

Minutes
 Commissioners Office Conference Room
 116 West Jefferson Street
 July 22, 2019

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a Special Called meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

<p>Wiley Grady, Chairman, Dist. 6 Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (Absent) Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5</p>	<p>Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Chair, Dist. 7 Moses Gross, Dist. 2 Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4 Absent Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8 Absent</p>
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Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, Finance Manager Laura Nichols, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Chief Assessor Daniel Stokes and County Clerk Twink Monahan. There was no news media present.

Chairman Grady opened the meeting and gave the invocation.

Chairman Grady turned the meeting over to the County Manager. Mr. Stephenson stated that the State of Georgia revised the format of the tax digest and thanked Ms. Hester and Mr. Stokes for working with us understanding the changes. He explained if the board adopts the rollback millage rate the County does not have to have the public hearings. The rollback is the insurance premium tax that is applied to the millage rates.

The 5-year history will be published in the new format. The new State of Georgia format does not show the Forestry Land Protection Act (FLPA). The state has removed it from the tax computation sheet. Though the dollar amount was not in the formula for determining the millage rates it has been listed ever since the act took effect in 2008 giving a tax exemption to timberland over 200 acres. The state, through a grant paid with state sales tax, has been sending counties to offset the loss in revenue with the FLPA exemption. The state sales tax grant is now reducing each year 20% until it is gone. The loss of FLPA will not affect the General Fund because it has all been put in the Capitol Improvement Fund. It will affect the Emergency Services Fund. The Thomas County Schools will lose more than Thomas County. There is a reserve in the Emergency Services Fund and will be watched closely as the revenues reduce.

One thing we can do is encourage our legislators to pass the tax on Internet sales. If passed that would help with the loss of revenue from the FLPA reduction.

Mr. Stephenson presented the board with the 2018 and 2019 millage comparison and recommendation. The biggest difference is in the unincorporated tax district. It will have about \$250,000 less revenue in the property tax.

2018 Millage Rates – Actual

	Digest by District	Millage Rate	Net Taxes
Incorporated	709,299,376	9.005	6,387,240
	<i>Less insurance premium rollback</i>	<i>1.474</i>	
Unincorporated	787,802,235	7.531	5,932,938

Emer. Services	1,497,101,611	1.735	2,597,471
Fire District 1	170,388,155	3.063	521,898
Fire District 2	188,530,218	3.070	578,787
Fire District 3	443,245,829	2.340	<u>1,037,195</u>
			17,055,529

2019 Millage Rates – Rollback

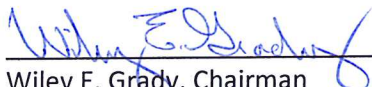
	Digest by District	Millage Rate	Net Taxes
Incorporated	714,253,418	8.913	6,366,140
Unincorporated	797,412,081	7.476	5,961,452
Emer. Services	1,511,665,499	1.720	2,600,064
Fire District 1	172,196,369	3.038	523,132
Fire District 2	191,979,155	3.037	583,040
Fire District 3	448,115,018	2.329	<u>1,043,660</u>
			17,077,488

2019 Millage Rates – Recommended

	Digest by District	Millage Rate	Net Taxes
Incorporated	714,253,418	8.913	6,366,140
	<i>Less insurance premium rollback</i>	<i>1.782</i>	
Unincorporated	797,412,081	7.131	5,686,345
Emer. Services	1,511,665,499	1.720	2,600,064
Fire District 1	172,196,369	3.038	523,132
Fire District 2	191,979,155	3.037	583,040
Fire District 3	448,115,018	2.329	<u>1,043,660</u>
			16,802,381

Chief Assessor Stokes explained the 2 types of covenant.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Baggett voting aye.



 Wiley E. Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



 M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk