

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 26, 2019
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met for a special called Public Hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 26, 2019, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Thomson, Walker, Robinson and McMichael present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner and Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews.

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 announced that this was the third of three required public hearings held to inform the citizens that the Board of Commissioners will maintain the 2019 millage rate at 9.935 which funds the FY20 maintenance and operations of the general County government and the unincorporated (Fire) millage at 1.177 mills. He mentioned that a called meeting would be held at 11:30 a.m. today at which the Board would adopt the tax digest and proposed millage rate as well as to approve some bills for payment and an approval of a bid. He commented that it was expressed multiple times during the budget process that the proposed millage rate for 2019 would remain the same as the 2018 millage rate. The total increase in revenues for FY20 that the proposed millage rate will generate represents a 5.1% increase and this increase requires the three public hearings advising the public that the County could rollback the millage by 0.196 percent or slightly less than two tenths of a mill. By not rolling back the millage to 9.739 mills the County will gain an additional \$242,000 over the FY20 budget of \$1.7 million estimated new revenue to help fund the FY20 General Fund budget of \$59.2 million. This \$242,000 is anticipated income only since 100% of taxes would have to be collected to realize this additional revenue. The millage in Houston County for the 2016 tax year was 9.95, for 2017 it was 9.935, for 2018 it was 9.935, and it is proposed again for the 2019 tax year at 9.935 mills. The County has operated under a tax cap since the early 1980's. He explained that to exceed the tax cap would require voter approval. The tax cap limit for 2019 is 10.7912 mills and since the proposed 2019 millage is 9.935 there is 0.8562 mills left under the tax cap. He reiterated that 9.935 is the proposed millage rate for the 2019 tax year for General Fund operations. Since the millage is being maintained at last year's rate the only way you would actually see an increase on property taxes would be if your property had been reassessed at a higher value during the year due to construction of new improvements or additions to the property. In 2019 the net digest grew to \$4,028,274,344 as compared to the 2018 net digest of \$3,832,770,803. This positive growth for the 2019 tax year is slightly more than we have been experiencing in recent history. In closing he thanked the commissioners, elected officials and employees for their sound financial management of their respective budgets which has helped the County to contain the millage rate.

There were no public comments.

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Mr. Walker thanked the Chairman for his efforts during both the budget and tax levy process.

Mr. Thomson thanked the Chairman, other Commissioners, elected officials, department heads and employees for their efforts.

Mr. McMichael echoed Mr. Thomson's remarks.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Holland and the entire Accounting staff commenting that the real work begins now.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all. Meeting adjourned.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner