

Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District
Tentative Budget Hearing
September 11, 2024, at 5:01 p.m.
Pine Island Fire Station 1, 7500 Pine Island Rd, Bokeelia

Call to Order: Commissioner Player called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner Hernandez led everyone in the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Player led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Commissioner Player, DeLacey, Hernandez, Cammick and Price were present. Chief Mickuleit, Assistant Chief Davis, Assistant Chief Allen, Finance Manager Miles, and Attorney John Miller were present.

Captain Simer, Firefighters Robertson and Agnew, and Engineer Darna were present.

Public: Leo Amos, John Hunt, and an unnamed member of the public.

Setting of Agenda: Attorney John Miller presented the resolution passed earlier in the year pertaining to public comment. **Commissioner Price moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cammick. Motion passed unanimously.**

Public hearing to consider and adopt a Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget:

Hear public comment before any vote.

- Power Point presentation on Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget:
The Power Point was presented by Finance Manager Miles. Initial discussion as per Florida Law was the announcement of the proposed millage rate, voted on at the July 2024 board meeting. The proposed millage rate is 3.7500 mills, which is 4.17% above the roll back rate of 3.5998 mills and is therefore considered a tax increase. There were no questions from the board regarding the Tentative Budget as presented.
- Public comment on Tentative Millage Rate: Mr. Leo Amos asked when the public comment policy was adopted. He also voiced his opinion on limiting how the public can interact with the board and believes that he should be able to ask questions throughout. He also claimed that the tentative budget was not posted on the district's website at least 2 days prior to the meeting. Mr. John Hunt voiced his concern with the public comment policy and claimed that it is an infringement on first amendment rights by limiting what members of the public say during public comment.
- Adopt Tentative Millage Rate: **Resolution 2024-011**
Commissioner Player read the resolution in its entirety, including 3.7500 mills, which is 4.17% above the rolled-back rate of 3.5998 mills.
RESOLUTION 2024-011 A RESOLUTION OF THE MATLACHA/PINE ISLAND FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR LEE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Commissioner Cammick moved to adopt the resolution as presented and read. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hernandez. Motion passed unanimously.
- Public comment on Tentative Budget: Mr. Leo Amos reiterated that the Tentative Budget was not posted on the website 2 days prior to the meeting and therefore against Florida law.
- Adopt Tentative Budget: **Resolution 2024-012**
Commissioner Player read the resolution in its entirety, including appropriations and revenue estimate for Fiscal year 2024-25 in the amount of \$16,707,375 and date and time

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of the final budget hearing of September 25, 2024, at 5:01pm.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATLACHA/PINE ISLAND FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Cammick moved to adopt the resolution as presented and read. Motion seconded by Commissioner DeLacey. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Commissioner DeLacey moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hernandez. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Miles
District Finance Manager

Board Secretary