

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FINAL BUDGET HEARING  
September 20, 2018  
MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Ragen, Detzel, Kimball, Schneider and Apperson. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Attorney Pringle, Engineer Rewis, Administrative Assistant Howard, Engineer Washburn, Firefighters Hunt and Whatley, Volunteer Firefighter Milana and two members of the public; Fred Stevens and Warren Blakely.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Attorney Pringle briefly reviewed the purpose of the Preliminary Budget Hearing and the Budget process. This is the final budget hearing of the Board of Commissioners of the Ft. Myers Shores Fire Protection and Rescue Service District to set the final millage and budget for the upcoming fiscal year that commences on October 1, 2018. Florida law dictates what is done in this meeting. The first thing we will do is have a brief review of the budget needs of the district and then we will move on to the items that the Board must take action on.

Chief Dowaliby: The district has the third lowest millage rate in the county. We did have to notice a tax increase because our proposed millage rate is above the rolled-back rate. That is due to the increase in property values, not due to the district proposing a higher millage rate than in past years. The rolled-back rate would amount to a little over \$40 in ad valorem on a property with a taxable assessed value of \$500,000 so we believe that taking that little bit of additional money and putting it into reserves makes sense. We are looking toward building a seconded station, which will increase our personnel needs and expenses, but will be a valuable benefit to the eastern portion of the district due to lower response times and lower ISO rating, which in turn decreases homeowner's insurance rates. Included in the budget, we also have a new position of Fire Marshal/Deputy Chief and we have hired a new firefighter to keep all shifts at full manning. Due to the retirements we had last year, our personnel services line is less than it was last year. so although we have a good-sized budget, we have managed to maintain fiscal responsibility. We have negotiated a Union Contract, which we will ratify at the regular meeting and the

terms and conditions of that agreement are reflected in the budget, as well as building reserves and accomplishing some capital projects.

**Rolled-Back Rate**

Attorney Pringle announced that the rolled-back rate is 1.9190 mills (\$1.9190 per \$1,000.00 of taxable assessed value) and the proposed millage rate is 2.0000 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable assessed value), which is an increase of 4.22% over the rolled-back rate. As Chief Dowaliby noted, the proposed millage rate is the same as last year, so the “tax increase” is a result of an increase in value and not an increase in the millage we propose to levy.

**Public Input and Discussion of Proposed Millage Rate**

None.

**Resolution #2018-05 – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Final Millage Rate**

Attorney Pringle read the title of the resolution into the record as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019, COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2018, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2019; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The substantive portion of the resolution reads: “The Board of Commissioners of the Fort Myers Shores Fire Protection and Rescue Service District hereby adopts and sets the final operating millage rate of 2.0000 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of net taxable assessed value) for the fiscal year 2018/2019, which begins October 1, 2018, and ends September 30, 2019. The above stated tentative millage rate of 2.0000 mills exceeds the rolled back rate of 1.9190 mills by 4.22%.”

**Public Input and Discussion of Proposed Millage Rate**

None.

**Adoption of Resolution #2018-05**

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to adopt the Resolution, Commissioner Ragen seconded and upon being put to a roll-call vote, the motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Apperson – Yes; Commissioner Detzel – Yes; Commissioner Kimball – Yes;

Commissioner Schneider – Yes; Commissioner Ragen – Yes

**Resolution #2018-06 – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Final Budget**

Attorney Pringle read the title of the resolution into the record as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019, COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2018, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2019; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The substantive portion of the resolution reads: “The Board of Commissioners of the Fort Myers Shores Fire Protection and Rescue Service District hereby adopts and sets the final budget setting forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the fiscal year 2018/2019, which begins October 1, 2018, and ends on September 30, 2019, in the amount of \$10,727,444.00.”

**Public Input and Discussion of the Proposed Tentative Budget**

None, no public present.

**Adoption of Resolution #2018-06**

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Detzel seconded.

Upon being put to a roll-call vote the motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Apperson – Yes; Commissioner Detzel – Yes; Commissioner Kimball – Yes;

Commissioner Schneider – Yes; Commissioner Ragen – Yes

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kimball seconded, and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.