

FINAL Budget Hearing Minutes - APPROVED

Indian River Mosquito Control District

September 18, 2024 @ 5:01 PM

Chair Erpenbeck called the hearing to order at 5:01 PM.

I. Announcement of the Millage Rate

At the Tentative Budget Hearing, the Board set the millage rate of 0.2325.

II. Discussion of Reasons for Inability to Use Rolled-back Millage

The proposed budget is fiscally responsible, supports the Board's goals, and prepares us for the uncertainties we face. The rolled-back rate may offer short-term tax relief, but it would undercut reserves, delay critical projects, and leave us unprepared for hurricanes, disease outbreaks, or economic downturns.

Because disaster aid is reimbursement-based, we must have the funds upfront—without strong reserves, services would be disrupted, recovery delayed, and the community put at risk. Rolling back now also increases the likelihood of sharp millage hikes later, forcing residents to pay more when needs become urgent.

This budget ensures stability, protects service quality, and provides financial strength to respond when the community needs us most.

III. Presentation and Discussion of Budget and Millage

- The tax base for FY 2025-2026 will total \$31.8 billion, which equates to a 8.06% increase over last year's tax base figure of \$29.2 billion.
- The proposed millage rate is 0.2325, which is 3.38% higher than the rolled-back rate of 0.2249. This rate will generate an ad valorem tax revenue of \$7,019,923.

This budget option includes

- A 3% merit pay increase and 2% COLA is included for all employees.
- Contingency funds amount to \$490k, covering post-hurricane treatment, emergency repairs (infrastructure, facilities, equipment, and pumps), and cybersecurity recovery response.
- Reserve funds total \$2.3M, allocated as follows:
 - \$1.2M for future capital outlay.
 - \$926k to be carried forward as cash balance for 1.25 months.
 - \$104k for sick and annual leave appropriations.
- The total balanced budget for FY 2025-2026 is \$11,898,919.46 which includes general, state, and OPEB funds.
- The millage rate was reduced in FY2022-2023 from 0.2515 to 0.2500, reduced again in FY2023-2024 to 0.2400 and held at 0.2400 for the current fiscal year.

This budget plan addresses operational needs, salary increases, contingencies for emergencies and cybersecurity, and sets aside reserves for future needs while maintaining a conservative millage rate that still supports increased revenue from the growing tax base.

IV. Comments or Questions from the Public or Press - none

V. Separate Orders of Business

A. Adoption of the Final Millage Rate

Commissioner Kirkland made a motion to adopt Resolution #2025-004 to set the proposed millage rate at 0.2325 for FY 2025-2026 (which is 3.38% above the rolled back rate of 0.2249). The Board unanimously approved; motion passed at 5:04 PM.

B. Adoption of the Final Budget

Commissioner Kirkland made a motion to adopt Resolution #2025-005 setting the proposed budget of \$11,898,919 for FY 2025-2026. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed at 5:05 PM.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Kirkland made a motion to adjourn. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed at 5:05 PM.

Attest:

M. Spentak

Andy Kirkland