

AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 18,  
2020 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING  
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, "Dr. V", Chair, District 2  
Eric Hinson, District 1  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator  
Jeff Price, Sr. Management and Budget Analyst  
Alan Meeks, Facility Manager  
Jeronda Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator  
Leslie Steele, Public Information Officer  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

THIS BUDGET WORKSHOP WAS HAD VIA ZOOM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the Workshop to order at 4:05 p.m. He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)**

*Due to the restrictions on gatherings as a result of COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be viewed by accessing the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Facebook Page, [www.facebook.com/GadsdenCountyBOCC](https://www.facebook.com/GadsdenCountyBOCC). Virtual meeting access details will be posted to the Gadsden County website, [www.gadsdencountyfl.gov](http://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov). Public comment for the meeting should be submitted via email to [Citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:Citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record; however, may not be read in the meeting.*

None were had.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Overview and Summary Highlights (Henry G. Grant, PhD, Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and asked Mr. Price to give the 20/21 Budget Summary.

Mr. Price showed slides that were also in the packet. Each page was copied below.

**6-MONTH REVIEW OF PROJECTS AND STATUS- FY 20: PAGE 2**

1. Dispatch Center - Completed March 2020
2. Green Shade Fire Department - Anticipated Completion Date: June 2020
3. Cell Tower Generators -4 Generators and Transfer Switches Anticipated to be Complete in January 2021
4. Social Security Office - Move Completed March 2020
5. AG Center - Anticipated Completion Date August 2020
6. Courthouse Renovations - Completed March 2020

7. Stevens School - Site Design and Renovation Design Phase Under Way
8. Woodham Building Roof - Completed April 2020
9. Move EMS Campus - Phase One to be Completed September 2020
10. Received \$300,000 Reimbursement for Hurricane IRMA
11. Working with Synergy to Obtain Maximum Allowed from FEMA for Hurricane Michael
12. COVID-19
13. Special Needs Building – In Design Phase

Mr. Price said those were the basic projects the County had been working on and asked for any questions and stated Mr. Meeks was available for any questions as well.  
Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson was attending the Workshop via Zoom.  
Commissioner Hinson had no questions but said he could not hear Mr. Price. Commissioner Hinson had a poor connection. Mr. Price was given a microphone and Commissioner Hinson stated it was still hard for him to hear.

**PRICE PRELIMINARY BUDGET ISSUES: PAGE 3**

- Revenues Expected to Decrease Due to Covid-19 - April 2019 to April 2020 Down Approximately 20% - For How Long? Goes Lower?
- 2021 Medical Insurance Rates are Expected to Increase 7%-9% (Put 8% in the Budget)
- Status of All Projects Being Worked on in the County
- The New Interim Administrator Has Reviewed All Departmental Budgets - Making Cuts and/or Adding Items Were Needed
- No Non-Profit Requests Were Received by the May 1 Deadline  
- Extended Deadline to May 29 - Six Received
- Constitutional Officers Budgets Were Due June 1 (Except Tax Col 8/1) - At First Glance They Have Requested Nearly \$1.3m (\*Now at 1.6m\*)
- Goal - Balance Budget

Mr. Price stated everything here was a draft and revenue was the biggest issue. He asked for questions on this section.

Chair Viegbesie questioned Constitutional Officers Budget going from a request of \$1.3M to \$1.6M and asked if that was a total request by all Constitutional Officers.

Mr. Price stated it was the total new requests.

Chair Viegbesie stated this was \$1.6M beyond what it was in this current budget.

Mr. Price answered yes.

**EXPENDITURES: PAGE 4**

***\*Non-Profits:***

*Boys and Girls Club-	\$96,187
*Big Bend Comm. Dev.-	\$25,000
*GC A-Z Village Plaza-	\$2,807
*Havana Main Street-	\$10,000
*Health United Resources-	\$12,250
*North FL Ed Dev. Corp-	\$5,000
*Economic Development-	\$120,000
*Gadsden County Senior Citizens-	\$102,000
*Summer Youth Jobs-	\$100,000

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
 June 18,2020 1st Budget Workshop

*County Auditing-	\$129,400
*County Attorney-	\$150,000
*Medical Examiner-	\$134,000
*Apalachee Regional Plan-	\$7,026
*Forestry Assessment-	\$3,000
*Developmental Disabilities-	\$7,500
*Apalachee Mental Health-	\$136,000
*Medicaid-	\$1,000,000

Chair Viegbesie asked if the \$100,000 projected for Summer Youth was including the \$50,000 from this current year that was not spent. He stated the \$50,00 from this year should be left alone and whatever was brought in this fiscal year would be added to what was received for the next fiscal year. The \$100,000 should have nothing to do with the \$50,000 from this year. Mr. Price said he did use the \$50,000 from this year and added \$50,000 for next year. Chair Viegbesie suggested leaving \$50,000 from this year alone and whatever got hammered out would go to Summer Youth to make it \$100,000. Dr. Grant asked for clarity on the \$50,000 and Chair Viegbesie told him the \$50,000 from this FY should stay in reserve, untouched.

*Commissioner Hinson had a bad connection and after no response, seemed to have left or was disconnected from the workshop.*

Commissioner Holt asked to let Mr. Price finish the presentation and have questions answered when he was finished.

**NON-PROFITS: PAGE 5**

<u>Name</u>	<u>F/Y 21 Request</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Boys and Girls Club	\$96,187	After School Program
Big Bend Comm Dev.	\$25,000	Donation to Citizens
GC A-Z Village Plaza	\$2,807	Amateur Radio
Havana Main Street	\$10,000	Way Finder Signs
Health United Resources	\$12,580	Health Awareness
North FL. Ed. Dev. Corp.	\$5,000	Renovation Food Pantry

**A copy of each application is in the back of the book.**

Mr. Price said he had the paperwork from these entities for the Commissioners to review.

**JUNE 18, 2020 SNAPSHOT: PAGE 6**

**Current Shortfall Per the Budgets Turned in \$3,000,000**

**Included in This Number:**

**Constitutional Officers- \$1,300,000 (Higher Now)**

**Small Projects- \$1,500,000**

**5 New Staff with Benefits- \$275,000**

**Correction Action Suggestions:**

**Cut Constitutional Officers, Cut Projects, Cut New Staff, Cut Requests,**

**Start Collecting A 6-Cent Gas Tax, Raise Millage Rate, Impose an Assessment, Others.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18,2020 1st Budget Workshop

Mr. Price said he was looking for direction and ideas on ways to get closer to a balanced budget. He stated there were 8 Constitutionals, projects, new staff and other types of things. He shared some ways to collect more money would be raising the millage rate, start a 6-cent gas tax, impose an assessment and was open to other creative suggestions. Mr. Price asked for any questions or comments.

Commissioner Holt went through the items line by line in the budget. She stated there was previous discussion on the Ag building and bus transportation, she wanted to see the two (2) line items and know what happened in the budget last year. There was supposed to be a copy of that budget for her at this meeting. She asked where the locations were that the generators were going.

Mr. Price said he would ask Mr. Meeks to answer the questions about the towers.

Commissioner Holt said she needed more info in the handouts to make things clearer. She also asked Mr. Price to put this information online so people could see it and have their own questions. She asked if money for a Grant Writer was in the budget.

Mr. Price said yes, \$70,000 and it was advertised numerous times and there was one application in Mr. Price's mailbox.

Commissioner Holt stated she thought the Grant Writer pay should be moved up to \$100,000. She asked where the reimbursement money from Hurricane Irma was going.

Mr. Price stated it was going mostly into Transportation because it was Public Works money. Commissioner Holt asked for a breakdown of what was received and where it was going and Mr. Price said he would get her that information.

Commissioner Holt said the BOCC needed an update from Synergy. She also wanted to see the Hospital facility restored as a hospital. She stated at the beginning of the virus, she sent an email from herself, not the Board, requesting funding for improvements to the hospital. There were no cases at the time and she did not discuss it because she did not want people to think she was trying to bring cases to this county. She said to contact the Governor's office and the Senator at the Federal level for funding for the hospital building, there may be money from COVID to use on the Hospital. She further stated on page 3, there was a 20% decrease, Commissioner Holt asked what areas they were coming from, she wanted a written report to make projections. She said 8% was set aside for insurance from CHP, she asked why it went up, and suggested for Mr. Price to request documentation about why it went up. She asked what the old projects being worked on were.

Mr. Price said they were the cell towers.

Mr. Meeks came before the Board and gave the tower locations: **1)** Highway 27, at the Peavy site **2)** Midway, close to City Hall **3)** Jail **4)** Flat Creek, by the old Jai Alai fronton, there was a tower site with Crown Castle. **5)** Oak Grove, to the old AT&T tower intersection. **6)** In an agreement with Family and Children Services to utilize the water tower at the Florida State Hospital.

He further stated the tower at the jail was owned by the County.

Commissioner Holt asked if the County could lease space at the jail tower.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

Mr. Meeks answered once it was built, space could be leased, the County could go back and assess the old tower and see if there was anything that could be removed. Commissioner Holt stated maybe there was space on the old one to lease. This would help generate funds to help pay for these projects.

Mr. Meeks said currently, the County had one lease agreement on the table with Motorola, they had use of space on one at the old tower and that lease agreement was in review with their counsel and had already been reviewed by the County's counsel.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was income for the County or Motorola.

Mr. Meeks said the County proposed \$1,000 monthly and were waiting for their response and it would be income for the County.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was possible to get input on what was average for a tower lease. Mr. Meeks said the County had leases and were paying \$750 and \$1,500 monthly. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Meeks to pull data and find out what the possibilities were for the jail site tower and get that data back to the BOCC.

Mr. Meeks stated the lease agreement was the ground space and that was a cost as well as the tower space. In Midway, American Towers was asking \$3,000 and the County negotiated to \$1,780.

Commissioner Holt stated she was trying to get funds at the jail site in order to offset some of the funds being spent out for communication. She asked for hard data/averages. Commissioner Holt asked what services the County provided at Florida State Hospital. Mr. Meeks said there was EMS there, but per a local agreement, they had access to the County radio system in case of an emergency, for back-up.

Commissioner Holt, concerning the \$1.6 million additional for Constitutional Officers, suggested they would get what they did last year. She stated there could not be an increase because the County did not know what revenue would be. Chair Viegbesie said he thought to keep the Constitutionals like it was the last fiscal year was a good idea.

Commissioner Holt said the BOCC could not look at any non-profit because school being back in session was still a question. She asked what the Chamber was at.

Mr. Price said it was part of the \$120,000.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not a fan of the Chamber, she said they would not give a report and show the County where they were trying to help get out of debt, and if they would not do that, then the Board needed to look at not funding them. That would save \$120,000. Chairman Viegbesie said regarding the \$120,000, was it supposed to be \$60,000 for each. He said he would not support it either. If the Chamber was getting money, we should not be giving the same as GCDC, because one was more productive than the other. He stated a larger percent should go to GCDC.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

Commissioner Holt said she would give to the Chamber if they gave a report. She was not in favor of anything that did not directly help families this year. She stated the BOCC was going to have to have a hard cut to get monies to families unless the County could get some Grants in from a State or Federal level.

Commissioner Holt told Dr. Grant there were cuts in the budget to be made.

Commissioner Holt asked about page 6, 5 new staff members, she asked what positions they were.

Mr. Price answered an Elder Affairs Coordinator, Construction/Maintenance Worker, Accounting and IT Staff.

Commissioner Holt asked if an Assistant Manager salary was in the budget.

Mr. Price said yes, and Commissioner Holt asked how much.

Chair Viegbesie said he also needed to know the salary that was in this budget for the Administrator, because it needed to be competitive to retain a good Administrator.

Mr. Price gave the salaries; Assistant County Administrator \$85,000 plus benefits, County Administrator \$104,000 plus benefits.

Commissioner Holt said the problem was there were not enough people on the revenue side, the County should not look at purchasing any trucks that were not for physical work, she stated there was more concern about the year of the truck rather than the work. She did not want to see anymore new vehicles. She said the Board needed to stand still. She stated with the lease/buy option, it cut back on the maintenance, so there should not be high maintenance bills. She further stated the salary for the Assistant Administrator and Administrator were not high enough.

She stated the County would not get gas tax money, millage rate increase would not happen, especially during an election year. She said the BOCC needed to back up and try to increase the revenue, reduce expenditures and go after any Grants from the State and Federal Government. She asked that they advertise out of the local area now for a Grant Writer. On the Emergency Management side, would it not increase the temporary employees needed for housing, and building inspection, which was a recommendation from Emergency Management. Until FEMA money the County had was moved, would the county be allowed to apply for more money. The only other way to get monies in was housing, FEMA and USDA. Concerning the insurance report, Commissioner Holt wanted a report on the buildings, as far as damage, which buildings the County had received money for, what was the progress on those buildings getting done and how much more was needed to be done. (Flow sheet for projects)

Chair Viegbesie stated most of Commissioner Holt's talking points were his as well. He stated with the Boys and Girls Club, there was no school, so what program was provided while the kids were at home. It needed to be looked at it seriously. He requested a packet of each Non-profit applications especially the Non-profits the BOCC had not worked with before, like the Big Bend Commercial Development Donation to Citizens, what are they donating to citizens? He wanted to see a description of each of them. He stated the BOCC needed to work on making the Administrator's salary competitive, \$104,000 was not enough, he stated it was an assistant pay. He said if the County was going to recruit and retain, the salary needed to be higher. He further stated, next time he would come back with alternative sources of Revenue. There was some form of special assessment needed that would be considered by the citizens, like a user-based assessment. If you use it, you pay kind of thing. He said Commissioner Holt did a good job

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

questioning things. Chair Viegbesie said Economic Development was something that needed work as far as GCDC and the Chamber.

Ms. Steele said there was an audience member from One Gadsden Foundation on the phone and they wanted to speak. The connection was lost and no one spoke. They would be allowed to speak when they were brought back on.

Chair Viegbesie stated he did not see an application from One Gadsden Foundation on the list, and said the BOCC needed an application from them handed in to consider being put in the budget, and that date had passed.

Commissioner Holt wanted to go down the list of items Mr. Price had handed out. She asked if the amount of increase in buildings was due to FEMA and Insurance, starting at the top of the Budget Expenditures page.

Mr. Price said due to Insurance proceeds and projects, the buildings the County had, needed to have repair, such as the flooring, roofing for the library, and that type of thing.

Commissioner Holt asked where that money was coming from.

Mr. Price answered \$300,000 from Insurance proceeds.

Commissioner Holt asked if FEMA was included in that number.

Mr. Price said no.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the amount for this fiscal year included County Buildings such as the houses the county had for emergency. He said one was needed to be repaired.

Mr. Meeks said he spoke with Sonya Burns and the County would roof the house on Virginia Street and the other one they were putting \$80,00 into it to renovate.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that money was part of the \$2,095,102. Mr. Price answered not yet.

Commissioner Holt asked if the two houses were damaged in the hurricane.

Mr. Meeks said the roof had a tarp and they were planning to use some insurance proceeds but the damage did not reach the deductible, most damage was prior to the storm.

Commissioner Holt stated that was for the insurance, but you could still file with FEMA.

Mr. Meeks said FEMA assessed it and it was still in preliminary work and they were not taking any new claims.

Commissioner Holt said people should have had it done already. She said there was income that came in to do buildings, she told Mr. Price to compare, and see where the money was going and see if something else needed to be done. She further stated the County would not know what to apply for until there was an inventory done.

Commissioner Holt asked what the \$192,000 reduction was for the jail.

Mr. Price answered the Cell Towers and Jail Maintenance were together for some reason and that was split into two.

Commissioner Holt stated the Jail Maintenance was going to be \$144,000, and asked where the \$192,000 was going.

Mr. Price answered to cell towers.

Commissioner Holt asked where the addition for Custodial Services was going.

Mr. Price said it went up because the County was hiring a new custodian and the County had a new building to maintain.

Commissioner Holt asked why Code Enforcement was down.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

Mr. Price stated he did not look at anything under \$10,000.

Commissioner Holt asked why Hospital Maintenance was down.

Mr. Price stated it went down because the County was not doing as much since the lease was renewed and the hospital did most of the maintenance themselves.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was in the agreement. Mr. Price was going to check on that and get back to the BOCC with the answer.

Commissioner Holt asked why there was an increase to Parks and Rec.

Mr. Price stated there was a gentleman retiring and he had a payout coming for sick leave and annual leave.

Commissioner Holt asked if Parks and Rec would hire someone new and Mr. Price answered no. Commissioner Holt asked if the County Commissioners line item decrease was for travel.

Mr. Price said yes, travel, pictures and they added more because there may be new people on the Commission so new pictures would be needed.

Chair Viegbesie stated if that was the case, the number would increase, but the number was a decrease.

Commissioner Holt noted Medicaid was up \$30,000, and asked who processed the Medicaid claims.

Mr. Price said he did not know that answer.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to check into the process of Medicaid claims. She said sometimes it depended on how they were processed and it may save some money.

Commissioner Holt said Office Management and Budget was up \$137,352.

Mr. Price stated that was where the Grant Writer and Personnel were added.

Chair Viegbesie if that included the \$275,000 to hire 5 new staff with benefits or was that salary without benefits.

Mr. Price said the \$275,000 was with benefits and the Management and Budget line was the cost with benefits of an Accountant and also the Grant Writer.

Commissioner Holt asked where the Accountant would be used at.

Mr. Price stated to help out in Budget.

Commissioner Holt said there was an increase to the County Administrator and asked what it was for. Mr. Price answered an Elder Affairs Coordinator.

Commissioner Holt questioned why the County needed that.

Chair Viegbesie told Commissioner Holt that this was talked about when Mr. Hall was Interim Administrator, because of the issues with the Seniors and the coordination of the Senior Citizens Programs and Centers. The last FY it was postponed for this FY.

Commissioner Holt said she was just trying to figure out numbers.

Chair Viegbesie said an Elderly Affairs Program Coordinator was \$62,000 when Commissioner Holt asked earlier.

Commissioner Holt said what she was asking of Mr. Price was, if he put a topic up saying, this is what the money was for, under that, list those particular things. Increases or decreases should be broken down. She said Extension Services was down \$60,714 and asked why.

Mr. Price said there was rent being paid on a house, and they would move into the new building and not have rent.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

Commissioner Holt said they would still have utilities there, and asked Mr. Price to look at that. She also wanted the Manager to know that facility was not just for Extension Services and asked him to look at the use of that facility.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not see a variance in the amount for the County Attorney for the rate the County was currently using Legal Services. With all the meeting and various contact, if they would be used at the rate that they were being used now, he wanted to see a variance from the \$150,000. He asked how much from the current budget had been drawn on as of now. He said to use that number to project something for next year, because the BOCC did not know how long COVID would last, then there were hurricanes and other hazards where legal council would be needed and the County did not want to end up taking out of the General Fund to pay Legal Services.

Commissioner Holt asked if the County was funding Senior Citizens.  
Mr. Price stated they were getting \$106,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if Information technology hired someone.  
Mr. Price stated they were hiring a staff person.

Commissioner Holt said there was a decrease of \$15,233 for Veterans Services, and asked why.  
Mr. Price said there were two part time drivers and they were being combined into one full time person.

Commissioner Holt wanted to know why, but Mr. Price did not know. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Grant to find out why.

Mr. Price stated the Community development line was a typo and should have been a difference of (3,640).

Commissioner Holt stated Board Finance was up \$65,511.

Mr. Price said that was the Finance Department.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was for across the street. (Courthouse)

Mr. Price said yes and Commissioner Holt stated the ones that were not supposed to be helping us with our Budget, say yes. Mr. Price said it was part of the BOCC Budget. Commissioner Holt repeated herself saying, not supposed to be helping us with our Budget, say yes. Mr. Price said yes.

Commissioner Holt said the Finance Director was paid by the Board and was not a Clerk Employee and they were not supposed to co-mingle over there. She further stated the person who planned the money was not supposed to be the person that wrote the checks.

Chair Viegbesie said that was a question he had when he was elected, and he went across the street (to the Courthouse) and asked before he was sworn in. He asked to consider moving the budget finance position back to under the County Administrator instead of the Clerk. He stated there should be separation between the Auditor and the Finance Manager. He asked that be put into discussion.

Commissioner Holt said the Clerk said he was going to hire someone and she told him, "you get the interest off all the money, so go right ahead." She said the bottom line was that position was a County Employee and asked why there was an increase of \$65,511.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

Mr. Price said the Clerk was increasing two employees. Commissioner Holt asked if any were leaving.

Mr. Price said they had 9 employees and were adding 2 more. Commissioner Holt asked if there was any particular reason they gave, and Mr. Price said no.

Chair Viegbesie asked for clarity. He asked if the two employees being added were employees that worked under the Budget Director.

Mr. Price said they worked for Finance, but was not sure what position they had.

Commissioner Holt stated they worked for the Commission.

Chair Viegbesie said this was a Clerk Expenditure, and Mr. Price said it was what the County paid the Clerk.

Chair Viegbesie said since the County paid this to the Employee across the street, they were actually County Employees and answerable to the Board, (County Administrator) not the Clerk.

Commissioner Holt said that statement was true.

Commissioner Holt said Information Systems had an increase of \$66,869, and asked why.

Mr. Price said that was also the Finance Department, IT section, and they were looking to upgrade their software and hardware.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was just for Finance.

Commissioner Holt said the Finance Director. She asked what the numbers were at the top of the next page that said Health.

Mr. Price said it was the Health Department and the County was no longer giving them money.

The \$10,000 was what the County paid for their insurance; it was just moved to another location. He stated the bold numbers were totals.

Commissioner Holt asked why the Courthouse Facilities were down \$24,955.

Mr. Price said it was from testing of equipment for false alarms, fire equipment and that type of stuff. He further stated there was some money in there for X-ray machines and they either received them or not but they were taking that money out of the Budget.

Commissioner Holt stated this was not X-Ray machines and asked again why it lowered.

Mr. Price said he would go back and look at the detail. Commissioner Holt thought it had to do with the walls leaking.

Commissioner Holt said there was a decrease in Road and Bridge Maintenance, and that was good and asked if it was because of the equipment.

Mr. Price said yes, also from the decrease in Workman's Comp. Insurance.

Commissioner Holt stated the Sheriff's Office was up \$3,349,196. She asked if he was buying cars this time.

Chair Viegbesie noticed the line items did not show a difference but the Variance line did and asked why.

Mr. Price said he was just plugging in numbers, and there were 3 versions of the Sheriffs Budget and he was still working on it.

Commissioner Holt told Dr. Grant, with the Sheriff's budget, you have to call the Sheriff and say "Let's sit down and go through the Budget." That way you would get a good understanding of what they needed. She said sometimes the County and the Sheriff ordered together, if possible, to reduce his cost.

Dr. Grant said he had just received the Sheriff's budget this week.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18,2020 1st Budget Workshop

Commissioner Holt said the numbers that were listed were the same for 20 and 21 and should not be there.

Mr. Price stated this was a work in progress. Commissioner Holt told Mr. Price to leave the spaces blank so it did not look like a mistake, it would look like you were still working on it instead.

Commissioner Holt asked what the library increase of \$35,501 was for.

Mr. Price said the past couple of years the County had been cutting books and this year they would be increase books and promotion.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any Library Grants being used.

Mr. Price answered yes, there were donations and some Grants.

Commissioner Holt stated the libraries in the towns were down a total of \$32,287, and asked why. Mr. Price said one had a repair that was fixed.

Commissioner Holt asked what the \$34,670 raise in Building Inspection was. Mr. Price stated it was personnel issues, where somebody changed their insurance from single to family, and the retirement increased the amount.

Commissioner Holt questioned the amount. She then asked why the Indigent Surtax was down. Mr. Price said he thought it was going to be different, but had not figured out what different meant yet.

Commissioner Holt asked if he thought there would be less in sales. Mr. Price answered less tax, yes.

Commissioner Holt said EMS was up \$167,544, and asked why.

Mr. Price stated they were in the process of moving their location and it was to get the facility ready and to make the rooms livable.

Commissioner Holt asked where they were moving from and where they were moving to. Mr. Price said they were at the Hospital and moving next to the Health Center. Commissioner Holt stated they were just moving down the hill and questioned the amount of \$238,860. Mr. Price said he thought it had to do with the plumbing, showers, walls, and cable.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted numbers and reasons for that move. She further stated plumbing work and other services should be contracted out.

Mr. Meeks stated there would have to be windows cut into the bedrooms for building code, also a fire sprinkler system installed at a cost of \$30,000. That project would have a design made up and then sent out for bid.

Commissioner Holt stated the EMS Administration was picking up \$28,684, and she wanted to know what it was for. Mr. Price said one person was moved from one department to this one.

Commissioner Holt asked which department. Mr. Price said 144 (Emergency EMS)

Commissioner Holt asked if they increased an employee. Mr. Price said they went from 2, to 3.

Commissioner Holt said Gadsden Express was up \$100,000. She stated that was the one she was worrying about and asked what happened with the Clerk on it.

Mr. Price said they were finishing the journal entry to make it \$200,000.

Commissioner Holt stated she knew what they were doing, she asked what happened. She asked Mr. Price why the Clerk did not come to the meeting and say that it was not there.

Mr. Price said he could not answer for the Clerk.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2020 1st Budget Workshop

Commissioner Holt said the Board was going to have to find out about that one. She asked about Debt Services.

Mr. Price said all the Debt Services were not done yet, and there was no amortization schedule yet but he would have it before the next meeting.

Chair Viegbesie stated Debt Services for the Fiscal Year would decrease by \$132,637. He asked if that was for the fiscal year, or if was for the entire debt. He stated he wanted to know why the decrease.

Mr. Price said he would get Chair Viegbesie that information.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to look at the loans and see if there were better interest rates.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think the County would get a better interest rate.

Commissioner Holt stated it did not hurt to check.

Chair Viegbesie said after the budget passed, figure out how the County was performing financially with a quarterly update, and he would like to see a better detailed report.

Commissioner Holt stated there was help needed in permitting and budget. She further stated people could not come in and see that money was not in the place it should be.

Chair Viegbesie said one person alone could not catch everything.

Commissioner Holt said the County was going to lose on a federal level if they did not get things figured out. All departments needed to see what crossed their computer and see what the County could apply for. That was not up to a Grant Writer, it was up to the director in that department. The Grant writer would go after the Federal Grants needed to save some of the projects that would need to be done.

ADJOURN

Chair Viegbesie called the Workshop adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PHD, Chair

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk