

## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** John F. Young <jyoung9434@cfl.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:18 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Brevard County Fire Rescue needs rescuing? RE: April 20th hearing with County Commissioners

**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioner Rita Pritchett,

I've been living in unincorporated Brevard since 1995. The notification letter for the proposed Brevard County Fire Rescue special assessment of up to 35% (along with annual CPI or 3% increases in perpetuity) is very alarming. Residents in all of the unincorporated areas are very concerned, as evidenced by all the chatroom activity on Nextdoor.com and other community/neighborhood blogsites.

What is most alarming to me is that the special assessment letter (which, according to the return address, came from both the county commissioners and the BCFR) gave absolutely no reasons for the increase. Who actually drafted this letter? I'm thinking that BCFR did, and perhaps they were too embarrassed to list the reasons why such a large and sudden increase is necessary. *Because there were no reasons listed in the notification letter, many residents made their own dangerous assumptions of what this increase will be paying for.* For instance, I noticed that on the neighborhood blog sites many women tended to make compassionate assumptions. One woman said that her son-in-law recently finished school and is a new EMS tech with BCFR. His starting pay was right about 40K and his family was struggling to make ends meet because he had two young kids with another on the way. The woman believed the purpose of the proposed funding increase is to increase wages/salaries of BCFR employees such as her son-in-law. She believes that if BCFR gets everything they're asking for in the proposal, her son-in-law will likely get a pay increase to a wage that he can comfortably support his expanding family on, perhaps an increase from 40K to 60K per year. Of course, you and I know that's not the purpose of this assessment.

The male residents in the unincorporated areas seemed to be much more skeptical of why BCFR needs such a large and sudden increase. Many of them jumped to the immediate conclusion that some kind of large fraud, waste, or abuse of funds must be happening in the BCFR in the last several years. Others, like myself, went looking for a somewhat independent source of information. About the only thing we found was the March 15th Florida Today article by Eric Rogers titled, "Possible county fire tax hike could have West Melbourne considering its own fire dept." Although I sympathized with the West Melbourne part of the article, I was more interested in the second half of the article, where the March 9th county commissioner's meeting and some reasons for the proposed increase were discussed.

This research raised the following questions:

- 1) As BCFR spent-down their large \$14.5 million reserve fund in the last few years, exactly what was it spent on?
- 2) Exactly how did Brevard County Fire Rescue spend the \$11.6 million that it received from monies left over from a federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security grant?
- 3) New home starts have been going like gangbusters in unincorporated Brevard the last several years and did not let up at all during the pandemic. How much does BCFR now receive annually from ad valorem property taxes, and how is this not enough to sustain operations?

I believe that at the April 20th hearing, there needs to be a slide or power point presentaion on all the BCFR income and expenditures for the last several years by BCFR's head financial officer. This is especially important since no reasons for the increase were given in the taxpayer notification letter. Because of this (illegal, I believe) oversight, a full accounting

needs to be provided to both the taxpayers involved and to the County Commissioners. The only opportunity to do this is at the April 20th hearing.

For the next part of my research, I decided to call the BCFR headquarters per the instructions in the notification letter. The receptionist answering the call didn't know anything, but to my surprise, she forwarded my call to Fire Chief Mark Schollmeyer. I asked him the questions shown above, but he merely replied with the same (very brief) reasons given by Public Safety Director Matthew Wallace at the March 9th commissioner's meeting. Chief Schollmeyer's answers were almost word-for-word Mr. Wallace's quotes as given in the Florida Today article. When I asked him for more detail on question #3 above, he replied, "Well, you know, the cost of everything is going up." He went on to say, "As an example of this, my homeowner's insurance premium just doubled for renewal, with no claims filed." I responded by telling him in detail how to cut his homeowner's insurance premium in half, as I have done this last year. Perhaps, in similar fashion, someone needs to take a close look at BCFR expenditures and weed out the overspending and inefficiencies, in order to reduce the taxpayer's "premium."

I believe that giving BCFR the 35% increase that they want (including annual 3% or CPI increases in perpetuity) could cause some big problems for Brevard County. This increase, together with the very recent approx \$100 Waste Management increase per home, places an enormous burden on the property taxpayers. It would certainly raise enough alarms that the larger areas, such as Viera and Suntree, would have to take a serious look at incorporating. Perhaps Viera and Suntree would have separate city halls, but could share a combined "Viera/Suntree" Fire Dept? They could still use BCSO for police services, and perhaps they could partner with West Melbourne and other incorporated areas to create a new independent waste management company. When their resident's "backs" are against the wall, incorporating may be the only way to get some control over achieving a reasonable return for their tax dollars spent.

In order to prevent the citizens from taking such drastic measures on their own, the Brevard County Commissioners must demand efficiency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility from the agencies receiving county taxpayer funds. They cannot continue to get "caught by surprise" by gradually developing situations, such as what happened with Waste Management and BCFR.

It's obvious that BCFR needs to get more efficient and justify and itemize all of their spending. They are not going to be motivated to do that if we instantly give them a giant reserve fund that will protect them for years to come. Yes, they would like to have a \$35 million reserve fund. The problem is that nobody has the discipline to just sit on a giant stack of cash like that for years on end. It's going to get spent-down even if it's not needed. Instead, they need to be given a much smaller amount, and then come back in two years and justify their efficiency, budgeting and spending before they can receive a little more.

Therefore, I propose that at the April 20th hearing the Brevard County Commissioners approve the following for Brevard County Fire Rescue:

- A special assessment rate increase of 15 to 20%.
- An annual increase of 3% or CPI (whichever is less) guaranteed for 3 years.

Also, the commissioners should hire/assign an independent expert capable of finding and tracking financial inefficiencies, fraud, and misuse of funds, etc. who can be assigned (as the commissioners see fit) to track any selected agency spending more than \$2 million per year in county taxpayer funds. This would also greatly help prevent future debacles from "surprising" the county commissioners. A "Scott Ellis" type of guy would be perfect for the job. In the end, it might save the county multiple millions of dollars!

Sincerely,  
John F. Young

## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** jake@southeastserv.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 7:21 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Vote NO for County's Fire Assessment - Tax Hike 4/20/2021  
  
**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To my County Commissioner,

I am taking the time to write this and send it to you. Here we are with yet another tax hike coming at us. In a time of uncertainty with all that is going on in our country today, we DO NOT need this added tax hike. This is Florida, not California. My personal home property taxes are already very high. I pay thousands to the Brevard County Public School system that my wife and I do not even use, as my wife homeschools our kids. My business property taxes have gone up \$1,641.48 in the last couple years. There seems to be no end to this. I work very hard to provide for my family as well as the constant stress of providing work for my employees, so they can do the same for their families.

There is something called a "BUDGET". It's about time that becomes a reality, instead of taking and taking from all of the good hardworking citizens in Brevard County. You were put in your position by us, the people. I ask that you vote NO on this proposed added burden to the people of Brevard County.

THANKS,

**JAKE HARRELL  
SOUTHEAST SERVICES OF CFL  
498 MAIN ST.  
COCOA, FL 32922  
OFFICE: 321-632-6800  
MOBILE: 321-302-9362**

# *Southeast Services*

## MECHANICAL & GENERAL CONTRACTORS



CMC 1249691

CMC 1250273

CGC 1516907

## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Gwen Woodling <gwen.woodling@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 7:15 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1

**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This correspondence is to let you know that we strongly oppose the rate increase that is being proposed for the fire department in Brevard.

My husband and I built our home in unincorporated Brevard County in 1978. We raised 4 children here and have paid taxes for 42 years. We are now retired and live on a fixed income. If the increase goes into effect and runs the proposed course of indefinite subsequent increases, we are likely to be forced to sell our family home. Between unprecedented development in the county, especially west of town, and the flooding and traffic concerns that will necessarily follow, our lifetime security, for which we have worked so hard, will vanish. We think that there are more appropriate ways to find the perceived need for increased revenue.

Firstly, since the increased need is caused by expanded population from which developers will greatly benefit, why shouldn't they contribute to the need for expansion that they have caused through impact fees?

A specific cost saving change to present policy would be to have the firemen shop before they go to work instead of driving the full sized fire trucks to Publix to shop for the food that they eat while at work. Seriously, 90 percent of the time we are at the grocery store at least 2 firemen are there shopping with the full sized truck in the parking lot. We have never been able to shop while working on any of our jobs.

Another is to have personnel not be able to drive fire department vehicles to and from work. Doesn't that require the purchase of multiple vehicles to have one sitting in a driveway and one for the fireman or chief at work?

Does a ladder truck need to be sent to a fender bender? Don't they have more efficient ways to handle the accident?

We implore you to find more appropriate solutions to the perceived need. We know that we are not the only people in this predicament. Why should our rates increase for someone else's gain? Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Steve and Gwen Woodling



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** lora zehrbach <lora\_zehrbach@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:42 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Vote for County's Fire Assessment- Tax Hike 4/20/2020  
**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Day Mrs. Pritchett,

I am reaching out to you today to implore you to vote no on this tax increase. Every year my property taxes continue to rise.

These unnecessary tax increases make it more difficult for a single person to afford not the property or home, but the high taxes.

I ask you to please consider the people of Brevard County before adding more undue burden on their already stretched budgets.

In the last 4 years my property taxes for my home have increased way past the rate of inflation and now they want you add an additional burden to my already stretched budget.

Please vote no on this added tax for the benefit of the residents of Brevard County.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns in this matter,

Lora Zehrbach  
641 Iroquois St  
Merritt Island, FL 32952





## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** jacob@southeasterv.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Vote for County's Fire Assessment - Tax Hike 4/20/2021

**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Day Mrs. Pritchett,

I am reaching out to you today to urge you to vote no on this tax hike. Every year my property taxes continue to go, which makes it harder and harder each year. I ask you to please consider the people of Brevard County before adding more burden to them to live here. In the last 4 years my property taxes for my home have gone up \$425.48, my business has gone up \$1,641.48 in the last couple years, and now they want you add an additional \$120.45 to my expenses. I currently have to pay \$80 per month for a fire riser at one of my buildings, this riser was put here many years ago from an owner that it was required for, yet it is not a requirement for our use, but I am not allowed to get rid of it. So, we have pay \$80 per month, plus have to pay for it to be inspected each year, and now they want to tax us more. Please vote no on this added tax to us residents of this county. Thank you for taking the time to hear my concern.

Thanks,

Jacob McCarver  
321-302-2206 Cell

A Religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing – Dr. Martin Luther King



## Pritchett, Rita

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**From:** Kevin S <kshrop2000@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 11, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** Pritchett, Rita  
**Subject:** Proposed Brevard County Fire County Service Special Assessment Rate - please vote against

**Categories:** EMAIL - NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Commissioner Pritchett

Thank you for your service as our Commissioner and your personal support of previous items I have brought to you, as well as my appointment to the PSJ Special District Advisory Committee.

I am writing to you today in opposition of the "Proposed Brevard County Fire County Service Special Assessment Rate", as to be discussed in your upcoming County Commission Meeting. Due my work schedule, I am unable to attend in person.

When a family such as mine purchases a home within the unincorporated county, that family has a budget. This family has to live within their budget. Yes, emergencies and expenses arise, but they have to budget those too. Their taxes are a mandatory part of that budget. The county has laws requiring a limited amount of tax increase per year. The family depends on that too, and can budget for that.

- Recently most homeowner's insurance rates locally have increased substantially, affecting the family's budget. This could not be argued, discussed, or objected.
- Last year, BCSO requested and received millions above their budget. The County Commission approved this increase above the County Charter cap, and increased the family's tax rate, affecting the family's budget.
- This year, Waste management wanted more money for their expenses. County approved and raised the family's tax rate to cover that, affecting the family's budget.
- Now Fire/Rescue wants more monies above their budget.

Recently the County received millions of federal dollars, which were given to BCSO, to use at their discretion. These monies would have greatly offset the exceeded amount requested by Fire/Rescue.

I do appreciate the services offered by the above-mentioned departments, which are normally paid for with property taxes. I do understand costs have risen. Our family costs have risen, many times over as well, recently. What I ask is this. Why is it, the family, who supports fire, police, stormwater, garbage, has to budget their monies; and yet BCSO, Waste management, and now Fire Rescue can all spend freely and just get more money from the already-taxed residents of unincorporated Brevard County.

Again, I thank you for all you do as our Commissioner, and urge you to oppose this Special Assessment Rate, especially in a time when we all are trying to make our own personal budgets work.

Thank you  
Kevin Shropshire

4975 Carter St., Cocoa, FL 32927  
321-626-2507

## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Daniel Murphy <murphydaniel@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Proposed Brevard County Fire Services special Assessment rate Increase

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners  
1040 South Florida Ave  
Rockledge, FL 32955

March 31, 2021

FROM:

DANIEL MURPHY  
1442 BAYSHORE DR.  
COCOA BEACH, FL

Reply to your request for an increase to my Fire taxes:

County residents in the unincorporated South Cocoa Beach County area are paying a premium Brevard County for fire services that are below the MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS established by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

ISO creates ratings (scores) for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in that community. The ISO provides this score to homeowners insurance companies.

Currently, South Cocoa Beach County area residents are served by the Satellite Beach Fire Department (SBFD). Due to the distance from SBFD (over 5 miles away), the ISO rates the area as ISO 10. The ISO scale ranges from 1 to 10 with 10 being the worst possible rating; "does not meet the MINIMUM requirements". As a result, insurance companies have dropped coverage for many South Cocoa Beach residents. In cases where insurance is written, the rates are doubling and tripling.

The solution is quite simple, and has been used in Rockledge and other areas. It is called an "Auto Aid Agreement". This is an agreement between Brevard County and the City of Cocoa Beach, to allow the City of Cocoa Beach Fire Department (CBFD) to take the first call for fire emergencies in the South Cocoa Beach County area.

By shifting the first call fire responsibility to CBFD, fire department operations improve for everyone, including Satellite Beach, Cocoa Beach, and Brevard County. This eliminates unnecessary bureaucracy, and generally improves the overall well-being and fire safety of ALL the residents of Brevard County.

In addition, it has been discovered that within the area there is deteriorating and inadequate infrastructure, including roads, fire hydrants, and water supply, to provide safe and effective fire services. If an Auto Aid Agreement is implemented, and the required infrastructure improvements are made, it will likely improve the ISO rating for South Cocoa Beach County to ISO 2.

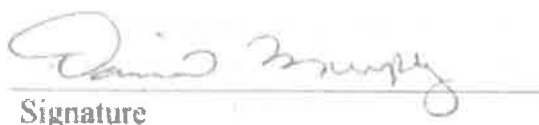
requested only \$256,251/year to provide complete fire services to those same County resident South Cocoa Beach area. This leaves approximately \$400,000 for infrastructure maintenance and improvement.

Rather than providing a cost effective, proven solution for fire protection for South Cocoa Beach County residents, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners has informed us of the desire to increase our non-ad valorem fire taxes without a communicated plan to improve the ISO rating in the South Cocoa Beach County area.

This is unacceptable! The people in the South Cocoa Beach County deserve better!

**Notes:**

- The City of Cocoa Beach is in NO WAY, SHAPE, or FORM, suggesting or wanting to annex the County area of South Cocoa Beach. This agreement would only IMPROVE fire safety and protection.
- Absolutely NO CHANGE to taxes for the City of Cocoa Beach.
- Improved response and coverage for City taxpayers by adding 3 additional firefighters. Additional firefighters and equipment would be paid for, using current fire taxes from South Cocoa Beach County residents. The cost for the firefighters accounts for only 3 of the current taxes collected from South Cocoa Beach, by Brevard County.
- Remaining taxes from the South Cocoa Beach residents could be used for infrastructure upgrades.
- Once upgrades are complete, the excess taxes could be returned to the South Cocoa Beach County residents.
- SBFD can improve their fire protection by concentrating their efforts on a MUCH smaller footprint.
- The City of Cocoa Beach has made a reasonable proposal to Brevard County. Brevard County needs to agree to move forward immediately.
- This issue has persisted for over 30 years and needs to be addressed NOW, before residents are negatively impacted.

  
Signature

4-7-21  
Date





## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** mentawai07@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1; Commissioner, D2; Commissioner, D3; Commissioner, D4; Commissioner, D5  
**Subject:** Staffing issues at Brevard County Fire Rescue  
**Categories:** NATE

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

BCFR is experiencing a staffing crisis, anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated! Please find the attached spreadsheet for further details. Thank you for your service.

## Number of Daily Mandatory OT Assignments at Brevard County Fire Rescue FY 20/21

\*Excludes Dispatch

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep
1st	11	10	6	0	3	7	12					
2nd	14	1	3	6	2	5	9					
3rd	17	0	6	3	4	4	10					
4th	13	3	7	8	5	7	10					
5th	6	3	10	12	7	4	12					
6th	3	4	7	3	18	13	11					
7th	9	4	8	8	10	5	2					
8th	7	5	7	11	2	0						
9th	6	4	7	11	1	4						
10th	12	3	3	11	3	4						
11th	12	0	13	6	6	2						
12th	11	3	17	11	8	3						
13th	16	9	14	5	10	7						
14th	10	12	3	4	2	8						
15th	7	10	4	7	5	3						
16th	10	4	3	16	6	4						
17th	28	10	8	8	4	10						
18th	10	7	10	7	8	10						
19th	5	3	4	2	5	19						
20th	20	7	11	5	9	14						
21st	6	19	8	8	5	14						
22nd	4	8	2	12	5	2						
23rd	11	8	5	6	3	8						
24th	5	4	0	6	7	11						
25th	10	9	0	5	3	4						
26th	12	0	6	2	9	12						
27th	0	5	6	8	11	15						
28th	3	9	6	5	8	9						
29th	2	6	11	3		6						
30th	8	7	6	7		4						
31st	12		0	9		6						
Total	300	177	201	215	169	224	66					

Total MOT shifts

BCFR is experiencing a staffing crisis, without mandatory overtime the daily minimum staffing requirement can not be met

## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Ricky Conner <tropictrick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 10:24 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Fire Services Special Assessment

**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rita,  
On Behalf of the Silver Hill Property Owners Association I implore you to reconsider the Fire Services Special Assessment. This increase as well as the recent Refuse Collection Increase is NOT supported by your constituents. You must represent us and consider those of us on fixed and never increasing incomes. I encourage you and your colleges to seek alternative funding such as impact fees that should be collected from the massive influx of new residents to OUR COUNTY. Your support in representing the residents on these issues are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Ricky Conner  
President



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Ed Priselac <sunnd1@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1; Commissioner, D3; Commissioner, D4; Commissioner, D5  
**Subject:** Fire Assessment Increase

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioners: I disagree with the Brevard County Fire and Rescue recommendation to allow blanket annual increases in fire assessment for unincorporated Brevard.

I believe it fiscally unwise for the county commission to make far-reaching commitments. Too many changes can occur down-the-road.

I also think each agency should present its requested budget each fiscal period.

Some years ago a number of us spoke against the Cocoa city commission's proposal to increase water costs by 5% every year. The commissioners indicated that the water system needed fairly extensive refurbishment and replacement of much of the piping. The proposal passed.

Unfortunately, the water and utilities management did not follow-through with some projects, including failure to repair or upgrade a large feeder main under the Indian river lagoon—a defect known for many years. The main was ruptured during hurricane Irma in 2017, leaving much of Brevard County without running water for many days. And, of course, Sea Ray Drive is still without its bridge over Sykes Creek.

I realize this is not a fair comparison with the Brevard Fire proposal but it highlights the many unexpected changes that can occur going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this matter.

More taxes are not always a good thing.

Respectfully,

Ed Priselac  
Merritt Island, FL



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Cerny, Patrick [US] (AS) <Patrick.Cerny@ngc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1; Commissioner, D2; Commissioner, D4; Commissioner, D5  
**Subject:** fire service special assessment

**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County commissioners

I am writing you about the fire service special assessment hearing 9am April 20, 2021 on the proposed increase. I read that I have the right to file a written objection. Please file this objection.

During normal times I would question a 30% increase to the fire department budget. But to ask for such a large increase during a pandemic with so many out of work begging for food to feed their family is just wrong and obscene. They are also asking for 3% increase each year, which I don't understand because my local fire department is just a volunteer department and they have let houses in my neighborhood burn completely down, just look across from the Atlantis School.

The fire dept. already receives property tax millage of 0.6141 which is 59.32 for my house and a fire service special assessment of 294.97 on my property taxes. If they raise my fire service special assessment to 398.21 that is a 30% increase.

VOTE NO on the fire service special assessment. They need to live on a budget.

Thank you,

**PATRICK CERNY**  
4425 Everglades St.  
Cocoa, FL 32927  
(321) 507-9476





## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** greek4756@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 12:01 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Fire Rescue ..35%! ....Certainly way too large an increase!  
**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Rita Pritchett,

My wife and I are relatively new to Brevard County (and Titusville), so when we voted, we really didn't know too much about the candidates, so I had asked around, and most people said to vote for you ... and after reading about you, we agreed. We thought you'd be the best one to watch over "government" for us.

Now for the issue ..... a 35% increase, in today's environment, is certainly NOT a reasonable request! And I'm sure, you must agree, that increase is simply way too high (plus it has a permanent 3% increase!). To even make this propose, is NOT good government!

I'll thank you ahead of time, guessing that you'll do all you can to defeat this outlandish proposal.

Again, Thanks!  
Sam Maropis  
316 Harmony Lane  
Titusville



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Rick <email.grumpy@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 7:25 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Proposed Tax Increase - Fire Services

**Categories:** NATE

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Rita Pritchett,

I recently came into possession of information that the Brevard County Commission proposes to increase our special assessment for Fire Rescue by 35%. In addition, the proposal allows an annual automatic increase of 3% in perpetuity.

I live at The Great Outdoors. We have 1600+ residents. The information regarding the Fire Services increase is spreading rapidly throughout our community. There appears to be little, if any, support for this proposal. Each year our property taxes continue to increase. We do not need any more taxes, regardless of the spin name (special assessment, fees, etc.) that is attached to any form of budget generating increase.

Brevard County is one of the fastest growing counties in Florida. Let the increase of new businesses, home developments, tourism, and other tax generating developments, pay for increases necessary to expand Fire or Law Enforcement needs; or at least, put it to the voters.

From past experiences, our representatives (local, county, state, federal) tend to do what they want to do versus what the majority of their voters want done. I hope you will be an exception to this form of governing and vote down the proposal. If not, I am sure it will not be difficult for our community of 1600+ to have an open discussion on our Facebook page explaining our lack of representation.

Thank you in advance for reading this email.

Respectfully,

Richard Conover  
171 Dragonfly Drive  
Titusville, FL 32780

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Sent from my iPad Pro



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** James Webster <jewels47@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 12:21 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Fire Services Special Assessment  
  
**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Pritchett, the subject Special Assessment increase of 29% to 35% is excessive at not only this time but any time. The Board of supervisors had an opportunity last year to an increase of only 6 plus % but due to the Pandemic chose not to move forward with it. Now that we are faced not only with the current virus and possible new viruses we're being confronted with a much higher Tax increase, plus a continued CPI or 3% annual increase in perpetuity Without a obvious needs request and review.

I do not object to the assessment only this excessively large amount at a given time. A better approach may be smaller incremental increases up to the assessed needs. This approach would allow for annual needs assessments and small adjustments as the American and local economies ebb and flow yet still support the County Fire Services.

Sincerely, James Webster  
321-412-7827  
6370 Banks Ave, PSJ

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Jerry Perlet <jerryperlet@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D2; Commissioner, D3; Commissioner, D5; Commissioner, D1; Jerry Perlet  
**Subject:** Fire Services Special Assessment

**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing concerning a recent notification I received about an increase in the Fire Assessment Rate.

I support the idea of increasing the annual assessment by 3% or the CPI. Our fire fighters work hard to protect us.

But I am concerned that the projected increase for my property for the coming year is 34%, a \$120.45 increase. I do not understand what that enormous increase in the assessment will pay for.

A new fire station on North Merritt Island would be nice since it has become increasingly difficult to get emergency services over the draw bridge and through the increasing traffic burden on our roads.

What is this enormous increase in one year supposed to be used for?

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerrold Perlet  
5127 Royal Paddock Way  
Merritt Island, FL 32953  
321-305-5888  
jerryperlet@yahoo.com





## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Larry FitzGerald <lfitzgerald10@cfl.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:40 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1; Commissioner, D2; D3.Commissioner@Brevard FL.gov;  
Commissioner, D4; Commissioner, D5  
**Cc:** lfitzgerald10@cfl.rr.com  
**Subject:** Fire Services Special Assessment Increase  
  
**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing in response to received correspondence related to the proposed fire services increase. While all reasonable citizens would agree that fire services are a critical and required service which must be funded by the taxpayer, I find a 35% increase to be unconscionable and indicative of incompetent management. I respectfully request you reject this obscene increase and demand county fire management get their house in order. They need to understand although "reasonable" and "ridiculous" both begin with "r", they are not the same! Thank you for your consideration.

Larry FitzGerald  
3550 Savannahs Trail  
Merritt Island, FL 32953  
(321) 459-9431  
[Lfitzgerald10@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lfitzgerald10@cfl.rr.com)



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Kevin k <kkoplin126@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 6:07 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1; Commissioner, D2; Commissioner, D3; Commissioner, D4; Commissioner, D5  
**Subject:** Proposed Fire special assessment  
**Categories:** NATE

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To all Commissioner's,

I am asking that you reject the proposed increase. My fire service will go up \$86.03 per year. I have spent over 35 years in the fire service and I can see many ways that Brevard County Fire services can cut back on the budget. It's one thing for a 3% increase but what they are asking is just ridiculous. My wife lost her job for part of last year and is still working on limited hours and I am living on SSDI. That \$86 represents food or medicine for us. I am not a real political person (I vote) but I don't get involved in campaigning but if this board decides to overrule what the people want I will become a voice. Starting with posting all the times that I see trucks parked in Publix and Aldi parking lot on facebook letting people know where the money goes. I know that they can assign one guy to pick up the groceries before the start of the shift or have it delivered. I had many meals cut short due to calls. Ask the Chief what it cost to start that engine or ladder truck to run to the store. As I said I spent 35 years rising to the rank of Chief of a department that covered 26sq miles. I know what the job is but at this time after what everyone has been through, I find it very disrespectful of the fire department. I am a proud Firefighter that even has a fire hydrant fountain and pond in my backyard and a fire monument by my flagpole in the front. Please think before you act on this request. Feel free to send this to the chief as I would love to

talk to him about ways to help cut the budget during these trying times. I would also welcome any questions from you.

Thank you,

Kevin Koplin

Merritt Island, FL 32953

321-305-6191

## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Jeanne <jeannemislehprobst@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:05 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Tax Hike

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please vote NO on the 35% Fire tax hike being proposed in order to build a new fire station in south Brevard county

Thank you,  
Jeanne Misleh-Probst  
Windover Farms, Titusville

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Joanne Slusher <slusherfarm@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
**Subject:** Fire tax

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

When is enough going to be enough for big government. I am not in an agreement to increase the fire tax. I think that we have all suffered enough through covid and now wanting more money from hard working residents . I hope you consider and vote NO for the fire tax increase.

Joanne Slusher  
3955 Palm Ave  
Mims, Florida 32754

Sent from my iPhone





## Commissioner, D1

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**From:** Jeanne <jeannemislehprobst@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:05 AM  
**To:** Commissioner, D1  
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Please vote NO on the 35% Fire tax hike being proposed in order to build a new fire station in south Brevard county

Thank you,  
Jeanne Misleh-Probst  
Windover Farms, Titusville

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## Commissioner, D1

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**Subject:** Fire tax

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Joanne Slusher  
3955 Palm Ave  
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Sent from my iPhone

