This presentation is to discuss the reasons why your fire commissioners and I are discussing the possibility of a merger with East Manatee Fire Rescue. 18 months ago the Myakka Board approached the East Manatee Board inquiring as to whether East Manatee would be interested in discussing a merger. 2 years ago when I announced my plans to retire in 2021, it brought up the discussion of funding the department for the future. Over the past 4 to 5 years it became apparent that the fire assessments were not going to be able to sustain long term operations of Myakka’s 2 fire stations. Rather than raising taxes or watching the fire district slowly dissolve it was felt a merger would breath new life into the department.
TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- The creation of the Myakka City Fire District
- The Makeup of the District, Firefighters, Apparatus and Equipment
- Fire Assessments/Tax, who pays it and who gets the money?
- Our Budget, Salaries
- Needs assessments
- Questions being asked
- What is an Ad-Valorem Tax?
- Non-Ad-Valorem and Ad-Valorem
- Comparing fire assessments, Referendum Language
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
WHO ARE WE / OUR EMPLOYEES

• The Myakka City Fire District is 230 square miles
• Officially created in 1986 by Manatee County
• The Fire District is governed by 5 Fire Commissioners
• Fire Commissioners are appointed by the MCBOCC
• Fire Commissioners receive no compensation
• 9 – Myakka City Firefighter / EMT’s, 6 – County Fire-medics
• 1 – Administrative Staff/Fire Inspector
• 1 – Fire Chief
• 4 – Active Reserve/Volunteer firefighters
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
FACILITIES/APPARATUS

- 1 – 1996 fire truck 24 years old
- 1 – 2008 fire truck 12 years old
- 1 – 2014 fire truck 6 years old
- 3 – Brush trucks average 34 years old
- 1 – 5,000-gallon water tanker 38 years old
- 2 – 2008 - Staff pick-up trucks - 12 years old
- Average life of a fire truck is 10 years.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

BUDGET

2019/2020 Budget year

• General Revenue and Assessments: $1,450,014.08
• General Expenses: $1,598,126.75
• Budget Deficit: $ -148,112.67
• Reserve Funds: $ 945,186.00
• Total Budget: $2,543,312.75
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

End of budget year 2018/2019
Reserve Funds: $ 945,186.00

Budget year 2020: Budget Deficit: $-148,112.75

New budget year 2019/2020
Reserve Funds: $ 788,073.33

• Average rate of inflation in the U.S. 3.22%
• Average annual budget growth for MCFD 1.2%
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
BUDGET

• Salaries and Benefits $1,240,266.75    Year 2020
• Non-Employee Expenses $357,900.00  Year 2020

• Fire assessments last increased in 2007
• Maximum allowable fire assessment increase is 5% per year
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
BUDGET
Budget year 2020/2021 Forecast

• General Revenue and Assessments: $1,393,285
• General Expenses: $1,592,126.75
• Budget Deficit: $ (184,840.81)
• Reserve Funds $ 603,232.52
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
BUDGET

Budget Year 2021/2022 Forecast

• General Revenue and Assessments: $1,414,459.73
• General Expenses: $1,695,200.00
• Budget Deficit: $ (272,740.27)
• Reserve Funds: $ 330,492.25
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
BUDGET

Budget Year 2022/2023 Forecast

• General Revenue and Assessments: $1,431,433.33
• General Expenses: $1,847,700.00
• Budget Deficit: $ (408,266.78)
• Reserve Funds: $ (77,774.53)

Unable to balance budget, district is required to have a balanced budget to operate. District is in a financial emergency.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

CALLS

Type of calls we respond to during the year

Medical Calls 75%
Vehicles Accidents 13%
Brush Fires 6%
Structures Fires 6%

Total calls 2019: 610
Total calls first 6 months 2020 363
What brought about the discussion of a merger

• 2014, diminishing cash reserves
• This trend has been continuing for the past 6 years
• We have been balancing our budget deficit with our cash reserves
• The housing crash of 2008 all but put a stop to new home construction.
• Housing starts have never recovered from 2008.
• New housing starts for 2019 – 7
• New housing starts for 2020 year to date - 15
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
Need to purchase /upgrade strategic equipment

• 23 - SCBA air-packs, 10 to 12 years old – replacement cost $188,140,000

• 46 - Two-way radios need to be replaced due to Federally mandated communications requirements Project P-25 – replacement cost $276,000.

• Thermal imaging cameras have reached end of life and require replacement – replacement cost $30,000.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Need to purchase/upgrade strategic equipment

• Mobile data terminals (truck computers) – replacement cost $32,500.
• Fire Station alerting system 2 - stations cost $15,000.
• Extrication tools 10 years old, replacement $108,000.
• Replacement program for firefighter bunker gear. This is an annual cost of $10,000 to $15,000 per year.
• Fire department facilities and infrastructure requires upgrades and hardening of truck bay.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Need to purchase /upgrade strategic equipment

- Driveway repairs at Station 1
- 1996 reserve engine needs to be replaced
- 2008 fire engine needs to be replaced - $650,000 to $700,000
- 2014 fire engine will need replacement within 3 years - $700,000
- Hiring of 3 additional firefighters - $264,000/year
- $2.4 million in capital expenses + $300,000/year in budget expenses.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
RULES AND MANDIATES

• Cost of employee benefits have been increasing annually. Some rules and regulations are mandated by the federal government and state government.

• National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) makes industry wide recommendations regarding health, safety, equipment, training, fire response, apparatus type, firefighter well being, annual physicals.

• AD&D insurance, cancer insurance, Heart and Lung bill which are firefighter health related rules add to the cost of insurance.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
RULES AND MANDATES

- Two in-Two Out Rule

- The two in-two out rule which requires that 2 firefighters with appropriate gear (2 out) **MUST** be stationed outside a burning building prepared to make a rescue before any firefighters (2 in) can go inside. This requires at least 4 firefighters on the scene before any interior fire attack can be made. This can take up to 20 minutes.

- Firefighters must wait for another engine company to arrive to meet the 2 in-2 out State Rule (up to 20 minutes in some cases)

- Each of our 2 stations are staffed by 2 firefighters.
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- NFPA 1710 is an industry standard that advocates minimum requirements of 15 firefighters be on the scene of all major incidents. This often takes up to 30 minutes for MCFD to meet.

- Current station staffing:
  - Station – 2 (2) Myakka firefighter/EMT on duty per shift
  - Station - 1 (1) Myakka firefighter/EMT and (1) Manatee County firefighter/paramedic per shift
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

Questions being asked

• Why won’t Manatee County help us out with money?
• What are the benefits to merging with East Manatee?
• What will happen to our firefighter/paramedics?
• Will my fire taxes increase or decrease?
• How will the merger affect my homeowners’ insurance?
• What will happen if we don’t approve the referendum?
• How will I be represented if Myakka merges into East Manatee?
• What is the language of the referendum?
If approved, Myakka City/East Manatee Fire District Merger Referendum:

- Will result in a total net fire assessment/tax savings to a majority of the Myakka City taxpaying residents.
- Will result in a voter elected fire commission that is not appointed by the county.
- Will expand existing Myakka City Fire Service resources with East Manatee Fire District’s: a.) New/Newer fire apparatus; b.) New and updated equipment; and c.) Additional fire fighters on apparatus and fire stations responding to calls.

PLEASE VOTE, AUGUST 18, 2020
MYAKKA CITY FIRE PROPOSED MERGER WITH EAST MANATEE FIRE

If not approved, Myakka City/East Manatee Fire District Merger Referendum:

- Existing Myakka City Fire District fire assessment will not sustain long term operation of Myakka City’s 2 fire stations.

- Closure of an existing Myakka City Fire Station may negatively impact ISO rating which may increase homeowners fire insurance rates.

- To maintain existing levels of service, Myakka City Fire District will need additional operating revenue requiring a fire assessment increase.

- Myakka City Fire District cannot expand fire service resources (new apparatus, new equipment and more firefighter personnel) without a fire assessment increase.

PLEASE VOTE, AUGUST 18, 2020
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE ASSESSMENTS

COMPARISON

• Myakka: Vacant platted lot $25.00/lot
• East Manatee: Vacant platted lot $8.04/lot
• Myakka: Vacant platted lot more than 10 acres $0.35/acre
• East Manatee: Vacant platted lot more that 10 acres $0.35/acre
• Myakka: Vacant un-platted lot less than 10 acres $0.35/acre
• East Manatee: Vacant unplatted less that 10 acres $8.04/parcel
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE ASSESSMENTS

COMPARISON

- Myakka: Single family residential on acreage $152.00/base (first 1,000sf) with $0.20/sf over the first 1,000 sf. + $0.35/acre
- East Manatee: Single family residential $90.38 base (first 1,000sf) + $0.06/sf over 1,000 sf
- Myakka: Multi-family residential $175.00 base (first 1,000sf) + $0.20/sf over the first 1,000sf. + $0.35 acre
- East Manatee: Multi-family residential $103.41/unit
- Myakka: Mobile homes $152.00 base (first 1,000sf) + $0.20sf over the first 1,000sf. + $0.35/acre
- East Manatee: Mobile homes on acreage $86.10/unit + $0.35/acre
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE ASSESSMENTS

• Myakka: Commercial - $500.00 base (first 1,000 sf) + $0.20/sf over the first 1,000 sf + $0.35/acre
• East Manatee: Commercial/Industrial $456.92/unit (first 1,000 sf) + applicable use codes.
• Myakka: Unsubdivided acreage with improvement. All buildings and structures $152.00 (first 1,000 sf) + $0.20/sf over the first 1,000 sf + $0.35/acre
• East Manatee: Unsubdivided acreage with improvements. All buildings and structures $90.38 (first 1,000 sf) + $0.06/sf above 1,000 sf + $0.35/acre
• Myakka: Unsubdivided acreage $0.35/acre
• East Manatee: Unsubdivided acreage $0.35/acre
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

Who is East Manatee Fire Rescue District?
In July 1980, the Florida Legislature created the Braden River Fire Control and Rescue District, in 2005 the 100 square mile special taxing district changed its name to East Manatee Fire Rescue District.
The East Manatee Fire Rescue District has 7 operating fire stations, with 1 station under construction and 1 fire station in the planning phase. 93 employees with 27 firefighters per shift, operating 7 engine companies and 2 ladder trucks.

East Manatee Reserve Funds for 2019 $23,300,000.00
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
AD VALOREM

Ad Valorem Assessment: An assessment based on property value measured in millage (mil).

Millage is as assessment equal to $1. for each $1,000. worth of TAXABLE property value.

Property value divided by 1,000 x the millage rate = Ad Valorem Assessment.

$300,000/1,000 = 300 x .8mil = $240.00 Assessment
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

Comparison of Rates

Home: 1,152sf on 1.78 acres with a taxable value of $64,657

MCFD
Base fee $152.00
SF fee over 1,000 = $30.40
Acreage fee = $25.00

East Manatee
Base fee = $90.38
SF fee over 1,000 = $9.30
Acreage fee = $8.04
Ad valorem = $64,657 / 1,000 = 64.65
64.65x.8 = $51.72

MCFD fire tax = $207.40
EMFR Fire Tax = $159.44
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT

Comparison of Rates

Home: 3,108sf on 17.079 acres with a taxable value of $108,248.00

MCFD
Base fee - $152.00
SF fee over 1,000 = $421.
Acreage fee = $5.97

East Manatee
Base fee = $90.38
SF fee over 1,000 = $129.00
Acreage fee = $5.97

Ad valorem = $108,248/1000
108.24 x .8 = 86.59

MCFD Fire Tax = $579.57
EMFR Fire Tax = $311.94
Exception to the Rule: Vacant platted lot, 5.30 acres with a taxable value of $58,750.00

Myakka Fire Tax: 5.30 acres Vacant plated lot = $25.00

East Manatee Fire Tax: Vacant platted lot = $8.04

East Manatee Ad Valorem .8mil rate
$58,750.00/1000 = 58.75 x .8 = $47.00

Total East Manatee Tax = $55.04
East Manatee Ad Valorem Assessment:
Voted on and approved by East Manatee voters in 2004, 1.0 mils.
An Ad Valorem assessment is based on the assessed value of an item, such as real estate or personal property.
Florida Statutes provide for an assessment based on Ad Valorem. The Ad Valorem assessment would be in addition to the present assessment method which funds operations.
The Ad Valorem assessment method must be approved by a voter referendum.
Expect the millage rate to be at .8 mil or lower.
This Tax Simulator will compare your current Myakka City Fire Taxes to the proposed East Manatee Fire Taxes. Please click the link below and enter your property ID number:

http://tc.myakkafire.org

If your property information does not come up, please contact us.
email: administration@myakkafire.org or call 941-322-6525
Shall the Myakka City Fire Control District, a dependent special district of Manatee County, be merged into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District, an independent special district, and become subject to the East Manatee Fire Rescue District’s jurisdiction and authority, including the authority under Chapter 191, Florida Statutes, to levy an ad valorem tax in an amount no greater than 1 mil annually?

YES - For

NO - Against
MYAKAKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
ELECTION DATE

Election information:
Date of the Referendum is
Tuesday
August 18, 2020

PLEASE VOTE
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
TO MERGE OR NOT

THE DECISION IS YOURS!
MYAKKA CITY FIRE DISTRICT
QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS?
administration@myakkafire.org
or call
941-322-6525