

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to insure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

RECORDING: Savannah Chastain, Finance Officer

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Woody Kitler; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Kellie Connell, Clerk of Courts; Russ Wade, County Attorney

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Chairwoman Cossey.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED MILLAGE FOR 2016-2017

CURRENT YEAR PROPOSED AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE 10.0000

CURRENT YEAR ROLLED-BACK RATE 9.9290

CURRENT YEAR PROPOSED RATE AS A PERCENT CHANGE OF ROLLED BACK RATE IS 0.715

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. CLOSED TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. ACTION BY BOARD

Jimmy Tallman moved to accept the proposed millage for 2016-2017. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2016-2017

Clerk Connell informed the Board that there are no significant changes from last year. She also brought to the Board's attention that, as shown on Page 9, a major loan with annual payments of approximately \$55,000 was paid off in August.

Director Brown requested if there were any desirable changes to be made to the Tentative Budget for the Library that she may meet with Clerk Connell to make these changes. Clerk Connell confirmed with Director Brown that they could meet if needed.

Chairwoman Cossey questioned the increase on the operating expenses portion of Supervisor of Elections on Page 10. Clerk Connell informed the Board that Mrs. Osborne has requested an increase in operating expenses of \$10,000 which is to purchase equipment that would allow her to electronically send election results from polling locations on election nights. Commissioner Kitler questioned the total increase of the

Supervisor of Elections operating expenses. Chairwoman Cossey stated there is a requested increase of \$13,500, and Clerk Connell explained that \$10,000 of this \$13,500 is for this specific equipment purchase. The Board discussed current procedures for election results on election nights and the length of time the results take to arrive to the Supervisor of Elections office. Chairwoman Cossey stated the furthest location is less than 20 minutes from the election office.

Commissioner Tallman stated that money is tight and does not view this piece of equipment as a necessity. Commissioner Kitler asked Chairwoman Cossey of the time-efficiency of transporting results to the office. Chairwoman Cossey stated that results are received quickly from the time the polls are closed. Commissioner Andrews questioned the legality of the equipment, as to if it is a requirement, and stated his potential consideration in the future if he could speak with Mrs. Osborne to further inquire. Clerk Connell stated that it is not a statutory requirement. The Board concluded that if the equipment was necessary, they would be open to receiving more information at the Final Hearing. **Commissioner Tallman moved to not approve the \$10,000 increase in the operating expenses portion of Supervisor of Elections. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk Connell referred the Board to Page 12 regarding the Long Term Care account scheduled to be closed in April 2017. Commissioner Tallman brought to the Board's attention monies in General Fund designated for attorney fees. He questioned if the amount is sufficient given upcoming events regarding the mining proposal. Attorney Wade is confident that a lawsuit is inevitable in the County's future. Chairwoman Cossey mentioned the future expense of Court House Security to be considered for the Budget, potentially being \$180,000. Clerk Connell informed the Board of safety concerns, as well as the probability of a Judicial Order.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

8. **CLOSED TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

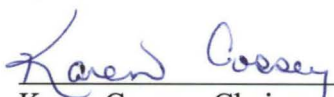
9. **ACTION BY BOARD**

Commissioner Croft moved to approve the Tentative Budget for 2016-2017. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **ADJORNMENT**

Chairwoman Cossey adjourned the meeting at 5:33 PM.

APPROVED:



Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

ATTEST:



Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts