

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

A BCC Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) Public Hearing Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Special Meeting was held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Truex, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Tiseo. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

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

Changes to the Agenda

Change #1: 1, Added – Resolution Packet 2 and Backup material link – [charlotte-county-soc-2023.pdf](https://www.charlotte-county-soc-2023.pdf) (charlottecountyfl.gov).

Requested by: Commission Office

Change #2: 1, Added – Revised Resolution Packet 2 re: new max rates for Charlotte County Fire.

Requested by: Commission Office

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Citizen Input – Agenda Items Only

David Grossman mentioned service standards, funding, fire stations, consultant report, Sunseeker, growth, and recommendations.

Phil Jacobus discussed sidewalks, Sales Tax, Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU), funding, Deep Creek Boulevard, and cost.

Sharon Pineo commented on response time, population, statistics, Hurricane Ian, and first responders.

Richard Russell noted maximum rates, calculation, Buena Vista MSBU, canals, waterways, dredging, and contributions.

The following citizens spoke in support of Final MSBU Rates: Chad McCollum, Charlotte County District Fire & EMS Vice President and Renee Petro.

The following citizens spoke against Final MSBU Rates: Kat Pellegrino, David Clark, David Ferguson, John B, Tracie York, Carl York, Mike Moses, Bill Faris, Joyce Pears, Dave Kesselring, Matthew Cankar, David Kalin, Sr., Dave Kalin, Jr., Tammy Kalin, and Paul Haber.

1. Public Hearing to Adopt Final MSBU Rates RES 2023-147

(Change #1) Added – Resolution Packet 2 and Backup material link – [charlotte-county-soc-2023.pdf](#) ([charlottecountyfl.gov](#)).

(Change #2) Added – Revised Resolution Packet 2 re: new max rates for Charlotte County Fire.

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director gave a brief overview of Agenda, Fire/EMS Funding, County Comparison: Methodology, Methodology - Fire Rescue, Fire Rescue, Equivalent Millage: Fire, Fund Balance vs Fire Rates, Fires Assessment Rates, Fire Assessment: Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs), Assumptions - Presented 3/21/2023: Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025, Fiscal Year 2026 – Fiscal Year 2031, Rate Scenarios - Presented 3/21/2023, Rate Scenario - Presented 7/17/2023, Charlotte County - Fire: 25% in 2024, then 6% annually - Presented 7/17/2023, Revised Assumptions, Revised Recommended Rate Scenario, Charlotte County - Fire: 15% in 2024, then 6% annually, responded to agricultural exemptions, property classifications, conservation easements, revenue, Non-Ad Valorem tax type, and Municipal Service Taxing Units (MSTUs).

Chief Jason Fair, Public Safety Director gave a brief overview of Charlotte County Fire/EMS, Service Demand, Peak Call Responses, Temporal Distribution, Unit Hour Utilization, Response, Geographical Drive Time Analysis - 6 Minute, 2022 Call Volume (37,868), Station 17 - South County 2025, Station 18 - Edgewater 2026, Station 19 - Gasparilla Rd. 2027, Babcock Stations - East County, Day Time Units, Additional Personnel, replied to challenges, public safety, hiring and onboarding process, salaries, equipment, and inflation.

John Elias, Public Works Director gave a brief overview of West Charlotte Stormwater MSBU: Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go, and remarked on Street and Drainage Unit methodology.

Chair Truex spoke to West Charlotte Stormwater MSBU: Where Does Your MSBU Dollar Go, West Charlotte Stormwater MSBU Advisory Board, and Animal Welfare League. **Commissioner Constance** mentioned Fire Assessment: Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs), vacant and occupied lots, scrub jay habitats, Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), tax rolls, Assumptions – Presented 3/21/2023: Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025, growth, impact fees, funding, standards, challenges, Condition Red, vacancies, property location, frontage, and methodology. **Commissioner Deutsch** discussed staffing challenges, first responders, salaries, mandatory overtime, inflation, property taxes, and responsibility. **Commissioner Doherty** commented on Revised Recommended Rate Scenario, concepts, Reserves, Suncoast Waterway MSBU Advisory Board, September 17, 2023 MSBU Public Hearing, public comments, and member applications. **Commissioner Tiseo** noted public comments and safety, professionalism, community outreach, funding, Assumptions – Presented 3/21/2023: Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025, impact fees,

payroll, overtime, staffing challenges, standards, methodology, growth, homestead exemptions, tax bills, rate structure, economy, impacts, Sunseeker, Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), property rights and acquisitions, new development, Methodology – Fire Rescue, homesteaded properties, Save Our Homes, and read into record emails sent to Dave Kalin, Jr.

Public Input

The following citizens spoke against Final MSBU Rates: Sharon Pineo, Kat Pellegrino, John Hughes, Matthew Cankar, Dave Kesselring, Dave Kalin, Jr., Dave Grossman, Gary Krieger, and David Kalin, Sr.

Gordon Smith remarked on Animal Welfare League, City of Punta Gorda, shelter services, The Humane Society of the United States, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), puppy mills, Hurricane Ian, responsibility, volunteers, Babcock Ranch, West Port, conditions, and funding.


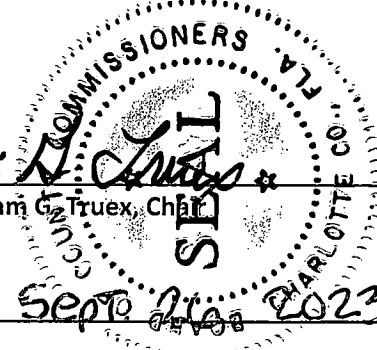
COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-147 TO SETTING ASSESSMENT RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOR THE MSBU RATES AS LISTED, WITH A MODIFICATION TO KEEP THE SUNCOAST WATERWAY ASSESSMENT AT THE CURRENT RATE OF \$738.07, NOT RAISE THE RATE TO \$1,525.00, LET THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OVER THE NEXT YEAR WORK ON WHAT THE NEEDS ARE, WORK WITH STAFF, AND THEN GO FROM THERE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TISEO

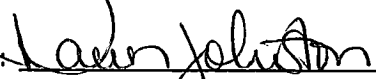
MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

ADJOURNED: 7:56 pm


 William G. Truex, Chair

 DATE ADOPTED: Sept 11, 2023

ATTEST:

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

By: 
Deputy Clerk