(Excerpt from Press Journal Article Indian River County finalizes tax rate, slimmed-down budget)

- By Henry A. Stephens
- Posted September 14, 2011 at 10:26 p.m.

PAYING THE COUNTY

The Indian River County Commission's tax rates apply differently depending on where a property owner is located. The County Commission's approval Wednesday of a \$258.4 million budget will mean three kinds of tax bills:

The **owner of a home in the unincorporated area**, assessed at \$200,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption, *will pay \$946.50* toward county services. Their rate of \$6.31 on every \$1,000 of taxable property value covers the Sheriff's Office, the county jail, other countywide agencies, county recreation, county planners, the Emergency Services District for firefighting and ambulance response and repaying bonds issued in 1995 and 2004 for the purchase of environmentally sensitive land.

The **owner** of a similar house **in Vero Beach, Sebastian, Fellsmere or Orchid** will *pay* \$786 to the county. Since their cities provide law enforcement, recreation and development services, they won't have to pay for those services from the county. They pay to the county at \$5.24 per \$1,000. And they get the courthouse, the jail, bond repayment, fire rescue and ambulance aid from the county.

The <u>owner of a similar home in Indian River Shores will pay \$529 to the county</u>. That's because in addition to providing services other cities provide, the Shores also fights its own fires and offers emergency medical response through its Public Safety Department. So town residents don't have to pay into the county Emergency Services District. They are left with a county rate of \$3.52 per \$1,000 for countywide agencies and repaying the bonds.