MEMORANDUM

Date: December 20, 2013

TO: David Bullock, Town Manager

FROM: Trish Granger, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2014-04, Establishing the Date for the Town's General Municipal Election, Early Voting Schedule, and Ballot Layout

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At the December 2, 2013, Regular Meeting, the Town Commission held first reading on Ordinance 2014-04 which aligns the Town's General Election date with the Sarasota Countywide election on March 25, 2014, and establishes a 13 day schedule for early voting on Longboat Key.

The qualifying deadline for the General Election was November 18, 2013, at 12:00 noon. Six candidates qualified for four Commission seats, as follows:

District At-Large
Mr. Irwin Pastor
Mr. Armando Linde

District 1
Ms. Lynn Larson, Incumbent

District 3
Mr. Terry Gans (currently Incumbent in the District At-Large seat)
Mr. Ray Rajewski

District 5
Ms. Pat Zunz, Incumbent

The District 1 and District 5 seats held by incumbents, each had one qualified candidate. As such, their names will not appear on the ballot and Commissioner Lynn Larson, District 1, and Commissioner Pat Zunz, District 5, will be reseated in March 2014 to their respective District seat.

The early voting schedule will be for a period of 13 days beginning Monday, March 10, 2014, through Saturday, March 22, 2014. The hours for early voting shall be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. Staffing for early voting will be provided through the applicable Supervisor of Elections offices coordinated by the Town Clerk's office.

Ordinance 2014-04 is attached for second reading, public hearing, and adoption establishing the election date, early voting hours, and ballot layout, and authorizes the required advertising for the election. Additionally, the Resolution adopted by the Sarasota County School District, reflecting their referendum question, is attached for convenience. The ballot layout for the Manatee and Sarasota Longboat Key voters will be different due to the Sarasota School Board's referendum question.

Please advise if you have any questions.

ORDINANCE 2014-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR MARCH 25, 2014, AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING AND EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR BALLOT PRESENTATION; PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF ELECTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Longboat Key Charter Article II, Section 4 states "The preliminary election shall be held on the last Tuesday of January and the general election shall be held on the third Tuesday of March, or when practicable, in conjunction with any County administered election held in March by the coordinating County, either Sarasota or Manatee County;" and

WHEREAS, the Town of Longboat Key Code Section 36.06 provides for early voting; and

WHEREAS, early voting provides citizens greater access to elections and facilitates increased voter participation; and

WHEREAS, advertising the elections are required by law and provides citizens with greater knowledge of election ballot issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The above Whereas clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

SECTION 2. The election date for the General Election is hereby set as Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in conjunction with a Sarasota Countywide Special Election.

SECTION 3. Early voting for the General election shall be conducted at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida, for a period of 13 days beginning Monday, March 10, 2014, through Saturday, March 22, 2014. The hours for early voting shall be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. Staffing for early voting will be provided through the applicable Supervisor of Elections offices coordinated by the Town Clerk's office.

SECTION 4. The ballot presentation for the Longboat Key General election shall include: the names of the qualified candidates for Town Commission Districts 3 and At-Large and a Referendum question relating to an amendment of the Town Charter, Article II, as follows:

BALLOT PRESENTATION

TOWN COMMISSION

Town Commissioner District 3 (Vote For One)

Terry Gans
Ray Rajewski

Town Commissioner District At Large (Vote For One)

Armando Linde
Irwin Pastor

CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall Article II, Section 20, Appointment of Advisory Boards, of the Charter of the Town of Longboat Key be amended to delete the requirement for maintaining a permanent Zoning Board of Adjustment allowing those duties and responsibilities to be assigned elsewhere?

_____ **YES, for deletion**

_____ **NO, for retention**

SECTION 5. The ballot presentation for qualified electors residing in the Sarasota County boundaries of Longboat Key shall also contain a Special Referendum question relating to the continuation of the ad valorem millage increase for operating expenses of the Sarasota County School District.

SECTION 6. Advertising of the election shall comply with State election laws and the Town Charter.

SECTION 7. Copies of this Ordinance shall be provided to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections and the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections.

SECTION 8. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this Resolution is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Town Commission.

PASSED on first reading on the 2nd day of December, 2013.

ADOPTED on second reading and public hearing at a meeting of the Town Commission held the ____ day of _____, 2014.

_____
James L. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Trish Granger, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in March 2002, March 2006, and March 2010 the voters of Sarasota County approved a millage referendum permitting the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida (the "School Board") to levy an additional one mill of ad valorem taxes for the operating expenses of the School District; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has used the additional revenue generated by the increased millage to maintain and expand academic programs including remediation programs, to hire additional instructional personnel including teachers, school support staff, and certified school counselors, and to fund costs associated with a longer school day; and

WHEREAS, the state funding formula only allows for an average Florida public school education; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of the additional operating revenue generated by the additional voted one mill, the School Board would face a revenue shortfall that would result in significant budget cuts requiring the elimination of numerous academic programs and positions; and

WHEREAS, the School Board must maintain sufficient revenues to maintain its high quality schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida, in a public meeting duly called and assembled:

1. That pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County is hereby directed to call an election for March 25, 2014, for the qualified electors of the Sarasota County School District to vote on a continuation of the ad valorem millage increase for operating expenses of the School District approved in March 2002, March 2006, and March 2010 as authorized by Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes.

2. The substance of the millage referendum and the ballot title shall read:

SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTION

March 25, 2014

Shall the Sarasota County School District ad valorem millage increase of 1.00 mill per year adopted by the voters in March 2010 for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2014 be continued for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2014

and ending June 30, 2018 for operating expenses necessary to maintain the quality of Sarasota County's public school system?

_____YES, for continuation

_____NO, against continuation

3. Provided the continuation of the millage increase for Sarasota County Schools is approved, a financial oversight committee appointed by the School Board shall issue an annual report to insure proper fiscal stewardship of the funds. In addition, the committee shall identify relevant outcomes and report results to the community.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 5th day of November, 2013.

ATTEST:

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: on file
Lori M. White,
Ex-Officio Secretary

BY: on file
Jane Goodwin, Chair

End of Agenda Item