

Minutes of Budget Hearing
Pasco County Mosquito Control District
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556
October 20, 2023

Budget Hearing of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on October 20, 2023, at 5:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present from the District were Chairperson Cox, Treasurer Abbott, Secretary Evans, Executive Director Rogers, and Jamie Black.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Cox stated that the reason for the meeting was to correct an error in the advertisement in the newspaper of the Final Budget Hearing held in September to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Revenue. The budget numbers do not change, but the numbers in the advertisement to maintain compliance. Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the agenda; all approved.

Public Comment: Ms. Cathy Julian stated that she went back to look for the summary when it was posted in the newspaper previously and she could not find it, nobody else could find it, that she reached out to district staff and they could not find it either or didn't provide it to me. She wanted to know why she couldn't find it in the newspaper. Executive Director Rogers responded by stating that she had provided the summary to Ms. Julian via email earlier that day. Ms. Julian asked what time it was provided and then when was it published in the paper. Rogers responded that it was published in the paper the Sunday prior to the Final Budget Hearing in the Tampa Bay Times. Ms. Julian responded by stating that "they told me it wasn't there." Rogers then continued by stating that the district has a signed affidavit from the newspaper and the actual print out of that Sunday's newspaper in which it was printed.

Ms. Rebecca Yuengling stated that next year's proposed budget is more money and she doesn't understand why when we have more homes, more businesses. She then continued by stating it had come to her attention and she did an analysis of how much directors make in the state of Florida. She also questioned why the director has a car and why the district is increasing the taxes. She then commented that the district wants to build a new building which she knows will cost more than what's being budgeted. She then questioned the need for two helicopters and two helicopter pilots, stating that they can have a fulltime job and be a helicopter pilot for mosquito control. Commissioner Cox stated that the higher budget was a result of the higher assessed property values in Pasco County, that's something that the Property Appraiser does every year. This year, we chose to use the current millage rate in anticipation of the new complex. Additionally, he responded regarding the Executive Director's compensation. He stated that the salary is comparable to other directors of programs of similar sizes and that her role is comparable to other positions within the county, of which she makes less money. He continued to state that the district has the same challenges every government does is retaining good employees because she is probably one of the most competent, well-educated director in the state and the district is very thankful to have her in Pasco County. He then asked Executive Director Rogers to comment about the helicopter. She responded by informing that two helicopters are needed to be able to immediately respond to mosquito-borne disease situations and responding to hurricanes. With the size of the county being so large, it is impossible for one helicopter to effectively cover that acreage with the appropriate amount of time to be able to stop a disease situation or respond to flooding from a hurricane. She then continued by stated the helicopter pilots are invaluable to the district and perform other duties than just fly the helicopters. Commissioner Evans then commented that when he came on the Board 4 years ago the district was operating 2 helicopters and 2 fixed wing aircraft that were very old and we couldn't get parts for. He stated that he made the motion to get the two new helicopters that were desperately needed. The district then sold off all 4 of the antiquated aircraft and also eliminated the liability of hangar rent for the two airplanes in Hernando County. He continued to stated that he is a retired special agent and he had a take-home vehicle for his job because he had to respond to everything that went on, the Sheriff and Property Appraiser have take-home vehicles, as well as the other Constitutional Officers. PCMCD's Executive Director has to respond to things sometimes late at night if there is a problem or incident she responds and is there, she literally works 7 days a week and he attests that she sends texts and emails late at night. Regarding the director salary,

Commissioner Evans continued by stating the district recently performed a salary survey and we are now paying our staff appropriately.

New Business:

- A. Commissioner Abbott made a motion to adopt the Final Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; all approved.
- B. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; all approved.

Good of the Order:

- A. None.

Meeting Adjourned:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m.; all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 11/08/2023 Attested: 