

**PUBLIC PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

6:30 PM

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

SET/AMEND

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Millage Rate

- a. The percentage increase in millage over the rolled-back rate needed to fund the budget.
- b. The reasons ad valorem tax revenues may be increased.

2. Adoption of tentative millage

3. Budget Review

4. Questions /Discussion

5. Adoption of 2012/13 Tentative Budget

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: For quasi-judicial matters, any party desiring a verbatim record of the proceeding of this hearing for the purpose of an appeal is advised to make private arrangements for the production of a record. If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.

1. Adoption of millage rate

- a. The percentage increase in millage over the rolled-back rate needed to fund the budget.**

Proposed millage represents a 1.71 percent change from the calculated rolled back rate.

Proposed millage for 12/13 is 7.5000 which results in ad valorem revenue of \$10,178,366

Current millage is 6.8987 and if sustained would result in \$9,362,332 in ad valorem revenue.

The proposed millage rate of 7.5000, if approved, would equate to an additional \$816,034 in ad valorem revenue and will increase our Reserves from \$1,590,205 to \$2,406,239.

- b. The reasons ad valorem tax revenues may be increased.**

Due to declining property values, the current projection of ad valorem taxes based on 6.8987 mils represents a \$1,125,693 decrease from fiscal year 11/12, a \$1,173,564 decrease from fiscal year 10/11, a \$1,735,201 decrease from fiscal year 09/10 and a \$2,396,427 decrease from fiscal year 08/09. The advertised increase to our millage will partially alleviate the decline and further stabilize our budget for the uncertain forecast of next year's values. As many cut-backs have occurred during the previous year's decline reflecting largely in personnel, equipment and supplies, staff has become innovative in supplying services with less. This, however, can only go on so long before essential services are compromised. The proposed millage increase will provide the necessary funding for the County to perform all essential functions at a level that is acceptable to the citizens as well as the Board and will provide for replacement or repair of essential equipment as well as sustaining acceptable personnel levels.

2. Adoption of tentative millage

Each taxing authority levying millage is as follows:

Name of Taxing Authority Desoto County Board of County Commissioners

Rolled Back Rate: 7.3422

Millage Rate to be levied: 7.5000

Name of Taxing Authority Desoto County EMS-Municipal Services Taxing Unit

Rolled Back Rate: .4801 EMS-M.S.T.U.

Millage Rate to be levied: .4514

Overall percent of increase over rolled- back rate: 1.71%