

**Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
October 4, 2023**

A public hearing was held again due to the Department of Revenue rejecting our millage rate proposal the first time around. According to them, we did not properly advertise as outlined in Georgia code. We have re-advertised and made the corrections per the Department of Revenue guidelines. The recommendation for the 2023-2024 millage rate is 9.978 mills for the unincorporated portion of the county and 10.602 mills for the incorporated portion.

Max Black asked to please put out information about exemptions for property owners, either by making it available on the website or to enclose information in the tax bills and assessment notices.

**Minutes of Called Meeting
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
October 4, 2023**

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.

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Mr. Daughtry.

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

Discussion and approval of the Elbert County School District's millage rate of 14.0 mills for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Elbert County School District's millage rate. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the Elbert County Board of Commissioner's proposed millage rate of 9.978 mills for the unincorporated portion of the county and 10.602 mills for the incorporated portion of the county for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the millage rate as proposed. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Freeman voting against.

Discussion and approval of forming a committee to draft a proposal for additional senior citizens exemptions on property taxes. Chairman Vaughn stated several people have brought up the property tax situation as it is and are concerned about the senior citizens and to see if we could possibly offer more exemptions or increase exemptions. He stated that possibly a committee could be formed with representatives from the BOE, the Tax Commissioner, Tax Assessor and the Board of Commissioners and members from the Republican and Democratic parties.

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Commissioner Freeman made the motion to approve forming the committee. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments. Rina Thomas asked about the time-frame as to when the committee would be formed and how soon they would meet. Max Black offered more information as to who should form the committee and presented more information and input on the exemptions for property owners.

Adjournment. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.