

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 25, 2016
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a special session at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2016 at the Houston County Annex Building in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Robinson and Thomson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Personnel Director Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, and Walton and Becky Wood.

County Attorney Tom Hall led the audience in the Invocation.

Director of Administration Barry Holland led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker presented the resolutions setting the Houston County tax levy and the mandate levy for 2016. He explained that the 2016 millage rate for general County purposes would be 9.95 mills, and the millage rate for unincorporated fire services would be 1.18 mills. He further explained that the unincorporated millage would be the product of the school 13.34, the county 9.95 and the fire 1.18 for a total of 24.47 mills. In the incorporated areas (cities) the millage would be the combination of the school 13.34 and the county 9.95 for a total of 23.29. The net digest for 2016 is \$3,724,888,301 down from \$3,734,018,544 in 2015. He stated that the negative reassessment of existing real property was down from \$18,118,788 in 2015 to only \$2,162,874 in 2016. He also noted that although real property was up approximately \$46.3 million and personal property was up \$17 million, the loss of \$52.6 million in motor vehicles offsets that growth due to the TAVT. The overall takeaway is that there is some real growth evident in the increase of real and personal property. He noted that although the millage rate is being set at 9.95 mills the rollback millage rate is slightly higher at 9.956 mills. Houston County continues to have one of the lowest millage rates in Middle Georgia and has operated under the tax cap limit for over fourteen years. The tax cap limit for 2016 is calculated at 10.32 mills but the millage is being set .37 mills under the cap which would have equaled approximately \$1.4 million in additional taxes. He noted that although most county governments have access to the LOST tax, thereby reducing their millage, Houston does not receive the LOST but rather it goes to the Board of Education.

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The 2016 digest decreased 0.24% (less than one quarter of one percent) overall resulting in an approximate \$91,000 decrease in revenues from taxes, but the County feels as if it can stay within the budget limitations approved in June without any adjustment to the millage rate. The Chairman thanked the Commissioners, elected officials, department heads and County employees for their dedication in serving the citizens, and especially thanked the taxpayers who pay the costs of operating the government.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing resolutions setting the Houston County tax levy for 2016 at 23.29 mills in the incorporated areas and 24.47 mills in the unincorporated areas, as hereby specified:

<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Unincorporated</u>
9.95 mills General County Purposes	9.95 mills General County Purposes
13.34 mills Educational Purposes	13.34 mills Educational Purposes
<u>0.00</u> mills State Levy	0.00 mills State Levy
23.29 mills	<u>1.18</u> mills Fire Levy
	24.47 mills

Mr. McMichael presented the FY2016 budget adjustments.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following FY2016 year-end budget adjustments:

General Fund (100):

Increase Expenditures:

Human Resources	1540-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$ 2,450
	1540-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$ 2,050
	1540-52.1200 Professional	\$ 6,300
	1540-52.2200 Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 100
	1540-52.3700 Education/Training	\$ 400
Risk Management-Health	1555-51.2100 Group Insurance	\$ 424,000
Audit	1561-52.1200 Professional	\$ 1,500
Other	1599-57.2000 Payments to Other Agencies	\$ 250
Domestic Violence Assist	2210-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$ 2,050
State Court	2300-54.2500 Other Equipment	\$ 16,500
State Court Clerk	2310-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$ 21,900
	2310-51.2200 Social Security	\$ 500
Sheriff - GOHS HEAT	3310-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$ 19,200
	3310-51.1300 Overtime	\$ 4,900
	3310-51.2200 Social Security	\$ 1,400
	3310-51.2700 Workers Comp	\$ 800
Coroner	3700-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$ 2,750
	3700-52.1200 Professional Services	\$ 8,850

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	3700-52.3200	Communications	\$ 250
	3700-52.3500	Travel	\$ 350
	3700-53.1100	General Supplies	\$ 800
Highways & St. (State)	4205-52.2200	Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 925,000
	4205-53.1100	General Supplies	\$ 15,300
Vital Statistics	5120-52.3900	Other	\$ 750
Planning & Zoning	7400-52.1200	Professional	\$ 300
Economic Development	7520-51-2100	Group Insurance	\$ 250
	7520-52.3200	Communications	\$ 150
Airport	7563-54.1300	Buildings	\$ 216,700
	7563-57.2000	Payments to Other Agencies	\$ 127,100
		Total	\$1,802,850

Decrease Expenditures:

Executive	1300-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 7,000
	1300-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 1,400
Elections	1400-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 3,000
	1400-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 1,400
Purchasing	1517-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 7,200
Law	1530-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 11,300
Tax Commissioner	1545-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 22,000
	1545-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 3,500
	1545-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 6,800
Tax Assessor	1550-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 55,000
	1550-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 22,500
	1550-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 5,600
Public Buildings	1565-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 10,000
	1565-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 14,200
	1565-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 7,600
Accountability Court	2155-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 11,000
District Attorney	2200-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 10,000
	2200-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 800
Victim Advocates	2220-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 23,000
	2220-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 7,800
Juvenile Court	2600-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 17,000
	2600-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 1,200
Public Defender	2800-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 22,000
	2800-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 11,300
	2800-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 9,200
Sheriff	3300-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 200,000
	3300-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 6,000
	3300-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 58,000
Youth Invest & Control	3325-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 53,000
	3325-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 5,600
Jail Operations	3326-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 300,000
	3326-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 238,000
	3326-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 36,000
	3326-52.1200	Professional Services	\$ 198,950

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Animal Control	3910-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 9,500
	3910-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 2,000
Public Works Admin.	4100-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 38,500
	4100-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 34,300
	4100-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 3,600
Highways & Streets	4200-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 171,000
	4200-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 94,000
	4200-51.2400	Retirement	\$ 13,800
Storm Drainage	4250-51.1100	Regular Employees	\$ 20,005
	4250-51.2100	Group Insurance	\$ 12,300
		Total	\$1,786,355

Increase Revenues:

100-0000-39.1200	Operating Transfers In (from Law Library)	\$ 16,495
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SPLOST Fund (320):

Increase Expenditures:

Executive	1300-53.1600	Small Equipment	\$ 2,600
	1300-54.2500	Other Equipment	\$ 11,900
Purchasing	1517-54.2200	Vehicles	\$ 2,400
Public Buildings	1565-52.2200	Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 300
	1565-54.2500	Other Equipment	\$ 84,000
Juvenile Court	2600-53.1600	Small Equipment	\$ 50
Youth Invest & Control	3325-53.1600	Small Equipment	\$ 200
	3325-54.2200	Vehicles	\$ 5,700
Libraries	6500-52.2200	Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 12,600
	6500-53.1600	Small Equipment	\$ 48,100
Airport	7563-52.1200	Professional	\$ 1,950
		Total	\$ 169,800

Increase Revenues:

Prior Year Fund Balance (SPLOST)	\$ 169,800
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Internal Service Fund (600):

Increase Expenditures:

Risk Mgt. (Health)	1555-52.1200	Professional	\$ 563,150
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Increase Revenue:

600-13.3601	Retained Earnings (Health)	\$ 563,150
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Mr. Thomson presented a request from Public Works to approve the bid on the widening of Hwy. 41 between Watson Blvd. (SR247 Connector) and Osigian Blvd. Based on the evaluation scores, staff recommends C.W. Matthews Contracting Co.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the US41/SR11 & SR 247C (Watson Boulevard) road improvement project to C.W. Matthews Contracting Co. of Marietta in the amount of \$1,667,313.33. Chairman Stalnaker is authorized to execute all contract documents. This project is funded by the 2006 SPLOST.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments.

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen thanked the Board for the manner in which they conduct the County's business, for encouraging citizen participation, and for being fiscally responsible. He thanked all County employees for their efforts and specifically commended County Attorney Tom Hall.

Chairman Stalnaker shared the story of a recent encounter he had with a local small businessman who was very appreciative of the financial constraints that the County continues to operate under.

Fire/HEMA Chief Williams invited the Commissioners and administrative staff to a 6:00 p.m. dinner tonight at the HEMA building that will take the place of the regular 'Fifth Friday' dinner due to a scheduling conflict.

There being no further public comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker then asked for any comments from the Commissioners.

Mr. McMichael thanked the Chairman, Barry Holland, Sandi Stalnaker and her staff, Tax Commissioner Mark Kushinka and the Tax Assessors for their efforts.

Mr. Thomson echoed those sentiments and remarked that the increase in both real and personal property in the digest is a very positive indicator.

Ms. Robinson likewise thanked everyone for their hard work and efforts.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone especially the Chairman for his leadership. He commented that he can identify with the small businessman because he himself is one and the climate has been tough. He is glad that the Board had collectively pledged not to raise taxes early in the process.

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Chairman Stalnaker commented that although sales tax revenue is still pretty flat, there are positive indicators of growth within the county.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

