



*Action Agenda*  
*Special Called Millage Hearing*

Board of Commissioners  
August 18, 2011  
7:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in a Special Called Millage Hearing on Thursday, August 18, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

**Commissioners Present:**

Herb Frady, Chairman  
Robert Horgan, Vice Chairman  
Steve Brown  
Lee Hearn  
Allen McCarty

**Staff Present:**

Jack Krakeel, County Administrator  
Scott Bennett, County Attorney  
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant  
Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

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Chairman Frady called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Public Hearing on proposed 2011 Millage Rates for the newly created E-911 Special Tax District and the County Fire District.

**Chief Finance Officer Mary Holland presented this item to the Board for discussion. Chairman Frady announced that this was a Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of this item. Hearing none, he asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition.**

**Tim Powers:** Tim Powers expressed opposition to any kind of tax increase in Fayette County. He said it was imperative upon this Board as leaders to lead this County. He said at this juncture it was the Board's responsibility as elected officials to come forth and find ways to cut and save money and make Fayette County a substantially stable government. He said there was no reason for this Board to come to the citizens with a tax increase.

**Victor Remeneski:** Victor Remeneski said he was adamantly opposed to any tax increase for any reason from any source in this County, in the State and in the Federal Government. He felt the government was not cutting pay, not cutting back on expenses but asking the taxpayers for money. He commented on the employees at Delta Airlines a few years ago who took a huge pay cut as a result of the financial state of Delta. He said a lot of people were also laid off and took early retirements. He said it was only until last October that these employees were back to the salary level that

they had in 2002. He pointed out that these employees were working for approximately eight years with a substantial pay cut. He felt the government workers should also share in the pain of this economy.

**Gordon Furr:** Gordon Furr felt this Board was responsible for wasteful spending. He commented on the money that had been spent on the West Fayetteville Bypass as well as the fire station located in Tyrone at the corner of Ellison Road and Sandy Creek Road that is owned by the County. He noted that all of the County's fire stations are on septic tanks except for one station. He remarked that the property value for the station on Ellison Road was \$40,000 and he understood that the County had also paid \$400,000 to build a station on Jenkins Road. He said he had driven from the Jenkins Road property over to the Ellison Road property and from SR 74 to Ellison Road it was .8 mile. He said over to Ellison Road to the corner was only .2 mile. He questioned why the County would pay \$400,000 for the property on Jenkins Road where it was hard to get in and out daily. He said he did not understand this decision. He urged the Board to reign in the wasteful spending especially for the West Fayetteville Bypass.

**Randy Ognio:** Randy Ognio said he agreed with the comments here tonight regarding the state of the economy. He said these are Fayette County citizens trying to hold onto their homes. He remarked that any tax increase might push some of these citizens over the edge. He said this Board makes it seem like \$82 was not a lot of money, but it might be for somebody who was having financial problems. He said if these citizens were pushed over the edge, then their homes would go into foreclosure and property values go down. He said this Board had the ability to let the citizens vote to use SPLOST funds to prevent this increase but he felt this Board did not really care about the citizens. He said all this Board cared about was getting enough money to spend it however it liked.

**Chairman Frady asked if there were any other public comments. Hearing none, he asked if there were any remarks by the Board.**

Commissioner Steve Brown cited a newspaper article out of the Atlanta Journal and Constitution on August 18, 2011 in the Business Section under the Economy heading. He said the headline read "Georgia's Distress Level Hits 5<sup>th</sup> in U.S. Situation Deepens the State's Housing Crisis, Jobless Problems Linger." He remarked that Georgia was the 5<sup>th</sup> worst in the United States of America. He said when a State was in a situation where the expenditures outweigh revenues, something had to start being done. He said he had tried to use some Legislative tools that were given to the County that could ease that pain but lost on 3-2 votes. He said this was not the time to be pumping up some things and if the economy did not get better, then the outlook for 2012 was not good. He said the County would hit a wall sooner or later. He noted that maintenance and vehicle and equipment purchases could be held off for so long. He said reserve funds could only be spent for so long and when those funds run out, something would have to be done.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Hearn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Commissioner Horgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

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Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk