

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CITY HALL, 212 WEST MAIN STREET
June 22, 2015 - 5:30 PM**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Governing Body with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to provide that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).

Accommodation for the disabled (hearing or visually impaired, etc.) may be arranged with advance notice of seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting, by dialing (352) 726-2611 weekdays from 8 AM to 4 PM.

ENCLOSURES*

- 1) INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

- 2) PLEASE SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

- 4) PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 5) OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**
The public is invited to express opinion on any item for this meeting or pending action at a future meeting of City Council. (Speaking time limit: Individual - 3 minutes; Group/Organization - 5 minutes)

- 6) CITY MANAGERS REPORT**
3 - 22 a) Fire Services Program*

- 7) COMMENTS**

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CITY HALL, 212 WEST MAIN STREET
June 22, 2015 - 5:30 PM**

8) ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Memorandum – *City of Inverness*

DATE: June 22, 2015
ISSUE: Special Meeting of City Council – Fire Services Vote
FROM: City Manager
CC: City Clerk, City Legal Counsel, Assistant CM, Finance Director
ATTACHED: Council Motion on Fire Services
Agenda Memo & Sheriff's Proposal, 10/03/14
Agenda Handout of Sheriff's Proposal, 06/02/15
Letter by Randy Oliver Dated, 06/15/15
Randy Oliver Letter to City on Tax
County Agenda Summary (MSTU)
Agenda Memo Fire Services Decision, 06-12-15

There is a significant difference between the 1974 Voter Initiated Fire Services Tax, an MSTU and MSBU that has been discussed numerous times in public session with City Council (Meetings and Workshops). Each prior discussion/presentation on the 1974 Tax yielded the same conclusion: it was imperative and beneficial for the City and County to maintain the Tax as a funding instrument, and use the measure to off-set the costs associated with the delivery of fire services to the County and City proper.

The structure of the motion and vote by a majority of Council Members on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, placed the relationship of the 1974 Tax to the City at risk. (See Council Motion on Fire Services) The action by the Council majority warrants a review to reconsider the purpose and effect of the voted outcome. The need for a Special Meeting on Monday, June 29, 2015, is to provide City Council an opportunity to readdress and potentially enact a change before the Board of County Commission Meeting on Tuesday, wherein, the BOCC will conduct a Public Hearing to adopt a new MSTU (tax) Fire Rescue/Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Taxing Unit. (See County Agenda Summary MSTU) Discussion by BOCC Members should be based on an accurate understanding of the City's intent to continue with the 1974 Voter Adopted Fire Services Tax; otherwise a fiscal dilemma could be created that would negatively affect the City. Council's vote essentially "removed the City from the 1974 Fire Services Tax." That action was witnessed by the County Administrator, Fire Department Staff, and reported by two news sources.

Administrative Offices
212 West Main Street, Inverness Florida 34450
www.Inverness-FL.gov

Agenda Memorandum – *City of Inverness*

Following consultation with City Legal Counsel, the proposal by Sheriff Dawsy in “context” was made part of the motion that eventually passed. The problem is created by the context of that proposal, which in part states:

“The City of Inverness would be removed from the MSTU and MSBU but instead be billed for defined fire services based on the contract.”

Note that the County consistently refers to the 1974 Voter Initiated Fire Services Tax as a MSTU. The referenced proposal that is on file with the City Clerk, and made part of a discussion item by City Council on October 7, 2014. The submitted proposal includes a sum total of \$490,000 and is all “Less Capital.” The proposal distributed to Council on June 2, 2015, and used by Councilman McBride is word for word identical and believed to be the same, but uses a different sum total amount of \$500,000. We are unable to explain why numbers differ, nor can we determine the material impact of the stated “October 14, 2014”, deadline.

Council’s action (motion and vote) used the proposal by the Sheriff, which is structured to provide Fire Services for either \$490,000 or \$500,000, less capital, and remove the City from the 1974 Fire Services Tax. Council previously concluded the 1974 Tax was a critical component for the fiscal well-being of the City.

This Special Meeting has been called to provide the opportunity to take corrective action to keep the 1974 Voter Initiated Fire Services Tax, but to do so will cause City Council to revisit the question of Fire Services.

Recommended Action –

- Motion, second and vote to readdress the action by City Council on June 16, 2016, with respect to fire services to rescind that motion and vote.
- Deliberate the issue of Fire Services to the City of Inverness.
- Motion, second and vote to frame the new motion to include the 1974 Fire Services Tax as a funding source.


Frank DiGiovanni

Administrative Offices
212 West Main Street, Inverness Florida 34450
www.Inverness-FL.gov

From: [Debbie Davis](#)
To: [Frank DiGiovanni](#)
Subject: Fire Services - Council Motion
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:03:07 PM

Councilman McBride motioned that we direct the city staff to meet with county staff to develop a Fire Services Agreement based on the Sheriff's Office managing the program at a cost consistent with the rest of Citrus County and that is said in the context of the Sheriff's September 18th, 2014 letter to the City Manager. Seconded by Council President Hepfer. (3 in favor; 2 opposed)

*Deborah Davis, City Clerk
212 W. Main Street
ddavis@inverness-fl.gov
(352) 726-2611 Ext. 1004*



Agenda Memorandum – *City of Inverness*

DATE: October 3, 2014
ISSUE: Correspondence by Sheriff Jeff Dawsy
FROM: City Manager
CC: City Clerk
ATTACHED: Sheriff Dawsy Letter

The attached is clear and self-explanatory.

Much legality exists and we have performed much by way of legal diligence to properly inform and help guide the means to meet the interests of the Inverness community. While complexities exist, the County Commission is the entity to address concerns of the City with respect to taxation, the MSBU and any related funding mechanism.

City Council may wish to comment with respect to an appropriate reply.

Recommended Action –
Discussion only; no vote is necessary.


Frank DiGiovanni

Administrative Offices
212 West Main Street, Inverness Florida 34450
www.Inverness-FL.gov



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

**SHERIFF
JEFFREY J. DAWSY**



September 18, 2014

received
9-18-2014 JN

Frank DiGiovanni, City Manager
City of Inverness
212 W. Main St.
Inverness, FL 34450

Frank,

In an effort to continue to provide exceptional fire services to the residents of Inverness, I would like to offer an alternative to the existing MSBU fire services contract that is currently being negotiated between the City of Inverness and the Board of County Commissioners.

For many years we have effectively worked together on a common goal: ensuring that all residents receive outstanding law enforcement services within the City of Inverness. Now, I would like to make sure we take this same approach towards Fire Services within your city.

For almost a year, this topic has been a source of controversy and contention within our two organizations that has played out publically for too long. I want to see a new focus and find a way to redirect all of this negativity into something positive.

With that in mind, I propose we take a new direction for Fire Services:

- Create a one-year contract between the City of Inverness and Citrus Sheriff Fire Rescue that would include fire services and certain ancillary support functions (dispatch, radios, CAD, fire inspections, etc.) at a cost less than what is currently being provided by the MSBU & MSTU. However, the cost associated with this contract will be based on the level of service you want us to provide to residents. (See attached proposal overview.)
- The City of Inverness would be removed from the MSTU and MSBU but instead be billed for defined fire services based on the contract.

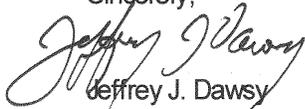
You have expressed concerns in reference to your residents being taxed to support fire service outside the city. This proposal should address those regionalization issues. I feel this is a good compromise and should address any concerns you and the city council have regarding the MSBU. Obviously, I believe the MSBU for Fire Services is a much better way of doing business to provide fire safety for every single resident within the City of Inverness. The MSBU is not a band-aid approach, but a long term solution for the future. However, the proposed contract

1 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE. - INVERNESS, FLORIDA 34450-4968 PHONE 352 726-4488

would give the City of Inverness an additional year to determine how to provide fire services to residents in the future with no interruption in service.

Frank, I know we both want what is best for all of the people in this community. We look forward to a productive resolution with positive outcomes for all involved. We would appreciate a response from you by Friday, October 10, 2014 so that we can move forward based on your decision.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Dawsey
Sheriff, Citrus County

cc: Public Safety Chief, Jim Goodworth
Commission Chair, John JJ Kenney
Commissioner Rebecca Bays
Commissioner Dennis Damato
Commissioner Joe Meek
Commissioner Scott Adams
Interim County Administrator, Jeff Rogers
County Attorney, Kerry Parsons
Chronicle Publisher, Gerry Mulligan

1 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE. INVERNESS, FLORIDA 34450-4994 PHONE 352 726-4488



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

**SHERIFF
JEFFREY J. DAWSY**



Proposal Overview

Below are services that would be provided in the proposed Fire Services contract between the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and the City of Inverness.

Personnel

Two career firefighters/ 24 hours a day

- Reflects personnel staffing prior to the MSBU which included two firefighters per engine.

Existing Engine, Equipment & Apparatus

Continued Training of Personnel

Fire Prevention Services

- Public education
- Fire code inspections

Communications Center

- CAD Maintenance
- Radio system upgrade
- Dispatch services

Specialized Hazmat & Technical Rescue Support

Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Response

All 911 Service Requests

We are estimating this proposed contract would cost the City of Inverness \$490,000. This contract would be reviewed and evaluated annually. This plan does not take into account future needs such as station upgrades, any new station construction costs, or potentially rising personnel costs.

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SHERIFF
JEFFREY J. DAWSY



September 18, 2014

Frank DiGiovanni, City Manager
City of Inverness
212 W. Main St.
Inverness, FL 34450

Frank,

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Frank, I know we both want what is best for all of the people in this community. We look forward to a productive resolution with positive outcomes for all involved. We would appreciate a response from you by Friday, October 10, 2014 so that we can move forward based on your decision.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Dawsy
Sheriff, Citrus County

cc: Public Safety Chief, Jim Goodworth
Commission Chair, John JJ Kenney
Commissioner Rebecca Bays
Commissioner Dennis Damato
Commissioner Joe Meek
Commissioner Scott Adams
Interim County Administrator, Jeff Rogers
County Attorney, Kerry Parsons
Chronicle Publisher, Gerry Mulligan



SHERIFF
JEFFREY J. DAWSY



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All 911 Service Requests

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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Executive Offices**

**3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461
Phone: (352) 341-6560 Fax: (352) 341-6539**

"We will be a user-friendly and common sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."

June 12, 2015

L 15-031

City of Inverness
Attention: Frank DiGiovanni
212 W Main Street
Inverness, FL 34450

Dear Mr. DiGiovanni: *Frank*

This letter is in response to your correspondence of June 10, 2015. I will address the issues in the order presented in your letter.

Land Conveyance to the City – Since this is a legal matter, I will ask the County Attorney to discuss this matter with Mr. Haag.

City Fire Services and Discussion – One of the options provided at the City Council meeting of June 2, 2015 was the City of Inverness would enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the County for the City to provide Fire Services to the citizens of the City of Inverness. The County would remit to the City the MSTU tax that the county collects within the confines of the City limits to the City of Inverness. The City would contract for or perform their own fire services. The revenues collected would be reduced by any fees that are assessed by the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser for the collection of these funds as well as any reductions caused by the City's CRA. The Interlocal would provide for appropriate indemnification and insurance. The City would enter into a separate agreement or agreements with the Sheriff for dispatching services and mutual aid if desired.

Fire Department Building Lease – I would envision this will be negotiated as part of the Interlocal discussed above.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and the City of Inverness and know that the Mayor and Council will make the decision regarding the provision of Fire Services that is in the best interest of the citizens they serve.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Oliver
County Administrator

Cc: Board of County Commissioners
Denise Dymond Lyn, County Attorney



City of Inverness

Administration Office

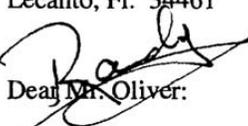
212 W. Main Street
Inverness, Florida 34450-4149
Administration@Inverness-FL.gov

(352) 726-2611

Fax (352) 726-0607

June 10, 2015

Randy Oliver, County Administrator
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
3600 W. Sovereign Path
Lecanto, Fl. 34461


Dear Mr. Oliver:

This is sent to maintain communication and continue our conversation of Friday, June 5, 2015, and keep you informed of potential action.

Land Conveyance to City:

Per City Legal Counsel, as custodial records the conveyed documents do not necessarily warrant escrow. The documents have been executed and certified by the County Clerk, which likely means the City has been conveyed property without a clear consent and understanding by the parties of any conditions or expectations. If the County took action based on an implied understanding that would require a like transaction by the City, please respond accordingly to let us know. The matter will be brought before the Inverness City Council in June for discussion of whether to accept the property or take other action.

City Fire Services & Discussion:

1974 Voter Initiated Fire Services Tax

On June 5, 2015, we discussed the possibility of City Council moving to create a separate Fire Department. We found agreement on use of collected tax revenues generated within the City by the 1974 Voter Initiated Tax for Fire Services, directly by the City to operate and deliver a Fire Services Program. We agreed that an Inter-Local Agreement would be structured by the parties to support his initiative.

Fire Department Building Lease:

We discussed the fact the City Building is committed to a lease between the City and the Citrus County Fire Protection Taxing District, and that provisions are being made to relocate County Fire Services equipment and personnel to alternate locations should the City move to create a Fire Services Department and require use of the building. Such arrangements would be part of pending discussion outcomes.

We expect that Inverness Council Members will make a final determination on the manner to proceed with the delivery of Fire Services in June and advise you of that action.

I hope you find this beneficial.

Sincerely,



Frank DiGiovanni
City Manager

Xc: Debbie Davis, City Clerk
Eric Williams, Asst. City Manager

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Citrus County Courthouse, Room 100
110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

AGENDA

June 23, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.

Dennis Damato, District 1	Angela Vick, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Joe Meek, District 3	Charles R. Oliver, County Administrator
Scott E. Carnahan, District 4, 2 nd Vice Chair	Denise A. Dymond Lyn, County Attorney
Ronald E. Kitchen Jr., District 2, 1 st Vice Chair	
Scott Adams, District 5, Chairman	

MISSION

Citrus County Government is a value-driven organization dedicated to responsive citizen service by providing quality programs, services and facilities to build a strong community and promote the best quality of life for our citizens.

All persons desiring to address the County Commission will be asked to limit their comments to the specific subject being discussed.

There will be a time limit set for all persons speaking at the public hearings, zone changes, workshops, and "Open To The Public" portion of a meeting. Organizations will be limited to five (5) minutes and individuals to three (3) minutes on either side of the item being discussed.

All members of the public wishing to speak at the "Open To The Public" portion of a meeting will have three (3) minutes per person per day to make their request or presentation. If the request or presentation deals with a matter that requires investigation by County staff, the Chairman will refer it to the County Administrator to follow-up with the person making the request.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Governing Body with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to provide that a verbatim record of proceeding is made which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105 Florida Statutes)

Any person requiring reasonable accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the County Administrator's Office, Lecanto Government Bldg., 3600 W. Sovereign Path Suite 267, Lecanto FL 34461 (352) 527-5210, TTY (352) 527-5312 at least two days before the meeting.

-
- A. CALL TO ORDER – June 23, 2015, Citrus County Courthouse, 110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida**
 - A1. Invocation**
 - A2. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - A3. Roll Call**
-

B. PROCLAMATIONS – PRESENTATIONS – PUBLIC HEARINGS

B1. 1:05 P.M. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

B2. PROCLAMATIONS-CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presentation of Certificates of appreciation by John Stewart and Barbara Mills to the Board of County Commissioners for their involvement in the recent Vietnam War Anniversary events.

B3. 1:40 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING- SALE OF UTILITY/ROSEMONT/ ROLLING GREENS

- a. Presentation by Staff regarding the possible sale of the Rosemont/Rolling Greens Potable Water System to the City of Inverness.
- b. Conduct a Public Hearing at 1:40 P.M. for the presentation of the Sale of Utility (Rosemont/Rolling Green)
- c. Adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute a Resolution of the Board providing for the sale of the Rosemont/Rolling Greens Potable Water System to the City of Inverness; providing for findings; providing that the sale is consistent with the Citrus County Comprehensive Plan; providing for determination by the board; providing for finding of a public purpose, necessity and that the sale is in the public interest in conformance with Section 125.3401, Florida Statutes; providing approval and authorization to sell; and providing for applicability and an effective date.
- d. Accept, approve, and authorize the chairman to sign Asset Purchase Agreement between Citrus County and the City of Inverness and the Bill of Sale.
- e. In accordance with the bond covenants from the original purchase of this system from the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA), acknowledge Certificate of the Director of Department of Water Resources that the systems are no longer necessary, useful or beneficial for the continued operation of Citrus County's utility system.

B4. 2:00 P.M. PRESENTATIONS

B5. 5:01 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING-PUD-15-01 CLARK A STILLWELL FOR BEVERLY HILLS DEVELOPMENT CORP-CR 491 AREA

- a. Conduct a Public Hearing on June 23, 2015 at 5:01 p.m. to consider PUD-15-01 Clark A. Stillwell for Beverly Hills Development Corp. (Beverly Hills Development of Regional Impact).
- b. If approved, adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute the Ordinance for PUD-15-01, Clark A. Stillwell for Beverly Hills Development Corp.- (Beverly Hills Development of Regional Impact)-C.R. 491 Area, amending the Land Development Code Atlas and Beverly Hills Development of Regional Impact Master Plan; and direct the Clerk to record the Ordinance in the public records

B6. 5:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING-FIRE RESCUE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT ORDINANCE

- a. Conduct a Public Hearing on an Ordinance creating the Fire Rescue/Emergency Medical Service Municipal Service Taxing Unit for the entire unincorporated area of Citrus County, Florida; describing the boundaries of the Fire Rescue/Emergency Medical Services MSTU to annually levy ad valorem taxes to provide fire rescue services, emergency medical services, facilities and programs; authorizing a pledge of the Fire Rescue/Emergency Medical Services MSTU ad valorem tax revenues to the retirement of debt when approved by the electors of the Fire Rescue/Emergency Medical Services MSTU as provided by general law; authorizing the issuance of debt upon referendum approval; providing for modification that may arise from consideration at public hearing and providing an effective date.
- b. If approved, adopt Ordinance and authorize the Chairman to execute on behalf of the Board.

Agenda Memorandum – *City of Inverness*

June 12, 2015

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: City Manager (W/Collaboration of Eric Williams & Sheri Chiodo)
SUBJECT: 1974 Special Fire Taxing District / General Fund - Public Safety / Fire Services Cost and Options / Budget & Revenues
CC: City Clerk and Finance Director
ATTACHED: Letter by Randy Oliver, County Administrator

What is the total Tax Levy by County in the City?

The City of Inverness in whole contributes total tax revenues, ad valorem property tax, absent 1974 Fire Tax District, to the County General Fund of some \$2,451,055. Using the County's allocation of 5.15% (being the city's population ratio to the total county population) for general fund expenditure of county services as the city's contribution, the cost to fund Public Safety is \$1,819,173. Approximately \$1,338,843 of the total goes to fund operational constitutional duties of the Sheriff's Office. The aforementioned dollar amounts do not include funds generated by the 1974 Fire Tax District or contractual Law Enforcement Service Agreement.

What is the amount of tax receipts to fund Public Safety Services in Inverness?

The culmination of all funds collected in the City and directed to the Sheriff's Office by the County under the auspice of Public Safety are as follows:

- \$1,338,843 Sheriff's Constitutional Operations (CCSO)
- \$480,330 Administrative Services Public Safety (portion to CCSO)
- \$243,118 generated by the City portion of the 1974 Fire Tax District (CCSO)
- \$747,620 by the contractual Law Enforcement Service Agreement (CCSO)
- \$15,708 for School Crossing Guards (CCSO)
 - Total \$2,825,619 (MOL)

Moving Forward with City Fire Services

Note the enclosed letter by the County Administrator. Let's assume that City Council moved that we proceed to create a City Fire Department, what would the cost be by the Office of Property Appraiser and Tax Collector for the City to receive 1974 Fire Service Tax Payments:

- At the last meeting of City Council it was stated collection costs to receive the 1974 Tax would be roughly \$50,000 in charges by the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser.
- Per conversation with representatives from both Constitutional Offices we were not able to confirm a charge of \$50,000, and found the cost to be more in line of \$10,000 total. However, it must be noted that said "charges" are based on total

tax collections, which means the amount (charge) will increase incrementally and moderately with rising amounts.

- The current levy of the adopted 1974 Fire Tax District is 0.6926 mills. Based on the preliminary estimates by the Office of Property Appraiser, the amount collected would be some \$302,000.
 - In abundance of caution we are providing calculated amounts based on valuations and different millage levy rates:
 - 0.5 mills would yield \$218,000
 - 0.6 mills would yield \$262,000
 - 0.7 mills would yield \$306,000

The Cost of a Fire Department

The analysis by Dunnellon Fire Chief Joe Campfield yielded a blueprint to follow. The projected first year budget is supported by Chief Campfield in the area of procurement, personnel hiring and training, volunteer program, and general administrative support.

Start-Up Budget considerations would be as follows:

- \$385,000 (Operations)
- \$250,000 (Capital)
- \$ 10,000 (Dispatch/Radios)
 - Sub Total: \$645,000
 - Less Tri-City: \$75,000
 - Total 1st Year: \$570,000

Year 2 and beyond continuation budget operational costs are projected to level at:

- Operations: \$400,000
- Capital: \$50,000
 - Total: \$450,000

Dispatch and Emergency Call Handling & Radio System

We discussed the cost and arrangements experienced by the City of Crystal River and found they have an agreement with the Sheriff's Office for these services at an annual amount of approximately \$6,000. Based on size and activity, the charge to Inverness would likely be between \$7500 and \$10,000.

Funding & Budget

The City Capital Improvement Plan includes \$250,000 for start-up equipment, vehicle costs, equipment/PPE, and building support.

Operational Budget amounts would be built into the City General Fund Appropriation at \$310,000 for the first year given \$75,000 in cooperative savings with Dunnellon.

Funding support would mostly be generated by tax receipts (revenue collected) from the 1974 Voter Initiated Fire Services Tax in the amount of \$306,000. The difference between this and additional costs means the City would make a \$4,000 difference.

In comparison, the presented budget originally made was just shy of \$600,000.00

Public Comments

Attached is a timeline summary that consolidates the dates and comments by members of the Inverness Community (business interests and residential) and by some who are not residents or business owners of the City. Please review the information prior to continuing with this memorandum.

Summation

Substantial information has been presented, questioned, deliberated, probed and analyzed from legal, cost based, social and practicable perspectives. Fire Services is an evolving enterprise, because as the need to respond to actual fires declines, a shift to respond for “other” reasons is defining call (response) numbers. There are many variables to consider of what may be deemed the best direction to take. While no decision is perfect or will receive universal appeal, the best course lies long-term, and must factor how the City is envisioned to be ten to twenty years from now. That’s not to say cost should be dismissed. Inverness is a compact urban environment where services are provided in a much more cost effective manner when compared to situations of sprawl. We have an advantage of convenience and expectation of better response times that must be achieved.

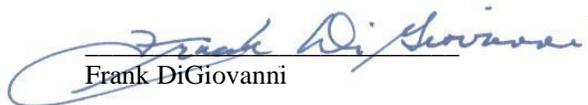
Recommended Action

Discuss the issue and if a consensus begins to emerge, City Council may find it desirable to motion, second and vote to (options):

- Authorize the Office of City Manager to take any and all action to create a blended paid and volunteer Fire Services Department of the City with assistance and support by the City of Dunnellon;
- Direct that we meet with County Staff to engage the MSBU program to be levied on residential and business property as prescribed by County Ordinance;
- Direct that we meet with County Staff to develop a Fire Services Agreement, based on the Sheriff’s Office managing the program at a cost consistent with the rest of Citrus County.

We await your collective determination and assure that every effort will be made to make your determination successful.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.


Frank DiGiovanni