

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**

The City of Leesburg Commission held a meeting regarding the Tentative Millage and Budget Adoption Thursday, September 15, 2016, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Hurley called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Bob Bone  
Commissioner John Christian  
Commissioner Elise Dennison  
Mayor Jay Hurley

Commissioner Dan Robuck was absent. Also present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, Budget Manager (BM) Brandy McDaniel, City Clerk (CC) J. Andi Purvis, the news media, and others.

Commissioner Christian gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**PRESENTATION:**

CM Minner provided a brief Final Budget Recap for Fiscal Year 2016-17.  
(please see attached)

The big note to point out is the millage rate remains the same, 4.2678, which is a slight tax increase, and in exchange for that tax increase, we are lowering the electric rate.

Mayor Hurley asked where this puts us at now on electric.

CM Minner stated he will have a more detailed discussion for the commission on this probably in about a month and the reason he is holding off is because FMEA tracks this on a monthly basis and he is waiting for them to update their charts. Right now our base rate of electric is \$105 per 1,000 on the residential side; it started at \$138 and was scheduled to go to \$142. This month we discussed returning those over recovery monies back to our customers, so for about three months, starting August, September, and October, there will be a zero power cost adjustment in our bills.

Commissioner Dennison asked how the new labor law changes will affect overtime.

CM Minner does not think it will have a great effect on it at all. The Library is where this hit the most, maybe three or four employees, so we did throw in about \$5,000 extra to their overtime budget; far less than having to change salary numbers. The biggest effect of the Exempt/Non-Exempt change was actually for our Athletic Supervisor position in Recreation. So we added a Planner position, did the exempt status, addressed the City Clerk position, and addressed the Maintenance Worker 1 positions, and we have the 3% COLA. Those are all the personnel issues in the budget.

Other Changes:

Gymnasium:

Expand operation hours at about a \$10,000 increase to the Recreation budget.

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Commissioner Bone appreciates staff doing this and thinks that is a reasonable number to keep the gym open for those extra hours.

Marina Rent:

Two tiers; one for Residents and one for Non-Residents.

Mayor Hurley asked for an approximately number on the budgeted annual increase.

Recreation Director (RM) Travis Rima stated from last year to this year, it should be right around \$70,000.

Mayor Hurley asked if there an issue with the pool cover and are we currently working on that.

CM Minner stated the Swim club is a staunch advocate that the city builds a new pool and when they spoke with him a few weeks ago, they again advocated their position to encourage the commission to build a new pool, and petitioned the city to buy new pool cover for them. Historically, the Swim Club bought that pool cover and it cost about 10 to 12 thousand dollars. He has not moved on that topic. He will get with Travis and DC to review contingency funds.

Commissioner Christian asked, before spending \$12,000 of the city manager contingency fund, what is the purpose of the pool cover because the Carver Heights pool does not have one.

CM Minner stated the purpose of the pool cover is just to keep the water warm so they can do swim practice in the winter.

Commissioner Christian stated he is not an advocate for that and thinks if we are going to look at spending \$10,000 for a pool cover, then he has a whole list of other things that money can be spent on throughout the city.

Mayor Hurley would still promote the Swim club do it, as we are actually spending a lot of money annually on the pool with repairs.

CM Minner stated obviously he did not think this was a huge priority and then that article came out in the newspaper. Frankly, his attention has been on other issues so has not aggressively tackled this one. He appreciates the commission feedback.

Firefighters:

CM Minner stated Monday's meeting had discussion about additional firefighters and the commission asked about the cost. The request came as how do we make three firefighters on a truck at all stations, at all times; how do we get to that level of service. Right now, when there is a shortage of personnel, the Chief uses the outlying departments, Okahumpka and the Airport, to shift people around into the major departments, being the Canal and Griffin stations. In a perfect world, if everyone comes to work, no one is sick, no one takes PTO, there is enough coverage to keep three folks on a truck, but that system starts breaking down when people start taking PTO. So, the question then

becomes how to you maintain at least three firefighters on a truck at all times; at all stations and there are two ways to do it: 1) pay more overtime and use your existing people to fill in the gaps, at an increase cost of about \$235,500; or 2) add three firefighters, without benefits that cost is about \$177,000. He stated to note if we do add three additional personnel, the existing over time budget at \$175,000 will not decrease. He does not think we should move forward with this plan right now as there are a few things going on regionally that we need to keep our eye on before committing to expanding fire services. He is doing a regional study to figure out what it would cost to provide fire and emergency services in the northwest region of the county. Lake County is also in the process of doing a regionalization study that they expect to unveil in December. He thinks before we start adding additional folks to our outlying stations, especially on the south side, we really need to see when that additional growth starts to occur and hopefully it will pay for itself. CM Minner stated his recommendation is to go with the budget as it is, that is 47 firefighters, 5 administrative staff and 42 firefighters, the EMS/Paramedics are included there as well, but his recommendation is to move forward accordingly.

Mayor Hurley asked how you hire three new positions and not reduce overtime. The three additional would give you three floating staff members to cover when someone is out.

CM Minner stated the overtime is going to be a fixed cost; we may see that number go down slightly, but does not think there will be a major shift in the overtime.

Commissioner Bone stated now you have three more positions to cover for.

Chief Johnson stated basically how it works is right now we have 14 guys on a shift. He allows two off, so two off means that Station 4 is now at two people and if you give him three more personnel, he will still allow two off. It is the third person causing the overtime who calls in sick, injury or anything else that might come up, so the overtime is basically fixed. When he ran the sustainability study, the average is anywhere from about 6 to 10% of your budget, and ours is about 2.9%.

Commissioner Dennison asked about the effect of the grant they are going to apply for.

CM Minner stated the grant is going to help defer some of those costs, just like the police grant did.

Chief Johnson stated it is a two-year program, but he would not suggest doing the grant. The grant is going to put you in the position to defer that cost and then two or five years from now you are going to forget about it and ask where are we going to get the money from; that is how we wind up laying guys off.

CM Minner stated everything else in the budget remains pretty much the same.

Commissioner Christian stated on to the Neighborhood Center, we talked about if going the full kitchen route that we would be \$200,000 short, and asked if that possibility should be included now.

CM Minner stated his recommendation would be to go with the funding route as it is. Should the CRA board decide it wants to incur all that additional costs now, the two options would be: 1) spend cash, use general fund revenues or use some of the utility funds to cover the cost of the capital cost, or 2) change the financing mechanism to stretch out the term of the debt which will bring down the annual costs. This is not something he thinks needs to be addressed now.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NON-ROUTINE ITEMS:**

Public Hearing on the proposed millage and proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

**HEARD THE NAME OF THE TAXING AUTHORITY, THE ROLLED BACK RATE, AND THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED**

Budget Manager (BM) Brandy McDaniel announced the Name of the Taxing Authority is the City of Leesburg, Florida. The proposed Millage Rate of 4.2678 is 0.81% higher than the current year rolled back rate of 4.2334, the Millage Rate to be Levied: 4.2678 Mills per \$1,000.00.

**DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE**

BM McDaniel stated on July 25<sup>th</sup>, the Commission approved the tentative millage rate of 4.2678 mills per \$1,000. Whereas, the proposed budget was developed using 4.2678 mills per \$1,000. Therefore, the tentative millage rate of 4.2678 mills per \$1,000 represents a 0.81% increase from the current year rolled back rate, which is attributable to additional expenses, and is considered a tax increase under TRIM guidelines.

**REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE**

There were none.

**ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9866 TENTATIVELY ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF 4.2678 PER \$1,000 TAXABLE VALUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

Commissioner Bone introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA TENTATIVELY ADOPTING 4.2678 MILLS AS THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, REPRESENTING THE CURRENT YEAR PROPOSED AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE OF 4.2678 MILLS WHICH IS 0.81% MORE THAN THE CURRENT YEAR ROLLED BACK RATE OF 4.2334; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Christian seconded the motion.

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Mayor Hurley requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Christian | Yes |
| Commissioner Bone      | Yes |
| Commissioner Dennison  | Yes |
| Mayor Hurley           | Yes |

Four yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

**ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9867 TENTATIVELY ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET**

Commissioner Bone introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, TENTATIVELY ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Christian seconded the motion.

Mayor Hurley requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Bone      | Yes |
| Commissioner Dennison  | Yes |
| Commissioner Christian | Yes |
| Mayor Hurley           | Yes |

Four yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

**ANNOUNCED THE TENTATIVELY ADOPTED MILLAGE RATE**

BM McDaniel stated the tentatively adopted millage rate to be levied is 4.2678 mills per \$1,000.

**ESTABLISHED AND PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING TO FINALLY ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET**

BM McDaniel stated the date to finally adopt the millage rate and the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget is scheduled for Monday, September 26, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

**CITY MANAGER ITEMS:** Nothing

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioner Christian** had nothing.

**Commissioner Bone** had nothing.

**Commissioner Dennison** had nothing.

**Mayor Hurley** stated as to our civic funding, he has been a staunch fighter for the Boys and Girls Club; having served on that board for over 10 years. This year based on the current situation with that particular organization, and being that the city has given them free rent and free utilities now for years, he does not think they should receive the public funding this year. Under the current president and executive board, they have run into some serious issues with misappropriation of funds and other things, fell through on the property with the school board, they stopped their campaign for capital improvements, which means the Leesburg facility will not be built any time soon and has been pushed back for years. As an alternative, because he does think that one of the key points for this commission is children, he would like to make a recommendation for the organization called Voices for Children. Voices for Children raises money for the Guardian Ad Litem program, a state mandated organization, that every child in the Fifth Judicial Circuit displaced from their home for any reason is assigned a guardian until those things are worked out. It is that Guardian Ad Litem who looks out for the child's wellbeing during that course, not the foster parent, not the state or DCF; it is an independent volunteer. There are 2,130 kids currently in the system, 353 of them are ours, and there are 255 GAL volunteers; volunteers who are paid nothing obviously and they simply look out for the best interest of that child. The state funding pays for the 10 permanent GAL employees and building rent; however, the state mandated that guardians cannot do any type fundraisers or anything to raise money for the children in these situations. So this group called Voices for Children, made up of a board of 10 people, with absolutely no paid staff, just a group working from their homes to raise money for the Guardian Ad Litem children. It is 100% volunteer, a 501©3, and the money they raise goes strictly to the GAL children. This organization is here to help make sure that children in the system have the necessities to try and have a normal life in the midst of this crisis as much as possible. Mayor Hurley asked that this year the funds from the Boys and Girls club be deferred to this program for the Guardian Ad Litem children. **Commissioner Bone** asked if we do rethink on Boys and Girls club, he would only ask that we do not just look at this one group here, but maybe also look at some other local groups. He is sure there are people locally within Leesburg who are working directly with young people that are disadvantaged. Not to have people come in and ask, but if we can put a list together of some of those groups. **Commissioner Christian** stated that is going to be the issue with the civic funding, the moment you open it up, we are all going to hear from three or four different groups. He hates to kick an organization when they are down, and yes, the club came to us saying they needed a place to go so we gave them the facility at Rogers Park. It is a small facility, but he thinks we also must be careful that if we take a hard line approach they might just simply say we have a place in Lady Lake, one in Clermont that is doing really good, we have a place in Eustis, let's leave Leesburg. The school board just passed a 500+ million-dollar budget, but how much of that budget is for mentoring

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kids in Leesburg, after school programs in Leesburg for kids who leave school at 2:30 to go home to an empty house and have no homework assistance. What organization in our city can we say instead of throwing a million dollars to a 500 million-dollar budget, who can we support that is going to help us make our schools better; you cannot make a building better, can only do that with the children. He has a friend who works at the club and she said she has gone from 40 to 30 hours a week, these are people who live in Leesburg who just took a 10 hour a week pay cut because there is turmoil at the organization, but they do not quit because they love the kids. So are we punishing the dedicated employees, the kids, or the organization because of oversight on the board of directors. He worked with DCF, for HRS, and worked very closely with the Guardian Ad Litem program, who manages students, but he also knows what the Boys and Girls club, what work they are capable of doing and what they should be doing. He just does not just want to kick them when they are down. To take from one group to give to another, he thinks is saying one is more important than the other. He would say hold whatever amount for them until we have the contract; until they hire a CEO and make a commitment to Leesburg that this is our plan for Leesburg. He has no problem giving the Voices for Children three or four thousand dollars, but not what the club was getting because they were up there with the Chamber and the Partnership. So just find an amount to give it to them and we just tell the Boys and Girls club when they are ready to make a presentation to the City of Leesburg, we have some money for you. **Mayor Hurley** agrees it is not the children's fault or the staff, but does not look at it quite like kicking them when they are down because we are not taking away the building or charging them rent and utilities tomorrow. That facility stays running at 60 even though they were planning for 250, because that is our need in Leesburg right now, but when you look at the total budget for Lake County, what does Leesburg get; how much money is truly being spent in Leesburg. Look at the buses they put in Leesburg, the little vans, as opposed to what they have in Clermont or the Villages. He will work with them as a city because he wants our children to have those benefits here, but he is not going to give them a bonus when they spent \$87,000 last year in travel, taking the entire board and select people, including one school board member, to Disney for three days of Team Building at the Disney Resort and stayed there. He wants to say we will support you, he fought for that for years, but here are kids that need a toothbrush and need the tutoring. The only reason he brought this was he was just trying to say there is a way we can take some amount of money and still be involved with children; make a difference because a majority of these kids are in Lake County. **Commissioner Bone** asked if this is something that has to be decided tonight because he does have some other thoughts about it. **Mayor Hurley** replied no, he just brought this up tonight to let everybody have something to think about before the second reading. Commissioner Dennison stated she is not against it and would like a copy of the information. She also agrees with the fact that the club was supposed to be three months in that building at Rogers Park, period and still pay for the electricity. They have now been there for 3 ½ years, have never paid electricity, and have taken that building over as their own. She thinks we have been giving money over and above what we had told them we would do.

**Commissioner Bone** left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

**Commissioner Christian** stated he did not know about the organization going to Disney and thinks if we are going to be supportive of kids and organizations who help kids, he has been doing this for a very long time, and has seen organizations come to this city,

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come to that podium and they are no longer here. We know we have a problem, especially lower income, minority kids who have nowhere to go, do not have tutoring, and that is a big issue within our school system. He thinks if we are going to be a city to support, we talk about schools and improving our schools, but it starts at the bottom, it starts with those kids who do not have an opportunity, who cannot jump to First Academy, or wherever, they are forced to go to schools that we are not going to say we are going to assist you. When you look at what Clermont, Eustis, or the church in Lady Lake is doing for them, he thinks we are still doing what other cities are doing. He thinks we have to ask ourselves do we want them in our city; that is the bottom line. **Mayor Hurley** stated he wants them in the city, he was just looking for an alternative. When you look at the need we have and the percentage of the need, we are only getting about a fourth of the kids that we have being able to attend; they are doing these great things everywhere else, but not here. He does not want to reward them and whether we do this or some other program, he is just saying he thinks they are taking advantage of us.

**Commissioner Christian** stated he is all about kids and does not have a problem adding this group to the list. There are a lot of organizations out there and he just wants to make sure we are doing what is best for Leesburg; especially Leesburg's children.

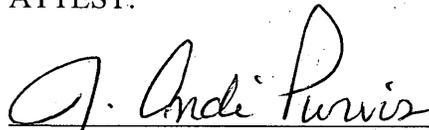
**ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Christian moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Andi Purvis  
City Clerk & Recorder

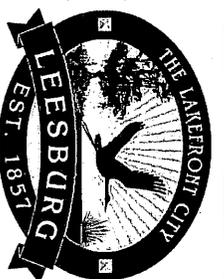
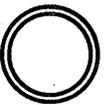


# Final Budget Recap

## Fiscal Year 2016-17

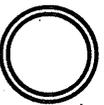


# Personnel Changes



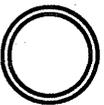
- Planner has been added to Planning & Zoning total cost is \$67,168 (General Fund cost \$30,226, Utilities \$36,942)
- Re-Classified a number of positions to meet the standards of the new Exempt/Non-Exempt Federal Labor Law:
  - Caused Athletic Supervisor (Recreation) to Recreation Supervisor total cost to General Fund \$6,404

# Other Changes



- The recreation budget has been increased \$10,000 for the Gym to stay open more:
  - Adding two nights during the week for late night open gym
    - Current hours 8:30 to 5 pm change to 8:30 to 8 pm
  - Open Saturday's 10 am to 4 pm
  - Open for 5 holidays from 10 am to 4 pm
    - Memorial Day
    - Labor Day
    - Veterans Day
    - Day after Thanksgiving
    - MLK Jr. Day
  - Rules for late night and holiday/weekend open gym
    - Must have and present a membership or pay daily fee

# Marina Rent Changes



## Non Commercial (residents)

## 15% increase at contract renewal

Current Wet Slip \$5.50 per foot

Proposed Wet Slip \$6.33 per foot

Current Dry Slip \$6.05 per foot

Proposed Dry Slip \$6.96 per foot

Current Trailer Storage \$20.00

Proposed Trailer Storage \$25.00

## Non Commercial (non residents)

## +5% above resident rate at contract renewal

Current Wet Slip \$5.50 per foot

Proposed Wet Slip \$6.65 per foot

Current Dry Slip \$6.05 per foot

Proposed Dry Slip \$7.31 per foot

Current Trailer Storage \$20.00

Proposed Trailer Storage \$25.00

## Commercial

## +5% above non residents rate at contract renewal

Current Wet Slip \$5.50 per foot

Proposed Wet Slip \$6.98 per foot

Current Dry Slip \$6.05 per foot

Proposed Dry Slip \$7.68 per foot

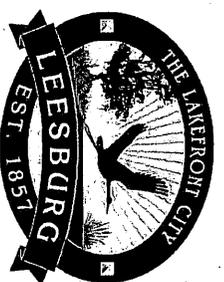
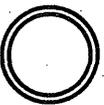
# Comparison Marina Rent



|   | <u>Wet/ft</u> | <u>Dry/ft</u> | <u>Trailer</u> |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Marina</u>   |               |               |                |
| Fisherman's Cove (Tavares)                                      | \$4.25        | \$6.50        | \$35           |
| Tavares Land & Sea (Tavares)                                    | \$4.50        |               |                |
| Banana Cove (Tavares)   | \$5.00        | \$4.50        |                |
| <i>Venetian Gardens (Leesburg) Non-Commercial- resident</i>     | \$6.33        | \$6.96        | \$25           |
| <i>Venetian Gardens (Leesburg) Non-Commercial- non resident</i> | \$6.65        | \$7.31        | \$25           |
| Mount Dora Marina (Mount Dora)                                  | \$6.65        | \$7.35        | \$20           |
| <i>Venetian Gardens (Leesburg) Commercial*</i>                  | \$6.98        | \$7.68        | \$25           |

\*Proposed rates for FY 16-17

# Additional Firefighters

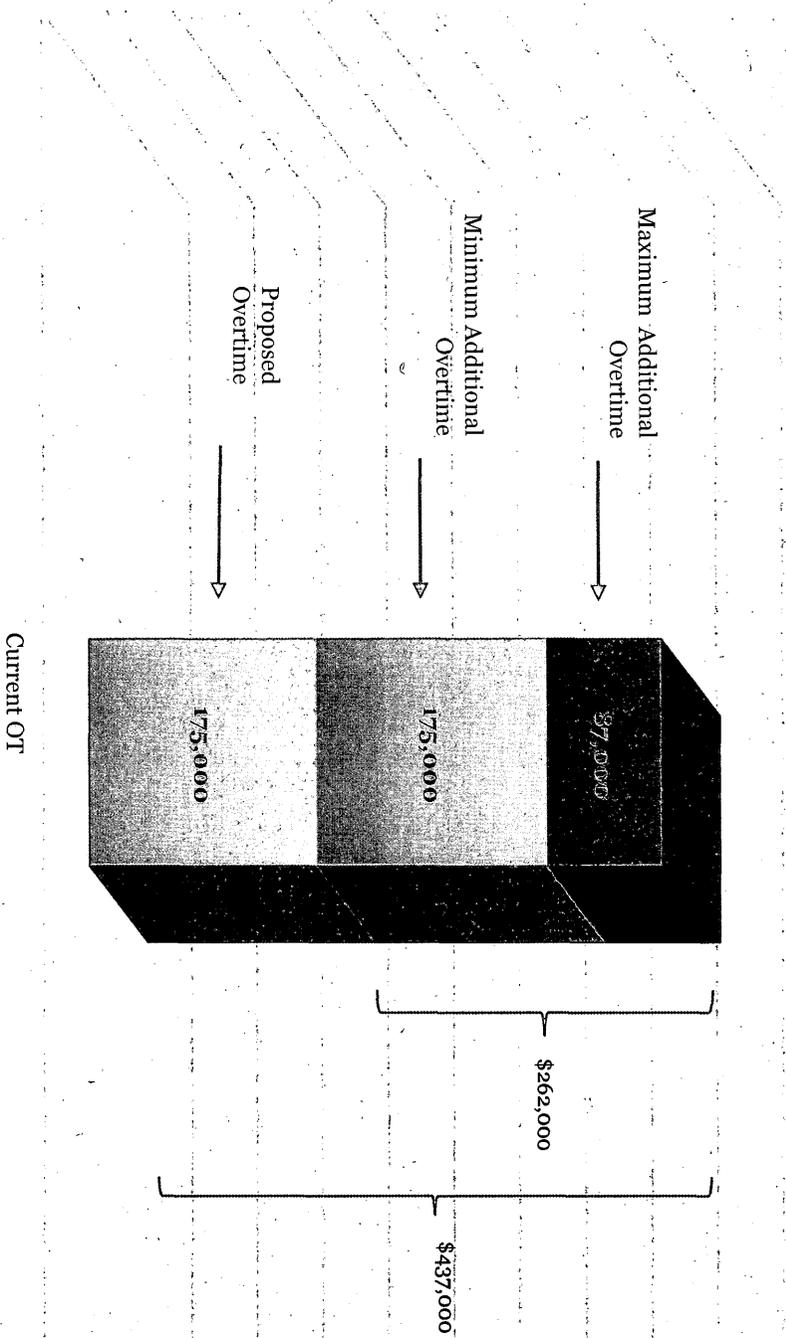


- To maintain at least three firefighters on a truck at all times in all stations one of two actions must occur:
  - Increase overtime budget by \$235,500 (Total allocation \$410,500)
  - Add three fire fighters- \$177,000 + Benefits and No Reduction in existing OT (\$175,000)
- This staffing modification can be absorbed by adjusting fire assessment fee revenue estimate.
- City Manager recommendation – move forward w/ Fire Department budget as originally drafted and consider modification to personnel when:
  - City study of regional fire and emergency services complete
  - Lake County finishes their regional fire service study
  - Additional growth occur in south Leesburg

# Additional Firefighters



## Fire OverTIME





# Questions???

