

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
EMS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP
JANUARY 18, 2022

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 ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: James Tallman, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Ryan Perez; James Williams, County Coordinator; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney; Bruce Dukes, Property Appraiser; Lisa Johnson, Tax Collector

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tallman called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm. Commissioner Dobbs offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Tallman turned the floor over to County Coordinator Jimmy Williams, who reported that he had gathered rates from surrounding counties Fire and EMS Special Assessments, noting that Baker County is the only one that assesses by square footage. Bruce Dukes, Property Appraiser and Lisa Johnson, Tax Collector, relayed to the Board that they believe that the public only sees the total special assessment, and it doesn't matter what the split is between them. They further stated that they thought it would be best to keep a flat amount across all taxpayers, both residential and commercial.

Discussion ensued regarding the solid waste special assessment, in that commercial businesses contribute a great deal more of the cost. An agreement was reached that the simplest and fairest assessment would be that for any commercial business that needed only a residential-sized can or can haul to the collection sites to be charged the same rate as the residential assessment, and for all others to pay no special assessment, but to pay their own tipping fees.

It was agreed that all taxpayers should pay the same amount, and for Mr. Williams and Mr. Dukes to continue to work through the issue and report back to the Board.

Chair Tallman adjourned the workshop at 5:59 pm.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on February 21, 2022.