

Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, August 30, 2017 12:00 p.m.

The Elbert County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on a tentatively adopted millage rate that will require an increase in property taxes by 4.25% in the unincorporated portion of the county and a 4.36% increase in the incorporated portion of the county. This is the first of three public hearings that are required by law.

Chairman Lyon stated that the public hearing is to hear from concerned citizens regarding a millage rate increase for economic development. The reason being that Economic Development millage funds go into the Elbert County general fund and is designated for that purpose. The hospital millage rate portion goes directly to the hospital therefore, by law, it is not necessary to have a public hearing on that millage rate increase.

He stressed the portion of the millage rate increase for economic development is not necessarily for construction of a spec building; but to build up funds to allow for incentives for companies that may want to locate here, infrastructure, roads and possibly land purchases.

There were no public comments.

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This is the second of three public hearings to be held for a tentatively adopted millage rate increase for economic development.

Chairman Lyon again stated to those in attendance as he did at the earlier meeting; the money for economic development is not necessarily for a spec building but for engineering studies, site plans, purchase of property and other marketing strategies to help grow jobs. The tax digest has continuously fallen since 2010. He asked for any comments from the audience regarding economic development.

Mr. Sanford Cole commented on the lack of industry here and asked how other counties are continuing to grow but we are not.

There were no other public comments.