

**MINUTES OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING  
of the  
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
September 9, 2020**

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 9, 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)  
Courtney Stokes (At-Large)  
Butch Hendrick (Via Phone)

**Staff Present**

Ron Hart, Executive Director  
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Resources Director  
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director  
Tracey Percoco, Financial Analyst  
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary  
Kevin Stone, 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**

Chairman Stone 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 the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman Stone 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 - 0.3557 mills

Chairman Stone announced the proposed millage rate stating, “*The proposed millage rate is 0.3557 mills.*”

- b. Announce Proposed Millage Rate is 5.61% above the Rolled-Back Rate of 0.3368 mills

Chairman Stone: **The proposed millage rate of 0.3557 is 5.61% above the rolled-back rate of 0.3368 mills.**

Mr. Farner proposed that they set the millage at the roll back rate of .3368 mills.

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

Chairman Stone: **The millage has remained the same resulting in additional revenue that will be used to fund upgrades at the Nutrient Reduction Facility.**

d. Consider Amendments to Tentative Budget

Mr. Hart explained to the Board that in preparing the budget and reconciling funds, he and Ms. Percoco had discovered that is a total of approximately three million dollars more in the Agency's bank accounts than what was reflected in the budget. He stated that these funds appear to have accumulated over the last 20 years due to grant monies the Agency has received and unexpected revenues that were never incorporated in the budget.

He explained the proposed changes to the budget to incorporate the funds and accommodate items that had been approved by the Board but had not yet been funded in the budget.

- **100-450 –(Administration) Insurance**  
Increased cost due to a new quote from Florida Municipal Trust & staff added \$10k to cover the deductibles (from \$31,000 to \$50,900).
- **200-340 – (Information Technology) Contractual Services**  
Added cost for new Hickory Point Security Cameras (\$10,000).
- **200-410 – (Information Technology) Communication Services**  
Added cost for Office Alarm Monthly Service and new Cloud-Based Phone System (\$6,600).
- **400-340 – (Hickory Point) Contractual Services**  
Added cost for Fishing Dock, 2 Sections of Boardwalk, and 2 Hiking Bridge Deck Replacements (\$160,000).
- **400-460 – (Hickory Point) Maintenance & Repair**  
Added cost for Light Poles and Electric Wire Repair at Boat Ramp and Parking Areas (\$16,000).
- **710-310 – (Water Resources) Professional Services**  
Added cost for NuRF Innovative Technologies (\$200,000) and Phase II design improvements (\$200,000)
- **710-340 - (Water Resources) Contractual Services**  
Reduced cost in Lake Yale Whole-Lake Alum Application (from \$783,468 to \$0) and added the NuRF Phase II construction (\$1,400,000).
- **710-630 - (Water Resources) Site Improvements**  
Added cost for NuRF A/C Replacement (6,000) and purchase of second Alum Tank (from \$49,000 to \$91,000).
- **710-640 - (Water Resources) Machinery & Equipment**  
Added cost for 2 new NuRF Dredges (\$650,000).

- **710-810 - (Water Resources) Aid to Government Agencies**

Carry forward cost for Lake County’s Marsh Park Stormwater due project being completed after Oct 1st (\$62,500) and FFWCC Creel Survey due to late report submittal (from \$5,000 to \$10,000)

- **Cash Brought Forward**

Staff reconciled the checking account and the balance above the amounts budgeted last year were incorporated into this year’s budget. This reconciliation increased the Cash Brought Forward (from \$12,438,715 to \$14,981,753).

Mr. Hart stated that this additional infusion into the budget covered the preceding expenses and allows, if the Board wishes, to decrease the millage to the rollback rate.

There was discussion among the Board whether to set the millage at the roll back rate or to lower it even further.

Chairman Stone stated that they didn’t want to cut themselves too short. She reminded Board members that this was a one-time thing and once the funds have been incorporated into the budget and spent, they would be gone.

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 7-0.**

- e. Public Comments and Questions

None

- f. Adopt Tentative Millage Rate - 0.3368 mills (the Rolled-Back Rate)

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 0.3368 MILLS.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 7-0.**

- g. Adopt Tentative Budget

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,075,082.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 7-0.**

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

Chairman Stone stated, “*The final budget hearing for the Lake County Water Authority will be held on September 23, 2020, 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 2020-2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING**

Chairman Stone stated, “*The Tentative Budget Hearing for the Lake County Water Authority is now adjourned.*”

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

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Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

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Amy Stone, Chairman