

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR  
2020/2021 COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

Present: Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Chairman, District 5  
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, Vice Chairman, District 4  
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1  
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3  
Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, District 2  
Janice Gilley, County Administrator  
Amber McClure, Chief Budget Officer  
Alison Rogers, County Attorney  
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office  
Shamara Jernigan, Agenda Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor  
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

**AGENDA NUMBER**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barry called the First Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:36 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION: Chairman Barry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Board held a brief Commissioners' Forum.

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### AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

#### 2. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that:

- A. The 5:31 p.m. First Budget Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was advertised in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 5, 2020; and
- B. As required by Florida Statute 197.363, the 5:32 p.m. Public Hearing for consideration of adopting the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 First Year Assessment Rolls for street lighting, holding pond, construction/lift station improvement, Perdido Key beach mouse, and nuisance abatement Municipal Services Benefit Units (MSBUs) was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on August 13, 2020, and First Class Notices were mailed to all property owners in the affected MSBU Districts.

#### 3. 5:31 p.m. Public Hearing

##### A. Presentation of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

The Board was advised by County Administrator Gilley that:

- (1) This is the first of two required Public Hearings for the Board to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget; the Board later in the meeting will set the second Public Hearing;
- (2) The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the 2020/2021 tentative millage rates for TRIM [Truth in Millage] notification purposes at the BCC meeting on July 16, 2020;
- (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 6.6165 for the County-wide millage rate, .3590 for the Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) and .6850 for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Municipal Services Taxing Unit; the aggregate of these millage rates proposed for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 is 7.4635% above the "Rolled Back Rate" certified by the Property Appraiser; this represents the percentage increase in property taxes tentatively adopted by the Board; and

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3. Continued...

A. Continued...

- (5) For information, and to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the process of this meeting, this Public Hearing is convened tonight to discuss the County's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget; because of time constraints, we will need to confine our discussion to this subject; increases in property assessments, remarks or questions concerning your individual property appraisals should be addressed to the County Property Appraiser at his office during normal business hours.

B. Questions/Discussion from the Board

The Board briefly discussed the procedures for the meeting and Commissioner May advised that it was very important for him to see a line item for funding for crime prevention and youth development.

C. Community Partners Discussion

- (1) The Board heard comments from the following individuals:

Greg Strader	Carolyn Grawi
Christine Kelly Fausel – via Microsoft Teams	Sara Davy
Chandra Smiley – via Microsoft Teams	Darien Schaefer
Connie Bookman	Dave Hoxeng
Marilyn Wesley	Lucy Stolfi
Laura Gilliam – via Microsoft Teams	Cheryl Howard
John Clark – via Microsoft Teams	Robert Overton
Arnetha Welcome	Bruce Watson – via Microsoft Teams
James B. Washington	Brian Wyer
Carol Brundidge	Kristin Fairchild
Dorothy Kaufmann	Cliff Curtis

- (2) The Board addressed the possibility of several community partners being able to qualify for funding through the CARES Act and requested that staff pursue those avenues, as appropriate; the Board also discussed the Veterans Services Office;

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

C. Continued...

(3) The Board reviewed the Three and Four Cent Tourist Development Tax in relation to Visit Pensacola, discussed tentatively funding 60% of the budgeted TDT collections now and 80% of the supplemental, and discussed building a reserve balance; and

(4) The funding amounts shown below were tentatively placed in the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 amount adopted column:

<b>Community Partner – General Fund</b>	<b>FY 2021 Amount</b>
BRACE (Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies)	\$100,000
Gulf Coast Kids House	\$145,700
Legal Services of North Florida	\$19,594
Northwest Florida Legal Services	\$19,594
Community Health Northwest Florida	\$455,160
Pathways for Change	\$343,750
Human Relations Commission	\$84,265
Emerald Coast Regional Planning Council	\$21,289
United Way	\$90,725
211 (First Call for Help)/United Way	\$25,000
ACTS (Another Chance Transitional Services)	\$20,000
Council on Aging	\$45,000
Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council Inc.	\$12,500
James B. Washington Education and Sports	\$15,000
New World Believers	\$15,000
Pensacola Caring Hearts	\$13,000
Pensacola's Promise/Chain Reaction	\$19,000
Wildlife Sanctuary	\$35,000
Center for Independent Living of NWFL, Inc.	\$30,000 (moved to Local Option Sales Tax Fund with staff direction to pursue verifying whether this organization qualifies for LOST)
Health and Hope Clinic [see below for motion]	\$15,000
Prevention Programs	\$21,993

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3. Continued...

C. Continued...

(5) Continued...

<b>Community Partner – CDBG</b>	<b>FY 2021 Amount</b>
Human Relations Commission	\$48,681

<b>Community Partner – Fourth Cent Tourist Development Tax</b>	<b>FY 2021 Amount</b>
Sertoma 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	\$75,000
African-American Heritage Society	\$30,000
Naval Aviation Museum	\$100,000
West Florida Historic Preservation Board	\$225,000
General Chappie James Flight Academy	\$14,000

<b>Community Partner – Local Option Sales Tax Fund</b>	<b>FY 2021 Amount</b>
Pensacola Escambia Development Corp	\$600,000
Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce	\$75,000
Escambia School Readiness Coalition	\$238,875
Century Chamber of Commerce	\$50,000
Junior Achievement of Northwest Florida	\$20,000

<b>Community Partner – Solid Waste Management Fund</b>	<b>FY 2021 Amount</b>
Keep Pensacola Beautiful, Inc.	\$51,804

<p><b>Motion:</b> Commissioner May advised that Commissioner Barry's statement below was his motion.</p> <p><b>For Information:</b> Commissioner Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion for a \$15,000 placeholder for the Health and Hope Clinic with the narrative to try to see if specific aspects of the request qualify for CARES Act funding.</p> <p><b>Made by:</b> Commissioner May</p> <p><b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Bender</p> <p><b>Disposition:</b> Carried 3-0, with Commissioner Underhill temporarily out of Board Chambers and Commissioner Bergosh abstaining and filing Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and other Local Public Officers</p>
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3. Continued...

D. Public Forum

There were no speakers for public forum.

E. Adoption of the Tentative Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Millage Resolution [R2020-121], as presented in the Agenda backup, of 6.6165 mills for the County-wide millage rate, .3590 for the Library MSTU (Municipal Services Taxing Unit), and .6850 mills for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement MSTU for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

<b>Motion:</b> So moved
<b>Made by:</b> Commissioner Underhill
<b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Bergosh
<b>Disposition:</b> Carried unanimously

F. Adoption of the Tentative Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Budget Resolution [R2020-122] of \$573,009,020 for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, as presented in the Agenda backup.

<b>Motion:</b> So moved
<b>Made by:</b> Commissioner Bergosh
<b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Bender
<b>Disposition:</b> Carried 4-1, with Commissioner Underhill voting "no"

4. Announcement of Date and Time of Second Public Hearing for Adoption of the Final Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget

Chairman Barry announced that second Public Hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget will be held September 22, 2020, at 5:31 p.m., in the Board Chambers on the First Floor of the Ernie Magaha Government Building located at 221 Palafox Place.

5. 5:32 p.m. Public Hearing

A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

County Administrator Gilley advised that a list of all non-ad valorem rates is provided in the agenda backup.

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5. Continued...

B. Public Forum

There were no speakers for Public Forum, but the Board did acknowledge the receipt of written communication, which was added as agenda backup to item 5.

C. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll, as presented in the Agenda backup.

<b>Motion:</b> Move the item
<b>Made by:</b> Commissioner May
<b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Underhill
<b>Disposition:</b> Carried unanimously

<b>Motion:</b> So moved
<b>Made by:</b> Commissioner Underhill
<b>Seconded by:</b> Commissioner Bender
<b>Disposition:</b> Carried unanimously

**SUPPLEMENTAL COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

1. Recommendation: That the Board discuss the Escambia CARES Act Implementation.

<b>For Information:</b> The Board discussed the map of staffed CARES Act assistance locations and Commissioner Barry advised that he would like to make some minor additions and changes (that will not affect the allocated personnel or resources); Commissioner May advised the same and the Board agreed. The Board confirmed their support of the Families aspect of the CARES grants and agreed to firm up the dates for the Business grants at the September 17, 2020, Regular Board Meeting.
<b>Speaker(s):</b> Brian Wyer

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Barry declared the First Budget Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 County-wide Budget of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Barry, Chairman

ATTEST:

Pam Childers  
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

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Deputy Clerk

Approved: September 24, 2020