

Minutes of the Public Hearings

Adoption of the addition of certain parcels that are located within the Trailer Estates Park & Recreation District onto the District's non-ad valorem assessment roll as a result of the District's expansion of its boundaries pursuant to Chapter 2022-242, Laws of Florida – Resolution 2023-03.

Adoption of the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments to partially fund the District's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 upon the lands located within the District, to consider the adoption of an assessment roll, and to provide for the levy, collection, and enforcement of the assessments – Resolution 2023-04.

Adoption of the 2022/2023 Budget Amendment – Resolution 2023-05

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners Cedar Hammock Fire Control District

August 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Getman at 6:00 p.m. The following commissioners were present: Richard G. Findlay, Ronald D. Getman, Marnie E. Matarese, Samuel A. Reasoner, and John H. Stevens. District Counsel Maggie Mooney was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Pavkovich led the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM

Chairman Getman confirmed a physically present quorum for the meeting. The meeting was properly advertised.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Getman asked if there was any discussion of the minutes or the Treasurer's report. There was no discussion.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Vice Chairman Findlay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Chief Bradshaw announced the following milestones: Firefighters Ingram and Hererra for one year of service, and Inspector Aron Kaloostian for ten years of service.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Getman recessed the regular meeting at 6:03 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING / - THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN PARCELS THAT ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE TRAILER ESTATES PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT ONTO THE DISTRICT'S NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL AS A RESULT OF THE DISTRICT'S EXPANSION OF ITS BOUNDARIES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2022-242, LAWS OF FLORIDA-RESOLUTION 2023-03.

Chairman Getman called the Public Hearing to order and requested verification of the Public Notice of the public hearing. Administration Support Manager McCaughan confirmed a copy of the advertisement and affidavit will be included in the permanent record of the minutes.

Chief Bradshaw presented Resolution 2023-03, a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District; adding certain parcels located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District onto the District's Assessment Roll for Non-Ad Valorem Assessments; and establishing an effective date.

The Cedar Hammock Fire Control District ("District") is an independent special purpose district authorized to levy non-ad valorem assessments and establish a schedule of non-ad valorem assessments to fund the District's fire protection and rescue services.

Following the approval of a November 8, 2022, referendum of the qualified voters and the adoptions of Chapter 2022-242, Laws of Florida, the District's jurisdictional boundaries were expanded within unincorporated Manatee County to include all real properties generally located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District authorizing the District to provide fire control and emergency medical services, levy and collect taxes, assessments, and fees, and administer fire rescue programs and services within the Districts expanded boundaries. The expanded District is attached hereto as "Exhibit 1" and incorporated herein by reference; and

The Board of Fire Commissioners held a properly advertised public hearing on May 18, 2023, in accordance with applicable law including the provisions contained within the District's Enabling Act and considered a proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget, a proposed non-ad valorem rate assessment rate schedule, and the addition of the above referenced expanded boundaries.

The referenced parcels located within the Trailer Estates Park & Recreation District are not exempt or immune from the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments. The referenced parcels receive a special benefit from District's fire services; and that adding such properties to the District's non-ad valorem assessment roll is fair, reasonable, and consistent with the treatment of similarly owned properties within the District.

Chairman Getman opened the Public Hearing for the addition of certain parcels located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District onto the District's Assessment Roll for Non-Ad Valorem Assessments for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Getman closed the Public Hearing for the addition of certain parcels located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District onto the District's Assessment Roll for Non-Ad Valorem Assessments for public comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to adopt Resolution 2023-03 for the addition of certain parcels located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District onto the District's Assessment Roll for Non-Ad Valorem Assessments. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Getman adjourned the Public Hearing for the addition of certain parcels located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District onto the District's Assessment Roll for Non-Ad Valorem Assessments.

PUBLIC HEARING / - THE IMPOSITION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS TO PARTIALLY FUND THE DISTRICT'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 UPON THE LANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE DISTRICT, TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY, COLLECTION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ASSESSMENTS – RESOLUTION 2023-04.

Chairman Getman called the Public Hearing to order and requested verification of the Public Notice of the public hearing. Administration Support Manager McCaughan confirmed a copy of the advertisement and affidavit will be included in the permanent record of the minutes.

Chief Bradshaw presented Resolution 2023-04, a resolution of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District adopting a final non-ad valorem assessment roll, imposing non-ad valorem assessments, authorizing review of the assessment roll, providing for administration of the assessment roll, and establishing an effective date.

The Cedar Hammock Fire Control District is a special purpose district authorized to levy special non-ad valorem assessments for fire and rescue services and establish a schedule of maximum special assessments above which non-ad valorem fire assessments for the District may not exceed.

Following the approval of a November 8, 2022, referendum of the qualified voters and the adoptions of Chapter 2022-242, Laws of Florida, the District's jurisdictional boundaries were expanded within unincorporated Manatee County to include all real properties generally located within the Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District; and the expanded District is attached hereto as "Exhibit 1."

The District seeks to levy non-ad valorem assessments against the newly added properties that receive services from the District in accordance with the previously established schedule of non-ad valorem assessments and the proposed budget, attached hereto as "Exhibit 2."

When an assessment is to be imposed on newly affected property owners following a district boundary change, Florida Statutes require specific notice to the affected taxpayers and advertised public hearings on the proposed assessment.

The District is authorized to utilize a uniform method of collecting and the District has elected to utilize the uniform method.

The District held a properly advertised public hearing on May 18, 2023, in accordance with applicable law and held a properly advertised public hearing on July 20, 2023, to provide any District property owners, including any newly affected property owners, subject to the District's non ad valorem assessments to appear before the Board to be heard on matters relating to the District's assessments including the amount to be assessed against each property in compliance with Chapters 191 and 197, Florida Statutes, including the provisions contained within the District's Special Act.

Florida law requires the District's Board of Fire Commissioners adopt by resolution the non-ad valorem fire assessment rates prior to June 1 of the tax year.

The District previously adopted Resolution 2014-04 and determined the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the previous five years should be determined by using growth rate data provided by the United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis ("BEA"). The use of the BEA as the standard is also utilized by the majority of the other independent fire districts within Manatee County.

At the May 18, 2023, and July 20, 2023, public hearings, Staff presented evidence and testimony to the Board of Fire Commissioners that the BEA data indicated that the average annual growth rate in personal income over the previous five (5) years is 6.7%

Staff applied the 6.7% personal income growth rate to the previous year's non-ad valorem assessment rates to develop the proposed and final Fiscal Year 2023-2024 final assessment rate schedule, attached as "Exhibit 3."

The authority provided for in applicable Florida law, the Board hereby adopts the BEA standard for personal income growth rate increase and its application to the previous year's assessment for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

The District's fire assessment policy has been and remains that individual parcels shall be assessed annually according to actual use of the property; and the District plans to assess all properties located within the District that receive and benefit from District fire and rescue services, including such properties that have been recently added by operation of law to the District's expanded boundaries.

Therefore, the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby finds that the recitals set forth above are true and correct; and are hereby adopted. The 2023-2024 Final Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rate Schedule attached as Exhibit 3 is hereby approved and adopted fully.

The Board of Fire Commissioners hereby authorizes the Fire Chief, or his designee, to review the final non-ad valorem fire assessment roll prepared for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and beyond and note any corrections and or adjustments to such assessment roll against each parcel of real property within the District. The authorization includes the authority to transmit the assessment roll, including corrections and adjustments, to the Manatee County Property Appraiser for the purpose of placing the assessment on the annual property tax bill.

Chairman Getman opened the Public Hearing for the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Getman closed the Public Hearing for the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments for public comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to adopt Resolution 2023-04 for the imposition of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments to partially fund the District's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 upon the lands located within the District; to adopt the assessment roll, and provide for the levy, collection, and enforcement of the assessments. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Getman adjourned the Public Hearing for the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments.

PUBLIC HEARING / - 2022-2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2023-05

Chairman Getman called the Public Hearing to order and requested verification of the Public Notice of the public hearing. Administration Support Manager McCaughan confirmed a copy of the advertisement and affidavit will be included in the permanent record of the minutes.

Chief Bradshaw presented Resolution 2023-05, a resolution of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District amending the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget, and establishing an effective date.

The Board of Fire Commissioners held a properly advertised public hearing on September 22, 2022, to adopt a final budget and on April 20, 2023, at a publicly noticed meeting the Board reviewed the 2021-2022 fiscal year end audit. Based upon the information provided the Board finds that it is in the best interest to amend the expenditure appropriations and the revenue estimates in the amount of \$14,325,980.

Through the adoption of this amended budget the Board of Fire Commissioners has committed funds in the amount of \$4,785,667 to accrued leave and salaries; major vehicle repairs; station renovations; vehicular and fire engine replacements; and rescue equipment.

Chairman Getman opened the Public Hearing for 2022-2023 budget amendment for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Getman closed the Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 budget amendment for public comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to adopt Resolution 2023-05 for the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Getman adjourned the Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment.

Chairman Getman resumed the regular meeting at 6:19 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

BC Vehicle

Deputy Chief Falcone reviewed the memorandum and made a request to exit the purchasing agreement with Alan Jay, which can be done without penalty or cost to the District, and to purchase the new command vehicle through Nashville Ford. The cost increase from the original purchase requisition is \$4,915.00. He believes we will still be able to fully outfit the vehicle under the budgeted amount of the project.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to exit the purchasing agreement with Alan Jay and purchase the new command vehicle from Nashville Ford in the amount of \$54,063. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

2023/2024 Proposed Budget – Draft 4

Chief Bradshaw reviewed the proposed budget as presented.

Contract Negotiations

Chief Bradshaw reported that negotiations continue to go well. The current proposed budget reflects the agreed upon salaries and benefits.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Bradshaw reviewed the departmental reports.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Reasoner inquired if there was an update on the Department of Transportation Whitfield project. Counsel Mooney provided a contact name for future contact.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is September 7, 2023 – Public Hearings. Chief Bradshaw reminded the Board that the District needed a majority vote.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 pm. Vice Chairman Findlay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED 09/07/2023

Chairman Ronald D. Getman