

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Schedule a Public Hearing to Establish the Maximum Fire Assessment Rate by Resolution on April 13, 2021, at 7:00 PM at Everglades Recreation Center, 5497 Marsh Bend Trail, The Villages, FL (Staff Recommends Approval).

REQUESTED ACTION: Staff Recommends Approval

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting **DATE OF MEETING:** 2/9/2021

CONTRACT: N/A Vendor/Entity: _____
Effective Date: _____ Termination Date: _____
Managing Division / Dept: Administrative Services

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: _____
Type: N/A **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** _____

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

The current maximum rate set on August 14, 2007, is \$125 per improved parcel following the research by Real Estate Research Consultants. The current annual rate set in 2020 was \$124.00 per improved parcel; therefore, only \$1.00 per improved parcels is remaining from the original maximum rate set and limits the Board’s ability to gain additional revenue via a rate change. The methodology for the maximum rate is still sound for use, as verified with the County Attorney and the original consultant; however, the application of the methodology was applied against the budget of The Villages Public Safety Department and the Sumter County Fire & EMS when they were new creations with low budgetary costs and substantially lower service delivery capabilities. The Board approved the elimination of The Villages Fire Assessment District on October 13, 2020, so that there is only one Sumter County Fire Assessment District for the county as a whole. Due to the continued rise in costs for the operational portion of both fire operations, and this non-Ad Valorem assessment is another General Fund revenue.

At the hearing, the Board will consider setting a new maximum, per parcel, annual special assessment for fire protection services at \$360.00; this would be the maximum amount that could be imposed without further notice. The implementation of the annual assessment rate for 2021 will be part of the budgetary process that follows this public hearing.

A notice will be published in the paper and first-class mailed notices to parcel owners regarding the public hearing.

The hearing will be held at 7:00 PM, on April 13, 2021, at Everglades Recreation Center, 5497 Marsh Bend Trail, The Villages, FL, for the purposes of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County Commission within twenty (20) days of this notice.

Prepared by: Leslie Smith **Grammarly Check**