

MINUTES OF THE FINAL BUDGET HEARING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
September 23, 2020

The Final Budget Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 5:05 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2020 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Amy Stone, Chairman (#5)
Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)
Trampis BonJorn (#2)
Peggy Cox (#1)
Keith Farner (At-Large)
Butch Hendrick (#4)
Courtney Stokes (At-Large)

Staff Present

Ron Hart, Executive Director
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Resources Director
Steve Crawford, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager
Brian Nagy, Field Services Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Kevin Stone, Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Stone called the Final Budget Hearing to order at 5:06 p.m.

Chairman Stone: *“The Final Budget Hearing for the Lake County Water Authority is now called to order.”*

2. FY 2018-2019 FINAL BUDGET AND MILLAGE ADOPTION

a. Announce Tentative Millage Rate – 0.3368

Chairman Stone announced the tentative millage rate of 0.3368 mils.

Chairman Stone: *“The tentative millage rate is 0.3368 mils”*

b. Announce Proposed Millage Rate is equal to the Rolled-Back Rate of 0.3368 mils

Chairman Stone announced that the proposed millage rate of 0.3368 is equal to the Rolled-Back Rate of 0.3368 mils

Chairman Stone: *“The proposed millage rate of 0.3368 is equal to the Rolled-Back Rate of 0.3368 mils”*

c. Consider Amendments to the FY 2020-2021 Tentative Budget

Mr. Hart addressed the Board and stated that Mr. Hendrick wants to move several items earmarked for different projects, etc. at the NuRF and place them into a reserve account to be pulled from once a project is approved.

He explained that after Mr. Hendrick’s request he had contacted the Clerk Finance office and our Auditors to discuss this with them. He stated that they had informed him that a government agency cannot hold a large lump sum amount in a reserve account. He explained that the intent of a reserve account is to build money for a perceived project.

He noted that although money has been budgeted for different items or projects it does not mean that the money must be spent for that project and the Board can choose to transfer the money to a different project or line item.

Mr. Hart stated that because this request was just presented today, they advised that if we want to further discuss this item, that we schedule a meeting where the individual Board members that are interested in making these type of changes can meet with the Clerk of Courts, along with the head of their Finance Department and the auditor, in order to confirm that what is being done is done in a method that ensures transparency to the public.

Chairman Stone stated that she is not interested in making that sort of change. She stated that she is all about transparency and doesn't like anything that feels shady to her.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that they have had numerous budget meeting and that if this is something that needed to be discussed, it should have been done in a budget meeting. She stated that it is inappropriate to call the Executive Director and tell him to move money around outside of the budget hearing processes.

Mr. Hart stated that he didn't think it was Mr. Hendrick's intent to do anything inappropriate, but he is a little uncomfortable with taking that kind of action in light of the courses he's taken in budgeting and the advice he's received from the Clerk's office. He stated that he would recommend to the Board that they stick to what they have already allocated in the line items and knowing that they have the leniency to make changes throughout the year should they wish.

Mr. Farner stated that he understands what Vice Chair Maimone was saying, he didn't think it was inappropriate at this time, as this is the time to make any changes or amendments to the budget. He noted that at the last budget meeting when he had stated that he was not in favor of all the items they were budgeting for, it had been explained that should the Board would be able to make changes in the future should they wish.

He also noted that he had received a call from a member of the public stating that if something it budgeted for, it gives staff the approval and authority to spend it in that fashion. He stated that he had then called Attorney Stone, who had assured him that nothing could be spent on those items without Board approval.

Mr. Hendrick stating that the timing of his request is irrelevant and that he is not comfortable with approving the budget the way it is and thinks it is inappropriate to budget for items that have not yet been approved by the Board. He stated that he believes the best way would be to put the funding in a reserve account.

Vice Chair stated that for us to do projects in the future, the staff has to recommend them and put them in the budget. She noted that sometimes things are pulled off the budget should they decided not to do it, but if you don't have the funding set aside in the budget, and you don't let the public know what projects you might be planning to do in the future, it is a problem.

Mr. Farner asked Attorney Stone and Agency staff if the budget could be changed in the future should they decide not to complete any of the proposed projects. Attorney Stone and Mr. Hart both confirmed that changes could be made.

d. Public Comments and Questions

Chairman Stone: *Asks for public comment.*

Marty Proctor addressed the Board and stated that it might help to make the budget a bit more transparent if there was also a summary giving an overall look at the budget and a combined accounting of certain areas of expense, such as the NuRF, Operating Expenses, and Hickory Point. He stated that he thinks it is a well-done budget and that was the only suggestion he had.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-03, ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 0.3368. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2020-03

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR
THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2020
AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 200.065 provides the method for adopting annual budgets and millage rates by the taxing authorities in Lake County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 200.065 provides that no final millage shall be adopted until a resolution or ordinance has been approved by the governing Board of the taxing authority; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Lake County Water Authority pursuant to law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 200.065(2)(a)(1&4), the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, prepared a tentative budget and computed a proposed millage rate necessary to fund said tentative budget for the Lake County Water Authority; and

WHEREAS, within thirty-five (35) days of the certification of value of the ad valorem tax roll of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, the Board of Trustees caused the Property Appraiser to be advised of the proposed millage rate, of its rolled-back rate, and of the date, time, and place at which a public hearing would be held to consider the proposed millage rate and the tentative budget for the Lake County Water Authority; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 200.065(2)(b), the Property Appraiser of Lake County, Florida, prepared the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes pursuant to Florida Statute 200.069 and caused them to be mailed to all property owners within in Lake County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 200.065(2)(c), on September 9, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, of Lake County, Florida, held a public hearing on the proposed millage rate and tentative budget for the Lake County Water Authority, and at said public hearing the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, publicly announced the proposed millage rate, and adopted the tentative budget and;

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 200.065(2)(d), requires that within fifteen (15) days of the meeting adopting the proposed millage rate and tentative budget, the Board of Trustees shall advertise its intent to adopt a final millage rate and final budget for the Lake County Water Authority, of Lake County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, on the 17th of September 2020, the Board of Trustees caused such advertisement to be made in The Daily Commercial a newspaper of general circulation in Lake County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority of Lake County, Florida, met on September 23, 2020, at 5:05 pm at a public hearing held as specified in the advertisement and in accordance with applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, of Lake County, Florida, that:

1. The Board of Trustees does hereby adopt its final millage rate of 0.3368 mills to be levied for the general fund upon all property located within the boundaries of the above-named taxing authority, for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and shall be effective October 1, 2020.
2. Said new millage rate of 0.3368 is equal to the rolled-back rate.
3. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a public hearing this 23rd day of September 2020.

e. Resolution for the Adoption of FY 2020-2021 Final Budget

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-04, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET OF \$23,075,082 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-1 with Mr. Hendrick in opposition.

RESOLUTION 2020-04

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2020
AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 200.065 provides the method for adopting annual budgets by the taxing authorities in Lake County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida pursuant to law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 200.065(2)(a)(1&4), the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, prepared a tentative budget and computed the proposed millage rate necessary to fund said tentative budget for the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 200.065(2)(c), on September 9, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, held a public hearing on the proposed millage rate and tentative budget for the Lake County Water Authority, and at said public hearing the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, publicly announced the proposed millage rate, and adopted the tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 200.065(2)(d), requires that within fifteen (15) days of the meeting adopting the proposed millage rate and tentative budget, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, shall advertise its intent to adopt a final millage rate and final budget for the Lake County Water Authority; and

WHEREAS, on the 17th of September 2020, the Board of Trustees caused such advertisement to be made in The Daily Commercial, a newspaper of general circulation in Lake County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees met on the 23rd of September 2020, at 5:05 pm at a public hearing held as specified in the advertisement and in accordance with applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida:

1. That the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, Lake County, Florida, hereby adopts a Final Budget in the amount of \$23,075,082 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
2. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23rd day of September 2020.

Chairman Stone: *“The Final Budget Hearing for the Lake County Water Authority is now adjourned.”*

The Final Budget Hearing was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

Amy Stone, Chairman