

**SOUTH BROWARD DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BUDGET WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008**

Present:

James Ryan, Chairperson
Thomas Good, Treasurer
Robert E. Goggin, IV, Secretary
John Eastman, Commissioner
Alanna Mersinger, Commissioner
Mercedes Santana-Woodall, Commissioner

Leo M. Schwartzberg, District Director
Douglas R. Bell, Legal Counsel
Joann Long, Recording Secretary
General Public: See Attachment

Absent

Scott Hodges, Vice Chairperson

01. CALL TO ORDER/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Budget Workshop for the 2008-2009 Budget was called to order at 7:10 P.M. Commissioner Ryan noted that the proposed budget for FYE 9/30/09 increased only .37% over the budget for FYE 9/30/08. He iterated that tonight's meeting is only for the purpose of discussing the proposed budget which will be presented for final approval at the September 25th Board of Commissioners meeting. No other matters will be discussed.

02. 2008-2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

Commissioner Ryan presented Resolution No. 2008-06 (proposed taxes and assessment rates) and Resolution No. 2008-07 (proposed budget), noting that the proposed budget for FYE September 30, 2009, increased only .37% from the previous year's budget.

03. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

(A) Commissioner Eastman posed a question to the District Director as to whether or not all District property and equipment is fully insured. Commissioner Ryan interjected that only the proposed budget and taxes and assessment rates should be discussed.

Commissioner Eastman noted that budget item #1403 is now a generic emergency fund which would be spent per a vote of the Board. He continues to oppose this based on the actual need the District may have. It is his opinion that the District should not be taxing people for a fund of this nature. Commissioner Eastman remained adamant in his belief that the general purpose of the fund is to help restore private properties such as was done after Hurricane Wilma. Commissioner Ryan stressed that no monies would be used from the emergency fund for anything unless the specific purpose were to be approved by a super-majority vote of the Board who would decide what would be considered as a true emergency and what would not.

Commissioner Ryan again asked that discussion be limited to the two Resolutions as submitted as we are not going to get into areas that are not applicable to the information submitted for discussion.

(B) Commissioner Mersinger's position is that the District is one district for all and that everyone within the District should pay for whatever is needed to provide services to any area within its boundaries. She opposes assessments for specific areas only; and it is her position that if funds are available, the Board should negate the remaining S-9/S-10 special assessment. Commissioner Mersinger felt that money is available to do so.

(C) Commissioner Good called attention to line item #1780 (meetings/seminars/tolls/travel/education/employee development). He explained that there are now requirements for certain staff members to have storm-water certification. At some future time, most maintenance workers will need this state certification, and he felt this should be investigated as soon as possible. Mr. Schwartzberg will look into this and plan accordingly.

(D) Commissioner Goggin expressed his thanks to those property owners in attendance. He asked if the \$30,000 included in the budget for grass carp is the same amount as the previous year. Mr. Schwartzberg responded yes, as it is his belief that this is sufficient for one year. He further explained that staff is working on insuring that private applica-tors planning on putting grass carp in the lakes they treat be certified to do so by SBDD provided they follow established criteria. The District welcomes homeowner associa-tions to do this at their expense, but the proper criteria must be met. Commissioner Goggin noted that it appears the grass carp work very well.

(E) Commissioner Santana-Woodall felt the District Director did an excellent job in the preparation of the proposed budget. She had no questions.

(F) While Commissioner Eastman agreed with the vast majority of the proposed budget, he again voiced his objection to the Emergency Fund line item #1403. He added that while he agreed that the tax structure needed to be changed, he is concerned about the cost of maintaining it. Commissioner Eastman continues to believe that the Board should consider having this work done by someone other than District's legal counsel, as that is a very costly way to go.

04. **PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Mr. Schwartzberg presented the proposed 2008-09 budget in the overall amount of \$3,394,617 (\$9,361 higher than the previous year's budget). The property owners within the District will be responsible for \$2,304,442, of the total budget.

Some of the increased items are (A) Pump Stations as a new generator is needed for one of the stations and will cost approximately \$10,000. (B) Tree Removal due to the the low cost for this work at this time. (C) Equipment Purchases/Replacement/Upgrades as we will be replacing one of the old Ford pickup spray trucks which is approximately 12 years old.

05. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS RE: PROPOSED TAXES, ASSESSMENT RATES AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-08**

(A) Mr. Bob Zimmerman, SWR/Griffin 345, opposes his tax bill being higher than the the previous year's bill. Mr. Zimmerman's hope is that his tax rates will not continue to go higher.

Commissioner Ryan explained that everyone associated with SBDD always try to keep District costs as low as possible while still providing the necessary services to the pro-perty owners within its boundaries. Mr. Schwartzberg interjected that there were no in-creases in SBDD fees from the 2007-08 year to the upcoming 2008-09 year. Actually, some decreased, as the balance of the Hurricane Wilma assessments was voided.

(B) Mr. Bob Busch, SWR, is opposed to line item #1403 (emergency fund) and feels it is poor timing for continuing with this as it will supply a reason for Senator Ring to put a cap on special-district funds.

(C) Mr. Barry Nuenzig, SWR, voiced his opposition to the District spending taxpayers money to restore private properties and thus felt the emergency-fund charge should be re-moved from the proposed budget.

(D) Mr. Carl Lanke, Miramar, expressed thanks to the Board for maintaining the pro-posed 2008-09 tax rates the same as the 2007-08 tax year rates. It was his opinion that the emergency-fund line item should remain, as he recalled when the Board was severely criticized repeatedly for not having sufficient funds to commence with the Hurricane Wilma needed work immediately after the event.

(E) Mr. Angelo Grande, Keystone Lakes, favored maintaining the emergency fund. In reference to the repair/replacement of some of the lake banks, he felt that it was the District's assets (water bodies) that caused the damage and that if one part of the District fails, it would be a problem for other areas. Mr. Grande opined that the Board is doing a good job and, again, that the emergency fund should be left in place for use for whatever emergency might occur in the future.

As there were no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Ryan closed the public discussion portion of the budget workshop meeting at 7:40 P.M.

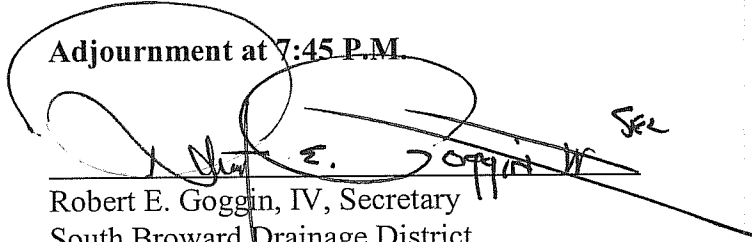
06. **FINAL BUDGET HEARING**

Commissioner Ryan announced that the final Public Hearing on the budget and assess-rates for fiscal year 2008-2009 will be held at the District on Thursday, September 25, 2008, at 10:00 A.M.

07. **OTHER**

Mr. Schwartzberg advised that the daughter of Mr. Mike Crowley (Davie Councilman and Central Broward Water Control District's Supervisor) had drowned this past week-end. He provided the funeral arrangements for anyone who might care to attend.

Adjournment at 7:45 P.M.

 *Sec*
Robert E. Goggin, IV, Secretary
South Broward Drainage District

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