
September 3, 2009 Public Hearing Minutes
FY 2009/10 Tentative Budget

September 3, 2009 Public Hearing on 2009-10 Tentative Budget

Present: Sam Johnson District No. 5, Chairman
Bob English District No. 1, Vice Chairman
Randy Wilkinson District No. 2
Edwin V. Smith District No. 3
Jean Reed District No. 4

Also Present: Mike Herr County Manager
Michael Craig County Attorney

The Board convened pursuant to adjournment taken on September 2, 2009.

CALL TO ORDER

1. [Commissioner Sam Johnson, Chairman](#)

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING (Michael Craig, County Attorney)

2. [Hearings are primarily for the purpose of explaining the budget, proposed tax levy, and any proposed amendments as well as affording the general public the opportunity to participate in the budget process.](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting stated the purpose of the public hearings is to review the proposed FY 2009/10 budget.

Todd Bond, Director of Budget and Management, explained the Agenda and its contents. He reviewed each section.

Chairman Johnson reiterated that the proposed millage rate is the same as last year and will not be increased.

Michael Craig, County Attorney, also reviewed the purpose of the public hearings.

DISCUSS PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES (Todd Bond, Budget & Management Services Director)

3. [Discuss the 2009/10 Board proposed tentative operating millage rate.](#)

Minutes: Todd Bond, Director of Management & Budget gave the following information: the Board proposed tentative operating millage rate of 7.9072 is a 0% decrease in property taxes. The rolled-back rate for 2009/10 is 7.9072 mills, and that is the millage rate exclusive of new construction, additions, and deletions which would provide the same ad valorem tax revenue as this year as well as modified for the growth in Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) value. The 2009/10 proposed tentative operating millage of 7.9072 produces \$239,504,499 in ad valorem tax revenue, which is the same amount as produced at the rolled-back rate of 7.9072. The proposed tentative operating millage of 7.9072 is 1.1007 mills higher than the prior year operating millage.

The 2009/10 proposed tentative operating millage of 7.9072 is levied for four funds:

	<u>FY09 Mills</u>	<u>FY10 Mills</u>
General Fund	5.6665	6.7672
Land Mgmt Trust Fund	0.0800	0.1300
Land Acquisition Trust Fund	0.0600	0.0100
Transportation	<u>1.0000</u>	<u>1.0000</u>
Total Proposed Tentative Operating Millage	6.8065	7.9072

4. [Requests from public to speak in regard to the Board's proposed tentative operating millage rate.](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman opened a public hearing.

Jean Cobb said she understands the County only millage rate is almost 16%. She questioned whether the homestead exemptions are good because money is lost and the

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millage rate is then increased. She asked that the millage rate be lowered and the exemptions be discontinued.

Jim Grasse said he lives in Lakeland. He discussed a number of reasons not to increase taxes. He mentioned that Social Security will not be giving a raise for two years. He discussed unemployment.

John Norris said when his family moved here, the taxes were reasonable. He said the Board is running the retired people out of Florida.

Wally Rahnstock said he lives in Solivita and asked about the increase in revenue grants. Mike Herr, County Manager, explained the grants.

Jason Brown said he lives in Lakeland. He said if money coming into the County has not been allocated properly, don't put in on the backs of taxpayers. He said the tradition of Polk County is sliding away.

Truman McGill said he is a resident of Winter Haven. He mentioned Amendment One and he said what is here now is because of that. He said this could have been avoided if we said no to Amendment One. He said things are changing in his older days. He asked if there could be an appeal of Amendment One.

Robert Zombardy said he lives in Poinciana. He said he has no idea what a rolled back rate is and asked for an explanation. Chairman Johnson explained the concept.

Roger Home asked several questions regarding his tax statement. He said his taxes to the general fund went up \$400 on one of his properties. He said the other taxes are the same. Chairman Johnson explained the tax rates.

Chuck Lundy said he is president of Swiss Village, an over 55 age group. He said the property taxes increased a great deal. He said people living on social security wonder why their taxes have gone up.

John Johnson mentioned the tourist tax dollars and questioned why the tax collector would send a letter requesting payment. Mr. Herr offered to research this for him.

Clinton Dyer said the average citizen is not as informed as the Board. He said he is aware of what is happening, but the people cannot afford what the Board does. He said people adjust their budgets according to their income and the Board needs to do that.

Commissioner Reed read a letter from Lynn Dell stating she was "appalled that impact fees were cut for builders. She does not want to pay for give-away to builders, and the infrastructure needs in her area are huge."

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

5. [Discuss 2009/10 proposed tentative millage rate for the Polk County Parks Municipal Services Taxing Unit \(MSTU\).](#)

Minutes:

Todd Bond, Director of Budget & Management Services, stated the following:
The 2009/10 proposed tentative millage rate for the Polk County Parks Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) of 0.4978 mills is a 0% decrease in property taxes. The rolled-back rate for 2009/10 is 0.4978 mills, and that is the millage rate exclusive of new construction, additions, and deletions which would provide the same ad valorem tax revenue as this year as well as modified for the growth in CRA value. The 2009/10 proposed tentative millage of 0.4978 produces \$9,087,476 in ad valorem tax revenue, which is the same amount as produced at the rolled-back rate of 0.4978.

6. [Requests from the public to speak to the proposed tentative millage rate for the Polk County Parks MSTU.](#)

Minutes: The Chairman opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

7. [Discuss the 2009/10 proposed tentative millage rate for the Polk County Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit \(MSTU\).](#)

Minutes:

Todd Bond, Director of Budget & Management, stated the following: The 2009/10 proposed tentative millage rate for the Polk County Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) of 0.2488 mills is a 0% decrease in property taxes. The rolled-back rate for 2009/10 is 0.2488 mills. That is the millage rate exclusive of new construction, additions, and deletions which would provide the same ad valorem tax revenue as this year as well as modified for the growth in CRA value. The 2009/10 proposed tentative millage of 0.2488 produces \$4,541,912 in ad valorem tax revenue, which is the same amount as produced at the rolled-back rate of 0.2488.

8. [Requests from the public to speak in regard to the proposed tentative millage rate for the Polk County Library MSTU.](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman opened a public hearing.

Glen Reynolds questioned whether there was a sunset clause on the Library MSTU, and Mr. Herr said no.

Richard Hernandez said he lives in Solivita. He said the internet is readily available and most families have at least one computer which is causing a decline in the use of libraries.

Commissioner English said 51% of the public do not have computers and the use of libraries is increasing because the libraries have computers.

The Chairman closed the public hearing, and discussion followed.

Commissioner Reed asked if the speakers will be answered or should they contact Board members individually. Discussion followed on impact fees.

9. [Discuss the 2009/10 proposed tentative Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service millage rate.](#)

Minutes:

Todd Bond, Director of Management & Budget, stated the following: In November 1994, the voters approved a referendum providing up to 0.2000 mills for debt service required for the purchase of Environmentally Sensitive Lands. To date the Board approved a short-term borrow of \$14.0 million to accelerate the purchase of Environmentally Sensitive Lands. The loan proceeds are to be repaid with 0.0600 mills of the 0.2000 mills. Because the debt will be repaid with a voter approved millage, it will be reported and collected as Voted Debt Service not Operating Millage. The 2009/10 proposed tentative Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service millage of 0.0600 produces \$1,817,365 in ad valorem tax revenue.

10. [Requests from the public to speak in regard to the proposed tentative Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service millage rate.](#)

Minutes: The Chairman opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

DISCUSS PROPOSED TENTATIVE BUDGET (Todd Bond, Budget & Management Services Director)

11. [Discuss the 2009/10 proposed tentative budget totalling \\$1,612,347,876.](#)

Minutes: Todd Bond, Director of Management & Budget, stated the total fiscal year 2009/10 proposed tentative budget is the \$1,612,347,876, and includes all funds.

12. [Requests from public to speak in regard to the proposed tentative budget.](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

Jim Grasse said the reason why Amendment One passed with such vigor is because Boards like this one did not listen to the people. He mentioned a 25% tax increase and said it appears that 60% of the Board is intent on increasing the taxes.

Jason Brown said the year of the tax increase when the millage went up 25%, \$7 billion in additional taxable revenue was brought in and the Board saw fit to go up another 25% in millage. Discussion followed.

Glen Reynolds said he was part of the Budget for Outcomes (BFO) project and questioned whether Healthy Families money was restored. Commissioner Smith reported that some of the funding was restored to Healthy Families.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

13. [Discuss the 2009/10 Polk County Parks MSTU proposed tentative budget totalling \\$43,651,364.](#)

Minutes: Todd Bond, Director of Management & Budget, stated that the 2009/10 Polk County Parks MSTU proposed tentative budget totals \$43,651,364, and of this amount \$7,316,805 is taxes.

14. [Requests from the public to speak in regard to the Polk County Parks MSTU proposed tentative budget.](#)

Minutes: The Chairman opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

15. [Discuss the 2009/10 Polk County Library MSTU proposed tentative budget totalling \\$4,453,402.](#)

Minutes:

Todd Bond, Director of Management & Budget, stated that the 2009/10 Polk County Library MSTU proposed tentative budget totals \$4,453,402, and of this amount, \$3,657,536 is taxes.

16. [Requests from the public to speak in regard to the Polk County Library MSTU proposed tentative budget.](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman opened a public hearing.

Susan Raft said she lives in Solivita and the Library MSTU is \$4 million and Parks MSTU is \$43 million. She asked if that is for building new parks. Mr. Herr responded to her question and explained the Library Cooperative as well as the Parks MSTU.

Ms. Raft said that is a lot of money for parks.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

17. [Discuss the 2009/10 Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service proposed tentative budget totalling \\$4,984,703.](#)

Minutes: Todd Bond, Director of Management & Budget, stated that the 2009/10 Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service proposed tentative budget totals \$4,984,703, and of this amount, \$1,726,497 is taxes.

18. [Requests from the public to speak in regard to the Environmental Lands Voted Debt Debt Service proposed tentative budget.](#)

Minutes: The Chairman opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

SET THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES

19. [Request Board set the Board of County Commissioners tentative operating millage rate for 2009/10.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the tentative operating millage rate for 2009-/0.

Motions:

Adopt the tentative operating millage rate of 6.8065 mills, which is a 13.92% decrease under the rolled-back rate of 7.9072. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Bob English

Second: Jean Reed

Bob English - Aye

Sam Johnson - Aye

Jean Reed - Aye

Edwin Smith - Aye

Randy Wilkinson - Aye

20. [Request Board set the tentative millage rate for 2009/10 Polk County Parks MSTU.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the tentative millage rate for 2009/10 Polk County Parks MSTU.

Motions:

Adopt the tentative millage rate of 0.4219 mills for the Polk County Parks MSTU, which is a 15.25% decrease under the rolled-back rate of 0.4978. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jean Reed

Second: Edwin Smith

Bob English	- Aye
Sam Johnson	- Aye
Jean Reed	- Aye
Edwin Smith	- Aye
Randy Wilkinson	- Aye

21. [Request Board set the tentative millage rate for 2009/10 Polk County Library MSTU.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the tentative millage rate for 2009/10 Polk County Library MSTU.

Motions:

Adopt the tentative millage rate of 0.2109 mills for the Polk County Library MSTU, which is a 15.23% decrease under the rolled-back rate of 0.2488. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Edwin Smith

Second: Jean Reed

Bob English	- Aye
Sam Johnson	- Aye
Jean Reed	- Aye
Edwin Smith	- Aye
Randy Wilkinson	- Aye

22. [Request Board set the tentative millage for Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the tentative millage rate for the Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service.

Motions:

Adopt the Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service tentative millage rate of 0.0600. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Randy Wilkinson

Second: Jean Reed

Bob English - Aye

Sam Johnson - Aye

Jean Reed - Aye

Edwin Smith - Aye

Randy Wilkinson - Aye

SET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET

23. [Request Board set the 2009/10 tentative budget of \\$43,651,364 for the Polk County Parks MSTU.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested the Board set the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$43,651,364 for the Polk County Parks MSTU.

Motions:

Adopt the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$43,651,364 for the Polk County Parks MSTU which is included in the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$1,612,347,876. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Edwin Smith

Second: Jean Reed

Bob English - Aye

Sam Johnson - Aye

Jean Reed	- Aye
Edwin Smith	- Aye
Randy Wilkinson	- Aye

24. [Request Board set the 2009/10 tentative budget of \\$4,453,402 for the Polk County Library MSTU.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$4,453,402 for the Polk County Library MSTU.

Motions:

Adopt the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$4,453,402 for the Polk County Library MSTU which is included in the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$1,612,347,876. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jean Reed

Second: Edwin Smith

Bob English - Aye

Sam Johnson - Aye

Jean Reed - Aye

Edwin Smith - Aye

Randy Wilkinson - Aye

25. [Request Board set the 2009/10 tentative budget of \\$4,984,703 for the Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$4,984,703 for the Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service.

Motions:

Adopt the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$4,984,703 for the Environmental Lands Voted Debt Service which is included in the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$1,612,347,876. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Randy Wilkinson

Second: Jean Reed	
Bob English	- Aye
Sam Johnson	- Aye
Jean Reed	- Aye
Edwin Smith	- Aye
Randy Wilkinson	- Aye

26. [Request Board set the tentative budget of \\$1,612,347,876 for 2009/10.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the tentative budget of \$1,612,347,876 for 2009/10 .

Motions:

Adopt the 2009/10 tentative budget of \$1,612,347,876.	- PASS
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Vote Results

Motion: Randy Wilkinson

Second: Edwin Smith

Bob English	- Aye
Sam Johnson	- Aye
Jean Reed	- Aye
Edwin Smith	- Aye
Randy Wilkinson	- Aye

SET THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING DATE/TIME

27. [Set date, time and place for the final public hearing.](#)

Minutes: Chairman Johnson requested that the Board set the date, time and place for the public hearing to adopt a final millage rate and budget.

Motions:

Set date, time, and place for the public hearing to

adopt a final millage rate and budget as
September 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the
Commission Board Room.

- PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Randy Wilkinson

Second: Edwin Smith

Bob English

- Aye

Sam Johnson

- Aye

Jean Reed

- Aye

Edwin Smith

- Aye

Randy Wilkinson

- Aye

ADJOURNMENT