

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
JUNE 1, 2005  
MINUTES

Chairman Bryson convened the meeting at 6 p.m. as noticed. All Board Members, the County Manager, Finance Director, Deputy Clerk members of the news media and several citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

The following individuals registered to speak:

Sue Waldroop stated she did not want to complain, gave a brief history of the town and county tax rates and complimented the Board for being statesmen.

Susie Deville-Schiffli, Highlands School PTO president, expressed appreciation to the Board for serving Macon County and for previous education budget allocations stating she felt that is a reflection of the Board's values and requested continued support of all schools in Macon County.

Ben Brown stated he is a resident who is an out-of-state reporter that takes advantage of qualities offered in Macon County, he gets more value for his tax dollar than deserved, the tax rate is much higher where part-time residents live, although he has no children in school he is glad to support schools, and predicted the county is going to experience great growth which means a strain on services and the county needs to invest energy to face these challenges.

Joan Maki, a teacher at Macon Middle School, congratulated the Board for funding of education, addressed a segment of students not being reached and emphasized need for a program SCC is developing to offer skills and vocational programs for these children and thanked the Board for the supplement stating she saw it as a pat on the back for teachers and a statement of appreciation.

Bobby Koppers expressed appreciation for the Board's support of education, stated the world and technology are changing, related changes in technology to his twenty-five year military experiences, stated the youth of today are the armed services of tomorrow and both depend on technology and offered thanks for support of teachers, staff, etc.

Susan Ervin stated she was not present to complain and felt the tax rate was just fine. She added if the Board felt the need to raise taxes to support education, future planning, etc. then to do so. Ms. Ervin expressed concern that the County Planner needs more help in order to protect our quality of life which requires planning. She stated that the least expensive or most expedient way is not always the best for the future and it may be necessary to spend more for the public good and plan for the future.

Rick Andrews stated he felt the vocal minority is trying to lead the Board astray but the silent majority supports them. He added he supports funding for the sheriff's fight against the meth/drug problem, supports what the Board is doing and doesn't mind paying the way.

Bob Wright congratulated the Board for their work, stated the people in Highlands support the budget and message, expressed appreciation for appropriations to nonprofits and stated we are blessed to live in this area noting that before moving to Macon County he paid three or four times more taxes for less service.

There were no further comments and the hearing was adjourned.

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Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

Daniel A. Bryson  
Board Chairman

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