

MEETING OF THE DISTRICTS
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
9:30 AM
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870
AGENDA

DISTRICTS LIST

AVON PARK ESTATES S. B. D.	ORANGE VILLA MOBILE HOME ESTATES S. B. D.
DESOTO CITY S. B. F. D.	PLACID LAKES S. B. D.
HIGHLANDS PARK ESTATES S. B. D.	PLACID LAKES S. B. F. D.
HIGHLANDS PARK S. B. F. D.	RED HILL FARMS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
HIGHWAY PARK S. B. D.	SEBRING ACRES S. B. D.
LAKE HAVEN ESTATES S. B. D.	SEBRING COUNTRY ESTATES S. B. D.
LAKE PLACID S. B. F. D.	SEBRING HILLS S. B. D.
LEISURE LAKES S. B. F. D.	THUNDERBIRD ROAD WASTEWATER S. B. D.
LORIDA S. B. F. D.	VENUS SPECIAL B. F. D.
ORANGE BLOSSOM ESTATES S. B. D.	WEST SEBRING S. B. F. D.
ORANGE BLOSSOM UNIT 12 S. B. D.	
ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	
SUN 'N LAKE ESTATES AND ACREAGE OF LAKE PLACID—S. B. D.	
SUN 'N LAKES OF LAKE PLACID RECREATION DISTRICT	
HIGHLANDS LAKES SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT	
COUNTYWIDE FIRE DISTRICT	
OAK MANOR AVENUE ROAD PAVING MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT DISTRICT	

1 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2 PRESENTATIONS:

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 CONSENT AGENDA

5 PUBLIC HEARING

- 5.A *Public hearing to consider proposed Resolution No. 22-23-129 pertaining to the re-imposition of Chapter 9, Article X (10), Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District special assessment.*
Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director
Valerie Fleeger, Senior Budget Analyst
The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 109 (Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District) of approximately \$287,250 annually as the previous assessment collection was \$143,625 and will now be approximately \$430,875 if assessment is set at the max rate of \$24 for FY 2023-24.
[Resolution 22-23-129 PRELIMINARY FY23-24.IMWID.SGS.pdf](#)
[IMWID Preliminary Tear Sheet - Affidavit.pdf](#)

- 5.B *Public hearing to consider proposed Resolution No. 22-23-130 pertaining to the re-imposition of Chapter 9, Article VII (7), Placid Lakes Special Benefit District special assessment.*

Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director

Valerie Fleeger, Senior Budget Analyst

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 107 (Placid Lakes Special Benefit District) of approximately \$243,504 annually as the previous assessment collection was \$162,336 and will now be approximately \$405,840 if assessment is set at the max rate of \$50 for FY 2023-24.

[Resolution 22-23-130 PRELIMINARY FY23-24.Placid Lakes MSBU.SGS.pdf](#)

[PL Preliminary Tear Sheet - Affidavit.pdf](#)

6 ACTION AGENDA

7 ADJOURN

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors of any of the Special Districts of Highlands County, Florida, in a public hearing or quasi-judicial proceeding 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 Supervisors of the Special Districts in 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 the Highland County Human Resources Department, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida Relay 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 of a public meeting 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 meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Special Districts of Highlands County shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by Highlands County, nor is Highlands County allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of any speaker.

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: June 20, 2023

PRESENTER: Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director
Valerie Fleeger, Senior Budget Analyst

SUBJECT/TITLE: Public hearing to consider proposed Resolution No. 22-23-129 pertaining to the re-imposition of Chapter 9, Article X (10), Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District special assessment.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

On April 27, 2023, a special meeting was held with property owners to discuss upcoming projects and funding. Due to the need of culvert replacements and yearly maintenance, the district is looking at a deficit of \$16 per acre or fraction thereof based on 18,898 acres. It was agreed for the current assessment of \$8 to be increased to a max rate of \$24 per acre or fraction thereof.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move to approve and adopt Resolution No. 22-23-129 pertaining to the re-imposition of Chapter 9, Article X (10), Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District special assessment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 109 (Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District) of approximately \$287,250 annually as the previous assessment collection was \$143,625 and will now be approximately \$430,875 if assessment is set at the max rate of \$24 for FY 2023-24.

Attachments: [Resolution 22-23-129 PRELIMINARY FY23-24.IMWID.SGS.pdf](#)
[IMWID Preliminary Tear Sheet - Affidavit.pdf](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 22-23-129

(Preliminary Annual MSBU Assessment for Fiscal Year 2023-24)

A RESOLUTION OF THE ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (MSBU), PERTAINING TO THE RE-IMPOSITION AND INCREASE OF THE MSBU ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR PRELIMINARY RE-IMPOSITION AND INCREASE OF THE MSBU ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT ROLE; PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE BY PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT PROCEEDS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Streets, Highways and Public Improvements, Article X (10) Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District (hereafter referred to as the "County Code"), authorized the imposition of an assessment against the benefitted properties for the purpose of carrying out the projects of the MSBU, which include but are not limited to the ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, public roads, removal of nuisances, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board (hereinafter referred to as "MSBU Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the MSBU assessment is imposed each fiscal year in an equitable and efficient method of allocating and apportioning the same, in order to pay for the cost of providing for the ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of MSBU Projects; and

WHEREAS, the MSBU desires to re-impose and provide for increases in its annual assessment for the purpose of funding MSBU Projects; and

WHEREAS, by this Preliminary Assessment Resolution, the MSBU desires to re-impose and provide authorization for incremental increases in the annual assessment which is imposed by the MSBU against the benefitted lands and properties located in the area of the MSBU for the purpose of completing MSBU Projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. The MSBU has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above findings are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Authority. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the County Code and other applicable provisions of Florida law.

SECTION 3. Preliminary Re-Imposition and Increase of the MSBU Assessment. The lands

and properties located in the area of the MSBU are hereby found to be specially benefited by the provision of ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, public roads, removal of nuisances, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board.

A. The following assessment shall be imposed against the benefitted lands and properties located in the area of the MSBU for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and shall continue each year thereafter until discontinued or changed:

Property Category	Rate Per Acre
Land or property	\$24.00 each acre, or portion of an acre

B. The above stated Assessment rate may be increased in any incremental amount not exceeding \$5.00, each year, so long as the total annual Assessment rate does not exceed \$50.00, for each acre, or portion of an acre, of land or property, and provided a public hearing is conducted prior to September 1 of each such year with the adoption of a Resolution reflecting the approved increase. Notice of the public hearing required for any such future increases, as set forth herein, shall be provided by publication only.

C. MSBU Assessments shall constitute a lien upon the benefitted property so assessed and shall be equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments. Except as otherwise provided by law, such lien shall be superior in dignity to all other liens, titles, and claims, until paid. The lien for a MSBU Assessment shall be deemed perfected upon the MSBU's adoption of this Assessment Resolution. Upon perfection, the lien for a MSBU Assessment collected under the Uniform Assessment Collection Act shall attach to the property included on the Assessment Roll as of the prior January 1, the lien date for ad valorem taxes imposed under the tax roll.

SECTION 4. Assessment Roll. The County Administrator is hereby directed to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a preliminary Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2023. The preliminary Assessment Roll shall include all benefitted land and property located in the area of the MSBU.

SECTION 5. Authorization for Public Hearing. There is hereby established a public hearing to be held at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, in the Commission Chambers of the Highlands County Administration Building, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring Florida, 33870, at which time the County will receive and consider any comments on the Final MSBU Assessment from the public and affected property owners and consider imposing the Final MSBU Assessment for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2023, collecting such assessments imposed on the benefitted land or property located in the area of the MSBU on the same bill as ad valorem taxes pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

SECTION 6. Notice by Mail and Publication. The County Administrator, or designee, shall cause notice of the public hearing authorized by Section 5, hereof, to be mailed to all of the property owners of the benefitted lands and property located in the area of the MSBU and shall also cause such notice to be published no more than 20 days prior to the hearing set for August 1, 2023. Such notices by mail and publication shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"**.

SECTION 7. Application of Assessment Proceeds. Proceeds derived by the MSBU from this assessment will be utilized for the ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, public roads, removal of nuisances, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board. In the event there is any fund balance remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year, such balance shall be carried forward and used only to fund ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, public roads, removal of nuisances, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board.

SECTION 8. Savings Clause. All prior actions of the MSBU pertaining to the assessment which is the subject of this Resolution, as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 9. Scrivener's Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the Highlands County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected.

SECTION 10. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 12. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of June, 2023.

**ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

CHRIS CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk of Court

Exhibit “A”

**NOTICE OF HEARING TO RE-IMPOSE AND PROVIDE
FOR AN INCREASE OF THE ASSESSMENT
OF THE ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given that the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners sitting in its capacity as the Board of Supervisors of the **ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT** will conduct a public hearing on **August 1, 2023**, to consider the re-imposition and increase of the Placid Lakes Special Benefit District Assessment imposed for the purpose of ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, public roads, removal of nuisances, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board, against the benefitted land or property located within the area of the **ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT** for the **Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023**.

The public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, on August 1, 2023, in the Board Chambers at the Highlands County Administration Building, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida, 33870, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. This public hearing may be continued to a future date or dates. The times, places, and dates of any continuances of a public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing without any further published notice.

All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with Highlands County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Human Resources, ADA Coordinator no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings: Telephone (Voice) (863) 402-6509 or by Florida Relay Service 711 or by E-mail to: HRManager@Highlandsfl.gov.

The following assessment shall be imposed against the benefitted lands or property located in the area of the Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and shall continue each year thereafter until discontinued or changed:

Property Category	Rate Per Acre
Land or property	\$24.00 each acre, or portion of an acre

The above stated Assessment rate may be increased in any incremental amount not exceeding \$5.00, each year, so long as the total annual Assessment rate does not exceed \$50.00, for each acre, or portion thereof, of land or property and provided a public hearing is conducted prior to September 1 of each such year with the adoption of a Resolution reflecting the approved increase.

Copies of the Final Annual Assessment Resolution for Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District, which is the subject of this hearing, and the assessment roll, and other documentation related to the proposed re-imposition and increase of the Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District annual assessment are available for inspection in the County Administrator's office located in the County Administration Building, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2023, as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632. Failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If you have any questions, please contact the County at (863) 402-6500 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WORLD NEWS

US releases video showing close-call in Taiwan Strait with Chinese destroyer

By DAVID RISING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK (AP) — The United States military released video Monday of what it called an “unsafe” Chinese maneuver in the Taiwan Strait on the weekend, in which a Chinese navy ship cut sharply across the path of an American destroyer, forcing the U.S. vessel to slow to avoid a collision.

The incident occurred Saturday as the American destroyer USS Chung-Hoon and Canadian frigate HMCS Montreal were conducting a so-called “freedom of navigation” transit of the strait between Taiwan and mainland China.

China claims the democratic self-governing island of Taiwan as

part of its own territory, and maintains the strait is part of its exclusive economic zone, while the U.S. and its allies regularly sail through and fly over the passage to emphasize their contention that the waters are international.

During the Saturday transit, the Chinese guided-missile destroyer overtook the Chung-Hoon on its port side, then veered across its bow at a distance of some 150 yards (137 meters), according to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The American destroyer held its course, but reduced speed to 10 knots “to avoid a collision,” the military said.

The video released Monday shows the Chinese ship cutting

across the course of the American one, then straightening out to start sailing in a parallel direction.

The Indo-Pacific Command said the actions violated maritime rules of safe passage in international water.

The Chinese ship did not attempt a similar maneuver on the Canadian frigate, which was sailing behind the American destroyer.

“Chung-Hoon and Montreal’s transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the combined U.S.-Canadian commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the Indo-Pacific Command said. “The U.S. military flies, sails, and operates safely and responsibly anywhere international law allows.”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin defended the maneuver, saying it was undertaken “in accordance with the law.”

“China’s military actions are completely justified, lawful, safe and professional,” he told reporters in Beijing. “It is the U.S. that should deeply reflect upon itself and correct the wrongdoings.”



RAFIQ MAQBOOL/AP PHOTO

Upendra Ram 49, right, waits to receive body of his son who died in Friday’s train accident in Balasore, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital in Bhubaneswar in the eastern state of Orissa, India, Monday, June 5, 2023.

As India grieves train crash that killed 275, relatives wait for bodies of loved ones

By KRUTIKA PATHI, RISHI LEKHI and SHEIKH SAALIQ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BHUBANESWAR, India (AP) — Families of the victims of India’s deadliest train crash in decades filled a hospital in Bhubaneswar city on Monday to identify and collect bodies of relatives, as railway officials recommended a federal criminal probe of the crash that killed 275 people.

Distraught relatives of passengers killed in the crash Friday lined up outside the eastern city’s All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Meanwhile, survivors being treated in hospitals said they were still trying to make sense of the horrific disaster.

Outside the hospital, two large screens cycled through photos of the bodies, their faces so bloodied and charred that they were hardly recognizable.

Each body had a number assigned to it, and relatives stood near the screen and watched as the photos changed, looking out for details like clothing for clues.

Many of the people waiting said they had spent days on desperate journeys from neighboring states, travelling in multiple trains, buses or rented cars to identify and claim bodies, a process that stretched into a third day due.

So far only 45 bodies have been identified, and 33 have been handed over to relatives, said Mayur Sooryavanshi, an administrator who was overseeing the identification process at the hospital in the capital of Odisha state, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of

the site of the train crash in Balasore.

Upendra Ram began searching for his son, Retul Ram, Sunday, after traveling some 850 kilometers (520 miles) from neighboring Bihar state. The day-long journey in a rented car, which cost him 35,000 rupees (\$423), was exhausting for Ram. Retul, 17, had been on his way to Chennai to find work, Ram said.

After spending hours looking at photographs of the dead, Ram identified his son around noon Monday.

“I just want to take the dead body and go back home. He was a very good son,” said Ram, adding that Retul had dropped out of school and wanted to earn money for the family.

“My wife and daughter can’t stop crying at home. They are asking me to bring the body back quickly,” he said, wiping tears from his eyes with a red scarf he had tied around his head.

Friday’s crash was one of the worst rail disasters in India’s history. Investigators said that a signaling failure might have been the cause of the disaster, in which a passenger train hit a freight train, derailling on the tracks before being hit by another passenger train coming in the opposite direction on a parallel track.

The collision involved two passenger trains, the Coromandel Express traveling from Howrah in West Bengal state to Chennai in Tamil Nadu state, and the Yesvantpur-Howrah Superfast Express traveling from Bengaluru in Karnataka to Howrah, officials said.

ALMANAC

By The Associated Press

Today is **Tuesday, June 6**, the 157th day of 2023. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today in history

On **June 6, 1944**, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on “D-Day” as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

On this date

In **1844**, the Young Men’s Christian Association was founded in London.

In **1912**, Novarupta, a volcano on the Alaska peninsula, began a three-day eruption, sending ash as high as 100,000 feet; it was the most powerful volcanic eruption of the 20th century and ranks among the largest in recorded history.

In **1934**, the Securities and Exchange Commission was established.

In **1939**, the first Little League baseball game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In **1968**, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, 25 1/2 hours after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In **1977**, a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law imposing an automatic death sentence on defendants convicted of the first-degree murder of a police officer.

In **2005**, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that people who smoked marijuana because their doctors recommended it to ease pain could be prosecuted for violating federal drug laws.

In **2020**, tens of thousands rallied in cities from Australia to Europe to honor George Floyd and voice support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Ten years ago: Director of National Intelligence James Clapper moved to tamp down a public uproar spurred by the disclosure of secret surveillance

programs involving phone and internet records, declassifying key details about one of the programs while insisting the efforts were legal, limited in scope and necessary to detect terrorist threats.

Five years ago: Breaking with President Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan said there was no evidence that the FBI had planted a “spy” in Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign in an effort to hurt his chances at the polls.

One year ago: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson survived a no-confidence vote, securing enough support from his Conservative Party to remain in office despite a substantial rebellion that left him a weakened leader with an uncertain future. (Johnson would resign on July 7.)

Today’s birthdays

Singer-songwriter Gary “U.S.” Bonds is 84. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 79. Folk singer Holly Near is 74. Singer Dwight Twilley is 72. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein is 71. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 68. Actor Amanda Pays is 64. Comedian Colin Quinn is 64. Rock musician Steve Vai is 63. Actor Jason Isaacs is 60. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 57. Actor Paul Giamatti is 56. Rock musician James “Munky” Shaffer (Korn) is 53. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 50. Actor Sonya Walger is 49. Jazz singer Somi is 47. Actor Amber Borycki is 40. Actor Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 16.

Bible verse

“For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.” — Psalm 40:12.

Do you feel the same way? The Lord can lift the burdens of your heart. “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA SITTING AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, sitting as the Board of Supervisors of the Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed change in the assessment rate of the Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District non-ad valorem assessment levied against each acre of property located within the District for the purpose of providing for the financing of projects for the District. This notice is given pursuant to the Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Article X, Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District and Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, at the Government Center Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida. All affected property owners have the right to appear and be heard at the public hearing and the right to file written objections with the Board of Supervisors related to the proposed increase. Written objections should be sent to Highlands County Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Department, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors of Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District in a public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

It is proposed that each acre in the special district described above will be subject to an annual Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District non-ad valorem assessment in an amount not to exceed \$24.00 for each acre, beginning October 1, 2023, which will be collected each year and will continue from year to year as provided in Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632(6).

The estimated total revenue expected to be collected from the proposed annual assessment of \$24.00 for each acre is \$453,552.00, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

The assessments will appear on the annual tax bill and will be collected by the Tax Collector, as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632. Failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in loss of title to the property.

If you have any questions, please contact the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Department at (863) 402-6500; Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual’s disability status. This non-discriminatory 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 Florida Statutes, Section 286.26, should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at 863-402-6509 (Voice) Via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: HRmanager@highlandsfl.gov. Address: 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. Request for cart or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Published Daily

SEBRING, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Case No. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA SITTING AS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE ISTOKPOGA
MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF HIGHLANDS**

Before the undersigned authority, Janet Emerson, personally appeared who on oath says that she is the Classified Advertising Legal Clerk of Highlands News-Sun, a newspaper published at Sebring in Highlands County, Florida; that the attached copy or reprint of the advertisement, to the right, being a Public Notice, was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of or by publication on the newspaper's website, if authorized, on:

JUNE 6, 2023

Affiant further says that the Highlands News-Sun newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

SIGNED:



Janet Emerson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of June, 2023 by Janet Emerson, who is personally known to me.



Nancy Y. Whirley Customer Service Supervisor, Notary Number HH293555
Notary expires: July 26, 2026



NANCY Y. WHIRLEY
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH293555
Expires 7/26/2026

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: June 20, 2023

PRESENTER: Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director
Valerie Fleeger, Senior Budget Analyst

SUBJECT/TITLE: Public hearing to consider proposed Resolution No. 22-23-130 pertaining to the re-imposition of Chapter 9, Article VII (7), Placid Lakes Special Benefit District special assessment.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

On March 9, 2023, a special town hall meeting was held for property owners to discuss upcoming budget request. During this meeting, various property owners suggested an increase to the assessment. The current assessment is \$20 per lot or fraction thereof. Property owners would like to have max rate of \$50 with a \$5 to \$10 increase each year as needed to help with recreational improvements throughout the district.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move to approve and adopt Resolution No. 22-23-130 pertaining to the re-imposition of Chapter 9, Article VII (7), Placid Lakes Special Benefit District special assessment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 107 (Placid Lakes Special Benefit District) of approximately \$243,504 annually as the previous assessment collection was \$162,336 and will now be approximately \$405,840 if assessment is set at the max rate of \$50 for FY 2023-24.

Attachments: [Resolution 22-23-130 PRELIMINARY FY23-24.Placid Lakes MSBU.SGS.pdf](#)
[PL Preliminary Tear Sheet - Affidavit.pdf](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 22-23-130

(Preliminary Annual MSBU Assessment for Fiscal Year 2023-24)

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT (MSBU), PERTAINING TO THE RE-IMPOSITION AND INCREASE OF THE MSBU ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR PRELIMINARY RE-IMPOSITION AND INCREASE OF THE MSBU ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT ROLE; PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE BY PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT PROCEEDS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Streets, Highways and Public Improvements, Article VII (7) Placid Lakes Special Benefit District (hereafter referred to as the "County Code"), authorized the imposition of an assessment against the benefitted properties for the purpose of carrying out the projects of the MSBU, which include but are not limited to the ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, water and sewer systems, public roads, fire protection, recreation and community center facilities, removal of nuisances, security services, mosquito control, signage, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board (hereinafter referred to as "MSBU Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the MSBU assessment is imposed each fiscal year in an equitable and efficient method of allocating and apportioning the same, in order to pay for the cost of providing for the ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of MSBU Projects; and

WHEREAS, the MSBU desires to re-impose and provide for increases in its annual assessment for the purpose of funding MSBU Projects; and

WHEREAS, by this Preliminary Assessment Resolution, the MSBU desires to re-impose and provide authorization for incremental increases in the annual assessment which is imposed by the MSBU against the benefitted lots and parcels of real property located in the area of the MSBU for the purpose of completing MSBU Projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. The MSBU has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above findings are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Authority. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the County Code and other applicable provisions of Florida law.

SECTION 3. Preliminary Re-Imposition and Increase of the MSBU Assessment. The lots and

parcels of real property, or portions thereof, located in the area of the MSBU are hereby found to be specially benefited by the provision of ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, water and sewer systems, public roads, fire protection, recreation and community center facilities, removal of nuisances, security services, mosquito control, signage, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board.

A. The following assessment shall be imposed against the benefitted lots and parcels of real property, or portions thereof, located in the area of the MSBU for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and shall continue each year thereafter until discontinued or changed:

Property Category	Rate Per Parcel
Lot or parcel, or portion thereof	\$30.00

B. The above stated Assessment rate may be increased in any incremental amount not exceeding \$10.00, each year, so long as the total annual Assessment rate to exceed \$50.00, for each lot or parcel or portion thereof, and provided a public hearing is conducted prior to September 1 of each such year with the adoption of a Resolution reflecting the approved increase. Notice of the public hearing required for any such future increases, as set forth herein, shall be provided by publication only.

C. MSBU Assessments shall constitute a lien upon the benefitted property so assessed and shall be equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments. Except as otherwise provided by law, such lien shall be superior in dignity to all other liens, titles, and claims, until paid. The lien for a MSBU Assessment shall be deemed perfected upon the MSBU's adoption of this Assessment Resolution. Upon perfection, the lien for a MSBU Assessment collected under the Uniform Assessment Collection Act shall attach to the property included on the Assessment Roll as of the prior January 1, the lien date for ad valorem taxes imposed under the tax roll.

SECTION 4. Assessment Roll. The County Administrator is hereby directed to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a preliminary Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2023. The preliminary Assessment Roll shall include all benefitted lots and parcels of real property, or portions thereof, located in the area of the MSBU.

SECTION 5. Authorization for Public Hearing. There is hereby established a public hearing to be held at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, in the Commission Chambers of the Highlands County Administration Building, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring Florida, 33870, at which time the County will receive and consider any comments on the Final MSBU Assessment from the public and affected property owners and consider imposing the Final MSBU Assessment for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2023, collecting such assessments imposed on the benefitted lots and parcels of real property, or portions thereof, located in the area of the MSBU on the same bill as ad valorem taxes pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

SECTION 6. Notice by Mail and Publication. The County Administrator, or designee, shall cause notice of the public hearing authorized by Section 5, hereof, to be mailed to all of the property owners of the benefitted lands and property located in the area of the MSBU and shall also cause such notice to be published no more than 20 days prior to the hearing set for August 1, 2023. Such notices

by mail and publication shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit “A”**.

SECTION 7. Application of Assessment Proceeds. Proceeds derived by the MSBU from this assessment will be utilized for the ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, water and sewer systems, public roads, fire protection, recreation and community center facilities, removal of nuisances, security services, mosquito control, signage, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board. In the event there is any fund balance remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year, such balance shall be carried forward and used only to fund ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, water and sewer systems, public roads, fire protection, recreation and community center facilities, removal of nuisances, security services, mosquito control, signage, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board.

SECTION 8. Savings Clause. All prior actions of the MSBU pertaining to the assessment which is the subject of this Resolution, as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 9. Scrivener’s Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the Highlands County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected.

SECTION 10. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 12. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of June 2023.

**PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT
DISTRICT**

CHRIS CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk of Court

Exhibit “A”

**NOTICE OF HEARING TO RE-IMPOSE AND PROVIDE
FOR AN INCREASE OF THE ASSESSMENT
OF THE PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given that the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners sitting in its capacity as the Board of Supervisors of the **PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT** will conduct a public hearing on **August 1, 2023**, to consider the re-imposition and increase of the Placid Lakes Special Benefit District Assessment imposed for the purpose of ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of flood, erosion control, reclamation and irrigation facilities, water and sewer systems, public roads, fire protection, recreation and community center facilities, removal of nuisances, security services, mosquito control, signage, administrative costs to Highlands County and other benefits as determined by the MSBU Board, against the benefitted lots and parcels of real property, or portions thereof, located within the area of the **PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT** for the **Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023**.

The public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, on August 1, 2023, in the Board Chambers at the Highlands County Administration Building, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida, 33870, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. This public hearing may be continued to a future date or dates. The times, places, and dates of any continuances of a public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing without any further published notice.

All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with Highlands County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Human Resources, ADA Coordinator no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings: Telephone (Voice) (863) 402-6509 or by Florida Relay Service 711 or by E-mail to: HRManager@Highlandsfl.gov.

The following assessment shall be imposed against the benefitted lands or property located in the area of the **PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT** for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and shall continue each year thereafter until discontinued or changed:

Property Category	Rate Per Parcel
Lot or parcel, or portion thereof	\$30.00

The above stated Assessment rate may be increased in any incremental amount not exceeding \$10.00, each year, so long as the total annual Assessment rate does not exceed \$50.00, for each lot or parcel, or portion thereof, and provided a public hearing is conducted prior to September 1 of each such year with the adoption of a Resolution reflecting the approved increase.

Copies of the Final Annual Assessment Resolution for Placid Lakes Special Benefit District, which is the subject of this hearing, and the assessment roll, and other documentation related to the proposed re-imposition and increase of the annual assessment for the Placid Lakes Special Benefit District are available for inspection in the County Administrator's office located in the County Administration Building, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2023, as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632. Failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If you have any questions, please contact the County at (863) 402-6500 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Published Daily

SEBRING, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

SITTING AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE

PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT

STATE OF FLORIDA,

COUNTY OF HIGHLANDS

Before the undersigned authority, Janet Emerson, personally appeared who on oath says that she is the Classified Advertising Legal Clerk of Highlands News-Sun, a newspaper published at Sebring in Highlands County, Florida; that the attached copy or reprint of the advertisement, to the right, being a Public Notice, was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of or by publication on the newspaper's website, if authorized, on:

JUNE 6, 2023

Affiant further says that the Highlands News-Sun newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

SIGNED:



Janet Emerson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of June, 2023 by Janet Emerson, who is personally known to me.



Nancy Y. Whirley Customer Service Supervisor, Notary Number HH293555
Notary expires: July 26, 2026



NANCY Y. WHIRLEY
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH293555
Expires 7/26/2026



COURTESY/HCBOCC

Battalion Chief Larry Money was promoted to division chief June 1. His family attended his promotion ceremony Friday, June 2, at Fire Rescue headquarters. From left: Deputy Chief Mark Ellis, Andrew Money, Stacey Money, Division Chief Money, Amanda Baker, Tyler Baker, and Chief Laney Stearns.

PROMOTIONS
FROM PAGE 1A

Several family members were at Friday’s ceremony, including his wife and two children, his parents, grandparents, and in-laws. His wife, Katherine, pinned his badge on him. Fritz has been with Fire Rescue as a firefighter/medic since February 2019. He was promoted to lieutenant in March 2020.

He had several family members in attendance at the ceremony to celebrate his promotion to battalion chief, including his wife, two sons, and his father. Sarah Fritz, his wife and a captain with Polk County Fire Rescue, pinned his badge on him. “It occurs to me that you now outrank your wife,” Stearns joked. “Not at home!” Battalion Chief Fritz replied, to nods in the



COURTESY/HCBOCC

The Fritz Family was in attendance Friday, June 2, for the Highlands County Fire Rescue promotion ceremony to honor Lt. Kenneth Fritz, who was promoted to battalion chief on June 1. From left: Deputy Chief Mark Ellis, Ken Fritz, Kenneth Fritz Jr., Battalion Chief Fritz, Captain Sarah Fritz, Jacob Fritz, and Chief Laney Stearns.

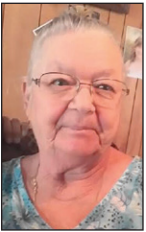
room. Money joined Fire Rescue in October 2018 as a firefighter/EMT and was promoted to lieutenant firefighter/medic in January 2019. In May 2022, he was promoted to battalion chief, and Friday’s ceremony marked his promotion to division chief. He takes the spot recently vacated by Kelly Hinkle, who retired June 1. Money also had family attend Friday’s ceremony,

including his wife and children. His wife, Stacey, pinned his badge on him. “I’m excited for this opportunity,” Money said. “Everyone better behave,” he said cheekily, looking at his colleagues in the back of the room. To learn more about the department or how to become a volunteer firefighter, call 863-402-7600 or visit highlandsfl.gov/departments/PublicSafety/volunteer.php

OBITUARIES

Kathleen A. Giller

Kathleen Anne Giller passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2023, in Sebring, Florida at the age of 75. The daughter of Myles O’Neill and Ruth (Schmit) O’Neill. She was born on Aug. 1, 1947, in Rome, New York. Kathleen worked in farming tending vineyards and had been a resident of Sebring since 1980. Her hobbies included fishing, bowling, wine making and she loved taking care of her family. She is survived by her



loving children, Randy Giller (Sara) of South Carolina and Aimee Patterson; niece, Trish Rivers; and great-niece, Carina. Also surviving are several grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Roger Giller, who passed in 2019. A visitation will be held at noon Friday, June 9, 2023, until service time at 1 p.m. at Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home in Sebring. Cremation arrangements entrusted to Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home, 4001 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870. Online condolences may be left at stephensonnelsonfh.com

ATTACK
FROM PAGE 1A

A video published by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry showed soldiers putting a finger to their lips in a sign to keep quiet. “Plans love silence,” it said on the screen. “There will be no announcement of the start.” The Center for Strategic Communications of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said on Telegram that Russian forces were “stepping up their information and

psychological operations.” “In order to demoralize Ukrainians and mislead the community (including their own population), Russian propagandists will spread false information about the counteroffensive, its directions and the losses of the Ukrainian army. Even if there is no counteroffensive,” a statement on Telegram read. Ukrainian officials have kept Russia guessing about when and where it might launch a counter-offensive, or even whether it had already started. A possible counter-offensive, using advanced weapons supplied by Western allies, could provide a major morale boost for Ukrainians 15 months after Russia’s full-scale invasion. Recent military activity, including drone attacks on Moscow, cross-border raids into Russia and sabotage and drone attacks

on infrastructure behind Russian lines, has unnerved Russians. Analysts say those actions may represent the start of the counteroffensive. Driving out the Kremlin’s forces is a daunting challenge. Russia has built extensive defensive lines, including trenches, minefields and anti-tank defenses. The front line stretches for 1,100 kilometers (684 miles). Ukraine could launch simultaneous pushes in different areas, analysts say. Michael Clark, the former head of the Royal United Services Institute think tank, said the “increased tempo” of activity in recent weeks likely marked the start of the counteroffensive and that June is likely to see the start of Ukraine’s ground operation. “There’s something going on,” he told the BBC.



JOHN GUERRA/STAFF

Gary Ricketts will have to wait for a bit longer to see if he gets a lower sentence.

Prosecutors fight lower sentence for Ricketts

By JOHN GUERRA
STAFF WRITER

Gary Ricketts wanted to get a new sentence Friday, but he’ll have to wait until his lawyer gets some more professional advice. Ricketts, who received a 40-year sentence for shooting a man he robbed, wants to have the sentence reduced because he was unfairly designated a “menace to society.” Ricketts was 17 years, 11 months old at the time of the crime, which meant he was to be technically sentenced as a juvenile. According to a June 10, 2020, written statement by then-Highlands prosecutor Steven Houchin, new rules passed by the Legislature allow Ricketts to receive a sentence review after 20 years. However, his sentence for shooting his victim brings a mandatory minimum of 25 years in prison. Circuit Court Angela Cowden and prosecutors have agreed to the 20-year review. “The current statutory and case law dictates that Ricketts is entitled to be resentenced,” Houchin stated in his 2020 opinion to the court. “Juveniles who are sentenced for a non-homicide offense which is punishable by up to a life sentence are entitled to a review of their sentence after serving 20 years.” On Friday, Ricketts attorney Megan Lazenby told Cowden that she wants to get the advice of a sentencing expert from

Florida International University in Miami before arguing Ricketts’ resentencing. The expert apparently believes she can get an even lower sentence for Ricketts. “I am unsure whether or not we can agree to just a review hearing at the 20-year mark for Mr. Ricketts,” Lazenby told Cowden. Prosecutors have agreed to the 20-year review, but are not in the mood to reduce Ricketts’ sentence further. “The state’s position is that Mr. Ricketts is not entitled to a complete, new re-sentencing,” Assistant Prosecutor Anita Riley told Cowden. “If you want to have a hearing to determine if Ricketts also complained that Lazenby has not spoken to him about his case, she has several complaints of ineffective counsel against her.” Cowden ordered Lazenby to visit Ricketts in jail to discuss his case at length by June 19, the date of his next pretrial hearing. Though Ricketts repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, appealed his sentence to higher courts, Lazenby and her client believe that the Florida Legislature in 2014 brought the state’s juvenile sentencing guidelines into alignment with the U.S. Supreme Court’s juvenile sentencing guidelines. Among the juvenile sentencing rights: A sentence review after 20 years to see if the inmate is no longer a danger to the community.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SITTING AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
PLACID LAKES SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICT



Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, sitting as the Board of Supervisors of the Placid Lakes Special Benefit District will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed change in the assessment rate of the Placid Lakes Special Benefit District non-ad valorem assessment levied against each lot, or portion thereof, located within the District for the purpose of providing for the financing of projects for the District. This notice is given pursuant to the Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Article VII, Placid Lakes Special Benefit District and Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, at the Government Center Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida. All affected property owners have the right to appear and be heard at the public hearing and the right to file written objections with the Board of Supervisors related to the proposed increase. Written objections should be sent to Highlands County Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Department, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors of Placid Lakes Special Benefit District in a public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

It is proposed that each lot, or portion thereof, in the special district described above will be subject to an annual Placid Lakes Special Benefit District non-ad valorem assessment in an amount not to exceed \$50.00 for each lot, or portion thereof, beginning October 1, 2023, which will be collected each year and will continue from year to year as provided in Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632(6).

The estimated total revenue expected to be collected from the proposed annual assessment of \$50.00 for each lot is \$427,200.00, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

The assessments will appear on the annual tax bill and will be collected by the Tax Collector, as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 197.3632. Failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in loss of title to the property.

If you have any questions, please contact the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Department at (863) 402-6500; Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual’s disability status. This non-discriminatory 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 Florida Statutes, Section 286.26, should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at 863-402-6509 (Voice) Via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: HRmanager@highlandsfl.gov. Address: 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. Request for cart or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.