

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Friday, July 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Court Room at the Brooks County Courthouse located at 100 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; and Mr. Willie Cody. Ms. Myra Exum was present via telephone. Mr. Rhett Rowe was not present. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman called meeting to order.

Prayer/Pledge – Mr. Maxwell led all in attendance in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Special Called Meeting**

A. Millage Rate – County Administrator presented three (3) versions of the proposed millage rate to the Board for consideration. The digest is down from FY2021 due to conservation penalties; personal property assessment; pipeline collection; Aviagen tax credit; no development; and plateau in spending. To get a balanced budget; Ms. McKinney had to go back and amend the FY2021-2022 budget. As a result of revenues being down, there is a \$350,000 reduction in the budget. The proposed adopted FY2021-2022 budget was \$13,101,000.00; the amended budget is \$12,730,092.64. There are reductions to the Superior Court budget; Jail Operations; Sheriff's Department. Administrator has been giving thought as to how to help the digest grow; which include development in Brooks County; and prioritizing projects. The three (3) versions of the proposed millage rates are:

V2: 16.3127 Incorporated, 14.1926 Unincorporated – Budget is not balanced; \$350,000 reduction in budget

V3: 15.2476 Incorporated; 13.1275 Unincorporated – Will need to transfer \$500,000 from CD account to balance the budget.

V4: 14.5020 Incorporated, 12.3819 unincorporated – will need to transfer \$500,000 from CD account; remove side arm purchase; 911 System upgrade, eliminate or reduce Recreation budget.

The Board discussed the Fire Protection Fees; which generates approximately \$475,000; but the department needs an additional \$500,000 for operations. Converting the Fire Fee to a mill was discussed. Tax Commissioner advised the Board she cannot levy fire fees if residents do not want to pay.

Administrator informed the Board there will not be an increase to the Solid Waste collections; per Jimmy Smith, Solid Waste/Landfill Superintendent, for the City of Thomasville.

B. Budget Amendment – Administrator advised the Board that the current adopted budget will need to be revisited to be amended in order to have a balanced budget for FY2021-2022 fiscal year; and to reflect the reductions/changes made.

After further discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the millage rate of 13.1275 for unincorporated; and 15.2476 for incorporated, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Exum made the motion to continue at .05 millage for Development Authority, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Ms. Exum; the Board unanimously approved to continue the millage of 0.00 for Briggs Fire District.

The solid waste fees will remain the same at \$192.00 per year on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to increase the fire fee by 50%, Ms. Exum seconded, vote was unanimous.

The Board set the meeting dates for public hearings to officially set the millage rates; there will be three public hearings. The first and second public hearing will be held August 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. and at 5:15 p.m. The third public hearing will be August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.; all public hearings will be held at the Courthouse Courtroom.

4. Adjournment

On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board adjourned the special called meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk