

**BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUPITER INLET DISTRICT
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

George Gentile, Chairman
Thomas Howard, Vice Chairman
Gail Whipple (Via CMT) Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Martinez
Jim Davis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph Chaison, Executive Director
Sonja Kezber, Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gentile called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Pledge of Allegiance

2. Comments from Public

None.

3. FY 2021/22 Draft Annual Budget – Review/Discussion

Mr. Chaison presented the draft budget overview, noting that no increase is proposed to the millage rate above the roll-back rate of 0.0921. The roll back rate has been used every year since the 2014/2015 Budget. We expect to start with \$8,896,680 in Reserve and Carried Forward Funds. Expected Ad Valorem Tax Revenue will be \$2,438,439. Interest of \$12,000.00 is estimated based on actual interest received this year and Grant Funding of \$1,518,525 is the amount expected from the State. Grant Funding does not include the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) grant reimbursement for the railroad project. The Expense for

the railroad project is included in the budget but we do not expect to receive the reimbursement before the end of the fiscal year. Total projected income is \$3,968,964 and total estimated expenses is \$5,729,323 and will require using \$1,760,359 of Reserve and Carried Forward funds. Mr. Chaison noted significant items which have been exceeded in the 2020/2021 budget and items which have been increased in the 2021/2022 budget.

Chair Gentile stated that instead of reviewing the budget by line item, the Commissioners would present their questions starting with Commissioner Martinez.

Commissioner Martinez questioned the "Membership Dues and Subscriptions" and Mr. Chaison stated the increase was due to an increase in the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) subscription. Commissioner Martinez also questioned the increase in "Medical Insurance" which Mr. Chaison stated was due to a 30% increase in costs from Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT). Mr. Chaison stated he was looking into insurance through the State. Commissioner Martinez noted the "Inlet Projects" had gone over budget but was down to \$880,000 in next years' budget. Mr. Chaison stated the large amount of sand and associated permit costs for the dredging this year had caused us to go over budget but that we should be back to our normal dredge cost in 2022. Commissioner Martinez asked about the \$997,000.00 budgeted for "River Management". Mr. Chaison stated the amount is a combination of the Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance, the Central Embayment and River Sedimentation Study and the Taylor Property Acquisition (cost over 5 years). Commissioner Martinez also asked about the \$90,000.00 included for "Inlet Management Plan". Mr. Chaison stated the cost included the Sediment Budget and also the Inlet Management Plan Update.

Vice Chair Howard noted that the Board does not normally support raises to salaries greater than a cost of living increase every year, but he does support the current 5% increase due to the extraordinary work staff did this year. Vice Chair Howard asked if the inlet boater safety seminar is included and Mr. Chaison responded that yes, it was included in the "Public Information" line item. Vice Chair Howard noted that a rate increase had been discussed regarding Taylor Engineering and questioned whether that increase is reflected in the "General Engineering" amount. Mr. Chaison responded that it was included. Vice Chair Howard questioned the amount in "Jetty Maintenance" and if it was based on an amount from Taylor Engineering. Mr. Chaison stated that is was based on a report completed by Taylor Engineering in 2018 and included maintenance items through 2022. Vice Chair Howard stated that he had noted in the past that he would like to have a plan for native plants on the Taylor property and asked if the planning, design and maintenance was included in the budget. Mr. Chaison responded that it had not been included in this budget. Vice Chair asked if any funds had been put aside for the Living Shoreline project moving forward as far as providing funding for owners who would like to do a project as well. A discussion ensued regarding

acquiring a brochure or template from Taylor Engineering to provide to owners and the Board would need to discuss and provide Staff with guidelines as far as possible matching funds. Commissioner Martinez stated he felt the inlet was a busy spot to view the living shoreline but that a project could be completed at a possible mangrove island project by the area we are doing our sediment study by. Vice Chair Howard stated that he was concerned about mangroves blocking residents' view.

Commissioner Whipple stated she felt we should have some funds set aside for maintenance for the current Living Shoreline Project. Mr. Chaison responded there are 2 specific controls in place for that. The plantings within the contract have a 180 day/85% survivorship requirement with the contractor. In addition there is a 3 year monitoring program in place. Commissioner Whipple asked if there were any funds included as far as maintenance for the Taylor Property. Mr. Chaison stated that no funds had been set aside in the budget at this time. Chair Gentile stated that Mr. Chaison monitor the Town of Jupiter's budget to see what projects they were considering and adjust our budget accordingly. No further decisions/suggestions of funds being added to the budget were noted at this time.

Commissioner Davis stated he had met with Mr. Chaison and reviewed the budget earlier in the day and therefore had no further questions.

Chair Gentile noted an issue with availability of local surveyors in the area and stated that we should bump up our surveying budget in lieu of the issues.

4. **Next Meeting Date(s)** – Tentative Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting, September 8, 2021
Final Budget Hearing – September 22, 2021

5. **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to Adjourn**. Commissioner Howard so **MOVED**; Commissioner Davis **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM

George G. Gentile, Chairman

Thomas L. Howard, Vice Chairman