4/2021, the Board approved 09/16/2021 Public Hearing – Tentative Millage and Budget Meeting Minutes, based on what was referenced on the Consent Agenda; however in the Board's 10/4/21 agenda packets there were meeting minutes from the 09/16/2021 Regular Meeting and those are the minutes signed by the Chair.

In an effort to make the record clear, the minutes from the 9/16/2021 Public Hearing – Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate & Budget AND 9/16/2021 Regular Meeting are coming before the Board for adoption.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

September 16, 2021
6:00 P.M.

BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
945 North Temple Avenue
Starke, Florida 32091

PUBLIC HEARING
ADOPTION OF FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022
TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AND TENTATIVE BUDGET

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner District 3 – Chair Joseph C. Dougherty
Commissioner District 4 – Vice Chair Danny Riddick
Commissioner District 1 – Carolyn Spooner
Commissioner District 2 – Kenny Thompson
Commissioner District 5 – Diane Andrews (present virtually)

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: County Manager/County Attorney Will Sexton; Executive Assistant Alyssa Winston; Clerk of Court & Comptroller Denny Thompson; Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden; Finance Director Dana LaFollette; Fire Rescue Director Allen Parrish; Fire Division Chief Ben Carter; and Public Works Director Jason Dodds (present virtually); Tax Collector Teresa Philips; Sheriff Gordon Smith; and Col. Brad Smith.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dougherty called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

1. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022.

- **GENERAL FUND 10.0000 MILLS**

Ms. LaFollette read the following into the record:

10.000 MILLS NEEDED TO FUND THE BUDGET IS GREATER THAN THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 8.9272 BY A MARGIN OF 12.0172%. 10.0000 MILLS IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE AD-VALOREM TAX REVENUE OF APPROXIMATELY \$10,711,486.00; AN INCREASE FROM THE PRIOR FISCAL-YEAR OF \$1,514,291.00, DUE TO AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY VALUES AND MILLAGE RATE.

2. CHAIR DOUGHERTY - CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE. No public comments.

3. CHAIR DOUGHERTY – CALL FOR COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE. No comments.

(September 16, 2021 – Public Hearing on Tentative Budget and Millage Rate)

4. COUNTY ATTORNEY WILL SEXTON – PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 10.0000 MILLS FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022.

Mr. Sexton read the following resolution title into the record:

“A RESOLUTION ([Resolution No. 2021-26](#)) 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, 2021 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

It was MOVED by VICE-CHAIR RIDDICK and SECONDED by COMMISSIONER THOMPSON to APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED.

DISCUSSION: No discussions.

Chair Dougherty Conducted A Roll-Call Vote:

Commissioner Spooner: Aye

Commissioner Andrews: Aye

Vice Chair Riddick: Aye

Chair Dougherty: Aye

Commissioner Thompson: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0

5. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022.

Ms. LaFollette read the following into the record:

THE TOTAL OPERATING TENTATIVE BUDGET, INCLUDING INTERFUND TRANSFERS AND BOND RESERVES, FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022 IS: \$70,031,006.00.

6. CHAIR DOUGHERTY- CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022. No public comments.

7. CHAIR DOUGHERTY – CALL FOR COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022.

Commissioner Spooner made comments concerning her attempts to request detailed budget information from certain Constitutional Officers.

It was MOVED by COMMISSIONER SPOONER and SECONDED by COMMISSIONER ANDREWS THAT THE BOARD, PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 BUDGET REQUIRE THE CLERK, PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR, AND SHERIFF TO PROVIDE THE AMENDED BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022, TO INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC DETAILS MENTIONED INCLUDING SALARY, BENEFIT INFORMATION OF ALL OF EMPLOYEES, AND A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF OPERATIONAL COST, AND A LIST OF THEIR NEW ITEMS REQUESTED.

DISCUSSION:

- County operating in the red versus in the black – may need to consider budget cuts.
- Accountability of the Board approving budget requests.
- Board employees have not received a raise since 2015.
- Commissioner Riddick expressed interest in the Board considering a motion where they keep the same budget as last year, with no increases, and those with decreases, go ahead and take them out, except ones like SHIP, Library, and Ag Services. He stated that if Board considers a motion of that nature between now and the final hearing he would like the Clerk’s Office to prepare a new budget with those changes and for the Board to hold a special meeting, before the final meeting, where the Board can discuss those changes further.

Chair Dougherty Conducted A Roll-Call Vote:

Commissioner Spooner: Aye

Commissioner Andrews: Aye

Vice Chair Riddick: Aye

Chair Dougherty: Aye

Commissioner Thompson: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0

After the motion carried, discussion continued as follows:

Mr. Sexton advised the Board that they are required to adopt a Tentative Budget and that by not doing so, the County is subject to incur significant penalties. Mr. Sexton recommended that the Board adopt the Tentative Budget that the Clerk prepared, and then entertain Vice-Chair Riddick’s earlier suggestion to hear a motion directing staff to prepare another version of the budget that implements his suggestions as presented during discussion.

A brief discussion took place regarding Commissioner Spooner’s earlier motion and whether the intent of her motion pertained to the Tentative Budget or Final Budget. Per Mr. Sexton, he indicated that he believed Commissioner Spooner’s motion pertained to the Final Budget.

Clerk Denny Thompson provided brief comments concerning the Board funded portion of his budget.

Ms. Rhoden confirmed for the record, that the Clerk’s Office submitted detailed budget information for the Clerk’s Office, as requested by Commissioner Spooner, to all Commissioners right before the hearing to adopt the tentative millage rate and tentative budget and noted that questions regarding budget submittals typically take place sooner, during budget workshops.

Commissioner Andrews made comments concerning the need to review all budgets in detail and look for ways to fund Fire Rescue.

Chair Dougherty stated that the Board needs to ask questions on why the budget increased. He further stated that the Board needs to seek a motion to approve the tentative budget as read/presented and then move forward with the motions that are requested from other Commissioners seeing a revised budget and prior to passing the final budget.

8. COUNTY ATTORNEY WILL SEXTON – PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF \$70,031,006.00 FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022.

Mr. Sexton to read title of resolution into the record:

“A RESOLUTION ([Resolution No. 2021-27](#)) OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR BRADFORD COUNTY FOR FISCAL-YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

It was by MOVED COMMISSIONER THOMPSON and SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR RIDDICK TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED.

DISCUSSION:

- Implement previously discussed changes in the revised budget.
- Remove items like FDOT grants from the budget so that the Road Department budget is not inflated.

Chair Dougherty Conducted A Roll-Call Vote:

Commissioner Spooner: Nay

Commissioner Andrews: Aye

Vice Chair Riddick: Aye

Chair Dougherty: Aye

Commissioner Thompson: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 4-1

After the motion carried, Mr. Sexton followed-up on Vice Chair Riddick’s earlier request for a Special Meeting.

There was BOARD CONSENSUS TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M. INSIDE THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM LOCATED IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Mr. Sexton asked Commissioner Spooner to restate her earlier motion to include Thursday, September 23, 2021 as the deadline.

It was MOVED by COMMISSIONER SPOONER and SECONDED by COMMISSIONER ANDREWS THAT NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021, WE REQUIRE THE CLERK, PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR AND SHERIFF TO PROVIDE THE AMENDED BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022, TO INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC DETAILS MENTIONED THAT INCLUDE SALARY/BENEFIT INFORMATION FOR ALL EMPLOYEES, A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF OPERATIONAL COST AND A LIST OF ANY NEW ITEMS REQUESTED.

DISCUSSION: No discussion.

Chair Dougherty Conducted A Roll-Call Vote:

Commissioner Spooner: Aye
Commissioner Andrews: Aye
Vice Chair Riddick: Aye
Chair Dougherty: Aye
Commissioner Thompson: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0

After the motion carried, Mr. Sexton reminded the Board of Vice Chair Riddick's interest in entertaining a motion regarding the budget.

It was MOVED by VICE CHAIR RIDDICK and SECONDED by COMMISSIONER THOMPSON TO RECEIVE A BUDGET ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 THAT INCLUDES ALL THE CUTS PROPOSED THIS YEAR, NO INCREASES OVER THE CURRENT YEAR, AND SEPARATE OUT ANY MANDATORY INCREASES BASED ON GRANT FUNDING. BRING BACK A BUDGET THAT DOES NOT INCREASE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY OVER THE CURRENT YEAR BUDGET.

DISCUSSION:

- Remove FDOT funding from the budget.
- Take out all decreases in budget.

Chair Dougherty Conducted A Roll-Call Vote:

Commissioner Spooner: Aye
Commissioner Andrews: Aye
Vice Chair Riddick: Aye
Chair Dougherty: Aye
Commissioner Thompson: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0

9. FINANCE DIRECTOR DANA LAFOLLETTE – ANNOUNCE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2021-2022: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

After Dana LaFollette announced the date for the Public Hearing to adopt a final millage rate and budget for FY 2021-2022, Chair Dougherty opened the floor for public comments:

- Diane Green

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA



CHRIS DOUGHERTY, CHAIR

ATTEST: 

DENNY THOMPSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD

Minutes prepared by:



Rachel Rhoden, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved by BoCC at the Regular^o Scheduled Meeting on November 1, 2021.