

**Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida
First Public Hearing
Tentative Millage Rates and
Tentative Budgets for FY 2009/2010
September 9, 2009**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida met in the County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Present were: Chairman Desloge and Commissioners Sauls, Akinyemi, Proctor, Thael and Rackleff. Commissioner Dailey participated via phone. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, Assistant County Administrator Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Vince Long, Finance Director David Reid and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

Chairman Desloge called the first Public Hearing on the Leon County Budget for FY2009/2010 to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Invocation was provided by Commissioner Sauls which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Desloge shared that Commissioner Dailey was unable to attend the meeting; however, would be participating via telephone. He noted that Board action was needed to approve this method of participation. *Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to waive the rules. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Akinyemi out of Chambers).*

Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thael, to approve the participation of Commissioner Dailey via telephone. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Akinyemi out of Chambers).

Pursuant to legal advertisement, the first of two public hearings was conducted for the adoption of the Countywide, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) and Primary Healthcare MSTU tentative Millage rates and tentative budgets for FY 2009/2010. The second and final public hearing will be held on September 22, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Assistant County Administrator Alan Rosenzweig read the following statements into the record:

- The proposed aggregate Millage rate is 8.35 mills which is 8.4% under the aggregate rollback Millage rate of 9.0516 mills.
- The proposed Countywide Millage rate is 7.85 mills which is 8.28% under the Countywide rollback millage rate of 8.4998 mills.
- The proposed Emergency Medical Services MSTU Millage rate is .5 mills which is 8.26% under the EMS MSTU rollback Millage rate of 0.5413 mills.
- The proposed Primary Healthcare MSTU Millage rate is 0 mills which is 100% equal to the Primary Healthcare MSTU rollback Millage rate of 0 mills.

Speakers:

- Art Jusko, 2860 Asbury Hills Dr., expressed concern over the lack of supervision of teens after dark and asked that the County make a priority of funding some type of facility, i.e., Teen Center which would provide a much needed venue for this population. He mentioned Palmer Monroe as a possible site for such a facility.

- Chairman Desloge shared that the same concerns have been expressed by the public defender and he is meeting with City Commissioner Gillum to discuss the possibility of using Palmer Monroe as a Teen Center. He noted that funding of would be an issue.
- Curtis Baynes, 1323 E. Tennessee St., commended the Board on its efforts to try to hold the line on property taxes; however reminded the Commissioner there is a lot of work yet to be done.
- Sabrina Allen, 9513 Shumard Dr., requested tennis courts be installed at the Lewis Hall Park in Woodville.
 - Commissioners Thael and Sauls offered to work with Ms. Allen on this issue.
- Jeff Andrews, 602 Tufalo Street, voiced his opposition to the Board's proposed budget and opined that the actions by the Board were irresponsible, incomprehensible and unfair. He expressed concern over the use of library computers for social networking.

Chairman Desloge confirmed that there were no more speakers and closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Option 1: Commissioner Sauls moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to approve, via Resolution, the tentative FY 09/10 Countywide millage rate of 7.8500 mills. The motion carried 7-0.

Option 2: Commissioner Akinyemi moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thael, to approve, via Resolution, the tentative FY09/10 countywide budget. The motion carried 7-0.

- Commissioner Proctor stated for the record that the County's proposed budget reflects an approximately \$20 million reduction in spending than last year.
- Commissioner Rackleff proclaimed that this is the fourth year in a row that the Board has cut the County's budget; however, high quality services continue to be offered to residents. He noted the reduction in the taxable property value base.
- Commissioner Akinyemi remarked that the Board is working hard to be responsible and pointed out that the 7.85 countywide millage rate is 8.28% less than the rolled back rate of 8.4998.
- Chairman Desloge offered that commercial property owners in the County should see some relief from County taxes.

The motion to approve Option 2 carried 7-0.

Option 3: Commissioner Sauls moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to approve, via Resolution, the tentative FY09/10 Emergency Medical Services MSTU millage rate of 0.5000 mills. The motion carried 7-0.

Option 4: Commissioner Sauls moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to approve, via Resolution, the tentative FY09/10 Emergency medical Services MSTU budget. The motion carried 7-0.

Option 5: Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to approve, via Resolution, the tentative FY09/10 Primary Healthcare MSTU millage rate of 0.000 mills. The motion carried 7-0.

Option 6: Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls to approve, via Resolution, the tentative FY09/10 Primary Healthcare MSTU budget.

- Commissioner Proctor acknowledged the progressive actions and role of the Commission in recent years to ensure that primary healthcare services are available to residents. He encouraged other local governments to join the County in its efforts and suggested a new committee be formed and tasked with bringing the issue forward to encourage a more collaborative effort between the City and County in the creation of a stronger healthcare system in the community. Commissioner Proctor asked the Board to consider adopting as a priority for next year more funding for healthcare.
- Commissioner Akinyemi mentioned that the Board should consider as part of the Board Retreat in December a major discussion in healthcare and that the next Chair would champion this effort.
- Commissioner Rackleff echoed the need for improved healthcare program in the County.

The motion to approve Option 6 carried 7-0.

Option 7: Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi to approve, via Resolution, direct staff to advertise, in accordance with the Florida Statutes, the tentative millage rates and budgets for FY09/10 and the date, time, and place of the public hearing to adopt the final millage rates and budgets for FY09/10. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Desloge voiced his appreciation for comments on the health care issue and noted the Board's actions which authorized additional funding for the WeCare Dental Program. He stated that he was very pleased with the proposed budget and pointed out that it provides similar or same services with fewer resources and cited the Board's actions to help stimulate the local economy (libraries, joint dispatch, etc).

Commissioner Thael wanted to relay to the community how responsible the Commission and staff have been over the years in managing the people's money. He commented on a recent letter from the Clerk of the Court, Bob Inzer, praising the County's achievement of a AA- Fitch Bond rating and was very complimentary of the strong financial stewardship of County resources. Commissioner Thael proclaimed that the Commission has "put the people's house in good shape".

Chairman Desloge adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bryan Desloge, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida