From the Bibb County Commissioners

The residents of Bibb County have never had the opportunity to vote on the sales tax being given to the Bibb County Hospital.

HISTORY OF HOSPITAL SALES TAX

By following the timeline of interactions between the Commission and Hospital attached hereto, one can easily see the Bibb County Commission has provided financial support over the years to ensure the citizens of Bibb County have a hospital and ambulance service available by providing the necessary funding for both services. In fact and according to the Bibb County Commission, it has worked directly with Hospital officials since the beginning of 2015 to resolve this funding and service issue in a manner that will best benefit Bibb County residents. A presentation was made to the Hospital Board about the possibility of putting a cap on the amount of funding the hospital receives and letting all monies over the cap amount flow to the county to fund things such as road improvements and new industry and infrastructure of all kinds. This receives the hospital to top shelf ears as the Hospital Board is unwilling to accept any type of reduction in sales tax.

It has been thirty (30) plus years since the non-profit corporation, Cahaba Valley, was established to operate an ambulance service. The hospital and non-profit has the same board members with the exception of two. There is no argument that the two groups working together they have accomplished a great deal. They have constructed buildings, purchased property and other structures, and created a large revenue source. This success demonstrates these entities no longer require or need the amount of sales tax they receive on an annual basis to remain viable.

It is now time for the Hospital to give back to the citizens by funding themselves and giving other aspects of county government an opportunity to grow. Issues such as roads, as well as other infrastructure improvements, are all areas which desperately need additional funding. In sales tax last year, the Bibb County Commission received $760,000 and the hospital received $1,100,000. In addition to the $1,100,000, the hospital also received an additional $96,000 for ambulance service. The unwillingness of the Hospital Board to accept less sales tax money exhibits the belief that additional wages/capital improvements for the hospital are more important than any items residents may wish to be improved or simply maintained such as law enforcement or road concerns. Potholes and right-of-way maintenance, which the Commission should greatly benefit from a redistribution of tax monies, are two areas which could greatly benefit from a redistribution of tax monies.

The Bibb County Commission believes residents should decide where you would like your tax dollars to be spent but, the Commission alone cannot provide you this opportunity. We believe redistribution will improve issues important to residents but truly desire the residents themselves make the decision on tax revenue current of-way maintenance are two areas which could greatly benefit from a redistribution of tax monies.

TO THE BIBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

· 1998 – Letter from Historical Society requesting the commission amend the distribution of 1 cent sales tax.
· 1998 – Letter from Historical Society requesting the commission fund the new hospital.
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You may also send written correspondence to:

Bibb County Commission
c/o youdecide
157 S. W. Davidson Drive, Centreville, AL 35042 - Fax (205) 926-3119

Contact your legislator directly –
Senior Cam Ward - cam@camward.com or 334-242-7873
Representative Ralph Howard - ralph.howard@house.gov or 334-242-7759

You may also send written correspondence to:

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TIMELINE OF HOSPITAL TAX AND EMS

· December 10, 1956 – Application filed with County Commission for authority to provide a public hospital for a corporate hospital

· January 19, 1957 – Hire firm to write legislation for 1 Cent sales tax to endure for 10 years with 60% to establish and maintain a hospital and 40% to the construction and maintenance of schools.

· April 27, 1957 – Hospital Board incorporated

· September 30, 1966 – After discussion in several meetings involving needs of the schools, hospital, and other county needs, the Commission voted to have the distribution amended to 60% to the schools and 40% to the hospital.

· March 17, 1973 – Hospital Board met with the Commission to discuss employing a full-time doctor to assist the hospital in becoming self-supportive

· February 12, 1973 – Hospital Board and Dr. William Owings met with the Commission informing them the hospital was several thousand dollars in debt, including the $50,000 loan, and had no way of paying on an existing loan. The Commission confirmed to Mr. C. E. Hornsby of Peoples Bank they would back a loan of $50,000 to the hospital to pay on bills and payroll

· February 22, 1973 – Hospital Board met with the Commission to informing them expenditures of the hospital were exceeding revenues. After lengthy discussion, the Commission assured the Board they would do anything possible to prevent the hospital from closing

· April 26, 1973 – Hospital Board met with the Commission to discuss the hospital. Following discussion, $20,000 was appropriated to the hospital for operating expenses until a doctor can be hired

· May 3, 1973 – A group of citizens met with the Commission concerning the financial crisis of the hospital. A resolution was read outlining a plan which the Commission accepted a plan and motion to appropriate funds as necessary for operation of hospital

· May 13, 1973 – Commission appropriated $20,000 per quarter until 11-1-74. If additional funds are needed, the Hospital Board will need to come to the Commission and request

· September 27, 1973 – Hospital Board met with the Commission about financial status of the hospital. The $20,000 that had been appropriated 3 months earlier has been depleted. Following discussion, $10,000 was appropriated. Commission approved to begin the procedure to place on the ballot in the November general election, to have the 1 cent sales tax that had passed years ago for the hospital and Board of Education to be redistributed on a possible 80/20 split

· May 28, 1976 – State Representative Walter Owens met with the Commission concerning local legislation to allow hospital to issue warrants, which is needed to borrow money against sales tax

· July 29, 1976 – State Representative Walter Owens advocated and passed 2 cent sales tax, which sent 1 cent to the Board of Education and 90% of 1 cent to the hospital

· August 28, 1978 – Dr. Owings met with the Commission requesting $12,000 appropriation for the hospital to pay a resident doctor from the University of Alabama, no action was taken

· March 25, 1980 – Commission discussed the belief the sales tax, which was passed in 1976, was for the operation, maintenance, and capital expenditure of the hospital, nursing home, health department, and ambulance service

· May 13, 1980 – Jim Oakley Jr., Chairman of the Hospital Board, and Terry Smith, Hospital Administrator, met with the Commission to discuss ambulance service. The possibility of assuming operation of the ambulance service because of Mr. Austin Levert, owner of Bibb County Ambulance Service, is retiring

· May 22, 1980 – Bibb County Hospital to buy ambulance and other equipment from Mr. Levert to sell to hospital. Commission appropriated $1,600 per month to the hospital to provide ambulance service

· February 10, 1981 – Hospital Board discussed a tax for ambulance service with the Commission

· January 25, 1983 – Hospital Board met with the Commission and reported large deficit in the past year’s operations. Discussion was held concerning discontinuing ambulance service.

· March 8, 1983 – Discussions continue between the hospital and Commission concerning the hospital and ambulance service and associated options

· June 14, 1983 – Chairman of the Hospital Board informed the Commission that unless financial assistance is provided, ambulance service will be discontinued. Mr. Smith provided the possible alternatives: All cities, county, and medical center combine to provide funding; Private individual purchase and operate service; Non-profit organization. It is believed of the above options provided, the non-profit seemed to be the most reasonable.

The Commission asked Mr. Smith to look into the matter and to report back at a later date

· July 7, 1983 – Letter was sent to the Commission by the Bibb County Hospital Board, informing them that at an informal meeting of the Hospital Board, the following was adopted:

- A separate corporation be established to operate the ambulance service

- Requesting $40,000 - $50,000 per year to help operate

· July 12, 1983 – Letter from Historical Society requesting the Commission desires to have a qualified ambulance service. Due to limited funding sources, the Commission can provide one-half of the funds earmarked for ambulance and health services, and the hospital commits these monies, approximately $16,000 per year, toward ambulance service for the county

· August 9, 1983 – Discussion of municipalities providing annual funding for ambulance service. County Commission to provide one-half of the funds earmarked, approximately $16,000, Brent agreed to $6,000, West Blocton agreed to $2,000, Centreville agreed to $6,000 for one year, and Hospital agreed to $5,000

· Cahaba Valley was created in 1884. Cahaba Valley is a non-profit corporation that owns the ambulance service.