

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

The FY 11-12 Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing of the [Board of Lee County Commissioners](#) was held on this date with the following Commissioners present:

John E. Manning, Vice Chairman
A. Brian Bigelow
Ray Judah
Tammara Hall

CHAIRMAN MANN WAS ABSENT FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Deputy County Attorney Andrea Fraser approved, as to legal form and sufficiency, the [Affidavit of Publication](#) for the FY11-12 Tentative Lee County Budget Public Hearing.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

Referring to the [script](#), Vice Chairman Manning reviewed the order of the proceedings for the public hearing.

CONVENE AS THE BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

FOR ACTION TAKEN, REFER TO THE MINUTES OF THE PORT AUTHORITY MEETING OF THIS DATE.

RECONVENE AS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Assistant County Manager and Acting Budget Director Pete Winton provided opening comments on the public hearing process to adopt the tentative FY 11-12 proposed budget.

The Vice Chairman called for public comment; and the following individuals came forward:

Estero resident [Bill Williams](#)
Fort Myers Beach Mayor [Larry Kiker](#)
Cape Coral resident [Nellie Slaton](#)
Fort Myers resident [George Wheaton](#)
Lee Memorial Hospital Trauma representative [Drew Mikulasehek, M.D.](#)
Lehigh Community Services representative, [Charlotte Rae Nicely](#)
Fort Myers resident [Dan Moser](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Jere Carrik](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Douglas Patterson](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Tonda Soisson](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Louise Moore](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Mohamed Yasin](#)
Lehigh Acres resident and FEVRR representative [Melissa Dortch](#)
Lehigh Acres Economic Development representative [Edd Weiner](#)
Lehigh Acres Economic Development representative [Michael Swords](#)
Lehigh Acres Volunteers in Medicine representative [William Kuzbyt](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Nola Hall](#)
Fort Myers Beach resident [George Meek](#)
Fort Myers resident [Jehovah Good Rev. Alston](#) ([handout on file](#))
Boys and Girls Club Chief Executive [Deborah Liffig](#)
Boys and Girls Club representative [Shannon Lane](#)
Alva resident [Tom Dugan](#)
Lehigh Acres resident [Lloyd Parkes](#)

TENTATIVE MILLAGES AND BUDGETS FOR SPECIAL TAXING UNITS

Public Resources Senior Fiscal Officer Lori Borman read the FY11-12 Special Taxing Units millages into the record (referenced in the back-up material to this item). Commissioners Judah and Hall briefly left the Chambers during the reading of the special taxing units. The Vice Chairman called for public comment on this item; however, no one came forward. Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Millage Resolution for the Special Taxing Units, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Mann absent. Commissioner Hall then moved to

approve the tentative budgets for the Special Taxing Units for FY11-12, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NO. 11-09-07](#)

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS OR COURT RELATED ORGANIZATIONS (HEARD OUT OF ORDER)

The Vice Chairman called for comments by the Constitutional Officers or Court Related Organizations; however, no one came forward.

TENTATIVE COUNTYWIDE MILLAGES AND BUDGETS

Assistant County Manager and acting Budget Director Pete Winton read into the record the Proposed Countywide Millage of 4.1506 mills per thousand of taxable value, which is a 4.04% decrease from the rolled-back rate of 4.3252 mills per thousand of taxable value. He stated the County-wide millage is made up of the following levies, along with the corresponding rolled-back rates and budgets:

	<u>Proposed Millage Rate</u>	<u>Rolled-Back Rate</u>
General Fund	3.6506	3.8037
Preservation Lands MSTU (Conservation 2020)	<u>0.5000</u>	<u>0.5215</u>
TOTAL	4.1506	4.3252

Mr. Winton read into the record portions of a [September 1st Memorandum addressed to the Board from County Manager Karen B. Hawes](#), which outlined decisions made at previous budget workshops. Board discussion ensued on the Sheriff’s budget considerations for co-shared funding by the cities of Fort Myers and Cape Coral for School Resource Officers (SRO’s) and the Sheriff’s share of retiree health premiums. There was consensus that Commissioner Bigelow, as liaison to the Mayors Council, would enter into discussions on SRO’s and report back to the Board. The Commissioners considered the following proposed reductions as outlined by Mr. Winton in the referenced Memorandum:

- 1) Adjust the Visitor & Convention Bureau budget to reflect rent to the General Fund of \$200,000 at the Administration East building. **Board consensus was not to support the proposed recommendation at this time.**
- 2) Reduce Economic Development’s budget by \$80,000 for marketing costs that will be picked up by the Industrial Development Authority. **Board consensus was to support the proposed recommendation.**
- 3) Reduce Extension Services budget by \$250,000 to reflect transfer of costs and operations to the University of Florida (actually \$65,000 for FY11-12 and \$250,000.00 for FY12-13, due to July 1 state budget year). **Board consensus was to support the proposed recommendation.**
- 4) Transfer Sanibel community ball fields’ expense of \$75,000 to Unincorporated MSTU. **Board consensus was to support the proposed recommendation with further discussions to be held next year.**
- 5) Close Manatee Park for six months of the year (saving \$65,000). **Board consensus was not to support the recommendation.**
- 6) Reduce Parks & Recreation budget by \$200,000 to reflect transfer of Caloosahatchee Regional Park to the state. **Board consensus was not to support the recommendation, with Commissioner Bigelow recommending a request for transfer be made to the State.**
- 7) Reduce General Fund major maintenance by \$1 million. Reduce electricity budgets by \$100,000 for building climate control standardization (an ordinance is still recommended). **Board consensus was to support the recommendations, with the stipulation that any major maintenance items be brought to the Board in a timely manner for consideration.**
- 8) Human Services funding to outside agencies already has been decreased 5% in the department’s submitted budget (\$533,903). Further reduce Human Services budget by \$768,266 for additional proposed reductions to Partnering for Results (additional 10%), Mental Health Treatment (additional 5%), Substance Abuse Treatment (additional 5%), Health Department Funding (additional 5%), and Long-Term Recovery Coordinator Position (see pages 9-11 of the Memorandum). **Board consensus was not to support additional cuts to those already agreed to and communicated to the agencies.**

- 9) Use \$424,867 of Transit capital savings for operating costs for FY11-12. **Board consensus was to support the recommendation.**
- 10) Reduce Transit by \$648,571 for route service reductions (see page 12 of the Memorandum). On June 7, the BoCC approved the Transit Task Force's Phase 1 recommendation to redirect these savings to service enhancements. **Board consensus was not to support the recommendation; however, Commissioner Manning requested a follow-up memorandum on potential future use of the 6% gasoline tax for transit purposes.**
- 11) Reduce County Attorney's budget by \$135,000 (see page 13 of the Memorandum). **Board consensus was to support the recommendation.**
- 12) Pay \$1.3 million of road resurfacing for FY11-12 out of Unincorporated MSTU, and transfer gas taxes to General Fund to repay loan for six laning of Daniels Parkway. **Board consensus was to support the recommendation.**

Mr. Winton advised that a memorandum itemizing the proposed additional reductions would be provided and budgets adjusted accordingly. Discussion continued on staff recommendations, and Mr. Winton indicated further research would be done on the transfer of costs for EMS/Fire dispatch. Vice Chairman Manning briefly left the Chambers during discussion of this item, and Commissioner Judah assumed the Chair. Commissioners Hall and Judah requested, and County Manager Karen Hawes agreed to provide, a synopsis of the overall Public Safety budget. Mr. Winton reported that the Parks & Recreation's budget has been reduced with transfer of some operational costs to the Conservation 20/20 fund, and noted that an ordinance revision is being finalized. At the request of Commissioner Judah, Assistant County Manager Holly Schwartz agreed that pertinent information on the rationale for identifying the subject conservation parcels would be provided to the Board prior to the final budget hearing. Commissioners Judah and Hall directed staff to designate a funding mechanism for two Capital Improvement Program projects, Homestead Road in Lehigh Acres and Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach, prior to the final budget hearing for consideration in the next budget session. Commissioner Hall also requested Assistant County Manager for Public Works Doug Meurer and Mr. Winton to move the loan process up to FY 11-12 for the North Fort Myers Recreation Center. At the conclusion of discussion, Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Countywide Millage Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Judah. Commissioner Bigelow indicated his concern with the sustainability of the budget course, and the motion was called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NO. 11-09-08](#)

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Countywide Budget for FY 11-12, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

TENTATIVE LIBRARY

Assistant County Manager and acting Budget Director Pete Winton read the proposed Lee County Library Millage of .3541 mills per thousand taxable value, compared to the rolled-back rate of .3541, into the record, indicating it was a 0.00% increase from the rolled-back rate. Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Lee County Library Millage Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NOS. 11-09-09](#)

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Lee County Library Budget for FY 11-12, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

UNINCORPORATED AREA MSTU

Assistant County Manager and acting Budget Director Pete Winton read the proposed Lee County Unincorporated Area MSTU millage of 0.8398 mills per thousand taxable value compared to the rolled-back rate of 0.8804 mills per thousand of taxable value, into the record, indicating it was a 4.61% decrease from the rolled-back rate. Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Unincorporated Area MSTU Millage Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NOS. 11-09-10](#)

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Budget for the Lee County Unincorporated Area MSTU for FY 11-12, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

ALL HAZARDS PROTECTION

Assistant County Manager and acting Budget Director Pete Winton read the proposed Lee County All Hazards Protection District millage of 0.0693 mills per thousand taxable value compared to the rolled-back rate of 0.0724 mills per thousand of taxable value, into the record, indicating it was a 4.28% decrease from the rolled-back rate. Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Millage Resolution for the Lee County All Hazards Protection District, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NOS. 11-09-11](#)

Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Budget for the Lee County All Hazards Protection District for FY 11-12, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

ALL OTHER BUDGET MILLAGES AND BUDGETS

Assistant County Manager and acting Budget Director Pete Winton read the proposed Lee County All Other (non-millage) Budgets for next fiscal year, and responded to a request by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Judah moved to adopt the Tentative Lee County All Other Budgets, seconded by Commissioner Hall, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NOS. 11-09-12](#)

TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET FOR FY 11-12

Assistant County Manager and acting Budget Director Pete Winton read this Hearing’s compliance portion from the script and stated that the proposed Total Lee County Budget for FY11-12 (shown in the “Budget Summary Reports”, which outlines each fund and is made a part of the Budget Resolution) is now being proposed for adoption as the Tentative Total Lee County Budget of Lee County, Florida for FY11-12. Commissioner Hall moved to adopt the Tentative Total Lee County Budget for FY11-12, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Bigelow voting nay and Commissioner Mann absent.

[RESOLUTION NO. 11-09-13](#)

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Bigelow moved approval to conduct a Final Millage and Budget Public Hearing on September 21, 2011, beginning at 5:05 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, seconded by Commissioner Judah, called and carried with Commissioner Mann absent.

The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

ATTEST:
CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK

Deputy Clerk

[Chairman, Lee County Commission](#)