



**Spalding** County  
online

Board of Commissioners

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing was held by the Spalding County Board of Commissioners in their office in the Courthouse Annex, Wednesday, September 18, 2002 beginning at 11:30 o'clock a.m. with Commissioners Michael Kendall, Martha McDaniel and Merrill Massengale present. Chairman Johnnie McDaniel and Vice-Chairman Dick Morrow were absent. Also present were County Manager William Wilson, Assistant County Manager Michael Sabine, Finance Director Jinna Garrison and County Clerk Phyllis Doane.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Kendall in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment on a increase in property taxes by 41.75% in the General Fund and 18.94% in the Fire District Fund over the rollback millage rate.

Commissioner Massengale stated that a lot of people are confused about the numbers as they think it is 40% of their total tax increase and asked that an explanation be given.

County Manager Wilson explained to the audience the tax increase and gave a comparison on a unincorporated resident with a \$100,000 home evaluated in 2001. With reappraisal of 20%, home would be \$120,000 for this tax year and tax increase would be \$237.14 which is a 22% increase. This includes county, school, fire district and state. The school millage rate is 18.55 mills, which is 63% of the tax monies.

Commissioner Kendall explained the "rollback millage rate". He said if we had kept spending the same as last year and with the property assessment going up, the millage rate would have gone down; however, we had to increase our budget and even with the increase in property assessment we still had to raise our millage rate from 9.88 mills to 11.91 mills, which is an increase of 41.75% over the rollback millage rate.

The following individuals made public comment:

1. Mr. Curtis Howell gave his address as 167 Kathy Lane and he was concerned with what his property would be worth with the next re-evaluation as he had just completed a 700 SF addition to his house. He said his taxes were already \$1,000 and he didn't know how he could pay another tax assessment increase of 20%.

2. Mr. Sidney Peach gave his address as 390 South Lakeview Street and stated that the County needs to educate the public better. He said that he picked up one of the brochures on the back table that shows the percentage of the M&O operation and this information should have been published in the paper for people that cannot attend the meetings. He was against the tax increase.

Commissioner Martha McDaniel stated what we were required by state law to advertise is not the information that the citizens of Spalding County need and she asked that the breakdown of the property taxes to be in the paper as well as the graph. *The Griffin Daily News* is to do an article in the paper.

Mr. Lynn Crowley gave his address as 1238 S. McDonough Road and commented that the paper shows the County's budget to be increase \$4 Million which represents 42%. He said that he owns some vacant land and it looks like his taxes are going up some 65% and he is going to be forced to sell this land. He was advised to check into having the property put under conservation to get a tax break.

Mr. Eddie Goss, commissioner-elect asked can anything be done to keep the tax increase from happening. Commissioner Kendall said that he doesn't think that there is going to be some drastic change in the budget that we have already adopted for this fiscal year.

*Commissioner Kendall called the meeting adjourned.*

---

County Clerk

---

Commissioner Kendall

.....  
.....

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing was held by the Spalding County Board of Commissioners in their office in the Courthouse Annex, Wednesday, September 18, 2002 beginning at 6:00 o'clock p.m. with Commissioners Michael Kendall, Martha McDaniel and Merrill Massengale present. Chairman Johnie McDaniel and Vice-Chairman Dick Morrow were absent. Also present were County Manager William Wilson, and County Clerk Phyllis Doane.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Kendall in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment on a increase in property taxes by 41.75% in the General Fund and 18.94% in the Fire District Fund over the rollback millage rate.

County Manager Wilson started off the meeting with the explanation of the rollback millage rate percentage. He said that the ad in the paper is what we are required to advertise. A rollback millage rate is a millage rate that will produce the same amount of tax money on the reassessed digest that it did on the previous year's digest. Because this year's general fund budget requirement is significantly more than last year's, we came to the 11.91 mills. General Fund funds most of the County's operations and maintenance. He explained the comparison of the \$100,000 home to the citizens present, which shows a 22% increase from last year. He explained that the chart presented on the wall depicts the tax levy and the major areas that the tax levy is comprised of.

The following individuals made comments:

1. Mr. Ed Brown gave his address as 132 King Richard Drive in Nottingham Estates. He stated he moved back here in June of last year and bought this house six months ago. He said his taxes last year were \$1700 and had no idea what they would be this year. He was against the tax increase.

2. Ms. Jolette Woodall gave her address as 4490 West McIntosh Road and stated she was a 77 year old widower. She said her house is valued a lot more than she paid for it and with the new evaluation and the new millage, she just doesn't see how she can pay her taxes. She said that there were a lot of senior citizens who were not going to be able to pay their taxes.

3. Mrs. Paul Mitchell gave her address as 507 Brook Circle and stated she came to get an explanation about the percentage over rollback millage rate. She was late coming in and did not hear the explanation at the beginning.

4. Mr. John Mabry gave his address as 1351 East McIntosh Road and addressed the Board on reducing budget costs. He wanted to know how come a person arrested for the first time, waiting on trial, couldn't be on house arrest and also why we couldn't get businesses to locate in Spalding County.

Sheriff Stewart was present and addressed the concerns over the jail budget. He said out of the 500+ in jail today, 240 to 250 of these were out on probation and violated their probation and are back in jail because of the judge. There can be no bond on probation or parole violation and there are also inmates, who have been convicted, waiting to be picked up and taken to a state facility.

Mr. Mabry wanted to know how come the county has to fund park facilities and other facilities that the county did not need. He feels that the parks and other services need to be funded by people that want and enjoy using the parks and other facilities.

5. Mr. John Purser gave his address as 2788 92 Highway stated he agreed with some of the comments Mr. Mabry made but does not agree with the parks. He said he believes that we do need parks and people voted it in. He said a lot of people think that this tax increase has a lot to do with people voting the pool out.

*There being no further comments, Commissioner Kendall adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.*

---

County Clerk

---

Commissioner Kendall

Please send comments to [webmaster@spaldingcounty.com](mailto:webmaster@spaldingcounty.com)  
Copyright © 2000 Spalding County all rights reserved