

August 21, 2001

**CALLED MEETING
FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 21, 2001 12:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman John Mayes, Commissioners Chuck Hufstetler, Commissioner Jennings and Garry Fricks.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Acting County Manager Tom Tully and County Clerk Michele Fountain.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Mayes called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Hufstetler led the Invocation.

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
MILLAGE RATE.**

Chairman Mayes called for a Motion to open the Public Hearing. MOTION was made by Commissioner Hufstetler. SECOND by Commissioner Fricks. VOTING:

YES

NO

Commissioner Hufstetler

" Fricks

Chairman Mayes

Motion Carried

Commissioner Jerry Jennings joined the meeting at this time.

Styles Chandler, 3264 Alabama Road, NW, Rome, stated that there are different ways to collect taxes besides property tax. He is fully in agreement with the sales tax. We are in a good position here in Floyd County because people come from Summerville, Trion, Lafayette, Centre, and Cedartown who come here to shop and go to the doctor here. While they are here, they go shopping and would help pay for the by-passes, schools and other things. But every time money is needed, they look at the homeowner and business people. They do not look anywhere else for revenue. They also tax on beer, wine, hotel and motel. He stated he knows you have to have revenue, but of course the government was set up to protect you, not to take care of you. We have gotten into the business of taking care of people and that is not the government's business. Your relatives and then your church are supposed to take care of you. That works in state, federal, city and county government. When you think about revenue, he stated that he hopes they will think of some way besides homeowners and business people because they are taxes to death. He feels they should get out of the "taking care of" business and turn that back over to the relatives and to the church. He is also promoting a bill before the House, HB2525, which will abolish the IRS. They also want to give rebates to take care of the poor people, but his proposal is that you do not charge on medicine, food and used items. That way poor people would have to by a used Cadillac rather than a new one, because a new one would cost from 15% to 23% more, depending on if they figure Social Security and Medicare in with it. He stated there is an outfit in Houston, Texas which has been promoting this for years. He has had the idea

for some time and has refined it. He suggested canceling all of the Tax Collectors budgets, selling the IRS building and putting it on the National debt. Also put the IRS budget on the National debt. The budget for 2001 is \$8,986,084,000. We are already collecting sales tax, it would just be a matter of collecting more. He noted that 45 out of 50 states collect sales tax. Instead of meeting about setting the Millage rate, the Board would be meeting about what the sales tax would be set at. He thanked the Commissioners for their time and the time they spend seeing after County business. It is an unthankful job they have. He also thanked their families for letting them be there.

Commissioner Hufstetler stated that as much as he agreed with Mr. Chandler personally, that is not in the authority of this body to do. They can influence, but as far as making the laws, they are at the bottom of the totem pole. He stated they have asked for more flexibility on different sales tax, on the HOST tax and have not been able to get it at this point. *(Further comments by Mr. Chandler were not audible.)*

Acting County Manager Tom Tully joined the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Hufstetler stated that he wanted everyone to realize that there are three funds which they are talking about, M & O (Maintenance and Operations for the County Fund), Solid Waste Fund and the Fire Fund. The Fire Department is operated by the City of Rome. There was a contract in 1994 by then County Manager Dick McCullough and the current Board at that time, which ran through the year 2003. They are somewhat bound by that contract. The City has had some increases in that fund. One of the increases is they felt that the pay for firemen was not competitive. While they would agree on that, any difference they would have with them on that fund is how the percentage is charged to each side (the City and County). We are in the process of renegotiating that item. The only increase that is being given this year is in the Fire Fund. Until this ten year contract runs out we do not have a lot of control over that, but are certainly working with the City. The City has come back and a sub-committee of the City, which has not been approved by the whole City Commission, has agreed to make some changes over the next two years until it runs out, to try to make it more equitable. Using a starting date of 1998, the M & O dollars taken in were \$21,219,156. The number we will be bringing in this year will be \$19,348,868, a reduction from \$21.2 to \$19.3. Obviously there have been increases. There have been increases in salary due to inflation and they have also tried to make the Police pay more competitive. The question is how can we take in less money and do that. This is through efficiencies and other ways. We have also grown a Fund Balance and are projecting to use some of the Fund Balance this year to balance it.

MOTION was made Commissioner Jennings to close the Public Hearing. SECOND by Commissioner Fricks. VOTING:

YES

NO

Commissioner Hufstetler

" Fricks

" Jennings

Chairman Mayes

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION was made by Commissioner Jennings, SECOND by Commissioner Fricks, that the meeting be adjourned.
VOTING:

YES

NO

Commissioner Hufstetler

" Fricks

" Jennings

Motion Carried

COMMISSIONERS

FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF

JOHN MAYES, CHAIRMAN