

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 12, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**

**Brenda Holt, District 4, Chair - Present**  
**Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2, Vice – Chair - Present**  
**Sherrie Taylor, District 5 –arrived late**  
**Eric Hinson, District 1- Present**  
**Gene Morgan, District 3 (Absent)**  
**Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator**  
**David Weiss, County Attorney**  
**Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk**

**1. INVOCATION, PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE, WELCOME**

Chair Holt called the workshop to order. She said that they would go over the material, make notes and at the end of the presentation, would go back to those sections. She asked that once they reviewed everything and went over their concerns, they would be ready to set another workshop.

**2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED 18/19 BUDGET AND PRESENTATION**

Mr. Johnson said they were happy to be at this time of the year where they do their responsibility to look at their financial outlook to discuss the upcoming fiscal year.

Chair Holt interrupted Mr. Johnson to do a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The workshop then resumed. She asked that they send prayers up for the Interim County Manager, Mrs. Jackson, and her daughter; she added her daughter was in Shands hospital.

Mr. Johnson continued, he said to the Board this was the first budget workshop of the year. He said the staff was happy at this time of the year where they can work with them as a Commission to state the priorities and objectives for funding the next year's budget. He said today laid the foundation and it would allow them to have some continued dialogue to discuss the County's financial status and to also talk about some of the responsibilities and main core factors that allow staff to provide great day to day services to the members of this community. He then introduced Mr. Price, OMB Director who had worked diligently with staff throughout the entire government to establish what the funding at this stage would look like as a recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Price welcomed them all to the first FY 2018/19 Budget Workshop. He said management would show issues facing Gadsden County, some possible solutions and the need for a new revenue source. He said they would start with financial trends, then discuss Capital Improvements projects that were upcoming for the next 5 years, Constitutional Officer's Budget request that they had and financial issues regarding EMS and the Library. He said they would discuss the possible revenue sources available and the General Fund Trend of their balance. He asked that this be a brainstorming type of session, get ideas out there to improve the budget of Gadsden County itself. He then went into the Gadsden County, FL FY19 Budget Overview:

- General Fund Budgeted Revenue – He noted the General Fund Budget Revenue has been

relatively steady. He said it all comes from various taxes and fees they have. He said the hope is to improve. He said it pretty much mirrors the expenditures with a balanced type budget.

- General Fund Budgeted Expenditures – dropped down to \$4 Million general fund balance (Stevens School Insurance proceeds moved).
- General Fund Balance – Auditors have said for years that the fund balance under 3 million ?
- Building (some big ones are in here).
- Fire(most ongoing cost)
- Library – computer books, security to maintain
- Public Works – equipment, radios, flatbed trucks (field tanks and trucks need to be replaced).
- Constitutional Officers - (page 16) Clerk Thomas requested \$63,000 more than FY 18 - \$42,000 for personnel and \$22,000 for computer technology. Property Appraiser requested \$42,000 more than FY 18-\$17,000 for personnel and \$25,000 for operating expense; Sheriff requested \$600,000 more than FY 18; Supervisor of Elections requested \$57,000 of which \$48,000 is unfunded mandates for enhancements to voting system, the remaining is operating costs; Tax Collector request is not due until August 1.
- Transfer to EMS
- General Fund Transfers to EMS
- Transfer to Library
- Gadsden County 2019 Budget (Capital Improvement Projects)
- He said there needs to be something drastic with Library
- List of possible revenue sources
- 1. Increase Ad Valorem taxes
- 2. Raise Gas Taxes and Fuel (business can benefit)
- 3. EMS/Fire Assessment Fees
- 4. Bank loan for one time expenditures
- 5. Fund balance – \$4 Million
- 

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at this juncture at 5:29 pm*

Commissioner Viegbesie commented on the Library (page 23). He inquired what led to the \$37,000. Mr. Price said he knew they transferred less general fund monies, but he would check. Chair Holt discussed meeting with department heads for future meetings.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked that they reach out to other counties to get creative sources to approve the quality of life for citizens.

Chair Holt commented on the revenue-generating side, the gas tax was less painful. She said that was normally what the AOC recommended. She said it would be the less painful for the citizens. She asked staff to look at that to generate funds.

Commissioner Viegbesie commented on the need for a service station on Hwy 27. He said there was a need, but wanted to be sure they could compete with Georgia. He said their gas tax was much lower than Florida. Mrs. Holt said the companies would look at that and if it was not feasible they wouldn't do it.

Chair Holt said she wanted to see a 2, 3 or 5% percent reduction cut across the Board. She asked to see it because of Medicaid, the \$980,000 they would have to pay and the write off of EMS at \$517,000 totaling \$1.4 Million. She said they had to find ways to save. She asked Mr. Price was the numbers for salaries included in the presentation and he responded they were not. She said she felt those were important positions and needed to be filled: Planner, Building Inspection (2), another person in Housing, and the numbers/salaries to hire should be reflected in the numbers. She added they wanted to keep the County running.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to see reorganization with these new positions, such as merge, create and reduce workload, whatever it takes. He asked about the Health Department as regard to septic tanks. He asked how it works. He said there was a problem with the approval system and he has gotten a number of calls. They were already paying on the construction loan. Mrs. Holt said they are governed by the State and the County had little input. She said they cut back on all of them throughout the state. He asked could they absorb those duties and cost to keep the program going. Mrs. Holt said the State would probably love it, but the County would have to fund it and they couldn't afford it. She mentioned they tried to give it to them in the past.

Chair Holt discussed the contract of the hospital and said they were in the process of looking at the contract. He said he wasn't sure but it was his belief that they have over a year to notify. Mrs. Holt commented on the hospital stays; she said \$980,000 to pay back for the Medicaid. (It is included in the budget). She said the County could run the hospital or bring in someone to run it. She said if they offered more services in the County they would reduce the amount of money going outside the County. She said wherever the card was used; the money had to be sent to that location.

Chair Holt discussed the EMS part that needed to be looked at, the \$517,000 write-off. She said even if it was included under the fire umbrella they would still have to have a way to fund it. She said it was \$1.4 Million that they would have to find a way to fund.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with Fire and EMS there were equipment deficiencies, especially with the new fire station coming to the Greenshade/Dogtown area. He said the Chief had passed all the tests, was presented with the ax upon passing and there was nowhere for it to be placed because they don't have a fire station. He said after meeting with them today they expressed frustration with the sources of the grant that they could begin to write. He said they were unable to do this unless they had a bona fide fire station in place. He mentioned that some of the equipment in other fire stations was noncompliant. He asked had it been factored in this budget to provide this life-saving equipment.

Mr. Johnson commented with Capital Improvements they strive to keep a certain infrastructural responsibility that they need to address. He said they just received from? partnering agencies equipment for a fire that would be of great assistance to the volunteer firefighters. He said they were working to communicate with them as will be seen in upcoming meetings. He said they plan to work with Fire and others to address the contractual responsibilities and the costs to stay in compliance.

Chair Holt asked do they still rotate vehicles out. Mr. Johnson replied that the answer was yes and if they looked inside on page 9, it was time to look at rotating some of the vehicles. He said they were coming up to the timeframe where it was time for them to look at replacing some of their vehicles. He pulled stats on this subject for review. He said there were 162 transportation vehicles and

operating vehicles, with 94 being operating equipment, 32 transportation vehicles, and 68 that were acknowledged with over 100,000 miles. He said they were working on trying to improve fleet. He said they were looking at other contractual agreements and it is important to look at public works and building officials. Chair Holt asked if there was a policy in place to rotate out every 3 years. Mr. Johnson said there were a plethora of options and he could bring them to the next meeting.

Chair Holt asked was there anything in Capital Outlay that they needed to fix as far as repairs.

Mr. Johnson mentioned at the last workshop they asked for a workshop to discuss the Radio System and Tower. He said it was reflected in the budget that was in front of them as a projected number.

Chair Holt asked about the Woodham Building as to the new roof, water proofing for 2023. She said she thought they had done a lot of work on that building already. She said that she was trying to find ways to get the \$1.4 Million dollars taken care of. She said she would like for them to look across the board at the cut to help with this \$1.4 Million.

Mr. Johnson said they could move up or back per the Commission.

Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned the Butler Building Generator, asked about the rotted windows, etc., and improvements to that building. He discussed the frontal view and beautification and if it was included in this budget.

Mr. Price said that they were getting quotes for that right now and there was hope to have it done this fiscal year.

Chair Holt commented on Historical Funds or Grants, such as with the Courthouse to see if they could get any funds out of that.

Commissioner Hinson discussed each Commissioner having a wish list. He said he would like to look at this first by going through each section. He felt as if the Economic Development Council should be present to spearhead and help with taxes and other aspects. He asked for a workshop on parks and recreational and economic development.

Chair Holt commented on Stevens School, page 11, she questioned the \$50,000. She said she thought there was a grant for that.

Mr. Johnson said they did receive a grant to do some work on Steven's School and it went toward some of the work, but there were some other things that need to be done and addressed. He said the roof has been replaced, but there was still duct work, which is the next phase. He said that they were looking for additional funding that would cover HVAC work that needed to be done.

Consensus to have the staff to reach out to Commissioners after they have looked over the budget.

### **3. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

There were no additional comments by Commissioners.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no citizens requesting to be heard on non – agenda items.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:54 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

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

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**