

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

## Tentative Budget Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

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 **Marilyn Lawless** (*Governor Appointed*); **Linda Bartz** (*County Commissioner*); **Wayne Gent** (*Superintendent of Schools*); **Amy Gregory** (*Department of Children & Families*); **Michael Heisey** (*Circuit Juvenile Judge*); **Richard Del Toro** (*Governor Appointed*); **Eric Finkel** (*Governor Appointed*) and **Carmine Izzo** (*Governor Appointed*).

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Secretary **Pat Alley** (*Governor Appointed*).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** **Sean Boyle** (*Executive Director*); **Dori DiToro** (*Director of Finance and Human Resources*); **Jim Dwyer** (*Director of Programs*); **Ashley Mock** (*Director of Community Engagement*); **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 0 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 all present explaining this meeting's purpose. This meeting is the first (tentative) Public Hearing for the FY 2017/2018 budget year. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to adopt the tentative millage rate and the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018. 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 .4486. The current year proposed millage rate as a percent change of Rolled-back Rate is 6.22%. 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 2017/2018, budgeted expenditures were increased 5.8% over the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 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 2013/2014. The millage rate for FY 2014/2015 was .4765 and that millage rate will be maintained for FY 2017/18 and will provide \$611,722 more in revenues than was budgeted in FY 2016/2017.

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 41,030 individual children in Fiscal Year 2015/2016 compared to the 31,148 children impacted in Fiscal Year 2014/2015. The Council received funding requests from a total of 53 programs for FY 2017/2018 of which 51 were approved. These 51 programs were approved based on their ability to address community needs.

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 \$157,500 are:

**HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION EXAMPLE:** For a home valued at \$157,500 to which a \$50,000 homestead exemption is applied resulting in a tax value of \$107,500, a homeowner would pay \$51.22 for FY 2017/2018 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$4.27 per month.

**NO HOMESTEAD EXAMPLE:** For a home valued at \$157,500 to which no homestead exemption applies, a homeowner would pay \$75.05 for FY 2017/2018 to provide for children's services. This total equates to \$6.25 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 public in attendance for commentary.

## **VII AMEND OR ADOPT TENTATIVE MILLAGE**

*Superintendent Gent motioned to adopt the tentative millage rate of .4765 for fiscal year 2017/2018 via Resolution 17-01. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 9/1 abstained – Judge Heisey via Roll Call vote.*

**VIII AMEND OR ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET**

*Superintendent Gent motioned to adopt the tentative budget for fiscal year 2017/2018 via Resolution 17-02. Ms. Lawless seconded the motion. Motion carried 9/0 via Roll Call vote.*

**IX ADJOURNMENT 5:24 p.m.**

Approved by: Patricia Alley  
*Pat Alley, Secretary*

Date: 10/12/17