

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

July 26, 2012 Cherokee Hall 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chairman Ahrens called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Those present included Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Jim Hubbard; Vice Chair/Commissioner Karen Bosch; Commissioner Jason Nelms; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Angie Davis; and County Clerk Christy Black. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media; and the public.

Chairman Ahrens began by stating that two Public Hearings were held, one on July 10 and one on July 24, not required by state regulations, but held at the Board's discretion. The Public Hearings allowed plenty of opportunity for public input without time or number limitations and that an excellent background presentation/outlook was provided by Mr. Cooper and Ms. Funk. He said that the Board received some valuable input and genuine thoughts to incorporate as we move forward.

(1) Consider adoption of all 2012 Millage Rates.

Chairman Ahrens stated that the Board had received the letter of notice from the school district indicating that the school millage rate for 2012 remains unchanged at 19.85 mills. He then asked if Mr. Cooper or Ms. Funk had anything to add for public record. Mr. Cooper thanked Ms. Funk for preparing and updating the presentation based on questions and comments received by citizens over the past couple of weeks. He said he would like to thank Mr. McCall in particular for his professionalism as he posed suggestions and questions to the Board at the last meeting. He said that he had addressed some of the issues and has challenged staff to take a look into some of the questions posed.

Mr. Cooper told the Board that they have before them an ordinance for adoption of the millage rate as presented by Ms. Funk at 29.849.

Commissioner Johnston made a motion to approve the Cherokee County Property tax millage rates for 2012 as follows:

General Government M&O	05.825
Fire District M&O	03.394
Park Bond	00.780
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FIRE DISTRICT M&O, and PARK BOND MILLAGE	09.999
Further adopt school rates	
School Board M&O	19.450
School Board Bond	00.400
TOTAL SCHOOL BOARD M&O and BOND MILLAGE	19.850
TOTAL COMBINED CHEROKEE COUNTY LOCAL	29.849

GOVERNMENT MILLAGE RATE

Commissioner Nelms seconded; Chairman Ahrens commented that if so voted, the rate represents a combined millage rate increase of the prior year of 2.98%. Commissioner Johnston added that they had the school board in part to thank for the average taxpayer not seeing an increase in the amount of taxes paid due to not having changed the school district's rate. He added that the rate directly set the by the Board was not a tax amount increase to the average tax payer but rather a tax rate increase and that the Board had held the tax amount for the past 12 years.

Commissioner Nelms thanked the citizens for their input and particularly noted Mr. McCall as a model for professionalism and constructive suggestions.

The Chairman then called for a vote having heard a motion and a second; the resulting vote was 4-1 approval with Commissioner Hubbard voting nay.

The Chairman asked the Board to start looking at different scenarios for HOST possibilities for the November election. He added that they were invited to speak on the topic at the Woodstock Town Hall meeting in September. (Note: the Town Hall meeting was September 16, 2012.)

ADJOURN

The Chairman asked if there was any further business. Hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.; Commissioner Nelms seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.