

**MINUTES OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
September 11, 2019**

The Tentative Budget Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 5:05 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)
Trampis BonJorn (#2)
Peggy Cox (#1)
Keith Farner (At-Large)
Courtney Stokes (At-Large)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Francheska Markus, Attorney

A list of others present that signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Water Authority.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Maimone called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm and stated, *“The Tentative Budget Hearing for the Lake County Water Authority is now called to order.”* Everyone stood for a moment of silence in respect for 9-11 and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. OPENING REMARKS

Vice Chair Maimone stated, *“This first public budget hearing is for the purpose of adopting and amending if necessary, the tentative budget, recomputing the proposed millage rate, if necessary, publicly announcing the percent by which the recomputed proposed millage is above or below the rolled-back rate, and if applicable, discussion of the specific purposes for which ad valorem tax revenues are being increased or reduced.”*

3. FY 2019-2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND MILLAGE ADOPTION

- a. Announce Proposed Millage Rate - 0.3900 mills

Vice Chair Maimone announced the proposed millage rate stating, *“The proposed millage rate is 0.3900 mills.”*

- b. Announce Proposed Millage Rate is 20.41% below last year and 16.33% below the Rolled-Back Rate of 0.4661 mills

Vice Chair Maimone stated, *“The proposed millage rate of 0.3900 is 16.33% below the rolled-back rate of 0.4661 mills.”*

c. Purposes for Which Ad Valorem Tax Revenues Are Being Decreased

Vice Chair Maimone stated, *“The millage has been decreased due to the Hydrilla control project and the Lake Denham Acquisition being completed, and FEMA reimbursement revenue received.”*

d. Consider Amendments to Tentative Budget

Mr. Perry stated that during the last meeting the Board made adjustments to the budget based on the recalculated cash carry forward and some unexpected FEMA reimbursements. He showed a summary of the changes that were made after that meeting and stated that during that meeting the Board had determined that they could actually lower the millage to .3557 mills.

He stated that .3557 mills is 27.41% below last year and 23.69% below the Rolled-Back Rate. He stated that with those changes the total budget would \$1,797,4736. He noted that since that time we have received another FEMA reimbursement of almost \$650,000.

He stated that because of the additional funds, the Board has several options to consider, one of which is keeping the millage at .3557 mills and putting the additional funding into the alum account. He explained that they could do a slight reduction of the millage and put the balance of the funds into the alum account. He noted that another chose would be reduce the millage to offset all of the increased revenue which would decrease the millage to .3252 mills or 33.63% below last year and 30% below the Rolled-Back Rate.

Mr. Perry stated that we are only a month and a half into the hurricane season and stated that he would recommend that they put the FEMA reimbursement into the alum account and leave the millage at .3557 mills. He stated that they would allow for alum funding up to 2.9 million dollars and brings the total budget to \$18,344,736 without adjusting the millage.

Ms. Cox stated that the budget year extends into two hurricane seasons, a lot of what they are planning for is not just this year’s hurricane season, but also next year’s hurricane season. She stated that since it has taken two years to receive the FEMA money from Hurricane Irma, she didn’t think they should reduce the millage any lower than the suggested .3557 mills.

Mr. Farner stated he agreed with what Ms. Cox had stated and noted that when it takes two years to get reimbursed, we need to be prepared. He stated that he would love to be able to split the difference, but he is okay with whichever the Board wants to go. He noted that he would love to be able to give back to the taxpayers after having to deal with hydrilla during this year’s budget

Ms. Cox stated that the hydrilla is not gone and we don’t know whether there will be a bumper crop of hydrilla, and she didn’t want to lower the budget too low. She stated that the good news is, if we don’t have to spend the money, we will have a reserve that we can carry over. She stated that she understands the taxpayers could benefit with a few extra dollars, but the hydrilla issue is one of the biggest issues they have to deal with, as bass fishing is the number one tourism draw in the county.

e. Public Comments and Questions

None

- f. Adopt Tentative Millage Rate - 0.3557 mills (27.41% below last year and 23.69% below the Rolled-Back Rate of 0.4661 mills)

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE OF 0.3557 MILLS.

Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

- g. Adopt Tentative Budget

MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,344,736. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

4. ANNOUNCE TIME, DATE, & LOCATION FOR FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Vice Chair Maimone stated, *“The final budget hearing for the Lake County Water Authority will be held on September 25, 2019, at 5:05 p.m. in the Lake County Administration Building, Lake County Board of County Commission Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, FL.”*

5. ADJOURNMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

Vice Chair Maimone stated, *“The Tentative Budget Hearing for the Lake County Water Authority is now adjourned.”*

Meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.