

**Official Minutes of
MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

September 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met in a special session in Commission Chambers at 5:50 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HEARING BY CHAIRMAN KATHY BRYANT:

Chairman Bryant advised that the public hearing is scheduled tonight to consider adoption of the fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 tentative millage rate and budget for the Rainbow Lakes Estates Municipal Service District (RLE MSD).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

ROLL CALL:

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Kathy Bryant, District 2; Vice-Chairman Carl Zalak, III, District 4; Commissioner Craig Curry, District 1; Commissioner Matthew McClain, District 3; and Commissioner Michelle Stone, District 5. Also present were Clerk Gregory C. Harrell, County Attorney Matthew G. Minter, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Angel Roussel, ACA Amanda Tart, ACA Tracy Straub and Executive Director of Internal Services Mike McCain.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION:

Deputy Clerk Mills-McAllister presented Proof of Publication of Legal ad No. 11577726 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing", published in the Star Banner Newspaper on August 31, 2025. The notice states the Board, duly constituted as the District Board of the RLE MSD, will hold a public hearing to consider adopting the tentative millage rate and budget for FY 2025-26.

STAFF PRESENTATION – Audrey Fowler, Budget Director

1. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider the Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Budget for the Rainbow Lakes Estates Municipal District Fiscal Year 2025-26
Budget Director Audrey Fowler presented a 7 page Agenda packet. She then read into the record a letter dated September 4, 2025, from Clerk Harrell presenting the District's proposed budget. The letter stated tonight's public hearing is the first of two public hearings required to be held pursuant to the provisions of Section 200.065(2), Florida Statutes (FS), prior to the adoption of a budget and millage rate for RLE MSD. As such, this is not a final budget public hearing, and final adoption of the FY 2025-26 millage rate and budget will not be considered at this hearing.

The RLE MSD FY 2025-26 proposed budget totaling \$1,613,373.00 is scheduled for consideration by the Marion County BCC, duly constituted as the District Board of the RLE MSD at tonight's budget hearing.

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Ms. Fowler provided a brief overview of the procedures to be followed for this public hearing.

Ms. Fowler announced the percentage increase in the proposed millage rate over the rolled back rate of 9.64 percent (%). She stated the specific purpose for the tax increase is an increase in operational expenditures of \$243,863.00 and a decrease in Fund Balance Carry-Forward of \$134,845.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

There being none, Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

Ms. Fowler announced the rolled back millage rate is 1.1401 mills, the percentage increase over the rolled back rate is 9.64% and the proposed millage rate to be levied is 1.2500 mills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to adopt Resolution 24-R-315 adopting the tentative millage rate of 1.2500 mills for FY 2025-26 for RLE MSD. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to adopt Resolution 24-R-316 adopting the tentative budget in the amount of \$1,613,373.00 for FY 2025-26. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Ms. Fowler announced the percentage increase over the rolled back rate is 9.64%.

BOARD DISCUSSION: None.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Ms. Fowler advised that the day, time, and place of the public hearing to consider final adoption of the millage rate is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2025 at 5:50 p.m. in these Commission Chambers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to publicly establish and announce the date, time and place of the public hearing to consider the final adoption of the millage rate and budget, as amended, for RLE as Monday, September 22, 2025 at 5:50 p.m. in these Commission Chambers. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Ms. Fowler advised that the requirements for the RLE MSD public hearing have been met and the hearing is concluded.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chairman

Attest:

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk

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