

DESTIN FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Tentative Budget Hearing of the Board of Fire Commissioners

Main Station

848 Airport Road
Destin, Florida 32541

September 9, 2014

Minutes

Commissioners present: Tommy Green, Rick Moore, Mike Buckingham, Hillary Anderson

Absent: Jack Wilson

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chiefs Ron Gerdeman and Joe D'Agostino, Kathryn Wagner

Present: Dawn Stuntz

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m. by Chairman Tommy Green. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2014-2015 millage rate and budget. He stated that the Destin Fire Control District, a state taxing authority, proposes a millage rate of 1.0000 which is 5.01% greater than the rolled-back rate of 0.9523 mills. The floor was opened for public comments concerning the millage rate.

Patty Defrenza, 4648 Sunsail Circle, gave suggestions on how to approach the public if the District seeks another millage increase.

Hillary Anderson made a motion to adopt a millage rate of 1.0000 which is 5.01% greater than the rolled-back rate of 0.9523 mills. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tommy Green stated that the Destin Fire Control District proposes a budget of \$5,279,574 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, which is a 10.42% decrease from last year's budget. The floor was opened for public comments concerning the proposed budget.

Mark Ward, 3840 Indian Trail, asked how the budget could be cut 10% based on inflation, as it would be difficult for everyone in the District to live with less. Tommy Green stated that the employees have worked diligently to be able to have a decreased budget. Hillary Anderson stated that much of the decrease is the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program. Chief Sasser stated that most of the gaps were filled with reserve and that the 2014-2015 budget was able to be balanced due to personnel changes.

Hillary Anderson made a motion to adopt the proposed budget of \$5,279,574 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, based upon taxable value of real property totaling \$4,747,835,164. Mike Buckingham seconded. Rick Moore stated that the motion should be voted on when all Board

members are present. Kathryn Wagner reminded the Board of the advertising constraints and timing of the TRIM process. The motion passed unanimously.

Tommy Green opened the floor to public comments stating that members of the public may not address the Board concerning items not on the agenda.

Patty Defrenza suggested that the Board and staff adhere to the Associated Press guidelines for media and public relations by not using acronyms when discussing certain items as newcomers to the meetings will not understand what is being discussed.

With no other discussion to be heard, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.