

Iona McGregor Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners
Workshop Minutes
May 15, 2019
5:00 PM

Meeting call to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Commissioners –

Present are Commissioner Louwers, Commissioner Langford, Commissioner Andersen, Commissioner Barbosa, and Commissioner Walker

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance observed

Public Input on Business Agenda Items – none present

Business Agenda Items (As Workshop – No Action Can Be Taken)

1) Introduction into District's Budgeting Process

Chief informed purpose of meeting is to provide overview information of the budgeting process, TRIM, Truth in Millage – department of revenue. He began a PowerPoint presentation with the calendar of events. June 1st is property appraiser submits the preliminary numbers of taxable property values in the District, July 1st the certified property values numbers are provided by Property Appraiser to District. Chief Howard noted that our millage cap is set through referendum vote, and currently is 2.5 millage rate or \$2.50 per \$1,000 of property value.

During July meeting we select the tentative millage at the highest level that will be needed to cover the expenses for the following year based upon the taxable value of district properties multiplied by millage rate. The Board sets tentative millage and budget information as well as the Tentative Millage and Budget Hearing date at July's meeting as this information must be included in TRIM notices which are mailed to property owners in August. We cannot exceed the adopted tentative rates, and therefore always set tentative at the maximum cap rate. Rate can come down during the Final Millage and Budget hearing, but never up.

Budget is reviewed throughout year and each division will develop their divisional budget based upon their anticipated needs. Following the preliminary divisional budgets, all divisional budgets are rolled into one organizational budget. Two to three workshops are normally conducted in July, with another possible two in August; and the tentative and final millage and budget hearings are held in September. There are scheduling requirements for holding our millage and budget hearings. The Tentative and Final millage and budget hearings must be held Monday through Friday after 5pm and on Saturday; however, we have never conducted on Saturday. In addition, there are limitations in that the Lee County School Board has first priority for hearing date, second is Lee County Board of County Commissioners – after those dates are set we work to schedule our dates so as not to conflict. General time window for tentative September 3-18th and for final September 18th through October 3rd. Always like before end of fiscal year. Final hearing is held within 15 days of tentative hearing.

Several items including assigned and unassigned reserves, detail of budget web posting, along with the roll-back rate were addressed. Chief informed that with roll-back rate if generating more revenue must notice budget increase or notice of hearing if not increased. Cannot advertise for a rate reduction.

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Current budget was displayed – budgeted expenditures was \$20,554,793.00 with the largest category being personnel services (85% approximately). Operating costs 2.8 million includes janitorial, tax collector commission, etc. Only thing discussing of budgeted spending is about 1.5 million dollars. Sounds daunting to discuss 27,000,000 but only have 1-2 million dollars to focus on through process. Chief added that he will post the information on Commission Sharepoint site when available.

Commissioner Walker commented that the proposed budget doesn't tell you much and inquired if the advertised tentative budget states that detail budget information is available. Attorney Pringle addressed by stating that the invitation to attend budget hearing is included in TRIM and that the last line in the advertised budget summary notes that documents are available in the office. Commissioner Walker would like the entire detailed budget available on the website.

Public Input on Non-Business Agenda Items – none

Commissioner Comments

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Louwers, second Commissioner Andersen... carried.

Meeting adjourned 5:51 p.m.

Approved by: _____

Print Name: _____