

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

DISCUSSING FY13 BUDGET AND SW LAKELAND FIRE STATION FUNDING OPTIONS

Tuesday, August 21st
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Sandpiper Golf Club Clubhouse
6001 Sandpipers Drive

Wednesday, August 22nd
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Cleveland Heights Golf Course
2900 Buckingham Avenue

There is a Southwest Lakeland Fire Station in the City's long-term plan to be constructed in 2017. However, there is a desire among members of the City Commission to start construction in the upcoming year due to a \$2 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation that will be available in 2013 to assist in the construction costs. There has also been a push from citizens living the Southwest Lakeland area to accelerate the construction of a fire station.

Citizen feedback is crucial.

Proposed funding possibilities include:

Property Tax Millage Increase: The proposed property tax increase is .5 mills. Currently the City of Lakeland has a property tax rate of 4.1644 mills per every \$1,000 of assessed residential property value. It is proposed that the millage rate be increased to 4.6644 mills per every \$1,000 of taxable residential property value in order to construct and man the proposed Southwest Lakeland Fire Station.

Reduction of City Services

Water and Wastewater Utilities Rate Increase

Forgo the \$2 million FDOT Grant and Build the New Fire Station in 2017 When it is in the Capital Plan.

Lakeland residents are encouraged to attend these town hall meetings because citizen input is very important in the decision making process. The City is in the closing stages of preparing the FY13 budget document that goes into effect October 1, 2012. The decision regarding the Southwest Lakeland Fire Station is the crucial factor in finalizing the FY13 budget.



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