

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 14, 2023
MINUTES

Chairman Higdon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. All board members (with the exception of Commissioner Shearl), County Manager Derek Roland, Deputy Clerk Mike Decker and County Attorney Eric Ridenour were present. Finance Director Lori Carpenter did not attend. Members of the media and a small group of citizens were also present.

Chairman Higdon thanked those in the audience for attending, but noted that the board's plan was to recess this meeting until Tuesday, February 21st. However, he noted that "if you came here to speak, the floor is yours." **Jerry Denney** addressed the board with regard to the new property assessments that landowners are now receiving in the mail, and said he is trusting that county officials will give a "thorough explanation" with regard to what the new tax rate will be and told the board, "Don't leave us hanging." He said he wanted to make sure that citizens are treated fairly, and was hopeful that more details would be provided. Mr. Roland responded that, on average, property values across the county are going up between 54 and 58 percent, and gave a brief history of past property revaluation outcomes. He pointed out that the county must publish what the "revenue neutral" tax rate would be, adding, "That's the equalizer." Chairman Higdon noted that the board members have been anticipating this scenario for some time. **Nancy Scott** told the board members that she hoped they would support the Macon County Public Library and the county's school system. She also pointed out that it is "so important how we use our words" in addressing groups such as the county's LGBTQ community so as not to discriminate. Commissioner Young expressed his thanks to those who attended and added, "Thanks for caring."

With no other business, at 6:15 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Shields, seconded by Commissioner Antoine, the board voted 4-0 to recess until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February, 21, 2023 in the commission boardroom on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse at 5 West Main Street in Franklin, NC, at which time the board will consider a full agenda.



Derek Roland
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Paul Higdon
Board Chair