

August 16, 2016  
Statesboro, GA

### Special Called Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met for a called meeting at 6:00 pm in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil called the meeting to order and welcomed staff. He gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Gibson. Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson were absent. The following staff were present: County Manager Tom Couch, Assistant County Manager Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Whitney Richland, Chief Tax Appraiser John Scott, Tax Commissioner James Deal, and Chief Deputy Jared Akins.

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications to the General Agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Mosley all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item of business was a public hearing regarding the proposed property tax increase. He called on Mr. Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated as required by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1999, the County is required to hold a public hearing if the Commissioners choose not to roll back the millage rate to account for any inflationary increase in the value of the tax digest. He reviewed briefly the Board's decision in 2015 to increase the millage rate from 10.44 mills to 12.34 mills. Mr. Couch stated that this year the Board would need to roll back the millage rate from 12.34 mills to 12.286 mills in order to avoid it being deemed a tax increase under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Mr. Couch stated in order to meet the on-going challenges for balancing competing and increasing demands for services and to maintain the County's financial position, he is recommending that the current millage rate of 12.34 mills be maintained.

Chairman Nevil called for a motion to open the floor to the public for questions and/or comments regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Simmons offered a

motion to open the floor to the public for questions and/or comments regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Simmons all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments and/or questions from the audience at large. Hearing none, he called for a motion to close the public hearing regarding the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Simmons all voting in favor of the motion

Chairman Nevil called for general comments from the commissioners and staff. The Commissioners thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked Mr. Deal and Mr. Scott for the work they do. Commissioner Simmons stated the Board tries to stay informed so that they can make informed decisions on behalf of the citizens of Bulloch County. Mr. Couch thanked Mr. Deal and Mr. Scott for their efficiency and fairness in determining the needs of the County as well as that of the taxpayers of the County.

Hearing no further comments from the Commissioners or staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Simmons all voting in favor of the motion.

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J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Olympia Gaines, Clerk