

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioner was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman Moore, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner D'Aprile, and Commissioner DeBoer. Also in attendance were County Administrator Loucks, Deputy County Attorney Gallagher, Chief Deputy Board Services White, and Deputy Clerk Manley. The following member was absent: District 5 Commissioner. The meeting was called to order at **5:01 PM**. **Chairman Moore** outlined the procedures, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. (Proof of Publication was in order.)

A. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Opening Comments

Mr. Loucks explained that this is the first of two public hearings, and that the second public hearing is scheduled for September 28, 2006 at the same time and location. Mr. Loucks clarified that the budget review being done today is the County's portion of the tax bill, that other taxing agencies such as School Board and Water Management Districts have their own separate budget hearings, and concerns on those issues should be addressed at that time. Mr. Loucks advised that the setting of property valuations is the responsibility of the Property Appraiser, not the Board of County Commissioners (Board), that there is a process for challenging the assessments, and the filing deadline is September 15, 2006.

B. COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER

1. Review of Process/Issues

Mr. Sandrock advised that the agenda is divided into three procedural sections, that some issues are open and unresolved, and reviewed the process to be followed.

Mr. Sandrock reported that the budget process is a year-round process, that Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) budgets begin in the Fall, Department and County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets are done in January, all budgets are reviewed with Administration in April, there are preliminary workshops with the Board in May and July, MSBU public hearings are in July, Trim Notices are mailed in August, and the two final budget hearings are in September.

2. Reserves

Mr. Sandrock explained that budgeting for reserves has been a critical element to the proposed budgets for the past couple years, that budgets were cut in FY04/05 to boost reserves in order to be prepared for post-hurricane issues, and an effort made to keep the right reserve levels in FY05/06 as the county continued moving through recovery, particularly in the building phase.

General Fund (See Page 16)

Public Safety Fund (See Page 17)

Capital Projects Fund (See Page 18)

Mr. Sandrock reviewed reserves in the General Fund, Public Safety Fund, and Capital Projects Fund that paralleled the packet material.

3. How General Fund Revenues are utilized (charts, see pages 19 and 20)

Mr. Sandrock explained the General Revenue charts and graphs on pages 19 and 20, which summarize how General Revenue funds are utilized, advised that General Revenues are ad valorem revenues generated from taxpayers applying the millage rates to their property valuations, that the proposed budget generates \$123.8 million of countywide ad valorem revenue, and is approximately 12% of the total \$1 billion proposed budget for the county.

4. Open Issues

Contracted Services Update (Not for Profits) (See Page 21 and 22)

Mr. Sandrock advised that based upon Board direction in the July 11, 2006 workshop, letters were sent to agencies that have requested funds year-after-year advising that funding would be capped at 10%, and that the change is reflected in the budget.

Mr. Sandrock reported that based upon review of new requests for FY06/07 by county staff, need was not established, nor could it be demonstrated that items 1,2,3, and 6 on page 22 are not being satisfied by another agency or county department, with exception of item 5, the Charlotte County Medical Society-Hope Clinic funding request for Hepatitis C, and requested Board direction for items 1,2,3 and 6.

Mr. Sandrock explained that item 5 is the clinic for treatment of Hepatitis C, the request is for startup costs, but that there is expectation of funding requests in subsequent years in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 level each year.

Mr. Sandrock reported that the original request of the Southwest Florida Addiction Services, Inc. in item 4 was to support three detoxification (detox) beds for Charlotte County residents in the Lee County facility, but that since the application was submitted, this region of Florida received a 45% increase in state funding for adult substance abuse services, and Charlotte Mental Health Services received an award for detox services operational money from the state in the amount of \$601,983 per year, and that since there is a new funding source, the original request was withdrawn.

Mr. Loucks advised the Charlotte County Mental Health request is \$1.2 million for the detox facility, and the Board could take action now or at the next budget hearing.

Mr. Sandrock pointed out there will be an upcoming request from Charlotte County Mental Health seeking Board request for funding for a detox facility for Charlotte County, which would be an important element of continuing to receive the state funding.

Chairman Moore pointed out that the state funds could be shifted to other counties unless progress for treatment in our own county is being shown, and that his preference is for the \$218,726 remain available for a detoxification facility to hopefully be built in Charlotte County. **Commissioner Cummings** agreed. **Commissioner D'Aprile** indicated a workshop on this issue would be appropriate.

Mr. Sandrock requested Board direction on not funding items 1,2,3, and 6 on page 22, based upon staff evaluation recommendation.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE NOT FUNDING ITEMS 1,2,3 AND 6, PAGE 22 OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FY 2006/2007 CONTRACTED SERVICES - NEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING, PER STAFF EVALUATION RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Mr. Sandrock requested Board direction on item 5 for the Hepatitis C funding request.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE SUPPORT BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ITEM 5, PAGE 22, OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FY 2006/2007 CONTRACTED SERVICES - NEW REQUESTS FOR FUNDING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System)

Mr. Sandrock commented on the funding request for the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) made jointly by

Court Administration, State Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office and the Public Defender's Office, for development of a circuit-wide information system that secures data from all five counties within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, which would refine and improve the system that currently is in place; explained that the original request of \$586,644 was reduced to \$205,227 to fund only the cost of conducting a study, and \$162,848 to continue the maintenance of the current system; and advised this is only an update and that specific direction from the Board is not required at this time.

MSBU Changes Since July Public Hearings (See Page 23 and 24)

Mr. Sandrock stated that the MSBU changes made from the July public hearings are highlighted and listed separately on Pages 23 and 24, and are also listed on pages 9 through 11 for impacts to the budget, and that he would not read them into the record.

Open MSBU Issues

> Utility MSBUs

Mr. Sandrock explained that the proposed rates at the July public hearing for South Gulf Cove Waterway Unit was \$50 for waterfront properties, and \$25 for non-waterfront properties, and the Villages of Holiday Lakes, that staff is keeping the request as proposed, and requested Board direction.

Commissioner D'Aprile moved to approve the South Gulf Cove Waterway Unit lots and dry lots at the previously-described rates, seconded by **Commissioner DeBoer**, assuming that means keeping the waterfront lots at \$50 and the dry lots at zero. **Chairman Moore** stated that was not correct. **COMMISSIONER DEBOER WITHDREW HIS SECOND. Commissioner Cummings** seconded the motion for discussion.

COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SOUTH GULF COVE WATERWAY UNIT LOTS AND DRY LOTS AT THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED RATES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.

Mr. Sandrock clarified the recommendation is \$50 for waterfront properties and \$25 for non-waterfront properties and Villages of Holiday Lakes, and reviewed the reserves and future capital outlays.

Commissioner Cummings stated he would reluctantly agree at this time, but possibly not next year. **Commissioner DeBoer** indicated he would vote against the motion.

Motion Carried 3:1. Commissioner DeBoer opposing.
ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Chairman Moore clarified the motion passed was for \$50 for waterfront lots, \$25 for dry lots, and \$25 for Villages of Holiday Lakes. Mr. Sandrock replied affirmatively.

> Solomon Road - Harbor Heights Street and Drainage MSBU (Capital)

Mr. Sandrock reported that Solomon Drive would be discussed at the Board meeting on September 26, 2006, and based upon the decision made at that time, it would come back at the final public hearing for recommendation on the proposed assessment for next year.

David Schlobohm provided an update on Rotonda Sands and Rotonda Meadows, and advised that the Homeowner Associations have confirmed their desire to move forward with the sewer projects only, minus the reclaimed water, reported on costs involved and requested Board direction.

Commissioner D'Aprile inquired if the reclaimed water prices included the pump stations and all the necessary items that go along with it, and if there was separate equipment for sewer and reclaimed water. Mr. Schlobohm replied affirmatively.

Commissioner D'Aprile inquired if it is possible to lay the pipe without hooking anything up, and requested a rough cost estimate.

Commissioner DeBoer advised that changes are still being made, and that budgets are not being adopted at this meeting, and explained that for the purpose of public input and eventual adoption or not, the rates for sewer need to be adopted into the record now.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTING THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR SEWER ONLY INTO THE RATE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Mr. Loucks advised that options in the construction process and financing for reclaimed water would be reviewed and brought back to the Board, and that it would not be looked at through an assessment.

Commissioner D'Aprile requested that if possible, numbers be provided by the next meeting for laying the pipe without putting in any apparatus for operating the system.

Mr. Sandrock explained that of the \$800 per ERU proposed rate for the FY 2006/2007 Pirate Harbor Waterway MSBU, \$615.21 is for prior dredging, that FY 2006/2007 is the fourth year of a ten-year payback, that the proposed increase of \$184.79 for FY 2006/2007 is for dredging new areas not done during the previous dredge, but there are uncertainties if the new areas can be permitted, and Public Works recommends the rate be lowered to the current rate of \$615.21 per ERU until the matter is resolved, and requested Board direction.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED RATE OF \$615.21 PER ERU FOR THE PIRATE HARBOR WATERWAY MSBU FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING TONIGHT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Commissioner DeBoer expressed concern that many in attendance were leaving the meeting before its conclusion, and explained that the Board had not yet gotten into the budget portion of the process, that some changes to lower rates for the discussion that will take place for public input is being done, after which budgets are adopted.

Mr. Sandrock advised that due to the completion of the paving, the property owners and staff request a revision of the South Burnt Store MSBU rate to \$109.75 vacant, \$106.51 occupied, and stated that Burnt Store Lakes Subdivision would remain unchanged at \$79.95.

Mr. Sandrock reviewed the rates and commented further on the requested revisions. Mr. Loucks suggested the matter be brought back as an issue at the second public hearing in order to give everyone an opportunity to review the information and figures.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE REDUCING THE RATES FOR THE HEARING TONIGHT TO \$109.75 FOR VACANT, AND \$106.51 FOR OCCUPIED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Attorney Daniel Gallagher presented handout material, and advised that the County Attorney's office requests that \$250,000 be added to its budget for Peace River Phosphate policy initiatives, which is one-half of the total cost being shared with Lee County. **Commissioner Cummings** explained the Board had requested this be made part of the budget process.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE ADDING \$250,000 TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY BUDGET FOR PEACE RIVER PHOSPHATE POLICY INITIATIVES, SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN MOORE.

Chairman Moore indicated he would like to get further into the negotiating and rule setting. **Commissioner DeBoer** reported he would not support the issue at this time.

Commissioner Cummings stated it is important that the study be obtained.

Commissioner D'Aprile advised he would not approve the issue at this time.

Motion Failed 1:3. Chairman Moore, Commissioner D'Aprile, and Commissioner DeBoer opposing. ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

5. Property Valuation

Mr. Sandrock commented on the increase of certified property valuations of existing properties within the General Fund as of January 1, 2006.

6. Millage Rates Update (See Page 26)

Mr. Sandrock reviewed the current millage rates on page 26, and pointed out that at the July 12, 2006 public hearing there was direction to reduce the General Fund by .25 mills, the County Health Unit by .03 mills, and the Charlotte Public Safety Unit by .35 mills, and the last column on the right reflects where we are today.

7. Recovery Update (See Page 30-33)

Mr. Sandrock summarized the hurricane recovery update shown in pages 30-33, and stated reimbursements will never equal expenditures, but he is more comfortable at where recovery is today.

8. The proposed aggregate county millage rate is 6.6689 mills which is 37.95% over the current year aggregate rolled-back rate of 4.8342 mills.

Mr. Sandrock advised that the proposed aggregate county millage rate is 6.6689 mills, which is 37.95% over the current year aggregate rolled-back rate of 4.8342 mills, and explained how aggregate is determined.

9. Discussion of percentage increase in millage over the rolled-back rate to fund the tentative budget.

Mr. Sandrock reported that the increase over rollback rate generates \$37,826,464 in new revenues across the General

Capital Projects and Health Unit, and reviewed where additional revenue over rollback is proposed to be used.

10. Presentation of Proposed Budget - Total Proposed Budget \$1,008,344,942, See page 12.

Mr. Sandrock summarized the total countywide budget and reviewed the proposed FY 2006/2007 budget chart in the agenda material.

Commissioner D'Aprile inquired how much of an average tax bill is attributable to the school district. Mr. Sandrock stated the chart on page 27 breaks down the total millage rates for the county, and advised that the School Board has a rate of 6.1540, which is 46% of the total budget.

11. Changes resulting from the July 12, 2006 Budget Workshop and other changes to the tentative budget.

Mr. Sandrock reviewed changes from the 7/12/06 Budget Workshop reflected on pages 9-11 in the agenda packet.

Mr. Sandrock requested Board direction for inclusion in the budget of the \$18 million increased funding for the jail expansion project, indicated the original levy was for four years, and would need to be extended for one additional year, but perhaps not at the same .6 mills due to property value increases, and indicated the total project cost would be \$46.1 million.

Commissioner DeBoer requested clarification that one additional year of .6 mills would raise \$18 million, and if the .6 mills is for the current budget year. Mr. Sandrock advised the .6 mills is five years out, that this action would allow use of the bond market, and the direction requested is to adopt changes from the July 12, 2006 workshop as listed on pages 9 thru 11, and include \$18 million for the jail expansion projects, and that the net decrease would be \$11.6 million, which would be explained further in the meeting.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE CHANGES AS OUTLINED ON PAGES 9, 10 AND 11, WITH THE

ADDITION OF FUNDING FOR THE JAIL EXPANSION AS READ INTO THE RECORD BY BUDGET DIRECTOR RAYMOND SANDROCK, WITH A NET REDUCTION OF \$11.6 MILLION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.

Commissioner Cummings clarified that for the jail expansion, the .6 mill adopted last year to be used for capital construction, normally discussed for use over a five-year period, is being discussed for use over a six-year period. Mr. Sandrock replied affirmatively.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Mr. Sandrock advised that the total proposed tentative budget after changes is \$1,026,344,942.

I. COUNTYWIDE FUNDS

Mr. Sandrock stated the proposed countywide millage rate of 5.0909 mills is over the rollback rate of 3.5873 mills by 41.92%, and read into the record the Proposed Budgets and applicable Millage Rates for each of the funds listed on pages 2 and 3 of the agenda, for a Total Countywide Proposed Budget of \$473,014,667, and a Millage Rate of 5.0909, and advised that **the Capital Projects Fund total proposed budget with the additional \$18 million increase for the jail expansion is now \$115,823,378, that the Total Countywide Proposed Budget with the addition is \$491,014,667, and the Millage Rate is 5.0909.**

Public Comment

Park Pilikian expressed concern with tax increases, indicated the law should be changed to avoid homeowners who buy another home in the area losing their existing homestead exemption, believes the 3% cap is outdated, requests all increases be denied at this time, and encouraged the public to attend the meetings.

Chairman Moore explained that responses to remarks and inquiries would be made at the end of public comments.

Christine Perry commented on the Gulf Cove Street and Drainage MSBU proposed increase, requested that the budget remain at \$50 for another year and not be increased to \$75, stated she likes the idea of legislation capping commercial property tax increases because relief is needed for small business owners.

Diana Collins spoke in opposition of the Rotonda Sands sewer project on behalf of herself and other members of the Rotonda Sands Homeowners Association, and thanked Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) for answering her phone calls and answering all of her questions.

James Marshall, Chairman, and Esther Horton, Board Member, of the Historical Advisory Committee spoke in favor of the Board keeping the budget item of \$110,000 for phase I of the comprehensive survey of Charlotte County historical resources, and indicated future work hinges on this survey.

Peter Traverso spoke in support of the Rotonda Meadows sewer project without reclaimed water, on behalf of Rotonda Meadows Villas Conservation Association and Rotonda Sands Boards, and advised that both Boards supported sewer only in order to minimize costs for homeowners.

Debbie Bales commented on the difficulties small business owners face with high taxes.

Paul Moto advised he can no longer afford to pay taxes on the property he owns in Charlotte County, cannot get on his property because of the water, and no longer resides in Charlotte County because of the continued cost increases.

Stan Fox commented on the large discrepancy between the save our homes taxpayers and those who are not save out home taxpayers, and indicated new people coming in as homeowners or business owners cannot afford to live here unless they are very wealthy.

Allen Arena stated costs are out of control, and noted that even the Murdock Village contractor plans to hold up building until the market is better.

Joseph Berrios said his land and house cost about \$300,000, he received his tax bill and does not understand how the figure was arrived at, has made inquiry, but has not received justifiable answers.

Carlo Amirio stated when he first made plans to build a home four years ago he estimated his taxes to be about \$2400, four years later his tax bill is \$7600, money continues to be spent in areas of Charlotte County that he does not understand the reason for, he believes the county will experience a problem next year when the value of land goes down, and that the Board needs to hold down the increases to handle what next year will bring.

Steve Tull advised he is a 20-year resident and former commercial owner, and understands how the current commercial taxpayers feel about escalating costs, stated his children could afford to buy a home in Charlotte County, but could not afford to pay the taxes.

Gene Crane stated he lives in a trailer in Charlotte Park that is assessed in excess of \$400,000.

Phil Carese advised he built a home in Charlotte County to retire in, but his first tax bill was almost \$9,000, and now he is trying to determine where he will move because he cannot afford to live in Charlotte County, indicated he has met many people who have moved out of Florida, and many from the North who intended to move to this area, but are instead moving to other states, for that same reason.

Dan Beckley commented on the MSBUs, and indicated the Board should back some of the budgets off.

Larry Speildenner reported that there are many more homes on the market now than just a short while back, that homes are not selling, and values are dropping.

Tom Strawson commented on the Tropical Gulf Acres MSBUs, indicated he closed his commercial business because of the increase in taxes and insurance, and is considering moving from the county because of all the increases.

Susan Postle explained that a forgotten population that has been affected are those who do not own property, but rent, that when the leases come up for renewal the owners must pass along the increases they experienced in taxes, insurance and other fees and costs, that tenants are usually service people who are paying high costs of living, and that all investment properties have been impacted by the increases.

Unidentified citizen stated he rents to a county employee and that her rent will go up considerably because of the increases he has experienced, and commented on the difference between the 3% save our home cap versus those who do not qualify, stated the rule hurts the economy and the save our home amendment should be abolished.

Richard Franke stated he built a home and moved here three years ago, and that it is difficult to make ends meet with so many increases.

Linda Griesmeyer reported that Rotonda Sands is nowhere near 50% build out and does not need the added cost for sewers, expressed concern with what the citizens were reporting at this meeting on taxes and other increases, indicated the middle class working people are being forced out of Charlotte County, and that the cost of living is beyond what the average household can afford.

Alan Ram stated he migrated from Trinidad, and presently lives in Tucson, purchased land several years ago in Gulf Cove, made a down payment to build a holiday home, but did not realize how costly the taxes would be, and expressed concern that he cannot manage paying the taxes and a mortgage.

Bill Stevens asked why there is a 100% increase in the Reserve Fund.

Joan Fischer inquired if the new five-story Administration building is still in the budget, if there is still a four-story parking lot included, and if the current Administration building will be closed, indicated all

homeowners are angry, and that those who do not have the save our homes are angry with those who do have it.

Ms. Fischer reported the assessments are too high and millages should be cut to be comparable, expressed concern about the lack of respect shown for the comments of residents who speak week after week, indicated taxes must come down considerably, that the Board should find solutions, not create new projects, and that Mr. Desguin should review every single assessment in this county.

Scott Schmenum indicated Rotonda Sands only has twenty homes and sewers cannot be justified at this time.

George Lynch indicated he moved from Fairfax County, VA in 2005 and built a home in Charlotte County, is not certain he can afford to remain in the home, but not certain anyone would purchase his home and assume the considerable costs, stated he does not agree with the proposed budget, and pointed out the real estate boom burst and property values have gone down.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE CLOSING THE GENERAL COUNTYWIDE LEVY PORTION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. , SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Mr. Sandrock stated there is no current legislation that gives relief to those who do not qualify for the save our homes, explained the difficulties that would occur in lowering the tax rate to rollback rate, and that the advantage would go to the 3% folks if a rollback rate occurred, commented on standardizing methodology, and indicated it is a complicated system at the present time.

Mr. Sandrock commented on increases in reserves, and indicated that certain standards were followed before the hurricane, but since then a different approach had to be taken by finding what was actually needed and looking at specifics.

Mr. Sandrock stated the five-story building and parking garage is in the five-year CIP budget, but next year's budget includes only the design for a five-story building, not a parking garage, that no funding source has been identified yet for a parking garage, indicated that in the April budgeting process every department must give a scenario of reducing budgets by 10%, 20% and 30%, and advised that the Historical Advisory Board request remains in the budget.

Board Discussion and Action

Commissioner D'Aprile expressed concern in hearing what people are expected to pay for taxes, not having insurance on their homes, fuel increases, land values, and food costs, explained that not all of the tax bill is for the county, opined there is a need to cut taxes, and indicated he is working on legislation to put a cap on commercial property.

Commissioner D'Aprile explained that a certain amount of revenue must be on hand to handle emergency situations, opined that land values have been over-exaggerated, reviewed previous millage rate reductions, and requested the Board reduce the millage rate further by .25.

Commissioner D'Aprile opined that there has been a considerable over-valuation of property and that taxes need to be lowered so taxpayers can afford them this year.

Commissioner DeBoer complimented the attendees and speakers for their behavior, advised that the valuation of properties are not in the hands of the Board, but that the Board can work with taxpayers to get legislative to change the taxing system.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE CUTTING THE GENERAL FUND LEVY BY .625 MILLS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Commissioner DeBoer pointed out his motion was in addition to the reductions that have already been made, bringing the total reduction to 1.305 mills.

Commissioner Cummings commented on the portion of gas tax that goes to the Intermodal System and on the 3% cap.

Chairman Moore advised that the Property Appraiser followed the rules, that the Board does not have the power to change the rules, that it must come from Tallahassee, stated he could support **Commissioner D'Aprile's** suggestion to cut millage by an additional .25, but cannot support the existing motion to cut millage by an additional .625.

Commissioner D'Aprile advised his second to **Commissioner DeBoer's** motion was for discussion, and requested a recess to allow Mr. Sandrock the opportunity to review how cutting the millage by 1.305 mills would affect the overall budget, and what would be affected operationally.

RECESS 8:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Chairman Moore summarized that the motion on the floor by **Commissioner DeBoer**, seconded by **Commissioner D'Aprile** is for an additional .625 mills reduction from the General Revenue Fund, in addition to the already reduced .25 mills, making a total reduction from the General Revenue Fund of .875, .03 previous reduction from the Health Unit, and .35 previous reduction from the Public Safety Fund.

Motion Failed 2:2. Chairman Moore, and Commissioner Cummings opposing. ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE CUTTING THE GENERAL FUND LEVY BY .5 MILLS, IN ADDITION TO THE .25 MILLS PREVIOUSLY CUT FROM THE GENERAL FUND LEVY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Motion Failed 2:2. Chairman Moore, and Commissioner Cummings opposing. ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE CUTTING THE GENERAL FUND LEVY BY .25 MILLS, IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS REDUCTIONS OF .25 ON GENERAL FUND, .03 ON HEALTH, AND .35 ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY FUND. , SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Chairman Moore explained that at previous meetings the Board cut the budget by .25 on General Fund, .03 on Health, and .35 on the Public Safety Fund, which total .63; that **Commissioner D'Aprile** moved, and it was passed, that the total budget would be cut another .25 from the General Fund, bringing the total reductions from previous and current meetings to .88.

Mr. Sandrock reported that the recomputed Countywide Millage Rate is 4.8409, the proposed Countywide Millage Rate is over the rollback rate of 3.5873 by 34.946 percent, and advised that the amended Countywide tentative budget for the Board to adopt is \$484,934,399.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED COUNTYWIDE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF \$484,934,399, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE. Motion Carried 3:1. Commissioner DeBoer opposing. ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

II. AD VALOREM - MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNITS - MSTUS

Mr. Sandrock read into the record the proposed budgets and millage rates for each of the MSTUs listed on pages 4 and 5 of the agenda, and stated that the proposed "aggregate" County Millage Rate is 6.4189 mills, which is 32.78 % over the current year "aggregate" rollback rate of 4.8342 mills, and takes into account the adjustments that were just made.

Public Comment

Mike McClain requested that the millage rate be maintained next year for the Manasota Sandpiper Key taxing unit because of projects that were based upon that level of funding.

B.J. Galbraith commented on the Manasota Key stormwater.

Steve Stump commented on the Manasota Key MSTU.

Park Pilikian commented on the millage rates.

COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE CLOSING THE PUBLIC HEARING. , SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.
Motion Carried 4:0.
ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Board Discussion and Action

Mr. Sandrock read again for adoption by the Board that the proposed "aggregate" County millage rate is 6.4189 mills, which is 32.78 % over the current year "aggregate rollback rate of 4.8342 mills.

COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED "AGGREGATE" COUNTY MILLAGE RATE OF 6.4189 MILLS, WHICH IS 32.78% OVER THE CURRENT YEAR "AGGREGATE" ROLLBACK RATE OF 4.8342 MILLS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEBOER.
Motion Carried 4:0.
ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Mr. Loucks pointed out that a motion to adopt those budgets is needed as well.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE MSTU BUDGETS REFLECTED ON PAGES 4 AND 5 OF THE AGENDA, AS READ INTO THE RECORD. , SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS.
Motion Carried 4:0.
ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

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

Mr. Sandrock stated the applicable proposed budgets for these MSBUs were listed on pages 5,6 and 7 of the agenda and do not need to be read individually into the record, but read sub-totals of each group into the record, which collectively total \$460,065,298.

Public Comment

Jes McCullough commented on the wastewater systems in Pirate Harbor.

Greg Betterton commented about Farabee Road MSBU.

Tom Strawson stated Tropical Gulf Acres MSBU should be rolled back to where it was last year.

COMMISSIONER D'APRILE MOVED TO APPROVE CLOSING THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEBOER.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Board Discussion and Action

Commissioner D'Aprile commented on the mining industry assisting with payment of Farabee Road. Mr. Loucks advised that the County Attorney's office was working on bringing the issue back to the Board.

Commissioner D'Aprile stated he would prefer to have Tropical Gulf Acres MSTU rolled back to last year's rate with no increase in assessment. Mr. Sandrock advised as it has been rolled back as to revenues, but methodology was adopted in April and incorporated in all that has been done and not possible to make changes at this time.

Chairman Moore commented on the Rotonda sewer issue, and indicated he would speak to Charlotte County Utilities on behalf of the residents to determine why pier review is necessary in that area.

Commissioner Cummings opined that value engineering is part of the process, and that because Public Works intended to repave the roads in the near future, Charlotte County Utilities made some changes to avoid duplicating costs.

Leigh Sprimont of Charlotte County Utilities confirmed that value engineering is part of every project done, and commented on the difference between the Pirate Harbor project and the Rotonda project.

COMMISSIONER DEBOER MOVED TO APPROVE ADOPTION BY THE BOARD OF THE BUDGETS THAT REMAIN ON AD-VALOREM FUNDS AS LISTED ON PAGES 5,6 AND 7 OF THE AGENDA, TOTALING \$460,065,298, AND RESOLUTION 2006-172 ADOPTING THE MSBU RATES

CORRESPONDING TO THOSE SAME MSBU BUDGETS, SECONDED
BY COMMISSIONER D'APRILE.

Motion Carried 4:0.

ABSENT: District 5 Commissioner.

Commissioner DeBoer pointed out there would be a correction
on the Rotonda MSBUs at the September 28, 2006 meeting.

ADJOURNED 9:00 PM

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Chairman Moore

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

gm