

FY15-16 Budget Policy Decisions

April 7, 2015

As we did last year, we want to deliver a budget process that gives the Board plenty of time to review and make decisions.

FY13-14 Budget (Year 1)

\$37 MILLION DEFICIT

BALANCE THE BUDGET

(ACCOMPLISHED)

FY14-15 Policies (Year 2)

1. **Established Continuation Budget Policy** – Cost same service levels as prior year (**accomplished**)
2. **Conservation 20/20**
 - a) Maintenance built into Continuation Budget (**accomplished**)
 - b) Public hearing on ordinance revisions (**April 21**)
3. **Resolve Impact Fees** – accomplished **Mar. 3**
4. **Reserves** – Maintain a minimum 20%, or \$72 million, reserve level in General Fund (**accomplished; FY14-15 reserves at \$102 million or 28%**)
5. **Capital Costs** – Identified major items that could be funded with excess reserves (**accomplished; list of \$8.9 million**); also purchased new ambulances
6. **Restore Service Levels Lost in Previous Year** – **accomplished; transit and community development**

Policy Questions for FY15-16 (Year 3)

1. Continuation Budget?
2. Identify Major Capital Maintenance & Capital Projects from Reserves above 20%?
3. Board CIP Priorities?
4. Funding Infrastructure (Roads) Gap?
5. Libraries Construction? – Site selection and funding
6. Unincorporated MSTU?
7. Tourist Tax Allocation?
8. Tax Rate?
9. Special Funding Requests/Partnerships?

Estimates

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
FY13-14	\$337 million	\$338 million
FY14-15	\$354 million	\$360 million
FY15-16	\$365 million	\$378 million

Other Board Member Priorities

1. Caloosahatchee Regional Park – shoreline stabilization funding
2. Homestead Road Widening – extension to Milwaukee
3. Burnt Store Road Widening – to county line
4. Three Oaks Parkway – extension north to Daniels
5. Moving People East and West – north of the River
6. Palomino Road – bike path
7. North Fort Myers Recreation Center – bus stop
8. Funding economic incentives
9. Debt policy
10. Legal issues

Current timetable is to give you a draft budget no later than June 2, 2015 and 2nd draft no later than June 16, 2015