

MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing in Room 108 of the Spalding County Courthouse Annex, Monday, August 17, 2015, beginning at 11:01 a.m. with Chairman Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Bart Miller, Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Donald F. Hawbaker were present. Also present were County Manager, William Wilson, Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley, County Attorney, James Fortune and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

A. Opening (Call to Order) by Chairperson Rita Johnson.

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and topic in which they will speak on. Speakers must direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics and relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting.

B. Order of Business

1. Conduct Public Hearing on proposed on Proposed 2015 Property Tax Increase as defined by OCGA 48-5-32.1.

Mr. Wilson stated that there was a letter in the Griffin Daily News that explained the process of OCGA 48-5-32.1. He advised that he has done some calculations which were provided to the media on Friday and are attached to the agenda for your reference. Mr. Wilson then advised that on a \$100,000 home taxes will actually decrease by \$29.56 because the School District is rolling back their mileage rate. He stated that he had also provided a computation on the same home within the City of Griffin, the property tax would decrease by \$49.84.

Mr. Wilson further stated that there are 31,217 taxable parcels in Spalding County, 26,849 parcels or 86% value did not change from 2014 to 2015. A total of 1,735 parcels decreased in value and 1,864 residential parcels and 769 commercial parcels increased. Approximately 91.5% of the parcels in Spalding County either decreased or remained the same, which leaves approximately 8.5% of the properties that increased.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the County is required by law to conduct three public hearings, the first public hearing is taking place right now the second public hearing must take place between 6 and 7 p.m. and that hearing will be held this evening at our regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting. The third public hearing will be on August 27th at 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by a Special Called Meeting at 5:30 p.m. to set the 2015 mileage rate. Mr. Wilson stated that the School System will be setting their mileage rate at 5:00 p.m. on August 27th recommending their rate to us, we will approve it at the 5:30 meeting that night. Our hope is to get the tax bills out in September for a November due date.

Bill Humphrey, 210 Sawgrass Place, Griffin, Georgia asked why in addition to his property assessment increasing he will have to pay an additional 3.77% in taxes.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that the 3.77% increase is applied across the county not on specific properties. He explained that the only way a citizen of Spalding County will see an increase in their property tax is if the assessment on a property increased from 2014 to 2015. He further stated that the increase in taxes reflected at the time he received the notice of assessment should be very close to his actual tax bill for the year, there will be no additional increase.

Tillman Risk, 409 Beacon Court, Griffin, Georgia stated that he had some of the same questions as Mr. Humphrey. He stated that his assessment went up over \$20,000. He then asked how old do you have to be to quit paying school taxes in Spalding County.

Commissioner Ray advised that school tax is part of the property tax and currently there is no age at which this tax is removed from the property.

Mr. Risk also asked why there was a \$399 Fire District tax on his bill.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Fire District Tax is the tax that provides fire protection to unincorporated Spalding County and those fees are separate from the General Fund. This tax is 4.17 mils and is calculated based on the assessed value of your property.

C. Adjournment

Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to adjourn the Public Hearing at 11:14 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

/s/ _____
Rita Johnson, Chairperson

/s/ _____
William P. Wilson, Jr., Clerk