

The merger of Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District (FMBMCD) and Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) would create a savings for the taxpayers of both the Town of Fort Myers Beach and Lee County over the long term. Based on the merger between North Naples Fire Department and The Corkscrew Fire Departments, there are duplicate costs that can be combine when merging districts. As well, the purchasing power of a large district can also help reduce costs when updating, building or replacing equipment and facilities.

According to the US Census report from July 1, 2022, Fort Myers Beach has a population of 5,664 and according to the Lee County Property Appraisers Office for 2021, FMBMCD has an available taxable land value of \$4,443,364,400 to draw revenue from; though for 2023 the taxable property value has dropped to \$2,972,254,718 due to Hurricane Ian's damage. FMBMCD has a millage rate of 0.1123 based on the Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District September 30, 2021 Basic Financial Statements, Together With Reports Of Independent Auditors. The 2023 millage rate will is proposed to be between 0.0964 and 0.1123.

According to the US Census report from July 1, 2022, Lee County has a population of 760,822 and according to the Lee County Property Appraisers Office for 2021, LCMCD has a taxable land value of \$4,443,364,400 to draw revenue from; and for 2023 the taxable property value of \$5,934,714,662 even after Hurricane Ian's damage. LCMCD has a millage rate of 0.2439 based on the Lee County Mosquito Control District Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2021. The 2023 millage rate will is proposed to be between 0.2233 and 0.2350.

The differences in millage rate between the two district appears in part to be based on the principle and interest the FMBMCD does not have on their expense sheet. This could change in the future based on the equipment and facility aging. Other expenses show that the FMBMCD runs higher in percent to income and expenses for the personal services and operating expenses categories.

References:

1. 2021 Real Property Final Tax Tolls Total, Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control Dist., Leepa.org; 10/01/2021
2. 2023 Real Property Preliminary Tax Tolls Total, Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control Dist., Leepa.org; 07/03/2023
3. 2021 Real Property Final Tax Tolls Total, Lee County Mosquito Control Dist., Leepa.org; 10/01/2021
4. 2023 Real Property Preliminary Tax Tolls Total, Lee County Mosquito Control Dist., Leepa.org; 07/03/2023
5. Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District September 30, 2021 Basic Financial Statements, Together With Reports Of Independent Auditors, <https://flauditor.gov>, June 22, 2022
6. Lee County Mosquito Control District Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2021, <https://flauditor.gov>, March 31, 2022