

TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING FOR FY END 09/30/24
ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Call to Order

Chairman Crittenden convened the Tentative Budget Hearing of the Alva Fire Control & Rescue Service District at 6:19 PM, September 12, 2023. There were sufficient Board members present to establish a quorum.

Commissioners in Attendance

Adam Crittenden
Henry Grant Fichter
Richard “Dick” Spence
Darren Watkins
Paul F. Meloy, Jr.

Also in Attendance

Brandon Kuhn, Chief
Sunny Sipes, Administrative Assistant
District Firefighters
Tim Jones - Vice President Local 1826
Chief Bobby Rewis - FMSFD
Jean Etcheverry - Union DVP

Discussion of Tentative Millage & Tentative Budget for FY end 09/30/24

- > Sunny Sipes, Administrative Specialist, presented to the Board the Tentative Budget for FY end 09/30/24. She stated that 95% of the total expected ad valorem proceeds have been budgeted for the fiscal year. She explained that there still remained a balance within the Contingency Fund line item for income that has not yet been allocated for expenditures. Sipes informed the Board that District Administration had inquired with a local health trainer on his availability to strengthen the Districts workout and training program. Due to multiple muscular strain/sprain injuries during the previous months, the District’s Safety Committee felt as though this was an important project for the health and safety of employees. She detailed Brian Bochette’s, Trainer’s, pricing, qualifications and obligations to the District. There are plans to enlarge and update the current physical training area within the station bay. Sipes initiated discussion on the fact that Lee County Property Appraiser, Matt Caldwell, calculated ad valorem proceeds after the homestead exemption reductions on property values for the upcoming fiscal year. This significantly reduced expected funding for all local fire districts. Commissioner Crittenden discussed reducing the applied value to the potential utility vehicle. Commissioner Watkins suggested leaving the value at \$90,000 and adjusting the funds when the purchase is actually discussed. Sipes informed the Board that a new Fire Chief’s salary needed to be discussed as well as previous discussions for Officer positions. Crittenden voiced his conversation with District Attorney Pringle that the Board needed to consider a Chief’s salary in the range of \$120,000-130,000. Commissioner Spence recommended leaving the Chief’s pay at the current salary rate. Discussion ensued on line item designations for the remaining fund balances. Commissioner Fichter suggested modifying the budget to reflect Chief Kuhn’s payout and creating a separate line item for the incoming Administrative staff member that could also embody the Contingency Funds. Tim Jones suggested labeling the new line item Administrative Personnel Services and suggested that Commissioners post a salary “range” for the Chief’s position. Commissioners suggested adding \$15,000 to the Repair & Maintenance line item and bringing the legal fee expenses to \$10,000 (copy attached hereto).

A call was made for public input by Chairman Crittenden

There was no public input.

Voting

- > Administrative Specialist, Sunny Sipes, presented and read aloud Resolution #23.09.01 concerning the Tentative Millage Rate for FY 2023-24.
- > A call was made to approve Resolution #23.09.01

Commissioner Watkins moved to adopt Resolution #23.09.01 (copy attached hereto) concerning the Tentative Millage Rate for FY 2023-24 of 3.7500 mills. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- > Administrative Specialist, Sunny Sipes, presented and read aloud Resolution #23.09.02 concerning the Tentative Budget for FY 2023-24.
- > A call was made to approve Resolution #23.09.02.

Commissioner Fichter moved to adopt Resolution #23.09.02 (copy attached hereto) concerning the Tentative Budget for FY 2023-24. Commissioner Spence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- > A call was made to set the date and time of the Final Hearing on the millage and budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Commissioner Watkins moved to set the date for the Final Millage & Budget Hearing for FY 2023-24 which shall be held on September 25, 2023, at 6:15 PM, 2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920. Commissioner Spence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fichter moved to adjourn the Tentative Budget Hearing for FY 2023-24. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Spence, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Crittenden closed the meeting at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Administrative Assistant

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members