

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE  
MINUTES TENTATIVE BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE HEARING  
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room  
700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, FL

1. **Call to Order** – President Kelley called the meeting to order at 6.00 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Ostrand asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the lives lost during the attack on September 11, 2024; Mayor Ostrand led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call – Present: Mayor Karen M. Ostrand, President Sandy Kelley, Vice-President Kevin Docherty, Council Members Michael Heller, Gina Kent, and Matthew Squires
- Staff Present –Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil; Town Financial Consultant, Holly Vath; Town Clerk, Kim Stanton; Permit Processor, Pam Orr

2. **Proposed Millage for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 - Holly Vath, Town Financial Consultant** – Ms. Vath provided an overview from the July 24, 2024, Budget Workshop hearing in which a proposed tentative millage rate of .8 mills was approved. She continued to explain the 2024/2025 budget summary, explained the roll-back rate, which was .7471, and directed the Council to Page 9.

President Kelley stated that she would like to remain at the .8 mills.

President Kelley asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Squires stated that he agreed.

President Kelley asked for comments from the public.

Vice-President Docherty spoke about the closeout costs of the two developments, Seawalk and Ocean Breeze Resort.

Town Clerk, Kim Stanton, read Resolution No. 350-2024 into the record: **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, MARTIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

She further read that the tentative FY 2024/2025 operating millage rate was .8000 mills, which was .0529 more than the rolled-back rate of .7471 mills which was a 7.08 increase, the voted debt service millage was 0% and the Resolution would take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Council Member Squires, seconded by Vice-President Docherty, made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 350-2024.

President Kelley asked for comments from the public.

Ann Kagdis, 111 NE Bay Drive, Ocean Breeze, commended Vice-President Docherty for speaking about the necessity to be prepared for potential legal fees with the closeout of the two PUDs to ensure that all

residents were protected and to protect their investments. She spoke about the importance of maintaining that the Town had no bonded indebtedness.

President Kelley asked for further public comments.

There were none.

President Kelley asked for further comments from the Council.

There were none.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Kelley, Squires, Kent, Heller, Docherty; No: None; Motion Passed 5 - 0

**3. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 – Holly Vath, Town Financial Consultant – Ms. Vath explained a change from the last hearing on July 24, 2024, which was the State Half-Cent Sales Tax revenue, and the local communication services tax revenue would be increasing due to the population update. She spoke about reserves. She reminded the Council that dollars collected in gas tax revenue had to be spent on transportation and road expenses. She added that there were no changes to the expense portion of the budget, which remained at \$305,095.**

She took questions from the Council regarding additional policing services and the conferences and travel line item which was proposed in 2025 at \$6,900.

President Kelley asked the Council if they were agreed with the proposed \$6,900.

Mayor Ostrand spoke about the increase in travel expenses and explained her schedule for the upcoming year. She asked that the amount remain in the 2025 budget.

Mr. O’Neil asked for clarification and the Mayor’s recommendation.

Mayor Ostrand stated that it was her recommendation that the amount in the 2025 budget remain.

Ms. Vath stated that the current budget for 2024 was \$5,800.

Mayor Ostrand spoke about the importance of everyone attending the ethics classes.

President Kelley asked for comments from the public and the Council.

Vice-President Docherty outlined his and the Mayor’s upcoming travel. He spoke about the fact that he would be asking the Council to revisit the issue regarding his travel amount in the future. He added that he was attending a forum regarding grants.

President Kelley asked Council Member Heller if he was agreeable with the “contributions” line-item that was being proposed for 2025 in the amount of \$1,000.

Council Member Heller answered “yes.”

Discussion ensued regarding the Environmental Studies Center educational sign.

Ms. Vath explained the Town’s general fund reserves, pages 10-11.

President Kelley asked for comments from the public.

There were none.

President Kelley asked for further comments from the Council.

There were none.

Town Clerk, Kim Stanton, read Resolution No. 351-2024 into the record: **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Vice-President Docherty, seconded by Council Member Kent, made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 351-2024.

President Kelley asked for public comment.

There were none.

President Kelley asked for comments from the Council.

There were none.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Heller, Docherty, Squires, Kent, Kelley; No: None; Motion Passed 5 – 0

**4. Announcements** – All meetings, including all **Budget meetings**, will be held at the Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room, 700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, FL:

- **Wednesday, September 25, 2024: 6:00 pm – Public Hearing and Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Budget for FY 2024/2025**
- Monday, October 14, 2024: 6:00 pm Regular Town Council Meeting
- ~~Monday, November 11, 2024: 10:30 am-Veteran's Day Holiday (Town Office closed)~~
- **Tuesday, November 12, 2024: 10:30 am**
- Monday, December 9, 2024: Regular Town Council Meeting 10:30 am

**5. Adjourn** – Vice President Docherty, seconded by Council Member Squires, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm.

All in Favor: Yes: Kelley, Docherty, Heller, Kent, Squires; No: None; Motion Passed – 5 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Stanton*  
Town Clerk

Minutes approved: November 12, 2024