

Commissioner Ellis called to order the Budget Workshop of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 08/22/2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the William Opp Training Center at the Districts' headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971.

PRESENT:

Seat 1- Commissioner Ed Brantley, Vice Chairman
Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar
Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis, Chairman
Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen
Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer
Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart, not present
Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, not present
Legal Counsel- Vee H. Leonard

STAFF:

Executive Director- Dr. David Hoel
Assistant Director- Aaron Lloyd
Deputy Director, Lee County Hyacinth Control District- Kevin Watts
Chief Financial Officer- Sean O'Neill
Human Resources Director- Jackie Small, not present
Communications Director- Jenifer McBride
Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler
IT Director- Keith Lowe
Executive Administrative Assistant- Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

LCHCD BUDGET DISCUSSION: Executive Director Dr. Hoel discussed the upcoming fiscal year budget for Lee County Hyacinth Control District.

Items discussed:

1. Current millage rate 0.0217
2. Proposed Rollback millage rate 0.0200
3. Benefits
4. Operating Expenses
5. Insurance
6. Repairs & Maintenance
7. Chemicals
8. Capital Outlay

9. Suggested COLA increase

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS ON LCHCD BUDGET:

Commissioner Ellis asked “What is the average COLA going on right now?” Dr. Hoel responded, “All of Lee County the inflation rate has been somewhere between 2.8% and 3%.”

Commissioner Burke commented “In terms of the COLA, the 3.5 % I’m in favor of it as well. The institutional knowledge we have here in Hyacinth/Mosquito Control it’s hard to put a value on that.”

Commissioner Bowen commented “The budget was well presented. I think it’s a good thing going full rollback and in favor of the 3.5% COLA as well.”

Commissioner Farrar commented “I concur with both Commissioner Burke and Commissioner Bowen.”

Commissioner Brantley commented “A full rollback and a 3.5% COLA. I have no objections on this proposal.”

LCHCD recommended full rollback and 3.5% COLA for approval by the board.

LCMCD BUDGET DISCUSSION: Executive Director Dr. Hoel discussed the upcoming fiscal year budget for Lee County Mosquito Control District.

Items discussed:

1. Current millage rate 0.2300
2. Proposed millage rate 0.2200
3. Benefits
4. Freight Services
5. Insurance
6. Repairs & Maintenance
7. Other Charges
8. Gasoline/Oil/Lube
9. Chemicals
10. Misc. Supplies
11. Publications & Dues
12. Training
13. Capital Outlay
14. Suggested COLA increase

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS ON LCMCD BUDGET:

Commissioner Burke commented “Our biggest asset are our employees and the knowledge that they have. I’d be in favor of the 3.5% COLA.”

Commissioner Brantley commented “I concur with Commissioner Burke on the COLA. I would support millage rate of 0.2200. Also, there is a lot more to discuss on the aircraft transition plan. I would like to discuss the aircraft plan each month for the next 6 months. This will ensure we arrive at the best possible decision.”

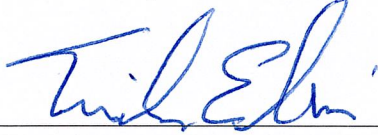
Commissioner Ellis commented “In regard to the aircraft decision, I think it’s something we’re going to be dealing with as long as we’re here. As new technology comes out and prices fluctuate, it’s something we need to look at.”

Commissioner Burke commented “I like what Commissioner Brantley was saying about our aircraft plan. It’s a great idea to take a very deliberate look at our purchases.”

Commissioner Brantley asked “Say we pull the trigger on this option, and you have 7 million dollars built into the budget for aircraft purchases. What if we don’t buy an aircraft? What happens with that money?” Sean responded, “It will go back into the reserve account.”

LCMCD recommended 0.2200 rollback and 3.5% COLA for approval by the board.

No further business, Chairman Ellis made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.



Commissioner Mike Ellis, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2020 – November 2024