



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
WWW.PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

**PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL MILLAGE/
FY 2018 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

Chairperson Darden Rice called the September 20, 2017 public hearing to order at 6:00 PM. Members present: Darden Rice, Chairperson; Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson; Joseph Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Bennett, Doug Bevis, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Pat Gerard, Bill Jonson, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, John Tornga, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Patricia Johnson and Charlie Justice. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING – FINAL FY 2018 MILLAGE RATE & BUDGET

Chairperson Introduction – Chairperson Rice read the Chairperson’s statement as follows: Welcome. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public input and allow the public to ask questions concerning the Authority’s final millage rate and final operating and capital budget for FY 2018. Copies of our final budget are available if you have not already obtained one. The final FY 2018 Budget is included herewith, totaling \$99,821,567. (Operating Budget \$74,181,177 and Capital Budget \$25,640,390). The FY 2018 final millage rate is .7500. The FY 2018 rolled-back rate is .7018. The FY 2018 final millage rate of .7500 is 6.87 percent greater than the rolled-back rate. PSTA’s millage rate limit is .7500. The final property tax rate is used to fund the FY 2018 budget.

Staff Statement for Record – 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 final millage rate and budget for FY 2018.

A paid advertisement concerning this public hearing appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times* on Monday, August 21, 2017. 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 Thursday, August 17, 2017. 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 Thursday, August 17, 2017. A press release announcing the public hearing was e-mailed or faxed to major media contacts and social service agencies on Monday, August 21, 2017. A notice regarding the public hearing was posted on PSTA's website on Monday, August 21, 2017.

To date, staff has received two written comments from the public concerning the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Kent, St. Petersburg resident, stated that he led a group discussion on PSTA's proposed budget. He summarized the key points coming out of the meeting. Ms. Long asked about the group he was affiliated with and he said it is a group of retired folks.

Staff Presentation – The presentation was included in the packet and Chairperson Rice suggested foregoing the delivery of the full budget presentation again, since it was presented two weeks prior. Mr. Miller briefly explained that the FY 2018 budget maintains a balanced budget and maintains services.

Adopt Final FY 2018 Millage Resolution - Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #17-13 by title. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve Resolution #17-13. Mr. Eggers commented that he will not support the millage rate adding that he does not believe it should have been raised last year. The motion passed (10:3) with Mr. Eggers, Mr. Bevis, and Mr. Scott dissenting.

Public Comments on Final FY 2018 Budget – Mr. Kent made additional comments on the proposed budget and fares.

Adopt Final FY 2018 Budget Resolution – Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #17-14 by title. Mr. Jonson asked Mr. Miller to speak about the Flamingo smartcard process and fares. Mr. Tornga commented that he is concerned about the social aspect of the bus purchase and getting more buses on the road. Mr. Scott expressed his opinion that PSTA is not using the money appropriately to fulfill the transportation needs of the County. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to adopt the final budget Resolution #17-14. Motion passed (11:2) with Mr. Eggers and Mr. Scott dissenting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the public hearing at 6:30 PM.

Chairperson