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Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Public Safety Group

J.1.

3/24/2020

Subject:

Fire Special Assessment Rate Increase Letter

Fiscal Impact:

Approximately \$72,000 for letter distribution and public notice.

Dept/Office:

Fire Rescue Department

Requested Action:

Requesting Board approval to distribute the attached notice by first-class mail to each property owner to which the assessment applies, and to post the required public notice in appropriate advertising mediums informing property owners of an upcoming public hearing regarding a proposed Fire Services Special Assessment rate variance.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On February 20, 2020, during the budget preparation workshop, Board Members, present, expressed an interest to accelerate the 2018 Fire Service Special Assessment. The 2018 assessment approved a 15% total increase to fire operations revenue with 6% implemented in the first year followed by Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases in following years until the full 15% is reached. The FY 20-21 budget was already being developed to include a CPI increase of 1.81%. This initiative accelerates the remaining balance needed to reach 15%, or an additional 4.74% in this year's budget. This equates to an estimated total Fire Services Special Assessment increase of \$1.6M; or \$1.1M over already approved CPI increases. If this initiative is approved, the total Fire Services Special Assessment revenue is anticipated to be \$26.9 million for FY 20-21, a 6.55% increase.

County Fire Operations are funded through the ad valorem Fire Control Municipal Service Taxing Unit and the non-ad valorem Fire Special Assessment. The additional funding will be used to address reserves, capital needs, infrastructure and staffing needs related to overtime.

Section 197.3632(4)(b), Florida Statutes requires a specific type of notice of the public hearing to be given to each taxpayer by first-class United States mail at least 20 days prior to the public hearing. Additionally, section 197.3632(4)(b), Florida Statutes requires a specific type of notice to be given by publication in a newspaper generally circulated within the County. A sample letter is attached to this item for your approval. CAO has coordinated and confirmed the letter meets all statutory requirements.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

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