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
DESOOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
JAMES F. SELPH
CHAIRMAN