

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

December 6, 2010

Dear Residents,

Many of you have received an email and may have seen something in the Citrus County Chronicle about a BOCC Special Meeting. The **Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)** has called a **Special Meeting** for tomorrow to review a presentation on and discuss the **Citrus County Fire Rescue Operations Strategic Plan**. The proposal is being presented by Fire Rescue Operations Chief Larry Morabito and is intended to map out the future direction of Fire Rescue Operations to meet the needs and service for all communities within Citrus County.

If possible, residents of Sugarmill Woods are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting to make your views known. If you are not able to attend, you can email the Commissioners to share your issues and concerns.

If you wish to attend the meeting, the specifics of date, time and location are stated below:

Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting

Fire Rescue Operations Strategic Plan

Presented By:

Fire Rescue Chief Larry Morabito

**Tuesday, December 7, 2010
9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

**Citrus County Court House
Commission Chambers
Inverness, FL**

If you wish to communicate your issues and concerns via email to the Board of County Commissioners, please send your email to all five of them today if possible. Email addresses are as follows:

Commissioner Dennis Damato, District 1
Commissioner John "JJ" Kenney, District 2
Commissioner Joe Meek, District 3
Commissioner Rebecca Bays, District 4
Commissioner Winn Webb, District 5

dennis.damato@bcc.citrus.fl.us
jj.kenney@bcc.citrus.fl.us
Joe.Meek@bcc.citrus.fl.us
rebecca.bays@bcc.citrus.fl.us
winn.webb@bcc.citrus.fl.us

I just spoke to Fire Chief Morabito and he shared with me that he will be proposing three options at the BOCC Special Meeting for the Commissioners to consider.

- Option 1 is to add three new career stations within the first year (one on the east side of the county; one on the west side of the county – SMW area; and a third one to be determined).
- Option 2 is to add two new career stations within the first year (one on the east side of the county and one on the west side of the county – SMW area) and add a third station over the next three to four years.
- Option 3 is to add one new career station within the first year and add a second over the next three to four years. Fire Rescue sees the highest priority as the east side first. Second priority is SMW area.

These options would require additional funding in varying amounts. Details of these proposals will be discussed at the meeting.

Here are some things to consider. Citrus County for FY 2010 / 2011 has budgeted approximately \$32.6M for Public Safety. The breakdown is \$27.66M (85%) for the Sheriff and \$4.97M (15%) for Fire Rescue. Citrus County has 4 career fire stations and 10 other stations that are staffed with volunteers to varying degrees. In the SMW station there are 0 volunteers.

Hernando County FY 2010 / 2011 has budgeted approximately \$55.77M for Public Safety. The breakdown is \$41.86M (75%) for the Sheriff and \$13.92M (25%) for Fire Rescue. Hernando County has 13 career stations and 3 volunteer stations.

In Marion County according to their web site, Fire Rescue has 22 career stations and 7 volunteer stations and over 600 employees.

Improved Fire Rescue Operation support will require additional funding. We need a more balanced ratio between Law Enforcement spending and Fire Rescue Operations spending (i.e. 70/30 or 75/25). Both departments are very important to having a safe community.

As I get more information, I will share it with you.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA