

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

SPECIAL COMMISSION WORKSHOP

MINUTES

February 16, 2010

The February 16, 2010 Special Workshop of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 4:30pm by Secretary/Treasurer Barrett. Present were Commissioners Adams, Hemingway and Barrett; Chief Don Adams, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, Finance Manager Ben VanKlingeren and Administrative Assistant Susan Platas. Commissioner Berndt had an excused absence. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance.

Commissioner Barrett stated the purpose of this special workshop is to receive input on and discuss the collection of annual non-ad valorem assessments to be levied within the District to partially fund the cost of providing fire rescue services and facilities, and to consider and discuss any and all other matters to come before the Board of Commissioners. This workshop is open to the public; however, no public input is expected to be received. No decisions shall be made by the Board of Commissioners during the workshop. Each Presenter will have 20 minutes to present their information with 10 minutes for questions by the Commissioners.

Attorney Pringle stated that even though the meeting is a public meeting and it will not be mandatory on either presenter to leave the meeting during the presentation of the other party; however, my expectation is that each presenter voluntarily step outside the meeting room while the other firm is making their presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

Presenter One Is:

Mark Lawson
Bryant, Miller, Olive
101 North Monroe St. Ste. 900
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Some highlights are:

Fixed cost

Simplified fire cost

Not about potential demand

It's about the fixed cost on our equipment

It's a stabilizing revenue approach

Commissioner Questions:

Commissioner Hemingway said people have asked him why should they pay \$75 and WalMart only pay \$75. He said how can we convince the people differently.

Are we governed by State law the way we word the ballot.

What would the ballpark figure you would charge. Mr. Lawson stated from \$50 – \$75,000 in professional fees.

Commissioner Adams questioned if you could legally leave out churches.

He questioned if you could legally leave out residential.

He asked if this type of tax been voted on within the last two years.

Presenter Two Is:

Camille Tharpe
Government Services Group, Inc. (GSG)
Suite 250
1500 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Some Highlights are:

Not attorney's. Don't provide legal aspects.

Does provide data – more the technical side

Presented two different types of methodology to use: Traditional, which is historical demand) and Demand Capacity Methodology.

Ms. Tharpe went through a written slide presentation explaining the difference between the two methodologies.

Commissioners Questions:

Commissioner Hemingway questioned about fire flow.

What would be a ballpark figure approx. Ms. Tharpe answered a bit more than \$40,000. They don't provide legal.

He questioned government property. We can send a separate bill to them but we can't force them to pay.

Commissioner Adams questioned about commercial and also if people in outlying areas would be charged additional funds.

Adjourn 5:42pm.