



**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Action Item Worksheet**

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item: II. B.
Subject: Resolution 2024-06 Future Direction of the District and Strategic Plan
Meeting Date: March 13, 2024
Prepared By: Chris Wolfe, Interim Fire Chief

Background

At the February BOFC meeting, three Board members directed Staff to update Resolution 2021-019 and bring it back for consideration. The bond language was removed and the project list has been updated.

Funding Source/Financial Impact

Based on the District's 2023 taxable property valuations, the following amounts are examples of approximated annually generated funds from a millage rate increase:

.25	\$8.01M
.50	\$16.02M

Recommendation

Staff recommends approving Resolution 2024-06 authorizing a ballot question asking whether the District shall be authorized to increase its millage rate by up to 0.5 mills, to improve the District's public safety facilities, technology, and equipment.

Potential Motion

I move to approve Resolution 2024-06 authorizing a ballot question asking whether the District shall be authorized to increase its millage rate by up to 0.5 mills, to improve the District's public safety facilities, technology, and equipment.

Attachments

1. Resolution 2024-06
2. Project List- Exhibit "A" Capital Projects



RESOLUTION 2024- 06

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON AUGUST 20, 2024, TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT, A BALLOT QUESTION ASKING WHETHER THE DISTRICT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE ITS MILLAGE RATE BY UP TO 0.5 MILS, TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT.

WHEREAS, in 1982, the East Naples Fire Control and Rescue District and the Golden Gate Fire Control and Rescue District received approval to levy a maximum millage rate of 1.5 mills of ad valorem taxation on property within their respective boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Greater Naples Fire District (District) was created through the merger of the East Naples Fire Control and Rescue District and the Golden Gate Fire Control and Rescue District, which was in accordance with Chapter 2014-240, Laws of Florida, and approved at referendum; and

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Chapter 2014-240, Laws of Florida, provided that the District maintained the authority to levy a millage rate up to 1.5 mills, as previously approved by referendum in the East Naples Fire Control and Rescue District and Golden Gate Fire Control and Rescue District, and that a subsequent referendum would be needed to increase the District's maximum millage rate above 1.5 mills; and

WHEREAS, the ballot question that was approved in 2014 referendum on the creation of the District provided that the District would retain the authority to levy no more than the current maximum millage rate of 1.5 mills of ad valorem taxation on property located within the District; and

WHEREAS, Section 191.008, Florida Statutes, authorizes independent special fire control districts to provide for fire suppression and prevention by establishing and maintaining fire stations and fire substations and acquiring and maintaining such firefighting and fire protection equipment deemed necessary to prevent or fight fires; and

WHEREAS, the District's charter is found in Section 4 of Chapter 2014-240, Laws of Florida, (Charter); and

WHEREAS, Section 3.01 of the Charter grants the District the authority to establish, equip, operate, and maintain a fire department and rescue service, including, but not limited to, providing fire hydrants or other types of water supply, buildings for housing fire equipment and personnel, training facilities for fire and rescue, and other buildings deemed necessary by



the Board of Commissioners to provide adequate protection from unwanted fire and to carry out rescue operations; and

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article VII of the Florida Constitution, provides that a special district may levy a millage rate authorized by law approved by vote of the electors who are owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation; and

WHEREAS, Section 191.006(14), Florida Statutes, authorizes the District to assess and impose on real property ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, Section 191.009(1), Florida Statutes, authorizes independent special fire control districts the authority to levy and assess ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the district to construct, operate, and maintain district facilities and services and to pay for general obligation bonds, with such millage rate not exceeding 3.75 mills unless a higher amount has been previously authorized by law, subject to a referendum as required by the Florida Constitution and Chapter 191, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Section 191.009(1), Florida Statutes, requires a referendum when the proposed levy of ad valorem taxes exceeds the amount authorized by prior special act, general law of local application, or county ordinance approved by referendum and that the ballot question must state the currently authorized millage rate and the year of its approval by referendum; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.01 of the Charter provides the District the powers, functions, and duties regarding ad valorem taxation and the methods for financing the District as set forth in the Charter, Chapter 191, Florida Statutes, and in any applicable general or special law; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.02 of the Charter requires the District to levy and collect ad valorem taxes in accordance with Section 191.009, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, provides that the District has the authority to levy a millage rate up to 1.5 mills, and clarifies that the Charter does not prevent the levying of a millage rate as provided for in Section 191.009, Florida Statutes, which has been approved by referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it will have insufficient ad valorem tax revenues to address the immediate and future capital needs of the District, including improvements to existing facilities, and has developed a list of capital projects ("Projects") described in more detail in attached Exhibit "A" (Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Public Safety Facilities, Technology, and Equipment Project List), that the District must address; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to increase the District's millage rate for an eight-year term to pay for the Projects on the Project List; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the revenues from the additional millage rate will be used to only fund the Projects, such revenues, and any interest from such revenues, will be placed in a separate capital improvement account; and



WHEREAS, in accordance with the Florida Constitution and Section 191.009(1), Florida Statutes, approval of the millage rate increase must be approved by a majority of votes cast at an election in which qualified electors residing in the District shall participate; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable and necessary to provide for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at the primary election to be scheduled for August 20, 2024, of such a question for the increase in millage rate for a limited specified term to pay for the Projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Section 1. The preceding "WHEREAS" clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct and incorporated in this Resolution.

Section 2. The District hereby finds, determines, and declares that the District needs to increase its millage rate for an eight-year period as it has insufficient funds to pay for necessary improvements to existing facilities and equipment as well to purchase needed new fire stations, equipment, and technology with its existing millage rate of 1.5 mills.

Section 3. Subject to the referendum and the provisions of this Resolution, the District is authorized to increase its millage rate by up to 0.5 mills for a total maximum ad valorem millage rate of 2.0 mills for eight years starting with the Fiscal Year 2025.

Section 4. Under the general laws of the State of Florida, an election is now called and directed to be held in the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Collier County, Florida, on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, to submit to the electorate the question set forth below (Election).

Section 5. The Collier County election officials shall conduct the Election, with acceptance of the certification of the election results to be performed by the Election Commission.

Section 6. The voting precincts in the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District for this Election shall be established by the proper and appropriate Collier County election officials. All electors shall vote at the polling places and the voting precincts as determined by the Collier County election officials.

Section 7. Under the requirements of Section 100.342, Florida Statutes, notice of Special Elections or Referendum outlined in this Resolution shall be given at least thirty days in advance of the Election and shall be presented in a newspaper of general circulation published in Collier County. The notice shall be posted at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week the Election is to be held.

Section 8. The Projects included in the Projects List in Exhibit A is hereby approved. The District may, in its sole discretion, by official action evidenced by resolution or motion of



the Board of Commissioners adopt or enacted from time to time, modify or amend all or any portion of the Project List to (1) delete one or more of the Projects or if the District determines it is not feasible or is otherwise not in the best interest of the District to pursue such Project or Projects or (2) if general obligation bonds have been issued, in consultation with bond counsel to the District, substitute or modify one or more of the Projects on the Project List if the District determines such substitution or modification better serves District purposes, provided such modified or substituted facility, improvement or equipment is related to public safety services, including fire/rescue operations, fire prevention, fire inspection, environmental hardening of public safety facilities, community protection, and all-hazard mitigation.

Section 9. The official ballot to be used in the Election to be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, shall be in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Referendum to Increase the Maximum Millage Rate of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

To improve fire rescue services, including construction of fire stations and facilities, improvements to existing facilities, and purchase of apparatus, technology, and equipment, shall the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District be authorized to increase the current authorized ad valorem millage rate the District can charge from 1.5 mills (\$1.50 for every \$1,000.00 of assessed value), approved in 2014, up to 2.0 mills (\$2.00 for every \$1,000.00 of assessed value), for no more than 8 years?

Yes
 No

Section 10. The Greater Naples Fire Rescue District shall pay all expenses for conducting the Election and pay to Collier County or directly to all persons or firms upon receipt of the invoice or statement of approval by the Supervisor of Elections, Collier County.

Section 11. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Resolution shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other word, clause, phrase, sentence, or paragraph hereof.

Section 12. If the referendum is approved, the Fire Chief, or designee, shall report the levy of ad valorem taxes approved by referendum to the Department of Commerce within 60 days after the vote.

Section 13. If the referendum is approved, revenues from the additional millage rate will only fund the Projects, and the revenues, and any interest from such revenues, must be placed in a separate capital improvement account.

Section 14. This Resolution shall be in full force and immediate effect upon its passage and adoption.



The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and the vote was as follows: _____.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by at least a majority vote of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Board of Fire Commissioners of Collier County, Florida, this 13th day of March, 2024.

APPROVED BY:

Nick Biondo, Chairman

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

Strategic Planning Session

Revised Plan For BOFC 03-13-2024

Deputy Chief Josh Bauer

Project List – Exhibit “A” Capital Projects

Facility Service Gap

Station #23 Target Date FY 2023	Station #21 Target Date FY 2023	Station #70 Target Date FY 2024	Station 27 (Outer Drive) Target Date FY 2024	Support Services Training Complex Target Date FY 2024	Station #60 Target Date FY 2025	Station #26 Target Date FY 2025	Station 73 Target Date FY 2026	Fire and Life Safety Target Date FY 2027
Status: No funding	Status: No funding	Status: No funding	Status: In the Concept design stage with the builder.	Status: Plan to clear land. Looking for grant funding	Status: Being built by City of Everglades	Status: No funding	Status: No funding	Status: No funding
1982 - Built for 2 1. Rookery Bay 2. Total Remodel	1993	Collier County Owns Site (we need a new fire station) – EMS shared site.	Needed for service demand and concurrent call volume in area	CDBG-MIT Grant- \$14.3 million for current design	1975- City of Everglades City Owns site	NEW East Trail Fire Station – needed in FY 24 or FY 25	Current office space is not appropriate.	Potentially adding a second story to the current building – ½ or entire structure
Obsolete Facility; Ascertain 1 acre from Rookery Bay	Shared Site with CCSO; Too small, obsolete facility	Fire Department may purchase site – Lease is up this FY 2022	Assist with Stations 20, 21, 22 call volume; and densely populated area		Flood Plain – Need to raise Facility and need a new building.	Needed for area growth and density along the corridor – Commercial and Residential	Potentially adding another building, single or two-story addition to the East side.	Growth in Fire and Life Safety, CERT, Public Education, and other sections being reviewed.
Stay at same site and Rookery Bay acre	Develop two sites – East Property (completed)	Termites, water leaks, electrical	Squad or Engine Company		Stay on same site	CCSO interested in joint site	Parking, SDP, storm water, etc...	Parking? SDP?
(EMS is in the Station)	2-way ownership (GNFRD/EMS) we own the property	Needs to be a 5-6 bay station		Requires new furniture/lifts – approximately	Complete site renovation/infrast ructure and new building	Requires 12 personnel and new apparatus/equipment -		

Apparatus/Fleet Service Gap

Items in RED have not been funded.

Description	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Engines	70,71,23, 22 (Lease-July 2023) 74 (NEW)		26 (NEW)	27 (NEW)	74,24,73,75,90
Squads	21, 20 (New), 70 (New)		72	76	25
Ladders	New Tower to 21	72	21		
Specialty		SRU 73; Rehab Unit (NEW)	Mobile Command Unit (NEW); SRU MARC 70	ATV's; Public Education; Specialty Teams – Dive	Air 72/Cascade System
Boats		90 plus trailer	60 (County) plus trailer		
Staff	FLS/3; Fleet; Logistics; Training/4	FLS – Pool Vehicle; Training/3	IT Van; FLS/2; Training/3	Fleet; Logistics; Training/2	Approximately 20 staff/Command vehicles
BC's		BC 70, BC 20, New BC			
Brush Trucks	A23, A60 , 74	73,22	72	21	71
Water Tenders	71, 74	60,20	70, 26 (NEW)		
Trailers	I.T. Van	10 plus Light Tower	Box Truck; Light Tower	USAR; FOAM 63	

Other Capital Projects

Fiscal Year	Information Technology	Finance/ Human Resources	Fire/Life Safety /Fire Stations	Support Services	Training/Prof. Development	Current District Land and Land Purchase
2023	Fleet and Logistics MDT Computers, Possible Net Motion network deployment; DATA Analytic Programs	HRIS Platform – Benefits Administration/E-File Cabinet		Station 20 – concrete apron replacement Station 90 – asphalt repaving	FY 23 - \$239,600 FY 22 - \$190,100 (Recognized needs of capital items including the ZOLL Heart Monitors)	Meet with NCFRD – Krape Road partnership/Joint Fire Station and Ancillary Facilities
2024	New Firewall VPN Routers at all facilities; New FLS Tablets; New MDT Computers			Station 71 – painting, driveway finishing, roof 73/Admin – Asphalt Station 72 – concrete apron, interior paint	\$263,600	South of GG BLVD East/West of 28 th Ave SE (3-5 acres); North of Manatee Road/East Trail – Fire Station
2025	New Domain and Storage Servers; New MDT computers		Emergency Generator Replacements		\$104,700	Station 26/Lake Park Blvd; Six L’s Farm Road - Fire Station
2026	New Wireless Access Points at all Fire Stations		Emergency Generator Replacements	District-wide Fuel System Upgrades	\$80,200	Station 27 (Outer Dr.) – Fire Station
2027	MDT’s / Portables		Emergency Generators			