

AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 14, 2016 AT 4:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:

Present: Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Overview by the County Administrator of FY 16/17 Draft Budget

Chair Holt called the workshop to order and said they would get started with the Boys and Girls Club.

Lee Wagner with the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend spoke a few minutes and said it included Chattahoochee, Havana and Quincy.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

The Boys and Girls Club then had a couple of skits they put on for the Board and a few people spoke on their behalf.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Dorothy Roberts appeared before the Board and said she had two grandchildren in the Havana program.

Ms. Maudie Neely then appeared before the Board and spoke a few words on behalf of the Quincy club.

Ms. Annette Bates then appeared before the Board on behalf of the Chattahoochee club.

Commissioner Morgan arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Wagner asked that the Board members review the binder that was passed out to each of them.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan welcomed everyone, especially the ones from Chattahoochee and said there was a fundraising for their club, they were conducting a car wash every Thursday and at the end of

the year, the money raised would go towards a trip to Gulf World.

Lee Garner appeared before the Board and asked the Board if there was any way possible, for them to please continue to fund the Club.

Mr. Presnell then welcomed everyone to the second Budget workshop and said they had finalized the revenues from the State, information from the Tax Collector and Departmental budgets were pretty well squared away and would go through everything along with the Capital projects they have and would get input from the Commissioners on fine-tuning any of it and discuss any new initiatives that might have been missed or were not aware of.

Chair Holt said she had a question regarding the Fund Balance and Commissioner Viegbesie asked how the Fund Balance affected the required minimum that was needed to be safe in the fund balance.

Mr. Presnell said there was a slide regarding that later in the presentation.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator if they needed to cut \$1.118 Million from the Fund Balance to be able to balance it and Mr. Presnell said the budget with what was currently included in the budget, they would need to cut that amount to balance. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a decrease in the Property taxes of \$30,000 from the Property Appraiser and asked if that was a trend. Mr. Presnell said the Ad Valorem was flat last year and hoped to be up around four-five percent and it did not happen. He added the Property Appraiser said that was due to the intangibles.

Revenues

Mr. Presnell said \$1.1 Million was moved from Reserves to balance the \$18,997 General Fund expenditures that were currently included in the budget.

He explained the Property Appraiser on July 1, 2016 gave an estimate of property taxes and showed a decrease from last year of approximately \$30,000. He said the other Major Eight revenue sources and gas taxes were up \$400,000 from FY 16 budget numbers and Commissioner Morgan asked if that was a trend and Mr. Presnell stated yes, it was now a three-year trend. Commissioner Morgan asked if that off-set the property taxes and Mr. Presnell said some was restricted funds.

Mr. Presnell said the Constitutional Officers were funded at last year's levels and there were two requests for increases but as present budget, they were funded at last year's levels and said the two increases were from the Sheriff's Office and the Clerks' Office. He added there was a small increase request from the Supervisor of Elections due to the Legislature increasing the salary of that office equal to the other Constitutional Officers and it was included. He said the Quincy Shuttle (\$20,000) and the Gadsden Express (100,000) was funded and the Summer Youth jobs program (\$104,000) was in. Mr. Presnell went on to explain Code Enforcement was funded at \$30,000 to clean up sites; Economic Development was funded at the current level (\$280,000) and made a note that the \$700,000 that was set aside was not in there due to the fact that it was no longer needed because of the Ordinance that was passed for any business that wanted to expand or locate here could, the business could apply for the credits and it would come from the property taxes they generated.

Commissioner Hinson asked why Economic Development was increased by \$280,000 instead of

\$240,000. Mr. Presnell said it was currently funded this year at \$280,000. Mr. Presnell explained there was \$40,000 that was budgeted and said the Chamber came before them for the Small Business Service Center and they basically was increased twice. He further explained \$40,000 was put in both places and that money was set aside and did not give the Development Council the \$40,000, but it was included in the Budget.

Commissioner Hinson suggested they go back to \$240,000 and Chair Holt asked that they make notes and let Mr. Presnell finish the page.

Mr. Presnell said it was the same with Non-Profits, they asked for \$432,549 more than was funded last year and the current budget contained the same as last year.

Mr. Presnell said there was a \$10,000 increase for Senior Citizens for Midway.

Mr. Presnell said there was an increase of \$50,000 for Medicaid from the State legislatively.

He added there was \$50,000 for Primary Care services and asked them to recall during the retreat in February, one of their priorities was to provide increased opportunities for primary health care services and he has been working with Dr. Cooksey at the Health Department and they were going to renovate some space where the old dental office was and open up Primary Health Care Services there through the Health Department and it would help fund an ARNP if they agreed.

He added there was \$50,000 Reserve for the Contingency account and \$50,000 restricted Reserve for contingency matching grants funds. He explained they were applying for a \$500,000 historical preservation grant for Stevens School and were anticipating, unless it could be done in-kind, there would be a \$50,000 match.

He explained medical insurance rates were finalized today and was at an 8.5% increase and they had estimated 9%.

He said they eliminated two vacant positions for \$120,000 savings on the revenue side to work into the budget and the roof project they had wrestled with for a number of years at the Woodham Building.

Constitutional Officers

Chair Holt said the Constitutional Officers was number one on the list and Mr. Presnell explained they were all pretty flat with exception to the Sheriff's Office and the Clerk. He explained what was requested from the Officers and what was included at this time. He said that now that they had the insurance quotes and FRS from the State for the Retirement System, there would be increases in their Department budget along with the Constitutionals to maintain the insurance charges and he recommended that they absorb the increases and costs and was looking from direction from the Board if they wanted to grant the increases as requested for their general operating budget.

Chair Holt said if they looked at the Property Appraiser, there was an increase of \$16,667 and asked if there would be other increases according to what the insurance would be. Mr. Presnell said the increase for him was included.

Chair Holt asked if the Tax Collector would stay the same and Mr. Presnell responded they did not have that yet as it came from the State. Chair Holt said she was asking about the costs for insurance and he said yes, he thought they should agree that it was minimal and they should absorb those costs for all the Constitutional Officers.

Chair Holt asked about the increase for the Clerk. Mr. Presnell said he had requested two in the Board Finance Department an increase of \$45,672 and that they had asked for clarification and they had received some clarification but as of today, had not received any more. Mr. Presnell said it was broad in that for that one was to cover some DROP payouts and for maintenance costs and operating costs. He said with the Information System, it listed server or software upgrades. Chair Holt asked if the \$45,672 and \$50,933 was both for the Clerk's Office and Mr. Presnell said yes. Chair Holt said they needed clarification and he had to send it and Mr. Presnell said he had asked for it. Mr. Presnell said if they looked to the right of the list, he had included him in the budget and recommended they include the increases that were beyond the Clerk's control such as FRS and insurance and that totaled approximately \$26,000. Chair Holt asked if there were any comments and said as far as she was concerned, they needed clarification from anyone that was asking for increases.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the 2% increase with the Property Appraiser, he did not understand what Mr. Presnell was saying and asked if the Department of Revenue was the reason they were asking for an increase. Mr. Presnell said he did not have the details and Jeff Price said the majority was for leasing some vehicles.

Chair Holt said it should be easy to send what they were requesting the increase for and Mr. Presnell said they did, but in some cases they received pretty good detailed plans and in others they had to request more information. Mr. Presnell explained the Tax Collector did not have his yet, one was sent in by the Property Appraiser and they had asked for details from the Clerk's Office and was awaiting more information from the Sheriff. Chair Holt said he (Clerk) was always very specific in what he wanted them to do and should not be a problem and if they wanted the increases, then they needed to send over what it was for.

Chair Holt asked about Detention/Corrections and Mr. Presnell said the request for was \$44,358 and they were currently recommending \$12,177 until they received more clarification regarding the Board's priorities.

Mr. Presnell said on the Law Enforcement side, they had not received the books and they did email a request and said the increase was for four deputies and raises.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his only question was he wanted detailed clarification for all the additional requests and he was disturbed when he saw the \$1.1 Million coming from Reserve and if they were going to consider increases for any expenditure he would like detailed reasons for why the expenditure and the increase was necessary and not because it was asked for.

Chair Holt asked about the Supervisor of Elections increase and Mr. Presnell said the Supervisor of Elections had historically been paid less than other Constitutional Officers and during the last Session that was evened back up and the costs were directly related to that.

Commissioner Morgan asked why the BOCC absorbing the costs when it was a salary set by the State based on a formula they used every year and why would the Supervisor not adjust her own budget as

opposed to them absorbing it. Mr. Presnell said that was a decision for the Board to make. He further explained she would have to find \$25,000 of something she had been doing to cut. Chair Holt asked if they funded everyone else's salaries and Mr. Presnell said yes, they were responsible for all Constitutional salaries.

Mr. Presnell said they had a request of \$464,212 increases and at this time there was \$107,997 included.

Chair Holt said the next item was the Quincy Shuttle. Mr. Presnell said they fund the Shuttle at 100% at \$40,000 and it used to be shared with the City and the Gadsden Express was the one that went to Tallahassee several times a day and they now had the Connector that connects with that from the other cities.

Commissioner Morgan said they were funding the Shuttle 100% with no participation from the City and Mr. Presnell said yes. Commissioner Morgan urged then to consider funding that at \$20,000 and ask for participation from the City of Quincy at \$20,000, their finances had improved dramatically; this was for their citizens as well as the Board's. He added with Gadsden Express, everyone benefited from it, the unincorporated areas as well as the municipalities. He asked at what part the municipalities were taking part and Mr. Presnell said none, the Board had an agreement with the City of Tallahassee and the grant paid for half and the County paid for half. Commissioner Morgan urged that each of the municipalities participate equally and the County participate and fund half of it.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was any data showing the usage in each of the municipalities and Mr. Presnell said yes. Commissioner Viegbesie's suggestion as a modification to Commissioner Morgan's suggestion was to divide the difference according to the percentage of usage of service for the municipalities to bear the expense of the difference of what the County would be paying and what the municipality citizens use of the Express. Commissioner Morgan said he was good with that.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the Chairman of GC Transportation Board and there was a lot of usage there and everybody was embracing it and wanted to continue the funding as they were now because people now trusted the program. He added earlier when it was cut off, people stopped riding it and the ridership went down. He added that in Havana, Chattahoochee, Midway and Quincy with the Express Service going to Tallahassee, there was no room on the bus and it was overcrowded. He said as long as the citizens were riding it, they could cut other places but transportation needed to be increased.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not asking them to cut the funding, he was asking for participation from others (municipalities).

Commissioner Taylor said when the concept was originated, it was to get commerce moving throughout county, to get people in stores, to receive medical treatment and to get people moving throughout the county, to get them educated and to a higher learning institution, paying tax dollars and spending money and said that was the concept behind it because Gadsden County and the City of Quincy had nothing. She added she thought it had worked extremely well, the ridership had increased and she agreed they could reach out to the other municipalities that was receiving services to see if there was interest to support this otherwise she would have to echo sentiments of the other commissioner saying they should not decrease the service and the overall goal of the County was to increase commerce, services, taxes and not to increase taxes per taxpayer, but to get the spending

dollars in the stores and get commerce going. She said she was in agreeance to staying where they were but to reach out to the municipalities to see if they would consider some type of participation.

Chair Holt said regarding the Gadsden Express, that was the county project and was never a city project, they applied for the funds, originally for \$139,000 for the County and the City of Tallahassee applied the other \$139,000 as a match.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not asking that the programs not be funded, he was saying if they did not ask for participation from all the municipalities, they would not give and if they were told it would be funded regardless, they would not give and everybody was benefiting from the program and the County has rising costs and are \$1.2 Million short and they had to make decisions on what they were willing to give on in order to balance the budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much the City of Quincy was paying and Mr. Presnell responded \$20,000 and said he had met with them. Commissioner Hinson said his position stood regardless and said it would be a good gesture if a letter was sent to see what they could do.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted clarity on what they were telling the Administrator to do.

Chair Holt said Commissioner Morgan was interested in contacting the municipalities to see if they would participate with the funding and she had no problem with that happening if it increased the routes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like contributions equal to the percentage of usage.

Summer Youth Program

Mr. Presnell said the Summer Youth Program was budgeted at \$104,000 and they would maintain the same level.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the program but based on severe budget constraints, the County could not fund this program at this time unless they could show him where money would be cut from other programs.

Commissioner Hinson asked what brought on the budget constraints and what caused them. Mr. Presnell said it was a number of things, flat revenues and there were costs that went up on their own that the Board had no control over inflationary costs such as insurance and to balance the budget this year as presently proposed would require them to transfer \$1.1 Million out of cash reserves. Commissioner Hinson said he felt bad last year and his "heart was heavy, very heavy" and Commissioner Morgan asked if it was because of how much they were asking the taxpayers to spend and Commissioner Hinson said "That's right". Commissioner Hinson went on to say "especially when it comes to kids, (inaudible) I felt great because we added 10 jobs for those special needs kids and so, ah, we went from 75 to 100, 85 to 100, whatever, and then this year here, and I guess I cowarded out I didn't ask for more and I, you know, I'm getting emotional now just thinking about it now I guess. I think that personally, this what I believe in my heart, (heavy sigh) and, well I talked to, I'm, I'm on the Board with the Workforce Plus and CareerSource and I asked the same questions there about how many jobs can y'all offer here in Gadsden County, alright, for the summer youth programs. They claimed, they said they put 5 jobs (inaudible) but they cover kids between 16 – 24 but they can't be in

the school system, whatever, because if we want to capture those students and make sure they don't get in trouble, we got to find something for them and, and, and a lot of things we doing here can alleviate so much of these issues that we have here today in society where all this crazy stuff going on if a kid can't get a job. So I don't have no heartburns on increasing this, increasing this number here because there's some things we can cut. I got a lot of things here I want to cut. We gonna cut this non-profit thing here, we can cut some stuff from non-profit, cut some stuff here that I see, you don't wanna cut with the kids. When I say we gonna cut, we want to always increase cause that's a sad feeling when you tell a kid they can't get a job". Mr. Presnell said he did not thing anyone would argue with the success of the program and he had been more than impressed with the kids and it seemed it got better and better.

Chair Holt said for them to go ahead and state the opinions and move on.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to increase the youth program by 25 more jobs.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the program if they could show him where \$104,000 would be cut while there was a \$2 Million deficit.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not think anyone on the platform had any questions or doubts of the benefit of the program but they had to look at the costs and where the money would come from and there would be some cuts. He added that when you pull money from reserve and nothing going back in to replenish it, eventually it would dry and they would be forced to cut everything or shut down like some cities have had to do across the nation and his position was to leave it as it was because of the revenue issues.

Commissioner Taylor said she was a proponent for children but considering the fact they were looking at a deficient, she would consider leaving it as it was and maybe in 3-6 months into the budget cycle, they could get more of a handle on revenues and expenditures and it could be revisited to see if there was room for increases. She added at this time she was willing to fund 100 positions and look at it later for consideration.

Chair Holt said regarding the summer youth program, if they had to do any cutting on that issue, she would rather do it at the end and be the last place to cut from. She asked how many more workshops they would have and Mr. Presnell said they had three more shots.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Presnell said the \$30,000 was standard for the ones they could not get them to clean up themselves, something that was a threat to the public's health or safety, they would clean themselves. Chair Holt asked if that was budgeted now at \$30,000 and Mr. Presnell said yes.

Economic Development

Mr. Presnell said after previous discussions, it was left at the same levels and there was a comment from one Commissioner to reduce it by \$40,000.

Commissioner Hinson said it was a mistake and that was why he said to cut it back because the Board anticipated \$940,000 and if they had other issues they would use the \$40,000, he was "cool" because

he was all about economic development. He said that since it was said it was a mistake, “you might as well go back down to \$940,000”.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they were saying the \$40,000 was put someplace and if needed, it was there for them to withdraw from and they never used it. Mr. Presnell said that was the way he did it this year because there was a mistake made with a little confusion and it was double budgeted and he sat the \$40,000 aside.

Commissioner Morgan said the money budgeted was never used and Mr. Presnell said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan agreed with the cut.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt there were good intentions of the dollars being utilized but was confusion about it. She said they had talked about expansion and retention and using those dollars because the majority of that almost \$1 Million economic development were for new ground-breaking businesses where they did not put much money into the budget for businesses here that could create more jobs just from expansion and retention. She added she felt that was what the \$40,000 was for to go toward the Chamber because she thought they were handling that piece of it.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at this juncture.

Commissioner Taylor felt they needed to look at that again and hated to put back money that could help create 40-50 jobs and was not for putting back but it being moved forward to what the Board originally wanted to do. Chair Holt said she was in favor of putting it back and was not in favor of setting it aside last year.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell clarified the money was set aside and the Chamber received \$80,000, specifically \$40,000 was designated for the Small Business Service Center and \$40,000 with the Development Council was for business retention and expansion. He added no-one was denied dollars per the Board’s intent; everyone received what they were supposed to get.

Commissioner Taylor said when they came with a sum of \$280,000, the Board vetted it, came up with numbers and the numbers were there for a reason. She said she heard the majority of the Board, but was saying it was not an accident, but it was not clear when it was presented to know exactly what the Board’s intentions were.

Commissioner Taylor asked with the way the funding was set up, Mr. Nixon had to submit an invoice to GCDC to be compensated for work performance and asked if it could be set up so his work could be paid to him through the Chamber so he could be paid on a regular basis.

Mr. Presnell explained the currently fund \$80,000 total and \$40,000 was designated and sent directly to the Chamber on a quarterly basis to pay Mr. Nixon for his services for the Small Business venture and \$40,000 was designated for his services at the Development Council as well. He said he was not privy to how they bill from the Chamber.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt when they give funding to the GCDC, it was not a “pie in the sky funding”, they know the amount they receive and the Board should do the same thing for the Small

Business Administration as well. He added that at the end of the year they could justify what they were doing.

Chair Holt said she agreed.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he was to understand there were some problems with Small Business retention and expansion person having payment from one of the two parties. Chair Holt said that was what he heard from the conversation but she was concerned there were two pots of money for same thing. Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to get that understanding and if that was what the issue was, he had no problem with unifying both services under body.

Chair Holt said whichever one was the most successful, "you put your eggs in that basket" and she had no problem with putting small businesses under that because they are able to do grant programs for large businesses.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was an issue presently regarding retention services, had there been any issue with paying out those services when they were rendered.

Beth Kirkland, Executive Director of Gadsden County Development Council, appeared before the board and said both consultants send invoices on a regular basis and the organization paid in a quick manner and the budget was in order and the Board saw it and they were on pace. Commissioner Morgan said at the end of the fiscal year, they had paid out \$80,000 and Ms. Kirkland said no, \$40,000 for business retention and expansion and she was not aware of \$40,000 for Small Business because that money did not come to the Gadsden County Development.

Commissioner Taylor said he needed to look at the pay-out over the course of the year and said every quarter they receive in their packet dollars that had been spent for that quarter and they know what was spent for the quarter and what remained for the rest of the quarters. She said she was asking him to look at that.

Chair Holt asked the Manager was the money moved over to the Chamber and the other pot of money went to GCDC. Mr. Presnell said yes. Chair Holt said they had no accounting process on how this was done with the Chamber, but GCDC had an accounting process of how they paid out. Commissioner Morgan tried to talk and Chair Holt cut him off. He said he had the floor and Chair Holt said he had the floor and she had the floor now. Chair Holt said as far as she was concerned the money should be placed under GCDC. Commissioner Morgan said he was asking if there was question of a certain segment of the funding not being paid out, then it needed to be moved under one single umbrella. Chair Holt asked for a report from both groups at the next budget workshop.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they were asking about \$40,000 specifically for both groups and Chair Holt said yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked to monitor them over the years' time on how it was paid out.

Chair Holt said with any entity that received taxpayers money, they should be able to check their books.

Commissioner Morgan said he was very proud of how the GCDC and the Chamber for effectively

working together the past year and had done very well. He said they needed to promote unity and keep things moving forward.

Non-Profits

Mr. Presnell said they were currently funding the non-profits at \$286,500 and the requested amount was for \$719,049 total for a difference of \$432,549.

Chair Holt said she asked for two columns showing what was already funded and the amounts and what was requested to be funded. She asked them what they were looking at doing.

Commissioner Hinson said there were some areas he wanted to cut but he wanted to add to foster agriculture in the community and Havana Community Development Community had come before the Board several times and he felt they needed to give them at least \$15,000-\$20,000 to show they at least appreciated them trying to make an effort and he suggested \$15,000.

Commissioner Morgan felt they should leave the non-profits as they were for this year and Commissioner Viegbesie agreed. Commissioner Taylor also concurred but suggested they look at this in three to six months and said it was insane to expect change if they let everything remain the same.

Chair Holt agreed with leaving it but said after a certain period of time some of them would need to come off, reducing them down and re-evaluating things. She felt they needed a workshop to look at everything.

Pam Wilson, Executive Director of Capital Medical Society Foundation and We Care Network

appeared before the Board and said they were one of the programs trying to solve the 67 out of 67 county health ranking problem and they were the only resource for this County for the ones that were low-income, uninsured with incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level and that would be \$17,820 who needed specialty medical care. She said there was access to primary care and some of the residents travelled to Leon County to receive care. She further explained that when the primary could not take care of the problems, they would refer them to the We Care Network if they fell into that category and their case management team coordinates all of the care donated. She said they just finished up their fiscal year and it was \$1.3 Million worth of donated care for the residents. She further stated she had been operating in a deficit since they started in 1995 and if enough funding was not received they would have to reduce the services they provided. She gave the Board a comparison and said Leon County provided 62% of their valued services and Gadsden County provided 8% and added they were not asking for a percentage of the value of services, they just needed to be able to pay for their case manager and the costs to do business in Gadsden County.

Chair Holt said she was going to ask for a workshop and they needed to look at the goals they set in the retreat. She asked that the Commissioners look over the packet and see if there were other areas they could cut because they had to find \$1 Million to cut.

Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to consider things like asking for participation from the City of Quincy and Quincy transit for Gadsden Express and the municipalities for transportation. He also asked with the Summer Youth jobs, and felt healthcare took precedence over transportation.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to figure out how they lost \$1.2 Million and then jump back

into other "stuff". He stated the County "was still in great fiscal condition and if we decide to keep continuing to go with that, three years ago we didn't have that kind, three or four years ago we wasn't there. So we still in great shape. We in wonderful shape, we just (inaudible) from my understanding we in great shape regardless. If that stays the same or whatever, whatever happens, we still gonna be in great shape. We got a lot of money in our reserve that can cover a lot of things. So, Gadsden County's not about to fall over and die right now." He then asked about the Apalachee Mental Health on page 9 and what their funding was for. Mr. Presnell said it was a state requirement and the State set the level that all counties have to fund regional services providers. He then said he felt Redeemed provided great services and said he thought it was for battered females and domestic violence. Commissioner Viegbesie said it was a reentry program at the Jail. He asked what services Legal Services of North Florida provided and Mr. Presnell said they had been funded for a number of years and they provided legal assistance for divorce, child support, etc.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested they keep FY16 the way it was and reduce amounts for ones that have applied for funding for FY17 and ran down the list.

Commissioner Hinson felt they needed to give direction to the Administrator to make his cuts "because I'm not gonna say cut this and cut that because don't get paid that kind of money to do that. What I'm saying the County Administrator's got to make those tough decisions on cutting back on services, and I hope he don't cut nobody's position, I'm just saying he's got to be in a position to make his cut and we got to find \$1.1 Million dollars."

Chair Holt said they needed to ask everyone to participate in cut-backs; everyone needed to cut across the Board.

Commissioner Taylor said after listening to presentation from We Care, she was at the point where she wanted to hear more from the non-profits and need to do more to help the non-profits. She said she concurred they did not need to get in too deep with some of the funding. She asked the Administrator the \$1.1 Million deficit they had at this time was it due in part to a decrease in revenue and was it not more so because of the increased requested amount. Mr. Presnell said no, he did not include that in the budget and his recommendation was a smaller increase that was included. He added if they added in all the requests in, they would be \$3 million short. He also said for them not to get too alarmed about the deficit because last year their budget contained \$2.5 and they were early in the process. Commissioner Taylor said she did not want to balance the budget off of reserved funds because each year they had to go in and pull money out and it would decrease over a period of time and in three to four years they would be broke. She felt they needed to have an opportunity to talk with the non-profits and set a workshop to hear from them.

Chair Holt said they had not gone through half of this and Mr. Presnell asked that they study this packet before the next workshop.

Chair Holt said she was looking at the increase in Medicaid from \$760,000 to \$810,000 and asked if they could look at any funding from the indigent care money raised off the ½ cent tax and how could that be used because they were still spending the ½ cent and Capital Regional was still getting the reimbursement on the Medicaid and Mr. Presnell said that had been cancelled, the program was no longer available. She added they bumped heads all the time with Capital Region and was nothing new, but with the health care ranking of 67 out of 67, the hospital should be weighing in on how they were going to help, not sitting back getting the indigent ½ cent and not saying anything. She further

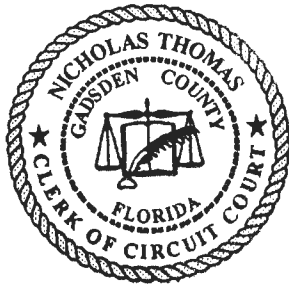
stated the healthcare providers should be able to come into the room and meet with Capital Region to see how they could use some of the funding to help with the situation. She asked the Administrator to approach them again about the ½ cent tax and felt it would help out with trying to look at extra funding when they were already taxing people for healthcare.

Commissioner Morgan said while it was extremely important, it was fairly simple they had a \$49.9 Million budget and had a \$1.18 Million shortfall in fund balance and at this point do a 2% cut across the board and they would be balanced. Chair Holt said not just them but the constitutionals should cut their budget 2% also.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at the juncture.

Mr. Presnell said there was an advertised Planning and Zoning meeting that was advertised at 6:00.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:03 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
Brenda A. Holt
BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk