

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING HELD**

**TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017 AT 8:00 A.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

-See The Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

Mr. Melton presented information to the Board regarding the final digest that had been submitted to the County – noting that the gross digest had increased by \$8,300,618.00 and the net digest had increased by \$6,608,536.00. He explained that the increase to the net digest would result in an increase in revenue of \$65,953.00 and the rollback rate of 9.996 had been calculated just below the current millage rate of 9.998. He stated that any rate above the 9.996 would be required to be advertised as a tax increase.

Chairman Turner asked the Board for their thoughts regarding the information presented.

Commissioner Goodger stated that he was concerned about the amount of Fund Balance (\$1,065,728.00) which was used to balance the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, bringing the County's Fund Balance to approximately 2.3 months. He stated for these reasons he would support an increase to the county's millage rate of .5 to 1 mills in order to assure the county had adequate resources.

Commissioner Holcomb stated he was disappointed in the digest presented, he had hoped it would be higher.

Commissioner Nix stated that he believed the digest presented was very conservative.

Chairman Turner stated that he agreed with Commissioner Goodger and would prefer a higher fund balance.

July 18, 2017 – Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Mr. Melton indicated that an increase over 1 mill would be needed in order to restore the fund balance used in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

Commissioner Bryant stated that he is in favor of holding the millage rate at 9.998 in hopes of additional funds being available following the audit results in December 2017.

Chairman Turner stated that employee hiring and retention is a growing concern and without a millage increase, this area cannot be addressed. He commented that the setting of the budget and millage rate is a year to year decision; therefore if the digest increased next year the millage rate could be adjusted accordingly.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger there was a motion to move forward with plans to advertise a 1 mill increase. The motion died for lack of a second.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Chairman Turner there was a motion to move forward with plans to advertise a 2017 millage rate of 10.5. Commissioner Holcomb, Commissioner Nix, and Commissioner Bryant voted in opposition to the motion. Motion failed by a 2-3 vote.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a vote to move forward with plans to advertise a 2017 millage rate of 9.998 (.002 over the rollback rate of 9.996). Commissioner Holcomb voted in favor of the motion and Chairman Turner and Commissioner Goodger voted in opposition to the motion. Motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

Mr. Melton presented a Limited Warranty Deed whereby Windstream Standard LLC granted the real property known as the Long Mountain Tower Site (.561 acres) to White County.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to accept the conveyance of the .561 acres known as the Long Mountain Tower Site.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to empower Mr. Melton to work with WRWH Radio on a contractual agreement for the placement of a transmitter on a White County Tower Site. Chairman Turner emphasized that WRWH does provide public service announcements to the County and that the contract would be brought back before the Board for approval.

Following discussion, there was a consensus of the Board that the required public hearings for the proposed tax increase (maintaining the 9.998 millage rate, .002 over the rollback rate of 9.996) would be held Thursday, August 3 at 8:00 am, August 3, 2017 at 6:00 pm, August 14, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. – with a Called Meeting to be held for the millage rate adoption (and other county business) at 4:45 pm on August 17, 2017. It was also noted that the Board would hold a combined Work Session and Called Meeting on July 31, 2017 at 4:30 pm and would not have a Regular Meeting on August 7, 2017.

July 18, 2017 – Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the July 18, 2017 Called Meeting are approved as stated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2017.

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

s/Travis C. Turner  
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger  
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb  
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix  
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant  
Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy  
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk