

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:37 p.m. (delayed because of the Emergency Meeting regarding the Hurricane that was held previous to this meeting.) She asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. First Budget Public Hearing for Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018

Mr. Presnell said this meeting was the first of two required Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The 2017/2018 Tentative Budget has been formulated based on maintaining the current County-Wide Property Tax rate of 8.9064 mills. He said the calculated rolled-back millage rate, the Property Tax that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year is 8.8425 mills, which is 0.0639 mills less than the current rate of 8.9064.

Commissioner Hinson returned to the meeting at this juncture (was previously present for the Emergency Meeting).

Mr. Presnell said they needed a motion first for the Millage Rate and then could go into the tentative budget.

Chair Taylor declared this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Mr. Presnell said a second motion was needed to adopt the tentative budget for Fiscal year 2017-

2018 and Staff recommended advertising the second Public Budget hearing to be held Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Mr. Weiss said they needed to see if there was public input before the Motion.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed that the Havana Senior Citizens did not have \$10,000 allocated to them and they had been around forever and he understood there was a misunderstanding. Mr. Presnell said there was a change in the leadership there and the gentleman that was in charge returned the funds last year and they dissolved or he resigned and a funding request was not submitted for this year.

Chair Taylor asked that they handle it in the proper perspective.

Chair Taylor announced again this was a Public Hearing and Commissioner Morgan had questions. She asked that they hold the public hearing first.

Jim McShane, CareerSource CEO, thanked them for putting money in the budget for Economic Development.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to go on record and said \$1 Million should be there over the \$400,000.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator as the Budget currently stood, what was the total amount being transferred from fund balance to balance the budget and Mr. Presnell said \$1.321,659 Million. Commissioner Morgan asked what the expenditures were that was added at the last workshop and Mr. Presnell said he did not have those figures in front of him. Commissioner Morgan said \$50,000 was added for the monument along with a couple of other expenditures. Mr. Presnell said that was all that was added at the last meeting. Commissioner Morgan said they were not including the road paving initiative and Mr. Presnell said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan said he could not see borrowing money to balance the budget without prioritizing the unpaved roads.

Commissioner Hinson said Gadsden Arts Center had \$6,000 instead of \$4,000; Quincy Music Theater and everything was going up instead of down. Mr. Presnell said on the specific ones he mentioned they went back and forth and had a discussion on the Non-Profits and that was the funding levels they decided on.

There was discussion around the dais regarding the reduction.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR 2017-2018. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 18, 2017-First Public Hearing

Mr. Presnell asked for a motion to direct staff to advertise on September 14, 2017, in accordance with the Florida Statutes, the Tentative Millage Rate and Budget for FY 2017/2018 and the date, time and place of the Final Public Hearing to Adopt the Final Millage Rate and Budget for FY 2017/2018.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION 3 AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked the date of the meeting and was told it would be on September 18, 2017.

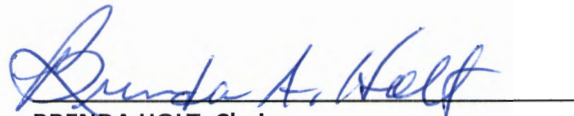
**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE
ITEM.**

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:01 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



**BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk