



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Citrus County Courthouse
110 N. Apopka Avenue, Room 100
Inverness, FL 34450**

MINUTES

September 7, 2023 - 5:01 PM

**Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Chair, District 3
Holly L. Davis, 1st Vice Chair, District 5
Rebecca Bays, 2nd Vice Chair, District 4
Jeff Kinnard D.C., Commissioner District 1
Diana Finegan, Commissioner, District 2**

**Steve L. Howard, County Administrator
Denise A. Dymond Lyn, County Attorney
Angela Vick, Clerk of the Circuit Court and
Comptroller**

A. CALL TO ORDER

September 7, 2023 Citrus County Courthouse
The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

A.1. Invocation

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, D.C. gave the Invocation.

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, D.C. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A.3. Roll Call

Present: Holly L. Davis, Jeff Kinnard D.C., Diana Finegan, County Administrator
Steve Howard, Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren, Deputy
Clerk Amy Novinger, and Deputy Clerk Ashlyn Hunnicutt

Absent: Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Rebecca Bays, County Attorney Denise A.
Dymond Lyn, and Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Angela
Vick

B. TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

B.1. Discuss the purpose of the Public Hearing

Hearings are primarily for the purpose of explaining the budget, proposed tax
levy and any proposed amendments, as well as affording the general public the
opportunity to participate in the budget process.

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First Vice Chair Holly Davis reviewed the purpose of the public hearing and provided an overview.

B.2. Discuss Proposed Tentative Millage Rates for FY 2023-2024

The Board of County Commissioners proposed tentative aggregate millage rate of 8.8755 mills is a 17.79% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate of 7.5349 mills. The 2023-2024 proposed tentative millage produces \$120,791,654 in ad valorem tax revenue.

	FY 22/23	FY
23/24	Millage	Millage
General Fund	6.5057	6.9951
Transportation	0.7860	0.9860
Health Department	<u>0.0614</u>	<u>0.0564</u>
Total County-Wide	7.3531	8.0375
Special Districts		
Library Services	0.3147	0.3147
Fire Taxing District	0.0000	0.0000
Fire MSTU	0.5780	0.5780
Stormwater MSTU	<u>0.0000</u>	<u>0.0000</u>
Total Special Districts	0.8927	0.8927
Total Proposed Tentative Millage	8.2458	8.9302

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren provided the staff presentation and read the proposed millage rates into the record.

Sheriff Mike Prendergast provided the sheriff's budget presentation and responded to questions from the Board, followed by Board discussion with Ms. Dohren, Sheriff Prendergast, Sheriff's Office Financial Services Director Tracy Seffern, and County Administrator Steve Howard.

Ms. Dohren discussed the direction of the Board regarding the sheriff's budget.

Board discussion ensued with Ms. Dohren.

Ms. Dohren confirmed the consensus of the Board regarding: Pay and Class Study, dollar amount and millage; maintaining funds for the 44 positions in reserve, removing the Pay and Class; and the projected percentage and millage associated with the reduction of reserves to \$16.3 million.

Board discussion continued with County Administrator Steve Howard and Ms. Dohren.

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

B.3. Discuss Proposed Tentative Budget for FY 2023-2024

- a) The Proposed Tentative Budget is \$411,679,412, a 5% decrease from fiscal year 2022/2023 budget of \$433,705,845.
- b) Presentation of budget modifications amending the 2023/2024 budget incorporating adjustments proposed at the Budget Workshop (Exhibit A), other budget modifications (Exhibit B), and Cash Carry Forward Projects (Exhibit C).

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren read the recommended action into the record.

B.4. Receive Public Comments Regarding FY 2023-2024 Budget

Receive comments and questions from the general public concerning the proposed millage and the tentative budget.

The following individuals addressed the Board on various issues:

*Samantha Carter
Doug Nicholson
John Labriola, representing the Christian Family Coalition
Lee Spallas
Mark Svestka, representing Pine Ridge Property Owner's Association
Greg Hoying
Wade Smith
Lisa Cruz
Antonia Onabona
Lala Sanders
David Adams
Mark Connelly
Roman Shwed
Gary Sinkowitz
Charlotte Todd
Frank Papcin
Mary Ann Adams*

Commissioners and Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren responded to comments from the public.

[Public Speaker Forms for item B4](#)

[Additional Information for item B4 - submitted by Keener Evans](#)

B.5. Accept any motions to adjust the tentative millage and proposed budget

Accept the proposed millage rates and percent increase/decrease in millage over the rolled-back rate.

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren provided the recommendation, followed by Board discussion.

Ms. Dohren read the following proposed tentative millage rates into the record:

	FY 23/24 Millage
General Fund	6.9951
Transportation	0.9860
Health Department	0.0564
Total County-Wide	8.0375
Special Districts:	
Library Services	0.3147
Fire Taxing District	0.0000
Fire MSTU	0.5780
Stormwater MSTU	0.0000
Total Special Districts	0.8927
Total Proposed Tentative Millage	8.9302

Aggregate rolled-back rate of 7.5349 mills, with the proposed tentative aggregate millage rate of 8.8755, which is a 17.79% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate.

Motion to accept the proposed millage rates and adjustment of the millage over the rolled back rate.

RESULT: Adopted

MOVER: Jeff Kinnard D.C.

SECONDER: Holly L. Davis

AYES: Davis, Kinnard D.C.

NAY: Finegan

B.6. Set the Tentative Millage Rates for FY 2023-2024

Request Board adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute a resolution adopting the Board of County Commissioners tentative millage rates for the County-Wide millage, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU for 2023-2024.

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren provided the recommendation.

Motion to adopt and authorize the Chair to execute a resolution adopting the Board of County Commissioner's tentative millage rates for the

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County-Wide millage, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU for 2023-2024.

Board discussion ensued with Ms. Dohren prior to the vote.

RESULT: Adopted
MOVER: Jeff Kinnard D.C.
SECONDER: Holly L. Davis
AYES: Davis, Kinnard D.C.
NAY: Finegan

Resolution Number 2023-069

B.7. Set the Tentative Budget for FY 2023-2024

Request Board adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute the resolution adopting the 2023-2024 tentative budget for the County-Wide budget, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU.

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren provided the recommendation.

Motion to adopt and authorize the Chair to execute the resolution adopting the 2023-2024 tentative budget for the County-Wide budget, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU.

Board discussion ensued prior to the vote.

RESULT: Adopted
MOVER: Jeff Kinnard D.C.
SECONDER: Holly L. Davis
AYES: Davis, Kinnard D.C.
NAY: Finegan

Resolution Number 2023-070

B.8. Announce the date, time and location for the final budget hearing

DATE: September 26, 2023
TIME: 5:01 P.M.
LOCATION: County Commission Meeting Room
110 North Apopka Avenue
Inverness, FL

First Vice Chair Holly Davis announced the date, time, and location of the Final Budget Hearing.

C. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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Board of County Commissioners Meeting - September 7, 2023

1. Regular Meeting, September 12, 2023 at 1:00 PM, Citrus County Courthouse, Room 100, 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

D. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

[Proof of Publication](#)