

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2024
5:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Chairman Gene King, Vice Chairman Adam Worsley, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Bryan Threadgill

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Rosla Plant

Staff Present: Theron Gay, Special Projects, Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole, County Clerk Allyson Stephens, Finance Director John Gorton, and Human Resources Director Valerie Chambers

Staff Absent: County Attorney Michael Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene King at 5:30 p.m.

II. ADOPT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to Adopt the Agenda. All were in favor.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2024 Property Tax Millage Rate

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to enter the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. All were in favor. Mr. Theron Gay of Special Projects thanked the Board and explained that staff had advertised the 2024 Millage Rate. Mr. Gay stated that the State of Georgia will allow the calculation of a rollback rate. Mr. Gay stated the rollback rate was advertised and the rollback rate actually decreases and lowers the millage rate. Mr. Gay stated the Net M & O for 2023 was 12.73 and for this year the proposed millage rate is 12.486, which is a reduction of the millage rate. Mr. Gay stated that there will be around \$800,000 dollars more collected, due to the growth Meriwether County has had in the digest. Mr. Gay stated that this meets all state standards, and because we are recommending the rollback rate and not an increase, there is only one public hearing required. Mr. Gay stated that the tax increase will go up a bit, but the tax levy will remain at 0% because we are recommending the rollback rate. Mr. Gay explained that the School Board also adopted their millage rate on August 26, 2024, during their meeting and also voted to adopt the rollback rate of 16.948 mills. Mr. Gay stated that there is no tax increase and the recommendation is to adopt the rollback rate. Mr. Gay offered to answer any questions the Board or public may have. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that there is an increased expectation in revenue based on growth in the county over the last 12 months, which helps the Board enable them to recommend the rollback rate. Vice Chairman Worsley wanted citizens to understand that as well. Mr. Gay stated that there were some reappraisals done this year and explained that if a resident has a Homestead property and the value went up due to the re-evaluation, the float exemption goes up, and it balances everything back out. Mr. Gay explained this was not for raw land, but for Homestead property. Mr. Gay stated that the rollback rate was also applied to the Fire District and Fire Bond. Mr. Gay stated the Fire District will be 2.334 mills and the debt service for the bond will be 0.624 mills. Commissioner Collins stated that some of the increase in taxes could be due to

the increased homes in the County. Chairman King stated the good news is that taxes are not going up and, due to inflation and the economy, homeowners will not have to pay more at this time. Chairman King asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the 2024 Property Tax Millage Rate. There was no one to speak for or against. A motion was made by Commissioner Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Collins to close the Public Hearing at 5:35 p.m. All were in favor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Adopt 2024 Millage Rate recommendations from Meriwether County Board of Education and associated documents

Chairman King read the Resolution from the Meriwether County Board of Education: "The Meriwether County Board of Education met on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. to adopt the final millage rate as assessed by the Meriwether County Tax Assessor's Office. The school millage rate of 16.948 mills was adopted by the Board of Education." signed by Mr. Bob Patterson. A motion was made to Adopt the 2024 Millage Rate recommendations from Meriwether County Board of Education, and associated documents, by Commissioner Threadgill. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Worsley. All were in favor.

2. Approve 2024 Millage Rate for Meriwether County, adopt Resolution and other associated documents

Mr. Gay stated that before the board is a Resolution to establish the County millage rate at 12.486 mills for General Fund and General County Government, Fire District M&O at 2.334 mills, and Debt Service for the Fire Bond at 0.654 mills. Mr. Gay stated that also contained within the documents is the support for the Board of Education at 16.948 mills. Mr. Gay recommended all Board members sign as well as the County Attorney and County Clerk. Mr. Gay stated that in addition to that, there is a Millage Rate Certification that will need to be signed by the Chairman, as well as some PT-32 forms, showing the calculations of the millage rates in the rollback that will need to be signed, and other documentation requiring signature from the Chair on appeals. Commissioner Threadgill made a motion to Approve the 2024 Millage Rate for Meriwether County, Adopt the Resolution, and allow other associated documents to be signed by the Board and Chair, where appropriate. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Worsley. All were in favor.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Worsley to Adjourn the Special Called Meeting at 5:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Threadgill. All were in favor.

Approved by:

Attest:

Date:

Majority Vote of the Board of Commissioners
Allison S. Stephens, County Clerk
September 11, 2024