

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Douglas M. Croley, Chairman-District 5
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Gene Morgan, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 (phoned in after start of meeting)
Jeff Price, Budget Director
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Croley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. Marcella Blocker took a silent roll call.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Croley asked if there were any amendments or corrections to the Agenda and Mr. Presnell replied there were none.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

PRESENTATION BY TOMMY BAKER OF AMBULANCE RUNS

Mr. Presnell introduced the Public Hearing for adoption of the tentative millage rate and the tentative Budget for the 2014 fiscal year.

Chair Croley said he had requested a report on the ambulance service and would like to hear that at this time.

Tommy Baker, Gadsden County EMS Director, appeared before the Board; handed out a report that had been put together and made a presentation of the number of ambulance runs in the Gadsden County area. He explained the maps the Board was seeing were from data collected between February, 2013 and July, 2013.

Commissioner Morgan asked what would be done with the information at this point.

Mr. Baker said currently, it was for analysis process and they already knew where the bulk of their calls were and internally, there had been a lot of discussion of where the possible placement of another ambulance unit would be.

Mr. Presnell asked Mr. Baker to explain to the commissioners the difference between the volume in this county and the volume as compared to Jackson, Gulf or other counties and added he found it surprising.

Mr. Baker said if you looked at the total calls per month, divided them out and distributed them out amongst the ambulances, the totals were overwhelming and if you looked at the runs from Chattahoochee, if they were transported to Tallahassee, it was a three hour turn-around.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Jackson County would have longer time periods on their runs.

Mr. Baker said it would depend on the area they were in and a lot of theirs are transported to their local hospital.

Chair Croley asked the Administrator, based on what they have learned from the analysis, what was concluded and what should they be considering at this point.

Mr. Presnell said the sheer number of calls that were run per ambulance was very enlightening.

Commissioner Morgan asked if getting more ambulances would be the answer to the problem, and added that he assumed they were receiving this information because of the interest of funding an additional ambulance that Commissioner Hinson had brought up.

Chair Croley asked the Administrator what his recommendation was after this presentation.

Mr. Presnell said after talking with Mr. Baker, he thought there needed to be another unit added and that it was included in the budget.

Chair Croley stated the need was shown and was his opinion if a citizen called 911, they wanted as quick a response time as possible and with all things considered, thought the ambulance service had been doing a super job with limited resources. He further added from his standpoint, he had no problem in adding the additional unit, but as to where to place it was dictated by the needs and depended on the ambulance crew with their professional experience to assist in deciding that.

Mr. Presnell said that he would like to continue to monitor this and the need of the placement of an additional ambulance.

Commissioner Taylor called in at this juncture of the meeting and Chair Croley brought her up-to-date on Mr. Baker's presentation.

Chair Croley said if there were no other questions, he called for public comments or questions and there were none.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **Public Hearing-First Budget Public Hearing for Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013/2014**

Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst, introduced the above item and explained they had to vote for the millage rate first and explained the 2014 tentative budget had been formulated based on maintaining the current county-wide property tax revenue of 8.9064 mills.

Chair Croley asked if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the item and there was no-one.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADOPT THE COUNTYWIDE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064.

Chair Croley said the next item was the budget itself.

Jeff Price said the fiscal year 2014 budget amount was \$42,953,389.

Chair Croley called for any public comments or questions and there were none.

Commissioner Taylor asked what the lists of projects were that constituted the \$700,000 transfer of funds from the reserve.

Mr. Price said there was \$300,000 for the additional ambulance unit and \$400,000 for the roof repair and chiller at the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the needs of what they wanted to fund, but if they were looking at funding \$700,000, they needed to look elsewhere to cut back and not pull out that amount of money from the fund balance.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHAIR CROLEY ASKED TO MAKE ONE COMMENT.

Chair Croley said they needed to be careful with the cash balances, as the Clerk has warned, but he could not deny the public's need for the ambulance after looking at the provided information.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Chair Croley encouraged Commissioner Morgan to meet with the Administrator to discuss his concerns regarding the costs.

Commissioner Hinson said at this point they were approving the repair of the building and chiller, but they would take no action until they receive a letter from TCC regarding the building.

Commissioner Hinson further added, from the bottom of his heart, this budget had really brought tears to his eyes and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to make sure the ambulance would go in the Midway/Havana area.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 10, 2013 – First Budget Public Hearing

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:38 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DOUGLAS M. CROLEY, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk