

**Baldwin County Commissioners**  
**Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Increase**  
**August 21, 2014**  
**4:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing on the proposed property tax increase was held Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

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

Also Present: David McRee  
Ralph McMullen  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. He stated the County has advertised a proposed increase in the millage rate from 8.84 to 9.84; therefore, three public hearings must be held to solicit public comment regarding the proposed property tax increase. He stated all legal notices have been published for the three hearings. This hearing is the second hear and a third hearing will be held Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The County has advertised that the millage rate will be set Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Proposed Property Tax Increase

Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented information regarding property tax collections, history of M & O digest since 2009, declines in all sources of revenue and the resulting budget cuts, increase in costs of services detailing mandated services, functions or offices, discretionary services and services provided by the County to qualify as a certified government. Ms. Hudson explained what this means to the County – deferred maintenance of County buildings, roads and bridges, no upgrades in technology, outdated aerial photography and mapping, no vehicle / equipment replacement program, deferred replacement of aviation fuel tanks, lack of funds to provide additional firefighters which would improve the ISO rating and inability to provide additional staff for animal control.

Finance Director Hudson discussed the proposed tax levy for 2014. She stated Administrative and Financial staff request the County millage rate be set at 9.84.

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 increase.

Jean Hammock – stated her opposition to the increase in the County's millage rate.

Jimmy Atchison – felt there would be no need for increase if County managed resources better. Opposed to increase.

Harry Heim – no opposed to millage rate increase. Concerned on how the County operates. Recommends a financial oversight committee and a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year for the County.

Andrew Strickland – signed up; however, was not present to address Board.

Hal Reid – stated his opposition to proposed increase. Recommended that if increase is being considered a cap should be placed on collections and increase effective for one year only.

Harvey Holloway – opposed to increase since approval of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is supposed to keep County from having to raise taxes.

### Adjournment

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 4:35 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk