

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PUBLIC HEARING

09.21.2015

[AGENDA](#)

[AUDIO](#)

[ATTESTATION](#)

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a Public Hearing on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 9:02 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom with the following members present:

Brian P. Lee	County Judge
Al Riddle	Commissioner Precinct 1
Mike Fields	Commissioner Precinct 2
Phillip Hinton	Commissioner Precinct 3
Jimmy Parker	Commissioner Precinct 4
Joan Newman	County Clerk
Carl Johnson	County Auditor
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer – Absent
Judy Cook	Tax Assessor/Collector
Kay McNutt	Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, 3, 4
Paula Dyke	Justice of the Peace Precinct 2
Ray Barrett	Constable Precinct 2
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff

Public Attending Meeting:

John Gatherer	Karen Gatherer	Judy Lee
Sue Evenwell	Nigel Christopher	David Horton
Judy Kent	Troy Sellers	Emily Aikman
Carolyn Norman	Joyce Simpson	

Invocation: Judge Lee

Pledge of Allegiance: Judge Lee

1. PROPOSED 2015 TAX RATE (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judge Lee informed the Commissioners' Court that this year's tax rate is set at .4475/100 dollar valuation which is an increase from last year's rate of .4182. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$93,537. Total debt obligation for Titus County secured by property taxes is \$139,012,000. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 01 – PROPERTY TAX RATE COMPARISON\)](#)

Nigel Christopher and Judy Kent took the podium to voice their concerns about increasing taxes. Commissioner Riddle feels that jobs should be eliminated; auto allowances revised; no raises for elected officials and consolidate equipment in the four precincts. Commissioner Fields responded in that each precinct had already cut their staff from 10-12 employees to 4. He also felt that the Sheriff's department has certified and licensed staff which helps eliminate lawsuits in the county. He agrees with helping fund the city for three (3) new firefighters. Commissioner Parker stated that he doesn't like raising taxes but you have to look at the overall picture. Judge Lee stated that the court has no control over property values. The tax rate must be set to produce the desired level of tax revenue. The county is making adjustments to the health insurance and decreasing the employee match on retirement. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02\)](#)

Sue Evenwell came to the podium wanting to remind the Commissioners' Court that they could not make the decision regarding the Elections Administrator but that this falls under the Elections Board. Leonard Rockwell's resignation letter must be presented to the Board. Judge Lee stated that the Court was aware of this.

2. PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Discussion regarding the proposed 2015-2016 budget began at 9:45 a.m. with Judy Kent and Karen Gatherer coming to the podium. Ms. Kent cannot imagine that the employees would expect a raise. Ms. Gatherer feels that the county should cut out matching retirement contributions. She does not feel that the county would lose employees if raises were not given and doesn't think that they are obligated to keep them going.

Commissioner Riddle commented on the article in the newspaper on the Texas Comptroller's reports showing that Titus County has the lowest per capita income in the Upper East Region.

The next Public Tax Hearing will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2015. The final meeting to vote on the adoption of the tax rate and budget will be at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015.

ADJOURN (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Parker to adjourn. At 9:50 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.