

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SECOND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2008 MILLAGE RATE
AND PROPOSED TAX INCREASE AND CALLED MEETING

JULY 24, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held the second of three public hearings on the proposed tax increase (millage rate) for 2008. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Chris R. Nonnemaker, Post 1 Commissioner Joe R. Campbell, Post 2 Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Alton Brown, Chief Financial Officer Vickie Neikirk, and County Clerk Jean Welborn.

Vickie Neikirk gave the presentation on the proposed millage rate (see copies attached).

After the presentation, the board received questions from those in attendance.

Some of the citizens expressed their concerns with the proposed millage increase in light of the economic times. The Board of Commissioners expressed their frustrations at having to increase the millage due to higher fuel prices, etc.

Peggy Rutter stated that she understood why they needed a tax increase; however, the problem that she had in her neighborhood was that the taxes were going up and the property values were going down; that some appealed their tax appraisals from last year because they lived near the sludge farm; that the people could not sell their homes, even if they wanted to; that paying the tax increase and the county not doing anything to help protect their property values was not fair.

Commissioner Campbell told Ms. Rutter that the County had spent nearly \$100,000 trying to help her and her neighbors; that he did not understand how she felt that they were not doing anything; that this \$100,000 was everybody's tax money on this situation; that they were doing everything that they could within the law to alleviate the situation; that just because she did not like the situation and he did not like the situation didn't mean that they could proceed without scientific or tangible evidence to stop the operation; that they were working as hard as they could, within the law, to find a solution; that they had hired the best environmental attorney they could find. Commissioner Campbell stated that he felt that Ms. Rutter and her neighbors had done the best that they could do in the situation but they had not come up anything that they could put their finger on that they could carry to court. Ms. Rutter stated that the list of EPD violations were more than Jackson County had on Talmo; that they got Talmo shut down. Commissioner Campbell stated that the situation was set up politically so that their hands were tied; that they were trying their best to untie them. Commissioner Campbell stated that every week he reads in the paper when Ms. Rutter is saying that the County was not doing anything.

Commissioner Campbell stated that the EPD had tested every creek that comes off the LHR Farm. Chairman Nonnemaker stated that they had tested wells for everybody in the area; that they were using taxpayer dollars to do that; that none of the results stood out as in excess of the allowable limits.

Some of the citizens expressed their concerns on employees driving county vehicles home.

Teresa Stansel stated that she had a written objection to the proposed millage. Ms. Stansel presented a two-page objection to each Commissioner and entered supporting documentation into record. Ms. Stansel asked for a written receipt from the Board of Commissioners, which was supplied.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, it was unanimously voted to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. (See Closed Meeting Affidavit Attached.)

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the Board of Commissioners exited the Executive Session. It was announced that no decisions were made.

Minutes from 2nd Public Hearing and Called Meeting of July 24, 2008, Continued

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman

Joe R. Campbell, Post 1

Craig Bryant, Post 2

Jean Welborn, County Clerk