

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: February 16, 2010

Date Submitted: January 28, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

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

Subject: Request Board Approval to Conduct the Public Hearing and Adopt a Resolution of Intent to Use the Uniform Method of Collection for Assessments to fund Neighborhood Improvements, Facilities, and Programs

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board Approval to conduct the Public Hearing and adopt a Resolution of Intent to Use the Uniform Method of Collection for Assessments to fund Neighborhood Improvements, Facilities, and Programs.

Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, requires that the County hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution of intent to use the uniform method of collection prior to January 1, 2010, or if the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser agree, this date can be extended until March 1, 2010.

With the consent of the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector, this agenda item requests Board approval to hold the public hearing and adopt a Resolution of Intent to allow the County the option of using the Uniform Method of Collection for assessments to fund neighborhood improvements, such as road paving, road maintenance, sidewalks, street lighting, and beautification.

Background:

On December 8, 2009, the BoCC directed County Staff and the County Attorney to reach out to Tax Collector and Property Appraiser and obtain extensions to the March 1 date, advertise the public hearing, and schedule the public hearing to consider the Resolution of Intent before March 1, 2010.

In late December 2009, the County Administrator and County Attorney met with the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector and both constitutional officers willingly consented to the March 1 extension. On January 11, 2010, the BoCC approved the extension agreements with the constitutional officers.

The public hearing for consideration of the resolution of intent has been advertised once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the scheduled public hearing.

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Analysis:

Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, requires that the County hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution of intent to use the uniform method of collection for any assessment program in the calendar year prior to any such collection. With the consent of the property appraiser and tax collector, the resolution, which does not obligate the County to use the tax bill collection method or impose a special assessment, must be adopted by March 1 and sent to the Wakulla County Tax Collector, the Wakulla County Property Appraiser and the Florida Department of Revenue by March 10, 2010.

Attachment #1 is a form of Resolution prepared for the County which specifically references the potential special assessment program and reserves to the County the ability to impose assessments within the County.

Options

1. Conduct the public hearing and adopt the Resolution of Intent to Use the Uniform Method of Collection for Assessments to fund Neighborhood Improvements, Facilities, and Programs.
2. Do not conduct the public hearing and do not adopt the Resolution of Intent to Use the Uniform Method of Collection for Assessments to fund Neighborhood Improvements, Facilities, and Programs.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation

Option #1

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Intent to Use the Uniform Method of Collection for Assessments to fund Neighborhood Improvements, Facilities, and Programs