

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

September 7, 2022

9:00 A.M.

This meeting was held in person and also by Zoom due to COVID

Commissioners Present: Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley, Commissioner Rosla Plant and Commissioner Alfred "Buster" McCoy

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Bryan Threadgill and Commissioner Shirley Hines

Staff Present: County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory,

Staff Absent: Director of Special Projects Theron Gay and Attorney Nathan Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beth-Neely Hadley

II. INVOCATION

Chairman Beth-Neely Hadley

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adopt the Agenda. All were in favor.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2022 Property Tax Millage Rate

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to go into a Public Hearing for discussion of the 2022 Property Tax Millage Rate. All were in favor.

Administrator Irizarry stated on Thursday, August 11, 2022, David Noles from the Tax Assessors Office, Deann Cruse Tax Commissioner, Ms. Woody and Dr. Griffin from the Board of Education, Theron Gay Special Projects Director, Bill Gregory Finance Director, and Michelle Irizarry Administrator, met to begin discussion of the digest.

The Board of Education met on September 2, 2022 and approved their millage rate. A Resolution has been prepared and every tax rate recommended is the roll back rate, including the Fire District and Fire Bond. The millage rate is reduced slightly from last year. Unincorporated and Incorporated areas of the County Millage Rate is 13.0340 and was 13.239 last year. Fire District is at 2.448 and was 2.483 last year and Fire Bond is at 0.685 which was 0.695 last year. The School District is at 17.699 and the School Bond is at .65 Mils. All Millage Rates are reduced from last year and the 5-year History has been property advertised.

Bill Gregory, Finance Director, pointed out the M&O Millage Rate has decreased each year for the past 5-years due to growth of the Tax Digest. The funds from this Millage

Rate will generate funds to cover the budget for the next fiscal year. The Fire Department will not generate enough to cover the Fire Department expenses this year. We will have to look at either budget cuts, with most of the Budget being made up of salaries, or use of revenue from the General Fund or ARP funds.

Chairman Neely-Hadley did not want to raise tax due to the economy. One consideration is to not do a roll back. No one wants to do that.

There were no other questions or comments.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to go out of the Public Hearing and back into Regular Session. All were in favor.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adopt the Board of Education Millage Rate and associated documents. All were in favor.

Chairman Neely-Hadley stated the County does not have any say in the vote from the Board of Education.

2. Approve 2022 Millage Rate, adopt Resolution and other associated documents

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the 2022 Millage Rate, adopt, and sign the Resolution and other associated documents. All were in favor.

Chairman Neely-Hadley thanked Tax Commissioner Cruse for her work on the digest.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McCoy announced in memory of September 11th, a breakfast buffet will be served at the Masonic Lodge in Greenville on Saturday, September 10, 2022 for the Hero's, Veterans, and Public Service members. Following the breakfast, there will be a Flag retirement at the American Legion, Post 186.

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Benedict A. Thomas, County Clerk

Date: September 14, 2022