

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Tentative Budget Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

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: 5:17 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*); **Wayne Gent** (*Superintendent of Schools*); **Michael Heisey** (*Circuit Juvenile Judge*); **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*); **Eric Finkel** (*Governor Appointed*) and **Amy Gregory** (*Department of Children & Families*).

COUNCIL PRESENT REMOTELY: Secretary **Candice Loupe** (*Governor Appointed*); and **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*).

COUNCIL ABSENT: **Paula A. Lewis** (*County Commissioner*) and **Vacant Position** (*of Jason Matson*).

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 1 member 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 MOTION TO PERMIT COUNCIL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY

Motion was made to permit two Council members, Ms. Loupe and Ms. Lawless, to participate by phone due to extraordinary circumstances which didn't allow for them to be present.

Ms. Alley motioned to accept the remote participation of two Council members, Ms. Loupe and Ms. Lawless, for this meeting's attendance and their action to vote. Mr. Gent seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6/0.

VI 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 2015/2016 budget year. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to adopt the tentative millage rate and the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016. At this hearing, the Council must accomplish the following procedural items in the order given.

The proposed millage rate of .4765 is greater than the Rolled-back Rate of .4585. The current year proposed millage rate as a percent change of Rolled-back Rate is 3.93%. 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 2015/2016, the total budget was maintained at the same spending level as Fiscal Year 2014/2015. 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 was maintained through FY 2013/2014. The millage rate for FY 2014/2015 was .4765 and that millage rate will be maintained for FY 2015/2016 and will provide \$343,233 more in revenues than was budgeted in FY 2014/2015.

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 34,864 children in fiscal year 2013/2014 which is up from the 34,444 children impacted in fiscal year 2012/2013. The Council received funding requests from 48 continuing programs for FY 2015/2016 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 \$120,000 are:

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$120,000 to which a \$50,000 homestead exemption is applied resulting in a tax value of \$70,000, a homeowner would pay \$33.36 for FY 2015/2016 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$2.78 per month.

NO HOMESTEAD EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$120,000 to which no homestead exemption applies, a homeowner would pay \$57.18 for FY 2015/2016 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$4.77 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.

VII OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No commentary received from public in attendance.

VIII AMEND OR ADOPT TENTATIVE MILLAGE

Ms. Alley motioned to adopt the tentative millage rate of .4765 for fiscal year 2015/2016 via Resolution 15-02. Mr. Gent seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0 via Roll Call vote.

IX AMEND OR ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mr. Gent motioned to adopt the tentative budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 via Resolution 15-03. Ms. Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 8/0 via Roll Call vote.

X ADJOURNMENT 5:26 p.m.

Approved by: _____

Candice Loupe
Candice Loupe, Secretary

Date: _____

10/8/15

