



**Public Hearing Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Friday, August 25, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Commissioners Present:**

Dan McCranie, Chairman  
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1  
Kelly Belflower, District 2  
Brian Watkins, District 3  
Vice-Chair Karen Cheek, District 4

**Also Present:**

Conner Bearden, County Manager  
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

**Business: Discuss 2023 Millage Rate**

Chairman Dan McCranie called the Public Hearing to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave the invocation.

County Manager Bearden gave a presentation (as attached) regarding the proposed millage rate, which will result in a millage of 12.00, an increase of .79 mills above the roll-back millage rate of 11.211. He presented a graph indicating that county expenditures will likely begin exceeding revenues over the next year due to increasing costs. He stated the county has a reserve fund of only 30 days.

**Public Comments:**

- An attendee asked for an explanation as to what is included in the 8% sales tax. The county manager explained LOST, SPLOST, TSPLOST, and ESPLOST.
- Another attendee stated he remembered when the county had to get a tax anticipation note in January, and he doesn't want to go there again. However, taxpayers are suffering in the current economy, as well. He appealed to the county to be cautious and thoughtful when accessing the millage rate. He also inquired as to upcoming projects for the county.
- One attendee asked how much the one cent sales tax generates in Dodge County. The county manager stated approximately \$200,000, and the funds are split between all the governments.
- An attendee stated property tax payers are paying the majority of taxes, and there should be a way for everyone to pay something. The county manager discussed a potential OSPLOST.
- One attendee asked if the county was earning interest on its reserve funds. The manager stated the county is not allowed to earn interest on its general fund account.
- An attendee stated some homeowners may have to raise rent on rental properties to compensate for increases in property taxes.
- Someone polled the commissioners on their thoughts in regard to an OSPLOST.

Commissioner Watkins discussed a potential public service fee, which could offset property taxes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Belflower and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to adjourn at 12:01 p.m. All voted in favor, and the public hearing adjourned.



Attested:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman