

AT THE FINAL BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5  
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3  
Eric Hinson, District 1  
Jeff Moore, District 2  
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Opal McKinney-Williams, Asst. County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Green welcomed called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Hinson gave the Invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

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

*Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to [CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until noon on September 19, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.*

Chair Green read the above statement aloud.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1. Public Hearing: Second Public Hearing for Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Final Budget for FY 2022/2023**

**Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator** appeared before the Board. She said after the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting after board discussion and public comments regarding the tentative Millage rate and budget, the board adopted its tentative Millage rate prior to adopting the tentative budget. She explained tonight the board must adopt their final Millage rate and budget. The calculated rollback Millage rate (the property tax rate the generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year) is a 8.3341 mills which is 0.6659 mills less than the current rate of 9. 0000 mills. The current year rate of 9.000 mills as a percent change of the rolled back rate (8.3341 mills) is 7.99% more. She said they were also here to adopt the FY 2022/2023. The final budget for Gadsden County is \$57,594,834.

- She said there were a couple of items discussed at the last public hearing that were included in the number:
- \$10,000 included for Havana Main Street:
- \$10,000 for Quincy Main Street;
- \$3000 for Gadsden Wellness;
- \$125,000 for emergency housing; and

- Salary adjustments had to be made for Emergency Medical Services Unit because they were mandated to take those employees to \$15.00 an hour.

She said the increase in the above expenditures were offset in the increase in appropriation of General Fund balance.

Mr. Dixon said hopefully they had what was asked for and had recommendations on some things. For the Havana and Quincy MainStreet, they requested that they not fund them because they fund the CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency). Quincy has 2 CRA's and will receive \$340,000 for their CRA and CRA number 2 \$7,500, Midway \$165,000, Town of Havana \$20,000 and those Main Streets exists within the those CRA's and receive funding thru Main Street. But with that, he said they were already funding redevelopment downtown and they have the option to use those dollars or not.

Chair Green asked if it were known the amount given to each Main Street?

Commissioner Holt said CRA's have been a debate throughout the State for years. It is up to those Boards to decide what to do with CRA dollars once they get them.

Commissioner NeSmith said Ms. Daniels named five or six adjustments-\$10,000 for Havana Main Street; \$10,000 Quincy Main Street, \$3,000 Gadsden Wellness, \$125,000 for Emergency Housing, and \$244,000 for EMS for salary adjustment.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how much Havana was receiving and Mr. Dixon explained further the CRA dollars. CRA #1 is \$340,000 and CRA #2 is \$7,500. Commissioner NeSmith asked if they receive money from CRA and Mr. Dixon explained not necessarily.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the Wellness Center and Ms. Daniels said they were included.

Chair Green explained the Wellness Center requested \$60,000 and each Senior Center receives \$10,000 for the year. Commissioner NeSmith said they had not agreed on a process. Chair Green explained no-one would receive money until they agree on a process.

Mr. Dixon explained.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had an opportunity to visit the Wellness Center and they are doing awesome work. He said they should set up a process first and then give them the opportunity to apply for money.

Ms. Daniels said there are two different pots of money: \$50,000 that was set aside for non-profit organizations and also provide satellite senior centers with money. Commissioner Holt said they should not attach title to any money until after they set the budget. This was not included or discussed at the last meeting. She said Commissioner Hinson mentioned last meeting giving \$25,000 per district and they have not decided how it will be used. They need a process in place. She said she has a huge debate on this one. Commissioner Holt said to approve the budget and millage rate

Chair Green said it needed to be agenda items and the Board has not discussed how to spend the money.

Commissioner Hinson said he was biased when it comes to seniors and youth. He said if they gave every group \$60,000, it was still too low of a number because there was still a major need in the community. He said the State took funding from the other organization.

Chair Green interjected and said he did not think they should discuss what the State funds. They need to be fair to each organization.

Commissioner Hinson continued and said since they have an influx of money, they have almost \$10 Million in addition to the General Fund, they should give \$60,000 to both organizations.

Commissioner Holt said those statements were not true, they should wait until the workshop and then can make those decisions.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had an opportunity to visit with Gadsden Wellness and need to make sure they position them to be successful and the way to do that it is make them accountable.

Commissioner Hinson said funding was moved from the Gadsden County Senior Services to Gadsden Wellness. He said Gadsden Senior Services along with Gadsden Wellness needed funding. With Havana MainStreet, Chattahoochee MainStreet and Quincy Mainstreet, all three organizations need funding because the County was trying to grow.

Chair Green said they knew there were needs for funding from County government. He asked the Administrator when could they schedule the appropriate workshop so they would know how to dispense the funds. He said that did not neglect the funds from being in the budget, but would give them the opportunity to come up with guidelines and plans. He asked so they would not have to prolong the conversation so they could agree if those funds were enough to do what they need to do, they could approve the budget and then can have a workshop to decide how to distribute the funding.

Commissioner Moore said he was in favor of the process of vetting; Quincy and Havana Main Streets came before the Board and asked for \$10,000 and thought they had vetted them. If they have not been vetted, what do they need to do? He said he was comfortable the organizations will sail through and be approved with no problem.

Commissioner Holt said they have to approve items individually and added with Emergency Medical Services, they knew that amount was mandated and had to be taken care of.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT VIA RESOLUTION, THE FINAL FY 2022/2023 COUNTYWIDE MILLAGE RATE OF 9.0000 RESOLUTION NO, 2022-027 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked how they would they approve the funds for EMS? She asked if the first four were included. Mr. Dixon said they would back them out. Ms. Daniels said it would go

into Reserves. Commissioner Holt said she would rather they put no names on anything and leave where it was and approve the budget with Emergency Medical Services salaries and her motion would include just having EMS included in the Resolution 2022-028.

Ms. McKinney-Williams said the Resolution has a set dollar figure, will this upset the budget? Ms. Daniels said yes. They could move those funds to Reserves and could adopt the Resolution without the \$148,000.

Ms. Daniels said the original proposed budget was \$57,594,834 and would now be \$57,446,834 as the new budget.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE FINAL BUDGET OF \$57,446,834 AS THE FY 2022/2023 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson had a question. He wanted to be consistent with what they said last week and felt they should keep it as is and could amend the budget in the future. They need to make sure they include Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee Main Street and emergency housing.

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

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:57 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**Nicholas Thomas, Clerk**