

The Heron

October 23, 2014



Newberry County on Lake Greenwood

Property Taxes

You should have recently received your property assessment notice. Although individual circumstances may vary, you probably saw an increase in your assessed value. However, there will also be a small reduction in millage. Your final tax bill should be approximately the same as last year.

By State of South Carolina law, property reassessment is conducted on a five year cycle. Transfer of property and other conditions may be exceptions to the five year rule. Also by state law, increases are capped at fifteen percent of current assessed value.

Taxing entities, e.g., Newberry County, translate budget requirements into millage for the county where one-thousands of a dollar, .001, equal one mill. The county aggregate property assessed value is then proportioned to a millage rate. The millage rate is one factor in calculating your tax bill.

If the property is a permanent residence it will be assessed at 4% of value. Other real property including vacant lots will be assessed at 6% of value. Motor homes and boats that are neither a primary or secondary residence will be assessed at 10.5% of value.

Calculation example:

Property Value x assessment ratio, e.g., 6% x millage rate = Your Tax Bill.

Fuel Taxes

The South Carolina Legislature will reconvene on the second Tuesday in January. One of the issues they will probably address is an increase in fuel taxes.

As of this writing oil prices are off their high by about twenty dollars a barrel and gas at the pump is available at about \$2.75/gallon. Certainly, these prices can go up as easily as they came down. Lower gas prices are good for the consumer and good for the economy but if gas prices persist at current or lower rates, there is an increased opportunity and incentive for some legislators to argue for higher gas taxes. At the POA General Meeting last April, our own state legislator, Walt McLeod, advocated for an increase in fuel taxes.

There is certainly a need to upgrade our roads and bridges. The question is whether you believe current funding levels are sufficient and spending allocation priorities are wise. What percentage of an increase will go to intended improvement of infrastructure and what percentage will be lost to bureaucratic erosion?

SCDOT is certainly responsible for many roads and bridges that are in urgent need of attention. Some of them are right in our community. But what portion of the state's DOT budget do you think is being spent on other pet local projects rather than the primary purpose? How much of state fuel tax revenue finds its way to Newberry County roads and bridges?

Why are voters so skeptical of taxes for infrastructure? Is it because at the federal level \$750 billion dollars was supposed to stimulate the economy by spending on infrastructure "shovel ready projects"? Most of the money went to special interest groups. The president said there were not as many "shovel ready projects" as he thought.

**In Memory Of
Cort Nagle
President of the
Summerset/Windmill POA
Born Feb. 26, 1947
Died July 13, 2014**

In Memoriam In past issues of The Heron this space would be reserved for a note from the president. As president, Cort Nagle always filled this message with comments on seasonal issues as well as thoughts and words of friendship for the community. He was a good friend and a good neighbor.

He was persistently active as president to perpetuate the value of the association for the Summerset/Windmill neighborhood. His work for the community was consistent with his overall approach to life. It was only at his funeral service that we were told by a local pastor of his successful efforts to acquire a new location and building for a congregation whose church had burned down.

Our thoughts and prayers go with his spirit and with his family.

Membership The Summerset/Windmill POA is a voluntary membership home owners association. The POA must be doing something right because membership has increased each year for the past five years. Membership is about seventy percent with empty-lot owners making up much of the non-membership. Ed LaRoche, POA Treasurer, deserves much of the credit for advocating membership especially among new residents. In follow-up with other property owners, Ed highlights POA efforts to constantly improve the appearance of the area and to represent interests of the community at Newberry County and other agencies. Of note is the current effort to solve the EMS response time in Chappells. If you are not a member, perhaps you should consider joining your neighbors in making this a great community. The annual membership is only \$100. Compare this fee with any other homeowners association.

The association fee is kept low because of volunteer help from POA members. We have a mowing committee headed by Roy Mendelsohn. This committee mows the roadsides, county right of way, in the neighborhood. Then there is a Landscape Committee headed by Jim Smith. This group has dealt with problem slopes working with Clemson Extension Services to identify grass species that will take hold and correct erosion. They also planted Myrtles at the intersection of Summerset Bay Road and Summerset Bay Drive.

With the recent loss of Cort Nagle, the POA is also looking for someone to step up to be a board member. There are those who have different ideas about how

the POA should operate. A few residents refuse to join because of differences in association policy or activity. Whether you think the POA is on the right track or the wrong track, this is your opportunity to influence the direction of the organization. If interested, you may contact the editor of this newsletter or any of the other officers of the POA.

Fire, Rescue and Medical Emergency Services

There are three kinds of emergency services provided by Chappells Fire and Rescue Station; fire-fighting, emergency rescue and emergency medical / transport services.

As to fire-fighting, Chief Mike Engemann reports that there has been a consistent level of about ten to twelve volunteers. He says that the recent focus has been on EBOLA training.

As reported in the last issue of The Heron, the real problem in Chappells is Emergency Medical Services. Instances of response time in excess of an hour raise real concern in an area like Chappells. This is a predominately aging demographic. The Summerset/Windmill and Edgewater developments consist mostly of retirees with all of their related health risks. There just are not volunteers willing to give their time for training and on-call availability.

At a meeting of the county public safety committee on October 21 the medical emergency issue in Chappells was discussed at some length. Chairman Bill Waldrop presented the problem and spoke to the issue of inadequate EMT and Paramedic responders in Chappells. Ed LaRoche spoke for the POA laying out recent problems and life threatening situations.

Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director, spoke to the 911 process. When a call for a medical emergency comes in it is "toned out" to Chappells (4 miles). If no response then the call goes to Silverstreet (12 miles) and then Newberry (25 miles). If the call goes to Newberry it is easy to see how an interval from the initial 911 call to arrival at a hospital can be one and a half hours or more.

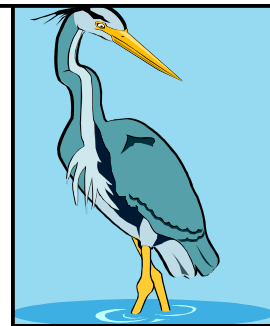
Three non-exclusive solutions were discussed at and after the meeting. The first is a mutual assistance agreement with Cross Hill, Laurens County (8 miles).

(continued page 4)

November 4, Midterm Elections

Please Remember to Vote

Sample Ballot



CHAPPELLE VOTING PRECINCT

Precinct location: Chappells Fire Station

3218 SC Highway 39

Voting Districts:

US congressional: 03

SC Senate : 18

SC House District: 40

County Council: 06

School District: 06

- Governor:
 - ⇒ Steve French (Libertarian)
 - ⇒ Tom J Ervin (Petition)
 - ⇒ Vincent Sheheen (Democrat)
 - ⇒ Morgan Bruce Reeves (United Citizens)
 - ⇒ Nikki Haley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor
 - ⇒ Bakari Sellers (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Henry McMaster (Republican)
- Secretary of State
 - ⇒ Ginny Deerin (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Mark Hammond (Republican)
- State Treasurer
 - ⇒ Curtis Loftis (Republican)
- Attorney General
 - ⇒ Parnell Diggs (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Alan Wilson (Republican)
- Comptroller General
 - ⇒ Kyle Herbert (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Richard Eckstrom (Republican)
- SC Superintendent of Education
 - ⇒ Tom Thompson (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Molly Mitchell Spearman (Republican)
 - ⇒ Ed Murray (American)
- Adjutant General
 - ⇒ Bob Livingston (Republican)
- Commissioner of Agriculture
 - ⇒ David Edmond (United Citizens)
 - ⇒ Hugh E Weathers (Republican)
 - ⇒ Emile DeFelice (American)

- US Senate
 - ⇒ Victor Kocher (Libertarian)
 - ⇒ Thomas Ravenel (Petition)
 - ⇒ Brad Hutto (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Brad Hutto (Working Families)
 - ⇒ Lindsey Graham (Republican)
- US Senate (unexpired term)
 - ⇒ Joyce Dickerson (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Tim Scott (Republican)
 - ⇒ Jill Bossi (American)
- US House of Representatives
 - ⇒ Barbara Jo Mullis (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Jeff Duncan (Republican)
- SC House of Representatives
 - ⇒ Walt McLeod (Democratic)
 - ⇒ Richard Martin (Republican)
- Probate Judge
 - ⇒ Kelly Baker Nobles (Democratic)
- County Council
 - ⇒ Bill Waldrop (Democratic)
- Soil and Water District Commission) Vote for two
 - ⇒ Jason Bishop (Nonpartisan)
 - ⇒ G Marc Renwick (Nonpartisan)
 - ⇒ C Ben Setzler (Nonpartisan)

SC Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1

A “Yes” vote will allow certain nonprofit organizations to conduct raffles and use the proceeds for charitable, religious, or educational purposes.

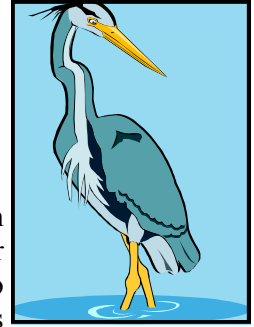
A “No” vote maintains the current law that considers a raffle to be a lottery and is prohibited.

Amendment 2

A “Yes” vote will require, beginning in 2018, the Adjutant General be appointed by the Governor with consent of the Senate. The General Assembly will set the term, duties, compensation and qualifications for office and procedures by which appointment is made and how an Adjutant General can be removed from office.”

A “No” vote maintains the current method of electing an Adjutant General.

**The Heron
PO Box 6025
Chappells, SC 29037**



Fire, Rescue and Medical Emergency Services (cont'd) The Cross Hill station seems to have a better response reputation and is significantly closer than other back-up services. Mr. Long committed to contacting Cross Hill to assess feasibility of an agreement. The second solution is to pay responders at least on a per call basis. The third solution is to establish Chappells as a special tax district. It seems that we have presented the county with a difficult problem because we chose to locate in a particularly distant and rural corner of the county. It would appear that if we had not located our developments in this area the wellbeing of people who have lived in this rural area for generations would be irrelevant. The crux of this solution is that we would be taxed separately from the rest of the county at a higher rate in order to have paid responders. Finally, County Councilman Scott Cain, is leading a task force to bring together all the issues and recommend solutions. As of this writing the deadline for Mr. Cain's task force report is unclear.

Note: On Thursday, October 23, Mr. Tommy Long informed The Heron of the following: To reduce response times-

1. Newberry EMS will develop certain criteria to request mutual aid from Laurens County from initial dispatch.
2. Newberry County and Laurens already have a Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreement in place.
3. Chappells Rescue and Newberry EMS will also be sent to calls as normal unless canceled by Laurens County upon their arrival.
4. Newberry EMS will train the EMS Supervisors and crew of this agreement so it will be in place as soon as possible.
5. No one can ever predict the status of either county's EMS trucks and we will strive to get the services to that area as quick and as safe as possible.

Treasurer's Report *by Ed LaRoche*

Balance as of May 30, 2014	\$18,202.88
Deposits	
Offset for Cort's service	\$200.00
Total	\$200.00
Disbursements-	
Mowing SSB Rd, 4/24/14	\$165.00
Mower Fuel	91.46
Mowing SSB Rd, 5/9 & 5/29	330.00
Annual Website fee	96.00
Mowing SSB Rd, 6/9	165.00
Catering for Cort's Service	300.00
Mowing SSB Rd, 7/3, 7/18 and 7/31	495.00
Total	\$1,642.46
Balance as of August 29, 2014	\$16,760.42
Pending Disbursements	
Mower Fuel	\$113.09
Mower Replacement Contingency	\$6,000.00
2014 Estimated Contingency	\$3,754.87
Contingency Total	\$9754.87
Available Cash	
(after pending disbursements & contingencies)	\$ 6,892.46

POA Board Meetings: 2014
Chappells Fire House
December 11 -7:00 P.M.

Board Meetings: 2015
March 12 -7:00 P.M.

NEW MEMBER FORM

If you are not now a member and would like to join your neighbors in making Summerset/Windmill a great community please fill out this form and send with a check for \$100 to the return address above.

NAME:

DEVELOPMENT:

Lot # or local address:

Mailing Address if different:

Telephone No.

Check Enclosed