

From: Thomas Brener [mailto:thomasbbrener@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 12:07 PM

To: John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Cc: Terry Holmes <tfolmes33@gmail.com>; management@birdbayofvenice.com; gregory furda <gafurda@gmail.com>; ll. hamper <ll.hamper@comcast.net>; jprumo@gmail.com

Subject: Counting Condo Value Twice in Fire Fee

I came across an interesting objection to the new fire fee on the City Server that deserves repetition. I copy it below. It is not something that I initially noticed, but I think Richard and Pamela make an excellent point. Since land value is already included in condo assessments- there is double taxation for Condo residents. If the fire fee, as proposed, is adopted- Condominium owners will be paying the "Per Parcel" rate of \$187.48 per year PLUS the "structure" fee \$9.63 per EBU. Unlike single family homes that have land PLUS improvement value, condominiums show the two values as a single sum which will be counted in the EBU. Condo owners will be charged for their "land" in the per-parcel fee and then they will be charged again because the land value is included in their assessment. Consequently this is double taxation, as the signatories pointed out. The largest condominium complex in Venice is Bird Bay Village with 1018 Condominiums. This single community will be overcharged at least \$191,212 every year if the fire fee is adopted without modification. (50% of that amount in year 1)

Please include this as correspondence received in public comments for the meeting on the 21st.

Thank You, Thomas Brener

August 2, 2017

TO: Mayor Holic and City Council

RE: Modify Request for *Fire Protection Special Assessment* by definition of "Structural" and "Taxable Value" [Proposed Ordinance 2017-23]

Dear Mayor,

The proposed *Fire Protection Special Assessment* suggests a **52% increase** with a future blank-check, without further discussion or approval agreement to raise it. This proposal should be modified for the following reasons:

1. The special assessment is based on "*structure value*" not "*taxable value*".
2. Condo owners are assessed on all valuation as opposed to a single family home; their taxes are divided by property and structure.
3. City consultants can not separate condo-structure values from common land values.
4. Single family homes are charged the Tier 1 fee based on the homes land value; the Tier 2 multiplier applied to their structure value.
5. Condo owners are charged the Tier 1 fee based on having an "address"; Tier 2 multiplier applied to the building structure, that in reality, also includes their common land - their entire Sarasota county assessment.

6. Condo residents would be taxed twice for land; once for Tier 1 and again for Tier 2 because building tax assessment includes condo land.
7. Condo residents should not have to pay Tier 1 since it's included in our building value.
8. How is the structure value an “*efficient method to establish the replacement cost*” after a hurricane?FAQ#6

We request *proposed ordinance 2017-23* be revisited and revised to include a more equitable solution for the residents and fire district of Venice, Florida.

Regards,
Richard Herrema and Pamela Neubacher
920 Cooper Street Unit 301
Venice, Florida

THOMAS BRENER
GUILFORD CT – VENICE FL
203 521-4124/M 941 4454134/FL 203 533-5616/CT
Please note my new email address: thomasbbrener@gmail.com

Marie & Edward Ashway**433 Nokomis Ave S****Venice, FL 34285****203-856-7029****August 3, 2017****City of Venice Officials****401 West Venice Ave****Venice, FL 34285****Subject: Objection to Proposed Ordinance 2017-23; Fire Protection Special Assessment.****Dear City of Venice Officials,**

This letter is to formally file an objection to the proposed Ordinance 2017-23; Fire Protection Special Assessment.

The Fire Protection Special Assessment for our property will be based on "structure value" and not "taxable value". It appears that condominium owners are getting unfair treatment. Single family homes are getting charged a tier 1 fee (\$93.92) based upon having a parcel of land (nothing regarding the value) and the tier 2 fees (\$4.81 per EBU) would be applied to their structure "building" value. Condominiums are charged the Tier 1 fee (\$93.92) based upon having a "parcel of land" and the Tier 2 fees (\$4.81 per EBU) applied to the structure "building" on the Sarasota County Property Appraiser's list. In reality the "building" also includes a portion of the value of the condominium's land. Condominium owners are getting taxed twice for our "parcel of land", once for Tier 1 and again for Tier 2 because the structure "building" value includes a portion of undeterminable condominium land.

Our increase for 2018 is proposed to be near \$450 or about a 50+% increase in City taxes and in subsequent years it could go as high as \$900 per year without any further discussion or approval. Quite a significant increase especially in future years. Venice is our domicile (Homestead) and this increase seems to be contrary to Florida's Homestead Act or at least the proposed increase is not in the spirit of the Homestead Act.

Additionally, it should be noted that per IRS Regulations; Publication 17, the "fire tax" would be considered a user tax and therefore not tax deductible for an individual who itemizes their federal taxes.

Please note the above tax increase does not take into consideration future tax increases due to the recently authorized bond issues for road improvements and a new police station. The roads clearly need to be improved but if people were aware of the significant increase in taxes due to the proposed "fire tax" they may have voted differently in those two situations. We know we would have!

Island Court Condominium of Venice is fairly new having been completed in 2016 to the latest fire codes. The structure is mostly masonry with every unit, inside and out, fully protected by a fire suppression system. Fire extinguishers are also located in every unit. The Units are inspected annually at great expense to the property owners by Piper Fire Protection and then inspected again by the City Fire Marshall at a small charge to the Association. Overall these are significant expenses that condominium owners are already incurring that single family homes do not have to pay.

In conclusion, we hereby formally request Ordinance 2017-23, Fire Protection Special Assessment, be denied in its current form. We strongly believe that any solution to this financial issue should be a property tax based upon taxable value. As previously stated, using structural "building" value significantly impacts and discriminates against condominium owners versus other types of property owners.

Thank you,

Edward L Ashway

Marie C Ashway

Jayne Stork
794 Bird Bay Way
Venice, FL 34285

August 1, 2017

City of Venice
401 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 36285

RE: Public hearing to consider imposition and collection of fire protection special assessments

To whom it may concern:

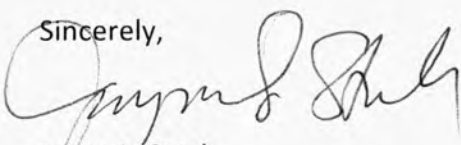
In regard to the letter I received, I find it outrageous that you are considering raising real estate taxes by over 30% for fire protection services with a ceiling of double that for future years. An increase in the budgeted amount for fire services of \$8,420,000 seems quite excessive for a City the size of Venice.

I also do not understand salaries of over \$3,000,000 for FY2018. I would like to be supplied with a list of personnel and corresponding salaries making up that figure.

It is time to stop funding these ridiculous pensions for public employees. The private sector has moved to self-funded plans and it is time for municipalities to follow. Asking residents of a city made up of predominantly retired persons who have spent their lives working and funding their own retirements to pay for the retirements of city workers is unjust. I do not support the special assessment!

I also find it unfair that the public hearing has been scheduled for a time when many residents are not in the area. It is well known that many of Venice's retired citizens return to homes in the northern part of the U.S. during the summer. The hearing should be rescheduled to a time after September 2017.

Sincerely,



Jayne L. Stork

City of Venice

401 W. Venice Ave.

Venice, FL 34285

CLERK 11AUG'17 AM 11:52

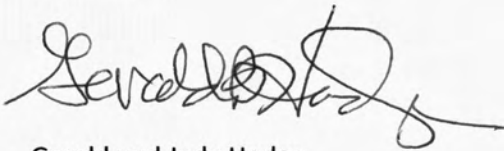
Attn: City Council

We certainly appreciate the fire department and its mission. We also understand that it takes money to operate the department.

However, we feel that the proposed assessment is too high, considering that we are only a part of a larger building, which is constructed of cement block and has a fire suppression system. We feel that a lower fee should be considered for such structures.

We would appreciate your consideration of our request for a reduction of the proposed assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald and Judy Hodge", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerald and Judy Hodge

831 Waterside Dr. Unit 301

8/8/17

From: Annette Dwyer [mailto:amdwyer1@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 11:38 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: fire fee

After the citizens of Venice voted you additional funds to build roads and a police station, it is incredulous that you now want extra money for a "fire fee" without a vote from all of the citizens. There has been no clear communication what this money will buy us. And, after all the talk about affordable housing in Venice, you are making it unaffordable for people that already live here. By making this additional cost a "fee" instead of including this in the general tax we pay, no one can write this off on our federal taxes.

While our fire crew do a great job, we need to look at savings that could be managed within the department before we ask everyone to pay more. Last week a neighbor had smoke in her kitchen when she turned on her new stove. There was no fire, but the department responded with FOUR firetrucks plus the ambulance! This overkill costs a lot of unnecessary expense and could be reduced.

No budget item of this size that was coming from the general fund should be instated with putting this on the ballot in a general election.

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 5:57 PM

To: Janine Joyner <janinejoyner@hotmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed Fire Assessment

Dear Ms. Joyner,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Janine Joyner <janinejoyner@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 5:10:54 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Proposed Fire Assessment

Mrs. Janine Joyner

817 Riviera Street

Venice, FL 34285

941-484-2169

August 9, 2017

Mayor Holic and City Council

Venice City Hall

Dear Mayor/City Council,

I have plans to attend the 9:00 AM public hearing on August 21st, 2017 to provide public comment on the proposed special fire assessment. However, knowing how plans can change in a heartbeat, I decided to post my comments to you today in case I can't make it.

I was one of the original supporters of this proposed assessment because I feel, as many do, that we do need to maintain our fire department at all times for the protection of our life, limbs and property both in the City of Venice and surrounding communities. Even after reading the letter which informed me that in the first year (2018) we would pay \$214.17, and in subsequent years it would JUMP to \$428.59, which is double the first year, I was still fairly supportive of this assessment because it is a vital need, not a frivolous want.

However, after talking to my CPA, Peacock & French, I learned that this very high cost to us will not qualify as a tax deduction. Thus, I'm sorry to say, I must withdrawal my support. Most of us seniors need every legal deduction possible to keep a few extra pennies in our pockets after paying Uncle Sam what we owe, but if you do not allow this fire assessment fee to be deducted from our taxes, then I cannot support it. What is disheartening to me is that we will receive notice of this fee via our property tax bill, yet it will not be tax deductible. Once again, it is the 'average and poor people' who get affected the most by these changes, not the wealthy. And what will be next? A special assessment for the police department, the health department, schools, etc. eliminating any and all deductions for those who need it most? I'm sorry we cannot support this matter.

Sincerely,

Janine J Joyner

From: Carol and Igor Bishko [mailto:ibishko@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 8:36 AM
To: ibishko@aol.com; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Subject: Re: Fire Fee....corrected

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol and Igor Bishko <ibishko@aol.com>
To: citycouncil <citycouncil@venicegov.com>
Sent: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 8:21 am
Subject: Fire Fee

Dear Sirs

I am asking all of you to revisit the proposed Fire Assessment. Making up for years of budget mismanagement in such a drastic way is an insult to the current tax payers who just recently passed two bonds. The same week we received the notification letter regarding the proposed fee, there was an article in local papers quoting our mayor's interest in purchasing a commercial property for a city hall annex or fire station. When does the fiscal irresponsibility end?

Stop viewing the tax payers as an open check book. Create an easy to understand and fair annual budget process and eliminate these "pop up" demands for tax payer monies. Through my discussions on this topic in my neighborhood, there are many residents who are equally angered by your recent actions.

Sincerely

Igor Bishko
265 Martellago Dr.
North Venice

The City Council of the City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285

Notice of: **OBJECTION** TO Consider Imposition and Collection Of Fire Protection Special Assessment

We are Condominium owners in the city of Venice, and while we agree fire protection is one the the top priorities of government function, an on going special assessment with no controls or limitations on the spending, budgeting and methodology of operation should be voted down and never considered again.

The services of the fire department should be covered by property taxes. PERIOD. Isn't fire protection one of the services covered by our taxes?

We oppose this proposal. !!!!!!!!!!!

John and Sharon Moretti
Parcel 0404051020
314 Gardens Edge Dr
Venice, FL 34285.

*John P. Moretti
Sharon Moretti*

CLERK 09AUG'17 PM 1:29

JAMES & ELIZABETH GIBSON
1211 CAPRI ISLES BLVD. UNIT 50
VENICE, FL 34292

August 5, 2017

RE: Proposed Fire Protection Special Assessment

Mayor John Holic & City Council Members of Venice City, FL
401 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

My husband and I moved to Venice as full time residents eight years ago. We live in a very modest community that we thought would be our home the rest of our lives. We feel the little guy is being pushed out due to uncontrolled growth and increased expenses. We strongly oppose the proposed fire protection special assessment and urge you to work toward finding the necessary funds without raising taxes or a special assessment.

Are developers paying their fair share? It is our understanding that fees and charges to developers are spelled out in the agreement signed at the time approval is given for a project. If this is the case, it is too late for the developments already underway; however, please consider the impact on all infrastructure and services the city will provide when reviewing proposed developments.

Thank you for your attention and please reconsider the proposed fire protection special assessment.

Sincerely,

James Gibson
Elizabeth Gibson

James & Elizabeth Gibson

CLERK 05AUG17 PM 1:29

CLERK 10AUG'17 AM 8:17

To: City of Venice Florida
For: Special Assessment for Fire Protection

From: James & Merrillie Toth
Parcel # 0175042001
1205 Tarpon Center Dr A1
Venice Florida 34285

To City of Venice

In regards to the recent letter we received from you we want to say we disagree vehemently with the City for many reasons. You fail to make a case as to why and for what you need so much money from the Venice taxpayers.

An assessment is suppose to be used for items you need and have no fund at hand. . What or why is the reason to inflict such a large dollar amount on Venice taxpayers?

Perhaps you need to see where your waste begins and stop it at once Try to live within the means we have given you by cutting back ! We all have to do that from time to time.

We would like a simple if possible answer to our questions and if not then just a answer.

Thank you,

James M. Toth
Merrilie S. Toth
Parcel # 0175042001
1205 Tarpon Centr Drive A1
Venice Florida 34285

Please reply to address below
11737 Sugarwood Ct.
Loveland Oh 45140

August 8 2017

8/1/2017

CLERK 10AUG'17 AM 11:34

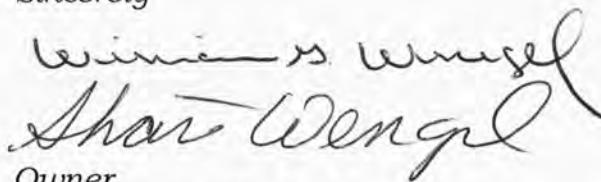
William G & Shari Wengel
City of Venice
500 Gardens Edge DR Unit 522
Venice, Fl 34285

City Council
City of Venice Avenue
Venice, Fl. 34285

Dear City Council

We are providing in writing our strong opposition of the proposed implementation of FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT. This avenue for funding the fire protection revenue is totally out of line and costly to us as homeowners and we absolutely DO NOT support the proposal. Using the structure value verses the taxable value for assessment values is way out of line. There is a strong possibility of the special assessment cost doubling over time and way too costly for home ownership. We have not been home owners for that long in Venice and would seriously consider moving and choosing another retirement community if the is approved by the City Council.

Sincerely

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'William G. & Shari Wengel' written in a cursive, flowing style. The first part of the signature is slightly larger and more prominent than the second part.

Owner

William G. & Shari Wengel

LLOYD & MARIANNABROWN
1211 CAPRI ISLES BLVD UNIT #9
VENICE, FLORIDA 34292
941-445-4251

August 1, 2017

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF VENICE

We are writing this letter in reference to a notice we received regarding the proposed fire protection special assessments which we strongly oppose.

The City of Venice I believe is primarily populated by an older generation of men and women most of whom are retired and many of whom, after employment, have chosen to live in Venice.

One of the reasons we moved from New Jersey and became permanent Florida residents was not only the beauty of this City but the fact that we felt we would not be 'strapped' with more taxes – both in real estate and other forms of taxes that we were subject to as New Jersey residents.

To now burden us with this new assesement you are contemplating is ludicrous. Where will this type of tax increase or assessment as you call it end??? Surely, the need for more money for the fire department didn't happen overnight and therefore should have been forseen and plans for the same implemented by our City Mayor and Council.

We urge you to set aside this assessment and work toward finding funds without raising taxes or levying assessments upon us.

Repectfully submitted

LLOYD & MARIANNA BROWN

CLERK 10AUG'17 AM 11:34

August 7, 2017
City of Venice
City Council
401 W. Venice Ave.
Venice, Florida 34285

Robert and Cindy Czarnomski
1306 Pinebrook Way
Venice, Florida 3425
ph. (612) 554-8274

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to voice our objections and concerns over the proposed special assessment for the fire department. Listed are our concerns in no particular order.

First, we are retirees and on a fixed income. If we are fortunate, and this does not always occur, a Social Security increase may only be 1%. Hardly enough to cover normal inflation, much less a special assessment of hundreds of dollars annually, with a doubling to come in future years. This contributes to making Venice unaffordable for many retirees and others, driving out the very people who make it an exceptional city.

We are not wealthy and are much like the majority of Venice's residents. This proposal is especially troublesome for lower income residents, even those who pay no property taxes with their exemptions, because of the requirement that all pay the same Tier 1 fee, no matter the property's valuation, and still pay another fee for a structure's replacement value. It does not matter to the council if the person lives on a few hundred dollars a month and that it will drive a person further into poverty.

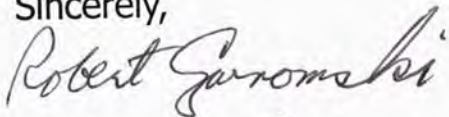
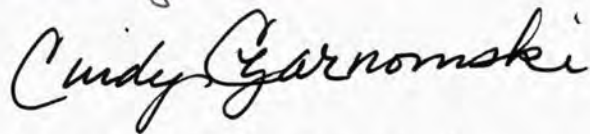
We all know that fire protection is an essential governmental service. But so are the police, schools, etc. Why is the Fire Department receiving this special assessment, really? What is the money really going to be spent on and why is there a need for a special assessment? Sure, we all want to have more money for those unspecified projects. Tell us what prevents the

council from adding additional special assessments in the future and tell us about those unspecified projects.

We also know that there is tremendous growth in greater Venice. It seems that existing residents are being asked to bear the majority of the expenses to provide fire protection for those new developments. If anyone should have a special assessment, it should be levied against those requiring new services. Doesn't that also apply to parks, police, libraries, etc.?

Don't make Venice the realm for only the wealthy. Consider the impact to the majority of your citizens.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Czarnomski in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Cindy Czarnomski in cursive script.

Robert and Cindy Czarnomski

412 Bayshore Drive
Venice, FL 34285
Parcel: 0175010013
August 4, 2017

CLERK 10AUG'17 AM 11:34

Mr. John Holic and Venice City Council
104 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

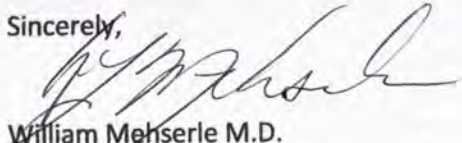
We have the utmost respect and appreciation for the incredible personnel of the Venice Fire Department. They are truly an asset to the community and to their profession. The City sent a letter dated July 20, 2017 to property owners regarding the consideration of imposition and collection of fire protection special assessments. As long term Venice residents, we are against this proposal. Taxes should not be a burden on retirees or working citizens. Residents could use the monies at their discretion which should ultimately increase the One-Cent Tax Fund and thus, flowing more dollars into the City coffers. Non-profits should not be hurt by this provision. The City should keep the Fire Department as part of its General Budget and be part of the One-Percent Sales Tax Fund.

The tax base is increasing for both ad valorem and sales taxes due to the growth of annexing properties into the city along with building of new communities with more residents. In addition, existing property values are increasing and so are property taxes. The amount of increased monies should cover any budget requirements. The city should have a balanced budget for all its services considering the growing revenue. If it does not, the Council should be working towards that goal.

The City of Venice has a wonderful reputation. That should also entail being fiscally responsible with taxpayer monies. As with other departments, the fire department's budget should be closely analyzed. Other communities in Florida utilize volunteer fire fighters. Non-essential items such as graphics on equipment/vehicles could be eliminated. The retirement system should be revamped and consider the age and years of service be extended as has happened with other benefits. User fees could be increased. As a Certified Public Accountant, I would gladly offer my services to assist in this process.

We would appreciate you voting against this imposition and collection of Fire Protection Special Assessments.

Sincerely,



William Mehserle M.D.



Linda J. Mehserle C.P.A.



8/7/17

City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, Fl. 34285

RE: Admiralty Marine LLC/Eyelet Ltd Parcel #0410130001

To: City Council

Objections

1.0) Generally:-

- 1.1) The Council should disclose the total number of tax parcels employed in the calculating of \$93.92 per parcel in Tier 1.
- 1.2) Tier 2 should not be based exclusively on replacement cost of structures. Rather the basis should be the lower of market value or replacement cost. Some structures will never be replaced in event of loss by fire; and in that event the replacement cost would be irrelevant.
- 1.3) The Venice economy is by no means robust. Funding 50% (instead of 100%) of the Fire Department budget for 2018 is therefore a practical decision. However, funding 100% of the Fire Department budget as early as 2019 will double the 2018 assessment and therefore will be impractical. It would be sensible not to fund 100% until there are clear signs of economic robustness. Such signs are not now apparent.
- 1.4) In default of economic robustness, the City Council will have to do more than merely consider some offset by way of reduction of property tax: The Council will have to implement an offset.

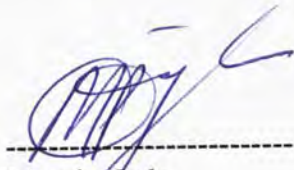
2.0) Specifically for 609 US Highway 41 Bypass, S. Venice, Fl. 34285
Parcel#0410130001

609 US Highway 41 Bypass, South
Venice, Fl. 34285

Tel: 941-480-0723
941-480-0724
Fax: 941-480-9574
Email: ADMIRALTYMAR@cs.com
www.admiralty-marine-llc.com

- 2.1) The structures of 609 US 41 Bypass, S. Venice are mostly, very old and (in event of destruction) will certainly not be rebuilt on basis of their present design and dimensions.
- 2.2) On October 31, 2017 the market value of those structures might then be no more than their book value of \$75,964. A Tier 2 improvement value of \$115,000 (replacement cost) based on 23 assessment units at \$5,000 would be unrealistic. An improvement value based on market value of \$76,000 would be more realistic; and on that basis 15 assessment units at \$5,000 would be fair and satisfactory. For Fiscal year 2018 our fire protection assessment should be a total of \$166.07, comprising \$93.92 for Tier 1 and \$72.15 (i.e. 15 x \$4.81) for Tier 2.
- 2.3) Our business has not yet fully recovered from the Great Recession. Our 2016 Total revenue was only 73% of 2006 total revenue. Therefore we will not be able to do without an offset by way of a reduction in 2017 property tax.

Yours reliably



Marvin Ogle
President

**MARVIN OGLE & CAMILLE GRACEY-OGLE
3010 SUNSET BEACH DRIVE
VENICE, FL. 34293**

8/7/17

City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL. 34285

RE: 616 Leslie Ln, 83 Venice, Fl. 34285 Parcel#0407151083

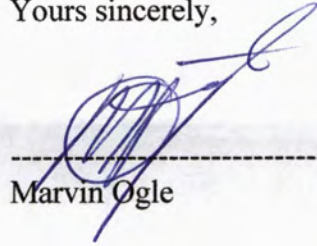
To: City Council

- Generally –
 - The Council should disclose the total number of tax parcels employed in calculating \$93.92 per parcel in Tier 1.
 - The Venice economy is by no means robust. To some extent it has not yet fully recovered from the Great Recession. In this scenario the funding of 50% (instead 100%) of the Fire Department budget for 2018 is a practical decision. However funding of 100% of the Fire Department budget as early as 2019 will double the 2018 assessment, and therefore will be impractical. It would be sensible not to fund 100% until there are clear signs of economic robustness. Such signs are not now apparent.
 - In default of economic robustness, the City Council will have to do more than merely consider some offset by way of reduction of property tax: The Council will have to implement an offset.
- Specifically for 616 Leslie Lane, Venice, Fl. 34285 Parcel#0407151083 –
 - For 2016, property tax was based on \$122,816 as a value for both land and building. This compares with a Tier 2 fire protection assessment improvement (replacement cost) value of \$170,000 for building only, based on 34 assessment units at \$5,000 each. The \$170,000 value is palpably unrealistic. We consider that a Tier 2 improvement value of \$115,000 would be more realistic; and (on that value) 23 assessment units at \$5,000 would be fair and satisfactory. For Fiscal Year 2018 our fire protection assessment should be a total of \$204.55, comprising \$93.92 for Tier 1 and \$110.63 (i.e. 23 x \$4.81) for Tier 2.
 - Property taxes were increased massively –
 - By 22% for 2016 over 2015 and

- By 23% for 2015 over 2014

Therefore we will not be able to do without an offset of the proposed fire protection assessment by way of a reduction in 2017 property tax.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Marvin Ogle", is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Marvin Ogle

City of Venice
Parcel # 0975144011

City Council

From JOANN GILPIN

Aug 2, 2017

255 The Esplanade N. apt 205 Venice FL

Concerning the Fuel Dept tax that is being considering. I am totally against this, we had a raise in taxes not to long ago and now this City of Venice is wanting to raise taxes again to Property owners. Why not Put a tax on cigarettes or another commodity that way everyone besides Property owners would pay.

Most people are seniors citizens in Venice I am one of those seniors on fixed income with hardly enough to pay for medications Doctors, Insurance, food and the necessary life needs
The way I see it, is you will win one way or another the way you have Planned it.

So you are still working and have big salary each month (lucky you)
Please Consider my suggestions
and read my letter twice

JoAnn Gilpin

From: John Holic

Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 8:52 AM

To: Diane Erosa <dianeerosa@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

Dear Ms. Erosa,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Diane Erosa <dianeerosa@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 8:29:49 AM

To: City Council

Subject: FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

I am notifying your office that I am against this proposal.

This town is made up of mostly seniors on fixed income, I am one of them, I can not afford any assessment.

Find the funds needed another way, but not by assessing us.

Diane Erosa

700 San Lino Circle

Venice Fl

From: John Holic
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 8:50 AM
To: georgeromanowski@gmail.com
Cc: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>; Edward Lavalley <ELavalley@Venicegov.com>; Linda Senne <LSenne@Venicegov.com>
Subject: Re: Special Fire Fee Assessment

Dear Mr. Romanowski,
My apology for not catching the computer correction of your name and I also apologize for the attempted humor, no disrespect was intended.
Sincerely,
John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice

From: georgeromanowski@gmail.com <georgeromanowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 8:16:14 AM
To: John Holic
Cc: City Council; Edward Lavalley; Linda Senne
Subject: Re: Special Fire Fee Assessment

While we appreciate acknowledging receipt of our concerns, the tone of attempted humor and disrespect were not appreciated. Please note, we are your constituents.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2017, at 6:00 PM, John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Roma now ski,
Wow, I apologize, I did not know there was an Auburn Hammocks Owners Association; are you accepting applications for new members? On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.
Sincerely,
John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice

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From: georgeromanowski@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 4:06 PM
Subject: Special Fire Fee Assessment
To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Dear Mayor Holic & Members of the City Council,
I am writing on behalf of the Auburn Hammocks Owners Association to formally object to the imposition of the proposed Special Fire Fee assessment.
This new fee, in addition to the tax increase as a result of the public safety bond referendum, will

result in financial hardship for many of our residents. Owners of condominiums will be especially burdened by the fee, many of whom live alone and have limited means of support. Condo owners face tax/fee increases of over 50%.

Several Auburn Hammocks residents have expressed their concern with the proposed fee which was not anticipated.

Please reconsider the implementation of these drastic fees and present a thoughtful budget proposal for fire department needs at the appropriate time. Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

George Romanowski

President

Auburn Hammocks Owners Association

Sent from my iPhone

From: scott goodwin [mailto:sdgoodwin1955@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 8:04 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: AGAINST Proposed Fire Assessment

We are writing to say we are AGAINST THE FIRE ASSESSMENT! We pay taxes, which increase annually, and are supposed to go toward this service. Additionally, holding such a hearing and possible vote at a time when most residents are not in town feels much like a strategic move to implement this “tax” with little opposition from your majority base. We believe better fiscal management of the taxes received is what’s in order and not an “assessment” which, call it what you will, is an additional tax. Additionally, the tremendous growth and expansion going on in Venice should more than offset this unnecessary assessment.

Please REJECT this proposal for the good of the residents of Venice, particularly your elderly citizens already struggling on fixed incomes.

Sincerely,

Scott and Nancy Goodwin

From: John Prumo [mailto:jprumo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 9:25 AM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Subject: Special fee assessment

Attach is my letter per special fee assessment.

John Prumo

City of Venice
401 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, Florida 34285

Subject Fire Assessment:

I'm adding my voice in opposing the implementation of a fire protection special assessment for the following reasons;

Currently my taxes are based on taxable value, the special assessment is based on assessed value that will in many cases double the payment.

The assessment will severely impact all homestead properties and disproportionately benefit higher valued properties while burdening those who own more modest homes and condominiums.

The fire assessment is not deductible on Federal tax returns.

There is a State Statute that states fee assessments cannot be based on property assessment, clearly the use of Sarasota County Assessor's numbers violates this statute.

Condo owners would be taxed twice for land, once for Tier 1 and again for Tier 2 because building tax assessment are included in condo land. Condo owners should not have to pay Tier 1 since it's included in our building value. How many additional faults are included in the assessment plan?

The assessment fee will likely create hardships, devastate the resale value of middle income property and has the potential of doubling fees in two years.

Why is the fire assessment being voted on when a great number of property and condo owners are away? Keep government open slow the process down and give everyone the opportunity to attend meetings.

I request do not rush to institute an unfair and poorly crafted tax and a more equitable solution be developed.

Your truly

John Prumo
814 Bird Bay Way
Venice, Fl. 34285

From: jackbuckley548@gmail.com [mailto:jackbuckley548@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 12:32 PM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Upcoming pubic hearing to consider imposition and collection of fire protection special assessments

Dear Mayor and City Councilors:

As a property owner of a condo located at 831 Waterside Drive #104 in Venice, my wife and I are strongly opposed to the proposed special assessment for fire protection services. We decided to purchase our home in Venice not only for its wonderful climate but also because homes prices were affordable. We are both on a fixed income and frankly if this special assessment were to pass, without a doubt we will be putting our house up for sale shortly after. This is true of at least 3 of our neighbors as well. As a former Mayor of my home city in Dover, NH, if I had proposed an increase of this magnitude, I would have immediately been voted out of office. If this special assessment passes, you will have irreparably damaged the special quality of life that Venice has to offer. I strongly urge you to vote against this measure.

Jack and Sharon Buckley

Please note new email address

From: Richard Hillier [mailto:Hillier@gcc.mass.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 1:34 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Cc: egroop@aol.com
Subject: Fire Protection Special Assessments
Importance: High

Dear Mr Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Fire Protection Special Assessments related comments. There are other observations/comments which could be made but those cited below will give a sense of from where I am coming/have concerns/feel more must be done to enhance the budget process/budget construction. Thanks for reading and assessing my thoughts and words.

Observations (Not necessarily in any order)

- 1.) The police (8.5M) and fire (7.8M) represent over 60 percent of the total Venice budget.
- 2.) The Venice budgets go through 2018.
- 3.) The fire budgets project through 2022.
- 4.) On page 145 (of 440), the fire services special revenue budget shows needs for 2018 - 2022 of 6.03M for 2018, .59M for 2019, .47M for 2020, .67M for 2021, .15M for 2022.
- 5.) Fire services Retirement contributions are shown as the same for 2018 through 2022. Makes sense?
- 6.) Likewise health insurance is shown to remain constant. Not a good assumption .
- 7.) The Venice total budget fund balance for 2016 was 1.89M. The cumulative fund balance is much higher.

Recommendations

General Fund

1.) Project through 2022 just as many departments do.
2.) State assumptions for mil rate and projected tax/assessment income(s) for those years.
- 3.) Utilize a portion of the fund balance to offset budget expenditures and keep taxes lower.
- 4.) Initiate a yearly vacancy factor for personnel and associated fringe benefits, i.e. determine actual personnel costs each year versus the personnel budgets for the past three to five years and use that difference figure to decrease budget levels. Specifically, say budgeted personnel and benefit costs are 'x' million in any given year but the actual costs are 'x' minus 'y' million, then budget for 'x' million in expenditures with an offset vacancy factor of 'y.'

5.) Since Fire Services itself states the need for 7.7875 million in special revenue over the next five years with 6.03 million needed in 2018, creating a separate fund begs the question where does the 5.5 plus million go each year from 2019 - 2022 if Fire Services possesses this surplus?!

Fire Services

6.) Since police and fire have by far the largest budgets why would you create an arrangement where one or both of them could function "independently" and risk other departments not being able to compete for assets?

7.) Capital outlay should be funded over a period of years recognizing both the cost and useful life of the item. Creating such a reserve takes away budget big ticket items just in the year needed - not a good concept nor good from a GAAP perspective!

8.) Lastly, to quote your letter, "the maximum annual fire protection assessment....."gives a further open ended funding source for Fire Services."?

Sincerely, Richard A. Hillier, 517 Valencia Rd. Telephone mobile: 413-522-0580

P S During my professional career I was the Chief Administrative Officer at four colleges in four different states with all together difference funding mechanisms and policies. In one state I inherited an arrangement similar to the one bring proposed for Venice! What was created, not necessarily by design - an arrangement existed where the "haves" were "entitled" to more than their fair share and others suffered. Not a good result. I hope the council does what is right for the entire community!

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 2:26 PM

To: Kathleen Houde <khoude660@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: AGAINST FIRE ASSESSMENT

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Houde,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Kathleen Houde <khoude660@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 1:42:24 PM

To: City Council

Subject: AGAINST FIRE ASSESSMENT

Dear City Council Members,

As residents of Venice, we STRONGLY OPPOSE THE SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT!

The taxes we currently pay are supposed to cover those services. Better fiscal management of the current taxes is imperative rather than imposing an "assessment" which mimics an additional tax. Also, the growth and expansion of Venice should contribute positively to the fiscal position of the city. In addition, this would be an unnecessary additional burden on our elderly residents who are already dealing with fixed incomes.

We ask that you REJECT this proposal on behalf of the tax-paying residents of Venice.

Sincerely,

Alan and Kathleen Houde

247 Vista Del Lago Way

Venice, MA 34292

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 2:24 PM

To: John Block <jhblock13@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed Fire Assessment Tax (FAT)

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Block,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: John Block <jhblock13@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 2:03:58 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Proposed Fire Assessment Tax (FAT)

Council:

Holy smoke!

Your proposal. The pending imposition of a "fire assessment" for Venice property owners.

Call it what you will.

From any quarter it is a brutal tax. And no doubt, tax you will.

Any thoughts given to the taxing/assessing of snowbirds in the name of "wild life?"

Tough to pull in the reins on our "ambulance chasing" fire department, but must they?

Property owning taxpayers, part-time snowbirds,

John and Betty Block

City

From: John Holic
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Thomas <sonnyblu42@live.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Cc: chines@scgov.net; amaio@scgov.nwt
Subject: RE: No help for people who live in Englewood, Sarasota Co.

Dear Mr. Crockett,
Your email was addressed to Venice City Council and we do not have any jurisdiction in Englewood. I have copied some members of the Board of County Commissioners for Sarasota County so that they are aware of your situation and might be able to direct you properly.
Sincerely,
John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice

From: Thomas [<mailto:sonnyblu42@live.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 9:54 AM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Subject: FW: No help for people who live in Englewood, Sarasota Co.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Thomas](#)
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 9:46 AM
To: scfoodpantry@gmail.com
Subject: This is not fair...

There are people, such as myself, that live in Sarasota County, but who's address is Englewood.
But... You will not help us because we live in Englewood...
And... Charlotte County will not help us because we live in Sarasota County.

Our only option is Helping Hand... and very, very sadly... Helping Hand is of very little help.
I guess unless you live in Charlotte County, then more is provided (so I hear)

What are we to do? This is an entire area of South Venice that is being prejudiced...
Simply because we live in Sarasota County but our address is Englewood.

I have no food

Thomas Crockett

Englewood, FL 34223

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 10:30 AM

To: Dena <denatravel@earthlink.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: RE: Public Hearing - Fire Protection Special Assessments

Dear Mr. Becker,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments and questions. Many of these questions will be addressed at the Town Hall meetings on August 16 at the Venice Community Center at 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. If you are not able to attend, you will be able to go on line and listen to the meeting or request a CD from the City Clerk's office.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Dena [<mailto:denatravel@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 10:14 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Public Hearing - Fire Protection Special Assessments

Please provide further explanation as stated in the Frequently Asked Questions from the Notice of Fire Protection Special Assessment

- 1. What is the purpose of the proposed fire assessment?

Need further explanation regarding: "The assessment would provide the necessary funding to enhance the department's overall level of service to properties in the City."

- What type of "enhancements"?
- Are we now getting poor level of service?
- This assessment revenue to be collected for FY 2018 is estimated to be \$ 4.2 million dollars. What are the current "costs and expenses incurred by the City each year in providing fire protection services, facilities, and programs."?
- The "Maximum Potential Rate for each fiscal year thereafter" is a significant increase over FY2018. What is the basis for the annual increase?
- Will the funds from this assessment be used for payroll and retirement benefits?

- 2. Why is the City considering the creation of a fire assessment?

- b) "A dedicated revenue stream". Is there no current "dedicated revenue stream"? Are funds not currently budgeted for services, facilities and programs?
- c) "A way to free up General Fund and One-Cent Sales Taxes revenues for other needed projects". What are these "other needed projects" that the property owners taxes would be used for? Will the taxpayer have any input in the alternative use of these funds?

- 3. Do other governments have a "Fire Assessment Program" to fund fire service?

- How many in the state of Florida have this assessment program?
- What percentage of Florida cities and counties charge this assessment?

- How large are those cities? Properties serviced per fire facility? What is the ratio for the City of Venice compared to these other cities in Florida?
- This is a seasonal city. How is this assessment justified since the city is only fully occupied 3-5 months out of the year?
- Are these “many cities and counties throughout Florida” who have a Fire Assessment Program also seasonal areas?

- 8. What period of time does the fire assessment cover and when will the assessment be payable?

- Reasonably, there will be expenses, i.e.. new fire facilities, vehicles; unexpected repairs or losses, that will occur and will require funding. However, this assessment is permanent. It would be much more agreeable and logical to propose an assessment be rendered every 5 years or every 10 years. This would capture additional revenue to fund these aforementioned expenses. Day-to-day operation would still be funded by the General Fund or One-Cent Sales Taxes or current funding aspects. Adopting a permanent assessment sets unreasonable precedence for additional taxation for other “services, facilities and programs” as deemed “**necessary**” by the City.

“The annual assessment amount will include expenses incurred by the City in administering and collecting the assessment including fees imposed by the County property appraiser and tax collector, and will be adjusted as necessary to account for any statutory discounts which are necessitated when employing the efficiencies of collecting the assessments annually on the same bill as property taxes.” In simple terms, does this mean that it’s going to cost us (property owners) in order for the City to charge us for the assessment? Not only do we have to pay the assessment but we have to pay the government to take the assessment from us?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

jake

Jake Becker

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 10:34 AM

To: Helen Castaldo <helencastaldo@verizon.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: RE: Special Fire Assessment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Castaldo,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments and question. Questions such as these will be addressed at the Town Hall meetings on August 16 at the Venice Community Center at 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. If you are not able to attend, you will be able to go on line and listen to the meeting or request a CD from the City Clerk's office.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Helen Castaldo [<mailto:helencastaldo@verizon.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 8:40 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Special Fire Assessment

Dear Council Members:

We bought our "dream villa" in Venice in January of 2014.

At that time our real estate taxes were running around \$1,500/yr. which we thought was fair. Alarming enough, to date, our property taxes have more than doubled because we do not qualify for the homestead exemption at this time.

Needless to say, we cannot afford the proposed special fire assessment. Between the continuing increase in property taxes and now the assessment, unfortunately, we feel we will have to sell our Venice villa.

We fail to understand how property taxes are not enough to pay for improvements.

Your response is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Larry and Helen Castaldo

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 10:38 AM

To: Mary Alexander <Mary.Alexander@ins1.org>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: RE: IN OPPOSITION OF SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Alexander,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments and.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Mary Alexander [<mailto:Mary.Alexander@ins1.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 8:06 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: IN OPPOSITION OF SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

Importance: High

Dear City Council Members,

As residents of Venice, we STRONGLY OPPOSE THE SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT!

The taxes we currently pay are supposed to cover those services. Better fiscal management of the current taxes is imperative rather than imposing an "assessment" which mimics an additional tax. Also, the growth and expansion of Venice should contribute positively to the fiscal position of the city. In addition, this would be an unnecessary additional burden on our elderly residents who are already dealing with fixed incomes.

We ask that you REJECT this proposal on behalf of the tax-paying residents of Venice.

Sincerely,

Brad & Mary Alexander

317 Reclinata Circle

Venice, FL 34292

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 10:39 AM

To: scott goodwin <sdgoodwin1955@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: RE: AGAINST Proposed Fire Assessment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: scott goodwin [<mailto:sdgoodwin1955@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 8:04 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: AGAINST Proposed Fire Assessment

We are writing to say we are AGAINST THE FIRE ASSESSMENT! We pay taxes, which increase annually, and are supposed to go toward this service. Additionally, holding such a hearing and possible vote at a time when most residents are not in town feels much like a strategic move to implement this “tax” with little opposition from your majority base. We believe better fiscal management of the taxes received is what’s in order and not an “assessment” which, call it what you will, is an additional tax. Additionally, the tremendous growth and expansion going on in Venice should more than offset this unnecessary assessment.

Please REJECT this proposal for the good of the residents of Venice, particularly your elderly citizens already struggling on fixed incomes.

Sincerely,

Scott and Nancy Goodwin

August 6 2017

This assessment is far from the proper approach.

First to try and sneak it through in August with a letter saying you have 20 days to voice an opinion or "such action shall be the final adjudication of the issue presented. "

Second an open ended assessment going on possibly forever. Even condo assessments have clear ending dates.

Third most people purchased their single family parcels often after being warned that condos were notorious for these unexpected and uncontrolled assessments. None of us were notified in our purchase of our property, that there was ANY possibility of assessment imposed without our vote.

Fourth This is the easy way out by the city to help pay for services already paid for on property tax bills.

Fifth is it even legal. It needs to be tested in a court of law. That has been mentioned in other cities.

Sixth If these elected officials can not use the tax money already available to fund fire protection the officials should be replaced.

Seventh The only option should be GET THIS ON THE BALLOT AND HAVE A VOTE TO RAISE TAXES TO COVER THIS...This is still the United States of America.

Michael Laroia

David Laroia

Keri DiEugenio

Califf

Virginia L. Lombardo

Stephen A. Lombardo

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:02 PM

To: Ardizzoni, John <john.ardizzoni@analog.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Reject fire assessment

Dear Mr. Ardizzoni,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Ardizzoni, John <john.ardizzoni@analog.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 9:28 PM

Subject: Reject fire assessment

To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Hello,

As a homeowner in Venice I vehemently oppose this proposed fire TAX. You may call it what you like, but it is a TAX. My taxes increase every year and for what? This is completely unnecessary given the growth and expansion going on in Venice now. Better asset management and fiscal reform are what is needed. Please consider the folks who are already scraping by and on fixed incomes.

Regards

John Ardizzoni

Sent via iphone

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:06 PM

To: Ronald Ervin <rervin45@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Fire Protection Special Assesment

Dear Mr. Ervin,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Ronald Ervin <rervin45@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 4:05:33 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Fire Protection Special Assesment

Please review & forward to the City Council of Venice FL the attached letter

--

Ron Ervin

Ronald & Kathleen Ervin
758 Village Cir, Apt 207
Venice, FL. 34292

City of Venice
401 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL. 34285

August 8, 2017

Re: Proposed Fire Protection Special Assessment

Dear City Council,

After a thorough review of your proposed special assessment, I must oppose the adoption of this proposal for several reasons. I am opposed to the timing of this public hearing. Holding such an important meeting during the month of August when many property owners, like my wife & I, are spending their summers up north it is quite unfair and our only method of opposition is the writing such a letter to the City Council in lieu of our attendance. I know the City has said that they have had hearings previously and have met the legalities regarding this but I really don't feel the City has really tried to explain what exactly they were proposing to its residents. Most people I have talked to and was totally unaware of this proposed assessment.

I also am opposed to the additional increase on my property tax bill that the adoption of this special assessment would impose. With many property owners like me who are living on a fixed income, this proposal is quite unfair. There are isn't any guarantees that the county could come up with some kind of increase in the future to add to this problem or school millage could be increased. Because I am only a part time resident I don't qualify for a homestead exemption, so I am paying a full shot on everything.

I am forced by budgetary restraints to live within my means and so should the City of Venice.

I am also opposed to the method used in calculating this assessment. I have provided a description of non-ad valorem assessments as it appeared on our 2016 TRIM notices.

As you can see, these special assessments are not supposed to be based on property values.

Non-Ad Valorem & Special Assessment Districts

The Truth-in-Millage Notice (TRIM Notice) our office mails out every August contains proposed property taxes (ad valorem taxes) and proposed or adopted non-ad valorem assessments. Non-ad valorem assessments are not based on property value. Instead, they are based on a **unit of measure determined by each levying authority**. The assessment periods vary and may not be based on the calendar year. Examples of non-ad valorem assessments include: fire and rescue, solid waste, navigable waterways, and storm water utility collections.

I hope you will consider my opposition to this proposal and consider the hardship it would place on a lot of people if approved and perhaps draft a new proposal that most property owners would find fair and could support.

Sincerely,



Ronald Ervin

(810)300-9709

rervin45@gmail.com

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:09 PM

To: Ventola Family <ventola5@yahoo.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed special assessments to provide fire protection services, facilities and programs

Dear Mr. Ventola,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Ventola Family <ventola5@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:02 PM

Subject: Proposed special assessments to provide fire protection services, facilities and programs

To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Mayor and members of the City Council,

We firmly object to the proposed significant and financially hurtful assessments, given recent bond referendums and the fact that our taxes already cover fire protection. **The city of Venice should look at the total annual spend and reallocate in a fiscally responsible manner.**

Curt Ventola

Kathleen Ventola

1226 Berkshire Circle.

Venice, FL

From: John Holic

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 5:40 AM

To: Maria Capone Goodwin <maria.goodwin@verizon.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: AGAINST FIRE ASSESSMENT

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Maria Capone Goodwin <maria.goodwin@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:37:21 PM

To: City Council

Subject: AGAINST FIRE ASSESSMENT

Good Evening~

As residents of Venice for 13 years, we are writing to say we are AGAINST THE FIRE ASSESSMENT! We pay taxes which increase annually and are supposed to go toward this service. We believe better fiscal management of the taxes received is what's in order and not an "assessment" which, call it what you will, is an additional tax. Additionally, the tremendous growth and building going on in Venice should more than offset this unnecessary assessment.

Please REJECT this proposal for the good of the residents of Venice.

Sincerely,

Warren and Maria Goodwin
319 Reclinata Circle
Venice, FL 34292

From: Jerry Dinallo [mailto:jdinallo@nycap.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 9:54 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Objection to Fire Tax proposal

Dear City Council,

Attached please find a letter from me objecting to the fire tax you are proposing. As a 13 year resident of Venice I know this is not well thought out and has many of us dumbfounded.

Fire protection is a basic service that we have received and expect as a basic service. This proposal will bring great hardship to many citizens most of whom are on fixed incomes.

I sincerely hope that you consider this and the content of this attached letter.

Sincerely,

Jerry DiNallo

(518) 727-5995

Members of the City Council

Venice, FL 34275

Dear Sirs,

August 7, 2017

I received a letter today from you the city of Venice requesting yet another TAX, for fire service of all things.

I am vehemently opposed to this tax which is a basic service that any municipality funds continually as expected.

I think Venice enjoys new growth annually that adds enormous funds to the tax base and compliments the budget accordingly. We already exceed nearby cities in other charges for city provided basic services.

Why do you feel that any request for more money should be passed on to the taxpayers?

A responsible government protects its revenue source and either cuts programs, reduces personnel or consolidates administration.

Private industry works effectively and efficiently because they manage effectively.

You have provided no facts regarding the size and scope of the cities expenditures. Personnel, pensions, insurance provided etc.

I advise you to consider your customers, the citizens, in your action/s.

Respectfully,

Jerry DiNallo (518) 727-5995

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 12:14 PM

To: DD <dd_morgan@comcast.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Cc: Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>; Linda Senne <LSenne@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed Fire Fee

Dear D D Morgan,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: DD <dd_morgan@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 11:56:19 AM

To: City Council

Subject: Proposed Fire Fee

Honorable Mayor and Council,

I am writing you to express my support for the proposed fire fee. I have followed the discussion of the proposed fee at the dozen or more meetings held discussing it. I also watched the budget workshops and know that you have carefully weighed where to make cuts in discretionary spending to avoid asking citizens for increased revenues. As a long time resident (25 years) of the City of Venice, I understand the challenges faced with replacing infrastructure when there has been no adequate long term capital budgeting or funding. I believe that the fire fee will put the fire department on a path of reasonable, responsible long term funding for both the operational and capital needs.

I appreciate that many folks have written and expressed that they were surprised by the notice of the fee, however the only way they can be surprised is by being deliberately uninformed about the budgeting process of the City as well as not reading the numerous articles in the local papers about the proposed fee or checking the agendas for City Council meetings. Ignorance should not be an excuse to delay this needed revenue for our firefighters.

While with any tax increase will hurt some of our poorest citizens, I have little regard for those that claim financial hardship and fixed incomes and also cannot make the meetings because they are away for the summer.

Thank you for having the courage to consider implementing this fee to make our fire department and our City more fiscally sound and set up for long term success.

Sincerely,

DD Morgan

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 12:18 PM

To: Connie Lippowitsch <connielippowitsch@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Fire Assessment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lippowitsch,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Connie Lippowitsch <connielippowitsch@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 11:56:00 AM

To: City Council

Subject: Fire Assessment

I want to voice our strong objection to this pending fire assessment. The amount is staggering and the precedent is alarming. This amounts to an unvoted tax, which by your own admission, can be raised again (without voter approval) at a later time. The community just approved funding for a police levy one year ago. This is a back door method to increase taxes AGAIN. As a tax payer, I have been under the assumption that our voter approved taxes were used for public services, like police, fire, etc.

Your FAQ sheet admits that one of the purposes of this assessment is to free up the General Fund dollars for other purposes. Our tax money is supposed to go for fire services. I have never written to this city council before. I have never written to any council in any place in which I have lived. I am writing to you now because I think this is very unfair and I do not feel represented by you. I think this proposal is outrageous.

The fact that you are having the hearing in August when many property owners are not even there is another red flag to me.

You can be sure that we will vote against anyone who approves this assessment because it is not what serves the purposes of the population of Venice.

--

Connie and Karl Lippowitsch
428 Darling Drive
Venice, Florida 34285

[Connie Lippowitsch](#)

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 12:32 PM

To: Ronald L. Musselman <ronald.musselman@fandm.edu>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Objection to Fire tax

Dear Mr. Musselman,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Ronald L. Musselman <ronald.musselman@fandm.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:44:40 AM

To: City Council

Subject: Objection to Fire tax

Please see attached letter.

--

Ronald L. Musselman
Professor of Chemistry Emeritus
Franklin and Marshall College
Florida address:
512 Valencia Rd.
Venice, FL 34285

rmusselm@fandm.edu

(941) 330-7079

512 Valencia Rd.
Venice, FL 34285

August 7, 2017

To the Venice City Council:

The proposed Fire Protection Special Assessments pose a hardship to me and likely others in Venice where the median age is 69. This seems simply a way to shift fire protection out of the current city budget and onto these extra taxes that would be borne by property owners. There are less expensive ways to maintain equipment in working order than to impose a large tax increase on an elderly population.

Many of us are on fixed incomes and one of our largest expenses is the non-*ad velorem*/*ad velorem* taxes. Your proposed schedule has my taxes for 2019 and beyond increasing by 9.4%. This is a very large increase and blows a big hole in my carefully allotted budget.

I would urge the City to find other less burdensome ways to upgrade fire equipment. I was a Fire Chief in a volunteer department in Illinois and we kept our equipment in good condition for decades. When major repairs are needed, it would seem that, for example, replacing an engine rather than the entire apparatus would be a wiser use of budgeted funds. Yes, a brand new fire truck is nice - I designed and purchased one during my tenure - but the demographic profile and its ramifications must be kept in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ronald L. Musselman".

Ronald L. Musselman, Ph.D.

To: Venice City Council

Re: **OBJECTION to Proposed Imposition and Collection of Fire Special Assessments**

Date: August 7, 2017

My wife and I will not be in Venice on the date of the public hearing, August 21, 2017. Thus, we file this written objection to the Proposed Imposition and Collection of Fire Special Assessments.

To provide background, I have an M.A. in Public Administration and a J.D.; I am currently a licensed attorney and a professor at a Florida law school. My wife is also a licensed attorney and property manager here in Venice.

We object to the City Council's imposition and collection of a special fire tax, for two reasons:

First, the City Council's imposition and collection of a fire tax on undeveloped properties with no structures is not reasonable and not appropriate.

(1) The imposition of a special fire tax on undeveloped parcels with no structures is not reasonable and not appropriate. Such parcels do not require fire protection or the imposition of a special fire tax. Using our lot as an example, if the grass and trees were to burn, there would be no financial loss and we, as taxpayers, would receive no real protection or benefit from any firefighting activities. Any response by firefighters would be for the purpose of controlling the fire to protect structures owned by other property owners, not to protect our undeveloped lot. If the City Council were to impose a special fire tax, it would only be reasonable to impose such a tax on developed properties.

(2) In most instances, the imposition of a special fire tax on undeveloped lots will result in disproportionate taxation. Our undeveloped lot, for example, is valued at about \$30,000, and the current tax is about \$430. Under the current formula, the City Council is proposing an additional special fire tax of about \$94 - a 22% tax increase - and that's just for the upcoming year, 2018. The cap for future years is about \$188, which would be a 44% tax increase on this undeveloped lot.

Second, the City Council has not supported its request for a special fire tax with any data showing a millage increase would not raise appropriate funds, and as such, the proposed special fire tax is not reasonable or appropriate.

(1) We acknowledge that fire department is in need of funds for particular projects (such as the repair of Fire Station No. 1). However, the imposition of a special fire tax is not the best way to raise those funds without unduly and unfairly burdening property owners.

(2) According to the information provided by the City Council, the fire tax would generate \$4.1 million dollars in revenue. Assuming the fire department has justified the need of \$4.1 million dollars per year for the foreseeable future, those funds would be better raised by a millage increase, not by a special fire tax.

CLERK 08AUG17 11:24AM

(3) A special fire tax simply gives the City Council too much latitude to use current funding (based on the current 3.600 millage rate) for other "special", and perhaps unneeded, projects. In other words, while the special fire tax may go to funding the fire department, the real effect of the special fire tax is to allow the City Council to fund other, non-fire projects. This point is acknowledged in **the special fire tax "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet, which states that "the fire assessment program will provide the City of Venice: . . . d) A way to free up General Fund and One-Cent Sales Tax revenues for other needed projects."** Rather, if the City Council desires funds for those "other needed projects" those projects should compete with the fire department and other groups for funds (or those special projects should be the subject of special assessments of their own). Proponents of those "other needed projects" should bring the wishes out in a public forum for a public discussion (which is why, here in Florida, our Sunshine Act requires so much state work be done in public view).

(4) We note that the City Council's proposed special fire tax is quite high. Using our two improved properties as examples, which are valued in the \$300,000 range, our taxes will be increased from about \$4630 to \$4850 and from \$4600 to \$4810. Respectively, the \$220 tax increase and \$210 tax increase represent a 4.5% tax increase and a 4.6% tax increase (and given that this special fire tax assessment can be doubled, our tax increases are potentially as high as 9.0% and 9.2%). That special fire tax increase will not be offset by a millage reduction from 3.600 to 3.100. Again, it makes more sense, and is more reasonable, more fair, and more appropriate, to raise the millage rate and appropriately accommodate the fire department's needs.

(5) Finally, we also note that there is apparently no sunset provision with this special fire tax, and the special fire tax, even at its minimum level, may not be fully needed once fire department special needs are covered (no data has been provided by the City Council supporting the amount of this special fire tax, so it is impossible to say what is really needed).

Thank you for your consideration of this objection.



CLERK 08AUG'17 PM 1:14

CITY OF VENICE

401 W. Venice Avenue
(941) 486-2626Venice, FL. 34285
Fax (941) 480-3031

July 20, 2017

SHERBERT NORMAN R
ADAMS SANDRA MARIE
34403 UPPER BEAR CREEK RD
EVERGREEN, CO 80439-7825

*S-14803/T-41

Note: I disagree with this for many reasons. And if you can't answer ques #1 of the attached FAQs, I can't imagine that you'd know how to handle this additional funding in a fiscally responsible manner.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF
FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

****THIS IS NOT A BILL****

CITY OF VENICE PARCEL NO.: 0175042011
1205 TARPON CENTER DR C3 VENICE, FL 34285

Sandra Marie Adams
cel 303-341-9525
303-881-3209

Dear Property Owner:

The City of Venice (the "City") is in the process of establishing a supplemental dedicated funding source for the provision of fire protection services and facilities through the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments, sometimes referred to as special assessments, against certain real property located within the City limits. The special assessments, if approved by the City Council, will be allocated among assessable tax parcels according to a two tiered methodology pursuant to which a portion of the costs attributable to the City's continual readiness to provide fire protection services will be shared equally among all tax parcels on a per parcel basis (Tier 1), and a portion of the remaining costs will be allocated in accordance with the value of improvements or structures associated with each parcel (Tier 2).

A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on August 21, 2017 in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Avenue, Venice, Florida 34285, to receive public comment on the proposed special assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the City within twenty days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (941) 882-7390.

The total annual fire protection assessment revenue to be collected within the City for Fiscal Year 2018 is estimated to be \$4,210,000. The amount of the annual fire assessment imposed against each property is based on a two-tiered apportionment method whereby a portion of the City's annual fire department budget is allocated equally among all parcels on a per parcel

6. How is the fire assessment calculated for each property?

The methodology currently under consideration by the City apportions costs to properties based on the concept of availability for response. Under this methodology all parcels, improved and unimproved, pay a single base rate (Tier 1). All developed properties would also pay a second charge proportional to the replacement cost of the structure, which is determined by the Sarasota County Property Appraiser (Tier 2). Structure value is defined as the sum total of Building and Extra Feature Values as prepared by the Property Appraiser. This is considered to be the most uniform and cost efficient method to establish the replacement cost.

In order to fund 50% of the Fire Department budget through the fire assessment for Fiscal Year 2018, the proposed rates of assessment are \$93.92 per parcel for Tier 1 and \$4.81 per \$5,000 of structure value for Tier 2. Individual total assessments for fire protection will vary depending on each property.

7. Who actually pays the special assessments?

Assessments are the responsibility of the owner of the property subject to the assessment. So, each landowner will pay the assessment in a fashion similar to paying their real estate taxes.

8. What period of time does the fire assessment cover and when will the assessment be payable?

The fire assessment is re-imposed annually and will cover the City's fiscal year (October 1 - September 30). The assessment for each fiscal year will be collected on the property tax bill mailed in November, beginning in November 2017. The assessment is payable, as part of your tax bill, each year between November 1 and March 31.

9. What will happen if I do not pay the fire assessment?

Because the City is using the tax bill collection method, Florida law requires that all ad valorem taxes and accompanying assessments be paid at the same time. If you do not pay your taxes and assessments, the Sarasota County Tax Collector will issue a tax certificate against your property, which may eventually result in a loss of title.

10. I don't pay taxes now due to homestead exemption? Will I have to pay the fire assessments?

Yes. Assessments are different than ad valorem taxes and the fire assessment applies to all residential property uses regardless of homestead exemption. The concept of an assessment allocates the cost of the service to all properties that benefit from the service.

11. I received a discount for early payment of my taxes. Will I receive the same discount for my fire assessment?

Yes. The same discounts and penalties applicable to ad valorem taxes will also apply to the fire assessment.

12. Is the special assessment deductible like taxes?

Property owners should consult their tax advisors for income tax treatment.

I am a CPA with a tax practice. You should answer the question!! SMA

13. Are any properties exempt from the assessment program?

Property owned by governmental entities (County, City, State, & Federal) and other properties which may be exempt from the payment of special assessments under state or federal law will not be subject to the fire assessments. All other properties will be assessed.

14. If the information contained on the fire assessment notice is incorrect, how do I get it corrected?

If information on the notice is incorrect, a correction request should be made to Linda Senne, Finance Director, 401 W. Venice Ave, Venice, Florida 34285 or at 941-882-7421. Staff will research any issues and make corrections to the fire assessment information before certifying it to the Tax Collector for placement on the tax bill.

15. What will happen at the public hearing scheduled for August 21, 2017?

The City Council will hear comments from the public regarding the imposition and collection of the fire protection assessments. After receiving comments, the City Council will finalize its decision regarding imposition of the fire assessment as well as the rates of assessment.

Should you have any questions regarding the fire assessment, please call the Finance Department at, 941-882-7421, Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Information relating to the fire assessment program can also be obtained from the City's website at: www.venicegov.com

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 1:08 PM

To: Sandy Croft <sandylcroft@hotmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Written Objection to Venice Fire Dept Special Assessment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Croft,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Sandy Croft <sandylcroft@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 12:51:12 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Written Objection to Venice Fire Dept Special Assessment

City Councillors:

My husband and I live in Bird Bay Village, City of Venice parcel no. 0406015005, 841 Waterside Drive, Unit 105, building 68, Venice, Florida 34285. We are very concerned about the assessment costs that we may incur as a result of the Fire Assessments in the coming years. Our Waterside condo property is one of twelve units with a different value for each unit rather than that of the entire building. According to the information that was sent to us by the City of Venice, in the fiscal year 2018, as a result of the assessment fees, our tax bill collected by the Sarasota County Tax Collector, will increase by more than 10 percent. In the fiscal year 2019 and thereafter, it will increase by over 20 percent. That is an obscene amount. We are very concerned that these costs will always be on the increase and continue to spiral. Although we don't want an increase in our taxes, if a tax increase is imminent, a 1-3 percent increase range is more consistent with past increases, not 10-20 percent each year. We will be out of the country and cannot attend the public hearing **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** to voice our concerns in person.

Very concerned property owners,
Sandy and Barry Croft

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 1:09 PM

To: Man <man62352@yahoo.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Special Fire Assessment

Dear Mr. Nehiba,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Man <man62352@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:34 AM

Subject: Special Fire Assessment

To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Mayor and Council members,

We are now being assessed for the recently approved bond referendums for public safety improvements and road reconstruction with an impact on the tax base of \$67.00(combined) per \$100,000 assessed valuation, the proposed special fire assessment would result in an ANNUAL fee which will be approximately \$215.00 for many of us in 2018 and may increase to \$428.00 in following years without notice, (Condominium owners will pay double these amounts). The Special Fire Assessment is not tax burden neutral as the city claims, even with the millage rate decrease of 0.5000, since this Assessment is not an eligible deduction on our federal income tax. That means, we will have a significant increase in taxes/assessments while our federal tax deduction will be significantly decreased.

I urge you to reject this plan and look for other sources of funding, maybe a merge with the county.

Sincerely,

Mark Nehiba

211 Reclinata Circle

Venice, FL 34292

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 3:24 PM

To: Jane MacLennan <jempmaclellan@gmail.com>

Cc: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>; John MacLennan <jhenrymac@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed Fire Protection Assessment for Venice Owners

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacLennan,

All correspondence received prior to the day of the meeting will be included.

Sincerely,

John Holic

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From: Jane MacLennan <jempmaclellan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 3:14 PM

Subject: Re: Proposed Fire Protection Assessment for Venice Owners

To: John Holic <jholice@venicegov.com>

Cc: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>, John MacLennan <jhenrymac@gmail.com>

Thank you John for your response to our concerns. Hopefully these will be included in your budget discussions with respect to the Fire Protection Assessment.

Jane & John MacLennan

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 1:12 PM

To: Jane MacLennan <jempmacleannan@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>; John MacLennan <jhenrymac@gmail.com>; Jane MacLennan gmail <jempmacleannan@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed Fire Protection Assessment for Venice Owners

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacLennan,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Jane MacLennan <jempmacleannan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:30:19 AM

To: City Council; John MacLennan; Jane MacLennan gmail

Subject: Proposed Fire Protection Assessment for Venice Owners

For the attention of all Council Members and the City Clerk:

We are John and Jane MacLennan, owners of unit 209 at Cardinal, 612 Bird Bay Dr. S., Florida, 34285 roll #0406161027.

We would like to express that your proposed assessment is not only financially unreasonable but irresponsible for the following reasons.

Our proposed assessment over two years is almost a 30% increase in our condo taxes and allows for uncontrolled potential increases post 2019. This does not include any increases for other services.

Secondly there is already a fire component in the current taxes which is not being subtracted out before you add the fire assessment but being reallocated to other unspecified services. So in fact the council is double dipping for fire costs already included in the current tax base.

We would like to say that we are very much against this assessment because it violates your mandate for reasonable and responsible controlled tax increases for the Venice property owners. Your proposal is totally unacceptable.

An additional annual fire assessment of \$371 for under 1000 square feet assessed at only \$98000 seems quite excessive given we have the original fire component costs in our tax payment for 2016 of \$1363.26.

Please act responsibly on August 21. Please note our objection to this proposal. It is also unreasonable to take advantage of owners who are absent during the summer months and therefore unable to attend this meeting in person.

Thank you

Jane & John MacLennan
Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Senne

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:52 AM

To: John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; The Two Euds <kkeudy@yahoo.com>

Cc: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>; Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>

Subject: RE: Deny Request for Fire Protection Special Assessment

Mr. & Mrs. Eudy,

I have attached your parcel information from the Sarasota County Property Appraiser's (SCPA) Website.

- 1) Your FY18 maximum fire assessment is \$262.27, calculated as follows:

| Calculation of Fire Assessment for 920 Cooper St. #302 | | |
|--|---------|--------|
| Property # 0430071006 | | |
| Per Parcel | Tier 1 | 93.92 |
| Structure Value / 5,000 round down | Tier 2 | 168.35 |
| | Total | 262.27 |
| Calculation of Tier 2 amount | | |
| Structure Value is | 178,800 | |
| divided by | 5,000 | |
| = Equivalent Benefit Unit (EBU) | 35 | |
| x \$4.81 per unit | | |
| = Tier 2 amount | | 168.35 |

- 2) Your property tax for FY17 (excluding debt service) was \$330.73

$\$91,870 \times 3.60 / 1000 = \330.73 . A copy of last year's TRIM notice is attached.

- 3) The maximum FY18 property tax that will show on your TRIM notice for FY18 is:

$\$94,849 \times 3.60 / 1000 = \341.46 . You will receive this TRIM notice in the mail from the SCPA.

- 4) However, if the fire assessment is adopted at the level calculated in #1 above, it is expected that the millage rate will be reduced by .50 mills (from 3.60 to 3.10) and your FY18 Property tax will be \$294.03.

$\$94,849 \times 3.10 / 1000 = \294.03 (The TRIM notice will show the higher amount in case the Fire Assessment does not pass).

- 5) Therefore, at the proposed levels of combined property tax plus fire assessment, your payment is expect to increase from \$330.73 (#2 above) in FY17 to \$556.30 (#1: \$262.27 + #4: \$294.03) in FY18. This represents an increase of \$225.57.

Thanks

Linda Senne

PS: You will notice a "Venice Debt" line on your TRIM Notice also. This was .1600 mills in FY17 for \$15.25.

It will be .6780 mills in FY18 for \$64.31 ($\$94,849 \times .6780 / 1000$). This increase is for the debt service on the public safety and road bonds issued in July 2017, approved by the voter referendum in November 2016.

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 10:43 AM

To: The Two Euds <kkeudy@yahoo.com>

Cc: Al Maio <amaio@scgov.net>; Charles D. Hines <chines@scgov.net>; mmoran@scgov.net; ncdetert@scgov.net; Paul Caragiulo <pcaragiulo@scgov.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>; Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>; Linda Senne <LSenne@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Deny Request for Fire Protection Special Assessment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Eudy,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments. As your original email went to the Board of County Commissioners, I took the liberty of copying Venice City Council so that they were aware of your comments. I also copied the City Finance Director so that she would be able to verify your figures.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: The Two Euds <kkeudy@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 10:02 AM

To: John Holic

Cc: Al Maio; Charles D. Hines; mmoran@scgov.net; ncdetert@scgov.net; Paul Caragiulo

Subject: Deny Request for Fire Protection Special Assessment

August 1, 2017

TO: Mayor Holic and City Council

RE: Deny Request for *Fire Protection Special Assessment* by defination of "Structural" and "Taxable Value" [Proposed Ordinance 2017-23]

Dear Mayor,

The true meaning of "*wish we were there*" to attend the public hearing scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2017 couldn't be truer than now, but we understand your fiscal year starts when some residents are out of town.

We trust the price of property and resale value in our 25 to 30 year Venice investment would increase, along with our assessments/taxes for good schools, stormwater management, great parks, maintained roads, public works, etc. and most important, a sustainable fire protection district. However, the proposed *Fire Protection Special Assessment* suggests a **52% increase** with a future blank-check, without further discussion or approval agreement to raise it. To propose this solution to Venice residents, especially seniors on a fixed income, is an insult to those who pay taxes. Why?

1. The special assessment is based on "*structure value*" not "*taxable value*".
2. Condo owners are assessed on all valuation as opposed to a single family home; their taxes are divided by property and structure.
3. City consultants can not separate condo-structure values from common land values.
4. Single family homes are charged the Tier 1 fee based on the homes land value; the Tier 2 multiplier applied to their structure value.
5. Condo owners are charged the Tier 1 fee based on having an "address"; Tier 2 multiplier applied to the building structure, that in reality, also includes their common land - their entire Sarasota county assessment.
6. Condo residents would be taxed twice for land; once for Tier 1 and again for Tier 2 because building tax assessment includes condo land.
7. Condo residents should not have to pay Tier 1 since it's included in our building value.
8. How is the structure value an "*efficient method to establish the replacement cost*" after a hurricane? *FAQ#6*
9. Besides this assessment being unfair to condo owners, a tax imposed to pay **52%** of the Fire Districts expenses seems more than excessive!

We request *proposed ordinance 2017-23* be revisited and revised to include a more equitable solution for the residents and fire district of Venice, Florida.

Regards,
Kim and Ken Eudy
920 Cooper Street
Venice, Florida

From: John Holic

Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 6:43 PM

To: Stephen Plichta <aaplichta@verizon.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Cc: Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Fire Protection Assessment

Dear Mr. Plichta,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments. I also worked for a company for many years and retired with no pension, but that's not really what the fire fee is about.

Council worked years on the pension, a long time contractual arrangement that was in place and in trouble when three of us took office 7 years ago. Many hours and many meetings, along with cooperation of both our Police and Fire Unions, modified the retirement benefits to both Police and Fire. The new plans are estimated to save the city \$30 million over the next 20 years, but that was only the tip of the iceberg.

As council continued to thoroughly analyze, modify and improve the budget process, it was disclosed that the city had no depreciation schedules for anything - vehicles, roofs, buildings, fencing, etc. In other words, the city had no future funding for replacement of capital items.

The fire fee is our first attempt to have a completely transparent funding source for a critical part of our city. The fire fee can not be used for anything else than financial support for the Venice Fire Department. Obfuscation is not the objective, transparency is. Payment for services, even by those entities who have not contributed to the operations of the city is essential and cannot be accomplished by ad valorem taxes.

There will be 2 additional town hall type meetings have been scheduled on August 16 at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the event August 21 is not convenient for you.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Stephen Plichta <aaplichta@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 5:01 PM

Subject: Fire Protection Assessment

To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Mr Mayor and Members of the City Council;

I just returned from a 2 week trip and received my mail today. Among the letters was the one associated with the above subject. I read the council activity on a continuing basis. My personal first year assessment of \$295.94 and subsequent annual assessment of \$592.30 is both outrageous and surprising. Possibly these amounts were in the minutiae but I definitely

was not prepared for this. Had the proposed assessment figures been quantified there certainly would have been a public outcry.

A recent editorial, and I know you have nothing to do with it, excoriated the local citizens for not being astute enough to see the assessments coming. Granted the public knew a discussion was afoot and continuing, but rest assured, no one was expecting an amount of this magnitude. Obfuscation is not a tool we appreciate, deliberate or not.

I, along with a multitude of others, will certainly attend the meeting of the 21st. But you all should be prepared to justify such an increase. Fire fighters are a valued part of this fine city. and they should be paid what the position requires. However, this is Venice and I have yet to see continuing photos in the press of them rushing in and out of burning buildings. A few years back, the Fire Chief retired at the age of 44 with an annual pension of \$88,000. My own career as a Registered Professional Engineer for 30 years at a Fortune 500 Company produces a fraction of that figure.

You all should be thinking about bringing employment figures in line instead of buckling under to unreasonable demands. Chicago and a multitude of cities are in crisis stage for this very reason. Come up with a reasonable assessment and reevaluate the present employment structure. That is what the Consultant should have been directed to do.

Respectfully Submitted, Stephen Plichta, P.E.

From: John Holic
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 6:48 PM
To: Barry Briggs <briggsbd@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Subject: Re: Fire Protection Special Assessment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Briggs,
On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.
Sincerely,
John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Barry Briggs <briggsbd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 4:19 PM
Subject: Fire Protection Special Assessment
To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Gentlemen,

I object to the proposed special assessment for fire protection services and facilities. We have had fire protection in the past that we have paid for out of our taxes. Obviously the fire station needs to be replaced or renovated. To impose a new tax without a plan going forward as to the cost of the repairs or a new building seems to be to be irresponsible. I would consider a new tax if you had a plan. Obviously since we are current paying for fire protection, you have a good idea of how much that costs and probable increases in the future, but the new tax seems to be open ended and does not state how much of the current budget it will replace.

I am not able to be at the meeting on August 21 as we are out of town, just as most of our condo complex owners. We typically take vacation at this time or go to our vacation homes. Having a meeting at this time of the year disenfranchises about 80% of the property owners where we live and I am sure many other property owners are in a like situation.

I do not object to paying more taxes, but I would surely like to know what I am paying for.

Although my wife and I are out of town presently, we will be back in Venice to vote.

Sincerely,

Barry and Anne Briggs

From: John Holic
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 6:46 PM
To: Willard Lyons <wbl34292@gmail.com>; rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>
Subject: Re: FIRE ASSESSMENT EDITORIAL 8/5/2017

Dear Dr. Lyons,
On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.
Sincerely,
John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Willard Lyons <wbl34292@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 4:21:42 PM
To: rdupont@venicegondolier.com
Cc: City Council
Subject: FIRE ASSESSMENT EDITORIAL 8/5/2017

Dear Mr. DuPont:

After carefully reading your editorial entitled "Fire Assessment Should Surprise No One" We found what appeared to us a serious omission.

As stated, the Gondolier may have addressed the issue on 18 occasions with very little response from the citizens.

We, as did most residents of Venice may have read some, if not all of the articles. HOWEVER, what you did not acknowledge or inform in your "Our View" article was that most people expect some reasonable increases in taxes and or assessments over time. The operative word being "reasonable" .

We do not think that ANY property owner would have guessed at the Draconian and even Machiavellian amount of the stated assessments. How much did consultant's fees cost the taxpayers?

We will not forget this, nor will our friends and neighbors when it comes time to vote for our city leaders!

**Dr. Will Lyons
Venice, FL 34292**

From: John Holic

Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 6:44 PM

To: Val Palange <vhpal3@gmail.com>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Fire assessment letter

Dear Val Palange,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Val Palange <vhpal3@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 6:30:59 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Fire assessment letter

I would like to provide some comments for consideration.

The way the City's letter is presented is a take it or leave it with no options to consider and understand the impact of each option. The timing is very tight and this is done at a time that many residents are not here.

Why is this being done at this time? What is the deficit and what are each cost line? How is it going to be managed if it goes into effect and what will be done with the excess income? Why is this done on assessed value versus per home?

This letter is unclear and frankly perplexing and wondering just how inefficient and/or ineffective current funding management, investment, and auditing is, especially when taxes are at a high based on assessment values. What is being done with this surplus?

Importantly, this is a dangerous precedent; police next? This sounds like a way to garner more monies to cover costs versus being cost conscious and sound money management.

Respectfully,
Val Palange

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Holic

Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 6:43 PM

To: Stephen Plichta <aaplichta@verizon.net>; City Council <CityCouncil@Venicegov.com>

Cc: Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>

Subject: Re: Fire Protection Assessment

Dear Mr. Plichta,

On behalf of Venice City Council, thank you for your comments. I also worked for a company for many years and retired with no pension, but that's not really what the fire fee is about.

Council worked years on the pension, a long time contractual arrangement that was in place and in trouble when three of us took office 7 years ago. Many hours and many meetings, along with cooperation of both our Police and Fire Unions, modified the retirement benefits to both Police and Fire. The new plans are estimated to save the city \$30 million over the next 20 years, but that was only the tip of the iceberg.

As council continued to thoroughly analyze, modify and improve the budget process, it was disclosed that the city had no depreciation schedules for anything - vehicles, roofs, buildings, fencing, etc. In other words, the city had no future funding for replacement of capital items.

The fire fee is our first attempt to have a completely transparent funding source for a critical part of our city. The fire fee can not be used for anything else than financial support for the Venice Fire Department. Obfuscation is not the objective, transparency is. Payment for services, even by those entities who have not contributed to the operations of the city is essential and cannot be accomplished by ad valorem taxes.

There will be 2 additional town hall type meetings have been scheduled on August 16 at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the event August 21 is not convenient for you.

Sincerely,

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

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From: Stephen Plichta <aaplichta@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 5:01 PM

Subject: Fire Protection Assessment

To: City Council <citycouncil@venicegov.com>

Mr Mayor and Members of the City Council;

I just returned from a 2 week trip and received my mail today. Among the letters was the one associated with the above subject. I read the council activity on a continuing basis. My personal first year assessment of \$295.94 and subsequent annual assessment of \$592.30 is both outrageous and surprising. Possibly these amounts were in the minutiae but I definitely

was not prepared for this. Had the proposed assessment figures been quantified there certainly would have been a public outcry.

A recent editorial, and I know you have nothing to do with it, excoriated the local citizens for not being astute enough to see the assessments coming. Granted the public knew a discussion was afoot and continuing, but rest assured, no one was expecting an amount of this magnitude. Obfuscation is not a tool we appreciate, deliberate or not.

I, along with a multitude of others, will certainly attend the meeting of the 21st. But you all should be prepared to justify such an increase. Fire fighters are a valued part of this fine city. and they should be paid what the position requires. However, this is Venice and I have yet to see continuing photos in the press of them rushing in and out of burning buildings. A few years back, the Fire Chief retired at the age of 44 with an annual pension of \$88,000. My own career as a Registered Professional Engineer for 30 years at a Fortune 500 Company produces a fraction of that figure.

You all should be thinking about bringing employment figures in line instead of buckling under to unreasonable demands. Chicago and a multitude of cities are in crisis stage for this very reason. Come up with a reasonable assessment and reevaluate the present employment structure. That is what the Consultant should have been directed to do.

Respectfully Submitted, Stephen Plichta, P.E.

Aug. 4, 2017

Mayor & City Council
City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285

Re: Notice of Public
Hearing To Consider
Imposition And Collection
Of Fire Protection
Special Assessments

Dear Mayor & City Council,

I am in opposition of "the process of establishing a supplemental dedicated funding source for the provision of fire protection services and facilities through the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments referred to as special assessments".

I have to question several aspects, as to why this is needed (at this time).

- 1) How have the funds been allocated for the past 10 yrs. for equipment, upkeep of fire stations, etc.
- 2) Why has the "Council" just recognized this problem?
- 3) Why haven't the "Council" audited this more closely?
- 4) Knowing that a building and/or equipment needs repairs on a (over) →

Consistent basis or to purchase a piece of equipment, why haven't those funds been set aside (in the past)?

To impose an additional fire fee is irresponsible on the City's part, until accountability of funds is satisfied to us, the taxpayer.

Sincerely,

Arlene Hunter
Arlene Hunter
1043 Roberta St.
Venice, Fr 34285
941-480-1098

July 27, 2017

To: Mayor Holic and City Council Members
401 W. Venice Ave
Venice, FL. 34285

Re: Notice of imposition and collection of fire protection and special assessments

As a property owner of a condo at Golf Green-1041 Capri Isles Blvd. I was surprised to hear of notice of this special assessment. Not being aware of us voting on it as a community, it came as a bit of a shock. I will be away on Aug. 21, therefore cannot attend the public meeting but did want to voice my concerns to you directly.

This assessment seems out of line with my property taxes, since in future years it will potentially increase my taxes/assessment by 1/3 for one item service. I do recognize the importance that the fire department plays in our community but it seems a bit exorbitant to suddenly expect all property owners to increase their annual tax bill by a third. I have owned a Golf Green condo for ten years and never called the fire department.

Special assessments in condos generally have a one time life span not an ongoing undetermined life span which could increase as time goes on.


We are elderly people that live in this complex and live on a fixed income as many in Venice do. When you make this kind of increase suddenly, please be aware of what you are doing to the elderly people that live in our community. For many of us this is a big unexpected increase coming at a time when none of their income changes, ever.

Given that there are 8 units in my condo building this seems like an awfully big increase for just one of our buildings; \$3200 per year in future years, for one building?

I ask that you reconsider this assessment and eliminate altogether by consolidating one of three firehouses into two to cut costs; or levy higher assessments on all new developments that continue to get approved by the council, which in turns increases costs for the community.

Thank you for your consideration

Rita Rosehart



227, 1041 Capri Isles Blvd

Email rita.rosehart@gmail.com

Richard and Sonja Clapp

501 Marsh Creek Rd.

Venice, Florida 34292

July 30, 2017

Venice City Council

City of Venice

401 W. Venice Ave.

Venice, Fl. 34285

RE: Written Objection to proposed annual fire protection assessment for the city of Venice Parcel No: 0402070017, 501 Marsh Creek Rd, Venice, Fl. 34392

To the Members of the Venice City Council:

We, the property owners of the above-stated parcel hereby file a written objection to the proposed imposition and collection of the Fire Protection Special Assessment. The assessment is in excess of 10% of our current tax obligation. This is more than 3 times the current inflation rate in the U.S. for 2017.

According to the notice that was sent, the assessment is estimated to generate \$4,210,000. Per the 2017 Venice fiscal budget, the fire department's budget is \$7,581,646 which is 30% of the annual budget. If one were to add the proposed assessment the fire department's budget the total would amount to approximately 11,791,646 which is more than one third of the entire Venice city budget.

Policy #9 of the City of Venice's budget states that the financial burden on the city's taxpayers must be minimized through systematic annual program reviews and evaluation aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of city programs. The City of Venice and its elected officials have a duty to the citizens uphold this policy. The significant tax increase to the property owners is not in accordance with this policy.

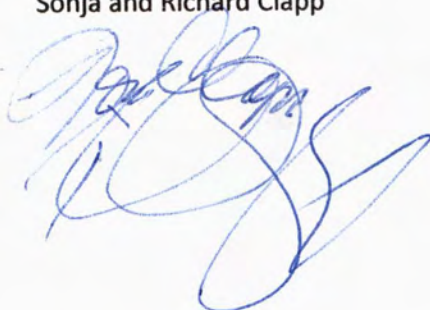
It is not only the property owners that utilize the services of the fire department and its rescue services. During season, the population of Venice swells and we have many visitors that I would suspect utilize these services. Rather than putting the entire burden of the fire department's budget on just the owners of property, has the council considered levying a sales tax which would spread the cost to all those that would potentially avail themselves of the services in question?

Lastly, we would ask the city council to reexamine the need for such a large budget increase for the fire department. The rationale for the assessment stated by the city council is that the money is needed for new equipment. This is belied by the fact that the assessment is ongoing with no sunset clause. More likely, the additional revenue will be used to ameliorate the underfunding of the pension plans created by the very body that is now seeking to impose this assessment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sonja and Richard Clapp

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Richard Clapp', written in a cursive style.