

**MINUTES
TOWN OF MONTVERDE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

February 11, 2015

The Town of Montverde met in Special Session on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Council Present:

President Glenn Burns

Billy Bates

Jim Pierce

Joe Wynkoop

Council Absent:

Arthur Nix

Staff Present:

Graham Wells, Town Clerk

Anita Geraci- Carver, Town Attorney

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

RESOLUTION 2015-01: ELECTING TO USE THE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON AD-VALOREM ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE SERVICES

Town Attorney Anita Geraci–Carver read out Resolution 2015-01. Mayor Troy Bennett explained that this was the first part of several parts of this process that the Town had been working on for a long time. He introduced the consultant, Sandi Melgarejo from Government Service Group, Inc who was working on the project and asked her to give Council an overview of where we are in the process and where we are heading with it. A handout was given to each Council member.

From the Handout she explained:

- What is a Fire Assessment?
- The similarities and differences between a Fire Assessment and a tax
 1. Both generate revenue to pay for services and facilities
 2. Both are mandatory and can be collected on the tax bill
 3. Assessments must benefit property; taxes need not
 4. Authorization for special assessments come from the Home rule Powers of the local Government; taxes must be provided by general law
 5. Local governments may develop the rate of assessments and the manner of apportioning costs; taxes must be prescribed by Legislature
- Collection Methods
 1. The Town currently collects through separate bill
 2. Through the Tax Bill which is the preferred method for most fire assessments as it has a 98% collection rate. It also gives a benefit to the resident as they would get a discount if they pay early. They would also be able to escrow the fire assessment into their taxes

Sandi outlined that if the Town wanted to transition to the Uniform Method of Collection (Tax Bill), Florida Statutes provide statutory requirements to collect on the tax bill. The resolution being adopted was one step in the process to putting the fire assessment onto the tax bill. She added that the Town could proceed with the adoption of the Resolution which must be done by March 1, 2015; it was not binding and that the Town was not required to put it on the tax bill. It just leaves the option available should the Town wish to. She went on to explain what the fire assessment study entailed.

- Data Gathering and Analysis of Service Delivery, Fire Department Budget, Fire Incident Call Data and Ad Valorem Tax Roll Data
- Develop Apportionment Methodology
- Preliminary rates
- Workshop where GSG would present their analysis and recommendations
- Council would decide whether or not to proceed with implementation; decide the rates, exemptions and what type of collection method they want

Sandi then outlined the Critical Events Schedule and timeframes for completing each section of the process. The date for the fire assessment workshop was discussed and agreed for Thursday April 2, 2015 at 6:30pm. Anita stated that the Resolution leaves our options open so that the Town can either put it on the tax roll or not. Anita also said that the County Tax Collector and the County Property Appraiser had both given the Town an extension of the January 1, 2015 deadline till March 1, 2015 to adopt the Resolution and remit it to them by March 10.

Billy Bates asked Sandi what she felt an average fee would be for a three bedroom home with a volunteer fire department. Sandi and Mayor Bennett suggested that this could only be answered once the study is done and the Town decides what level of fire protection it wants to provide. The Mayor praised the Fire Chief for providing excellent information that will help the Council decide.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm

MOTION by Councilman Wynkoop to adopt Resolution 2015-01; SECONDED by Councilman Pierce.

FOR: Burns, Bates, Pierce, Wynkoop

AGAINST: None

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

ADJOURNMENT:

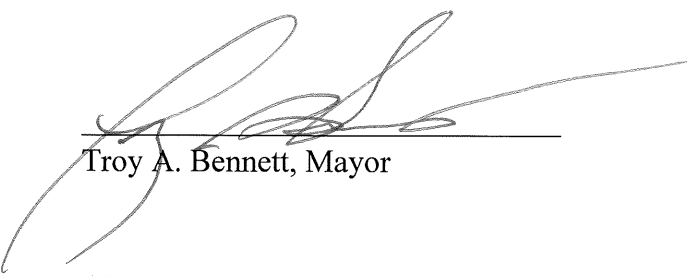
MOTION by Jim Pierce, Seconded by Billy Bates to Adjourn.

FOR: Burns, Bates, Pierce, Wynkoop

AGAINST: None

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Respectfully submitted

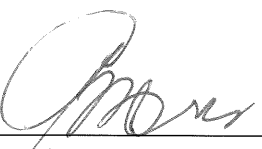


Troy A. Bennett, Mayor



Glenn Burns, Council President

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk

