

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

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, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of Courts

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; James Williams, County Coordinator; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Cossey called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Commissioner Croft offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED MILLAGE**

Chair Cossey announced the proposed 10.000 millage rate, corresponding information and called for public comments. Hearing no request for public comments, she closed the floor to public comments and called for Board action. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the proposed rate of 10.000 mils, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**PRESENTATION OF BUDGET**

Chair Cossey called for any comments on the published proposed budget. Seeing none, she closed the floor to public comments.

Chair Cossey suggested that departments recently received pay raises not receive the 3% COLA, specifically noting the Road Department and Solid Waste Department that received substantial raises in the last few months. Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, noted that several of his staff will receive a raise because of the step-plan pay scale implemented in his department, and Clerk Connell informed the Board that any employee eligible for an increase was budgeted for the higher rate for the entire year, even though they will receive it at some point during the year only if they meet all requirements of the pay scale.

Commissioner Cannon called attention to the funding for Acorn Clinic and mental health services. Discussion ensued, noting that the proposed budget includes \$5,000 to Acorn Clinic, which is a \$5,000 decrease. Chair Cossey stated she knew two people that were not able to get service from the clinic. Meridian Health was also discussed, Clerk Connell noting that the line for mental health included \$10,000 to the Health Department and the remaining to Meridian. She also reminded the Board of the recent history of funding Meridian, stating that several years ago the contribution was reduced and the Board agreed to slowly build the contribution back up. Discussion among the commissioners revealed a consensus for funding to Meridian be reduced to \$15,000, and for Meridian to be contacted to be offered an opportunity to address the funding amount at the final hearing.

Chair Cossey also noted that some utilities can be reduced, specifically stating an irrigation meter be put on the Sheriff's Office for car washing, as an irrigation meter is less expensive because sewer is not included.

September 16, 2019  
Tentative Budget Hearing

**Commissioner Tallman moved, and Commissioner Croft seconded, to adopt the tentative budget. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting.

**“Adopted on October 21,2019”**