

article.

(Code 1974, § 15-41; Ord. No. 290, pt. 1, 3-11-1986; Ord. No. 547, pt. 1, 6-15-1999; Ord. No. 581, pt. I, 12-5-2000)

Secs. 79.225—79.250. - Reserved.

## ARTICLE 7. - FIRE/RESCUE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNITS

### *Footnotes:*

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**Cross reference**— *Municipal service taxing or benefit units, § 71.71 et seq.*

**State Law reference**— *Municipal service taxing units, F.S. § 125.01(1)(g), (1)(n), (2)*

Sec. 79.251. - Creation, purpose.

79.251.A. There is hereby established, pursuant to the authority granted the County by Florida Statutes, fire/rescue municipal service taxing units (MSTUs) which shall be comprised of the specific areas of Martin County's unincorporated area described in this article.

79.251.B. The purpose of each fire/rescue MSTU shall be to provide fire protection and fire rescue or similar services, including basic life and ambulance services.

(Code 1974, § 15-50; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997)

Sec. 79.252. - Governing body; administration.

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners shall be the governing body of each fire/rescue MSTU created by this article. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners may establish such administrative structures and procedures as it deems necessary to effect the purpose and intent of this article.

(Code 1974, § 15-51; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997; Ord. No. 1069, pt. 4, 6-12-2018)

Sec. 79.253. - Powers.

79.253.A. Each fire/rescue MSTU shall have the power to levy ad valorem taxes; to contract, borrow, and expend funds; to issue bonds, certificates of indebtedness, revenue certificates, and other obligations of indebtedness; and to exercise any and all other power as granted by general or special law that is necessary to effect the purpose and intent of this article.

79.253.B. Each fire/rescue MSTU shall have the authority to enter into contracts with municipalities, counties, and other governmental units for the purpose of obtaining or providing any or all of the services the fire/rescue MSTU is established to provide.

(Code 1974, § 15-52; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997)

Sec. 79.254. - Contracting for services.

79.254.A. Any municipality, special district, or other unit of local government contracting for services provided by a fire/rescue MSTU shall be required to pay for such services in an amount equal to that amount which would be levied by the fire/rescue MSTU if the area of said municipality, special district, or other unit of local government served was included in the fire/rescue MSTU.

79.254.B. Any Martin County ordinance(s) pertaining to fire protection and/or fire/rescue services, applicable to the fire/rescue MSTU, shall be applicable to, and effective within the area of, any municipality, special district, or other unit of local government that contracts with the fire/rescue MSTU for services.

79.254.C. All other contractual terms shall be set forth in an interlocal agreement between the municipality, special district, or other unit of local government and the fire/rescue MSTU.

(Code 1974, § 15-53; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997)

Sec. 79.255. - Funding.

79.255.A. Each fire/rescue MSTU created hereunder shall be funded through:

1. The levy of an ad valorem tax against the assessed value of all lawfully taxable property situated within the boundaries of the respective fire/rescue MSTU. Such levy, together with all other ad valorem taxes levied for municipal services, shall not exceed ten mills; and
2. Service charges, contractual charges, special assessments, and any other income or source of funds, attributable to the fire/rescue MSTU.

79.255.B. Any funds lawfully available from any source may also be utilized to fund the services provided pursuant to this article.

(Code 1974, § 15-54; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997)

Sec. 79.256. - Budget adoption.

Each year the fire/rescue MSTU shall adopt an annual budget according to the requirements set forth in the Florida Statutes. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners thereafter may cause such millage to be levied against all lawfully taxable property within said fire/rescue MSTU as is sufficient to raise the budget. All funds so raised shall be used solely for the expenses of the fire/rescue MSTU. In the event equipment or personnel are utilized outside the fire/rescue MSTU's area, the fire/rescue MSTU shall be reimbursed for such utilization. Proper accounts and records shall be kept at all times.

(Code 1974, § 15-55; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997)

**Sec. 79.257. - Countywide fire/rescue MSTU.**

**79.257.A. *Purpose.*** A municipal service taxing unit (MSTU) is hereby established for fire/rescue services as provided for in F.S. § 125.01(q), within all of unincorporated Martin County.

**79.257.B. *Boundaries.*** The boundaries shall include the following areas:

Beginning at the northwest corner of township thirty-eight south, range thirty-seven east; thence east, concurrent with the south boundary line of St. Lucie County, to the southwest corner of section thirty-one, township thirty-seven south, range forty-one east; thence north on the west line of said section thirty-one and section thirty, township thirty-seven south, range forty-one east, 6,459 feet to a point lying within the water body of the north fork of the St. Lucie River: thence departing said line within the north fork of the St. Lucie River a bearing direction (State Plane Coordinate System, Florida East Zone) of 41 degrees north, 4 minutes west, a distance of 6,155 feet, more or less, to a point lying within the water body of the north fork of the St. Lucie River; thence departing said point a bearing direction (State Plane Coordinate System, Florida East Zone) of 45 degrees north, 16 minutes east, a distance of 2,355 feet, more or less, to a point intersecting with the north shore of the north fork of the St. Lucie River and the west edge of the Howard Creek as concurrent with the City of Port St. Lucie municipal boundary limits; thence departing said intersecting shore and edge lines following along the City of Port St. Lucie municipal boundary line north along the west edge of Howard Creek to the south line of the northeast quarter of section twenty-four, township thirty-seven south, range forty east; thence east along said south line of the northeast quarter to the intersection of the east 924.15 feet of section twenty-four, township thirty-seven south, range forty east; thence north along said east 924.15-foot line of section twenty-four, township thirty-seven south, range forty east, to the

intersection of the north line of the south 508.15 feet of the northeast quarter of section twenty-four, township thirty-seven south, range forty east; thence east along said south 508.15-foot line of the northeast quarter of said section twenty-four, township thirty-seven south, range forty east, to an intersection with the west line of township thirty-seven south, range forty-one east, also being the existing Martin County boundary line; thence north concurrent with the Martin County boundary line, along the west line of sections nineteen and eighteen, township thirty-seven south, range forty-one east, to the northwest corner of section eighteen, township thirty-seven south, range forty-one east; thence east on the north line of said section eighteen and other sections to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean; thence easterly to the eastern boundary of the State of Florida; thence southward along the coast, including the waters of the Atlantic Ocean within the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, to the south line of section twenty, township forty south, range forty-three east, produced easterly; thence west on the south line of said section twenty, and other sections, to the southwest corner of section twenty-two, township forty south, range forty-two east; thence south on the east line of section twenty-eight, township forty south, range forty-two east, to the southeast corner of said section twenty-eight; thence west on the south line of said section twenty-eight and other sections to the east shore of Lake Okeechobee; thence continue west in a straight course to the northeast corner of section thirty-six, township forty south, range thirty-four east, being the southwest corner of section thirty, township forty south, range thirty-five east; thence northeasterly in a straight course to the line of normal water level on the boundary of Lake Okeechobee at its intersection with the line dividing ranges thirty-six and thirty-seven east, township thirty-eight south; thence north on said range line to the place of beginning, and including the incorporated area of the Town of Ocean Breeze and the Village of Indiantown, less and except all other incorporated municipalities.

(Code 1974, § 15-56; Ord. No. 521, pt. 3, 9-23-1997; Ord. No. 1069, pt. 4, 6-12-2018; Ord. No. 1097, pt. 1, 2-12-2019; Ord. No. 1101, pt. 1, 6-4-2019)

Secs. 79.258—79.270. - Reserved.

## ARTICLE 8. - FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

### DIVISION 1. - INTRODUCTION