

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Preliminary Budget Hearing  
September 8, 2016

**Meeting called to order** at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Griffin

**Invocation:** MOS

**Roll Call:**

Chairman Hansen - Excused  
Vice Chairman Griffin – Present  
Sec./Treas. Mere – Present  
Commissioner Ducrou – Present  
Commissioner Cook – Excused  
Chief Larry Nisbet - Present  
Office Manager - Theresa Sharp - Excused  
Attorney Ian Mann – Absent

**Others Present:** Some public

Vice-Chairman Griffin announces:

District Identity  
Rollback Rate **3.3872**  
Proposed Millage Rate 3.5000Mills  
Percentage increase in millage over RBR is **3.33% over the RBR of 3.3872**  
The reasons ad valorem revenues are being increased is due to an increase in property values

Chief Nisbet invites questions from the Board regarding the proposed budget stating that it is pretty straight forward; insurances being an area we got hit on pretty hard. He states we were able to secure a rate hold on the workers comp. Commissioner Mere states the payroll increase of about \$90,000... Chief Nisbet states that is the weighted cost with all the insurances and everything on it, that's predominantly due to the SAFER personnel coming off probation. He adds that is also offset in large part by SAFER funding. Commissioner Ducrou states in the form of a question, "so our income (referring to tax revenue) only rose \$40,000?" He continues "I thought it was going to be higher." Chief Nisbet agrees, "I thought it was too. Our property values actually went up about 7%, but what we see from the budget aspect is actually about a 4% increase. He continues, "I actually got my TRIM notice the other day and my values actually went down." Commissioner Ducrou asks "What?" Chief Nisbet responds "I went down \$7,000." Someone else states "Mine did too." Commissioner Griffin states "Mine never goes down." Commissioner Ducrou states "I'm paying like \$5600." Chief Nisbet thanks him for his contributions. He adds "Commissioners, some funds that I added to...I put \$10,000 in for miscellaneous equipment. That's predominantly for some hose that we may need, and some other items. Also I increased some additional training funds, we have personnel working on getting their apparatus and hydraulics, Fire Officer One and Fire Officer Two, they asked for some educational money so that gives me some money to make sure that we help them out, bringing some classes in, doing some stuff, some additional training; and also my Captains, sending maybe one or two of them to a conference, Fire Rescue

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Preliminary Budget Hearing

September 8, 2016

East, stuff along those lines. Other than that, everything pretty much stayed the same.” Vice-Chairman Griffin calls for any other questions. Commissioner Ducrou states “It’s still looking ugly when we get off SAFER about keeping everybody isn’t it?” Chief Nisbet responds “It is not as rosy as I would like for it to be right now. Preliminary information; we’re going to have to apply for another SAFER grant. I guess that’s the easiest way to put it; at least for right now. I was a little surprised at the amount; our budget increased only 4% considering some districts around us were at 9% and some were at 14. So I’m hoping that transmits over to us next year, a larger number.” He continues, “I’ve already spoken to the people at SAFER and explained the situation we’re dealing with so when we apply next year for sustainment, they’re very much aware of it. And I’ve already spoken to Local 1826 and the IAFF about their assistance again.” Commissioner Griffin asks “Did the County give us any kind of reason why we only got that?” Chief Nisbet responds “The County, the information they had at the time, I talked to the deputy appraiser and she said we saw an increase and she was actually thinking that, at the time without the number, she thought it would be better than what it was, but she also stated that this coming up year, I mean, because we’re kind of a year behind when you look at the Ad Valorem, where we’re getting assessed, is where we were prior to January first. A lot of stuff happened out here after January first, so we’ll be seeing some of that, and I was really concerned about portability, and I misunderstood portability. Portability impacts us about \$800,000 in Property values so we’ll lose about \$14,000 in portability, so that’s where we lose a little bit, and of course 20/20 kills us too. Commissioner Mere asks “Have they’ve ever done anything on re-looking at the AG exemptions, to actually crack down a little bit more on the AG exemptions?” Chief Nisbet responds “Well, actually the property appraiser will tell you that well, he calls it the one cow rule, he’s actually been on tv and stated that, while I think it is something he would like to address, but I think that state statute is pretty solid. “ Commissioner Ducrou asks Chief “When do you have to re-apply for SAFER?” Chief Nisbet states that it will probably open up after the first of the year. The Assistance to Fire Act Grant is not opening up until, that’s the equipment one, it’s not opening up until October 10<sup>th</sup>, I think it is, and it’s going until November 18<sup>th</sup>, so they’re going to go through all that process with that first before they open up the SAFER, which would actually be good for us, because if it opens up in the spring, you know, late winter, early spring we apply, that means our performance period will match where we are sitting at now, so...” Commissioner Ducrou asks “Aren’t we ending the first year?” Chief Nisbet confirms “We are just now ending the first year, yes.” Commissioner Ducrou asks “So we’ve got two more?” Chief Nisbet states “We’ve got one more. It’s a two year grant.” Commissioner Ducrou asks “So what about contingencies if we don’t get it? We’re going to be what, half again? We can’t keep anybody?” Chief agrees stating, “Yeah, probably. I’ll be working on that. The ugly truth is, we’ll be looking at another layoff. Because, our guys are not making a lot of money compared to the other districts, you’re aware of it. I mean where we’re sitting at. I think we’ve got the best people we can have with the money. We’ve already lost two SAFER guys to other departments; because of stability and stuff. Obviously, I won’t be surprised if we lose at least another one or two coming up here in the near future, because a lot of departments are hiring a lot of people. So, we could be looking at layoffs again, we might be able to save three? Allocations... Insurance this year is an expense that we are

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Preliminary Budget Hearing

September 8, 2016

going to have to look at hard next year. The plan that we are in, they are effectively trying to price us out of it. All of our other expenses we've held pretty low. I mean, we're not over spending anything on items, so it's... there's some options that I'm going to need to look at; get with the DVP and see what other options we have out there." Commissioner Mere asks "Does it look like the impact from the new construction coming between Babcock Ranch in between this one over here is going to offset any of that difference?" Chief Nisbet responds "Oh, absolutely, once they start it, that's going to be a significant..." Commissioner Mere clarifies "I mean is the time period going to be anywhere near..." Chief states "The biggest thing we're waiting on is time, for it to get started. And I'll actually cover more of that in the regular board meeting." Commissioner Ducrou states "I don't think we'll see an impact to that, substantially, for four or five years; to get the tax money for it." Chief Nisbet states "It's usually once they start going vertical, it's about 18 months. Once they start having structures, now since we're talking about the budget, I want to make sure that we don't cloud District business and the Preliminary Budget Hearing." Commissioner Ducrou states "We have to understand the financials to make decisions on the budget." Chief Nisbet agrees stating "I understand, I want to make sure I word this appropriately that we can do this... The Kitson Project with Babcock Ranch, if they are able to move at the speed at which they are wanting to move, that we've had the meetings with, and Captain Underwood and I have met with them three or four weeks ago, they're looking at the beginning of 2018 to have stuff in place, so they're moving very quickly in Charlotte County, and they're wanting to move a substantial portion of the commercial into Lee County. One point two million square foot of the commercial, 1500 of the hotel rooms, a little over 1600 homes, and the ball fields, that's what they want to build in the Lee County portion. The Impact Fees alone, from what we wrote the letter for on the fire protection aspect, of that, I'll go over that a little bit more in the regular meeting, but, the Impact Fees alone on that are 2.5 million dollars. That wasn't even the ball fields, because I don't know what I get for ball fields, but I get something." Commissioner Ducrou states "But that's not recurring, you can't use that for recurring..." Chief agrees, "No I can't but the idea is if that's creating that in impact fees, usually the Ad Valorem dollars of those is higher; except when you get into residential. Residential is a flat rate no matter the size of the house. Captain Underwood states "They said they are looking at putting in a Development Order for the Lee County portion of it within the next few months and they'll be anywhere from a year to eighteen months in development order before they'll be able to turn dirt. And that's on the Lee County side. So we're a year and a half or two years out before we see buildings come out of the ground, and then another two years before we see, other than the impact fees, it'll be another year and a half, two years before we see..." Chief Nisbet states "Back to your concern Commissioner, I hate being on the SAFER grant, and I hate to rely on the SAFER grant, and I hate having to reapply for the SAFER grant, but right now it's the only mechanism I've got. And honestly I think, to provide the level of service we provide, we need to have four people on duty every day. So, that's what I'm going to be working on over this next year that are potential contingencies and stuff. What are we going to do? I think I've proven that I'm pretty good at writing SAFER grants, and as long as the money is there. and I've talked to the people up at SAFER, and there's other communities that are in the same boat that we are, but all the other departments that are in

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Preliminary Budget Hearing

September 8, 2016

Lee County that are currently on SAFER will probably not be on SAFER, so that would help us award wise because we won't have to compete with other agencies locally." Commissioner Ducrou asks "Well, they won't be on it, but are they going to re-apply? I mean there are Districts like South Trail that apply for it but don't necessarily, you know..." Chief Nisbet responds "What they applied for was new positions, but that doesn't, there's so much money that's allocated strictly for new positions in the grant. Fifteen percent of the SAFER grant has to go for new positions." Commissioner Ducrou asks "Is that what we got it under?" Chief Nisbet responds "No, we got ours under re-instatement for lay-offs. There's, the way SAFER works, there's a volunteer recruitment and retention section. There's a hire new employees, additional staffing section, and there's a re-hire lay-offs attritions or off-set the potential for lay-offs. That's where the largest portion of the funds that are currently in SAFER are at, and this upcoming allocation for SAFER has already been approved and allocated Federally, so it's already been passed; it's ready to go, it's a matter of getting processed." With a period of silence, Chief Nisbet invites any other questions on the budget. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Griffin calls for Public Input.

**Public Input** – Hearing none, Vice Chairman calls for motion to adopt the Tentative Millage Rate.

**Adopt Tentative Millage** –Commissioner Ducrou moves to adopt Resolution 2016-02 Tentative Millage Rate. Commissioner Mere seconds and with no further discussion and none opposed, motion is passed.

**Adopt Tentative Budget** – Commissioner Ducrou moves to adopt Resolution 2016-03 Tentative Budget. Commissioner Mere seconded the motion and with no further discussion and none opposed, motion passed.

**Public Input** – None

**Motion to Adjourn** – Commissioner Ducrou moves to adjourn the Tentative Budget Hearing. Commissioner Mere seconded. None opposed, Vice-Chairman Griffin adjourns the Preliminary Budget Hearing. Meeting adjourned 7:23pm.