

PUBLIC HEARING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held A Public Hearing in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, beginning at 6:00 o'clock p.m. with Commission Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presiding and Commissioners Eddie L. Freeman, Bob Gilreath and David Phillips present. Absent was Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant to the County Manager Paul Van Haute and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Conduct Public Hearing to receive comment on proposed property tax increase notice.

John Devlin, 509 S. Walkers Mill Road, Griffin, Georgia

Mr. Devlin stated he could not believe there are so few in attendance, particularly in light of the tight economic times with the advent of a tax increase looming in Spalding County. He stated a 1 mill tax increase was very offensive to him as a taxpayer, especially to keep from laying off County workers. He fully intends to carry this philosophy into the next election. He will campaign against his commissioner, but also against everyone who voted for this 1 mill tax increase. While \$45 does not seem to be a great deal of money to some, it is indeed a significant amount to citizens like him.

Commissioner Phillips noted this Board did, in fact, care about its citizens. That is why there has been a hiring freeze in effect since March of 2008, and the fact that no new hires and those lost to attrition have not been replaced means the County cannot afford to furlough more employees.

Alan Rodden, 416 Dobbins Mill Road, Griffin, Georgia

No one likes an increase in taxes in these tough times, but he understood the finite quality of funds. His funds are dwindling, too, and this increase in taxes will pose a hardship for him, and some small businesses may find it increasingly difficult to remain in business.

Robert Lattimore, 2847 Teamon Road, Griffin, Georgia

He felt there were some other things the County could have done to tighten its belt in lieu of a tax increase. There is, for instance, some tax inequality with regard to property taxes. Mr. Wilson stated this inequality was one of the main impetuses for the county-wide revaluation, and some of these problem areas should surface in that process.

Bobby Peurifoy, 917 South McDonough Road, Griffin, Georgia

Mr. Peurifoy stated he had been doing some research on property taxes. He felt property owners should be required to pay in cash in order to facilitate a greater awareness of what money is actually required to pay one's taxes. In 2002, a 41% increase on property taxes with an 18% increase in the fire district tax resulted. He read the meaning of the word ethics in light of the anticipated Ethics Ordinance that will be considered in the near future. That word begs to be utilized in this troubled economic time. Seniors particularly are adversely impacted, and there is still \$3 million to \$8 million in outstanding, delinquent taxes. For those that are not paying and probably won't ever pay, can you arbitrarily and ethically raise taxes on those who do pay? This situation presents, for him, a moral dilemma. When a tax increase does become obviously necessary, he felt what all elected officials, staff and department heads make in salaries should be made public. He urged the public to get engaged and involved.

Chairman Goss agreed that if taxpayers had to personally come and pay their tax bills, perhaps they would be more aware of what is required.

Commissioner Gilreath noted that everyone involved in the budgetary process worked hard and diligently, trying to cut spending wherever possible.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. by Commissioners Freeman/Phillips carried 4-0.

Chairman

County Clerk

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SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held A Public Hearing in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Wednesday, July 28, 2009, beginning at 6:30 o'clock p.m. with Commission Chairman Edward Goss, Jr. presiding and Commissioners Eddie L. Freeman, Bob Gilreath and David Phillips present. Absent was Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant to the County Manager Paul Van Haute and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)

III. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Consider adoption of the 2009 Spalding County Tax Levy.

Mr. Wilson provided a brief overview of the 2009 Spalding County Levy as noted below. If approved, it will be forwarded to the Tax Commissioner who will meet with the state and proceed to compile, print and mail tax bills on schedule by September 15 with a due date of November 15, 2009.

2009 SPALDING COUNTY TAX LEVY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County, Georgia, and it is hereby resolved by said authority, that there be levied on all property located and situated in said County on the first day of January 2009 whether said property be real, or personal, or mixed, the following rates of taxation for the purposes herein named and that the same be collected by the Tax Commissioner of said County at the same time and in the same manner as the tax levied by the State of Georgia, is collected, and when collected that the same shall be deposited by the Tax Commissioner with the treasurer of Spalding County, and that the treasurer's official receipt be taken therefor; to-wit:

1. To pay the expenses of administration of the county government; 1.46 mills or **\$1.46** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
2. To pay principal and interest of any debt of the county and to provide sinking fund therefor; 0.46 mills or **\$0.46** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
4. To build and repair public buildings and bridges; 0.95 mills or **\$0.95** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
5. To pay the expenses of courts, the maintenance and support of inmates and to pay sheriffs and coroners and for litigation; 8.32 mills or **\$8.32** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
6. To build and maintain a system of county roads; 1.18 mills or **\$1.18** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
7. For public health purposes in said county, and for the collection and preservation of records of vital statistics; 0.61 mills or **\$0.61** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
8. To pay county police; **NO LEVY**
9. To support indigent individuals; **NO LEVY**
10. To pay agricultural and home demonstration agents; 0.05 mills or **\$0.05** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
11. To provide for payment of old-age assistance to aged persons in need, and for the payment of assistance to needy blind, and to dependent children and other welfare benefits, all as provided by the constitution and laws of Georgia; 0.04 mills or **\$0.04** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
12. To provide for fire protection for forest lands and for the further conservation of natural resources; 0.01 mills or **\$0.01** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.

13. To provide medical or other care, and hospitalization, for the indigent sick people of the County; **NO LEVY**
14. To acquire, improve and maintain airports, public parks, and public libraries; 1.02 mills or **\$1.02** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.
15. To provide for worker's compensation and retirement of pension funds for officers and employees; 0.78 mills or **\$0.78** per \$1,000.00 or taxable property.
16. To provide reasonable reserves for public improvements as may be fixed by law; **NO LEVY**
17. To pay pensions and other benefits and costs under a teacher retirement system or systems; **NO LEVY**
19. To provide for ambulance services within the county; **NO LEVY**
20. To provide for financial assistance to county or joint county and municipal development authorities for the purpose of developing trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities; **NO LEVY**.
25. To provide services and systems for fire protection for Fire Protection District "A"; 3.23 mills or **\$3.23** per \$1,000.00 upon the taxable property in such fire district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on recommendation of the Board of Education of Griffin-Spalding County School System, the following rates of taxation be likewise levied and collected, and when collected that the same be paid to the Board of Education of said County, as provided by law, to-wit:

3. For education purposes, as provided by the Constitution and laws of Georgia; 18.80 mills or **\$18.80** per \$1,000.00 of taxable property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this order be spread upon the minutes and that the same be advertised and posted in accordance with Section 48-5-232 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (1982) and the pertinent laws of Georgia.

This the 28th day of July 2009.

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Motion/second to adopt the 2009 Tax Levy for Spalding County by Commissioners Phillips/Freeman carried by a vote of 3-1 with Chairman Goss voting in opposition.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. by Commissioners Freeman/Phillips carried 4-0.

Chairman	County Clerk
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