

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 25, 2017
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called session at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 25, 2017 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Robinson, McMichael and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Board of Tax Assessors Chairman Bill Fowler, Centerville Mayor John Harley, Walton and Becky Wood, and Ansel Peck.

County Attorney Tom Hall gave the Invocation.

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

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Board of Tax Assessors Chairman Bill Fowler and thanked him, the other Board members and the staff of the Tax Assessors office for their efforts. He then presented the resolutions setting the Houston County tax levy and the mandate levy for 2017. He explained that the 2017 millage rate for general County purposes would be 9.935 mills, and the millage rate for unincorporated fire services would be 1.177 mills. Both rates will rollback due to positive reassessment values in the 2017 digest. Overall, there is a 1.46% increase in the gross digest for 2017. He explained that if the County did not rollback the millage rate that it would be considered a tax increase and therefore would have to be advertised as such with three public hearings held to inform the public that taxes would be increasing. The rollback millage rate is the previous year's millage rate minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added by reassessments of existing real property. He further explained that the unincorporated millage would be the product of the school 13.32, the county 9.935 and the fire 1.177 for a total of 24.432 mills. In the Incorporated areas (cities) the millage would be the combination of the school 13.32 and the county 9.935 for a total of 23.255. The net digest for 2017 is \$3,774,561,996 up from \$3,724,888,301 in 2016. Reassessment of existing real property increased by \$5,609,449 in 2017 as compared to a decrease of \$2,162,874 in 2016. He also noted that real property was up approximately \$80.1 million to \$3,506,422,582 and personal property was up \$13.2 million to \$358,753,854. Motor vehicles continued to decline on the digest due to the TAVT and decreased \$43 million to \$127,428,460. Houston County continues to have one of the lowest millage rates in Middle Georgia and has operated under the tax cap limit for over fifteen years. The tax cap limit for 2017 is calculated at 10.12 mills but the millage is being set .185 mills under the cap which would have equaled approximately \$698,000 in additional taxes. He noted that although most county governments have access

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to the LOST tax, thereby reducing their millage, Houston does not receive the LOST but rather it goes to the Board of Education. The LOST equals nearly 6 mills in Houston County. The 2017 taxes generated by the levy increased 1.18% overall resulting in an approximate \$437,000 increase in revenues from taxes. He remarked that he is proud of the fiscal condition of the County and believes that the Commissioners have exercised sound fiscal control by containing the millage rate. In closing, he 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 Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing resolutions setting the Houston County tax levy for 2017 at 23.255 mills in the incorporated areas and 24.432 mills in the unincorporated areas, as hereby specified:

<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Unincorporated</u>
9.935 mills General County Purposes	9.935 mills General County Purposes
13.32 mills Educational Purposes	13.32 mills Educational Purposes
<u>0.00</u> mills State Levy	0.00 mills State Levy
23.255 mills	<u>1.177</u> mills Fire Levy
	24.432 mills

Mr. McMichael presented the FY2017 year-end budget adjustments.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following FY2017 year-end budget adjustments:

General Fund (100):

Increase Expenditures:

Elections	1400-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$	22,450
Human Resources	1540-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$	4,300
	1540-52.1200 Professional	\$	7,600
Accountability Court	2155-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$	900
	2155-52.1200 Professional	\$	15,100
	2155-52.2200 Repairs/Maintenance	\$	50
	2155-52.3200 Communications	\$	150
	2155-52.3500 Travel	\$	5,200
	2155-53.1100 General Supplies	\$	6,400
District Attorney	2200-52.1200 Professional	\$	112,430
Probate Court	2450-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$	1,500
	2450-51.2100 Group Insurance	\$	9,900
Sheriff	3300-54.2500 Other Equipment	\$	199,700
Sheriff - GOHS HEAT	3310-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$	1,600

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	3310-51.1300 Overtime	\$ 10,800
	3310-51.2200 Social Security	\$ 500
Coroner	3700-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$ 1,000
	3700-52.1200 Professional	\$ 19,000
Vital Statistics	5120-52.3900 Other	\$ 800
Planning & Zoning	7400-52.3300 Advertising	\$ 3,000
	Total	\$ 422,380

Decrease Expenditures:

Elections	1400-52.3850 Contract Labor	\$ 15,450
	1400-53.1100 General Supplies	\$ 7,000
Other	1599-57.9000 Contingencies	\$ 112,430
Superior Court	2150-52.1300 Technical	\$ 27,800
Jail Operations	3326-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$ 60,000
	Total	\$ 222,680

Increase Revenues:

	100-0000-39.1200 Operating Trans In (from Sheriff Drug Funds)	\$ 199,700
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E-911 Fund (215):

Increase Expenditures:

E-911	3800-51.1100 Regular Employees	\$ 20,100
	3800-51.1200 Temporary Employees	\$ 3,000
	3800-51.1300 Overtime	\$ 16,000
	Total	\$ 39,100

Decrease Expenditures:

E-911	3800-54.3010 Wireless	\$ 39,100
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SPLOST Fund (320):

Increase Expenditures:

Tax Commissioner	1545-53.1600 Small Equipment	\$ 100
Sheriff	3300-54.1300 Buildings	\$ 51,750

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Fire	3500-54.1300 Buildings	\$ 297,900
E-911	3800-53.1600 Small Equipment	\$ 1,760
	3800-54.2500 Other Equipment	\$4,609,740
Airport	7563-52.1200 Professional	\$ 8,875
	7563-57.2000 Payments to Other Agencies	<u>\$ 61,575</u>
	Total	\$5,041,700

Increase Revenues:

Prior Year Fund Balance (SPLOST) **\$5,041,700**

Water Fund (505):

Increase Expenditures:

Water	4400-52.2200 Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 156,600
	4400-52.3500 Travel	\$ 3,400
	4400-52.3700 Education/Training	\$ 1,600
	4400-53.1100 General Supplies	\$ 340,500
	4400-53.1210 Water/Sewerage	\$ 100
	4400-53.1230 Electricity	<u>\$ 214,500</u>
	Total	\$ 716,700

Increase Revenue:

505-4212 Bonaire (Water Sales)	\$ 179,175
505-4214 Kathleen (Water Sales)	\$ 179,175
505-4216 Sandy Run (Water Sales)	\$ 179,175
505-4218 Houston Lake (Water Sales)	<u>\$ 179,175</u>
	\$ 716,700

Internal Service Fund (600):

Increase Expenditures:

Risk Management	1555-52.1200 Professional (Health)	\$ 959,600
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Increase Revenue:

600-13.3601 Retained Earnings (Health)	\$ 959,600
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Mr. Thomson presented a request from Public Works to enter into two separate agreements with Merganser Enterprises, Inc. and Benning Construction Company. The agreements are an extension of an existing Memorandum of Agreement entered into December 6, 2016 regarding the SR 96 and Ammons Road commercial development project being completed by Merganser Enterprises, Inc. These agreements are needed in order for the developer and his contractor to be able to improve upon the existing County Water System to serve the SR 96 and Ammons Road area.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing agreements with Merganser Enterprises, Inc. of Smyrna, Georgia and Benning Construction Company of Atlanta, Georgia for County Water System improvement to serve SR 96 and Ammons Road area at the cost of \$159,613.20

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for public comments.

There being no comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for commissioners comments.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that the minutes for the July 18th Board meeting as well as the minutes for today's meeting would be approved at the August 1st Board meeting. He also reminded everyone of the dedication ceremony for the new County Fire Station No. 6 (Perdue) to be held on Monday, July 31st at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Stalnaker also thanked Mayor Harley for his attendance and for the continued relationship, and cooperation, between the County and the City of Centerville.

Mr. McMichael thanked everyone involved with the tax digest including the citizens.

Mr. Thomson likewise thanked everyone involved with the tax digest for their efforts especially the Board of Assessors.

Chairman Bill Fowler remarked that the growth in the County was not because of the efforts of the Board of Assessors but rather is due to the Board of Commissioners policies and to the Houston County Development Authority's efforts.

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

Mr. Walker thanked everyone especially the Chairman for his leadership. He remarked that Houston is a great county because it is well-managed and fiscally sound.

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Chairman Stalnaker thanked Tax Commissioner Mark Kushinka and his staff for the great job they perform. He stated that Mr. Kushinka does a great job with tax collections always reaching the 97% to 99% range. He also complimented the Board of Assessors and the staff as a whole for the difficult job they excel at. In closing he reminded everyone of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, August 1st, at 9:00 a.m., at the courthouse in Perry.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner