



Minutes

Town Commission Tentative Millage Rate & Budget Hearing – FY 2014-15 Monday • September 8, 2014 • 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order: 6:30 pm
2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag
3. Roll Call:
Commissioners Attending:
 - Joseph Aufmuth Present
 - Michael Berkowitz Absent with notice
 - Virginia Mance, Mayor Pro-Tem Present
 - Richard Shutterly, Mayor Present
 - Mike Roberts Present

 - Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
 - Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present
4. Consent Agenda Approval:
A. Agenda Approval
Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Mance) to accept the consent agenda as submitted; passed 4-0
5. Open Public Hearing: 6:34 pm
6. Mayor Shutterly announced the proposed Millage Rate:
 - The FY 2014/2015 rollback millage rate is 8.2545 mills.
7. Overview of FY 2014/2015 Tentative Budget.
Mayor Shutterly stated his desire to reduce the millage rate to 6 mills; and he added that he has been in favor of lowering the millage for years. The Mayor reasoned that the Town has substantial reserves and funds in the current budget to complete three capital improvement projects. The Mayor continued that if the Town lowered the millage, we would still have money set aside for capital improvements. In the future, if we find that a millage reduction creates a deficit and we can't continue to self-insure, we could raise the millage again next year. The Mayor expressed his opinion that this is a good time to reduce the millage as it will put more money in the taxpayers' pockets and help people who are having economic issues.

Commissioner Roberts stated that anytime you can put money back in the pockets of people who are paying you, it is a good thing. If we can meet our obligations, he is all for reducing the millage.

Commissioner Aufmuth discussed the Town's certified taxable value, which is \$27,727,090, and our actual Micanopy income from property taxes is projected at \$214,979. Commissioner Aufmuth explained that the reason we have surplus is because of the funds received from the State and some from traffic tickets written by Florida Highway Patrol. Commissioner Aufmuth explained that the Town benefits from income received from the State; but if the income received from the State dried up tomorrow and everything else would go away, we would only have projected ad valorem taxes of \$214,979 to work with. Commissioner Aufmuth recognized that each mill would be approximately \$26,000 for purposes of calculating a millage decrease. Additionally, Aufmuth pointed out that the fire budget is \$212,000 and although the annual Alachua County contract of \$145,000 has been stable in recent years, previously the contract tended to fluctuate. Mayor Shutterly answered that he does not feel

comfortable with an increased millage rate if we are not progressing with improvement projects. The Mayor related that if we lower the millage rate and find that it doesn't work for us, then we can raise the millage rate. Commissioner Aufmuth wanted to know where \$52,000 (2 mills) will come from out of the budget and Mayor Shutterly responded that it would be removed from the capital outlays currently shown under the Fire Department and Streets. Our projected excesses with an 8 mill rate are recorded at \$180,000. Commissioner Aufmuth mentioned that taxpayers will be upset if their millage is lowered and then raised again. Town Administrator Gonano stated that the auditor, Richard Powell, did say that it is difficult to ask taxpayers for a rate of 8 mills when you have a high unrestricted fund balance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mance discussed the accolades we received on our financial audit report. Commissioner Mance will support lowering the millage rate. She has discussed with Mrs. Gonano about the salaries and raises and has made some suggestions which are reflected in the proposed budget tonight. Town Administrator Gonano has been performing very well for the past nine months, and Mayor Pro Tem Mance thinks that it is appropriate to raise her salary to \$50,000/year. Also Mayor Pro-Tem Mance recommends a salary increase of \$1.50/hour for Deputy Town Clerk Polk, as Patty has been with the town for years and represents the history of the office. She also acknowledged raises for David Holton of \$1.00/hour and Raul Gonzalez of \$.50/ hour.

8. Comments on FY 2014/2015 Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget by Mayor and Town Commission.
Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Aufmuth) to reduce the Town of Micanopy millage rate from 8 mills to 6 mills; passed 4-0
9. Public input on FY 2014/2015 Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget.
Troy Blakely, 752 NW Seminary Ave, congratulated the Commission on doing a good job and keep it up.
10. Vote by Commission: Resolution 2014-07 setting the Tentative Millage Rate at 6.0000 mills for Fiscal Year 2014/2015.
Mayor Shutterly read Resolution 2014-07 in entirety setting the millage at 6 mills. Discussion ensued.
Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Mance) to accept Resolution 2014-07 as submitted; passed 4-0
11. Vote by Commission: Resolution 2014-08 adopting the Tentative Budget (Revenues & Appropriations) for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 as follows:

General Fund	\$633,725
Enterprise Fund	<u>\$239,470</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$873,195</u>

Mayor Shutterly read Resolution 2014-08 on short title. Discussion ensued.
Motion made and seconded (Mance/Roberts) to accept Resolution 2014-08 as submitted; passed 4-0
12. Close Public Hearing: 7:13 pm
13. Announce:
The Second Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Millage Rate & Budget Hearing setting the Final Millage Rate and Final Budget for Fiscal year 2014/2015 will be held on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers at Micanopy Town Hall, 706 NE Chokolka Blvd, Micanopy, Florida 32667
14. Adjourn: 7:14 pm

MINUTES APPROVED:

As submitted _____ as amended _____ at Town Commission Meeting _____

Richard Shutterly, Mayor

Patty S. Polk, Recorder