

## Minutes for the July 26, 2011

5:15 p.m. Public Hearing to Adopt the 2011-12 Tentative Millage Rate and Budget.

## 1. Call to Order.

## 1.01 Call to Order.

*Hearing called to order at 5:17 p.m.*

## 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

## 1.03 Roll Call

*Roll Call: Trevor Tucker, Present  
Colleen Conklin, Present  
Andy Dance, Present  
John Fischer, Present  
Sue Dickinson, Present*

## 2. Summary Tentative Millage/Budget Present

## 2.01 Summary Tentative Millage Presentation.

*Tom D. Tant, Chief Financial Officer, described the Truth In Millage (TRIM) timeline set by the Florida Department of Revenue. The TRIM workbook outlines the exact format needed for each newspaper advertisement. All 67 school districts had the same type of advertisement per Truth In Millage in their local newspapers. The TRIM invites taxpayers to participate in the local TRIM process used to levy ad valorem (property) taxes. The statutes provide for public participation and for the governing body of the taxing authority to explain the reasons for the proposed changes in millage and budget. This year's State Law Required Local Effort is 5.533 mills, as compared to last year's State Law RLE of 5.515. The Tax revenue generated from this year's State Law RLE is \$38,981,099, or a reduction of local tax revenues of \$5,883,881 as compared to last year's RLE tax revenue of \$44,864,980. The Capital Outlay Millage is 1.5 mills, the Discretionary Operating Millage is 0.748, and the voted Critical Operating Millage is 0.25 mills – all the same as last year. In summary, this year's local tax revenues generated by our tentative millage total of 8.031 mills is \$56,580,012 or a reduction of local tax revenues of \$8,606,404 – a 13.2% reduction in local taxes. The members of the Revenue Estimating Conference, made up of the economists and staff from the Department of Revenue, Governor's Office and the House and Senate, not the county tax appraisers, establish the taxable value for school purposes used to project the RLE millage used in the first calculation or the final conference report. By July 19, the Department of Revenue is required to receive and certify the taxable value of property for schools purposes. The Commissioner of Education is required to set the millage rates necessary to generate from the certified tax rolls the revenue specified for the State Required Local Effort set by the General Appropriations Act. School boards are required to advertise the proposed tentative millage rates, a proposed tentative budget, and hold a first public hearing on the budget, which is what we are doing tonight. By September school boards per the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes TRIM Notice has the second and final public meeting adopting the millage rates and the budget. That hearing is scheduled for September 6, 2011 at 5:15 p.m., and will be held here in the Board Room at the Government Service Building. After the public hearing the school board must adopt the millage rates and the budget.*

## 2.02 Summary Tentative Budget Presentation

*In December of the previous year, school districts prepare and submit the student projections for this year. If students don't show up for the first week of October, we don't get paid for that student for the first half of the school year; same with the second count. If our students don't show up, we have to send a check back to Tallahassee. We had over a ten million dollar reduction this year. We must maintain our services to our students, regardless of budget cuts. Revenues are going down, while student enrollment is going up. Ms. Dickinson injected that Flagler County did make Class Size last year. If we don't, the State reduces our funding. The middle school/high school schedule change will save two million dollars this year. We are an A district. Our teachers and staff are top-notch. We have to balance our budget.*

*Reductions: Transportation blended/eliminated 5 bus routes for a savings of \$300,000; we have reduced our electrical costs by utilizing an Ice House at FPCHS. We make ice overnight and blow air over the ice during peak times to cool the schools; during the first week in July we furloughed our employees for a \$300,000 savings; at Pathways we reduced the budget \$250,000; printer management will save \$180,000. We will need to use 3.4 million dollars out of our fund balance to meet the budget. We can only do this for two years. We need to come up with more cuts to continue. We must save 2 ½ to 3 million dollars for next year. We are the largest employer in Flagler County; 13,100 employees by the end of this year. We have 8,200 computers, and two million square feet of building space. Capital Outlay funding went from 80 million dollars in 2006 to 9 million dollars this year; the Department of Transportation cut fuel funding this year. It costs \$3,000 per day for every penny per gallon in fuel increases. We are one of only five school districts that totally fund their School Food Service program; we use no tax money. The Federal Stimulus dollars are gone; the Debt Service funding has dropped. The half-penny sales tax funding is holding at 3.8 million dollars. It's very important since all other funds are dropping. We have lost 48% of our property tax assessment over the past four years. Eighty-one percent of our budget expense is for salaries and benefits. It's up to us to let our representatives in Tallahassee know what their actions are costing Flagler County.*

### 3. Recess to Public Hearing.

#### 3.01 Recess to Public Hearing.

*Recessed to Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.*

#### 3.02 Tentative Millage read by Superintendent Valentine.

*Tentative Millage Rates are read aloud for the record by Ms. Valentine.*

#### 3.03 Tentative Budget read by Superintendent Valentine.

*Tentative Budget information read aloud for the record by Ms. Valentine.*

#### 3.04 Public Comments.

*None offered.*

#### 3.05 Board Member /Comments.

*None offered.*

### 4. Close Public Hearing.

#### 4.01 Close Public Hearing.

*Public Hearing closed at 6:20 p.m.*

### 5. Reconvene to Public Session.

#### 5.01 Reconvene to Public Session.

### 6. Board Action Items.

6.01 Request Board approval of Resolution 11/12-02 to adopt the Tentative Millage Rate for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year.

*Motion (Mr. Tucker/Mr. Dance) for approval passed by unanimous decision.*

6.02 Request Board approval of Resolution 11/12-03 to adopt the Tentative Budget for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year.

*Motion (Ms. Conklin/Mr. Fischer) for approval carries unanimously.*

6.03 ACTION - Request Board approval of the worksheet for determining the Critical Operations Needs Millage by Super Majority Vote.

*Ms. Valentine read the worksheet for determining the Critical Operations Needs Millage by Super Majority Vote aloud for the record. Motion (Mr. Dance/Mr. Tucker) for approval passed unopposed.*

### 7. Discussion.

#### 7.01 Citizen Comments.

*Ray P. Ward commented that we are losing people and children in the schools – what do we do?*

*Christine Ward questioned why her school district taxes are higher. Mr. Dance stated it depends on the valuation of your home. On most homes bought after 2006, the value goes up 3% as well as the taxes.*

*Ms. Conklin added that in other states, your school district would receive local taxes to run the schools.*

*In Florida, it is totally different. The money goes to the State and is then divided up to all the districts. Mr. Fischer stated that he sat on the Value Adjustment Board and has learned that it depends on when you bought your house at \$100,000 that it is now valued at \$90,000.*

7.02 Board Member Comments.

*Ms. Conklin stated that Mr. Tant can go over what we have done to cut costs. Some comments: Where is the accountability for members of the State House? They need to stop mandating programs they won't fund. We will spend ten million dollars to fund Exceptional Student Education, but only get three million from the State and Federal Government. Class Size was approved by 60% of the State voters, but the State refuses to fund it. Adequate funding for high quality education is not being provided. Politicians pile unfunded programs on school districts. Stop mandating what you can't pay for. Article 9 of our State Legislation is about standing up for our students. Ms. Conklin closed with a thank you to the Flagler County taxpayers for supporting our schools through the half-penny sales tax. Mr. Tucker had no comments. Ms. Dickinson wanted to clarify that we really have not laid people off; we lost them through attrition.*

7.03 Superintendent Comments.

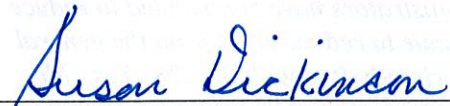
*None offered.*


8. Adjournment.

8.01 Adjournment.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.*

*Approved 08/16/2011*

  
Sue Dickinson, Chair

  
Janet Valentine, Superintendent