

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Final Budget Public Hearing
Wednesday, September 17, 2014

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 **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*); Secretary **Garry Wilson** (*Governor Appointed*); **Charles A. Schwab** (*Circuit Juvenile Judge*); **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*); **Amy Gregory** (*Department of Children & Families*); **Paula A. Lewis** (*County Commissioner*); **Candice Loupe** (*Governor Appointed*); and **Jason Matson** (*Governor Appointed*).

COUNCIL ABSENT: **Genelle Yost** (*Superintendent of Schools*).

OTHERS PRESENT: **Sean Boyle** (*Executive Director*); **Dori DiToro** (*Director of Finance and Human Resources*); **Jim Dwyer** (*Director of Programs*); **Erin Craig** (*Fiscal/Human Resources Specialist*); **Sandy Mack** (*Program Specialist*); **Tonya Andreacchio** (*Capacity Building Coordinator*); **Paula Rivera** (*Office Manager/Transcriber*); **Dee Torres** (*Administrative Assistant*); and four (4) 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 second (final) Public Hearing for the FY 2014/2015 budget year. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to adopt the final millage rate and the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. At this hearing, the Council must accomplish the following procedural items in the order given.

The proposed millage rate of .4765 is less than the Rolled-back Rate of .4771. The current year proposed millage rate as a percent change of Rolled-back Rate is -0.13%. 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 at the current spending level for the upcoming fiscal years. For Fiscal Year 2014/2015, the total budget was maintained at the same spending level as Fiscal Year 2013/2014. 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 through the current fiscal year. The proposed millage rate for FY 2014/2015 is .4765 and will provide \$111,988 more in revenues than the .4872 millage rate provided in FY 2013/2014. The FY 2014/2015 expenses are maintained at current levels and are provided for utilizing a lower millage rate and reserves.

CSC is committed to continue funding children's programs and to maintain the level of program services to children in St. Lucie County. Children's Services Council was able to positively impact 34,444 children in fiscal year 2012/2013 which is up from the 32,402 children impacted in fiscal year 2011/2012. The Council received funding requests from 52 continuing programs for FY 2014/2015 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 .4765 for homesteaded and non-homesteaded residential properties utilizing the current average appraised home value of \$108,000 are:

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$108,000 to which a \$50,000 homestead exemption is applied resulting in a tax value of \$58,000, a homeowner would pay \$27.64 for FY 2014/2015 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$2.30 per month.

NO HOMESTEAD EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$108,000 to which no homestead exemption applies, a homeowner would pay \$51.46 for FY 2014/2015 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$4.29 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 47.65 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

VI OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Al Jacks addressed the CSC board expressing his profound appreciation for funding to the Castle and on the importance of CSC's existence in the St. Lucie County community. Ms. Lynne Schicker addressed

similar thoughts as expressed by Mr. Jacks in relation to CSC's funding of the Hibiscus Children's Center and CSC's good works throughout the community and the well over 34,000 children it serves in St. Lucie County.

VII AMEND OR ADOPT FINAL MILLAGE

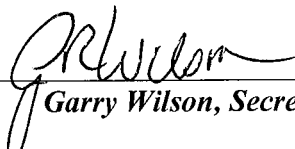
Chief Wilson motioned to adopt the final millage rate of .4765 for fiscal year 2014/2015. Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 9/0 via Roll Call vote.

VIII AMEND OR ADOPT FINAL BUDGET

Ms. Loupe motioned to adopt the final budget fiscal year 2014/2015. Mr. Matson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 9/0 via Roll Call vote.

IX ADJOURNMENT 5:20 p.m.

Approved by: _____


Garry Wilson, Secretary

Date: _____

10-9-14