

Spring Hill Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District
Board of Fire Commissioners
Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2010 – 2011 Millage Rate and Budget

Minutes

September 22, 2010 – 5:01 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Brosnan called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM on September 22, 2010 at SHFRD Headquarters, 3445 Bob Hartung Court, Spring Hill, Florida.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Amy Brosnan	Chairperson	Present
John Pasquale	First Vice Chairperson	Present
Robert Giammarco	Second Vice Chair & Sec/Treasurer	Present
Leo Jacobs	Commissioner	Present
Ben Edwards	Commissioner	Present
Michael Rampino	Fire Chief	Present
Terri McClanahan	Director of Finance	Present
Andrew Salzman	Attorney	Present

INVOCATION: Chairperson Brosnan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairperson Brosnan.

BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATE PRESENTATION

GENERAL AND IMPACT FEE FUNDS

Chief Rampino highlighted the topics to be discussed and introduced Finance Director Terri McClanahan to discuss the General Fund and the Impact Fee Fund. Finance Director McClanahan stated that the FY 2009 - 2010 General Fund budget is \$15,242,290 and the projected FY 2010 – 2011 General Fund budget is \$14,337,176 (-\$905,114). The FY 2009 – 2010 Impact fees budget is \$380,407 and projected FY 2010 -2011 budget is \$131,250 (-\$294,157).

TENTATIVE and ROLLBACK MILLAGE RATES

Finance Director Terri McClanahan read into record the tentative millage rate of 2.50, and advised the rollback rate would be 2.7148 if not for the 2.50 cap. To be at 2.50, the percent increase over rollback rate is -8.59%.

Chairperson Brosnan asked if any Board members had comments on the tentative 2.50 millage rate. No Board members responded.

Citizens' Comments Regarding the Tentative 2.50 Millage

The following citizens commented on the tentative 2.50 millage rate: Sherry Adler asked the Board to reconsider the millage rate increase due to the hardship on the Spring Hill residents and future Boards; Harry Chamberlain stated that 2.50 will maximize the potential for revenue in the near future so SHFRD should postpone building Station 2 to forego the expenditure; Anthony Palmieri said he was disappointed the millage rate is rising 10% and that SHFRD should base its budget on 96% as the State and County do instead of 95%; Ian Norris said Station 2 should be repaired and not replaced, using the modular at Station 3 for temporary quarters; Anne Krause Keenan stated the rate should remain at 2.2686 as all other agencies have done – postpone building Station 2 – investigate the generous benefits package; Brian Keenan asked why SHFRD is raising the millage rate by 10.2% - Firefighters benefits and salaries should be reduced as they are higher than those in New York – reduce capital spending by repairing Station 2 – SHFRD equipment should not be used for non-emergency related matters; Ken Fagan stated that the Board will raise the millage rate regardless of the wants or needs of the citizens – nothing positive has happened since independence – Station 2 will be a burden to the citizens at least five years into the future; Vincent Sagreto stated that most of the speakers of the evening are seeing reductions in their overall taxes - NY Police Officers and Firefighters actually cost \$193,000 per year.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Giammarco asked how much SHFRD has received in impact fees for FY 2009 – 2010. Finance Director McClanahan responded that SHFRD has received \$8,007 revenue as of August 31, 2010 and we expect approximately \$9000 for FY 2010 - 2011. Commissioner Giammarco asked Finance Director McClanahan why the Capital Replacements went up from \$42,000 to \$58,530. Finance Director McClanahan replied that this is a reserve amount only, not for any actual replacements. Commissioner Giammarco asked if we will have the \$130,000 annually for Station 2 for the future years. Chief Rampino replied he believes we will and advised that almost all line items had been reduced in this budget for a total of \$905,114 in cuts.

Citizens' Comments Regarding the Proposed FY 2010 – 2011 Budget

The following citizens commented on the tentative FY 2010 – 2011 Budget: Anthony Palmieri stated that the Chief and Budget Director did well with the budget but the Board did not give adequate direction; Ken Fagan stated that only one of five Commissioners consulting on the budget shows irresponsibility and the tendency to “rubberstamp” issues supported by the Chief; Cathy Brosnan stated that the citizens should also have consulted with the Finance Director; Harry Chamberlain said the citizens should not have to consult on the budget because it's the Board's responsibility and that the Chief is putting too much emphasis on “faith” in the financial future; Brian Keenan stated the Board is rubberstamping the Chief's budget and should be embarrassed; Paul Brosnan advised that Station 2 may be a sick building and needs to be replaced; Vincent Sagreto stated that the Fire Department is necessary and is not a normal “business” and should be viewed as insurance against disaster; Anne Krause Keenan advised that public safety is a business and that all other

entities have maintained their budgets at their existing millage rates – SHFRD needs to maintain its fiscal discipline and should respect the wishes of the citizens; Michael Gennusa stated that individual tax increases will be approximately \$30 per year/\$.25 per day and are necessary; Sherry Adler requested a cut in the rate but not in the services - \$30 per year is a lot for many people; Patrick Clements questioned why the postage rate increased \$7000.

Board Discussion

Finance Director McClanahan stated the postage and freight line items were merged so there was actually only a small increase due to postage costs and the need to mail out additional EMS transport invoices. Chairperson Brosnan asked if removing Station 2 from the budget would cut the millage. Chief Rampino and Finance Director McClanahan advised that replacing the roof on Station 2 would cost up to \$26,000 and that at most SHFRD would recoup 40% of the budgeted \$80,000 for building a new station. Chief Rampino and Finance Director McClanahan confirmed that the only remaining cuts would be to personnel. Chief Rampino reminded the citizens that SHFRD actually cut its millage rate in the past while other Hernando County entities held their millage rates static. Chief Rampino also advised that the County has multiple methods of creating revenue whereas SHFRD is limited to ad valorem taxation and EMS transportation.

Motion

To adopt the final millage rate of 2.50.

RESULT: PASSED (4 to1)

MOVER: Commissioner Jacobs

SECONDER: Commissioner Edwards

AYES: Chairperson Brosnan, Commissioner Pasquale, Commissioner Jacobs, Commissioner Edwards

NAYS: Commissioner Giammarco

Motion

To accept the final budget as proposed

RESULT: PASSED (4 to1)

MOVER: Commissioner Jacobs

SECONDER: Commissioner Pasquale

AYES: Chairperson Brosnan, Commissioner Pasquale, Commissioner Jacobs, Commissioner Edwards

NAYS: Commissioner Giammarco

Budget Calendar

Finance Director McClanahan advised that within 3 days following the final hearing of the Hernando County BoCC the resolution should be forwarded to the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector. On October 1 the final budget for FY 2010 – 2011 will go into affect.

Commissioners' Final Comments

Commissioner Pasquale thanked everyone for attending and commended Mr. Palmieri for assisting with the budgeting process.

Commissioner Jacobs thanked citizens for coming out.

Commissioner Edwards thanked everyone for attending and asked that the citizens begin thinking about next year's budget and give input.

Commissioner Giammarco thanked everyone for attending and giving their input. He stressed that it is important to look to the future and be prepared for more difficult budget cuts next year.

Chairperson Brosnan thanked the citizens and advised that the next meeting is on October 13, 2010 at 9:00 AM.

Motion

To adjourn the Public Hearing of September 22, 2010 at 6:22 PM.

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Commissioner Jacobs

SECONDER: Commissioner Giammarco

AYES: Chairperson Brosnan, Commissioner Pasquale, Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Giammarco, Commissioner Jacobs



Amy Brosnan, Chairperson



Wilbert Stewart, Recording Secretary