

SPECIAL SESSION COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PUBLIC HEARING

September 12, 2011 8:30 a.m.

Members of the Court Present:

Charles Watson	County Judge
Keith Clark	Commissioner Pct. #1
Jimmy McDaniel	Commissioner Pct. #2
Doyle Dickerson	Commissioner Pct. #3
Fayne Warner	Commissioner Pct. #4
Janice McDaniel	County Clerk

Judge Watson called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1-Proposed 2012 Budget

Linda Campbell questioned about the 5 percent raise for County officials and employees when the federal government deemed it not necessary to raise taxes. Everyone is going to get the raise whether they deserve it or not. She stated that her taxes have gone up over 11 percent. Ms. Campbell said she is very active in the County and volunteered 42 hours last week and she receives no money or gas. She said for elected officials, if you are elected to the position, she expects 40 hours of work in her precinct. Not at your leisure. She told Commissioner Warner that she has lived in his precinct for 14 years and 2 weeks ago, she had to be introduced to him.

County Judge Watson said they elected to give a 5 percent raise because no one has received a pay increase in a while. Last year a small cost of living was given in a one-time payment which equaled to about 5 or 6 gallons of gas to come back and forth to work on.

Commissioner McDaniel said that he goes to his precinct barn and works in his precinct. He said he comes to the Courthouse sometime but not daily.

County Treasurer, Tricia Jacks, said she is an elected official and she has no guilt and feels she does deserve the 5 percent. She said she comes to work almost every day, sometimes on the weekend also. Tricia said she thinks the elected officials have come up with a good budget. Our property taxes did not increase. The only way your County taxes went up is if your property value went up. We were able to balance the budget this year without using any of our carry-over money. This says a lot for the elected officials in the Courthouse that has pinched their office budget so that we can balance without any carryover and to have a rainy day fund.

Les Kercheval asked about the decrease in the County fees budget line and about how much is expected in future years. For the last 3 years it has been over 900 thousand and this year it is only 195 thousand. Will the difference be made up by raising taxes?

Treasurer Jacks said that those are fees collected by fee offices such as the County Clerk, District Clerk, JP's #1 and #2 and sales tax. In years past that line has had carryover funds included. About 700 thousand from the 2011 budget in this line was carryover funds. This year we are able to balance without using carryover funds. We don't know what we will receive in future years, but we hope it will be sufficient to balance the budget without having to use carryover funds.

Judge Watson suggested to Mr. Kercheval that he speak later with the County Auditor or Treasurer. He also said the County lowered our tax rate.

Judge Watson asked if anyone else had any comments. No one wished to speak.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to adjourn the public hearing and return to regular session. Commissioner Dickerson seconded. All voted for. Motion carried.

Charles E. Watson CHARLES WATSON

Keith Clark KEITH CLARK

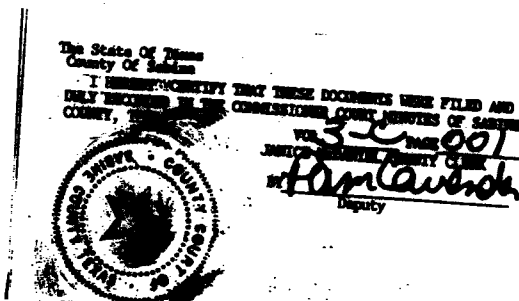
Jimmy McDaniel JIMMY MCDANIEL

Doyle Dickerson DOYLE DICKERSON

Fayne Warner FAYNE WARNER

ATTEST: COUNTY CLERK

Janice McDaniel JANICE MCDANIEL



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