

OCONEE COUNTY

County tax increase less than expected

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WALHALLA —

Oconee County taxpayers will see less of a tax increase than originally anticipated to fund county government for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Oconee County Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a 1.7-mill tax increase, down from an estimated 3.3-mill increase proposed when the fiscal year budget was approved in June.

The math on the approved millage increase on June 19 was 3.22 mills, but

council cannot approve millage increase to the hundredths, so it was rounded to 3.3 mills.

"It was anticipated that it was going to be a 3.2-mill increase," county attorney David Root said. "It turns out now that it's going to be a 1.7-mill increase, so that's certainly good news for the taxpayers."

The vote came after a recommendation from Oconee County Auditor Christy Hubbard, who told council that the value of a mill for this fiscal year is \$545,656.

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INCREASE:

No hike for SDOC

operations

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When council approved the budget in June, the projected value of a county mill was estimated at \$537,612. Hubbard set the millage at 3.0 for county debt this fiscal year.

For homeowners with a primary residence in Oconee County, taxes for county operations will increase by \$6.80 per \$100,000 of home value. Those who qualify for the homestead exemption would only pay an additional \$3.40 in taxes. Those owning homes valued at \$250,000 will pay \$1,066 this year, an increase of \$17. A homestead exemption for a \$250,000 home lowers that amount to \$852.80, \$13.60 more than last year's \$839.20.

School District of Oconee County operations will be funded without a tax increase this year, with 115.3 mills for school operations and 31 mills for school debt. The Keowee Fire District millage rate was set at 14.5 mills.

Hubbard said the assessment process begins in March and wraps up the last week in August, which means she can recommend the value of a mill to be set in early September.

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