

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building A
Vero Beach, Florida, 32960-3388
www.indianriver.gov*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

5:01 PM

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Commission Chambers

Board of County Commissioners

*Susan Adams, District 1, Chairman
Joseph Flescher, District 2, Vice Chairman
Joseph H. Earman, District 3
Deryl Loar, District 4
Laura Moss, District 5*

**John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Susan J. Prado, Deputy County Attorney
Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller**

1. CALL TO ORDER**2. ROLLCALL**

Present: 5 - Chairman Susan Adams
Vice Chairman Joseph Flescher
Commissioner Joe Earman
Commissioner Laura Moss
Commissioner Deryl Loar

2.A. A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**2.B. INVOCATION**

Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Deryl Loar

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN A. TITKANICH, JR**A. Proposed Budget**

[24-0717](#) Proposed Budget

Attachments: [Proposed Budget and Millage Rates](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced that the total proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 was \$ 524,719,875, an increase of \$17,818,335 over last year's planned budget. He utilized a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the major impacts to the proposed budget noting a tax roll increase of 10.3% countywide and 10.0% in the unincorporated areas. He stated it was the initial year of the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds, Series 2024 millage levy of 0.0639, and pointed out that the FY 2024/2025 budget reflects the County's priority commitment to public safety, noting \$145.7 million was allocated to law enforcement, emergency services, and fire rescue. He added an agreed-to Sheriff's Office funding of \$4.78 million (a reduction from the initial request of \$8.84 million from current budget), continued funding of School Resource Officers at a 50% split with the School District, the Compensation Study implementation cost of \$8,686,151, increases in the retirement rate (not including Constitutional Officers), and Worker's Compensation (including Constitutional Officers), and an increase of 38.9 full-time positions.

Administrator Titkanich was pleased to announce that staff had met with Teamsters earlier in the day and anticipated a vote by the union before the September 24, 2024, Board Meeting.

5. AD VALOREM FUNDS

A. Ad Valorem Millage and Ad Valorem Budget

General Fund

[24-0718](#)

Proposed millage is 3.5475 and is 7.77% above rolled back rate of 3.2918. The proposed budget is \$145,834,204.

Attachments: [General Fund](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced the General Fund proposed millage rate is 3.5475, 7.77% above the rolled back rate of 3.2918. The proposed budget is \$145,834,204.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to adopt the tentative millage rate of 3.5475, 7.77% above the rolled back rate of 3.2918, for the General Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Chairman Adams, to adopt the tentative budget of \$145,834,204 for the General Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

M.S.T.U.

[24-0719](#)

Proposed millage is 1.1506 and is 7.24% above rolled back rate of 1.0729. The proposed budget is \$54,368,135.

Attachments: [MSTU](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich stated the Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) proposed millage rate is 1.1506 and is 7.24% above the rolled back rate of 1.0729. The MSTU proposed budget is \$54,368,135.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to adopt the tentative millage rate of 1.1506, 7.24% above the rolled back rate of 1.0729, for the Municipal Service Taxing Unit. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Chairman Adams, to adopt the tentative budget in the amount of \$54,368,135 for the Municipal Service Taxing Unit. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

Transportation Fund

[24-0720](#) Proposed budget is \$25,881,721.

Attachments: [Transportation Fund](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced the proposed Transportation Fund budget is \$25,881,721.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the tentative budget of \$25,881,721 for the Transportation Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

Emergency Services District

[24-0721](#) Proposed millage is 2.3531 and is 7.31% above rolled back rate of 2.1928. The proposed budget is \$66,824,334.

Attachments: [Emergency Services District](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced the Emergency Services District proposed millage is 2.3531 and is 7.31% above the rolled back rate of 2.1928. The proposed budget is \$66,824,334

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to adopt the tentative millage rate of 2.3531, 7.31% above the rolled back rate of 2.1928 for the Emergency Services District. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to adopt the tentative budget in the amount of \$66,824,334 for the Emergency Services District. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

Land Acquisition Bonds-2024

[24-0722](#)

Proposed millage is 0.0639. The proposed budget is \$1,778,092.

Attachments: [Land Acquisition 2024](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced the Land Acquisition Bonds- 2024 Series proposed millage is 0.0639 and the proposed budget is \$1,778,092.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to adopt the tentative millage rate of 0.0639, for the Land Acquisition Bonds 2024 Series Referendum. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Chairman Adams, to adopt the tentative budget in the amount of \$1,778,092 for the Land Acquisition Bonds 2024 Series Referendum. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

Aggregate[24-0723](#)

Proposed millage is 6.1198 and is 7.40% above rolled back rate of 5.6981.

County Administrator John Titkanich announced that the proposed aggregate millage is 6.1198 and is 7.40 above the rolled back rate of 5.6981. The rate is used for comparison purposes and does not require adoption by the Board.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

No Action Taken or Required**6. INDIAN RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SITTING AS SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT BOARD**

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming meeting.

[24-0724](#)

Solid Waste Disposal District Budget (Non-Ad Valorem Special District)

Attachments: [SWDD](#)**A. 2024/2025 Proposed Charge and Budget.**

1. \$108.75 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$163.13/House)
(8.00% increase from current year)
\$68.80 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit
(8.00% increase from current year)
Readiness-to-Use Fee \$40.30
(9.63% increase from current year)

2. \$27,495,249 Budget

County Administrator John Titkanich outlined the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) proposed charges. The proposed budget was \$27,495,249.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve the Solid Waste Disposal District rates of \$108.75 per Residential Waste Generation Unit (\$163.13/House); \$68.80 per Commercial Waste Generation Unit; and a Readiness-to-Use Fee of \$40.30 for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD). The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to adopt the budget in the amount of \$27,495,249 for the Solid Waste Disposal District. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

The Board of Commissioners adjourned the Solid Waste Disposal District hearing, and reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners of the Preliminary Budget Hearing meeting, continuing with the adoption of Non Ad Valorem Assessment charges.

7. ADOPTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CHARGES

County Administrator John Titkanich announced the proposed charge for the Vero Lake Estates Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) was \$50.00 per parcel acre, the East Gifford Stormwater MSBU was \$10.00 per parcel acre, and the North County Water Assessment was \$290.53 per parcel.

A. 2024/2025 proposed charge for each Non-Ad Valorem Assessment District.

Chairman Adams read into record the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed charge for each Non-Ad Valorem Assessment District for Street Lighting.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to adopt the tentative charges read into the record for each of the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Districts for Street Lighting. The motion carried by the following vote:

8. APPROVE NON-AD VALOREM DOLLAR BUDGETS**A. 2024/2025 Proposed Budget**

[24-0725](#) 1. Special Revenue Funds \$28,860,914

Attachments: [Special Revenue](#)

[24-0726](#) 2. Other Debt Service Fund \$500,000

Attachments: [Debt](#)

[24-0729](#) 3. Capital Projects \$41,372,109

Attachments: [Capital Projects](#)

[24-0730](#) 4. Enterprise Funds \$78,270,180

Attachments: [Enterprise Funds](#)

[24-0731](#) 5. Internal Service Funds \$53,534,937

Attachments: [Internal Services](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich outlined the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed Non Ad Valorem dollar budgets. Administrator Titkanich read into the record a letter from the Clean Water Coalition.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the hearing.

There were no proposed amendments to the budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Chairman Adams, to adopt the tentative Non Ad Valorem Dollar Budgets for the Special Revenue Funds, Other Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Internal Service Funds. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

9. ANNOUNCE TIME AND PLACE OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Chairman Adams announced that the Final Budget Hearing would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the County Administration Building A, Commission Chambers, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Commissioner Moss sought clarification on the motion under the General Fund, Item 5.A. to adopt the tentative millage rate for the General Fund. After a discussion, a new motion was taken for clarification.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to adopt the tentative millage rate of 3.5475, 7.77% above the rolled back rate of 3.2918, for the General Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.