

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting/Set the millage rate on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 5:15 p.m., at the Brooks County Administration Building, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman, Ms. Myra Exum, Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources, and James Burchett, County Attorney (via telephone); and various residents.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman called the meeting to order.

A. Prayer/Pledge – Chairman led all in attendance in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

B. Set Millage Rate – County Administrator recapped the budget from the July 15th meeting. The Board approved to fund the FY2022-2023 Budget as it stands, according to Administrator, without any reductions, in the amount of \$1,402,560.16 on a 3 to 2 vote. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko was opposed to a tax increase. Chairman, Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody voted in favor. The millage rate will increase to 16.1067 for incorporated and 14.1526 for unincorporated.

County Administrator provided information based on the approved budget for FY2023 to set the millage rate as follow:

Incorporated	16.1067
Unincorporated	14.1526
Development Authority Millage	Reduced to .30 (prior year .50)
Curbside Trash Service	\$18.00 per can (previous year \$16.00/can)
Fire Service Fee	Increase of .5% across all fees to bring the rates to a 1% increase as agreed in FY2022 budget

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Prebill Mobile Homes	65	97.5	130
Land	20	30	40
Commercial	100	150	200
Homestead	45	67.5	80
Non-Homestead	65	97.5	130

Mrs. Exum stated confirmation of the increases presented: The increase in the millage for incorporated will generate \$1.1 million, unincorporated will generate \$234,000. The fire fee would generate an increase of \$275,000; curbside trash service will increase to \$1,005,264.00; capital requests from Departments totals \$1,134,100.00.

Mr. Larko stated he posted his position on his Facebook page and read to those in attendance what he has posted, he emphasized he wants it to go on record his opposition of increasing taxes.

Mr. Maxwell stated that as Commissioners we are also taxed; but the County needs better equipment for Road Department and Sheriff's Department; and it takes money to run the County.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to set the millage rate to 16.1067 for incorporated and 14.1526 for unincorporated; Mr. Cody seconded. Upon discussion, after receiving the Five-Year Digest from Tax Commissioner, her calculations rounded the numbers to 16.1073 for incorporated and 14.1525 for unincorporated. Therefore, Mr. Max rescinded his motion and Mr. Cody rescinded his second.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board set the millage rate for incorporated to 16.1067; and 14.1525 for unincorporated. Chairman called for the vote. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko opposed. Chairman, Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody voted in favor; the vote was 3 to 2.

Chairman commented that when he came on board as a Commissioner, the County was in a fix broke state. The County performed a salary study, there have been a lot of turn issues, we had to do renovations to the Courthouse because Judges were about to close the Courthouse; we had to build a new Ag Building which will help generate revenue. The Fire Department was in bad shape, Sheriff's Department needed vehicles. We rolled back the millage rate one mill in 2020, borrowed \$500,000 from reserves to not put the burden on the citizens.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reduce the millage for the Development Authority from the prior year from .50 and reduce to .30, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Board unanimously approved to increase the curbside trash service from the previous year of \$16.00 per month to \$18.00 per month, increasing annual fee from \$192.00 to \$216.00 annually, Mr. Maxwell made the motion, and Mr. Cody seconded.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the fire service fee increase to .5% across all fees to bring the rates to a 1% increase as agreed by the Board in the FY2022 budget.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

3. Adjournment

On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board adjourned the special called meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk