



COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. The first meeting of every month is at 9:30AM while the second meeting of every month takes place at 5:30PM. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 7/10/2024 Meeting Date: 7/18/2024

Department: BCC Administration

1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Preliminary Rate Resolution No. 2024R-16 - Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services

2. Recommended Motion/Action:

Approve

3. Fiscal impact on current budget.

This item has no effect on the current budget.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION
FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES
RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-16**

ADOPTED JULY 18, 2024

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RESOLUTION NO. 2024R-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND RECOVERED MATERIALS IN THE COLUMBIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES; EXPANDING THE COLUMBIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE TOWN OF FORT WHITE; ESTABLISHING THE ESTIMATED ASSESSMENT RATE FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE COLUMBIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024; DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE AND REFUNDS FOR VACANT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY; AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE THEREOF; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida (the "Board"), has enacted the Master Service Assessment Ordinance, as codified in Chapter 94, Article II of the Columbia County Code of Ordinances (the "Ordinance"), which authorizes the annual imposition of Service Assessments for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs against certain Residential Property within the Columbia County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Solid Waste Services;

WHEREAS, the imposition of an annual Service Assessment for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs for each Fiscal Year is an equitable and efficient method of allocating and apportioning the Solid Waste Cost among parcels of Residential Property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ordinance, the reimposition of Solid Waste Service Assessments for the Fiscal Year beginning of October 1, 2024, requires certain processes such as the preparation of the Assessment Roll; and

WHEREAS, annually a Preliminary Rate Resolution describing the method of assessing Solid Waste Cost against Residential Property located within the Solid Waste MSBU, directing the preparation of an assessment roll, authorizing a public hearing and directing the provision of notice thereof is required by the Ordinance for the reimposition of the Solid Waste Service Assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it to be in the best interest of the citizens and residents of the Solid Waste MSBU to adopt this Preliminary Rate Resolution for the Solid Waste MSBU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. This resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Master Service Assessment Ordinance, as codified in Chapter 94, Article II of the Columbia County Code of Ordinances (the "Ordinance"), the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022R-37), the Amended and Restated Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022R-48), Article VIII, section 1, Florida Constitution, the Columbia County Home Rule Charter, section 125.01, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS.

(A) This resolution constitutes the Preliminary Rate Resolution as defined in the Ordinance which initiates the annual process for updating the Solid Waste

Assessment Roll and directs the reimposition of Solid Waste Service Assessments for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024.

(B) All capitalized words and terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Ordinance, the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution, and the Amended and Restated Final Assessment Resolution. Unless the context indicates otherwise, words imparting the singular number, include the plural number, and vice versa.

SECTION 3. EXPANSION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES. The Columbia County Municipal Service benefit Unit For Solid Waste Services, as established in Section 3 of the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution, is hereby expanded to include the incorporated area of the Town of Fort White; provided that the Town Council of the Town of Fort White timely consents by ordinance to its inclusion in accordance with Section 125.01(1)(q), Florida Statutes.

SECTION 4. PROVISION AND FUNDING OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES.

(A) Upon the imposition of Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs against Residential Property located within the Solid Waste MSBU, the County shall provide or direct the provision of Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs to such Residential Property.

(B) It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that each parcel of Residential Property located within the Solid Waste MSBU will be benefited by the County's provision of Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal

services, facilities, and programs in an amount not less than the Solid Waste Service Assessment imposed against such parcel, computed in the manner set forth in this Preliminary Rate Resolution.

SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE DETERMINATIONS OF SPECIAL BENEFIT AND FAIR APPORTIONMENT. The legislative determinations of special benefit and fair apportionment embodied in the Ordinance, the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution, and the Amended and Restated Final Assessment Resolution are affirmed and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF ANNUAL SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENT RATE AND ASSESSMENT ROLL.

(A) For the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, for which Solid Waste Assessments are reimposed, the Solid Waste Cost shall be allocated among all parcels of Assessable Property, based upon each parcels' classification as Residential Property and the number of Dwelling Units for such parcels. The Solid Waste Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is estimated to be \$4,501,111.56. Accordingly, a rate of assessment equal to \$198.06 for each Dwelling Unit for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs is hereby approved for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

(B) The County Manager is hereby directed to prepare, or cause to be prepared, an updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, in the manner provided in Section 94-63 of the Ordinance. The Solid Waste Service Assessment for each Tax Parcel of Residential Property shall be

computed by multiplying the assessment rate by the number of Dwelling Units on such parcel.

(C) A copy of this Preliminary Rate Resolution, the Ordinance, the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution, the Amended and Restated Final Assessment Resolution, and the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll is maintained on file in the office of the County Manager and open to public inspection. The foregoing shall not be construed to require that the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll be in printed form if the amount of the Solid Waste Service Assessment for each of Residential Property can be determined by use of a computer terminal available to the public.

(D) It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that the foregoing method of determining the Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs is a fair and reasonable method of apportioning the Solid Waste Cost among Tax Parcels of Residential Property.

SECTION 7. AUTHORIZATION OF PUBLIC HEARING. There is hereby established a public hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m. on September 5, 2024, in the School Board Administration Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida, at which time the Board will receive and consider any comments on the Solid Waste Service Assessments from the public and affected property owners and consider imposing such Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and collecting such assessments on the same bill as ad

valorem taxes pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

SECTION 8. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION. The County Manager, or such person's designee, shall publish a notice of the public hearing authorized in Section 7 of this Preliminary Rate Resolution, in the manner and time required in Section 94-64 of the Ordinance. The notice shall be published not later than August 15, 2024, in substantially the form attached hereto as Appendix A.

SECTION 9. NOTICE BY MAIL.

(A) If required by Section 94-68 of the Ordinance, the County Manager, or such person's designee, shall also provide notice of the public hearing authorized in Section 7 of this Preliminary Rate Resolution by first class mail to the Owner of each parcel of Residential Property in the manner and time required in Section 94-65 of the Ordinance. The notices shall be mailed not later than August 15, 2024, in substantially the form attached hereto as Appendix B.

(B) For Tax Parcels with exempt "home addresses" pursuant to Section 119.071(4), Florida Statutes, the County Manager shall work with the Property Appraiser and/or Tax Collector for provision of notice.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Preliminary Rate Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 18th day of July, 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

By: _____
Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk

APPROVED FOR FORM
AND CORRECTNESS

By: _____
County Attorney

APPENDIX A

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED

APPENDIX A

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED

To Be Published by August 15, 2024

NOTICE OF HEARING TO REIMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida, will conduct a public hearing to consider the continued imposition of annual Solid Waste Service Assessments for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and for future fiscal years against certain improved residential properties located within the Columbia County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Solid Waste Services, which includes the unincorporated area of the County and the incorporated area of the Town of Fort White, to fund the cost of Solid Waste and Recovered Materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs provided to such properties.

The public hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. on September 5, 2024, in the School Board Administration Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida, for the purpose 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 Board within 20 calendar days of the date of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board 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 made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County at (386)758-1005 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf at (386) 758-2139, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The annual solid waste service assessment is based on the number of residential dwelling units contained on each parcel of property. The proposed rate of assessment

for the upcoming fiscal year is \$198.06 per dwelling unit. Copies of the Master Service Assessment Ordinance, the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022R-37), the Amended and Restated Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022R-48), the Preliminary Rate Resolution initiating the annual process of updating the Assessment Roll and reimposing the Solid Waste Service Assessments, and the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll for the upcoming fiscal year are available for inspection at the County Manager's office, located at 135 NE Hernando Avenue, Lake City, Florida, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

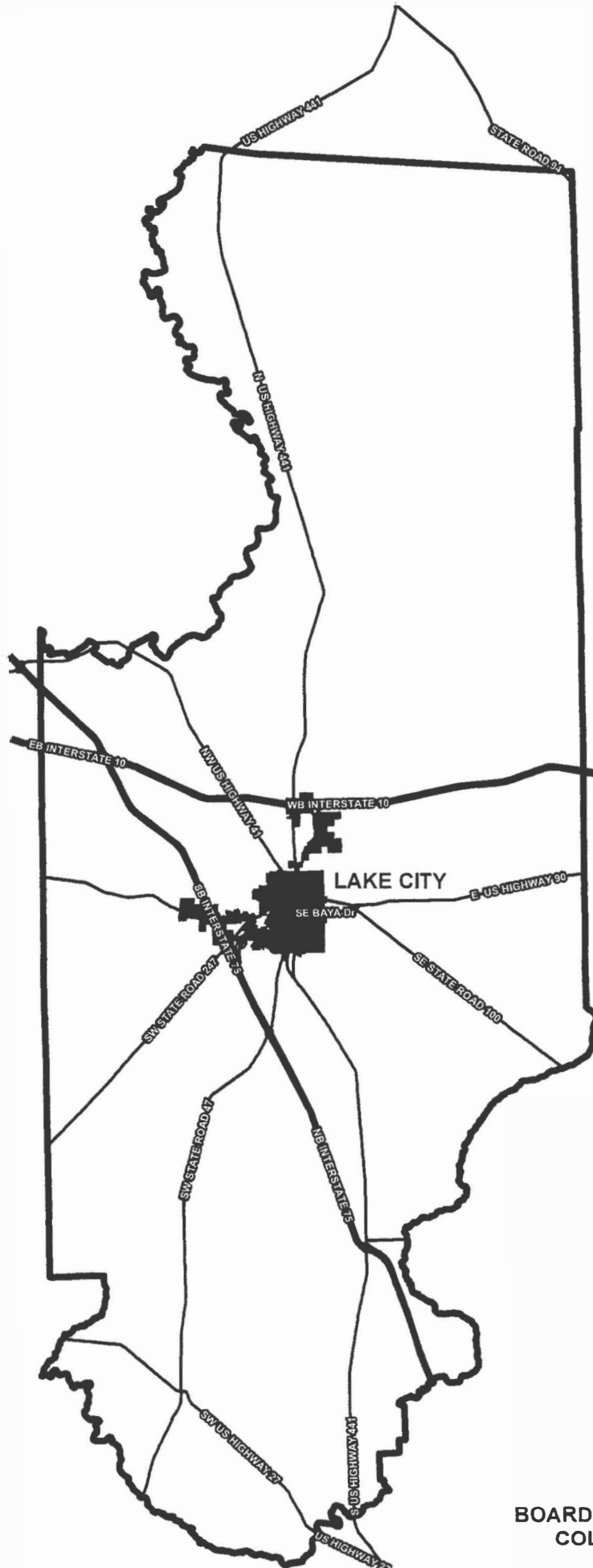
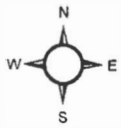
The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, or through separate bills to be sent by the County. Failure to pay the assessments being collected through the tax bill will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. Failure to pay the assessments to be collected by separate bill may cause the institution of foreclosure and/or mandamus proceedings, which may result in the loss of title, or, alternatively, may cause the assessment to be placed on your future ad valorem tax bill, and the continued failure to pay will then result in a tax certificate to be issued against the property, which may result in a loss of title.

Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Board's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the Columbia County Tax Collector at (386) 758-1080, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SOLID WASTE



INCORPORATED AREA OF
LAKE CITY NOT A PART



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

APPENDIX B

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE MAILED

APPENDIX B

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE MAILED

******* NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER *******

COLUMBIA COUNTY
135 NE Hernando Avenue
Lake City, Florida

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND
PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF NON-AD
VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

NOTICE DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024

Owner
Address
City, State Zip

Sequence #
Tax Parcel #
Legal Description:

As required by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and the direction of the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida, notice is given by the County that annual assessments for solid waste and recovered materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs may be reimposed and levied on your property and collected using the tax bill collection method for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and future fiscal years. The use of an annual special assessment to fund these solid waste services benefiting improved property located within the Columbia County Solid Waste Municipal Service Benefit Unit in the past has proven to be fair, efficient and effective. The total annual solid waste assessment revenue to be collected within the Columbia County Solid Waste Municipal Service Benefit Unit is estimated to be \$4,501,111.56. The annual solid waste assessment is based on the number of residential dwelling units contained on each parcel of property.

The following is a summary of the non-ad valorem special assessments being reimposed on the above parcel for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024.

The above parcel is subject to the Solid Waste Service Assessment:

The total number of residential dwelling units on the above parcel is _____.

The proposed Solid Waste Service Assessment for the above parcel is \$ _____ for the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2024.

The proposed maximum Solid Waste Service Assessment for the above parcel is \$ _____ for future fiscal years.

A public hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. on September 5, 2024, at the School Board Administration Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. You and all other affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the Board within 20 calendar days of the date of this notice. If you

decide to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, you 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 made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County at (386)758-1005 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf at (386) 758-2139, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Board's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

Copies of the legal documentation for the assessment program are available for inspection at the County Manager's office, located at 135 NE Hernando Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

The special assessment amount shown on this notice and the ad valorem taxes for the above parcel will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill mailed in November of each year that the assessment is imposed or through separate bills to be sent by the County. Failure to pay the assessments being collected through the tax bill will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. Failure to pay the assessments to be collected by separate bill may cause the institution of foreclosure and/or mandamus proceedings, which may result in the loss of title, or, alternatively, may cause the assessment to be placed on your future ad valorem tax bill, and the continued failure to pay will then result in a tax certificate to be issued against the property, which may result in a loss of title.

If there is a mistake on this notice, it will be corrected. If you have any questions, please contact the Columbia County Tax Collector at (386)758-1080, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

*** * * * * THIS IS NOT A BILL * * * * ***