

**Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida**

**Town Commission Agenda Memorandum**

**Michelle Heiser, Interim Town Manager**

**Subject: Discuss and Approve a Maximum Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2026**

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As part of the statutory requirements under Section 200.065, Florida Statutes (TRIM), the Town must establish a *maximum* operating millage rate in July. This is not the final millage rate but rather the highest rate the Town may consider during public hearings in September.

Staff have prepared a balanced FY 2026 budget that aligns directly with the Commission's identified priorities, including the continued investment in critical infrastructure projects such as the Harbor Drive North Drainage Improvements, Watermain Modernization Program (Phase 4 and Phase 2 design/permitting), and the Hudson Seawall design and construction. These capital priorities are fully supported at the current millage rate of **5.4000 mills**, which Staff is recommending as the maximum rate for TRIM notice purposes.

In prior years, a higher maximum millage rate of 6.0000 was adopted primarily to allow flexibility amid a higher level of financial uncertainty. This year, however, we are in a stronger position:

- Priorities have been clearly identified and incorporated into the budget.
- Project timelines and estimates are well-defined.
- The Town retains a healthy reserve position to address any unexpected challenges.

In this context, Staff recommends maintaining the current millage rate of 5.4 mills as the maximum. Should the Commission prefer a more conservative buffer, approving a higher maximum rate remains an option, though it is not necessary to meet the FY 2026 budget as proposed.

We stand ready to serve and implement the budget plan under this stable and conservative fiscal framework.

Staff recommends approval of 5.4 mills as the maximum millage rate offer FY 26, to offer continuity of service.

**Suggested Motion: I move that the Commission approve a maximum operating millage rate of 5.4000 mills for Fiscal Year 2026, to be included in the TRIM notice as required by Florida Statutes.**

Respectfully,  
Michelle Heiser, Interim Town Manager



# Time to Talk Millage Rates!

## Why Does This Matter?

Per Florida Statutes (Section 200.065 - TRIM), the Town must set a **MAXIMUM** millage rate in July.

- ☐ This is **NOT** the final rate—it is the highest rate that can be considered during public hearings.
- ☐ A rate above this **CANNOT** be adopted later.

# Understanding the Maximum Millage Rate Process

## Key Dates

- ☐ Certification Due from Property Appraiser: Mid-July
- ☐ TRIM Notices Mailed: Mid-August
- ☐ Public Hearings: September (tentative and final adoption)

## Staff Recommendation

- Maintain current rate: 5.4000 mills

Supports consistent service delivery amid rising costs

# Required Commission Action

## Today's Objective

- Approve the maximum operating millage rate for FY 2026.

## Staff Recommendation

- Motion: "I move that the Commission approve a maximum operating millage rate of 5.4000 mills for Fiscal Year 2026, to be included in the TRIM notice as required by Florida Statutes."

## Notes

- Last year, the Commission approved a maximum millage rate of 6.0 then adopted a final rate lower at 5.4.
- You can adopt a lower rate later, but *not a higher one*.
- TRIM notices will show this rate as the maximum possible for public awareness.

BUDGET REPORT FOR TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE  
Calculations As of 09/30/2025

GL Number	Description	22-23 Activity	23-24 Activity	24-25 Amended Budget	24-25 Activity	25-26 DEPARTMENT REQUESTED
<b>Fund: 001 GENERAL FUND</b>						
Department: TAXES						
Unclassified						
		8,211,356	9,005,292	10,002,029	9,074,897	10,827,000
<b>Total Department TAXES:</b>		<b>8,211,356</b>	<b>9,005,292</b>	<b>10,002,029</b>	<b>9,074,897</b>	<b>10,827,000</b>
Department: LICENSES & PERMITS						
Unclassified						
		668,286	717,181	705,600	438,380	703,700
<b>Total Department LICENSES &amp; PERMITS:</b>		<b>668,286</b>	<b>717,181</b>	<b>705,600</b>	<b>438,380</b>	<b>703,700</b>
Department: INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE						
Unclassified						
		774,338	295,617	1,505,917	107,144	254,000
<b>Total Department INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE:</b>		<b>774,338</b>	<b>295,617</b>	<b>1,505,917</b>	<b>107,144</b>	<b>254,000</b>
Department: CHARGES FOR SERVICES						
Unclassified						
		629,083	649,117	694,200	544,292	649,500
<b>Total Department CHARGES FOR SERVICES:</b>		<b>629,083</b>	<b>649,117</b>	<b>694,200</b>	<b>544,292</b>	<b>649,500</b>
Department: FINES & FORFEITURES						
Unclassified						
		36,651	18,561	27,250	149,997	29,600
<b>Total Department FINES &amp; FORFEITURES:</b>		<b>36,651</b>	<b>18,561</b>	<b>27,250</b>	<b>149,997</b>	<b>29,600</b>
Department: MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES						
Unclassified						
		110,226	452,965	507,500	336,821	488,500
<b>Total Department MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES:</b>		<b>110,226</b>	<b>452,965</b>	<b>507,500</b>	<b>336,821</b>	<b>488,500</b>
Department: NON - REVENUES						
Unclassified						
				63,913		375,500
<b>Total Department NON - REVENUES:</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,913</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>375,500</b>
Department: TOWN COMMISSION						
SALARIES AND BENEFITS						
		22,593	13,450	7,334	4,753	7,334
OPERATING						
		6,823	11,569	38,064	11,298	41,200
<b>Total Department TOWN COMMISSION:</b>		<b>(29,416)</b>	<b>(25,019)</b>	<b>(45,398)</b>	<b>(16,051)</b>	<b>(48,534)</b>
Department: TOWN MANAGER						
SALARIES AND BENEFITS						
		209,938	222,919	244,945	213,628	259,005
OPERATING						
		6,890	10,763	18,487	10,440	15,725
<b>Total Department TOWN MANAGER:</b>		<b>(216,828)</b>	<b>(233,682)</b>	<b>(263,432)</b>	<b>(224,068)</b>	<b>(274,730)</b>
Department: TOWN CLERK/FINANCE						
SALARIES AND BENEFITS						
		332,229	359,825	385,805	224,346	367,768
OPERATING						
		57,654	35,442	74,969	35,913	74,550
CAPITAL						
				1,000		0
<b>Total Department TOWN CLERK/FINANCE:</b>		<b>(389,883)</b>	<b>(395,267)</b>	<b>(461,774)</b>	<b>(260,259)</b>	<b>(442,318)</b>
Department: LEGAL						
OPERATING						
		144,371	95,037	277,500	106,115	284,000
<b>Total Department LEGAL:</b>		<b>(144,371)</b>	<b>(95,037)</b>	<b>(277,500)</b>	<b>(106,115)</b>	<b>(284,000)</b>
Department: APPOINTED BOARDS						
OPERATING						
		7,490	6,277	3,014	1,146	2,400
<b>Total Department APPOINTED BOARDS:</b>		<b>(7,490)</b>	<b>(6,277)</b>	<b>(3,014)</b>	<b>(1,146)</b>	<b>(2,400)</b>
Department: OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT						

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GL Number	Description	22-23 Activity	23-24 Activity	24-25 Amended Budget	24-25 Activity	25-26 DEPARTMENT REQUESTED
<b>Fund: 001 GENERAL FUND</b>						
Department: OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
OPERATING		357,613	439,006	484,760	303,523	494,505
CAPITAL		16,985	1,042	8,000	565	0
DEBT		761,437	759,523	783,000	116,550	330,000
Total Department OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT:		(1,136,035)	(1,199,571)	(1,275,760)	(420,638)	(824,505)
Department: LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE CONTROL						
SALARIES AND BENEFITS		2,718,623	2,947,602	3,741,082	2,066,215	3,700,779
OPERATING		1,707,176	1,724,707	2,038,421	1,710,398	2,241,012
CAPITAL		15,881	26,037	47,500	(1,341)	0
DEBT		32,935		0		0
Total Department LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE CONTROL:		(4,474,615)	(4,698,346)	(5,827,003)	(3,775,272)	(5,941,791)
Department: INSPECTIONS						
SALARIES AND BENEFITS		239,792	131,630	122,116	62,744	101,954
OPERATING		324,160	405,618	457,091	315,776	482,445
CAPITAL		660		6,600		0
Total Department INSPECTIONS:		(564,612)	(537,248)	(585,807)	(378,520)	(584,399)
Department: GARBAGE & SOLID WASTE						
OPERATING		301,985	310,986	327,340	186,988	351,300
Total Department GARBAGE & SOLID WASTE:		(301,985)	(310,986)	(327,340)	(186,988)	(351,300)
Department: OTHER PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
OPERATING		275,784	339,626	727,220	219,284	664,720
Total Department OTHER PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:		(275,784)	(339,626)	(727,220)	(219,284)	(664,720)
Department: PUBLIC WORKS						
SALARIES AND BENEFITS		214,336	220,199	238,119	156,257	251,703
OPERATING		94,807	130,282	206,263	49,693	181,900
CAPITAL		6,586	34	10,000		0
Total Department PUBLIC WORKS:		(315,729)	(350,515)	(454,382)	(205,950)	(433,603)
Department: CONTINGENCY						
OPERATING		71,402	133,511	528,470	246,118	500,000
TRANSFERS		5,389		0		2,975,500
Total Department CONTINGENCY:		(76,791)	(133,511)	(528,470)	(246,118)	(3,475,500)
Department: TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS						
TRANSFERS			1,712,050	2,729,309	1,000,000	0
Total Department TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS:		0	(1,712,050)	(2,729,309)	(1,000,000)	0
Fund 001 - GENERAL FUND:						
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		10,429,940	11,138,733	13,506,409	10,651,531	13,327,800
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		7,933,539	10,037,135	13,506,409	7,040,409	13,327,800
Total Fund 001 GENERAL FUND:		2,496,401	1,101,598	0	3,611,122	0

← Non-Recurring Items

Town of Ocean Ridge 2025-2026 Budget Allocation by Category (Rounded %)

