



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL FY 2017 MILLAGE RATE/
FINAL FY 2017 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a public hearing concerning the final FY 2017 Millage Rate and the final FY 2017 Operating & Capital Budget in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 5:30 PM on this date. The following members were present:

Darden Rice, Chairperson
Julie Bujalski, Vice-Chairperson
Janet Long, Secretary/Treasurer
Joseph Barkley
Mark Deighton
Dave Eggers
Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard
Bill Jonson

Absent:

Doug Bevis
Ben Diamond
Patricia Johnson
Brian Scott
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Rice called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL FY 2017 MILLAGE RATE & BUDGET

Chairperson Introduction – Chairperson Rice read the Chairperson’s statement as follows: The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public input and allow the public to ask questions concerning the Authority’s tentative millage rate and tentative operating and capital budget for FY 2017. Copies of our tentative budget are available if you have not already obtained one. The tentative FY 2017 Budget is included herewith, totaling \$90,240,661. (Operating Budget \$70,175,913 and Capital Budget \$20,064,748). The FY 2017 tentative millage rate is .7500. The FY 2017 rolled-back rate is .6838. The FY 2017 tentative millage rate of .7500 is 9.68 percent greater than the rolled-back rate. PSTA’s millage rate limit is .7500. The tentative property tax rate is used to fund the FY 2017 budget.

Staff Statement - Mr. Miller read the staff statement as follows: This public hearing has been scheduled so that the general public may be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2017 millage rate and budget.

A paid advertisement concerning this public hearing appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times* on November 12, 2016. Notices were posted at Park Street Terminal, Grand Central Station, Williams Park, Pinellas Park Transit Center, PSTA administrative headquarters, and on all PSTA buses on November 11, 2016. Information fliers were distributed via insertion in all Schedules-By-Mail requests, on the PSTA bus fleet, and at the Customer Service Centers beginning on November 11, 2016. A press release announcing the public hearing was e-mailed or faxed to major media contacts and social service agencies on November 16, 2016. A notice regarding the public hearing was posted on PSTA's website on November 11, 2016. To date, staff has received no written comments from the public concerning the issue.

Staff Presentation – The presentation was included in the packet, but since the Board heard the staff presentation at the last public hearing, the presentation was not repeated.

Board Discussion – Mr. Eggers asked Mr. Miller to speak on the reason for holding this meeting again. Mr. Miller stated that the Florida Department of Revenue informed PSTA that the FY 2017 budget advertisement posted in the newspaper had an incorrect number. Due to this error, PSTA is required to schedule another Public Hearing. He pointed out that the final budget number was correct, it was another number in the ad that was incorrect. Mr. Miller added that staff has taken steps to avoid this in the future.

Public Comment – Harry Sherose, Pinellas County resident, asked why there are no bus schedules on the bus. He suggested adding the bus fares to the schedules so that the fare signs on the buses could be removed and replaced with advertisements for local

businesses. He noted that Route 18 and the Central Avenue Trolley (CAT) are very crowded. He also mentioned the changes on Routes 59 and 9 which are not good, in his opinion. Mr. Miller addressed his comments and indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Sherosé about his concerns at the Town Halls that were recently held. He said that PSTA is looking at possibly revamping the bus maps to include tourist destinations.

Adopt Final FY 2017 Millage Rate Resolution – Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #16-16 by title. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to adopt the final FY 2017 Millage Rate Resolution. Mr. Eggers spoke about balancing social, fiscal, and environmental responsibilities. He stated his belief that the expanded service should be a pilot program. He said, in his opinion, that this is not the time to increase the millage rate. Mr. Barkley spoke about why he believes the millage should be increased. Mr. Jonson indicated that he will support the millage rate increase because this will allow the Authority to expand service to later in the evenings and also on weekends, primarily serving workers.

Motion passed (8:2) with Mr. Eggers, and Ms. Bujalski dissenting.

Announce Percentage, if any, by Which Rate Exceeds Rolled-Back Rate – Chairperson Rice stated that the FY 2017 final millage rate is .7500. The FY 2017 rolled-back rate is .6838. The FY 2017 final millage rate of .7500 is 9.68 percent greater than the rolled-back rate. PSTA's millage rate limit is .7500.

Public Comments on Final FY 2017 Budget

There were no public comments.

Adopt Final FY 2017 Budget Resolution – Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #16-17 by title. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to adopt the final FY 2017 Budget Resolution. Motion passed (9:1) with Mr. Eggers dissenting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Chairperson