

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

SEPTEMBER 23, 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
Honorable Pam Childers, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Wesley J. Moreno, County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Operations Supervisor, 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 Second Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Commissioner Bergosh led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and the Board observed a moment of silence and held a brief Commissioners' forum.

3. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Operations Supervisor, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the Second Public Hearing for Consideration of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 was advertised in the *Escambia Sun Press* on September 19, 2024, in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule; the *Notice of Proposed Tax Increase* and the *Budget Summary, County of Escambia – Fiscal Year 2024/2025*, were advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 19, 2024.

Motion: So moved [to waive the reading]
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously

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AGENDA ITEM – Continued

4. Adoption of the Agenda

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

5. Board Action Items

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

Presentation of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

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 2024/2025 Budget;
- B. At its first Public Hearing held September 10, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted the Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. 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 10, 2024, 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;
- D. Staff has recommended one Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Tentative Budget. This Amendment for an increase of \$50,072,799, is for recommended adjustments to the Tentative Budget; and

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AGENDA ITEM – Continued

5. Continued...

I. Continued...

- E. The revised budget will result in a balanced unified budget of \$798,672,479, which is 11.1% more than the adopted Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget of \$718,681,245.

II. Community Partners Discussion

The Board was advised by County Administrator Moreno that staff is requesting that the Board make a final determination tonight regarding the funding amount to be allocated to each of our Community Partners. This funding determination is necessary to prepare the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Community Partner Funding Agreements and to issue the associated Purchase Orders in a timely fashion. These Purchase Orders will come before the Board for formal approval in October 2024.

Motion: Move to adopt the entire allocation of Community Partners with the one adjustment increasing Keep Pensacola Beautiful

For Information: Chairman Barry clarified that the motion was to increase the allocation to \$182,403. Stephan Hall, Finance Director, advised that the adjustment would come back as a Budget Amendment to place the funds in the proper account next year and that the current Budget is still as the Board has approved it.

Made by: Commissioner Kohler

Seconded by: Commissioner May

Disposition: Carried 3-0, with Commissioner Bergosh abstaining and filing Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers

Speaker(s): Charles Bare

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AGENDA ITEM – Continued

6. Public Forum

Speaker(s):

Chris Curb

7. Board Action Items Continued

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

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the Final Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Final Millage Resolution [R2024-124] 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 Kohler
Disposition: Carried unanimously

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AGENDA ITEM – Continued

7. Continued...

II. Board Adoption of a Supplemental Budget Amendment Resolution Amending the Tentative Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the Supplemental Budget Amendment Resolution [R2024-125] amending the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Tentative Budget, in the increased amount of \$50,072,799 for the following funds:

- General Fund - \$3,459,451
- Local Provider Participant Fund - \$45,403,963
- Tourist Promotion Fund - \$350,000
- Library Fund - \$167,970
- Article V Fund - \$127,008
- Opioid Abatement Fund - \$21,148
- Community Redevelopment Fund - \$171,930
- Building Inspections Fund - \$370,420
- Internal Service Fund - \$909

The Office of Management and Budget will adjust the Adopted Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget to include this amendment.

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

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AGENDA ITEM – Continued

7. Continued...

III. Board Adoption of the Final Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Chairman Barry advised that the Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Final Budget Resolution [R2024-126] of \$798,672,479 for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

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

IV. Board Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Annual Budget for the Santa Rosa Island Authority

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Annual Budget for the Santa Rosa Island Authority.

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

V. Approval of a 3% Employee Pay Increase for FY 2024/2025

Recommendation: That the Board approve a 3% Employee Pay Increase that is budgeted for and included in the FY 2024/2025 Budget. This increase will be effective with the pay period beginning on September 28, 2024.

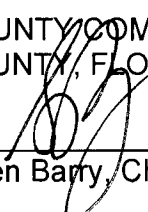
Motion: Move the item
For Information: The Board discussed addressing pay for lower wage county employees and Commissioner May requested that staff review the issue, especially in relation to employees making less than \$40-\$50,000.
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Kohler
Disposition: Carried unanimously

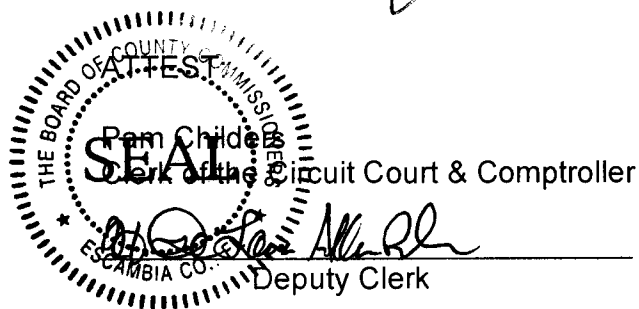
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Barry declared the Second Budget Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 County-Wide Budget of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Steven Barry, Chairman



Approved: October 3, 2024