

**Board of Commissioners Public Hearing
Courthouse Commission Chambers
August 6, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

**PUBLIC HEARING
TAX MILLAGE LEVY**

Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner William E. "Bubber" Wilkes
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present:

Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Wes Geddings, Finance Director
Paula Nedza, IT Director
Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Gabriel Quintas, Assistant Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

County Administrator Justin Kirouac reviewed the proposed 2019 millage and property rate increase as advertised in the legal organ of the County on July 25, 2019 and August 1, 2019. Mr. Geddings stated that the Oconee County was proposing adoption of a millage rate of 6.686 (unincorporated) and 7.626 (incorporated). The Property Digest reflects an increase due to an increase in assessed property values of \$133,366,603.00. The resulting Tax Digest countywide is \$2,145,653,423.00. Due to the increase in assessed property values, the proposed county millage rates are considered by state law to be tax increases of approximately 6.46% (unincorporated) and 7.93% (incorporated). The increases result in the addition of \$1.357 million to the Tax Digest. The rollback rate increase is 0.406 mills (unincorporated) and 0.560 mills (incorporated). The unincorporated proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$56.03 and for a homestead property with a fair market value of \$350,000, it is approximately \$77.28

Chairman Daniell reminded the public that the second Public Hearing for the tax millage rate would be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 and the third Public Hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. the same day in the Commission Chambers. The millage rate adoption will be considered at the Board's Regular Meeting on August 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The Public Comment period was opened.

John Webb, Bent Creek Road, asked that the Board consider a reduction in the millage rate to provide financial relief to citizens on fixed incomes and show that the County has decreased expenses. He asked that the Board consider a decrease with next year's budget planning.

Amrey Harden, Briar Lakes Court, asked that the Board set a goal to decrease the millage rate and not forget about people that have been paying property tax as long as Mr. Webb. Mr. Harden asked what percentage of the digest is new property versus reappraisals. Mr. Kirouac responded there is approximately \$67 million of new property versus \$133 million of reassessed properties.

The Public Comment period was closed.

Commissioner Comments:

Chairman Daniell referred to the Tax Digest of 2008 through 2012, stating that the Board kept the millage rate the same. Due to the recession years, the County fell behind on maintenance, including roadways. Commissioner Horton stated that, when the rate was dropped to the current rate, no other County could match it. During the recession, the County was able to keep its workforce even though no new employees were hired. Unexpected expenditures, such as road preparation for the Dove Creek Elementary School, are not budgeted but must be paid.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:15 p.m.

John Daniell, Chairman

Kathy Hayes, County Clerk

Date