

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**  
**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION 2023-03 2023/2024 NON-AD-VALOREM FIRE**  
**ASSESSMENT RATE**  
**&**  
**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION 2023-04 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE**  
**&**  
**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION 2023-05 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

**Date:** Thursday, September 7, 2023

**Location:** Administrative Offices, Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District, 2451 Trailmate Drive, Sarasota, FL 34243.

**Present:**

Melanie Marken, Chairperson; Jim Grote, Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer; Commissioners Dan Center, Jim Cena. Also in attendance were Chief Robert Bounds; Assistant Chief Rick Blanco; and other staff.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Marken called the public hearing to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Invocation/Pledge**

A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Hearing/Adoption of 2023/2024 Non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessments**

- **Verification of Public Notice**  
Chairperson Marken called for verification of the Public Notice. EMA Ferguson stated that the advertisement was completed as required and the affidavit has been received.
- **Presentation of Non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment Rates**  
Chief Bounds presented the fire assessment rates. Rates increased by as allowed by statute.
- **Open Public Hearing for Comment**  
Chairperson Marken opened the Public Hearing for comments at 5:02 p.m. There were no comments.
- **Close the Public Hearing**  
*Commissioner Grote motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.* Chairperson Marken closed the public hearing at 5:03 p.m.
- **Board Deliberation Resolution 2023-03**  
*Commissioner Grote motioned to approve Resolution 2023-03 Adopting the 2023/2024 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates. Commissioner Center seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.*

The Public Hearing adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

**Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution 2022-03 FY2023 Tentative Millage Rate**

- **Verification of Public Notice**  
Chairperson Marken called for verification of the Public Notice. EMA Ferguson stated that the advertisement was completed as required and the affidavit has been received.

- **Presentation of Tentative Millage Rate/Procedures**  
Chief Bounds gave an overview of the millage rate. The 2023/2024 operating millage rate recommendation is 1.2061 mills, which is our current rate.
- **Open Public Hearing for Comment**  
Chairperson Marken opened the Public Hearing for comments at 5:07 p.m. There were no comments.
- **Close the Public Hearing**  
*Commissioner Grote motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.* Chairperson Marken closed the public hearing at 5:08 p.m.
- **Board Deliberation Resolution 2023-04**  
*Commissioner Grote motioned to approve the fiscal year 2023/2024 operating millage rate for the Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District at 1.2061 mills which is higher than the rolled-back rate of 1.0752 mills by 12.17%. Commissioner Center seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.*

The Public Hearing adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

#### **Public Hearing/Adoption of FY2023/2024 Tentative Budget**

- **Verification of Public Notice**  
Chairperson Marken called for verification of the Public Notice. EMA Ferguson stated that the advertisement was completed as required and the affidavit has been received.
- **Presentation of Tentative Budget/Procedures**  
Chief Bounds gave an overview of the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget.
- **Open Public Hearing for Comment**  
Chairperson Marken opened the Public Hearing for comments at 5:13 p.m. There were no comments.
- **Close the Public Hearing**  
*Commissioner Grote made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Cena seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.* Chairperson Marken closed the public hearing at 5:14 p.m.
- **Board Deliberation Resolution 2023-05**  
Chairperson Marken opened Board deliberation on Resolution 2023-05. *Commissioner Grote made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-05. Commissioner Cena seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.*
- **Adjournment of Public Hearing**  
Chairperson Marken adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:16 p.m.

Chairperson Marken stated the next meeting will be a Public Hearing and Regular meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 5 p.m. That meeting will be for the final adoption of the Millage Rate and Budget.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Melanie Marken, Chairperson

Attest:

Absent  
Jim Grote, Vice Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer