



Indian River County Florida

Draft Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners

Indian River County
Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building
A
Vero Beach, Florida,
32960-3388
www.indianriver.gov

Susan Adams, District 1, Chairman
Joseph Flescher, District 2, Vice Chairman
Joseph H. Earman, District 3
Deryl Loar, District 4
Laura Moss, District 5

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
William K. DeBaal, County Attorney
Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

Budget Workshop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Chairman Susan Adams
Vice Chairman Joseph Flescher
Commissioner Joe Earman
Commissioner Laura Moss
Commissioner Deryl Loar

2.A. A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

2.B. INVOCATION

Chaplain Lou Tropf, IRC Jail

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Susan Adams, Chairman

4. GENERAL OVERVIEW SESSION

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

County Administrator John Titkanich opened the Budget Workshop meeting with a message that the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 (FY 24/25) budget would emphasize customer service, employee development, implementation of the County's Strategic Plan, public safety, execution of a compensation and classification study, and investment in infrastructure and capital needs. He detailed the initiatives focusing on investing and planning for the future including the organizational restructuring with new hires, facility and building department collaborations, economic development, and master plans for growth, stormwater, conservation, and utilities. Mr. Titkanich continued on to provide details of the progress made to build additional fire stations in growth areas, and investments in leadership training. He announced the total proposed budget for FY 24/25 was \$524,719,875, a 3.5 percent increase over last year's planned budget.

The slide presentation continued with highlights of the major impacts to the budget: a tax roll increase, the initial year of the land acquisition bond, the sheriff's budget, and a variety of compensation costs. A pie chart illustrated the budget percentages allocated to fulfilling Strategic Plan goals, with the lion's share of funds dedicated to infrastructure.

Next was the General Fund taxable value with a proposed millage rate of 3.5475 for the sixth straight year, and a valuation increase to \$29.3 million. Commissioner Loar entered into discussion with Administration Titkanich regarding OPEB's (Other Post-Employment Benefits) ongoing maintenance costs which were fully-funded by the County.

Ad valorem revenue was estimated to be \$189 million. The millage rate remained unchanged at 3.5475, which was the lowest among comparable counties. The approved land acquisition bond added .0639 for a subtotal of 3.6114. Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) and Emergency Services District rates remained unchanged producing an aggregate millage rate of 6.118.

He concluded his presentation showing the impact of the tax increases on a typical homeowner in the unincorporated area of the County.

5. GENERAL FUND

001-101	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
001-102	COUNTY ATTORNEY
001-103	GIS TRANSFER
001-107	COMMUNICATIONS/EMERGENCY SERVICE
001-109	MAIN LIBRARY
001-112	NORTH COUNTY LIBRARY
001-113	BRACKETT LIBRARY
001-118	IRC SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
001-119	LAW LIBRARY
001-201	ADMINISTRATOR - OPERATIONS
001-202	COMMUNITY SERVICES
001-203	HUMAN RESOURCES
001-206	VETERANS SERVICE
001-208	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
001-210	PARKS
001-211	HUMAN SERVICES
001-212	AG EXTENSION
001-215	CONSERVATION LANDS
001-216	PURCHASING
001-220	FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
001-229	OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
001-230	BUILDING & FACILITIES SERVICES
001-237	FPL GRANT EXPENDITURES
001-238	EMERGENCY BASE GRANT
001-241	IS/TELECOM TRANSFER
001-246	INSURANCE PREMIUMS
001-250	COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL
001-251	MAILROOM/SWITCHBOARD
001-283	LAGOON

Administrator Titkanich next presented the General Fund Budget overview showed an ad valorem tax increase to 10.3 percent, with an unchanged millage rate. Part of the County's restructuring plan included a compensation study which, when implemented, added \$1,443,406 to the budget. An additional 16 positions were added as part of the County's restructuring which amounted to \$1,234,530 in salaries.

The next chart illustrated expenses by category, with 61.2 percent dedicated to Constitutional Officers, and 21.2 percent allocated to fund County operations and services for residents. Commissioner Loar received additional regarding the rationale and methodology for the choices made regarding staffing increases, and the long-term plan to address emergency services' salaries. Chairman Adams received clarification that the compensation study funding also included a 20 percent contingency. Discussion ensued regarding the completion of the compensation study. Administrator Titkanich provided in depth information regarding the study which was still in the process of addressing the best way to make employee salaries more competitive. Commissioner Moss received an update on the additional staff and programs implemented in the Veterans Services Department.

Administer Titkanich continued the presentation by highlighting line items from the General Fund expenses including a rollover of funds to the County Attorney's budget from records digitization; an increase in Communications/Emergency Services for security equipment upgrades; additional staff for Administrator Operations; Community Services increases due to restructuring personnel; additional personnel for Human Resources; Emergency Management saw a decrease due to a bond, and reclassifying personnel. He continued with Facilities Management's equipment needs, and the newly created Building and Facilities Services Department which needed to be staffed with leadership roles.

Commissioner Earman commended the creation of the Building and Facilities Department, and received information regarding the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan which would implement an oyster restoration project, and receive funds from Capital Improvements. Vice Chairman Flescher received confirmation that the unapproved funding for Children's Services was returned to the General Fund.

There were no questions from the public.

The Chairman called for a recess at 9:54 am, and reconvened the meeting at 10:03 am with all members present.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

- 001-300 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, RYAN L. BUTLER**
- 001-400 TAX COLLECTOR, CAROLE JEAN JORDAN**
- 001-500 PROPERTY APPRAISER, WESLEY DAVIS**
- 001-600 SHERIFF, ERIC FLOWERS**
- 001-700 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, LESLIE R. SWAN**
- 001-114 VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD**

A slide with the proposed budgets for all the Constitutional Officers showed a total of \$93,127,063, a 6.3 percent increase over last year's starting budget.

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ryan Butler requested a 3.85 percent increase over last year's budget, which reduced funding expenditures while still allowing a cost of living increase for employees. He reminded the Board that in 2005, the State shifted the burden of Information Technology costs to the County, and for the past 19 years had been paid through trust funds which were running out of money. Clerk Butler anticipated increasingly larger budget requests starting with fiscal year 2026/27, dependent on revised revenue allocations.

Chairman Adams noted the Tax Collector's budget was not due until August 1, 2024; an estimated 6.1 percent increase was included for planning purposes only.

Property Appraiser Wesley Davis discussed technological upgrades his office employed which allowed faster reporting, and the plan to offer Homestead Exemption filings online. The Appraiser's office requested a 7.6 percent increase for technology improvements which would reduce staff time and expense.

Indian River County Sheriff Eric Flowers recounted meeting with County Administrator John Titkanich to negotiate a feasible budget increase. The 6.5 percent increase brought the requested budget total to \$78,911,955. Sheriff Flowers noted last year's budget increase went to employee salaries, as would this year's. He also cautioned that this number did not fully fund the Department to be able to meet all of its goals. In response to Commissioner Loar, Sheriff Flowers informed that in the face of a tax revenue decrease, he would protect employee salaries and make cuts from the operations. Chairman Adams added a reminder that the Board had many mandated funding obligations to consider and balance.

Supervisor of Elections Leslie R. Swan noted the November 2024 presidential election cycle would bring high voter turnout and require a two-card ballot, meaning higher printing and postage costs. She requested a budget increase of 3.8 percent which included money to upgrade their discontinued operational system, and the cost to purchase additional precinct tabulators.

Commissioner Earman informed that the Value Adjustment Board requested

an additional \$1800, or 2.9 percent budget increase, for legal and business expenses.

There were no questions from the public.

7. MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (M.S.T.U.)

- 004-104 NORTH COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER**
- 004-105 GIFFORD AQUATIC CENTER**
- 004-108 RECREATION**
- 004-115 INTERGENERATIONAL FACILITY**
- 004-116 BEACH PARKS**
- 004-161 SHOOTING RANGE**
- 004-204 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
- 004-205 COUNTY PLANNING**
- 004-207 CODE ENFORCEMENT**
- 004-231 NATURAL RESOURCES**
- 004-400 TAX COLLECTOR**

Administrator Titkanich reviewed highlights from the MSTU (Municipal Service Taxing Unit) budget which included an ad valorem tax roll increase of 10 percent which would generate \$1.6 million in revenue; an unchanged millage rate of 1.1506 (7.24 percent above the rollback rate); transfers out to fund transportation and law enforcement; Rate Study implementation; and a recreational fee increase.

At Chairman Adams’ request, Administrator Titkanich informed that MSTU taxes were used to fund services normally provided by a municipality such as parks, recreation, and code enforcement. He then discussed and highlighted projects from the line item chart of fund expenses. Discussion ensued regarding last year’s suggestion to upgrade the audio-visual system at the Intergenerational Center to allow recording or streaming of meetings. Administrator Titkanich explained that based on a needs assessment, funds were directed to upgrade meeting rooms in the County Administration complex where the committees met. It was suggested that meeting software could increase public outreach efforts by recording and posting presentations such as the State of the County Luncheon.

There were no comments from the public.

8. TRANSPORTATION FUND

111-214	ROAD AND BRIDGE
111-243	PUBLIC WORKS
111-244	COUNTY ENGINEERING
111-245	TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
111-281	STORMWATER

The Transportation Budget overview showed an increase in retirement and worker's compensation costs, Compensation Study implementation costs of \$1,097,528, flat gas tax revenue, and transfers from the General and MSTU funds had increased by \$2,445,420, or 13.9 percent. Administrator Titkanich reviewed the fund's line-item expenses, noting extensive capital improvements, additional staff, and higher costs for materials and fuel. He expounded on a line item for the Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC) which represented costs incurred during crossing maintenance.

There were no comments from the public.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

114-120	FIRE RESCUE
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Administrator Titkanich displayed the Emergency Services District (ESD) overview which showed a 9.7 percent increase in the ad valorem tax roll, generating additional revenue of \$4,750.341 with an unchanged millage rate of 2.3531. He reported the largest expenses would be due to additional personnel, and increased retirement and worker's compensation costs.

Discussion ensued with a requested update on the status of the fire stations which were in various stages of development. It was reported that Fire Station 7 was accepting bids for construction; Station 15 was in the final negotiations for land purchase; Stations 17 and 18 had secured parcels; and the process to identify a location for Station 16 was underway. Commissioner Loar and Administrator Titkanich discussed the use of ESD funds and the possibility of enhancing salaries for fire rescue personnel.

There were no comments from the public.

10. NON-DEPARTMENTAL STATE AGENCIES

001-106	NEW HORIZONS OF THE TREASURE COAST, INC.
001-106	STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
001-110	TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
001-110	IR LAGOON NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM COUNCIL
001-110	DEPT. OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
001-111	MEDICAID
001-252	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD
001-901	CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION
001-901	GUARDIAN AD LITEM
001-903	VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
001-903	STATE ATTORNEY
001-904	PUBLIC DEFENDER
001-907	MEDICAL EXAMINER

Administrator Titkanich continued the presentation by expanding on funding for State Agencies including New Horizons, Medicaid, and the State Attorney's office; he provided a rationale for increased allocations.

The Chairman opened the floor for comments from representatives of State agencies, noting that Diamond Litty expressed her appreciation for the Board's support.

Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Patricia Aronica provided an update on the planning for her department's new building. Vice Chairman Flescher commended Dr. Aronica on her success in tightening her department's budget which only requested a one percent increase.

Heather Parker, Circuit Director of the Guardian ad Litem Office thanked the Board for their support.

Miranda Swanson, Health Officer for the County's Health Department, provided information regarding several programs at the Wabasso Office including diabetes prevention, nutrition education, congregate meals, WIC assistance, and expanded food pantry offerings. She expressed appreciation for the Board's support in renovating and funding the Wabasso location.

11. NON-DEPARTMENTAL

001-110	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
001-128	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
001-137	SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
001-137	FELLSMERE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Non-Departmental Agencies were the next sector up for discussion, starting with the Economic Development Division which requested a 16.6 percent, or \$33,899, increase to their budget. Administrator Titkanich informed the County had a contractual relationship with the Indian River Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) for economic development, marketing, and business recruitment. Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Vice President for the Chamber, entered into discussion with Chairman Adams regarding the search for her replacement after she retired. Administrator Titkanich confirmed the Chamber would continue to work as the County's marketing and business development partner.

Next, the Children's Services Grants budget of \$3,020,541, representing an 8.4 percent increase, was announced. There were no comments regarding this line item.

Lastly, the two Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) budgets were displayed showing a 10 percent increase for Sebastian, and a 27.4 percent increase for Fellsmere. Under discussion, Management and Budget Director Kristin Daniels clarified the valuation for the CRAs, noting the numbers were determined by the Property Appraiser's Office.

There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the floor.

12. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- 001-110 MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**
- 001-110 UNITED AGAINST POVERTY (fka HARVEST FOOD)**
- 001-110 211 PALM BEACH/TREASURE COAST**
- 001-110 CTC-SRA-SENIOR SERVICES**

Administrator Titkanich reviewed the budget requests for Non-Profit Organizations which averaged a 3 percent increase per agency.

The following representatives discussed their agency's programs and expressed appreciation for the Board's support:

- Dr. Philip Cromer, CEO, Mental Health Association
- Lindsey Sumpter, Grant Writer, United Against Poverty
- Ty Barnes, 211 Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast
- Chris Stephenson, Director of Transportation, Senior Resource Association
- Gabriel Pedrero, CFO, Senior Resource Association

There were no questions or comments from the public.

13. QUASI NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- 001-206 VETERANS COUNCIL OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, INC.**
- 001-110 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (SRA)**
- 001-110 GIFFORD YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT CENTER, INC.**
- 001-110 PROGRESSIVE CIVIC LEAGUE OF GIFFORD**
- 001-110 HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH, FL**
- 001-110 TREASURE COAST HOMELESS SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.**

Administrator Titkanich read the Quasi-Non-Profit Organizations funded by the County, explaining the decreases for SRA (Senior Resource Association) Transport and a \$50,000 (52.6 percent) increase for Treasure Coast Homeless Services to provide matching funds for housing and domestic violence grants.

Representatives from the following agencies addressed the Board with information regarding their services, and expressed appreciation for the Board's support:

Cynthia Ryan, Executive Director, Veterans Council of Indian River County
Chris Stephenson, Director of Transportation, Senior Resource Association

Rayme Knuckles, Visionary Leader of the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council (HSC), entered into a lengthy discussion with the Board, first expressing miscommunication in the organization's funding. Discussion centered on his presentation informing of the implications and cost of implementing House Bill 1365 which prohibits public camping and sleeping. County Attorney Bill DeBaal informed of the County's responsibility and exposure to litigation, noting the Bill was still unclear in many areas. Jane Snead, Development Director for United Against Poverty, shared a story illustrating the rise of homelessness among senior citizens. Chairman Adams agreed the County needed to do more to provide homeless resources. She offered to facilitate a homeless services workshop in the near future, and directed staff to research the latest on the Bill.

There were no comments from the public.

The Chairman called for a recess at 12:07 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 12:16 with all members present.

Yvonne Steer, Board Chair of the Cultural Council of Indian River County, discussed the Board's previous constructive criticism and thanked them for their support of the arts.

The Chairman called for a lunch recess at 12:25 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. with all members present. The Budget Workshop continued with Item 18, Time Certain Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Disposal District.

14. STREETLIGHTING DISTRICTS

179	OCEANSIDE
180	OSLO PARK
181	GIFFORD
182	LAURELWOOD
183	ROCKRIDGE
184	VERO HIGHLANDS
186	PORPOISE POINT
188	LAUREL COURT
189	TIERRA LINDA
190	VERO SHORES
191	IXORA PARK
192	ROYAL POINCIANA
193	ROSELAND ROAD
194	WHISPERING PINES
195	MOORINGS
196	WALKER'S GLEN
197	GLENDALE LAKES
198	FLORALTON BEACH
199	WEST WABASSO

[Clerk Note: This item was heard following the SWDD public hearing]

Commissioner Loar read aloud the rates for all the Streetlighting Districts in the County. Director Daniels noted that some rates had increased due to the higher cost of electricity. Administrator Titkanich offered to have staff look into whether the power company had plans to replace standard bulbs with LEDs.

15. OTHER M.S.B.U.

- 171 EAST GIFFORD STORMWATER M.S.B.U.**
- 185 VERO LAKE ESTATES M.S.B.U.**

Administrator Titkanich reported rates for the two MSBUs (Municipal Service Benefit Unit), Vero Lake Estates and East Gifford Stormwater, would remain unchanged at \$50 per parcel acre and \$10 per parcel acre respectively.

16. ENTERPRISE FUNDS

- 418-221 GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE**
- 418-236 CLUBHOUSE**
- 471-218 BUILDING DEPARTMENT**
- 471-218 UTILITIES – WASTEWATER TREATMENT**
- 471-219 UTILITIES – WATER PRODUCTION**
- 471-235 UTILITIES – GENERAL & ENGINEERING**
- 471-257 UTILITIES – SLUDGE OPERATIONS**
- 471-265 UTILITIES – CUSTOMER SERVICE**
- 471-268 UTILITIES – WASTEWATER COLLECTION**
- 471-269 UTILITIES – WATER DISTRIBUTION**
- 471-282 UTILITIES – OSPREY MARSH**
- 471-292 UTILITIES – SPOONBILL MARSH**
- 474-235 UTILITY WATER IMPACT FEES**
- 475-235 UTILITY SEWER IMPACT FEES**

Management and Budget Director Kristin Daniels led discussion of the Enterprise Funds, noting the golf course would implement higher greens fees and ID cards to raise \$500,000 needed for the clubhouse remodeling. The Building Department's budget showed an increase of \$644,558 (10.2 percent) due to additional staff and building inspectors. The Utilities Department's projections included adding ten positions and production of a master plan which resulted in a projected 3.7 percent, or \$2.3 million increase to their budget.

Vice Chairman Flescher inquired whether the County's shooting range should be included in this category as had been previously discussed. Deputy County Administrator and Director Daniels informed that capital project and maintenance costs prevented the range from being able to cover its own costs. They confirmed it was still the County's goal to move the range toward sustaining itself.

17. INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

- 501 FLEET MANAGEMENT**
- 502 RISK MANAGEMENT (SELF INSURANCE)**
- 504 EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE**
- 505-103 IT - GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
- 505-241 IT - INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Management and Budget Director Kristin Daniels announced the proposed budgets and rationales for the Internal Service Funds, which increased by an average of 6 percent. Notably, Risk Management increased proposed budget by \$1.1 million, or 13 percent, due to the addition of a compliance officer.

There were no comments from the public.

18. 1:30 P.M. (PUBLIC HEARING) SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT (S.W.D.D.)

PROOF OF PUBLICATION FOR THIS HEARING IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD.

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Solid Waste Disposal District meeting.

- 411-217 SANITARY LANDFILL**
- 411-255 RECYCLING**

[Clerk Note: This Item was heard following Item 13. Quasi Non-Profit Agencies]

Administrator Titkanich opened discussion of the Solid Waste Disposal District's (SWDD) proposed budget with the landfill's costs, which were projected to decrease by 28 percent for a total of \$18,583,419. He went on to detail the upcoming projects, and increased capital expenses. Additionally Administrator Titkanich noted the recycling budget increased by 9.4 percent, and reasons for the \$1 million increase were discussed. He went on to discuss the rationale for an 8 percent increase in the Residential ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) and Commercial WGU (Waste Generation Unit); the Readiness-to-Use Fee would increase by \$3.54, for a total of \$40.30.

Administrator Titkanich confirmed for Commissioner Loar that the budget included consideration for the recently negotiated Waste Management contract.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for comments. There being none, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District adjourned the meeting and reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners of the Budget Workshop meeting, continuing with the Streetlighting Districts.

19. MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS

102	TRAFFIC IMPACT FEES
103	ADDITIONAL IMPACT FEES
104	TRAFFIC IMPACT FEES 2020
108	RENTAL ASSISTANCE
109	SECONDARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION
112	SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
117	TREE ORDINANCE FINES
119	TOURIST DEVELOPMENT FUND
120	911 SURCHARGE
121	DRUG ABUSE FUND
123	IRCLHAP/SHIP
124	METRO PLAN ORGANIZATION
127	NATIVE UPLANDS ACQUISITION
128	BEACH RESTORATION
130	NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION 3 PLAN
133	FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
135	DISABLED ACCESS PROGRAMS
136	INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANTS
137	TRAFFIC EDUCATION PROGRAM
138	ARP – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
139	CARES ACT & COVID-19 RESPONSE
140	COURT FACILITY SURCHARGE FUND
141	ADDITIONAL COURT COSTS
142	COURT TECHNOLOGY FUND
145	LAND ACQUISITION SERIES 2006
147	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Management and Budget Director Kristin Daniels reviewed the line items for each Miscellaneous Fund category, explaining any notable changes including modifications to the traffic impact fees and districts. The Tourist Development Fund disbursements had previously been approved by the Board. The Florida Boating Improvement Plan reduced their budget by \$381,000 as the Environmental Learning Center's dock replacement project was completed.

There were no comments on this item.

20. DEBT SERVICE/CAPITAL PROJECTS

204	DODGER BONDS
255	LAND ACQUISITION BONDS 2024
308	JACKIE ROBINSON TRAINING COMPLEX (fka CAPITAL RESERVE FUND)
315	OPTIONAL ONE-CENT SALES TAX

Budget Director Daniels next reviewed Other Debt/Capital Funds budgets. The Dodger Bonds debt service payment remained unchanged, and the bonds are set to be paid off by 2031 via State-provided funds. Funding was included to service the debt payment for the Land Acquisition Bond - Series 2024, in the amount of \$1.78 million. Jackie Robinson Training Complex (Complex) saw a decrease of \$3.5 million which was expounded on by Deputy County Administrator Michael Zito; he explained this was part of the County's long-range plan to decrease the annual investment in the Complex.

There were no comments.

21. AGGREGATE MILLAGE

AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE IS 6.1198

22. RECAP – TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES

JOHN A. TITKANICH, JR., COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator John Titkanich reviewed the final proposed budget numbers:

OVERALL BUDGET

Total proposed budget for 2024/25 is \$524,719,875, a decrease of \$107,923,737.

GENERAL FUND

Proposed millage is 3.5475, 7.77% above rolled back.

The proposed budget is \$145,834,204, an increase of \$2,476,638.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT

Proposed millage is 1.1506, 7.24% above rolled back.

The proposed budget is \$54,368,135, an increase of \$2,338,366.

TRANSPORTATION FUND

The proposed budget is \$25,881,721, an increase of \$1,985,043.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

Proposed millage is 2.3531, 7.31% above rolled back.

The proposed budget is \$66,824,334 an increase of \$3,498,330.

LAND ACQUISITION BOND - SERIES 2024

Proposed millage is 0.0639.

The proposed budget is \$1,778,092.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve the millage rates for the 2024/2025 fiscal year proposed budget as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

Following the vote on the proposed budget, Vice Chairman Flescher initiated discussion regarding reporting for Non-profit and Quasi non-profit agencies. He requested transparency of the executive salaries and administrative costs to better identify how taxpayer dollars were being spent; his concern was ensuring the public's funds went to programs and not salaries. A discussion followed with Director of Management and Budget Kristin Daniels who proposed bringing back to the Board a revision in the Outside Funding Policy which would require salary disclosures during the application process.

Commissioner Loar wanted to see more forecasting done in the departmental budgets to reduce leaders and staff coming back to the Board mid-year for additional funds. He was concerned for the possibility of a slowdown in growth and the mid-year requests which skewed the budget and planning.

Chairman Adams mentioned a desire to focus on the County's needs first as opposed to last after outside agencies had their needs fulfilled. She noted there were plans for infrastructure improvements, staffing requirements, and unfunded State mandates that were being put on the back burner in favor of other's needs and she requested a shift in to prioritize the County's needs.

ADJOURN – 5:00 P.M. -- RECONVENE 9:00 A.M. JULY 11TH IF NECESSARY

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the Budget Workshop meeting at 2:26 p.m.

ANNOUNCE:

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 5:01 P.M.
PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 5:01 P.M.
FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND ADOPTION OF MILLAGE RATES**

*** SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING UPON THE TIME NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE BUDGET.**

Except for those matters specifically exempted under the State Statute and Local Ordinance, the Board shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to the undertaking by the Board of any action on the agenda. Public comment shall also be heard on any proposition which the Board is to take action which was either not on the Board agenda or distributed to the public prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Anyone who may wish to appeal any decision which may be made at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based.

Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the County's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at (772) 226-1223 at least 48 hours in advance of meeting. Anyone who needs special accommodation with a hearing aid for this meeting may contact the Board of County Commission Office at 772-226-1490 at least 20 hours in advance of the meeting.