

**AT THE FINAL BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

PRESENT: Doug Croley, Chair-District 2
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair-District 1
Gene Morgan, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Debra Minnis, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Sherrie Taylor, District 5 (phoned in after meeting had adjourned)

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Croley called the meeting to Order at 6:05 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. A silent roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Croley asked if there were any amendments or corrections to the agenda and there were none.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mr. Presnell said there were two votes the Board needed to make, one was for the Final Millage Rate and the other for the Final Budget.

Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst, read the Millage Rate aloud for the Board and stated the final Countywide millage rate was 8.9064 mils.

Chair Croley said this was a public meeting and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak for or against the item and there was no-one.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064 MILS.

Mr. Presnell said the second item on the agenda was the adoption of the Final Fiscal Year 2013-2014 countywide budget.

Chair Croley stated this operating budget was approximately 5.57% more than last year's total operating expenditures.

Mr. Presnell said that was correct.

Chair Croley said this was a public meeting and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak for or against the item and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan said he had concerns about the budget and said he had asked the Administrator to provide information regarding employee raises and had also asked for information regarding incentives for department heads that could be taken out and moved over to cover the expenses.

Mr. Presnell stated it was the incentive program and it was a little over \$30,000 and that was where the funding would come from. He then asked Arthur Lawson to come forward to further explain.

Arthur Lawson, Assistant County Administrator, came forward to explain the program and said the impact would be approximately \$6,800 with the fringes and without the fringes it would be \$5,480.

Commissioner Morgan said it penalized the ones not receiving raises.

Mr. Presnell said it was an incentive program for all county staff if they devised a money-saving plan and the plan was not developed yet.

Commissioner Morgan said it was his recommendation to adjust the budget to include raises across the board so everyone would receive a raise.

Chair Croley asked Mr. Presnell questions regarding the cap on salaries and how many it would affect.

Mr. Presnell responded the cap was \$75,000 and would affect three employees.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought it sent a wrong message not to give raises to all employees across the Board.

Commissioner Holt said she was more interested in what the account was set up for and if that account was set up for incentives and for things to happen, she thought it needed to be used for incentives and for things to happen and if they wanted to do that raise, the money could be pulled from somewhere else. She added that was to be used for something extra-ordinary, i.e., bringing in money or bringing in programs.

Commissioner Hinson said he hated to get into day-to-day operations when the County Manager makes a decision because the Board did not know his rationale.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE THE THREE POSITIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RAISES. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE FINAL BUDGET.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:20 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK