

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

September 5, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met in a special session in Commission Chambers at 5:51 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

**INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HEARING BY CHAIRMAN MICHELLE STONE:**

Chairman Stone advised that the public hearing is scheduled tonight to consider adoption of the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 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 Michelle Stone, District 5; Vice-Chairman Kathy Bryant, District 2; Commissioner Craig Curry, District 1; Commissioner Matthew McClain, District 3; and Commissioner Carl Zalak, III, District 4. Also present were Clerk Gregory C. Harrell, County Attorney Matthew G. Minter, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Amanda Tart, ACA Angel Roussel and Executive Director of Internal Services Mike McCain.

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:**

Deputy Clerk Windberg presented Proof of Publication of legal ad No. 10481886 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing", published in the Star Banner Newspaper on September 1, 2024. 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 2024-25.

Chairman Stone noted Marion County Property Appraiser Jimmy Cowan is present and invited him to address the public at this time.

Marion County Property Appraiser Jimmy Cowan advised that last year the public hearings were very long and entailed, noting many property owners had questions or needed the services of his office on those evenings to help answer questions relating to their Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices. He stated there are many new property owners who are suffering from the previous owner having homestead exemption on the property, then selling, so there is a reset on the property value. Mr. Cowan noted the value of the property is based on the previous year's qualified sales as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. He requested that anyone who is present tonight and has questions as to how the property was valued to please stop in at the Property Appraisers Office (PAO), noting staff are there right now to help.

**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 2024-25

September 5, 2024

Budget Director Audrey Fowler presented a 7 page Agenda packet. She then read into the record a letter dated September 5, 2024, 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 2024-25 millage rate and budget will not be considered at this hearing.

The RLE MSD FY 2024-25 proposed budget totaling \$1,434,510.00 is scheduled for consideration by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), duly constituted as the District Board of the RLE MSD at tonight's budget hearing.

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 9.22 percent (%). She stated the specific purpose for the tax increase is an increase in operational expenditures of \$21,676.00 and decrease of Fund Balance Carry-Forward of \$43,016.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Stone opened the floor to public comment.

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

Ms. Fowler announced the rolled back millage rate is 1.1445 mills, the percentage increase over the rolled back rate is 9.22% and the proposed millage rate to be levied is 1.2500 mills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to adopt Resolution 24-R-359 adopting the tentative millage rate of 1.2500 mills for FY 2024-25 for RLE MSD. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, to adopt Resolution 24-R-360 adopting the tentative budget in the amount of \$1,434,510.00 for FY 2024-25. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Ms. Fowler announced the percentage increase over the rolled back rate is 9.22%.

**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 23, 2024 at 5:50 p.m. in these Commission Chambers.

A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, 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 23, 2024 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.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Michelle Stone, Chairman

Attest:

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Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk

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