

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: August 2, 2010

Date Submitted: July 22, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Heather J. Encinosa, County Attorney
Timothy Barden, Assistant County Administrator

Subject: Request Board Approval of the Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval of the Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services. The Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services sets the preliminary assessment rates, adopts the method of apportionment, establishes the public hearing in accordance with Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and provides for the required statutory notice of said hearing.

Background:

On May 3, 2010, the Board adopted the Master Assessment Ordinance, which establishes the process for imposition of service and capital assessments.

On July 22, 2010, the Board held a workshop on the proposed fire protection assessment program.

Analysis:

The Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services sets the preliminary assessment rate, adopts the method of apportionment, establishes the public hearing in accordance with Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and provides for the required statutory notice of said hearing.

This Resolution will establish the maximum assessment rates for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2010. At the public hearing the Board can decrease these rates (or set no assessment at all), but not increase them.

In sum, this resolution provides for the following:

- (1) Sections 1 and 2 recite the authority for this resolution and certain definitions.
- (2) Section 3 creates the Wakulla County MSBU, including the entire unincorporated area and all incorporated areas of the County.
- (3) Section 4 provides for the provision of fire protection services to benefitted properties.

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(4) Section 5 provides for the imposition of the fire protection assessment in both the unincorporated areas and the incorporated areas of the County.

(5) Section 6 sets forth legislative findings concerning special benefit and fair and reasonable apportionment.

(6) Section 7 outlines the method for apportioning the County's assessable budget to categories of property (Residential, Non-Residential, and Land) based upon their percentages of historical call demand for services.

(7) Section 8 outlines the method for apportioning the costs to individual properties based upon number of dwelling units for residential properties, square footage for non-residential properties, and acres of land.

(8) Section 9 establishes the initial Fire Protection Assessed Cost and adopts the proposed assessment rates.

(9) Section 10 calls for the preparation of the initial Fire Protection Assessment Roll.

(10) Section 11 establishes the public hearing for the final consideration of the Fire Protection Assessment, which will be on September 9, 2010.

(11) Sections 12 and 13 provide for the statutorily required notice by publication and first class mail.

(12) Section 14 establishes the effective date.

Options:

1. Adopt the Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services.
2. Do not Adopt the Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation

Option #1

Attachments:

1. Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services