



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

HERNANDO COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

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### Media Release

May 18, 2018

*(Updated May 23, 2018)*

#### **Hernando County BOCC to Consolidate Fire Fee Structure reducing a 0.5 mil Tax**

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners(BOCC) is considering reducing a fire protection ad valorem tax from 0.5 mil to zero mil and modifying the current fire protection Municipal Service Benefit Unit(MSBU) rates to fund the fire department. This consolidation provides for fire assessments based on a court-tested benefit methodology where fees are consistently applied to all properties within certain categories.

The current hybrid fee structure includes majority funding from the MSBU plus partial funding via a 0.5 mil Fire Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) that is based on property values. In accordance with state law, the ad valorem MSTU fees are calculated differently exempting approximately 11,000 properties from the current 0.5 millage rate and homeowners with greater assessable valued property pay more for fire protection than the homeowners with lower assessed values. The MSBU fee applies to all properties equally as all benefit from fire protection.

Hernando County Fire Rescue(HCFR) provides all-hazards fire and emergency services protection to the entire County, except in the City of Brooksville whose property owners do not pay the County fire protection fees but do pay the Emergency Medical Services(EMS) MSTU fees for countywide emergency medical transport services. The department staffs 13 advanced life support fire engines across the County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year, and includes enhanced capabilities via teams trained and equipped for high risk incidents such as hazardous materials, technical rescue, and aircraft rescue firefighting. As the County grows, so has the emergency calls for help. HCFR responded to 26,907 emergency incidents in 2014 and that has steadily increased 21.5% to 32,704 last year utilizing the same number of engine companies and ambulances.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2019 assessment, as set forth on the table below, will allow the BOCC to reduce the ad valorem Fire Municipal Service Taxing Unit(MSTU) to **zero mils** and modifying the MSBU rates. The estimated revenue to be collected is \$26,333,629 based on 95% collection of the total below and is the funding source to provide fire services to Hernando County.

A listing of some frequently asked questions about the proposed tax change are available at:

<http://hernandocountyfl6.visioninternet.net/departments/departments-f-m/fire-rescue/fag>

A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hernando County Government Center, 20 N. Main Street, Room 160, Brooksville, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessment.

| Fire MSBU Non Ad-valorem               |            |              |               |                                 |                  |
|--|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| FY 2019 Proposed                       |            |              |               |                                 |                  |
|  | Units      | Current Rate | Proposed Rate | Unit of Measure                 | Proposed Revenue |
| Base Fee                               | 104,602    | \$22.208     | \$28.870      |                                 | \$3,019,833.59   |
| Unimproved/Acreage                     | 26,978     | \$57.246     | \$74.420      | Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee         | \$2,007,697.36   |
| Residence                              | 80,930     | \$172.494    | \$224.242     | Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee         | \$18,147,921.25  |
| Commercial                             | 13,567,752 | \$0.183      | \$0.238       | Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection | \$3,222,476.78   |
| Camp-A-Wyle                            | 211        | \$16.842     | \$21.895      | Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee         | \$4,619.76       |
| Hospital/Nursing Home                  | 616,189    | \$0.458      | \$0.595       | Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection | \$366,718.72     |
| Church (Max. \$309.83)*                | 1,399,038  | \$0.184      | \$0.239       | Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection | \$38,109.09      |
| Ind/Whs/Gvt                            | 6,346,909  | \$0.061      | \$0.079       | Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection | \$502,484.79     |
| Agriculture                            | 67,069     | \$0.008      | \$0.011       | Sq Ft + 1 Base Fee + Inspection | \$732.39         |
| River Run                              | 119        | \$9.303      | \$12.094      | Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee         | \$1,439.17       |
| Greenbrier                             | 100        | \$3.056      | \$3.972       | Per Parcel + 1 Base Fee         | \$397.22         |
| Comm Inspection                        | 2,952      | \$106.103    | \$137.933     | Per 10,000 square feet          | \$407,178.95     |
|  |            |              |               | Ex: 1 - 14,999 = 1 Insp         | \$27,719,609.07  |
|  |            |              |               | Ex: 15,000 - 24,999 = 2 Insp    |                  |
| *Churches (\$309.83 max x 123 parcels) |            |              |               |                                 |                  |

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