

**Minutes of Public Hearing  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
July 24, 2023**

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Commissioner Freddie Jones.

**Discussion of FY2024 Budget.**

County Administrator Allen Hulme again presented the FY2024 budget with a few minor changes that he pointed out. There was a new change in the property digest. The new total is \$8,331,506. There is no change in the overall budget.

Mr. Hulme also pointed out again that in FY2021, the budget was \$12.3 million, in FY2022 the budget was \$13.6 million, which is an increase of approximately \$1.3 million; during that time of the increase; the millage dropped. In FY2023, the budget was \$15,124,995; which is increase from the 2022 budget; again, the millage rate dropped. The FY2024 budget that we are looking to get approved has an increase of \$631,895.

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioner David Hunt, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Mike Scoggins, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Allen Hulme, CFO Macie Witcher, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler and media.

**Adoption of the agenda.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the FY2024 Budget.** Commissioner Freeman stated he has received a lot of calls from concerned citizens about the taxes and the budget. It is his recommendation that this be tabled until further discussion and possibly further cuts. Commissioner Jones made the motion to go ahead and approve the budget as is. Commissioner Scoggins made the comment that there is no further cuts to be made unless we starting furloughs or losing services and he doesn't want to see that happen. Commissioner Hunt stated he would feel better if he had a few more days to go over it. Chairman Vaughn stated the motion is to table until the August 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Commissioner Freeman had made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion carried 3-2, with Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Scoggins opposing.

**Public Comments.** There were no further comments.

**Adjournment.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Alexander. The motion passed unanimously.