

Regular Workshop – June 20, 2016
Agenda Item 12

Agenda Item: Manatee County Surtax

Presenter: Town Manager

Summary: Manatee County is pursuing a referendum for a ½ cent sales surtax for infrastructure. The surtax can provide a significant capital project revenue stream for all local governments in Manatee County, including the Town of Longboat Key. The Town Manager is seeking input from the Town Commission in order to develop a list of eligible projects to be funded by the infrastructure surtax in the event the referendum passes.

Attachments: 6-14-16 Memo, Manager to Commission

Recommended

Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 14, 2016

TO: Town Commission

FROM: Dave Bullock, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Referendum for Manatee County Infrastructure Surtax

The Manatee County Commission is considering placing a fifteen year ½ cent infrastructure sales tax on the County wide ballot this November. As the Town Commission knows Sarasota County has had an infrastructure sales tax for almost 30 years and the Town has received capital revenue for a variety of projects from that source. The Manatee surtax would generate additional capital revenue for the Town.

In order to identify the category of projects, staff has prepared an estimate of the percent of total surtax revenue in each category shown below we anticipate spending. The estimate is based on the Sarasota County surtax and can be amended by the Commission following a public hearing.

Surtax can be distributed by interlocal agreement or by a default formula in Florida statute. The default formula is the most common used by Counties in the State. That formula is based on population and does not recognize the impact of tourism on the infrastructure of the barrier islands. Therefore the four barrier island city mayors have requested the County and other cities to consider a distribution method that recognizes the disproportionate impact of tourism on our infrastructure. The Manatee County Commission will consider an ordinance placing the surtax question on the ballot on June 21. I expect they will also address the barrier islands request at that meeting. The Town can expect about \$172,000 per year based on the default formula. If the distribution formula were to change the Town share could be significantly increased.

In the meantime staff has prepared a draft Town surtax expenditure plan based on the adopted expenditures for the Sarasota surtax.

Roadways (including sidewalks and intersections) 25%

Roadways includes design, planning, permitting and construction of various streets, intersections, sidewalks and related drainage

Public Safety (Police and Fire/EMS) 25%

Public Safety includes purchase of fire, ambulance, and police vehicles.

Park improvements 25%

Park Improvements includes recreation facilities, nature preserves, and environmental habitats.

Waterways (canals and beach) 12.5%

Waterways includes canal dredging and improvements, and beach improvements

Public Buildings 12.5%

Public Buildings includes improvements to Town owned buildings and related facilities.

If the surtax is approved by the voters the Town Commission will have the opportunity to modify the project list over the 15 year life of the surtax.



End of Agenda Item