

SANIBEL FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
Minutes of the Tentative Budget Hearing Meeting
September 14, 2022

Commissioners –Chairman Jerry Muench, Vice Chair Bruce Cochrane, Secretary Richard McCurry
Fire Chief Bill Briscoe
Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Barbot
Division Chief Tim Barrett
Fire Marshal Larry Williams
Administrator Samantha Quinn
Assistant Administrator Greta Fulkerson

In attendance were the following: FF Zarick, Captain Jackson, Captain Tracy, FF Felix, Lieutenant Reitenbach, FF Schelm, FF Steele, and the general public.

Commissioner Jerry Muench attended via telephone.

Commissioner Cochrane opened the meeting at 5:01 PM. Commissioner Cochrane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1st Order of Business: Commissioner Cochrane stated a motion needs to be made to allow Commissioner Muench to attend the hearing and vote on any items during the hearing. **A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to move forward with allowing Commissioner Muench to attend and vote on any items presented at the hearing. The motion was second by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

2nd Order of Business: Commissioner Cochrane asked Deputy Chief Barbot to present the FY 2022-2023 Tentative Budget.

3rd Order of Business: Deputy Chief Barbot stated that the new tentative budget was previously submitted to each commissioner for review. Commissioner Muench said, I don't think we need to go over everything, what we need to do is basically talk about which millage rate we are going to hit, that will speak volumes on the budget. Deputy Chief Barbot stated, we have a balanced budget with the roll-back rate although there are concerns such as increased rates for insurance and personnel services, the roll-back would leave very little carryover and leave the district tight. Commissioner Muench said, I am only concerned about this year. Deputy Chief Barbot said, as the incoming Fire Chief we need to make sure the District is sustainable, and most unions have renegotiating rates for employees anywhere from 14-24% and also with where this economy is potentially headed, this ensure we don't have layoffs; I encourage all the commissioners to discuss. Commissioner Cochrane stated he would prefer the middle rate at 1.2365 millage rate which would be best for our tax base on the residents. Commissioner Muench stated the downturn on the economy didn't look good yesterday, but I am a little concerned at the \$500,000 carryover to the budget with that rate. Commissioner Cochrane stated, we don't have anything budgeted for Capital Improvements. Commissioner Muench stated, do we not have the funds in our reserves, if we hit the rollback rate? Deputy Chief Barbot stated no funds are being budgeted for Capital Improvements. Commissioner McCurry stated, really. Commissioner McCurry said, what is the cost to the residents? Deputy Chief Barbot reviewed the cost for each millage rate. Fire Chief Briscoe stated, if we go to the 1.3089 millage rate, we would have to allocate excess funds somewhere. Commissioner Cochrane stated, we should not go to the 1.3089. Commissioner McCurry stated, the City of Sanibel increased their millage rate, and we do want to support the new Fire Chiefs staff ideas, so I support the current rate at 1.3089. Commissioner Muench said, I don't think we have ever increased our budget at this rate, the new leadership structure I am not sold on this, and I am leaning on what Commissioner Cochrane said, but I cannot support a \$900,000 increase. Commissioner Cochrane said, I feel the same way, and this should be incremental. Commissioner Muench stated, I can go for that, and I'm sure Deputy Chief Barbot can work with us and if we have to go up next year we can revisit this next year. Commissioner Muench said, I am ready to make a motion for the 1.2365 millage rate. **A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to move forward with adopting the tentative millage rate at 1.2365 millage rate for FY 2022-2022. The motion was second by Commissioner Muench. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

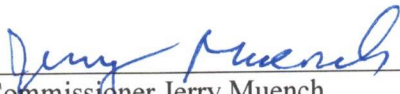
4th Order of Business: **Resolution 2022-09-02** Administrator Quinn read the resolution to tentatively set the millage rate at 1.2365 mills which exceeds the roll-back rate of 1.1642 mills resulting in a tax percentage increase to residents of the District of 6.21%, providing proceeds of \$8,011,169.00. **A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to move forward with**

the tentative millage rate of 1.2365. The motion was second by Commissioner Muench. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

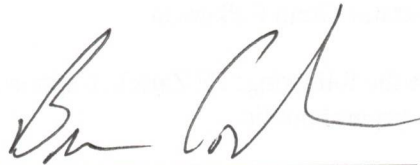
5th Order of Business: **Resolution 2022-09-03** Administrator Quinn read the resolution to tentatively set the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Tentative Budget at the 1.2365 millage rate. **A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to move forward with the tentative FY 2022-2023 budget at the millage rate of 1.2365. The motion was second by Commissioner Muench. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

19th Order of Business: Public Input to discuss. No items from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM



Commissioner Jerry Muench



Commissioner Bruce Cochrane



Commissioner Richard McCurry