



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

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

Tentative Budget Hearing

MINUTES

September 11, 2024 - 5:01 PM

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

**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 11, 2024 Citrus County Courthouse
The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM.

A.1. Invocation

Commissioner Ruthie Schlabach led the Invocation.

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance

A.3. Roll Call

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

Absent: County Attorney Denise Lyn, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Angela Vick

B. TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

[Item B PowerPoint](#)

B.1. Discuss the purpose of the Public Hearing

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Meeting - September 11, 2024

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.

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren reviewed the purpose of the public hearing and provided an overview.

B.2. Discuss Proposed Tentative Millage Rates for FY 2024-2025

The Board of County Commissioners proposed tentative aggregate millage rate of 8.8764 mills is a 6.58% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate of 8.3286 mills. The 2024-2025 proposed tentative millage produces \$132,680,606 in ad valorem tax revenue.

	FY 23/24	FY
24/25	Millage	Millage
General Fund	6.9951	6.9951
Transportation	0.9860	0.9860
Health Department	<u>0.0564</u>	<u>0.0564</u>
Total County-Wide	8.0375	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	8.9302	8.9302

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

B.3. Discuss Proposed Tentative Budget for FY 2024-2025

a) The Proposed Tentative Budget is \$475,244,863, a 2.79% increase from fiscal year 2023/2024 budget of \$462,349,474.

b) Presentation of budget modifications amending the 2024/2025 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 discussed the proposed tentative budget.

B.4. Receive Public Comments Regarding FY 2024-2025 Budget

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Meeting - September 11, 2024

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:

Mark Svestka, representing the Pine Ridge Property Owners Association

John Labriola, on behalf of the Christian Family Coalition

April Whuk

Mary Seader

Mike O'Connell

Rick Matherson

Janet Barek

Renee Bedford

Donna Rummel

Commissioners, Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren, County Administrator Steve Howard, Interim Public Works Director Carlton Hall, and Community Services Director Eric Head responded to comments from the public.

Public Speaker Forms for Item B4

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

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

b) Accept any motion to adjust the tentative millage and proposed budget.

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren requested any adjustments to the tentative millage and proposed budget.

Board discussion ensued with County Administrator Steve Howard, Assistant Management and Budget Director Barbara Luckham, and Ms. Dohren.

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, D.C. made a motion to accept the proposed tentative millage rate of 8.9302, adjusting the battery back-ups millage rate of .0053, which would be a proposed adjusted tentative millage rate of 8.9249, which was seconded by Commissioner Ruthie Schlabach.

Board discussion continued with Mr. Howard and Ms. Dohren.

The motion was rescinded by Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, D.C. and the second was rescinded by Commissioner Ruthie Schlabach.

Board discussion ensued with Interim Public Works Director Carlton Hall.

Consensus of the Board was given to direct staff to adjust for the battery back-ups from the proposed tentative millage rate at the Final Budget Hearing.

Following item B5, Deputy Clerk Amy Novinger requested clarification.

B.6. Set the Tentative Millage Rates for FY 2024-2025

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 2024-2025.

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 County-Wide millage, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU for 2024-2025.

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

Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Millage	
General Fund	6.9951
Transportation	0.9860
Health Department	0.0564
County-Wide Department	8.0375
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

Proposed Tentative Aggregate rolled-back millage rate of 8.8764, which is a 6.58% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate of 8.3286 mills.

Chair Holly Davis commented.

RESULT: Adopted

MOVER: Rebecca Bays

SECONDER: Jeff Kinnard D.C.

AYES: Davis Schlabach, Davis, Bays, Kinnard D.C., Finegan

NAY: None

Resolution Number 2024-082

B.7. Set the Tentative Budget for FY 2024-2025

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Meeting - September 11, 2024

Request Board adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute the resolution adopting the 2024-2025 tentative budget for the County-Wide budget, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU.

Motion to adopt and authorize the Chair to execute the resolution adopting the 2024-2025 tentative budget for the County-Wide budget, Library Services, Fire Taxing District, Fire Rescue/EMS MSTU, and Stormwater MSTU.

RESULT: Adopted

MOVER: Rebecca Bays

SECONDER: Jeff Kinnard D.C.

AYES: Davis Schlabach, Davis, Bays, Kinnard D.C., Finegan

NAY: None

Resolution Number 2024-080

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

DATE: September 24, 2024

TIME: 5:01 P.M.

LOCATION: County Commission Meeting Room
110 North Apopka Avenue
Inverness, FL

Management and Budget Director Erin Dohren announced the date, time, and location of the Final Budget Hearing.

C. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

D. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024, at 1:00 PM, Citrus County Courthouse, Room 100, 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

E. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 06:30 PM.

[Proof of Publication](#)

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Meeting - September 11, 2024