

MINUTES OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET AND
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ROLL
HELD SEPTEMBER 3, 2009
BOARD CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, ESCAMBIA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX
221 PALAFOX PLACE, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
(5:02 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.)

Present: Commissioner Marie K. Young, Chairman, District 3
Commissioner Grover C. Robinson, IV, Vice Chairman, District 4
Commissioner Wilson B. Robertson, District 1
Commissioner Kevin W. White, District 5
Mrs. Lisa N. Bernau, Chief Deputy Clerk, representing the
Honorable Ernie Lee Magaha, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Mr. Robert R. "Bob" McLaughlin, County Administrator
Mrs. Alison Rogers, County Attorney
Mrs. Patricia L. Sheldon, Clerk & Comptroller's Administrator of Financial Services
Mrs. Shirley L. Gafford, Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office
Mrs. Doris Harris, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Absent: Commissioner Gene M. Valentino, District 2

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Call to Order

Chairman Young called the First Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Confirmation of Public Notice

The Board was advised by Patricia L. Sheldon, Clerk's Administrator of Financial Services, that:

- A. The 5:01 p.m. Public Hearing for consideration of the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 was advertised in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule in the Saturday issue of the Pensacola News Journal on August 29, 2009, and by TRIM (*Truth in Millage*) Notice to each property owner; and
- B. The 5:02 p.m. Public Hearing for consideration of adopting the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 First Year Assessments Roll for Municipal Services Benefit Units was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on August 14, 2009, as required by Section 197.3632(4)(b), Florida Statutes, and that first class notices were also mailed to all property owners in the affected MSBU Districts.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Continued

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. 5:01 p.m. Public Hearing

A. Presentation of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

The Board was advised by County Administrator McLaughlin, as follows:

- (1) This is the first of two required Public Hearings for the Board to adopt the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget; the Board, later in the Meeting, will set the second Public Hearing;
- (2) The Board of County Commissioners approved the (*Fiscal Year*) 2009-2010 Tentative Millage Rates for TRIM (*Truth in Millage*) notification purposes at the BCC Meeting on July 23, 2009;
- (3) The law requires that prior to consideration of the Tentative Budget, an explanation of the “Rolled Back Rate” be provided and entered into the records; the “Rolled Back Rate” is a computed millage rate that would generate the same amount of ad valorem tax dollars as the prior Fiscal Year, based on the proposed Year’s tax roll, excluding new construction;
- (4) The millage rates tentatively approved by the Board for TRIM notification are 6.9755 mills for the Countywide millage rate and .685 mills for the Sheriff’s Law Enforcement MSTU (*Municipal Services Taxing Unit*); the aggregate of these millage rates proposed for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 is 5.16% below the “Rolled Back Rate” certified by the Property Appraiser; this represents the percentage decrease in property taxes tentatively adopted by the Board; and
- (5) For information, and to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the process of this Meeting, this Public Hearing is convened to discuss the County's Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget; because of time constraints, discussion should be confined to this subject; increases in property assessments, remarks or questions concerning individual property appraisals should be addressed to the County Property Appraiser at his office during normal business hours.

(Continued on Page 3)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Continued

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

B. Budget Reductions

Motion made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Robertson, and carried 4-0, with Commissioner Valentino absent, approving to return \$11,000 to the Budget for Retirees' Life Insurance.

Motion made by Commissioner Robertson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and carried 4-0, with Commissioner Valentino absent, approving that County Administrator McLaughlin and Amy Lovoy, Bureau Chief, Management and Budget Services Bureau, will work together to provide a list of positions that will be eliminated, and that the Board must approve reinstating any of the eliminated positions.

C. Questions/Discussion from the Board

The Board discussed *Employee Benefit Reductions*, *Reductions for the FY 09/10 Budget*, and *Further Budget Reductions*, as outlined in the agenda backup, and the Board:

- (1) Was advised by Amy Lovoy, Bureau Chief, Management and Budget Services Bureau, that a net total of 54 positions have been eliminated from the Budget;
- (2) Was advised by Commissioner White that he does not support using one-time revenues to balance the Budget;
- (3) Heard the suggestion from Commissioner Robinson that the allocation for water (*quality/green roof*) monitoring be reduced by \$41,000, and the funding allocation for United Way be restored (*to \$95,500*);

(Continued on Page 4)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Continued

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

C. Continued...

- (4) Upon being advised by Ms. Lovoy that the Board's approval of the proposed Budget reduction for the Century Courthouse/Clerk of the Court, in the amount of \$65,271, would mean closure of the Courthouse:
- (a) Heard the suggestion from Commissioner White that the Board use a portion of the proceeds from the traffic ticket increase to fund the Century Courthouse (*the agenda for the 5:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting this date, CAR 1-2, includes a recommendation to schedule a Public Hearing for September 17, 2009, to consider adopting an Ordinance increasing the surcharge assessed on non-criminal traffic infractions from \$15 to \$30*);
 - (b) Was advised by Commissioner Robinson that the Honorable Janet Holley, Tax Collector, has indicated that she will not re-open the Tax Collector's Office at the Century Courthouse;
 - (c) Was advised by David Wheeler, Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Works Bureau, that the Tax Collector vacated the Courthouse earlier this year; however, one third of the building was occupied by the Sheriff's Office, one third was used as a courtroom, and the other one third was shared by the Tax Collector and the Clerk of the Court; and
 - (d) Upon inquiry from Commissioner White concerning the possibility of limited hours of operation, with one part-time position, was advised by Lisa N. Bernau, Chief Deputy Clerk, that, for security reasons, it is imperative to have more than one staff person in the office; however, she will revisit this proposal with Ms. Lovoy and County Administrator McLaughlin, and that she will also provide information regarding a Supreme Court involvement with any change in hours for any Courthouse in any Florida County;

(Continued on Page 5)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Continued

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

C. Continued...

- (5) Upon inquiry from Commissioner White, was advised by Ms. Lovoy that the Tax Collector will not know until September 30, 2009, how much in excess fees will be returned to the County; however, it is not unreasonable to anticipate that between \$400,000 and \$500,000;
- (6) Was advised by Jeff Bohannon, Superintendent, Escambia County Road Prison, that staff is considering initiatives to reduce food costs at the Road Prison, including raising and processing cattle, farming tilapia, and increasing the production of vegetables on additional property recently acquired from the School Board, and, with implementation of a geothermal system, the cost of utilities can be reduced by approximately 50%; and
- (7) Was advised by Chairman Young that the consensus is to not reduce the allocation for United Way and, with the amendments approved by the Board, approve the remaining Budget reductions, as proposed, with staff to provide revised figures for the allocation for the Century Courthouse.

D. Public Forum

Speaker(s):

Jean Norman

E. Adoption of the Proposed Millage Resolution

Motion made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and carried 4-0, with Commissioner Valentino absent, adopting the Proposed Millage Resolution (*R2009-170*), as presented in the agenda backup, of 6.9755 mills for the Countywide millage rate and .685 mills for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement MSTU (*Municipal Services Taxing Unit*) for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

(Continued on Page 6)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Continued

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

F. Adoption of the Tentative Budget Resolution

Motion made by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Robertson, and carried 3-1, with Commissioner Valentino absent and Commissioner White voting "no," adopting the Tentative Budget Resolution (*R2009-171*) of \$ 366,404,782 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, as presented in the agenda backup.

4. Scheduling of Second Public Hearing

Motion made by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner White, and carried 4-1, with Commissioner Valentino absent, approving to schedule the Second Public Hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget for September 17, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Chambers, on the First Floor of the New Office Building (*Escambia County Governmental Complex*), located at 221 Palafox Place.

5. 5:02 p.m. Public Hearing

A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

The Board was advised by County Administrator McLaughlin that Florida Law requires that the County adopt a Resolution, prior to January 1 of a calendar year, electing to use the Uniform Method of Collection for Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments in that year, that a Resolution adopting the Uniform Method of Collection was approved by the Board on December 11, 2008, and a list of all non-ad valorem rates was provided in the agenda backup.

B. Public Forum

Speaker(s) – None.

(Continued on Page 7)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – Continued

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. Continued...

C. Adoption of the Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

Motion made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and carried 4-0, with Commissioner Valentino absent, adopting the 2009-2010 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for the County's Municipal Services Benefit Units (MSBU), as provided in the agenda backup.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Young declared the First Budget Public Hearing of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Ernie Lee Magaha
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

By: _____
Marie Young, Chairman



Deputy Clerk

Approved: September 17, 2009