

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 29, 2015 2:00PM**

PRESENT: Chairman Larry Maxey, Commissioners Irwin Bagwell, Garry Fricks, Scotty Hancock, and Rhonda Wallace.

OTHERS

PRESENT: County Manager Jamie McCord, County Attorney Wade Hoyt, Finance Director Gary Burkhalter, and Interim County Clerk Jaime Armstrong.

CALL TO

ORDER: Chairman Maxey called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS REGARDING 2015 MILLAGE RATE.

Chairman Maxey declared the Public Hearing open, and asked if there is anyone to speak in support or opposition of the proposed millage rate.

Charles Bailey, 47 Whippoorwill Lane, stated he is a man of few words, and basically what he would like to say is that he is opposed to a millage rate increase. He stated he thinks there is another way to do this without having to raise rates. A lot of people in this county cannot afford a tax increase. He stated he is very concerned about that, and that is really all he had to say. He just wanted to let them know that he is opposed to an increase in the millage rate. He thanked the Board.

Mike Morton, 118 Park Boulevard, stated he is here to speak in opposition to the proposed millage rate increase that would raise some \$2.2 million. He stated as they know, this covers the \$1.4 million budget shortfall, and an additional \$850,000.00 refund in overpaid sales tax by a major business in Floyd County. If they had no other way to cover this \$2.2 million, he would support the increase, but they do. He stated where there is a will, there is a way, and he proposes this with the backing of an awful lot of folks that he has talked to that are citizen taxpayers. He proposes that they take the necessary funds from their reserve fund balance. He stated that is a rainy day fund. If this is not a rainy day, he does not know what a rainy day is. He stated by doing this the fund would be taken by some \$14 million to somewhere around \$12 million. He understands that this might be, and probably is enough to cover the cash flow needs over the period that it is intended for from January to November. He stated it will be tight; there is no doubt about it, but with prudent financial management, managing government like a business, and fiscal responsibility, commissioners of their ilk, their skills, and their commitment can do this. If they ended up having to borrow for cash flow needs, the amount would be minimal. He stated to say that reducing the reserve fund would cause higher interest rates is speculative of course. After all, they would only be taking the balance fund from about thirty-five percent to about thirty percent for a short time. He stated further, they still, in his mind, have not eliminated all government wastes. They still have, for example, other programs that should be considered such as non-profits, and there are many, many more that they could go through. He stated they (*the Board*) are concerned about the county financial assets, this emergency fund. He thinks it is time that they became concerned about the small business, the citizens taxpayers of Floyd County and their financial assets, and their emergency funds. He stated they can do this without a millage increase. They the people expect that from them. He stated in closing, he would remind them that they work for the people, not the other way around. He thanked the Board stating he appreciates their time.

Grant Evans, 450 Old Dalton Road, stated he is a proud member of the TEA Party. He stated while he can only speak for himself, being a member of the tea party movement since its inception in 2009, he thinks he has a good sense of what the average tea partier might say if they were standing before them. First of all, they are not against government or the taxes needed to operate it, but the key word is needed. He stated the People have elected them with the expectation that they will efficiently provide the needed services that only government is empowered to provide. Therefore, regarding the property tax millage increase, he would recommend that they closely examine government operations, separating essential, needed things from non-essential nice-to-have things. He stated then once they have taken the nice-to-have things off the table, they need to prioritize the essential things that are left. He would personally place public safety, public utilities, public health and road construction and maintenance at the top of the list. He stated if there was not enough money to fund these essential services, only then would he consider a millage increase, but generally speaking, the "TEA" in the tea party stand for taxed enough already. He thanked the Board.

Chairman Maxey asked is there anyone else who would like to speak at this time. Seeing none, he declared the Public Hearing closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

YES

NO

(07/29/15 – Special Called Meeting)

Commissioner Wallace
" Fricks
" Bagwell
" Hancock
Chairman Maxey

Motion Carried

FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LARRY N. MAXEY, CHAIRMAN