



CITY OF GROVELAND  
156 S. LAKE AVENUE  
GROVELAND, FL 34736

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*"The City with a future, watch us grow!"*

Groveland City Council  
City Manager Report  
June 15, 2015

**Pending Action Items:**

- Not to Exceed Millage Rate - As you know, budget time is upon us again. One of the most important highlights of the 2014 - 2015 budget was the commitment to a 3 year deficit reduction program that held a 5.99 millage rate over a three year period. With our recent positive increases in estimated taxable values; our deficit reduction plan will likely retire our past deficit balance before year 3; however it will be needed this coming budget year (year 2 of the deficit reduction plan). Therefore; it is the intention of staff to keep with our smart growth business model (of deficit reduction) and bring forward our planned 5.99 "Not to Exceed Millage Rate". As a result, unless other wise directed from City Council, we expect to recommend to City Council a "Not to Exceed Millage Rate of 5.99 in our first meeting in July."
- Since the Fourth of July Celebration will be a two day event this year, the City has declared Monday, July 6th, as the City Holiday. Therefore, the City Council Meeting scheduled for July 6th is recommend to be moved to a day later that week. **The City Manager is requesting City Council give direction as to a new meeting day and time.**

**Report from the Desk of the City Manager:**

- Website Compliment - our website was recently complimented as informative and easy to navigate by Vicki Runninger, Sr. GIS Analyst with the Property Appraiser's Office. Although we know it is a work in progress it is good to know we are moving in the right direction. (Attachment 1)
- Penny Sales Tax - Attachment 2 is an informational document intended to explain a recent Lake County Board of County Commissioners vote to authorize a special election on November 3, 2015 to consider renewing the infrastructure sales tax. (Attachment2)

**Follow-up / Reminder Items:**

- July 4th Celebration Update

**Events:**

- Goal Setting, Phone Interviews June 14th (Times vary based on council member)
- The Goal Setting will be held at the Lake David Center, June 25th during the timeframe of 9:00am - 5:00pm (or done) with June 26th set as a possible overflow day.

Attachment 1

**WEB SITE**

**Runniger, Vicki** [VRunniger@lcpafll.org]

Sent: Fri 6/5/2015 10:45 AM

To: Redmond Jones

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I really liked your web page, informative and easy to navigate.

*Have a great weekend.*

**Vicki Runniger**, CCM, CCF, GISP  
Sr. GIS Cadastralist / Analyst  
Representing The Honorable Carey Baker, CFA, Property Appraiser  
Lake County Property Appraiser's Office  
320 W. Main St. Suite A  
Tavares, FL 32778-3814  
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## **About the Infrastructure Sales Tax**

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The Infrastructure Sales Tax was first established in Lake County in 1988 for a term of 15 years. It was again renewed by the voters during a special election on Nov. 6, 2001, and is set to expire Dec. 31, 2017.

The tax allows for 7 percent tax on most purchases in the county, as opposed to the state tax of 6 percent. This one percent, or one penny, is collected on every dollar spent by both residents and visitors who purchase goods in the county.

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners voted on May 5, 2015 to advertise an ordinance for the re-authorization of the Infrastructure Sales Tax.

### **What can the funds be used for?**

The Infrastructure Sales Tax, also commonly referred to as the Penny Sales Tax or the One-Cent Surtax, can only be used to support capital projects and infrastructure. Some examples include things like new park equipment, resurfacing of roads, building sidewalks or purchase of ambulances and public safety vehicles.

A county may levy a discretionary sales surtax of 0.5 percent or 1 percent authorized by Florida Statute Section 212.055 (2) and pursuant to an ordinance enacted by the Board of County Commissioners. The statute specifies the approved uses.

Proceeds of the current Infrastructure Sales Tax are split equally between the County, School Board and municipalities. The County's third of the revenues are currently split 50 percent for transportation purposes and 50 percent for other purposes as allowed by Section 212.055(2), F.S. in the county ordinance.

### **What projects has the County completed with Infrastructure Sales Tax in the past 15 years?**

The county has completed numerous road, park and facility capital projects over the past 15 years using funds generated through the Infrastructure Sales Tax. Below is a list of some examples of county projects that were completed using Infrastructure Sales Tax funding.

- South Lake Trail - The South Lake Trail, at 12.6 miles, connects with the Minneola Scenic Trail and Hancock Trail, and is joined by Orange County's West Orange Trail to the east. The paved multi-use recreational trail is part of the Coast-to-Coast connector, a 275-mile trail linking Cape Canaveral to St. Petersburg. The trail has five trailheads for access, and boasts beautiful hilltop vistas, lake scenery, varied elevations, picnic spots and access to shopping, restaurants, historic sites, conservation areas and many other amenities.
- County Road 448 – 2010 County Road 448 was widened to 30 feet across from County Road 561 to Apopka Beauclair Bridge. The improvements include paved shoulders
- Keene Road improvements - In 2008, Keene Road in Altoona area was paved from Peru Road.
- County Road 452/Lakeshore Drive widening - Infrastructure Sales Tax funding was used in 2006 to help widen County Road 452, also known as Lakeshore Drive, to 24 feet from Colley Drive to Old U.S. Highway 441 in Mount Dora.
- North Hancock Road extension - Construction is underway, and will be a major transportation corridor connected the new Minneola Interchange on the Florida Turnpike.
- Cagan Crossings Community Library - Opened in 2008, the 19,000 square-foot library features children and teen areas, training lab, public-access computers, free Wi-Fi access and a 160-seat community room.
- Cooper Memorial Library - Cooper Memorial Library opened its doors in 2009 at its new 50,000 square-foot facility on Oakley Seaver Drive in Clermont. The library is collaborative public and academic library between Lake County, Lake-Sumter State College and the University of Central Florida. It features more than 100 public computers, technology lab, meeting rooms, children's story room and garden, teen room and free Wi-Fi.

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- **PEAR Park** - At 318 acres, PEAR Park is the largest county park. The back 268 acres feature a community garden, native butterfly garden, xeric garden, two scenic pavilions and access to four miles of hiking and nature trails through meadows, scrub jay habitats and woods along the Palatka River. The front 50 acres is known as the Gateway and contains a playground, ball fields and a dog park.
- **Pine Forest Park** - The 48-acre Pine Forest Park located near Deland, features a multi-use field for football or soccer games, a basketball court and two pavilions with grills. Next to the pavilions is restroom facilities and the playground for families. Also featured at the park is the 28-acre Florida Scrub-Jay Management Area and the 2-mile hiking trail that loops through the restoration area and ponds.
- **Minneola Athletic Complex** - Funding provided through the Infrastructure Sales Tax has been used to provide ball field fencing, dugouts, concrete path and parking, ADA improvements, and bleachers at this 26-acre facility.
- **East Lake Community Park** - Officially opened in 2013, the newest community park located in the Mount Plymouth/Sorrento area include fields for football, soccer, baseball and softball, a limestone exercise path for walking, running and biking, restrooms and a parking lot.
- **North Lake Community Park** - North Lake Community Park is the largest recreational complex managed by the county's Parks & Trails Division. The park opened in May 2009 and features many amenities, including an expansive playground area, four picnic pavilions, two restroom facilities, two basketball courts, six tennis courts, four sand volleyball courts, two baseball fields, two softball fields, two soccer fields, three multi-use fields, concession stands, 1.4-mile perimeter trail loop and .75-mile nature trail.
- **Lake Idamere Park** - Home to the boundless playground and future Miracle Field, the 45 acres of Lake Idamere Park offers a variety of things to do from a leisurely canoe or kayak around Lake Idamere, to a shaded picnic while children of any ability play on the playground. The park also features a dog park, pavilions with grills and tables, fishing pier and a 2-mile hiking trail.
- **Astor Lions Park** - The 10-acre neighborhood park offers visitors amenities such as a basketball court, softball field, sand volleyball court, tennis court, soccer field, baseball field, picnic area, and playground.
- **Sorrento Park** - At just over 3-acres, this neighborhood park offers visitors a tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, newly renovated restrooms, playground and picnic area.

**Accountability - How do I know the funds are being spent properly?**

The use of the Infrastructure Sales Tax is reviewed by a volunteer committee known as the Sales Surtax Oversight Advisory Committee. The group of nine members is comprised of six citizens and three constitutional officers or their designees.

The committee meets at a minimum of bi-annually, to review the expenditures to ensure they are complying with the ordinance and state law. They report their findings bi-annually to the Board of County Commissioners at a public meeting.

For more information about the Sales Surtax Oversight Committee, or to view their schedule of upcoming meetings, visit

[www.lakecountyfl.gov/advisory\\_boards\\_and\\_committees/sales\\_surtax\\_oversight\\_advisory\\_committee.aspx](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/advisory_boards_and_committees/sales_surtax_oversight_advisory_committee.aspx)

### Key facts about the ordinance?

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Some of the highlights to the ordinance include:

- Authorizes the extension of the Infrastructure Sales Tax pursuant to section 212.055 (2), Florida Statutes
- Authorizes a special election on November 3, 2015
- States the term of levy, which will be from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2032 (15 years)
- States that the revenues will be distributed evenly among the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, the Lake County School Board and the municipalities
- Creates a citizen committee to monitor expenditures of sales tax proceeds (Sales Surtax Oversight Committee)

### Potential uses of the Sales Tax by the County

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The Penny Sales Tax revenue for the county in the first five years is estimated to be \$74 million. Outlined below are potential uses for that revenue.

#### Public Safety

SHERIFF'S OFFICE	DESCRIPTION
Vehicle Replacement	• 175-200 vehicles

LAKE EMS	DESCRIPTION
Ambulance and Equipment Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New ambulances – 20 to 25</li><li>• Ambulance re-chassis and patient compartment refurbishments – 3 to 5</li><li>• Quick response vehicles – 3 to 5</li><li>• Cardiac monitors – 25 to 30</li><li>• Stretchers - 25 to 30</li></ul>

FIRE RESCUE	DESCRIPTION
Fire Apparatus Replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apparatus - 25 to 29 Includes fire engines, squads, aerial ladder trucks, water tanker trucks, and utility brush trucks</li></ul>
Fire Station Renovations and Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stations - 9 to 12 Includes building remodels, roof replacements, water/well systems, generators, and HVAC replacements</li></ul>

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

PARKS	DESCRIPTION
East Lake Community Park Park approx. 80 percent of build-out	Sports lighting of all athletic fields Path system throughout the park Internal road and parking lot Buildings at ballfields, multipurpose fields and maintenance (3)
South Lake Regional Park Park approx. 40 percent of build-	Ballfields with lights (4) Multipurpose fields with lights (2)

out	Building – restrooms / concession (1) Internal road, parking lot and path system (50% completion) Renovate existing building for maintenance staff Site clearing and grading Utilities – water, sewer, electric, irrigation well or reclaim water
Lake Idamere Park Park Completed	Sports lighting Resurfacing internal road, parking lot and trail Restroom Path and parking lot lighting Pavilions
P.E.A.R. Park Park completed	Path system throughout the park Pavilions Internal road and parking lots Pickleball courts (6)
Ferndale Preserve	Central observation tower
Minneola Athletic Complex Park Completed	Multipurpose field with lights (1) Little League field with lights (1) Tennis courts with lights (2) Basketball courts with lights (2) Restroom at multipurpose fields Additional parking / lighting Pavilions Playground Scoreboards, bleachers, etc.
North Lake Community Park Park substantially completed	Sports lighting of Little League field (3) Sports lighting of multipurpose field (3) Pavilions Path lighting at Little League fields
Pine Forest Park (Active Side) Park approx. 65 percent of build-out	Multipurpose field (1) Ballfields (2)
Other County Parks & Boat Ramps	Resurfacing internal roads, parking lots and internal trails Renovations to courts and athletic fields Sports lighting Playground replacement Pavilions Boardwalk replacement Site furnishings (bleachers, scoreboards, etc.) Restrooms

TRAILS	DESCRIPTION
South Lake / Hancock Trail	Boardwalk replacement ADA improvements in phases

PUBLIC LANDS	DESCRIPTION
Ellis Acres Reserve	Improvements to existing structure (Educational Center) Parking lot improvements

<b>LIBRARIES</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Cagan Crossings Community Library	12,000 S.F. interior build-out of second floor Creation of multi-use space
Marion Baysinger Memorial Library	5,000 S.F. addition Expansion of spaces for computers, collections, meetings and youth

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Resurfacing	Resurface 75-95 miles
Sidewalks	Construct 7.5 miles & \$2.5M for repairs
Intersections	Complete 9 projects & install 9 traffic signals
Water Quality	Complete 1 project (Magnolia Lane in Lake Harris Basin)
Vehicles & Equipment	Replace 75 items

#### **OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

<b>Type</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Building Repair & Maintenance	Energy plant cooling tower refurbishment HVAC control system and air handler replacements Fire alarm system replacements Annual roof replacements Generator replacements
Vehicles/Fleet	Annual light vehicle replacements based on established schedule
Telephone System Modernization	Replace all 26 systems that are at end-of-life
Fiber Optic Network Expansion	Connect all county buildings into the fiber loop build out two miles of underground fiber or four miles of erial fiber per year

### **Voting on the Ordinance**

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#### **What to expect**

The ordinance will appear on the Nov. 3, 2015 General Election ballot. Voters will be asked if they wish to extend the Infrastructure Sales Tax for an additional 15 years. To pass, the ordinance must be approved by a majority of the electors of the county voting in referendum.

#### **If renewed, it's status quo**

If renewed by voters, the Infrastructure Sales Tax would be extended from Jan. 1, 2018 until Dec. 31, 2032, meaning the current 7% sales tax will remain on taxable purchases.

**Important dates to remember**

Below are important dates to remember for the Infrastructure Sales Tax ordinance. For more information on voting precinct locations and times, or to find out how to register to vote, visit [elections.lakecountyfl.gov](http://elections.lakecountyfl.gov) or call the Supervisor of Elections Office at 352 343-9734 during regular business hours.

- June 9, 2015: Penny Sales Tax Final Public Hearing on ordinance and interlocal agreement
- August 2015: Absentee ballots are mailed.
- Oct. 19 - 31, 2015: Early voting starts on Oct. 19, 2015 and will be open every day (including Sunday, Oct. 25 - Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015).
- Nov. 3, 2015: General Election

For more information on voting precinct locations and times, or to find out how to register to vote, visit [elections.lakecountyfl.gov](http://elections.lakecountyfl.gov) or call the Supervisor of Elections Office at 352 343-9734 during regular business hours.

**What will the ballot language say?**

Below is the ballot language that will appear when the electors cast their votes on Nov. 3, 2015.

SHOULD LAKE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2015-\_\_\_\_ EXTENDING THE EXISTING ONE-CENT COUNTYWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE SALES SURTAX FOR FIFTEEN YEARS BE APPROVED?

**PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING:**

Law Enforcement Vehicles, Fire Trucks and Ambulances, and Public Safety Equipment

Parks, Trails, Recreation, and Libraries

Construction/Reconstruction Remodeling of School Facilities

Roads, Sidewalks, and Transportation

Water Quality, Utilities, and Drainage Improvements

Other Public Infrastructure

\_\_\_\_\_ FOR the 1-CENT Sales Tax

\_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST the 1-CENT Sales Tax Ordinance