



HERONS GLEN RECREATION DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING

APPROVAL OF THE FY2024-25 BUDGET AND NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL

Thursday, September 05, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the Ballroom

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	OTHERS	PRESENT
Chair Howard Young	Zoom	District Counsel Tom Hart	X
Vice-Chair Peter Overs	X	General Manager J.B. Belknap	X
Treasurer Jayne Schwarz	X	Assistant GM Karon Bennett	X
Secretary Bill Kulkoski	Zoom	Controller Lynn Brew	X
Asst Secretary/Treasurer Karen Mars	X	Residents	25

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chair Overs opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Supervisor Schwarz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **ROLL CALL** – Karon Bennett took roll call; attendees are listed above.
- IV. **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15 (Annual Budget)** - Counsel Hart presented the Resolution 2024-15 for the annual budget as follows: *A RESOLUTION OF THE HERONS GLEN RECREATION DISTRICT APPROVING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING CONFIRMATION OF ANNUAL BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS AND QUARTERLY INSTALLMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Supervisor Mars moved to approve Resolution 2024-15; Chair Young seconded the motion.*

Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC INPUT – Vice-Chair Overs asked for input from the attendees. Resident Ken Marohn raised concerns about the budget, specifically the increase in the administrative budget over the projected year-end figures for the administrative department in the fiscal 2023-2024 budget. GM Belknap explained that it was decided to move the allocation of property and casualty insurance from departments to the administration fund. This would decrease the amount requested for the various departments but increase the requested administrative budget creating a budget neutral situation. The Recreation District is projected to subsidize \$535,000 in the food and beverage department despite the removal of the insurance allocation. The Board also recognized the impact of rising food and labor costs, as well as health insurance expenses. The group discussed the role of a restaurant within a country club setting, emphasizing that it's not a profit-driven business but an amenity for residents. They also discussed the cost of maintaining the restaurant, with one member suggesting it's minimal compared to other clubs with similar amenities or local restaurants. Management will continue looking for cost-saving measures in food and beverage operations without affecting resident expectations. A Suggestion was made to change the format of the provided budget report.

Vice-Chair Overs called for the vote and Resolution 2024-15 was approved unanimously.

- V. **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16 (Annual Assessment)** - Counsel Hart presented the Resolution 2024-16 for the annual assessment as follows: *A RESOLUTION OF THE HERONS GLEN RECREATION DISTRICT FINDING SPECIAL BENEFITS; APPROVING METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION AND FINAL 2024-2025*

ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Counsel Hart read Section 5 of the document as follows: *PAYMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS. The Special Assessments on developed lots shall be payable in quarterly installments, or in such other manner as the District shall from time to time determine. Unless later revised by the Board, collection of the Special Assessments on lots the owners of which during the current fiscal year have been, two or more quarters delinquent in paying past assessments, shall be payable on the property tax bill pursuant to the Uniform Method set forth in Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes and said Special Assessment shall be included on each such bill along with the District's bond debt service special assessments which are set forth in Resolutions 2020-33 and 2020-37.*

Supervisor Mars moved to approve Resolution 2024-16; Supervisor Schwarz seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Counsel Hart informed the Board that those accounts which were at least two-quarters past due could be put on the tax roll for the next year, thereby relieving the District of the responsibility for collecting the payments. If the owner is delinquent on their taxes, the Lee County tax collector could sell a tax certificate on the property. A concern was raised about the timing in which an owner is required to pay the annual assessment after previously being delinquent. Supervisor Kulkoski suggested that only those properties delinquent at the close of this fiscal year be added to the tax bill for this year, as is the practice used in past years.

Supervisor Mars made a motion for any property equal to or greater than two-quarters past due on HGRD assessments during the fiscal year be placed on the next year's tax roll. Supervisor Schwarz seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Overs called for the vote. The motion failed 3-2 with voting as follows: Chair Youn, no; Vice-Chair Overs, no; Treasurer Schwarz, yes; Supervisor Kulkoski, no; Supervisor Mars, yes.

Supervisor Kulkoski made a motion to amend Resolution 2024-16, by striking the words "during the current fiscal year" and replacing them with "at the close of the current fiscal year". Chair Young seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Overs called for the vote. The motion passed 4-1 as follows; Chair Young, yes; Vice-Chair Overs, yes; Treasurer Schwarz, yes; Supervisor Kulkoski, yes; Supervisor Mars, no.

Tom Hart will modify paragraph 5 of Resolution 2024-16 to reflect the adopted amendment.

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, September 9, 2024— Finance Committee — 11:00 a.m. CR-C/Zoom
- Monday, September 9, 2024— Resident Events Committee — 1:00 p.m. Activities Room A/Zoom
- Tuesday, September 10, 2024 — Long Range Planning Committee — 9:00 a.m. CR-C/Zoom
- Monday, September 16, 2024— Facilities & Amenities Committee — 9:00 a.m. CR-C/Zoom
- Monday, September 30, 2024— Board of Supervisors — 9:30 a.m. CR-C/Zoom

VII. ADJOURNMENT took place at 7:10 p.m.

Approved by the Board on September 30, 2024