

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 17, 2023

A Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Public Hearing was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Truex, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Tiseo (via teleconference). Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, Minutes Clerk Johnston, and various County staff members. The following members were absent: None.

**The Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Flores highlighted Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Public Hearing.

**1. Public Hearings to Set MSBU Rates**

Richard Arthur, Fiscal Services Manager gave a brief overview of Agenda, Stages of the Budget Process, and Calendar.

e. Charlotte Count Fire Department RES 2023-125

Mr. Arthur gave a brief overview of Charlotte County Fire Department, Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go? Charlotte County Fire Department, remarked on max rate, impact fees, MSBU, vacant land, ad valorem, Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), property values, assessment, Sunseeker, taxable value, growth assumptions, scenarios, and reserves.

**Chair Truex** commented on best practices, guidelines, rate, scenarios, reserves, and Hurricane Ian. **Commissioner Constance** discussed Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go - Charlotte County Fire, response times, personnel, Condition Red, surrounding counties, rates, fire houses, Sales Tax, impact fees, fund balances, surplus properties, MSBU, MSTU, assessments, vacant land, hydrants, testing, placement, protocols, salaries, metal carports, Sunseeker, taxable value, ad valorem, reserves, hurricane season, and September 7, 2023 First Budget Public Hearing venue. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned first responders, salaries, overtime, staffing, shortages, COVID-19, training, response times, tax bill, revenue, value loss, Hurricane Ian, reserves, inflation, septic to sewer, MSBU, and General Development. **Commissioner Doherty** noted September 7, 2023 First Budget Public Hearing venue, MSBU methodology, rate, increase, scenarios, and Hurricane Ian. **Commissioner Tiseo** spoke to study, call processing and turnaround times, standards, rates, scenarios, emergency calls, long range planning, public hearing venue, transparency, tax bill, increase, millage rate, assessment, Fire/EMS, ad valorem, growth rate, Sunseeker, Clerk of the Circuit Court, audits, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), fund balance, public safety, financial struggles, and response times.

Chief Jason Fair, Public Safety Director responded to personnel, response and peak times, call volume, growth, demand, study, concurrency, Condition Red, Mutual Aid Agreements, surrounding counties, best practices, guidelines, standards, vacant land, hydrants, testing, placement, employees, shortages, salaries, and metal carports.

County Administrator Flores replied to March 21, 2023 Board Workshop, scenarios, max rate, and September 7, 2023 First Budget Public Hearing venue.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on Sales Tax, uses, public infrastructure, impact fees, MSBU, and MSTU.

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director remarked on max rates.

#### **Public Input**

The following citizens spoke against the proposed rate for the November 2023 tax bill which includes an increase of 25% resulting in a proposed residential rate of \$254.71 per unit: Elaine McNeill, Crystal Ufferman, Joan Fischer, Dennis Chapman, Clifford Walker, Catherine Dougherty, Attorney Mark Draper, Gerard O'Callaghan, Bill Gruener, David Kesselring, Gary Farino, David Kalin, Sr., Bob Thompson, David Cormier, Sharon Pineo, Dennis Clarke, Mark Sawaryn, Anna Mary Kubenik, Debbie Bullard, Robert Podgarski, Jim Goeke, Perry Gross, Bill Ferris, Robert Beno, Floyd Cooper, Kim Ferguson, David Kalin, Lynne Rollins-Kinnier, Phyllis Benincusa, Sheila Palmore, Brandy Larson, David Grossman, Joan Ellis, Stacey Raulerson, Charles Adlington, Susan Hutt, Kathleen Coppola, Elizer Saintvil, Tammy Kalin, Phil Lenke, Tom Rider, Christine Carlomany, Dagmar Delger, Larry Gibson, Neil Figueredo, Kevin Kenniff, and Matt Cander.

The following citizen spoke in favor of the proposed rate for the November 2023 tax bill which includes an increase of 25% resulting in a proposed residential rate of \$254.71 per unit: Chad McCollum.

Charlotte County Property Appraiser Paul Polk commented on phone calls, rate increase, Property Appraisers Office, ad valorem taxes, property value, data, process, multiple buildings and lots, audits, appraisals, and Florida Department of Revenue.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-121 ADOPTING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

b. Deep Creek Street and Drainage Unit RES 2023-122

John Elias, Public Works Director gave a brief overview of Deep Creek Street and Drainage and Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go? Deep Creek Street and Drainage.

**Chair Truex** discussed kill and combine properties. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned Advisory Board and role. **Commissioner Doherty** noted sidewalk, construction, paving, MSBU Advisory Committee, and Property Owners Associations (POA). **Commissioner Tiseo** spoke to POA and outreach.

Mr. Arthur replied to paving payoff.

**Public Input**

**COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-123 ADOPTING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE DEEP CREEK (NON-URBAN) STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

d. Suncoast Waterway Unit RES 2023-124

Mr. Elias gave a brief overview of Suncoast Waterway Unit and Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go? Suncoast Waterway Unit.

**Public Input**

The following citizens spoke against the MSBU assessment rate increase to \$1,525 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) that will accommodate the proposed dredge project with a 5-year loan: Joanne Grogan and David Clark.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**Commissioner Constance** commented on dredging, assessment, access, timeframe, property values, and September 7, 2023 First Budget Public Hearing.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-124 ADOPTING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SUNCOAST WATERWAY MAINTENANCE UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**a. Burnt Store Village Street and Drainage Unit – Harborside RES 2023-121**

Mr. Elias gave a brief overview of Burnt Store Village – Harborside Street and Drainage and Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go? Burnt Store Village – Harborside Street and Drainage.

**Public Input**

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-121 ADOPTING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE HARBORSIDE WOODS SUBDIVISION WITHIN THE BURNT STORE VILLAGE STREET AND DRAINAGE MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**c. Pirate Harbor Street and Drainage Unit RES 2023-124**

Mr. Elias gave a brief overview of Pirate Harbor Street and Drainage and Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go? Pirate Harbor Street and Drainage.

**Commissioner Tiseo inquired to drainage.**

**Public Input**

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-124 ADOPTING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT AND AN ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR PIRATE HARBOR STREET AND DRAINAGE MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE**

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

AA. County Administrator Comments - None

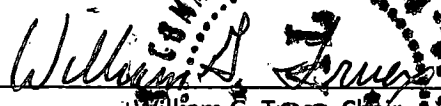
BB. County Attorney Comments - None

CC. Commissioner Comments

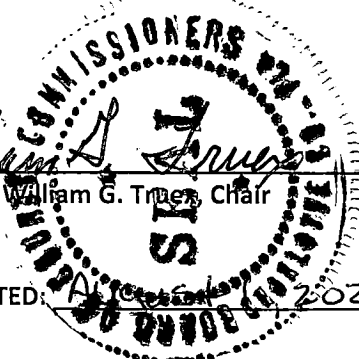
Chair Truex discussed July 18, 2023 MSBU Public Hearing and Tringali Recreation Center. Commissioner Constance mentioned long-range financial trends presentation and September 7, 2023 First Budget Public Hearing. Commissioner Doherty noted July 18, 2023 MSBU Public Hearing and Tringali Recreation Center. Commissioner Tiseo spoke to operational plan presentation and July 18, 2023 MSBU Public Hearing.

County Administrator Flores responded to July 18, 2023 MSBU Public Hearing, Tringali Recreation Center, March 21, 2023 Board Workshop, and Fire/EMS Strategic Plan.

ADJOURNED: 9:33 pm

  
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William G. Truex, Chair

DATE ADOPTED: August 1, 2023



ATTEST:

ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk