

MINUTES

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

September 24, 2009

The September 24, 2009 Final Budget Hearing of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 5:06pm by President Berndt. Present were: Commissioners, Berndt, Hemingway, Guzman, Adams, Barrett; Chief Adams, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, EMS Division Chief Mike Pcolar, Secretary Janis Williams, Billing Specialist Vanessa Koza and Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Berndt asked Chief Don Adams to give the invocation.

Commissioner Berndt stated that this is the Final Budget Hearing for the proposed budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year; and that the adopted millage rate of 3.0000 mills is a 45.13% decrease over the roll-back rate of 5.4677 mills. The roll-back rate is the millage rate used to generate prior year's ad valorem taxes using this year's taxable value.

Commissioner Berndt asked for public comment before the adoption of the millage rate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS on the tentative adopted millage rate.

Kevin Shea- Is this now the maximum rate under the statute that law allows? Attorney Pringle answered Kevin Shea's question: The statute is and allows 3.7500 mills however below the statute rate the Board is limited to 3.0000 mills today because that was the last millage rate cap that was approved by the voters in the district. Kevin Shea asked: In order to exceed the 3 mills rate; it would require a referendum by the people? Correct? Attorney Pringle stated yes, that's correct.

ADOPTION OF MILLAGE RATE: Commissioner Berndt read the Millage Rate Resolution # 09-09-04 for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Commissioner Berndt stated that a motion needs to be made to accept the Millage Rate of **3.0000 mills**. Commissioner Guzman made a motion to adopt the resolution 09-09-04, as read by Commissioner Berndt with a second by Commissioner Hemingway. A roll call vote was taken.

Hemingway	aye
Barrett	aye
Guzman	aye
Adams	aye
Berndt	aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion duly passed and adopted on this day September 24, 2009 by the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Fire Commissioners.

Commissioner Berndt read the proposed budget resolution for the adoption of the budget from the September 9, 2009 tentative budget hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS On tentative adopted budget.

Kevin Shea- Updated Commissioners on the estimated ad valorem tax for next year as being a 25% decrease. He advises to: “Sharpen your pencils”.

Linda Carter- Suggested the department put solar panels in the stations to save on the cost of electric. She questioned the money spent on computer supplies and the amount of field trainers we have. She states that our budget needs to be redefined. Thank you for having the meeting at Veterans Park Recreation Center.

Robert Anderson- The biggest expenditure is payroll. He states the firefighters need to give up the 10% to be able to reopen Station 105.

Kathy Kruse- Does this budget reflect the staff’s furlough days? Commissioner Guzman states: Yes, it does. Second question; this budget does not reflect any concessions from the Union. Correct? Commissioner Guzman stated: no, it does not we are still in negotiations.

Commissioner Discussion:

Commissioner Hemingway questioned Chief Adams on the Operating Reserves line item on page 5. He asked where the increase came from? Chief Adams stated that line item was increased this year. It was moved from a different line item. He explained how moving funds from line items worked.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION: Commissioner Berndt read the Adoption of Budget Resolution #09-09-05 and then stated that a motion needs to be made to accept the Adoption of the Budget of \$21,963,337. Commissioner Guzman made a motion to

adopt the resolution #09-09-05, as read by Commissioner Berndt, second by Commissioner Barrett.

A roll call vote was taken.

Adams	aye
Guzman	aye
Barrett	aye
Hemingway	aye
Berndt	aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM