

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR
2024/2025 COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Present: Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Chairman, District 5
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1
Commissioner Michael S. Kohler, District 2
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3
Sharon Harrell, Finance Director, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Wesley J. Moreno, County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Operations Supervisor, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Ashley Danner, Office Assistant IV, 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 ITEM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barry called the First Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m.

Commissioner Bergosh led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Eric Gilmore, Public Safety Director, gave a brief update on Tropical Storm Francine and advised that additional EMS units would be on stand-by, sand was available for any citizens concerned about flooding, after school programs were canceled for Wednesday, and that impacts such as gusty winds, rip currents, and localized flooding were expected.

MINUTES – September 10, 2024

AGENDA ITEM – Continued

2. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Operations Supervisor, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that:

- A. The 5:01 p.m. First Budget Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 was advertised in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule in the *Escambia Sun Press* on September 5, 2024;
- B. As required by Florida Statute 197.363, the 5:02 p.m. Public Hearing for consideration of adopting the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 First Year Assessment Rolls for street lighting, pond maintenance, driveway improvements, roadway improvements, Perdido Key beach mouse, and nuisance abatement Municipal Services Benefit Units (MSBUs) was advertised in the *Escambia Sun Press* on August 8, 2024, and First Class Notices were mailed to all property owners in the affected MSBU Districts; and
- C. A Notice of Street Lighting MSBU Adjustment was also published in the *Escambia Sun Press* on August 18, 2024.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: So moved
For Information: Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion for the adoption of the agenda.
Made by: Commissioner Bergosh
Seconded by: Commissioner May
Disposition: Carried unanimously

4. Board Action Items

I. 5:01 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

- A. Presentation of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 - County Administrator Wes Moreno

The Board was advised by County Administrator Moreno that:

- (1) This is the first of two required Public Hearings for the Board to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget. The Board, later in the meeting, will set the second Public Hearing;
- (2) The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the 2024/2025 tentative millage rates for TRIM notification purposes at the BCC meeting held on July 9, 2024;

(Continued on Page 3)

MINUTES – September 10, 2024

AGENDA ITEM – Continued

4. Continued...

I. Continued...

A. Continued...

- (3) The law requires that prior to consideration of the tentative 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;
- (4) The millage rates tentatively approved by the Board for TRIM notification 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 2024/2025 is 6.23% above the “Rolled Back Rate” of 7.0358, certified by the Property Appraiser. This represents the percentage increase in property taxes tentatively adopted by the Board; and
- (5) For information and to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the process of this meeting, this Public Hearing is convened tonight to discuss the County’s Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget. Because of time constraints, we will need to confine our discussion to this subject. Increases in property assessments, remarks or questions concerning individual property appraisals should be addressed to the County Property Appraiser at his office during normal business hours.

B. Questions/Discussion from the Board

There were no questions or discussion for this item.

MINUTES – September 10, 2024

AGENDA ITEM – Continued

5. Public Forum

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

6. Board Action Items Continued

I. Board Adoption of the Tentative Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Millage Resolution [R2024-122], as presented in the Agenda backup, of 6.6165 mills for the County-wide millage rate, .359 for the Library MSTU and .685 mills for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement MSTU for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

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

II. Board Adoption of the Tentative Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Budget Resolution [R2024-123] of \$748,599,680 for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, as presented in the Agenda backup.

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

III. Announcement of the Date and Time of the Second Public Hearing for the Adoption of the Final Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget

Chairman Barry announced that the second Public Hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget will be held September 23, 2024, at 5:01 p.m., in the Board Chambers on the First Floor of the Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building located at 221 Palafox Place.

MINUTES – September 10, 2024

AGENDA ITEM – Continued

6. Continued...

IV. 5:02 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

County Administrator Moreno advised that a list of all Non-Ad Valorem rates is provided in the agenda backup.

B. Public Forum

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

C. Board Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll, as presented in the Agenda backup.

Motion: Move the item
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously

V. Board Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 BOCC Employee Pay Scale as prepared by the Human Resources Department

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 BOCC Employee Pay Scale, as presented in the Agenda backup.

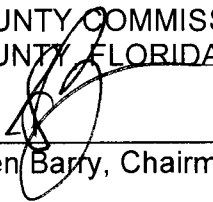
Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner Bergosh
Seconded by: Commissioner Kohler
Disposition: Carried unanimously

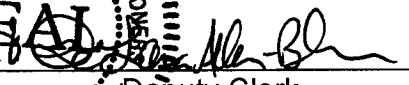
MINUTES – September 10, 2024

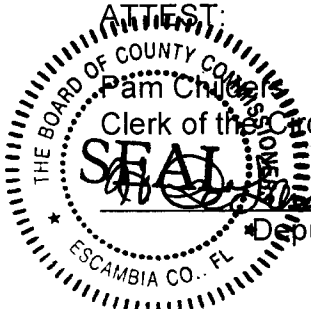
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Barry declared the First Budget Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 County-Wide Budget of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Steven Barry, Chairman

ATTEST:
Pam Chiles
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
_____
Deputy Clerk



Approved: September 24, 2024