



**MINUTES
TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 25, 2023**

10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Irene Kirdahy called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Roll was called with the Commission members and staff present as listed below.

Town Commission:

Mayor Irene Kirdahy

Vice Mayor Barbara B. Baldasarre

Commissioner David A. Ravanese

Commissioner Jane Reiser

Commissioner Vinnie Andreano

Town Staff:

Town Manager William "Mac" Serda, ICMA-CM

Donald J. Doody, Town Attorney, Esq.

Town Clerk Sherry D. Henderson, CMC

I. FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP

- A. Budget Presentation**
- B. Commission Budget Discussion**
- C. Water Rate Review**
- D. Commission Water Rate Discussion**

Mr. Serda explained staff was presenting a balanced budget with contingency that did not contemplate a rise in taxes.

Mr. Doody added that this was a workshop to seek a consensus, and no votes would be taken. He outlined the process for next steps briefly.

Stephen Bloom, Finance Director, provided a brief *PowerPoint* presentation outlining the draft budget. He stated the budget was based on a preliminary Millage Rate of 3.5 mills had remained flat since 2016. He explained that rate was 8.55 percent higher than the roll back rate of 3.2432 mills.

Mr. Bloom reviewed the budget schedule, as follows:

- July 25, 2023 – Budget presentation and discussion
- September 6, 2023 – Public Hearing, Adopt Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Annual Budget (starts at 5:01 p.m.)
- September 15, 2023 – Publish Budget Summary and Notice of Budget Hearing (or Proposed Tax Increase as Required) in Sun-Sentinel
- September 18, 2023 – Public Hearing, Adopt Final Millage Rate and Final Annual Budget (starts at 5:01 p.m.)
- September 21, 2023 – Final Millage Rate Submitted to County Appraiser, County Tax Collector, and State Department of Revenue

Mr. Bloom provided a brief overview of the fund structure, budget assumptions, and procedure for creating the budget.

Mayor Kirdahy asked about the impact of insurance increases. Mr. Bloom and Mr. Serda explained projections.

Mr. Bloom continued a review of the analysis of that proposed Millage Rate. He explained the tax base and discussion ensued briefly regarding the impact of new construction.

Vice Mayor Baldassarre asked what percentage of a resident's tax bill goes to the Town of Hillsboro Beach. Mr. Bloom explained it was the smallest percentage, but the specific numbers would need to be pulled from a TRIM notice.

Mr. Bloom discussed the General Fund and Special Fund revenue and expenditures, noting changes year-over-year to payroll, insurance, and the beach loan. Continuing, he reviewed the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including beach renourishment, police car, and Commission Chamber modifications.

Mr. Bloom noted the Water Fund was impacted by the cost of materials and insurance going up, so the contingency was reduced by \$100,00 to balance the budget.

Mayor Kirdahy highlighted the reduced contingency as a potential problem.

Mr. Serda explained if water rates remain the same, the contingency will continue to narrow. He stated the suggestion was that the City start working with the condominium associations to roll out a rate increase in the next budget cycle. Discussion ensued regarding future capital projects related to the water system.

Mr. Bloom outlined the proposed water rate increase, noting it was tied to the Consumer Price Index from June 2023 of 6.90 percent. He discussed example changes and rate analysis and noted the last increase had been in 2016.

Commissioner Andreano brought up the importance of addressing water waste.

Commissioner Reiser suggested a Town-wide campaign to encourage people to be aware about wasting water. Discussion continued regarding education within the condominium associations.

Commissioner Andreano asked when it would be appropriate to start discussing the increase with the condominium boards.

Mr. Serda stated the timing of the increase was a policy decision up to the Commission, and noted feedback from the condominiums was an important part of the process.

Vice Mayor Kirdahy asserted that she believed they should provide as much lead time and notice as possible.

Mr. Serda stated the staff recommendation for the Millage Rate was 3.5 mills. Consensus was to approve the preliminary number and move forward with the TRIM notices.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Baldassarre, seconded by Commissioner Reiser, to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)



ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF Sept., 2023

By: Irene Kirdahy
Irene Kirdahy, Mayor

ATTEST:
Sherry D. Henderson
Sherry D. Henderson, CMC Town Clerk