

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 24, 2009

A meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Members present were: Chairman Duffy, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Skidmore, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Lansing. The following members were absent: None

The meeting was called to order at **5:01 PM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER:

Mr. Sandrock read opening comments into the record.

Commissioner Skidmore requested Board discussion pertaining to returning the money from the half mill to the people; Mr. Sandrock proposed having the discussion during the Countywide Funds portion of the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 FIRST PUBLIC HEARING AS LISTED ON PAGE 8, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Mr. Sandrock commented on the MSBU Changes, details on page 9, Northwest Port Charlotte Street and Drainage MSBU; Buena Vista Waterway; read into the record "the proposed aggregate county millage rate is 7.54411 mills which is 18.30% percent under the current year aggregate rolled-back rate of 9.2300 mills;" and that the Total Net Budget is \$778,887,515.

I. COUNTYWIDE FUNDS

Mr. Sandrock stated the proposed countywide millage rate of 5.7096 mills is under the rollback rate of 6.9688 mills by 18.07%, and read into the record the Proposed Budgets and applicable Millage Rates for each of the funds listed on page 2

of the agenda, for a Total Countywide Proposed Budget of \$456,140,218, and a Millage Rate of 5.7096.

Public Comment

Emily Chidister urged the Board not to reduce the millage rate further, mentioned job cuts, the infrastructure, and recommended the Board not make more cuts.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Board Discussion and Action

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2009-261, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

Commissioner Skidmore proposed returning access monies to the citizens, *Commissioner Loftus* proposed dropping the millage rate by 1/10 of a mill and putting the money in reserves.

MOTION CARRIED 3:2. COMMISSIONER LOFTUS, COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE OPPOSING.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-262, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

MOTION CARRIED 3:2. COMMISSIONER LOFTUS, COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE OPPOSING.

II. VOTED DEBT SERVICE FUND (Environmentally Sensitive Lands)

Mr. Sandrock reported, the Series 2008 (GOB) Debt Service Fund Tentative Budget is \$3,685,280 and the voted millage rate is 0.2000 mills.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-263, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-264, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

III. AD VALOREM - MUNIIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNITS - MSTUs

Mr. Sandrock read into the record the MSTU millage rates, roll back rates, and proposed budgets; advised the proposed aggregate county millage rate is 7.5411 mills, which is 18.30% under the current year "aggregate" rolled-back rate of 9.2300 mills.

Public Comment - None.

**COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS**

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Board Discussion and Action

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-265,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE**

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE OPPOSING.

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-266,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS**

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE OPPOSING.

IV. NON-COUNTYWIDE FUNDS AND NON-AD VALOREM MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNITS (MSBU)

Mr. Sandrock advised that all applicable assessment rates that exceed a previous set maximum for the Non-Countywide Funds and Non-Ad Valorem Municipal Service Benefits Units (MSBU) shown on pages 5, 6 and 7 have been adopted in prior public hearings and do not need to be read individually into the record, but read sub-totals of each group into the record.

Public Comment - None.

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR**

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Board Discussion and Action

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-267,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS**

Commissioner Skidmore referred to a previously discussed water rate increase and requested Administration's status on the matter before giving approval, Mr. Baltz noted an email sent to Commissioners that included utility comparisons and rate studies; added staff would continue to seek efficiencies in utilities; and indicated that they do not have a reduction in rates at this time.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

**COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2009-260,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR**

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Mr. Baltz summarized the final budget approval process, acknowledged citizens who participated in the process, noted input from employees, the amount of reduction in the budget, commented on expenses versus revenues, commended the collective work completed on the budget, and advised that all budget information can be found on the County website; **Commissioner Loftus** thanked Mr. Baltz, Mr. Sandrock, and their staffs and opined that the needs, not the wants, have been provided for the citizens. **Commissioner Skidmore** echoed **Commissioner Loftus'** comments, commented on not having to raise taxes, the process for next year, reserves, the article on high grass, number of foreclosures, use of volunteers and the possibility of increasing staff to help code enforcement. **Chairman Duffy** thanked employees, constitutional officers, and commended Mr. Sandrock and his staff. Mr. Sandrock commended Kelly Shoemaker for her efforts, **Commissioner Starr** commended staff.

ADJOURNED: 5:54 PM

Signature on file Commission Minutes
Chairman

ATTEST:

**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk
vc**