

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE 2019 MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARING (1 OF 3) & CALLED MEETING

HELD THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019 AT 8:00 A.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing (1 of 3) for setting the 2019 millage rate and a Called Meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Jodi Ligon, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Ms. Jodi Ligon, Finance Director, presented the proposed 2019 millage rate for the unincorporated area of White County:

White County Board of Commissioners

Tax Year 2019 Millage Rate

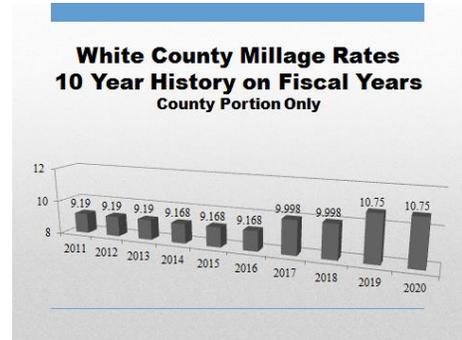
July 18, 2019

Millage Rate

- Percentage figure applied to the value of your property to calculate your property tax liability. A "mill" equals one dollar of tax on every thousand dollars of taxable value. Tax dollars are used to fund the cost of governmental operations and services each year.
- The White County Assessors office determines the fair market value of property, which is then taxed 40% of the value.
- The Tax Commissioner takes the information, applies the millage set by the governing authority, then bills and collects the taxes.

Millage Rate Recommendation

- The Board of Commissioners has announced and advertised a millage rate of 10.75 for the tax year 2019. This remains the same rate as the 2018 tax year.
- FY2020 approved budget totals \$19,190,827. The proposed millage rate of 10.75 will provide \$10,138,766 in property tax revenue.



White County Millage Rates History of Reported Revenues

Fiscal Year	Millage Rate	Revenue Collected
2010	9.19	\$9,560,384
2011	9.19	\$9,386,738
2012	9.19	\$8,919,309
2013	9.19	\$8,059,536*
2014	9.168	\$7,567,792*
2015	9.168	\$7,451,893*
2016	9.168	\$7,794,738*
2017	9.998	\$8,545,208*
2018	9.998	\$8,782,572*
2019	10.75	\$9,883,003** (Fiscal Adjust)

* The tax reported under 2013-2018 and 2019 is not part of a local budget and not included in this report.

Taxes Levied as Proposed

Component	Proposed Millage Rate	Net Digest	Collections
County - Board of Commissioners	10.75	\$ 943,141,003	\$ 10,138,766
School - Board of Education	17.481	\$ 897,001,252*	\$ 15,680,479
Totals	28.231	*School net digest reflects senior exemptions	\$ 25,819,245

Where is the Money Used?

Services	Budget %	Proposed Millage Rate
Agriculture	0.29	.0331
Judicial	8.92	1.0036
Culture & Recreation	5.54	.6235
Housing & Development	2.52	.2840
General Government	21.47	2.4157
Health & Welfare	3.31	.3726
Public Safety	49.46	5.5641
Public Works	8.47	.9531
TOTAL	100.0%	10.75

**Impact on Average Homeowner
County Portion Only - Tax Year 2019**

Home Value	\$300,000	\$500,000
40% Assessed Value	\$120,000	\$200,000
Rate	10.75	10.75
Estimated County Tax	\$1,290.00	\$2,150.00

Allocation of Tax Dollars Estimate

\$300,000 Home Value

40% value = \$120,000

Year	10.75 County	17.481 School	28.231 Total
2019	\$1,290.00	\$2,097.72	\$3,387.72

**July 18, 2019
White County News Ad**

CURRENT 2019 TAX DIGEST AND 5-YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY VALUES

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Real & Personal	906,315,189	963,222,701	971,182,849	987,815,788	1,046,252,819	1,081,709,013
Motor Vehicles	68,666,640	48,027,480	26,187,490	28,370,660	25,926,200	21,029,910
Mobile Homes	6,879,044	6,217,064	6,131,908	6,849,084	6,920,836	6,862,688
Timber-100%	21,873	62,440	36,700	111,209	77,663	108,673
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	69,900	37,178	0	17,870	6,368
Other Digest	970,979,716	1,008,299,686	1,019,846,183	1,021,846,771	1,076,176,238	1,109,774,020
Less M&O Exemptions	137,894,286	146,645,728	149,922,607	161,614,689	164,468,894	166,622,017
Net M&O Digest	833,085,430	861,653,958	869,923,576	860,232,082	911,716,494	943,151,003
Other M&O Millage	0.011866	0.011884	0.012643	0.012664	0.013994	0.012894
Less Refunds	0.002397	0.002416	0.002648	0.002666	0.002764	0.002824
Net M&O Millage	0.009469	0.009468	0.009995	0.009998	0.011230	0.010070
Net Taxes Levied	\$7,624,977	\$7,873,074	\$8,624,808	\$8,700,880	\$10,266,811	\$10,128,766
Net Taxes & Increase	-47,267	238,097	761,424	66,072	1,666,220	337,814
Net Taxes % Increase	-0.6166%	3.1302%	8.6714%	0.7622%	17.8366%	3.4467%

**Questions
or
Comments**

-End of Presentation-

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public comment on the proposed 2019 millage rate.

There were no public comments.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the Inmate Housing Agreements with the City of Cleveland and the City of Helen – thereby instituting the first increase since 1991 in the daily fee from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for housing of inmates at the White County Detention Center.

Mr. David Murphy, Director of Public Safety, requested approval to initiate a RFP (Request for Proposal) process for a stand-by debris management contract. He stated that following damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017, the county was delayed in debris cleanup due to not having a debris contractor on stand-by and he was recommending getting a contract in place in advance of any future events that could result in debris cleanup. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the RFP process for a stand-by debris management contract with the results of the process to be brought before the Board for consideration.

Mr. Murphy presented a grant opportunity through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) program - which would fund four (4) firefighter positions at 75% for years 1 & 2 and 35% for year 3 for total grant funding of \$657,773.00 with a county match of \$238,243.00 for years 1 through 3 and the county assuming 100% of the personnel costs for the four (4) positions on year 4 of the grant period. Mr. Murphy stated that with volunteer firefighter participation declining, limited availability of part-time staff, and call volumes increasing he felt this was a favorable opportunity for the county to utilize the FEMA grant supplement in order to increase their staffing levels in the future. Commissioner Bryant emphasized that if the county applies for this grant, and is awarded the grant, but is not able to follow through with the grant obligations – this reflects negatively on the county – and he just did not see how the county could commit to this future obligation. Chairman Turner reflected on the growth being experienced within the county and the demand on services being experienced. Commissioner Goodger stated that he felt this grant opportunity fit into the growth trend and long term planning in this department. Chairman Turner stated that if this grant was awarded – the Board would expect that any staffing requests within the next four (4) year would be limited based on this. Mr. Murphy stated that the realistic need is to man four (4) county fire stations 24 hours a day / 7 days a week – currently two (2) stations (Mossy Creek & Sautee) are manned 24/7 (need to add Hwy 129 N & Duncan Bridge). Commissioner Holcomb stated he supported applying for the grant knowing these positions are needed going forward and the county could receive the grant for assistance if approved. Mr. Murphy estimated that if the grant were awarded – based on the award timeline, personnel would not be added until the beginning of 2020.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a vote to authorize the White County Fire Department to make application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) program - which would fund four (4) firefighter positions at 75% for years 1 & 2 and 35% for year 3 for total grant funding of \$657,773.00 with a county match of \$238,243.00 for years 1 through 3 and the county assuming 100% of the personnel costs for the four (4) positions on year 4 of the grant period. Commissioner Nix and Chairman Turner voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Bryant opposed the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote with a subsequent authorizing County Resolution 2019-11.

Mr. Melton presented a quote from Habersham EMC / Trailwave for installation of fiber optic internet service for the Yonah Preserve Ballfield Complex. He stated that HEMC would be covering 50% of the installation cost – with the county’s cost to be \$36,236.40. He noted that this installation would also allow the Asbestos Road complex to operate on the connection as well for phone and internet service. He also stated the Yonah Preserve Trails Complex off Albert Reid Road had already been connected to fiber by HEMC.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the Yonah Preserve Ballfield Complex fiber optic installation agreement with HEMC / Trailwave in the amount of \$36,236.40 to be funded from SPLOST.

Mr. Robert Hamrick, IT Director, presented a proposal for security cameras at both the trails section and ballfield complex of Yonah Preserve. The quote was in the amount of \$10,132.95 from Southern Computer Warehouse. Following discussions regarding the coverage area of the security cameras proposed – there was a consensus that the Board wanted to see a more comprehensive coverage plan with cost estimates at the August 5, 2019 meeting.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to appoint Ms. Beverly Sell to the Region 1 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Planning Board to fill the remainder of a three (3) year term to expire June 30, 2020.

July 18, 2019 – Public Hearing & Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Commissioner Nix requested the Board take steps to place an American Flag over the military monument at Freedom Park – as requested by the American Legion. Following a discussion regarding current flag placement at Freedom Park - Mr. Melton stated that lighting a flag at that location could be difficult. Chairman Turner asked that the requested location of the flag be marked for review.

Chairman Turner asked about the current process for licensed subcontractors certifying they are doing work on specific building permit. Mr. John Sell, Director of Community & Economic Development, stated that it is required for the licensed contractors to certify their work on each specific job by affidavit.

Commissioner Holcomb advised that Mr. Stanley Lawson would be contacting Mr. Melton in order to finalize the easement agreement on Asa Dorsey Road.

Commissioner Goodger stated that with the Board considering the construction (reopening) of Claud Sims Road as a road project for 2020 and with this project being more complicated than other regular paving projects, he felt it was important for the County to begin the preliminary work on the project at this time (design, easements, utilities, etc.). Mr. Melton was provided direction to begin preliminary work on the project of reopening / construction of Claud Sims Road from the bridge just past the Head Start / Pre-K facility to the Tesnatee Creek Sports Complex onto Tesnatee Gap Valley Road.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel & litigation.

-See The Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the July 18, 2019 Public Hearing & Called Meeting are hereby approved this 5th day of August, 2019.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger

Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb

Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix

Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant

Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy

Shanda Murphy, County Clerk