

HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, June 08, 2021
5:30 PM
600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870
AGENDA

1 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Invitation to fill out “COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC” forms.
Please silence all cell phones and devices.

2 INVOCATION

3 RECOGNITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

- 3.A *Volunteer Firefighter Years of Service Recognition.*
Marc Bashoor, Public Safety Director
There is no Fiscal impact.
[Years of Service Recipients.pdf](#)

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 WORKSHOP

- 5.A *Fire Assessment Workshop*
Marc Bashoor, Public Safety Director
Replacement of the \$115 cap with a range will raise revenue by approximately \$450,000 annually.
[Fire Assessment 2021 Workshop.pdf](#)

6 ADJOURN

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by this Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, in public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. "Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida Rely Service 711, or by e-mail: hrmanager@highlandsfl.gov." Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service. Please note our new website address: www.highlandsfl.gov/ Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Commission meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Commission. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Commission, and the Commission is not allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: June 8, 2021

PRESENTER: Marc Bashoor, Public Safety Director

SUBJECT/TITLE: Volunteer Firefighter Years of Service Recognition.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

To promote the appreciation of the men and women who volunteer their time as firefighters, the Board of County Commissioners, Fire Rescue and Fire Chiefs would like to present certificates and lapel pins to the individuals. Years of Service will be recognized in five-year intervals. (see list attached)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board of County Commissioners presentation of volunteer firefighter Years of Service Awards.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no Fiscal impact.

Attachments: [Years of Service Recipients.pdf](#)

Years of Service 2020/2021

Personnel	Department	YOS
ALLEY, ANDREW	Leisure Lakes	6
CAMPBELL, ZACHARY	West Sebring	5
COLE, DANIEL	Leisure Lakes	5
COMPTON, CORY	West Sebring	6
DUNN, ROMEO WANYA	Highlands Lakes	6
HERNANDEZ, JASON	Lorida	5
KINSEY, JORDAN	Station 33	6
KINSEY, MARK	Station 33	6
LAIRD, GRADY	West Sebring	5
MORRIS, LOGAN	Leisure Lakes	5
OLIVERO, FRANCISCO	West Sebring	5
PETRUZZELLI, VINCENT	Placid Lakes	5
WYATT, JEFFERY	Highlands Lakes	5

5 Year Recipients

13

BANNISTER, JEFFREY	Lorida	11
CAVARRA, VINCENT	Leisure Lakes	10
DURBAN, SCOTT	Station 33	11
EDDINGTON, WARREN	Leisure Lakes	10
KAPLAN, SCOTT	Desoto City	11
MORAN, THOMAS	Leisure Lakes	11
MUHA, JOHN	West Sebring	11
RENFRO, COLT	Highlands Lakes	11
STUEVER, JAMES	Lorida	10
WILKINS, JASON	Leisure Lakes	10
ZANETTI, GIOVANNI	Highlands Lakes	11

10 Year Recipients

11

CONNELL, NOAH	Leisure Lakes	21
debree, Joeseph JR	Desoto City	20
HESS, ADAM	Station 33	20
JOLLIFF, RENE	Desoto City	21
ROMINE, MITCHELL	Leisure Lakes	21

20 Year Recipients

5

KELLEY, CHRISTOPHER	West Sebring	25
MORSE, MICHAEL	Highlands Lakes	25
ROMANIK, JOSEPH	West Sebring	25
DEBREE, JOSEPH	Desoto City	26
DEERY, MICHAEL	West Sebring	26
HENRY, CLIFFORD	Desoto City	26

25 Year Recipients

6

MEYERS, RALPH	West Sebring	30
GRAY, EARL	Highlands Lakes	31

30 Year Recipients

2

PUGH, DOUGLAS	Leisure Lakes	40
HOLMES SR, DANIEL	Leisure Lakes	41

40 Year Recipients

2

Total Recipients

39

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: June 8, 2021

PRESENTER: Marc Bashoor, Public Safety Director

SUBJECT/TITLE: Fire Assessment Workshop

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

The Highlands County Fire Assessment was implemented by the BOCC effective October 1, 2018. The adopted implementation allowed for 3 successive 7% increases in the square foot assessments, across all categories. The third 7% increase is scheduled to occur this coming October 1, 2021. The BOCC must consider future increases or see the assessment stagnate at its then current level.

Further, the residential category was enacted with a beginning square/foot/rate with a \$115 cap on the residential rate, as opposed to all other categories that were enacted with a per/square/foot range . The Public Safety Director has requested to replace the residential \$115 cap with a 7/cent/per/square/foot range.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive briefing from Public Safety Director and discuss options for fire assessment collections and fire service funding.

FISCAL IMPACT

Replacement of the \$115 cap with a range will raise revenue by approximately \$450,000 annually.

Attachments: [Fire Assessment 2021 Workshop.pdf](#)

**Highlands County
Fire Rescue
Fire Assessment
County Commission
Workshop
June 8, 2021**



Est. 2018

Presentation Agenda



- **Review Fitch Assessment & GSG Report**
 - **Review 2021 Data**
 - **Review 2021/2022 Recommendations**
- **Review Cap impact & Recommended Options**
 - **Review 5-year plan – Recommendations**

Fitch Assessment



- **Commissioned 2016**
- **16 EMS Recommendations (15 valid today)**
 - 10 Substantially complete
 - 4 in progress
 - 2 in discussion, but under dispatch control
- **17 FIRE Recommendations**
 - 14 Substantially complete
 - 3 in progress

GSG Report



- **Methodology Report submitted, August 2012**
- **Different methodology approved by BOCC, July 10, 2018**

Review 2021 Data



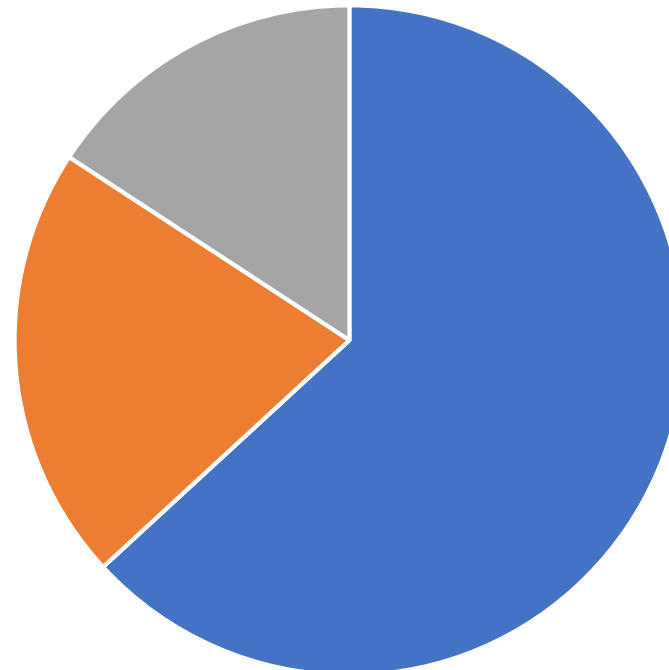
- **FY 20/21 + 7%; Budgeted – \$5,400,000**
- **FY 20/21 + 7%; Year end ESTIMATE – \$5,600,000**
- **FY 21/22 + 7% & - \$79k projected – \$5,700,000**
((+/- \$79,000 above is the projected gap generated by the City or Sebring annexations))

Review 2021 Data



Volunteer Call Volume

- Dual-cert: 68
- EMS-ONLY: 27
- Volunteer: 105



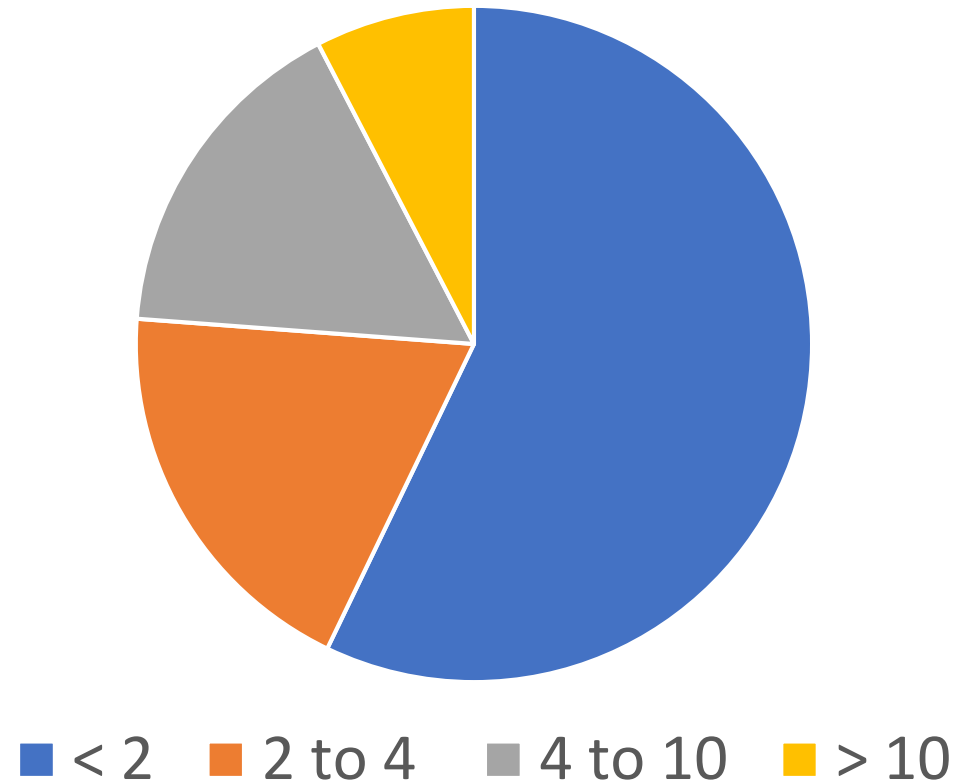
■ 2 or less a month ■ 2 to 4 a month
■ 4 to 10 a month

Review 2021 Data



Volunteer Calls Per Month

- < 2 per month: 60
- 2 to 4: 20
- 4 to 10: 17
- > 10 per month: 8

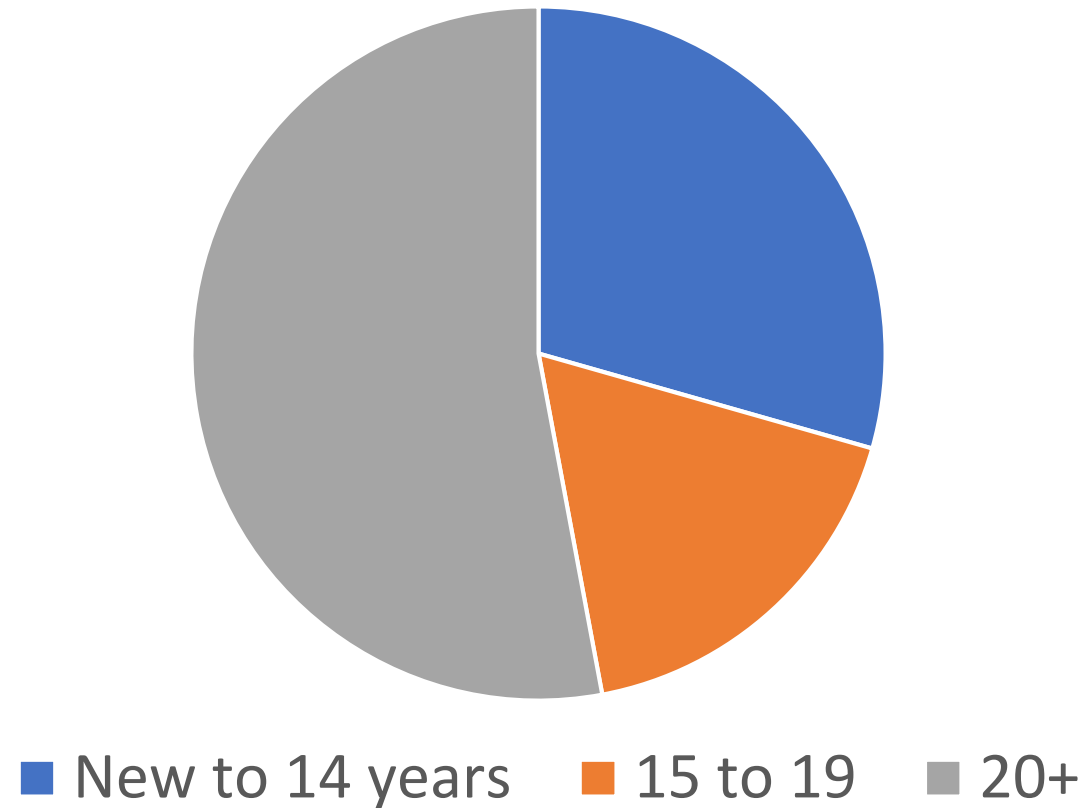


Review 2021 Data



Apparatus Age

- New to 14 years: 10
- 15 to 19: 6
- 20+ years: 18



Overall Recommendations



- 1. Fully implement the Fitch study recommendations**
- 2. Establish a funding stream to capture “lost” potential revenue (Remove cap and ensure write-offs are compensated)**
- 3. Establish new facility and apparatus funds**
- 4. Embrace Community Risk Reduction (CRR) principles (fire and EMS).**

Overall Recommendations



5. Establish working agreements for fire protection services countywide
6. Replace current multiple funding streams with MSTU
7. Adopt the 5-year strategic plan
8. Modify residential classification for Building Type Code 05 Residential Detached Garage to Industrial/Warehouse

Currently a 2,000 sq ft home w/ a 600 sq ft detached garage is assessed as 2 dwelling units separately totaling 2600 sq ft

Under the change the same units would be a 2000 sq ft home at the residential rate & a 600 sq ft detached garage at the industrial/warehouse rate

2021/2022 Recommendations



- 1. Remove residential cap and set a residential range cap at .07**
- 2. Maintain 7% in 2021/22, then increase all categories to 10% in 2022/23 for 5 years
(Residential will cap out in 4 years, industrial/warehouse in 1 year, land in 2 years)**

Recommendations – Cap Impacts



Some residential properties were capped from day 1.

Fiscal Year	Residential Sq foot w/\$115 CAP	Revenue (R)	Lost R w/Cap	
18/19:	2875	4,923,308.86	407,554	
			Additional lost R+7% & Cap	
19/20:	2686	5,292,991.46	- 7,000	(414,554)
20/21:	2511	*5,600,000	* - 28,541	(443,095)
21/22:	2346	*5,700,000	* - 44,544	<u>(487,639)</u>
		* = projected figures	(\$1,752,842)	
			lost-to-date	

Recommendations – Cap Impacts



The 7% will continue to provide room for growth, and as is, there is inequity where larger homes pay less per-square-foot than smaller homes. This will result in an annual increase of \$407,554 + continuing sustainable growth, however will NOT reach maturation.

1,200 sq ft home currently at \$54.95, will be \$59, by 2028 max at \$84

2,000 sq ft home currently at \$91.59, will be \$98, by 2028 max at \$140

2,511 sq ft home is the current max at \$115, 2022 at \$123, 2028 max at \$175

3,000 sq ft home currently maxed at \$115, 2022 at \$147, 2028 max at \$210

4,000 sq ft home currently maxed at \$115, 2022 at \$196, 2028 max at \$280

2018 thru 2022 Rate Analysis



• Category implemented	2016/2018 Sq Ft Fee	2019/20 (+7%)	2020/21 (+7%)	2021/22 (+7%)	Ranges
• Res.	.04	.0428	.045796	.049001	.07/sq ft
• Comm.	.06	.0642	.068694	.07350258	.19/sq ft
• Ind./Ware.	.055	.05885	.0629695	.067377365	.07/sq ft
• Inst.	.06	.0642	.068694	.07350258	.23/sq ft
• Land	\$22	23.54	25.1878	26.950946	\$30/year

2018 to 2021 Comparison



• Category	Percent Of Volume	21/22 projected \$ Revenue	Percent Of Revenue
• Res.	73 – 1141	3,357,551	58.9
• Comm.	10.24 – 160	304,225	5.07
• Ind/War	2.43 – 38	509,034	8.48
• Inst.	5.44 – 85	174,936	2.92
• Land	8.89 – 139	1,477,640	24.63
((2018 = 4,845,938))		5,700,000 @95%	

(* - should be 5,936,482 w/straight 7% and 6.35M
without residential cap)

Overall Recommendations

5-Year implementation Costs



1. Finish physical and systemic buildout – 5 additional years
 1. Complete & staff Lake Placid station: Aug 2023 **+450k**
 2. Plan, *build, & staff Spring Lake station: 2025 **+1.4M**
* plus a 1-time expense of 2.5M
 3. Staff stations to 3 firefighters each of 3 shifts **+300k per station**
 4. Staff stations to NFPA minimum 4 each shift **+300k per station**

2. **(Not Fire Assmt)** Add “surge” medical units *- 1 time 250k **+400k**
3. **(Not Fire Assmt)** Add a 10th 24/7 medic unit *- 1 time 250k **+480k**
4. Implement Mobile Integrated Health & CRR 1 time 350 **+120k**
5. Maximize fee structures Undetermined

2021/22 – Year 1



- 1. Convert residential to a range; .04 to .07 per sq ft, changing from the current \$ cap**
- 2. Establish automatic aide agreements with Sebring and Avon Park – improves safety & efficiency**
- 3. Establish a set aside fund for the Spring Lake station project – contribute \$150k annually**
- 4. Determine viability of “surge unit” implementation**
- 5. Seek funding to establish mobile-integrated-health**
- 6. Hire 3rd firefighter per shift**

2022/23 – Year 2



- 1. Hire staff – 3 Lieutenants and 6 firefighters for Lake Placid station (July 2023)**
- 2. Re-evaluate occupancy range values**
- 3. Establish a set aside fund for fire apparatus – contribute \$150k annually**
- 4. Establish unified response and operation policies**
- 5. Begin research to establish MSTU**

2023/24 – Year 3



- 1. Begin planning for Spring Lake station**
- 2. Enact new occupancy range values – original values were based on 2016 data**
- 3. If SAFER grant was awarded in 21/22; retain/fund 12 firefighter positions, bringing staff to 3 per shift**

2024/25 – Year 4



- 1. Hire 4th person per shift at 4 stations (12 firefighters)**
- 2. Establish MSTU or re-study the fire assessment needs**

2025/26 – Year 5



- 1. Evaluate working relationship between city/county fire departments, look at efficiencies for both the Cities and the County**
- 2. Hire staff – 3 Lieutenants and 6 firefighters for Spring Lake station**

Q& A



**Q & A
&
Thanks!**