

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

**Final Budget Public Hearing**  
Wednesday, September 16, 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: 5:16 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*); Secretary **Candice Loupe** (*Governor Appointed*); **Wayne Gent** (*Superintendent of Schools*); **Michael Heisey** (*Circuit Juvenile Judge*); **Paula A. Lewis** (*County Commissioner*); **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*); and **Eric Finkel** (*Governor Appointed*).

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** **Amy Gregory** (*Department of Children & Families*); **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*) and **Vacant Position** (*of Jason Matson*).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** **Sean Boyle** (*Executive Director*); **Dori DiToro** (*Director of Finance and Human Resources*); **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 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 2015/2016 budget year. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to adopt the final millage rate and the final 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 current year revenues and reserves will be used to provide for program services. For Fiscal Year 2015/2016, budgeted expenditures were increased 3.3% over the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget. 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 13/14. The millage rate for FY 2014/2015 was .4765 and that millage rate will be maintained for FY 15/16 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 provide 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.

## **VI OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No commentary received from public in attendance.

**VII AMEND OR ADOPT FINAL MILLAGE**

*Mr. Finkel motioned to adopt the final millage rate of .4765 for fiscal year 2015/2016 via Resolution 15-04. Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 7/0 via Roll Call vote.*

**VIII AMEND OR ADOPT FINAL BUDGET**

*Ms. Loupe motioned to adopt the final budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 via Resolution 15-05. Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 7/0 via Roll Call vote.*

*CSC attorney, Mr. Torcivia, arrived at 5:21 p.m. at the conclusion of this meeting.*

**IX ADJOURNMENT 5:21 p.m.**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Candice Loupe*  
Candice Loupe, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*10/8/15*