

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Tentative Budget Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County
546 NW University Boulevard, Suite 201 -- Board Room
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34986
Meeting time: 5:15 p.m.

MINUTES

I CALLED TO ORDER: 5:15 p.m. by Chairperson Kathryn Hensley.

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III MISSION STATEMENT Read by Chairperson Kathryn Hensley; *"The mission of the Children's Services Council is to improve the quality of life for all children in St. Lucie County."*

IV ROLL CALL: Quorum established.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Chairperson **Kathryn Hensley** (*School Board Member*); Vice Chair **Queen Townsend** (*Governor Appointed*); Secretary **Garry Wilson** (*Governor Appointed*); **Paula A. Lewis** (*County Commissioner*); **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*); **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*); and **Candice Loupe** (*Governor Appointed*).

COUNCIL ABSENT: **Genelle Yost** (*Interim Superintendent of Schools*); **Lorrene Egan** (*Department of Children & Families*); and (*Circuit Judge – position vacant*).

OTHERS PRESENT: **Sean Boyle** (*Executive Director*); **Dori DiToro** (*Director of Finance & Human Resources*); **Jim Dwyer** (*Director of Programs*); **Tonya Andreacchio** (*Capacity Building Coordinator*); **Erin Craig** (*Fiscal/Human Resources Specialist*); **Sandy Mack** (*Program Specialist*); **Ashley Mock** (*Communications Coordinator*); **Paula Rivera** (*Office Manager/Transcriber*); **Dee Torres** (*Administrative Assistant*); **Glen Torcivia** (*CSC Attorney*); and 0 members of Public in attendance. Reference attendance sheet for specifics.

NOTICE: *The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County maintains an audio record of all monthly Council meetings and public hearings. The written summarized minutes of the meetings are concise and become the official minutes after approval by the Council. Any person seeking to appeal any decision by the Children's Services Council, with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, is advised that a record of the proceeding is required in any such appeal and that such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

V MEETING PURPOSE AND MILLAGE RATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairperson Kathryn Hensley addressed Council, Staff and Public present explaining this meeting's purpose. This meeting is the first (tentative) Public Hearing for the FY 2013/2014 budget year. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to adopt the tentative millage rate and the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2013/2014. At this hearing, the Council must accomplish the following procedural items in the order given.

The proposed millage rate of .4872 is more than the Rolled-back Rate of .4678. The current year proposed millage rate as a percent change of Rolled-back Rate is 4.15%. By definition, the Rolled-back Rate is the rate that would generate the same dollar amount of tax revenues as generated in the prior year.

Children's Services Council has projected its budget for the next three years and has determined that both the maintenance of revenues and the use of reserves will be necessary to maintain program services for the upcoming fiscal years. Additionally, both program and operations budgets will need to be cut to weather the current and projected economic conditions. For Fiscal Year 2013/2014, the total budget was cut by 1.4%. The Fiscal Year 2013/2014 total budget is 18.5% less than the Fiscal Year 2007/2008 total budget. For the same time span, Operations Budget cuts were 26% and Program Budget cuts were 18.5%. The level of program and operations funding in future years will be dependent on updated revenue projections.

In FY 2009/2010, the proposed millage rate was set at .4872 after much analysis and deliberation of projected needs and projected resources. This .4872 millage rate has been maintained since then. This proposed millage rate of .4872 for FY 2013/2014 will provide \$349,759 more in revenues than the same millage rate provided in FY 2012/2013. The FY 2013/2014 budget is balanced by budget cuts and utilization of reserves.

CSC is committed to continue funding children's programs and to maintain the level of program services to children in St. Lucie County. For the period from 2000 through 2012, St. Lucie County experienced a 44% population increase. In the same time frame, the Children's Services Council has increased the number of children it has been able to positively impact from 13,106 in 2000 to 32,402 in 2012.

The Council received funding requests from 53 continuing programs for FY 2013/2014 all of which were approved. In comparison, 28 programs were funded for FY 1999/2000.

Examples of tax payer cost at the tentative millage rate of .4872 for homesteaded and non-homesteaded residential properties utilizing the current average appraised home value of \$102,000 are:

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$102,000 to which a \$50,000 homestead exemption is applied resulting in a tax value of \$52,000, a homeowner would pay \$25.33 for FY 2013/2014 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$2.11 per month.

NO HOMESTEAD EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$102,000 to which no homestead exemption applies, a homeowner would pay \$49.69 for FY 2013/2014 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$4.14 per month.

The volunteer Council has worked diligently to address the needs of St. Lucie County children. The Council has the authorization of the electorate to raise up to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (.50 mills). This year the rate will be maintained at 48.72 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Commissioner Lewis arrived at 5:18 p.m. during the CSC Chair's narrative related to meeting purpose and millage.

VI OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public present in attendance for commentary.

VII AMEND OR ADOPT TENTATIVE MILLAGE

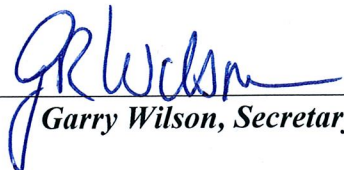
Ms. Lawless motioned to adopt the tentative millage rate of .4872 for fiscal year 2013/2014. Chief Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 7/0.

VIII AMEND OR ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET

Ms. Loupe motioned to adopt the tentative budget fiscal year 2013/2014. Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 7/0.

IX ADJOURNMENT 5:21 p.m.

Approved by: _____


Garry Wilson, Secretary

Date: _____

9-18-13