**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**

**April 16, 2018**

**Work Session Minutes**

**6:00 P.M.**

Comm. Pennamon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman, Carl Pennamon, Bruce Henry, Don Jernigan, and Vice-Chairman, Craig Salmon. Doug Luke was absent.

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager, Clerk, Sharon Robinson, and Sheriff Donnie Pope.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:**

Sheriff, Donnie Pope

Comm. Pennamon noted this is a Work Session on FY 2019 Budget.

Comm. Henry noted he has received phone calls from taxpayers whose property assessments have gone up 21%, so if we are going to do this, we need to look at it as closely as we can, to try and give these people some relief.

Comm. Pennamon noted we have to explain to the people because of re-evaluation the values have gone up. We have no control over values, but we do control the budget, and we also have to look at the needs of the county.

Mr. Benton noted we have invited the Tax Assessor to meetings in the past to elaborate on this

Comm. Jernigan noted he would like to get pay raises for County employees; possibly cost of living and merit. If possible he would like to rollback the millage rate some, but at the same time Department Heads are going to have to work hard on cutting their budgets.

Comm. Salmon noted he agrees with rollback. Has asked for multi-year budgets and we don’t have one.

Mr. Benton reviewed the FY 2019 Budget Books with Commissioners noting the Tax Digest, Revenue projections at 15.904 rollback rate will produce revenue of $10,168,169; and the current millage rate of 16.446 will produce revenue of $10,394,884.

Mr. Benton reviewed the requested budgets from departments. The FY20019 requests total $11,067.743 which is a 10.2% from last year.

Mr. Benton reviewed the Debt Service.

Comm. Salmon questioned why deb service is increasing.

Mr. Benton noted there is a balloon payment approaching on the motor graders we are leasing.

Comm. Pennamon encouraged board members to study the budget books and come back next week ready to discuss options.

Comm. Pennamon declared the Work Session closed at 6:43 p.m.

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Carl Pennamon, Chairman

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Sharon S. Robinson, Clerk