

**PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 AT 6:30 PM
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held a Public Hearing on September 9, 2013 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1
Chairman, James Selph, Dist#2
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3
Commissioner, Elton Langford, Dist#4
Commissioner, Bob Miller, Dist#5
County Administrator, C. Guy Maxcy
County Attorney, Don Conn
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger
County Engineer, Mike Giardullo
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson
Administrative Services Director, Linda Nipper
Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez

Mandy Hines, County Coordinator
Utilities Director, Eddie Miller
Interim Fire Chief, Larry Taylor
Purchasing Director, Cindy Talamantez
HR Director, Don Kesterson
Parks Director, Tara Anderson
Turner Center Director, Jody Sullivan
EM Director, Doug Christ
Planning Manager, Thomas Cookingham
Road & Bridge Director, Shawn Edwards
Building Official, Lester Hornbake

CALL TO ORDER 6:30 PM

PRAYER – Commissioner Elton Langford

PLEDGE

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sheriff Will Wise

SET/AMEND

A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to set the agenda with the addition of 4A allowing for public discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Langford. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Millage Rate

Guy Maxcy spoke regarding issues in several departments. If the Board passes an increase in the millage rate, Mr. Maxcy believes it would be in the best interest of everyone for the Board to consider a setting aside 2/10 of a mil for economic re-development and 1/10 of a mil for capital infrastructure. Mr. Maxcy stated the tentative millage rate proposed is 8.4810.

Linda Nipper stated revenues decrease annually and please consider the 8.4810 millage rate. She spoke regarding Enterprise Funds. Ms. Nipper stated that due to the rapid growth of Utilities, it is difficult to present a current budget for that department.

Further discussion was had.

Larry Hudson presented a Resolution on behalf of the Economic Development Advisory Committee. The resolution would be the foundation for effecting change in the County in the future. The resolution also recommends the establishment of a Re-Development Trust Fund. Mr. Hudson confirmed that the EDAC is requesting \$150,000.00. Mandy Hines stated this amount could be acquired from the

reserves with the proposed millage. Further discussion was had. Commissioner Mansfield questioned if there was anything the Board could do to provide more flexibility. Ms. Hines stated that if the Board supports the request, the EDAC would work with the Board in developing an Ordinance that would establish a program and the flexibility in which this would work.

Further discussion was had regarding the proposed millage increase of 8.4810. The millage cannot exceed 8.75 which were on the TRIM Notices.

Commissioner Miller requested a workshop to further discuss insurance issues and possibly decrease expenses further.

Commissioner Langford stated he understands that something needs to change and is comfortable with millage increase of 8.4810 and staff needs to understand that the reserve is for emergencies only.

Discussion was had regarding funding for Animal Control and Code Enforcement.

2. Discussion

Ed Johnson stated his concern over proper advertisement of the meeting. Don Conn stated that the meeting was properly noticed and confirmed by Cindy Talamantez. Mr. Johnson stated he is concerned about what appears to be the largest proposed millage increase in the history of DeSoto County. He feels the economy cannot withstand such a large tax increase. Mr. Johnson commented regarding numerous other concerns.

3. Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate

A motion was made by Commissioner Quave to adopt the millage rate of 8.4810 to include Capital Improvement and Economic Development Trust Fund and keeping the Reserve at \$2,230,805.

Seconded by Commissioner Langford. Commissioner Miller stated he would not approve the motion until he has further opportunity to discuss his concerns with the insurance. Further discussion was had. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Miller dissenting.

4. Adoption of 2013/14 Tentative Budget

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford to adopt the Tentative 2013/14 Budget. Seconded by Commissioner Mansfield. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Miller dissenting.

Linda Nipper announced that the rollback rate will be 7.1653. The percentage of rollback would be 20.70%

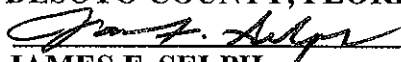
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Selph adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:46 PM.

ATTEST:



C. GUY MAXCY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA


JAMES F. SELPH
CHAIRMAN