

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners

VIA: Kenneth Fields, City Manager

FROM: Tina Peak, Library Director

RE: Resolution 2015-04, Polk County Board of County Commissioners
Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit

SYNOPSIS: The adoption of Resolution 2015-04 urges Polk County Board of County Commissioners to return the Library MSTU funding level to .25 mils.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt Resolution 2015-04 requesting the Polk County Board of County Commissioners to return the Library MSTU funding level to .25 mils.

BACKGROUND

In 1997, thirteen Polk County cities entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Polk County Board of County Commissioners to provide public library services to residents of unincorporated Polk County. There are no public libraries in unincorporated Polk County. The 1997 Interlocal Agreement stipulated that library service to non-city residents be provided by the 16 municipally funded public libraries.

Revenues from the Polk County BOCC for the operation of the Polk County Library Cooperative totaled \$600,000 annually for the first three years. Minimal increases in funding followed, but the per capita support from the Polk County BOCC fell drastically behind what city residents in all 13 municipalities were assessed per capita.

In 2005, Polk County BOCC took action and instituted a Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit on unincorporated residences in Polk County. The Library millage rate was set at .25 by the BOCC, and then rolled back to .2109 two years later in 2007.

The Lake Wales Library Board requests that the Lake Wales City Commission adopt the attached Resolution supporting the Polk County Board of County Commissioners return to a minimum of .25 mils assessed for the Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit.

Staff recommends approval.

OTHER OPTIONS

None

FISCAL IMPACT

\$76,296.25 from Library Impact Fee funds

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 2015-04

RESOLUTION 2015-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES OPPOSING CONTINUED REDUCTION IN THE LIBRARY MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAXING UNIT FROM THE 2007 ROLLBACK AND SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE POLK COUNTY LIBRARY MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAXING UNIT ON UNINCORPORATED RESIDENCES TO THE PRE-ROLL BACK LEVEL OF .25 MILS TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE FUNDING COMMITMENT FOR POLK COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES TO ALL POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA RESIDENTS.

WHEREAS, all citizens should be assured the continued excellent services of public libraries in Polk County, wherever they reside in the county; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Library Cooperative, comprised of thirteen municipalities and the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, has provided excellent library services to all residents of Polk County since its inception in 1997; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the enormous impact public library service has on people of all ages, races and economic levels proving a return on investment of \$10.18 for every \$1 spent on library services in our state; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the Board of County Commissioners' commitment to providing library service to all their residents through the adoption of a Municipal Services Taxing Unit in 2005; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission is opposed to the continued reduction in the Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit from the 2007 rollback rate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida, to support the reinstatement of the Polk County Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit on unincorporated residences to the pre-roll back level of .25 mils creating more equitable funding commitment for library services to all Polk County, Florida residents. It is this body's recognition that all residents, current and future, should continue to receive excellent public library services with adequate revenues generated from all resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Lake Wales City Commission, Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida, this 3rd day of March, 2015.

Eugene Fultz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clara VanBlargan, MMC, City Clerk