

CAMPBELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT MINUTES

AUGUST 29, 2019

A special meeting of the Campbell County Fiscal Court was held on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 5:30p.m. at the Campbell County Administration Building, Fiscal Court Chambers, 1098 Monmouth Street, Newport, Kentucky.

Preceding the Fiscal Court meeting, a public hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed ad valorem tax rates for 2019. Present at the hearing were:

Steve Pendery, Judge/Executive
Geoff Besecker, County Commissioner
Tom Lampe, County Commissioner
Brian Painter, County Commissioner
Tom Edge, Assistant County Attorney
Matt Elberfeld, County Administrator
Paula Spicer, Fiscal Court Clerk
Marie Schenkel, Finance Director/Treasurer
Colonel Craig Sorrell, Police Chief

Judge Pendery called the public hearing to order. He explained that due to the date of the State's letter containing the tax rate information and the publishing requirements, the Fiscal Court had a very short window during which to hold a public hearing and set its tax rates. Judge Pendery then called on the only person in the audience to address the Fiscal Court. Jill Fessler, a lifetime resident of Campbell County and current resident of Silver Grove introduced herself. She had read the notice about the tax increase. She realizes that the jail poses uncontrollable, unpredictable costs and she knows that the Fiscal Court does the best it can with the inmates. Ms. Fessler asked if there is a daily rate charged to the inmates for each day that they reside in the jail. She was told that the State pays the County \$31.34 per day per inmate. Tom Edge advised that the County charges inmates about \$50 per day. Mr. Elberfeld added that collection of these charges is difficult. Ms. Fessler suggested that the County increase the daily rate if possible to generate revenue. Judge Pendery stated that the County has to charge the actual cost per day or some statutorily prescribed amount. The County is rarely able to collect anything. Mr. Elberfeld stated that the amount charged is about the same for all three counties. He added that there is a process through the Federal Marshall's office to determine the costs; it is heavily regulated. He stated that the County invoices for the cost but the collection rate is very low. Ms. Fessler then asked if there are any grants for which the County can apply for the jail. Mr. Elberfeld stated that they have applied for some in the past. Grants are usually not available for day-to-day costs of operating the jail. Grant money is available for specific programs such as the garden. Whenever special programs are initiated, they look into alternative funding sources. The jail's budget is mostly for personnel and housing inmates. Ms. Fessler thanked them for answering her questions.

There being no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed at 5:07p.m.

The special meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Judge Pendery.

In attendance at the regular meeting were:

COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE
STEVE PENDERY

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GEOFF BESECKER
TOM LAMPE
BRIAN PAINTER

Tom Edge, Assistant County Attorney
Matt Elberfeld, County Administrator
Paula Spicer, Fiscal Court Clerk
Marie Schenkel, Finance Director/Treasurer
Colonel Craig Sorrell, Police Chief

Judge Pendery asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Following roll call, a quorum was declared present.

Paula Spicer read Resolution R-86-19 by title. R-86-19 establishes the 2019 Ad Valorem Tax rates for Campbell County. Motion was made by Judge Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. Judge Pendery stated that the Fiscal Court proposes to take the compensating rate plus 4 percent. The County has taken the compensating rate or less in seven of the last eight years. He explained that the new pension bill includes a 12 percent increase per year for pension contributions. That is more money than the County can raise by taking 4 percent. In addition the inflation rate is about 2 percent and virtually none of the County's other sources of revenue adjust for inflation. The only thing that they can adjust for inflation is property tax. A 4 percent increase in property taxes gets the County about half way to what they need for the budget. All voted "AYE" and the motion passed.

Judge Pendery advised that the Fiscal Court cannot transact any other business because it was not contained in the meeting notice.

Commissioner Besecker thanked Marie Schenkel and her staff for all their time and energy put in to finding ways to make the budget.

Judge Pendery added that it is not a pleasant task, but a necessary thing. To crunch all of the numbers and explain them in a way that makes clear what we need to do is very important. He appreciates their hard work.

There being no further business to come before the Fiscal Court, Commissioner Besecker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "AYE" and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Attachments:

Resolution R-86-19 Establish the Ad Valorem Tax rate for 2019

Approved:

STEVE PENDERY
Judge/Executive

Attest:

Paula K. Spicer, Fiscal Court Clerk