

Commissioner Farrar called to order the scheduled Public Hearing of the Lee County Hyacinth Control District (LCHCD) on 09/08/2022 at 5:01 p.m. in the William Opp Training Center at the Districts' headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971.

PRESENT:

Seat 1- Commissioner Ed Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer

Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar, Chairman

Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis

Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen

Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Vice Chair

Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart

Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, not present

Legal Counsel- John Agnew

STAFF:

Executive Director- Dr. David Hoel

Assistant Director- Aaron Lloyd

Deputy Director, Public Information and Education- Eric Jackson

Deputy Director, Lee County Hyacinth Control District- Kevin Watts

Chief Financial Officer- Sean O'Neill

Human Resources Director- Jackie Small

IT Director- Keith Lowe

Senior Program Analyst- Thais Pineda Alfonso

Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler

HR Representative- Sabina Vilarchao

Commissioner Farrar announced that this is the Public Hearing to Adopt the Tentative Millage rate and a Tentative Budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board:

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISCUSSION: Executive Director Dr. David Hoel discussed the tentative millage rate of 0.0225 per \$1,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023. The tentative millage rate of 0.0225 mills is more than the rolled

back rate of 0.0208 by 8.17%. The Tentative Budget for Lee County Hyacinth Control District for fiscal year 2022-2023 is \$3,909,680.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bowen remarked: regarding the increased expenses, is our price for the chemicals locked in? Deputy Director Kevin Watts said yes, we are piggybacking off the South Florida Water Management. They can get chemicals at a much lower price. The comparison between last year and this year amounts to a 22% increase.

Commissioner Brantley stated that he believes it's difficult to justify a double-digit COLA. The 8% COLA is more justifiable to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Hart regarding the Drones; are we going to buy more than one? If so, what is the cost for the drones? Kevin Watts responded; estimate is \$55K per drone. We would purchase one for treatments and the other for imagery.

CFO Sean O'Neill mentioned Capital Outlay includes \$105,000 improvement for the quad structure where our district vehicles are parked.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE:

Legal Counsel John Agnew read the Resolution 22-05 to adopt the tentative millage rate for fiscal year 2022-2023. Duly adopted at a public Hearing this 8th day of September, 2022 at 5:17 p.m.

Chairman Farrar requested a motion to adopt the tentative millage rate of 0.0225 mills for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Commissioner Ellis moved the motion, Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET:

Legal Counsel John Agnew read Resolution 22-06 to adopt the tentative budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 plus an amendment for and additional \$19,000 towards the LCHCD HSA account.

Chairman Farrar requested a motion to adopt the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Commissioner Hart moved the motion, Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. Commissioner Brantley inquired if the vote includes the 10% COLA? Chairman Farrar confirmed that it does.

Seat 1- Commissioner Ed Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer – Opposed

Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar, Chairman – Aye

Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis – Aye

Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen – Aye

Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke – Aye

Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart – Aye

5/1, motion passed.

Duly adopted at a public Hearing this 8th day of September, 2022 at 5:18 p.m.

No further business, Chairman Farrar requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ellis moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



Commissioner Brian Farrar, Chairman

Term: December 2018 – November 2022



Commissioner Ed Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2020 – November 2024