

MINUTES  
FINAL BUDGET HEARING  
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TIME: 5:15 PM  
DATE: October 14, 2022  
(RESCHEDULED FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2022)  
HURRICANE IAN ALTERNATE LOCATION:  
South Trail Fire Station #63  
5531 Halifax Avenue Fort Myers FL 33912

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Larry Wood, Vice-Chairman Ron Fleming, Secretary/Treasurer John Bennett, Commissioner Jim Knickle, Fire Chief Ronald Martin, Finance Director Jane Thompson, and District Members. **ABSENT: Jacki Lyszak, Fire Commissioner.**

**1. Meeting Called to Order 5:15pm**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]**

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Fleming, agenda was adopted 4-0.

**4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]**

**5. Presentation of the Proposed Budget & Millage Rate [Information]**

Chief Martin recommended the Proposed Budget & Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The proposed millage rate is 2.9851, which would give the District a proposed 2022-2023 budget of \$28,890,107. Chief Martin also noted no changes to the tentative budget proposal.

Commissioner Fleming asked if the community can afford the proposed millage rate, since the tax base has been affected by the hurricane and recommended lowering the millage rate.

Commissioner Bennett noted lowering it could be dangerous and inquired if the District received any communications with concerns about the proposed millage rate. Chief Martin replied that no communications were received.

Commissioner Knickle shared the same sentiments as Commissioner Bennett to move forward with the planned budget.

Chairman Wood noted there would be a need to replace and rebuild multiple District properties and agrees with moving forward with the proposed millage rate.

**6. Adoption of Fiscal Year 22/23 Millage Rate- Resolution 2022-04**

Chief Martin recommended a tentative millage rate of 2.9851.

There was no public input.

Commissioner Bennett read Resolution 2022-04 into the record and motioned to adopt this rate; motion was seconded by Commissioner Knickle. Roll call votes on this motion:

Chairman Larry Wood	yes
Vice-Chairman Ronald Fleming	no
Secretary/Treasurer John Bennett	yes
Commissioner Jacki Liszak	absent
Commissioner Knickle	yes

Resolution Adopted 3-1

**7. Adoption of Fiscal Year 22/23 Budget – Resolution 2022-05**

Chief Martin recommended no changes to the Tentative Budget of \$28,890,107.

There was no public input.

Commissioner Knickle read Resolution 2022-05 into the record and motioned to adopt this budget; motion was seconded by Commissioner Fleming. Roll call votes on this motion:

Chairman Larry Wood	yes
Vice-Chairman Ronald Fleming	yes
Secretary/Treasurer John Bennett	yes
Commissioner Jacki Liszak	absent
Commissioner Knickle	yes

Resolution Adopted 4-0

**8. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]**

Chief Martin shared a video from the District 3 Vice President and sentiments of support for the community. Chief Martin introduced Captain Tim Smith who will be helping the District with financial recovery through this process. Chief Martin expressed his gratitude to the Board during this difficult time.

**9. Commissioners Remarks [Information]**

Commissioner Fleming stated that he is proud of the men and women of the organization for exceeding all expectations. He thanked Chief Martin for instilling pride and courage in everyone.

Commissioner Bennett shared that he has pride in seeing our organization and assisting agencies doing an outstanding job. Commissioner Bennett recognized and agreed with Chief Martin’s decision to close the island for search and rescue efforts, sharing that it saved lives. He thanked everyone for all of their effort through this process.

Commissioner Knickle shared his support for the community. He noted that the decision to close the island saved lives. He shared his appreciation for the staff and the individuals who stepped forward to assist the District. He commended Chief Martin and the men and women of the District for an outstanding job.

Chairman Wood thanked the Chief and agreed with his decision to close the island. He shared his appreciation for the firefighters and staff helping the community and that he is optimistic for the future.

**10. Adjournment 5:42pm**