

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR
2023/2024 COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Present: Commissioner Lumon J. May, Chairman, District 3
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Vice Chairman, District 5
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, District 4
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1
Commissioner Michael S. Kohler, District 2
Sharon Harrell, Finance Director, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Wesley J. Moreno, County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Jose Gochez, Program Manager, County Administrator's Office

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the Second Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Invocation

Horace Jones, Development Services Director, delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Commissioner Bergosh led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the Second Public Hearing for Consideration of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 was advertised in the *Escambia Sun Press* on September 21, 2023, in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule; the *Notice of Proposed Tax Increase* and the *Budget Summary, County of Escambia – Fiscal Year 2023/2024*, were advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 21, 2023.

MINUTES – September 25, 2023

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bender
Disposition: Carried unanimously

FOR INFORMATION: The Board held a brief Commissioners' Forum.

6. Board Action Items

I. 5:01 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Presentation of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

The Board was advised by County Administrator Moreno that:

- A. This is the second of two required Public Hearings for the Board to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget;
- B. At its first Public Hearing held September 11, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted the Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. The law requires that prior to consideration of the Final Budget, an explanation of the "Rolled Back Rate" be provided and entered into the records. The "Rolled Back Rate" is a computed millage rate that would generate the same amount of ad valorem tax dollars as the prior Fiscal Year, based on the proposed year's tax roll, excluding new construction;
- C. The millage rates tentatively approved by the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners on September 11, 2023, are 6.6165 for the County-wide millage rate, .3590 for the Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) and .6850 for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU). The aggregate of these millage rates proposed for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 is 11.50% above the "Rolled Back Rate" of 6.7023 certified by the Property Appraiser. This represents the percentage increase in property taxes tentatively adopted by the Board;
- D. Staff has recommended one Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Tentative Budget. This Amendment for an increase of \$16,717,926, is for recommended adjustments to the Tentative Budget; and

(Continued on Page 3)

MINUTES – September 25, 2023

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6. Continued...

I. Continued...

- E. The revised budget will result in a balanced unified budget of \$718,681,245, which is 9.81% more than the adopted Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget of \$654,458,355.

Motion: Move the 5:01 p.m. Public Hearing
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bender
Disposition: Carried unanimously
Speaker(s): Randy Crooke and Olga Savage

II. Board discussion to Approve Community Partners Funding as Discussed at the First Budget Public Hearing Held on September 11, 2023

Recommendation: That the Board discuss approval of Community Partners funding as discussed at the First Budget Public Hearing held on September 11, 2023.

Motion: Move to adopt the Community Partners funding, as reflected
For Information: Commissioner Barry clarified with County Administrator Moreno and staff that the \$125,000 in additional funding for the Pensacola Escambia Promotion and Development Corporation (PEDC) was not included in the approval of this Item, leaving PEDC funded at \$600,000, and that an Item addressing additional funding in a to-be-determined amount would be coming to the October 5 th Regular BCC Meeting.
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bender
Disposition: Carried 4-0, with Commissioner Bergosh abstaining and filing Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers

MINUTES – September 25, 2023

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Public Forum

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

8. Board Action Items Continued

I. Board Adoption of the Final Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the Final Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

Chairman May advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Final Millage Resolution [R2023-120] presented in the agenda backup. Millage rates presented are:

County-wide millage rate - 6.6165 mills
Library MSTU - .3590 mills
Sheriff's Law Enforcement MSTU - .6850 mills

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner Bergosh
Seconded by: Commissioner Barry
Disposition: Carried unanimously

MINUTES – September 25, 2023

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

8. Continued...

II. Board Adoption of a Supplemental Budget Amendment Resolution Amending the Tentative Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the Supplemental Budget Amendment Resolution [R2023-121] amending the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Tentative Budget, in the increased amount of \$16,717,926, for the following funds:

- General Fund - \$6,295,633
- Mass Transit Fund - \$62,239
- Local Provider Participant Fund - \$7,790,607
- Tourist Promotion Fund - \$306,934
- Library Fund - \$283,036
- Misdemeanor Probation Fund - \$12,502
- Development Review Fees Fund - \$23,865
- Gulf Coast Restoration Fund - \$101,350
- Fire Protection Fund - \$257,820
- Community Redevelopment Fund - \$23,633
- Transportation Trust Fund - \$351,859
- Emergency Medical Services Fund - \$178,652
- Internal Service Fund - \$1,029,796

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously

MINUTES – September 25, 2023

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

8. Continued...

III. Board Adoption of the Final Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Chairman May advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Final Budget Resolution [R2023-122] of \$718,681,245, for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously

IV. Board Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Annual Budget for the Santa Rosa Island Authority

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Annual Budget for the Santa Rosa Island Authority.

Motion: Move the Budget
Made by: Commissioner Bender
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously

V. Lakeview Center's Participation in the Agency for Health Care Administration's Low-Income Pool

Recommendation: That the Board take the following action concerning the Low-Income Pool Letters of Agreement between Escambia County, Florida, on behalf of Lakeview Center, and the Agency of Health Care Administration (AHCA) for State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the purpose of billing for Medicaid payments:

- A. Ratify the County Administrator's signature on the Low-Income Pool Letter of Agreement between Escambia County, Florida, and AHCA, allowing Lakeview Center to participate in the AHCA's Low-Income Pool, in an amount not to exceed \$340,059, which will provide matching funds to Lakeview Center for the costs of uncompensated charity care for low-income individuals who are uninsured; and
- B. Authorize the payment by voucher of an amount not to exceed \$340,059, to AHCA from Fund 001, Cost Center 110201, Account 58201.

Motion: Move the Item, A and B, in the affirmative
Made by: Commissioner Bergosh
Seconded by: Commissioner Barry
Disposition: Carried unanimously

MINUTES – September 25, 2023

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

8. Continued...

VI. Approval of a 3% Employee Pay Increase for FY 2023/2024

Recommendation: That the Board approve a 3% Employee Pay Increase that is budgeted for and included in the FY 2023/2024 Budget. This increase will be effective with the pay period beginning on September 30, 2023.

Motion: So moved

For Information: Commissioner May advised that he has concerns regarding livable wages for employees and County Administrator Moreno advised that staff is currently working to address this.

Made by: Commissioner Barry

Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh

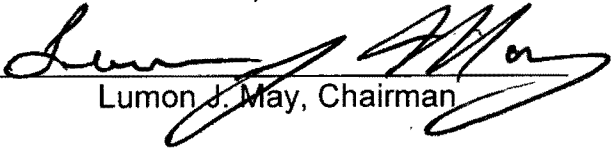
Disposition: Carried unanimously

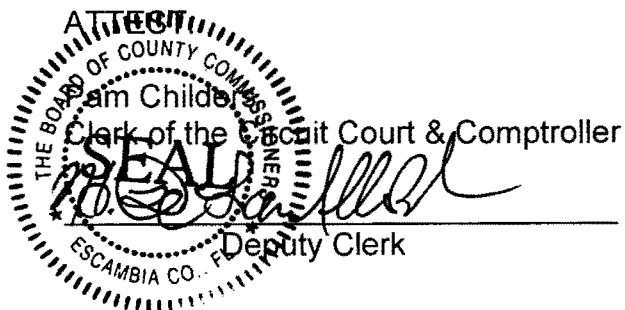
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman May declared the Second Budget Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 County-Wide Budget of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:


Lumon J. May, Chairman



Approved: October 5, 2023