

AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2  
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4  
Eric Hinson, District 1 - appeared remotely  
Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 – appeared remotely  
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)**

*Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.*

*If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email [CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.*

*The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.*

Chair Viegbesie said there were no comments from citizens.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Overview and Summary Highlights**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Mr. Price said a memo was sent to everyone and asked if there were any concerns before they moved forward.

Mr. Price said there were questions and discussions from the last meeting on Constitutional Officers.

Commissioner Holt asked to start with Payroll Savings. She asked if the list of payroll savings for \$321,000 was carried over or spread out between departments. Dr. Grant said it could be referred to it as salary savings.

Chair Viegbesie said he hoped the salary savings would not be expended before the FY 2021 began.

Commissioner Holt stated a Planning Director had already been hired and some of it would be expended this FY. She said a Grant Writer was needed.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was an email that was sent out and said he had not had a chance to review anything.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a pause to give everyone a chance to review.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the figures included Human Resources for payroll withholding taxes and benefits as well, Mr. Price said yes.

Dr. Grant said the memo was a response to questions that were asked at the last workshop. He said Constitutional Officers were on page 3 of 28, Revenue questions were Attachment 2 and the Non-Profits Attachment 3.

Commissioner Holt asked if Code Enforcement salary savings was \$33,000 including benefits and insurance, Mr. Price said yes, there was a split person working.

### **Constitutional Officers- Attachment 1**

Commissioner Taylor appeared at this time, 4:21 p.m., and Chair Viegbesie explained to her where discussion was at in the workshop.

Chair Viegbesie said he would have liked to have the spreadsheet earlier so he could have gone through it and understood it better.

Commissioner Holt said the Property Appraiser amount was down 2%, and a decrease in what they were asking for next year as opposed to this year, Mr. Price said yes. She asked, with the Clerk, what was increase for, she asked if \$65,000 was, a new position. Mr. Price said 7 people. Commissioner Holt said it was not for 7, unless it was raises for 7 people. Mr. Price said there was a paragraph explaining the reasons. She asked if the County was being charged back for tax deeds. She said she would put a note by that to ask later. She said the increase was pretty much another position and health insurance increase.

Mr. Price said it was also software upgrades.

Commissioner Holt said it was not listed in the \$65,000. Commissioner Holt said she still had the same concerns, if funding the Finance Department, the County should have a little bit of input. She asked Dr. Grant if there was an employee that moved from Road and Bridge over to Finance and Dr. Grant said yes. Commissioner Holt said, what happens was there was no coordination because Dr. Grant did not know that and that was why they would hear her say, if paying 98.5% of salary was there, there should be some say-so or some correspondence with the Clerk letting everyone know what was going on. She said if an employee was moved, he definitely need to know.

Chair Viegbesie said not only that, he would imagine if the County was paying that much of a percentage for an employee, even though they were working with the Clerk, he did not know who they should be accountable to, the County Administrator or the Clerk.

Commissioner Holt said those were questions, once they were settled, they were settled, the Board just needed settle it. (Dr. Grant asked Mr. Price if they were paying her and Deputy Clerk Blocker stated she was an employee of the Clerk.)

Commissioner Holt said she heard about that, and that was the whole point, she was hearing about it, but the Administration needed to know what was going on so it was not a

problem later. She said they had stopped it at one time, not saying with his department but, different places in the County had gone through this and it was kind of crazy because this was a small County, and should be able to take care of this and not have problems with it.

Commissioner Morgan said this was not productive and asked if there was a balanced budget at this time. Dr. Grant said they have not gotten to that part; they were addressing questions from the previous meeting. Commissioner Morgan asked if at this time they had a balanced budget and was told yes by Dr. Grant.

Commissioner Taylor said in looking at the pictures submitted by the B&G Club, they were clearly submitted before the pandemic; no-one had masks on and were not socially distancing. She said, to ask for \$96,000 in full, when clearly, they were not going to start school on time and the County still had in place, a gathering issue, she said her concern was, the Board should look at not funding this until they had actual numbers and could come back and fund them later.

Concerning balancing the budget and whether the County would have revenue to cover what was before them, she said she wanted to go through the expenditure from page five because she thought someone was asking for money that she thought the Board should not consider at this time.

She thought she would ask the attorney, since he had not been there quite a year, to not go up \$25,000 yet.

Dr. Grant asked if the Board could complete the follow-up memo before getting into the budget presentation.

Commissioner Holt said from the memo, the increase was \$1,222,130 on the Constitutional side. She asked what the increase was on the Board/County side.

Dr. Grant said they could go ahead with the Budget Presentation and all of her questions would come out in there.

Commissioner Holt asked Commissioner Taylor if she was saying to fund B&G Club at a later time, and Commissioner Taylor said it be would be more specific when they knew if they were going to school.

Commissioner Holt wanted to finish Non-Profits. She asked what the Big Bend Community Development was. She said it was hard to give to any of the non-profits without knowing where the County stood. She thought it would be better to come back to the non-profits after looking at the budget.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to say, all of the Non-Profits requesting funding at this time, the Board would come back at a later time, maybe in November or December because there was no funding available at this time.

Chair Viegbesie wanted to temporarily put them in the Budget, so when the time came, whatever the Board found justifiable would be what they would get, but he wanted provisions made for them during the process so there was something there.

Commissioner Taylor said the only problem with that was, if it was left there, it was part of the Budget and the Board would have to find funding for them and set it aside to cover

them. She said the Board could put the total amount in Reserve and it would not become part of the Budget. She said she understood what the Chair was trying to do, he was trying to make sure the money was available somewhere but she wanted to make sure it was not one the Board had to fund while they were trying to balance the budget at this time.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Board could set aside the \$151,574 for the Non-Profits and not name any of them and it would not be tied to anyone.

Commissioner Taylor said she was trying to pull things off the Board did not have to fund right now. She said if it was put in a name and in a category, it was going to impact the Budget and the County would have to come up with that to balance the Budget because it was in a line item.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could leave it in General Fund. Mr. Knowles said the Board could always come back, he thought 60 days after end of fiscal year and amend if the Board wanted.

Commissioner Hinson said two things he advocated for were Senior Citizens and children. He said he did not think the Board needed to place in anything yet, and the Board needed to be really responsible, at least this year, they needed to be more responsible and do what was right.

Commissioner Taylor said so moved, and she agreed and to put Non-Profit monies into Reserve.

Chair Viegbesie said to put it in General Fund and if it was not needed, the County could use it for any emergency that came in, but if it was need, they would have it in the General Fund.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed, she wanted to look at Health United Resources, she said she did not want to cut something that may be helpful in healthcare during a pandemic.

Chair Viegbesie said if the Board found this agency was one that could provide a need that was desired, that would leave money available to assist them in doing what they need to do for the County.

Chair Viegbesie said, now for the Budget Workshop. Commissioner Taylor asked if they were recommending no increase for Constitutional Officers even though there were requests made for increases. Dr. Grant said that was the direction they were given at a previous workshop.

Commissioner Taylor said the problem would come when Constitutionals were told no and then the Board funded positions in the County. She said the Board needed to keep continuity. She asked if it was mandatory for Public Works to get three more positions or could they make it work.

Lisa Robinson appeared before Board. She said Public Works was asking for three maintenance workers to assist with the new patch truck. She said they could try to get by with two.

Commissioner Taylor said she would be the bad guy and say the Board could not fund any positions since they told the Constitutional Officers no.

Commissioner Hinson said, in short, could the Administrator send the Board a personnel chart before they agreed to this so they could see and make a better decision.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 4:58 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie asked if Commissioner Hinson was requesting a justification for each of the positions because all three positions would be in an organizational structure in Public Works which was under the Administrator. Commissioner Hinson said was strongly supporting increasing Public Works' wages, heavily.

Commissioner Holt said all Commissioners needed a chart. She said she thought the Board needed to know when they may be able to go after FEMA money. She said with bad weather, roads that were patched were already washed out and would continue to do so. She further stated it was not a want, but a need. She told Dr. Grant she did not know about the parks and asked for an explanation.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 5:01 p.m.

Dr. Grant said, in the past, the County had the luxury of having inmates to assist them and during COVID, they had not been able to have that assistance and did not know when they would be able to get that help back. Public Works had been squeezing out a few people to help keep the parks maintained but it had been difficult. Commissioner Holt asked who was doing Parks before COVID and Dr. Grant said it was Facilities.

Ms. Robinson said Public Works needed two, because they may not get any inmates for a while and they did not have the ability to stretch the staff. She said Public Works needed two, zero-turn mowers and a walk-behind they could use, but would need at least two people to operate and keep up with the parks.

Commissioner Taylor said the prison issue they were facing due to COVID, was temporary. She asked if the County could do a contractual agreement with companies that might be cheaper and when it was no longer needed, they could go back to the Sheriff's Department, it would be an amount not impacted, but a service rendered. She said the Board was going to have to talk with Constitutionals about not funding them, but coming up with funding for these agencies to a tune of almost \$500,000. She wanted to get done what Public Works needed and pursue an avenue where it was not as taxing on the budget with regards to hiring additional people.

Commissioner Holt asked if Commissioner Taylor meant for cutting grass and trimming.

Ms. Robinson said to maintain parks, there were eight parks, including Pat Thomas Park, and Pat Thomas had to be maintained on a regular basis with taking rent since it was an RV park. She did not know who was in charge of that at the time and the other parks would have to have a rotation to maintain a schedule.

Commissioner Holt asked for the amount being paid at Pat Thomas, Ms. Robinson said she understood it was \$15 per night.

Dr. Grant said the rate would go up when the build-out of the RV Park was finished.

Commissioner Holt told Dr. Grant the money from Pat Thomas should go towards the

maintenance there. Commissioner Holt said she was interested in what the amount would be if it was contracted out.

Commissioner Holt asked about the Elder Affairs Coordinator.

Chair Viegbesie said if all of the positions were working towards a balanced budget, he would not suggest the Board cut down on any of them. He said some parks had grass so tall and they looked very bad. He said there were many potholes, and the County had purchased patching equipment and need additional staff to fill the pot holes and run the equipment. He further stated that IT personnel was a need and a custodian was needed as well, especially during a pandemic and the County needed to prepare.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Chair said to take off \$72,000 for Elder Affairs Coordinator. Commissioner Taylor said the Chair said not to take any off.

Chair Viegbesie said, with Elderly Affairs Coordinator, he understood it was talking about bringing all activities under the County so the County would have someone to coordinate the Center. Commissioner Holt asked if he wanted to leave it in, and he said yes.

Commissioner Holt said there was not going to be any activities. She said she could not get two ladies in Hardaway to go to the doctor because they were afraid of the virus. She asked if any of the patching of roads, getting machine, getting people, could come from FEMA. She said patching was needed because of the hurricane. Dr. Grant said he knew the County had roads and bridges that qualified for FEMA and he would have to ask and find out.

Commissioner Holt said to be creative, but not be not in a hurry.

Chair Viegbesie said he would like to see someone that had directory of all seniors and could check on them during emergencies. He said the Sheriff did some of that but there was no one in charge of going to visit. He stated they would be reoccurring services and the Board needed to find a way to incorporate it into the budget.

Commissioner Taylor said if FEMA gave \$100,000 to take care of 3 positions at Public Works, it was only good for 1 year. She said, when that year expired, the virus would still be around, but with an antidote or vaccine, it would be just like small pox and everything would turn back to normal, once there was a way to stop the spread. She said the FEMA idea would work, because it would take care of the costs and Public Works would get their three people for that year. After that year expired, she said Revenues would hopefully go back to where they were and the County could self-support, but until then, she would get her positions out of that funding. She further stated, according to Integrity, those dollars were available within 12-weeks and was an avenue to get the positions funded. People at the Gadsden Senior Services, she said, provided outreach services. She expressed she thought it was unfair to fund these positions and not give the Constitutionals any money. She was not willing to go with any of this right now. She said not to tell them no permanently, just for now.

Chair Viegbesie said concerning just three positions for \$100,000, if the County could get it through FEMA, his concern was, if the Board could balance the budget on any of those services. He asked if the Board could push some capital projects and services on to FEMA and HUD to help balance expenditures. If they could, he thought it would be one thing he wanted to do.

Commissioner Holt said the Board could not balance the budget on what they might get. She asked Ms. Robinson about the positions, Ms. Robinson explained, in their

organizational chart, they had a position called Grade Foreman and she was re-directing activities and for now the Grade Foreman would be Grade foreman/Asphalt Foreman and they would use that money that was already in their budget, and the three positions would assist. She said the patch truck would hold four people, foreman and three workers. She said she would take anything the Commissioners would allow her to have and make it work.

Commissioner Holt said no road work would get done if the machine could not run.

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Holt came up with a solution and it was agreed upon.

Commissioner Holt said she meant incase the FEMA did not get to them.

Commissioner Taylor said FEMA money was coming, and the new FEMA had it where it was a much shorter process.

Commissioner Holt said the machine had to roll and if it took three people, she did not have a problem with that. She said the Constitutionals would be upset and it would not be the first time, but the job had to be done. She would not agree to not have at least 2 people there on the machine. Ms. Robinson said they were already short-handed in Public Works. She said she was in the process of redoing the schedules into teams and training in-house.

Commissioner Taylor asked if she had a small crew because of COVID and Ms.

Robinson said, no, it had just always been they had one flagger for each crew.

Commissioner Holt said that was not acceptable with the patching machine if they had a crew out and was putting the County at risk as far as lawsuits. She said she was good with allowing two, but anything added on that was extra she was not okay with.

Commissioner Holt asked about the custodial position. Dr. Grant said it was added because of the new USDA building and Extension building, he said that person would be split between the two. Commissioner Holt asked what was the alternative to another custodian, and Dr. Grant said the alternative was they would have to split someone off. He said if a lease was signed, the County had to provide a custodian but would do the best they could.

Commissioner Taylor asked who was doing the work now, Dr. Grant said they split between the buildings.

Commissioner Holt said this was where the organizational chart would come in handy. She asked how many custodial workers there were.

Dr. Grant said Mr. Meeks could answer that question.

Mr. Meeks said there were currently five that cleaned all the buildings; 3 libraries, Courthouses, BCC building, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Property Appraisers. Commissioner Holt said that was a lot for five people and there were doing it daily, Mr. Meeks said yes. Commissioner Holt said this item affected all buildings whether it affected Constitutionals or not.

Commissioner Taylor said custodial was one position and she felt compelled to fund it, but she thought it should be a service, not an individual, because for \$46,000, she thought it could get done cheaper. Dr. Grant said the \$46,000 was including all of the

fringes. She said she had no problem with the one custodian for two buildings, but she did have a problem with the others.

Chair Viegbesie stated the County needed another IT position and the Commissioners had just complained about documents not coming in on time and not being the way, they wanted them to be because people were stretched and overworked, so he thought they needed additional staff for the Budget department.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to start with Gadsden County Health Council, he thought the Board just added \$75,000 to their budget and thought they could help out and have resources throughout the community. He said he was a big Public Works guy and the County had spent a lot of money on equipment and thought that money came from a different pot. He said his thing was he wanted to continue to strengthen broadband services. He stated the Board needed to ask what top three things were needed during the pandemic and then figure out how to budget those top three things first and work in that direction.

Chair Viegbesie said one thing that dawned on him was, there was a lot of funding from the Department of Elderly Affairs that the Board was not tapping into and taking advantage of. He did not know how much was being done to get the money from Elderly Affairs, but he said the private agency the County was working with was not tapping into it, he thought the Elderly Affairs Coordinator could bring in the money. He thought maybe there was a way to put their salary as a part of what came from the Department of Elderly Affairs. He wanted to explore it, to be able to get that position and provide the services, without it adversely impacting the Board's budget balancing process.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he was putting this out, was a lady from Health Department said the County had 2,077 residents that tested positive for COVID, 158 hospitalizations and 29 deaths and counting. He stated there should be a seriousness and the Board needed to do what right. He said there was a lot of funding that may have to go to the hospital and broadband services. He said the Board was doing a great job and needed to keep their focus on what was in front of them.

Commissioner Holt said, regarding large items, cell towers \$450,000, she asked if it included the change order that was received. Dr. Grant said it was put in because an RFP was submitted for bids and by the time that process was through, the County may be into the next budget.

Commissioner Holt said there was \$250,000 for Pat Thomas enhancements, and she asked if that was a roll-over from last year. Mr. Price said not all of it was a roll-over. He said approximately \$100,000 was in the fund for Pat Thomas Park and more money was need for the enhancements that were planned.

Commissioner Holt stated it was not included in the budget from last year, and Mr. Price said no. Commissioner Holt asked, what was being done at the park, and Mr. Price said the bathroom facilities, RV parking spots and things like that.

Commissioner Holt said she would have to be convinced on that.

Chair Viegbesie asked who could answer questions on Pat Thomas Park. Dr. Grant said Mr. Meeks might be familiar with it and he asked Mr. Meeks if he was familiar with the enhancements.



Mr. Meeks said, for several years they had been looking at doing an expansion on the RV Park. He said they were trying to wrap that project up and not much had been done in the past five years. He said he understood it would cost \$100,000 for the electrical work needed, they needed a well and new septic tank, as well as water. Mr. Meeks said they hoped to have that built out soon.

Commissioner Hinson said he could have sworn that was finished while Mr. Presnell was here. He asked for a printout of the project. He asked if anyone tried to apply for a grant for that to help off-set the cost.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 5:43 p.m.*

Mr. Meeks said they applied for a FRDAP Grant and got \$50,000 but it was for playground equipment at that Park. Commissioner Hinson asked if the equipment had been put up already, Mr. Meeks said no. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was being ordered and Mr. Meeks said it had been ordered but was not executed by the State yet.

Commissioner Hinson said he was big on parks. He would agree to whatever the Board decided, but said there was a major pandemic right now.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Meeks to explore the possibility of cutting costs on enhancement at Pat Thomas Park.

Commissioner Holt said she would not vote for it right now because it did not make sense at this time. Chair Viegbesie said it was revenue enhancement and Commissioner Holt said it was enhancement if it brought in a company that provided jobs, but did not do that either. She said if there was a choice between health and safety in a welfare county, she could see it. She stated if the money was in General Fund and pulled back out, she did not have a problem with that.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 5:46 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt asked regarding the \$250,000 for the Concord Station, was that for improvement to the fire station. Chair Viegbesie asked if Chief Maddox was in the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board had set aside funding a few years ago for the Havana Fire Department and for Havana EMS and Midway EMS. He said he had been waiting on the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was funding for new positions without using General Funds, and Mr. Price said it would come from using the Reserves.

Commissioner Taylor said with regard to large items, would they also be using reserves. Mr. Price said it depended on the items. He said cell towers could be financed. Commissioner Taylor said the Park, Fire Department and Massey Building would come out of the General fund, and Mr. Price said it would come out of whatever fund it was. Commissioner Taylor asked if the funds were available in line items or Reserves to take

care of the funding to fix those buildings. Mr. Price said, with the Fire Department, there were.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the money was there for EMS. Mr. Price said there was money there but there was also General Fund money.

Commissioner Taylor asked the same questions about the Massey Building, and Mr. Price said the County had some insurance money they were using for that. Commissioner Taylor said that would not impact budget because there was a funding source and Mr. Price said it would not impact the budget because there was insurance money, he thought, to fix all of it.

Commissioner Holt said she thought the insurance was \$60,000. Dr. Grant said the County expected the FEMA payment to come in.

Mr. Meeks said Commissioner Holt was correct, Insurance would only pay \$66,000 towards that, but was there was money in the insurance fund that would cover it from properties at lake that were paid on that did not have damage other than trees. Commissioner Taylor said that had been brought before the Board before, and the question they had was, could those dollars be used on projects that they were not insured for. Mr. Meeks said he had reached out to John Pat Thomas and Craig McMillan, at Pat Thomas Insurance, and there was no problem. He said the problem would be if there was a damaged building and was not fixed, the insurance would not pay to fix it again. Commissioner Taylor said she was good with that.

Commissioner Taylor asked Commissioner Holt, with regard to new positions with Public Works, was she willing to do two, or did she want three and they agreed on three. She asked about IT and Commissioner Holt and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said it would be great if the Board looked at the personnel chart first, because a couple of years ago, the Board was told to hire a position, then they were told the position was abolished. He said the County hired a PIO at that time and there was another position there and he asked about it. (He thought it was an outreach position) He said the person looked at the Board and told them that position was abolished. Now, there were still two positions because the Board did not look at the chart. He asked the Board again to look at the chart first before adding positions.

Commissioner Taylor agreed with Commissioner Hinson. She told Dr. Grant she assumed he had looked at the chart and it was noted that there were positions moved laterally to cover other positions., and Dr. Grant said he did.

Commissioner Hinson said he said he had a lot of issues the County was having with IT were things the Board did not know how to do. He asked to look at the chart first, put in a few more dollars, and hire a Director.

Commissioner Taylor said the Manager indicated these were positions he needed, he looked at the chart. She said she was okay with the Park, okay with Fiscal Tech, Elder Affairs, she was not going to argue with. She said she had no problem with \$443,000. She said the Cell Tower was \$450,000.

Dr. Grant said it was the existing thing they were trying to complete. (Motorola) Commissioner Taylor said it was not a cell tower, to be fair, it was fencing where the motherboard would be housed.

Dr. Grant said it was put in to cover the bid process, and Commissioner Taylor said it needed to be put out to bid.

Chair Viegbesie said if it was put out for bid or not, \$450,000 would be what it was and Commissioner Taylor said she did not agree to that and it was adding to the budget and the County should not have to be responsible for it at this time. She said Pat Thomas Park enhancement for \$250,000, not her, and she did not support at this time. She wanted Concord Fire Station put in FEMA, and Havana EMS, she asked it please stay in for Commissioner Hinson. She said the Massey Building, let the insurance company take care of it.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the County had a revenue source that was restricted for fire and EMS service. Commissioner Taylor said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said the \$200,00 would come off of the fine line item, the Havana money had to come out of General Services but the Massey Building would come out of Insurance. The only thing they would get hit with was \$200,000 out of General Services for Havana. Dr. Grant said he had another source for that.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Knowles if he was going to take off the extra \$25,000 for his fee. Mr. Knowles said he would have to refer to Mr. Pittman.

Commissioner Holt asked what the closest EMS was to Havana. Chief Maddox said it was across from the Police Station. She asked what was being done.

Mr. Maddox said the EMS quarters was a 600 square foot trailer and it was in very poor shape with holes patched in the floors and no way for people to separate and was not equipped for a crew.

Chair Viegbesie said he had been to the Havana EMS and it was pitiful. He asked Dr. Grant to explain what the \$200,000 would be providing the EMS.

Dr. Grant said there were reports that EMS was moving to Dogtown/Greenshade to the shelter. He said he visited the EMS unit and found it to be a deplorable situation for the employees to be in. He said the Havana City Manager, Havana Police Chief and himself tried to find places to relocate the facility. They agreed if the Board found a relocation spot, they would not object to moving, temporarily, to Greenshade until the facilities were completed. He said the EMS location was going to be where the expansion would be done and would include the Police Department and a section for the EMS Unit.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to express same thing Dr. Grant said. He said he had visited the EMS facility and it was in horrible conditions.

Commissioner Taylor asked could the Town of Havana make it livable and why was the County not notified before now if it was that bad. She asked if it was being occupied. Dr. Grant said he did not know and it was what he found when he got there and the EMS was working out of the facility.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the memo was reflected in the Budget, Mr. Price said yes.

Chair Viegbesie suggested staff to look at a 5% cut for what "they" were asking for across the board and see that would factor into the budget.

Commissioner Taylor asked if “they” meant Constitutional Officers. Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said the Board was already over budget and they could not be put in because the Reserve would be drained completely. She said it was almost \$1 Million and 5% off was \$50,000 and there would still be \$950,000 and that was too much money and it was not talking about ½ Million the Board just gave for new positions. She further stated the Board was talking about \$1.5 Million they were getting ready to add if they looked at the Constitutional Officers as well. She said he heard what the Board was trying to do and appreciated it, she thought it was admirable, but said something had to give. She said let new position stay in and all the Board would have to worry about was EMS.

Dr. Grant said before Commissioner Taylor left, he wanted to know if the Board wanted another workshop, and if so, he needed to set a date because the Public Hearings were fixed.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not need another workshop. She said she agreed with not funding Constitutional Officers, and agreed with the new positions.

Commissioner Holt said one thing she did not get was, what was the total increase from the County, not the Constitutionals. She said the handout showed a total increase of \$443,000. She said expenditures were \$22,850,000 and she said she was asking about the amount of increases. She asked if the way it was set up now, it would be budgeted, and she asked if that would be with the increase from Constitutionals and increase from the County.

Dr. Grant said it was included.

Commissioner Holt asked how much was left in the General Fund and in Reserves. Mr. Price said in talking to the Department of Finance, over 4 Million in the Fund Balance and Commissioner Holt said she would have to see it, there was no way to look at the paperwork without seeing exactly what was going to be in Reserves.

Commissioner Taylor asked what her question was because she was not sure if she understood. She said when Commissioner Holt said Constitutional Officers’ budget, she asked if they were talking about the requested amount or the recommended amount. Commissioner Holt said she was asking for the requested amount and the Board increase; what their increase would be and what BOCC increase would be. Commissioner Taylor asked if the requested amount was in there, or just the recommended amount. Mr. price answered the recommended amount.

Commissioner Holt said her recommendation was if the Commissioners did not want another workshop, each Commissioner should schedule a time with the Manager and Budget Director. She said they should sit down, along with the flow chart and go through it. If the Board was not meeting again, she said it would make sense to make sure everyone understood the cuts. She stated when they got into the Public Hearings, everyone was still going to have their cuts.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought that would be a good approach and he told the other Commissioners to schedule time with the Administrator and Budget Manager to ask questions on items that would be presented at the Public Hearing.

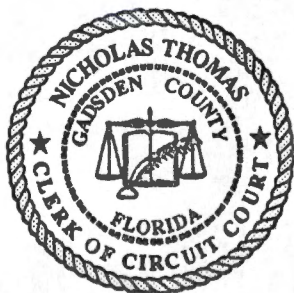
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
August 20, 2020 Budget Workshop

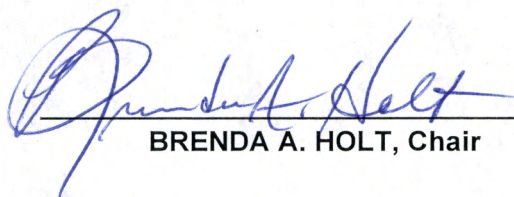
Commissioner Holt said, with feedback from Integrity on FEMA monies, the County would be able to request, if the Board was going to sit down and look, she said to make sure numbers were big and bold and asked for the pages to be numbered and said no emails the day of the workshop. She closed saying if there were documents sent, follow up with phone call to make sure everyone was on the same page and ready to go.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

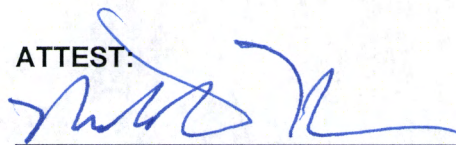
Chair Viegbesie adjourned the workshop at 6:22 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk