



**AGENDA REPORT**  
**April 9, 2019**

**Board Discussion: Barefoot Bay Recreation District Utilization of Uniform  
Tax Assessments**

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**SUBJECT:**

Barefoot Bay Recreation District Utilization of Uniform Tax Assessments

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

District 3

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Discussion only; no substantive action will be requested at this time.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Under the authority granted by Chapter 418 of Florida Statutes, the Board, through Sec. 98-76 of Brevard County Code of Ordinances, has permitted the Barefoot Bay Recreation District to collect its special assessment, known as a "recreation district tax," through "the manner provided for ad valorem taxes. . ."

Significant confusion has arisen regarding this arrangement. Some residents perceive this significant annual assessment on their County tax bill as having been set or approved by the Board.

At this time, all that is being sought is discussion on whether the Board's options on this matter should be researched by County staff, including whether the Board has the ability to rescind authority to collect this assessment on residents' tax bills.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

No Attachments Available



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April 10, 2019

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Commissioner John Tobia, District 3

**RE:** Item I.2., Board Discussion for Barefoot Bay Recreation District Utilization of Uniform Tax Assessments

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on April 9, 2019, discussed Barefoot Bay Recreation District Utilization of Uniform Tax Assessments, but took no formal action.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

*Tammy Rowe*

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/kp

cc: Each Commissioner

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Bio Inquiries



I(2) BCC 4/9/19  
Board discussion Barefoot Bay  
Recreation District Tax Discussion

Subject: Barefoot Bay Fee collection.

The Brevard County Tax Collector, collecting the fee for Barefoot Bay should stop. It is not the duty, nor the responsibility of the County to collect this fee. It is the duty of any community, or governing body to collect its own fees and or other taxes. There by the citizens of that community can keep track of any increases in those taxes or fees which was put upon them without their consent.

I'm not sure when, but I think it was around 2010 or 2011, somehow, Barefoot Bay had our fee added to the County Real-Estate, Property tax bill, and it was done for two main reasons. That being so that they could raise the fees, without it being readily noticed, and also to have the power of real government behind them, to enforce their will upon us. However, the Bay managed to have this done, whether having the County board voted to do it, or whatever other way, it needs to be stopped.

And since the County started collecting these fees, the Bay has indeed increased the fees a number of times, without the consent of "We The People." I know that I didn't vote for any increases. Example:

- \*2014 the fee was \$684.00.
- \*2015 the fee was \$720.00, an increase of \$36.00, a little over 5% increase.
- \*2016 the fee was \$720.00,
- \*2017 the fee was \$738.00, an increase of \$18.00, a 2.5% increase.
- \*2018 the fee was \$760.44, an increase of \$22.44, right at a 3% increase.

The total increase thus far is some \$76.44.

To anyone concerned, there is no reason why the fee for living here in the Bay should be more than \$1.00 per day, or \$365.00 a year. This amount for only 5,000 homes would be \$1,825,000.00 a year. And then force the rulers that be to run things within that income. After all, we who live here, most of us being on a small fixed, retirement income, have to live within our income. We must to prioritize our spending within our limited income according to the importance of that spending. The Bay should be no different.

People, when is enough going to be too much? Are we going to sit by and allow the greedy, so-called ruling class, to continue raising the fee, trying to turn the Bay into a mirror image of Boston, Chicago, or New York City?

Folks, when will the fee be too much for you? When it reaches:

- \*\$100.00 a month, or 1,200.00 a year?
- \*\$500.00 a month, or \$6,000.00 a year,
- \*\$1,000.00 a month, \$12,000.00 a year? And all, with the power of real government of Brevard County behind them, helping them do it. Just, when will it be too much for you to take? After all, folks this money that the Bay is extorting from us, is not **Monopoly Money**, as the ruling class seems to think. They seem to think that if they need more money, just reach deeper into the pockets of "We The People," and take it. And it seems that they are right, for no one seems to be willing to stand up to them and help to stop it.

Folks, as I have said before, I now say again, the actions of the Barefoot Bay Board, ruling class, is nothing less than criminal. Because they are not doing as they were

elected to do. Because they are wasting our money, and spending it as if it was indeed **Monopoly Money**. As with most governing agencies, the problem is not an income problem; it is an out of control spending problem.

Many times, the ones in charge of running the business of the Bay, have said they need suggestions on how to save money. That being the case:

\*I see no reason why we should be paying 2, or is it 3 code enforcement people. I know that there are at least 2 of these. And since the County started collection these fees, the Bay has hired these two full-timers. They are patrolling the Bay 24/7 looking for trivial things to **harass** and or stick it to the people living here. I wonder, just how much does this cost with all the gas in the truck being used? With all the wear-and-tear on the truck? And with all the lights being on, most of the night, in the code enforcement office? How much money could this one thing save?

\*Fact is, we don't even need one full-time Code enforcement person.

\*One part-timer would be more than enough to serve any legitimate code violation.

\*When the Bay receives a legitimate complaint, with the person complaining having identified himself, then the part-time code enforcement person could go out and investigate it. In other words, no anonymous complaints. If someone is not willing to put their name to a complaint, it should not be considered to be legitimate.

Also, I have been told that the Bay board members are now considering paying themselves. I vote no, NOT with my money. They have never been paid before, and they **don't** need, or **deserve** to be Paid now. If they don't want the position, let them give it up. But with the power of the County behind them, they will probably get their way.

For Further Discussion

Please Call



Rev. Dr. Earl B. Medlen