

**Minutes of the  
Board of County Commissioners  
Bradford County, Florida  
Public Hearing on  
Adoption of Tentative Millage and Budget  
For  
Fiscal Year 2007-2008  
September 5, 2007  
5:30 p.m.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 5, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Present were: Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Lewis, Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Chandler.

Also present were: Jim Crawford, County Manager; June Neats, Administrative Assistant; Alex Hinely, County Planner; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Brad Carter, Jail Administrator; Mark Crawford, Press; and Nelson Green, Emergency Services Director.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lewis called the public hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

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**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE**

Chairman Lewis gave the breakdown of the tentative millage rate of 9.1769 mills as follows:

GENERAL FUND	6.9065 mills
FINES & FORFEITURE FUND	2.0000 mills
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUND	0.1647 mills
HEALTH DEPARTMENT TAXES	<u>0.1057 mills</u>
TOTAL	<u>9.1769 mills</u>

This is expected to generate approximately \$8,239,466.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Lewis asked for public comment on the tentative millage rate.

(09-05-07 Public Hearing on Tentative Millage/Budget)

--Mr. Mik Machnik of 922 S.E. 66<sup>th</sup> Street: County governments are raising taxes to cover shortfalls expected from state cutbacks. Taxpayers need a break. He asked the Commission not to raise taxes until they are sure the proposed legislation is approved. Property values are decreasing back to realistic prices, not inflated. Mr. Machnik encouraged the Board to live with its budget.

--Mr. Harry Cross of 8046 S.W. 155<sup>th</sup> Terrace: Asked why his taxes went up \$300.00 in one year.

Commissioner Cooper explained that there could be two reasons for the increase: 1) The property is not homestead property and 2) The valuation of the property has increased. The TRIM notice mailed to property owners was based on 9.3756 mills. If the value of the property stayed the same, there should be a decrease in the taxes with the 9.1769 millage rate.

--Mr. Ray Marrero of 7587 SE SR 100: Expressed his great displeasure with his \$4,300.00 tax bill.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Lewis advised that Mr. Marrero could file a petition with the Value Adjustment Board. Deputy Clerk Stafford advised that the deadline to file a petition is Friday, September 7, 2007.

Mr. Machnik said that this meeting should have been held later in the evening to give the taxpayers time to attend.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON MILLAGE RATE**

--Commissioner Chandler said that he concurs that taxes are too high. However, this Board does not set the rules on how taxes are generated or how property values are assessed. It is the Commission's responsibility to provide services and run the County efficiently within the budget.

--Commissioner Cooper said the Board is rolling the millage back. Taxpayers will pay less this year than last year, assuming the assessment value remains the same.

Incited by comments made by Mr. Marrero, there was some discussion about the need for change in taxation laws and the market value of real property.

#### **ADOPTION OF MILLAGE RATE**

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously adopted a millage rate of 9.1769 mills for fiscal year 2007-2008.*

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#### **ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL-YEAR 2007-2008:**

Chairman Lewis announced the total operating tentative budget, including interfund transfers and bond reserves of \$29,454,405.00.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Lewis asked for public comments concerning the tentative budget. There was no response.

(09-05-07 Public Hearing on Tentative Millage/Budget)

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Chairman Lewis asked for Commissioners comments on the tentative budget. There was no response.

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget of \$29,454,405.00*

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Chairman Lewis announced the date set for the final public hearing to adopt the final millage rate and budget is scheduled for Monday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**EDDIE J. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**RAY NORMAN, CLERK OF COURTS**

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk