

2015 TAX INCREASE 3RD PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 31, 2015

Chairman Clark Henderson opened the third 2015 tax increase public hearing at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Wallace Mathis, A. James Nance, and Sam Farrow in attendance. Commissioner Larry Felton participated by phone. David Brogdon stated that he is against the millage increase, and he asked why couldn't the money they need be taken from the trash as we were supposed to get a tax credit from the trash, and we didn't get a penny, let's use this money that we were supposed to get to go toward the \$250,000 you want to put aside. Chairman Henderson read the millage rates from the surrounding counties, and they were all higher than Crisp County's, even with the millage increase this year. Herbert Gladin stated that he did not have that much against a small increase, he does have objection to the waste in government, and part of the waste will be if the county allows Advanced Disposal to talk the county into collecting the garbage money for them. This is just a ploy from them as they are smart business people and is part of their pre-determined plan to get the county to do the work for them, and also collect the money in advance for them if it is collected through the tax bill; he asked them to consider that. Carden Summers stated that he doesn't think anyone wants to raise taxes but he wants them to take fiscal responsibility; this county has not grown. He thinks property values are skewed as things are selling cheaper than what they are valued, and a millage rate is not a true story and does not give a correlation of where we are in Crisp County. He wanted to know where they are going to get their money from next time as there is only one-third of the community that pays property tax, as you can't spend the money you don't have just because it is a government. He knows people that have lived on the lake for years and that the part they pay on the school millage is so high that they have to sell their property and move into a smaller place because they can't pay their taxes. He thinks that maybe we need to think as a community that at age 60 or 65 to start exempting people from paying school taxes. Another thing is there are a good many vehicles with Crisp County tags on them, and you might be able to look at this and curtail some things to help bringing us back in line. He thinks the budget is too big for a county that has not grown, and he agrees that the sales tax is a fair tax; he is asking to look at the fiscal responsibility and come up with a fair way to do it, and he is not telling you to not raise taxes or to raise taxes, he is saying it is tough on people like all of us that are paying taxes and working hard every day. Roy Dale stated that he is against the millage increase, and he thinks before we raise millage rate we should cut waste, and he sees waste on Exit 104 at I-75 where all the lights on the exit and there is no business out there. He stated that the sheriff's department has received an assault vehicle that was given to them from the military but what do we need that for; it is worth \$400,000, and why don't we sell it if it is worth that and not raise our millage rate. He also sees vehicles going home with county employees and that needs to be cut out, but he does not have a problem with sheriff's vehicles going home. Also, he wanted to know why they couldn't change their meeting time, and Commissioner Nance advised that if we change the meeting time it will have to be done through legislature. Frank Olson stated that people do get upset about paying more taxes, he doesn't blame them, but he wanted to offer a different prospective regarding the ½ mill for industrial development. He stated that the commissioners have done a good job of containing

taxes through the years by cutting costs and spending down reserves, however you reach a point where you can no longer cut costs. The way to provide relief to existing taxpayers is to grow the tax base because if the tax base is not growing inflation and unfunded mandates will cause you to have to raise taxes, and he thinks that is the present situation. The ½ mill of tax dedicated to the Industrial Development Authority will be used to strengthen the industry recruitment process resulting in more business industry, therefore more tax base. He advised that some of our close competitors have an infusion of tax dollars into their industrial development efforts, and those dollars are used to develop industrial sites, enhance infrastructure and are used as incentive packages to entice new business and industry; we are at a huge disadvantage in this respect, our community has a lot going for it but dedicating some taxes to the IDA is necessary to keep Crisp County in a competitive position. He stated that on the 2014 ad valorem tax bills for five of the larger industries taxes ranged from \$71,000 to \$844,000, and the estimated tax was \$11,000 for 300 acres of land without an industry. More important are the jobs and payroll a new industry brings, boosting sales tax revenues for the county and ultimately increasing the tax base to residential and business expansion. He asked them to consider positively the ½ mill for the IDA for the future good of our community. We need new business industry and residency to help this commission and subsequent commissions to avoid tax increases for the existing tax payers. There were no other comments. Chairman Henderson closed the public hearing.

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING HELD ON JULY 31, 2015**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with Commissioners Wallace Mathis, A. James Nance, and Sam Farrow in attendance. Commissioner Larry Felton participated by phone. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and Clerk Linda Finch. Carden Summers gave the invocation, and Administrator Patton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Henderson welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVE 2015 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION

Mrs. Leverett read the 2015 Tax Levy Resolution setting the County Millage Rate for non-duplicate services necessary without consideration of joint Sales & Use Tax at 0.015435, County Millage Rate, which if levied, would produce an amount equal to the joint Sales & Use Tax received during the preceding year at 0.003323, County Millage Rate at 0.012112, State Millage Rate at 0.000050, total County and State Millage Rate at 0.012162, Unincorporated District Special Service Millage Rate at 0.001140, and Millage Rate for the School system for education purposes at 0.017450. She advised that she has received the School Board's paperwork approving the 0.017450. **Commissioner Mathis made a motion to adopt the proposed budget with the increase except for the ½ mill for economic development, but died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Nance made a motion to adopt the 2015 Tax Levy Resolution, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 p.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator