

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 1989 --- 1:00 P.M.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TYLER ON THIS THE 13TH DAY OF
OCTOBER, A.D. 1989 The Commissioner's Court in and for Tyler County, Texas
convened in a Special Meeting at the Commissioner's Courtroom in
Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court present, to wit:

JEROME OWENS	COUNTY JUDGE, Presiding
MAXIE L. RILEY	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #1
A.M. BARNES	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #2
JERRY MAHAN	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #3
JAMES R. JORDAN	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #4
DONECE GREGORY	COUNTY CLERK, Ex-Officio

the following were absent: none thereby constituting a quorum. In
addition to the above were:

JOYCE MOORE	COUNTY AUDITOR
BARBARA TOLBERT	TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
JEAN PHILLIPS	COUNTY TREASURER

The invocation was offered by Milton Durham.

The Commissioner's Court convened for the purpose of holding a public
hearing on the proposed tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in
1988 by 5.27%. The tax rate would increase by .04¢ per \$100.00 of
taxable value.

Judge Owens welcomed 30 visitors to the hearing. He briefed the visitors
on the expenses of the County, further explaining the significant
increase in the insurance premiums and Workmen's Compensation.
Judge Owens indicated that several departments had made request for
increases to operate at a level at which they would like to have,
however the Court was not going to be able to meet the request. Other
expense that had to be paid was the expenditure of the road to the
Prison Unit. Furthermore, the Court had to raise taxes in order to
retain efficiency in government and meeting current obligations.
County Auditor, Joyce Moore, reported that the proposed 2¢ increase in
general fund would bring an increase of \$58,000 on a 94% collection
rate. A 2¢ increase in Road and Bridge would generate \$68,837 increase
in revenues. These increases will raise revenues \$123,836 based on the
94% collection projection. After giving this overview, the Judge
recognized members of the Court for additional comments that they might
have.

Commissioner Mahan emphasized the increase in the health insurance
premiums. Commissioner Riley stated that he was ready to hear from the
members of the Public.

Adolfo Chappa, S.E. Duff, and Leslie DuBose opposed the County
paying the full premium of hospitalization insurance for the employees
and their families. They felt the budget should be reduced accordingly
to keep from raising the tax rate.

Don Forse expressed that he was 100% in favor of the prison system in
Tyler County and would be backing the tax bond that the Tyler County
citizens would be voting on. However, he was opposed to the increase in
the tax rate that was being proposed. Mr. Forse questioned
departmental increases; revenues from INS prisoners; and revenues
obtained from the sales tax. Since the prison system proposes to bring
an increase in the tax base, Mr. Forse asked that the Court not to
consider any tax increase to a later date.

Gene Barlow expressed that the Sheriff's department could cut back
in the amount of new cars each year and the amount of deputies (10).

Judge Owens assured the taxpayers that the expenditures from the INS fund was under the control of the Commissioner's Court. He further explained that a portion of the funds were allocated to take care of the additional cost of housing additional prisoners. The money is not dispensed for the sake of improvements. Commissioner Mahan added that the funds were used to make improvements that were unfinished under the original contract of building the jail. Commissioner Riley set forth possibilities of using the INS revenues. One of which was to place the revenues in an interest bearing account instead of using them to pay the indebtedness. This would create funds to be used for building a new courthouse in the future.

Lewis Oliver, Norris Herrington, and Bill Guillory vented complaints of the county roads. They stated they did not mind paying taxes as long as they could get something to show for the tax.

Frank Donaho and John Carraway also spoke toward the increase in the tax rate. Mr. Carraway reminded the court of the Veterans that were on fixed incomes and were not "productive".

Sarah Holmes spoke on the behalf of small businesses. She was concerned that the businesses were being "taxed to death" and most were barely holding on.

James Kimbrell suggested that the County develop a centralized county barn utilizing centralized equipment. He also suggested that the County use more discretion when hiring firms for advisement purposes. He was referring to the Human Services Building being built by a grant. Miles Humphus, on behalf of the VFW and Commissioner Mahan responded to the necessary procedures taken for the construction of this building. Mr. Humphus also questioned the long term effect of a "temporary tax".

Milton Durham recounted that the implementation of a county sales tax would be used to reduce property taxes in 1988 by 7%. The proposed 7% increase along with the promised 7% reduction would be a total increase of 14%.

Commissioner Mahan retorted several options of additional revenues or cuts in services (i.e. Mini-Bus services, insurance of employees, \$5.00 road fee on car registrations) to which members of the Court was reluctant to adopt at this time.

Bob Sanford representing Temple Industries, questioned the Court as to the delinquent tax collections. Barbara Tolbert responded that the County had less than \$100,000 for a 20 year period. Reports were made that the County was collecting \$24,000 to \$50,000 in previous months.

Bill Cook displayed concern as to the County Sales & Use tax promise of relief and the idea of a centralized road and bridge facility.

Judge Owens entertained a motion for adjournment and encouraged those in attendance to visit with their respective Commissioner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mahan and seconded by Commissioner Riley that the meeting adjourn. All voted yes and none no.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED...2:45 P.M.

SIGNED: Jerome Owens Jerome Owens, County Judge

Maxie L. Riley Maxie L. Riley, Comm. Pct. #1

A.M. Barnes A.M. Barnes, Comm. Pct. #2

Jerry Mahan Jerry Mahan, Comm. Pct. #3

James R. Jordan James R. Jordan, Comm. Pct. #4

ATTEST: Donece Gregory Donece Gregory, County Clerk

