

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Increase
August 24, 2017
6:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing on the proposed property tax increase was held Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Sammy Hall
Tommy French
Emily C. Davis
Henry Craig
Johnny Westmoreland

Also Present:

Ralph McMullen
David McRee
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Proposed Property Tax Increase

Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported the County has calculated a 2017 rollback rate of 9.057 and is proposing the millage rate be set at the same rate as last year of 9.85. Since this rate is more than the rollback rate, three public hearings must be held prior to setting the 2017 rate. The County has advertised the required notice of property tax increase and legal notice of three public hearings to solicit public comment regarding the proposed property tax increase. This hearing is the second hearing, the first hearing was held earlier today at 10:00 a.m. and a third hearing will be held Thursday, August 31st at 10:00 a.m. The County has advertised that the millage rate will be set Thursday, August 31st at 11:00 a.m.

Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented information on the timeline for advertising the 2017 Tax Digest and Five Year History, holding required hearings and setting the millage rate. She reported Georgia Law requires that a rollback rate be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's new digest as last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessment occurred. For 2017, the rollback rate is 9.06 which is 8.76% less than the current rate of 9.85. Ms. Hudson discussed how the millage rate is calculated and presented details of what comprised the additional revenue of 1.2 million dollars that is needed. She discussed the five year history and the proposed 2017 millage rate of 9.85, the effect of the rate on a \$100,000 home with standard homestead exemption, and where property taxes are spent. Finance Director Hudson discussed the proposed tax levy for 2014. She stated Administrative and Financial staff request the County millage rate be set at 9.85.

Public Comments

Chair Hall opened the floor for public comments from citizens who have signed in to address the Board.

The following people addressed the Board regarding the proposed 2017 Tax Levy.

Mr. Mark Simpson – other ways to provide revenue to fund hospital other than property tax; Mr. Tripper Cook – questioned whether taxes would increase if millage rate was same as last year unless there was an increase in property value; Mr. Hudman Evans – requested that the Board of Commissioners pass a Resolution encouraging the

Governor and Legislators to accept Medicaid money for the State since this would be a way to assist the local hospital thereby saving County tax dollars; and Mr. Charles Woodall – funding for indigent care.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk