

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CALLED WORK SESSION**

July 12, 2017

5:30 PM

Board Members Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

Others Present: Jeff Culpepper (Water Works), Vickie Jamerson (Tax Commissioner), Wayne Morris (Tax Assessor), Christie Searcy (Accounting Clerk), Clint Chastain (Severn Trent Finance Officer).

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lange called the meeting to order and said the purpose was to discuss the funding sources for the recently approved budget for FY 17/18.

**DISCUSSION ON APPROVED BUDGET FOR FY 17/18.** Discussion included that a minimum of a 1.76 mill increase is needed to fund the approved budget; that there are still unknown costs associated with the Tetra Radio system; that Diverse Power may contribute to the cost; that the Board will hear the evaluation of the Tetra Radio system during the August 1 meeting; that while a 1.76 mill increase will get the County through this fiscal year, another property tax increase would probably be needed for next fiscal year; that a 2.5 mill increase would get the County to where it needs to be, and possibly avoid an increase next year; that there appears to be an upswing in the digest that would help overall and also avoid an increase in taxes next year; that the adopted millage rate can be less than what was advertised, but cannot exceed the advertised rate; that three public hearings to set the 2017 millage rate are required; that the schedule is August 1 at 11 AM and 6:30 PM with the third hearing during the August 15 meeting after which the millage rate will be adopted; and that because the wording in the required advertisement regarding a millage rate increase is confusing, a press release and/or letter to the editor explaining the increase in terms more understandable to the citizens should also appear in the newspaper. Following discussion, consensus was to advertise a 2.5 mill increase.

**MINUTES APPROVAL.** The motion to approve these Work Session minutes was made during Regular Session of July 18, 2017, by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**