

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Public Hearing**  
**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Chairman Glass called the Public Hearing to order at: 6:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chair Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

County Administrator Townsend presented the PT-32 that the Tax Assessor provides the board. The net digest went from \$487,166,687 to \$532,430,339 County Administrator Townsend said that it was advertised to rollback the millage rate to 12.464. The budget decreased by 1.23 percent from last year. The rollback for a \$100,000.00 home will reduce the tax bill by \$26.33. County Administrator Townsend listed the driving factors for some of the increases as follows:

- The Board received a 17.5 percent increase in Healthcare costs in April,2021.
- Maintenance for the replacement of HVAC units at the Courthouse.
- Salary increases of 2.5 percent so that the departments can compete with surrounding counties,
- Increase in the Towaliga Circuit Court Budget.
- Increase in the County Liability Insurance due to the purchase of new equipment and vehicles.
- Budget Intergovernmental Expenditures and Revenue Component Unites.
- Mowing and Trash Pickup Contract.

County Administrator Townsend reported that the Budget is still at \$11,394,000.

**Public Comments.**

Les Hubbard of 113 Hunters Glen, Griffin, Georgia addressed the board. Mr. Hubbard said that there has been a lot of growth where he lives. He said that when he received his property tax bill he was floored because his property tax assessment had increased by 110 percent. Mr. Hubbard stated that he bought his house less than six years ago. He said that he and his wife are on a fixed income and this represents around a \$100.00 in his mortgage payment. Mr. Hubbard said that he is hoping that the Board of Commissioners will consider lowering the millage rate than what has been proposed. Mr. Hubbard said that he is appealing his assessment. He said that this is an extreme hardship on all of the people that have moved here and there is going to be even more growth coming. He said that he lives across the road from Fox Crossing subdivision and it is exploding in growth.

Greg Martin of 626 Piedmont Road addressed the board. Mr. Martin thanked the Board of Commissioners. He said he realized that they have a thankless job but in spite of that over the last 4 to 5 years there have been increases that amounted to tax levy of \$1,468,137.00 and every year there has been a 6 plus percent increase. He said that it looks palatable until you add them all up and over a period of time, they have experienced a 28 percent increase in the tax levy. Mr. Martin said that he hopes in lieu of himself and the previous speaker will reconsider their thoughts and back the millage rate to a zero increase.

**Board Discussion**

Chairman Glass explained that they are proposing to roll back the millage rate from 13.157 to 12.464. He said that it cannot be higher than this and they have to wait a week before the millage rate can be approved. Chairman Glass said that they could set the millage rate lower than depending on the budget. He said that a lot of work has been put into determining the millage rate and they try to trim the budget where they can. Chairman Glass said that there are a lot of things that they have no control over regarding the increases that County Administrator Townsend listed. He said that there will be some decreases that could possibly offset the increases. Chairman Glass said that they try to be diligent with it all and next week they will set the millage rate and finalize it at this point.

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m. and Vice-Chair Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_

Charles Glass, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk