

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.  
Jack Durrance Auditorium  
County Administration Building  
12 Southeast First Street  
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met in special session.

**PRESENT:** Chair Ken Cornell, presiding, Vice-Chair Lee Pinkoson, Commissioners Mike Byerly, Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, IV, and Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Lee Niblock, Assistant County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Deputy County Manager James Harriott, Assistant County Manager Tommy Crosby, Assistant County Manager Carl Smart, Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

#### Approval of Agenda

1. Approve the agenda

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** A Motion to Approve the Agenda: (a) approve any amendments to the Agenda; and (b) adopt the Agenda.

**Commissioner Pinkoson moved** adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Chestnut out of the room.

Commissioner Chestnut entered at 1:32 p.m.

#### ACTION ITEMS

#### Office of Management and Budget

2. Fire assessment decision

**Fiscal Consideration:** Per the Board direction, the FY18 Tentative Budget is being prepared with the elimination of Ad Valorem taxes (MSTU) to fund fire services and is replaced with a Fire Assessment (MSBU). The Fire Assessment necessary to replace the MSTU Ad Valorem taxes will be \$13,008,200 at 95% of charged fee.

**Recommended Action:** Direct staff on the Implementation of a Fire Assessment and identify the rates to include in the Tentative Budget, and notice impacted property owners in accordance with TRIM and Florida Statute.

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.

County Manager Niblock, Assistant County Manager Crosby, and Chair Cornell presented comments.

Alachua County Fire Chief Bill Northcutt and Stantec Consultant Erick van Malssen presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Pinkoson, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Chestnut, Chief Northcutt, Chair Cornell, Chief Northcutt, Commissioner Chestnut, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Commissioner Hutchinson, Stantec Consultant Erick van Malssen, Assistant County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Chief Northcutt, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Pinkoson, Commissioner Chestnut, Assistant County Attorney Torres, County Manager Niblock, Chair Cornell, and Commissioner Pinkoson presented comments.

**Commissioner Pinkoson moved** to direct to staff to proceed with the implementation of the fire assessment and identify the rates to include in the tentative budget and those impacted property owners in the TRIM Notice in accordance with Florida Statute.

1. Exempt Churches except for business related areas on the parcels such as schools and daycares.
2. The County is to create a hardship fund utilizing a program similar to the solid waste hardship program.
3. Exempt non-profits.
4. Eliminate the Fire MSTU.

**The motion failed for a lack of a second.**

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved** to direct to staff to proceed with the implementation of the fire assessment and identify the rates to include in the tentative budget and those impacted property owners in the TRIM Notice in accordance with Florida Statute.

1. The County is to create a hardship fund utilizing a program similar to the solid waste hardship program.
2. Eliminate the Fire MSTU.

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.

Commissioner Byerly, Assistant County Manager Carl Smart, Fire Chief Northcutt, Assistant County Manager Carl Smart, Commissioner Chestnut, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Hutchinson, Stantec Consultant Erick van Malssen, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Chestnut, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Chief Northcutt, Assistant County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Assistant County Manager Carl Smart,

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved the amended motion** to direct to staff to proceed with the implementation of the fire assessment and identify the rates to include in the tentative budget and those impacted property owners in the TRIM Notice in accordance with Florida Statute.

1. Exempt Churches except for business related areas on the parcels such as schools and daycares.
2. The County is to create a hardship fund utilizing a program similar to the solid waste hardship program. Notice of the program will be included in the tax notice.
3. Exempt non-profits that provide a public benefit.
4. Eliminate the Fire MSTU.

Assistant County Manager Carl Smart amended motion Stantec Consultant Erick van Malssen, County Manager Niblock, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Consultant Erick van Malssen, and Commissioner Hutchinson presented comments.

(The motion was divided for the purposes of voting.)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved** to direct to staff to proceed with the implementation of the fire assessment and identify the rates to include in the tentative budget and notice those impacted property owners in the TRIM Notice in accordance with Florida Statute.

**The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Byerly and Chestnut “Nay”.**

1. Exempt Churches and burial grounds as classified by the Property Appraiser's Office. Exempt charitable organizations as classified by the Property Appraiser's Office.

**The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Byerly and Hutchinson voting “Nay”.**

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.

2. The County is to create a hardship fund utilizing a program similar to the solid waste hardship program. Notice of the program will be included in the tax notice.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

3. Eliminate the Fire MSTU.

**The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Byerly and Chestnut voting “Nay”.**

Jerry Rosenberg Jancie Vinson, Waldo City Manager Kim Worley Jim Dubois, Donald Shepherd, and Brett Sandlin presented comments.

**Commissioner Byerly moved** to direct that staff work throughout the year to develop methods to ameliorate the financial impacts on those at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum and bring the recommendations to the Board in time for next year’s budget.

Chair Cornell recognized Jancie Vinson who presented comments to the Board.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

County Manager Niblock inquired of the Board that based on the above passed motion is it the desire for the Board to push the Fire Assessment to a as progressive assessment as legally possible.

By consensus the Board stated that did wish to push the bonds of the Fire Assessment.

### CLOSING COMMENTS

3. Public comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear Public Comments

Jerry Rosenberg, Jancie Vinson, Viera Damron, Joyce Ellis, Donald Shepherd, Mary Trevino presented comments regarding a pending annexation by the City of Gainesville of a piece of property off of Archer Road.

Assistant County Attorney Torres stated the County’s legal ability to be involved in an annexation of the City of Gainesville and advised the Board that staff is monitoring the annexation.

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson advised the citizens that the County is limited as to what it can do in an annexation. He advised citizens that there are legal avenues that citizens can do to protect their land and encouraged them to do so.

Commissioner Pinkoson exited at 4:30 p.m.

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved** to pass a Proclamation terminating the local State of Emergency resulting in the Burn Ban. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Pinkoson out of the room.

4. Commission comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear Commission comments

Commissioner Chestnut stated that he received a pack of letters from a local school in reference to the environmental impacts of plastic shopping bags. He stated that he would like to see what if any role the County can assist in this matter.

**Commissioner Chestnut moved** to refer to the County Manager regarding what options are available to the County to regulate plastic bags.

Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton, Assistant County Attorney Torres, Mr. Rosenberg presented comments.

**The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Pinkoson out of the room.**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 P.M.