

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP OF  
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN  
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JULY 7, 2011 AT  
4:00P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD,  
VIZ.**

PRESENT: Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Gene Morgan, Vice – Chair, District 3  
Eugene Lamb, District 1 (Arrived late)  
Doug Croley, District 2  
Brenda Holt, District 4 (Arrived late)  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk  
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator

**1. Review the County Administrator**

Chair Taylor called the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop to order. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Lawson for a review.

Mr. Lawson reminded the Board of the memorandum that was sent out July 1, with the preparation of the tentative budget. They used the preliminary assessed value from the Property Appraiser's Office and whatever State Revenue that was available at the time. He said they are still waiting on some numbers to come in from the State. Historical data was used to determine revenue for building the budget. They have included results of legislation that was passed by the State concerning Florida Retirement. He stated they commented earlier at the first workshop they didn't budget anything other than what was required for the non-profits. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Price for the duration.

Commissioner Croley asked on Property Taxes was he expecting Ad Valorem Taxes to be similar around 11 and ½ million dollars or more.

Mr. Price responded about 11.7 million.

Mr. Lawson commented they have budget handouts as well as it was on the screen for their pleasure.

**2. Balance Overview Schedules**

Mr. Price gave the balance overview. He said the revenue numbers are outstanding but, should be in at anytime. Based on the numbers they received today it should be a \$375,000 increase over what they had originally projected. However, it would result in a shortage of about \$387,000, which should cause them to break even. He commented they would meet with Finance and go over all the budget number expenditures.

**USDA Livestock Pavilion**

Commissioner Croley commented on the USDA roof, where there is currently a lease. He informed the Board if they don't put a roof on that building they would eventually lose the lease. He asked Mr. Lawson how much was the monthly lease.

Mr. Lawson commented the lease was around \$2,200 - \$2,300 a month.

There was discussion as to whether the lease was in the budget or not. It was determined it was not.

Chair Taylor added if they were to put roof back in, increase fees and remove the two dump trucks they would balance.

Mr. Lawson said they would put roof back into budget.

**3. Revenues by Fund**

Mr. Lawson commented this workshop would flow easier if they are allowed to go through first, then the Board would be able to come in and say what they want in or out of the tentative budget, because once they go through the Constitutionals they may have to put something in that's not in. He said departmental budgets would not change. He added, once all that is done they would be able to tell them specifically where they are.

Commissioner Croley asked "how critical are the dump trucks."

Mr. Lawson replied they are critical. He said they originally asked for 4, if you remove 2 that would still leave 2.

Commissioner Croley asked about the lease purchase option because the dump trucks were needed to move the dirt. He inquired about maintenance cost. He also questioned the million dollars for road and bridge repair at \$200,000 per mile. He discussed \$75,000 for a park being a bit excessive and remounted ambulances at \$300,000.

Mr. Lawson commented on the ambulances, instead of 2 remounts they may have to do 1 and hold off purchasing a new one at this point.

Commissioner Croley said his line of questioning was to determine the needs versus the wants.

Chair Taylor mentioned items such as paving of the roads and park enhancements. She clarified they were not in the budget, there are just asking to be given consideration.

Commissioner Morgan asked how you would determine if its bridge repair or road work.

Mr. Lawson noted if you put x number of dollars in the budget, you all would have to decide whether it's bridge or road. He said they prioritize from the last meeting what the Board asked for.

Mr. Price discussed the revenues and expenses on the fund balance.

Commissioner Morgan inquired about the number of expenditures that weren't budgeted for in the current budget cycle.

Mr. Price said they have had a couple of budget amendments and the \$500,000 for the building for the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser.

Commissioner Croley said \$17 million is what they have to run general government.

Mr. Price and Mr. Thomas confirmed.

Mr. Lawson clarified the \$375,000 is a projected figure, not actual dollars yet.

Mr. Price updated the future budget workshops and hearings, but noted the last two dates are tentative. He said the next budget workshop would be July 28, 2011.

More miscellaneous questions followed from the Board and Staff.

#### **4. Expenditures of Constitutional Officers**

- **Supervisor of Elections**

Shirley Knight, Supervisor of Elections greeted the Board. She disclosed there would be two upcoming elections the Presidential and Primary and that she is expecting a high turnout that would incur educating voters by way of advertising. She asked and stated she was in need of an additional \$112,000 over the recommended budget.

- **Property Appraiser**

Clay VanLandingham, Property Appraiser addressed the Board. He said it would take \$11,970.00 to add a position to bring on a new tax roll administrator. He said it was imperative to find someone because it took substantial training in the field and on the tax program.

- **Tax Collector**

Dale Summerford, Tax Collector acknowledged the Board. He said his budget is approved by the State and would be due by August 1 and once submitted he would turn into the Board. He reminded the Board the Driver License process for the County is being passed to Tax Collectors as soon as November 16. He advised he was trying to get that date pushed back. He commented how he had been able to turn revenue back to the county each year, but cautioned it may happen this year, but was not sure about in 2012. He said the fees would accumulate \$6.25 per transaction which is only going to generate about \$75,000. He said it would cost roughly around \$120-140,000 to be able to adequately maintain the office. He said "the people deserve good quality service." He briefed the Board on the Federal Real ID Act, which was effective in Florida January 2010. Where every citizen would have to prove who they are again. He discussed how

documents would have to be reviewed and scanned, which is causing major backlog. He said it was going to be a challenge, but thinks they could do it with fees generated in the office and not any additional funds from the Board. He told the Board not to rely on the excessive fees they had received from his office as in the past. He said once the budget is finalized, he would provide what was given to DOR and the Board could review. He also reminded the Board about the additions to the building where he is currently housed. He commented his goal was to do the driver's license at the property he is at.

▪ **Judicial Services**

Grant Slayden, State Court Administrator's Office saluted the Board representing Chief Judge Francis and the Judges of the Second Judicial Circuit. He said the Judicial Services budget is \$291,000 but, added that's not all the courts budget. He stated it also includes the State, PD, Legal Aid and Guardian Ad Litem. He specified their portion is \$114,000 and it's down 9.15% from last year.

▪ **State Attorney's Office**

Joe Whitley representing the State Attorney's Office on behalf of Willie Meggs addressed the Board. He acknowledged their budget request is for \$42,000 same as last year. He stated there was no increase. He asked that it be changed in the document because it is reflected as \$44,000.

▪ **Public Defender's Office**

John Tomicino representing Nancy Daniels, Public Defender's Office commented his request was for \$43,000 the same as the last fiscal year.

▪ **Clerk of Court**

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court commented he was in agreement with the Board's recommendation, "no increase, same as last year."

▪ **Sheriff's Office**

Katherine Pondexter representing Sheriff Morris Young and the Sheriff's Office asked the Board for a Cost of Living Increase of 5% for law enforcement and corrections.

Chair Taylor commented she had looked at the expenditures for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and highlighted a couple of items. She mentioned the Attorney's budget, which is budgeted at \$200,000 this fiscal year, but year to date she has only spent around \$90,000. She suggested they budget at \$150,000 for this upcoming budget and save \$50,000.

Clerk Thomas interjected by pointing out you must also look and ask if it is current amount paid. He added sometimes all bills aren't up to date.

Chair Taylor thanked the Clerk for that point, but still she felt there was wiggle room available to look at adjusting budgets. She pointed out the County Building (Facilities) budget is \$800,000 but year to date is \$450,000. She said she felt the upcoming budget could be set around \$650,000.

Commissioner Croley pointed out they didn't have a copy of the expenditures report the Chair had asked but discussion be suspended until the entire Board could have a copy in their possessions.

Chair Taylor then asked to meet with Mr. Lawson to share her items, that way it would give him time to get the report to the Commissioners. She said she was only pointing out areas they could look at to find additional dollars.

Mr. Lawson said the reports are in the Commissioner's agenda packets, but he would forward. He stated at the next meeting they should know where they are.

**Next Meeting**

- **July 28, 2011 – (Departmental side of budget discussion.)**

5. **Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SHERRIE TAYLOR, CHAIR  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION**

**ATTEST:**

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**BERYL H. WOOD, DEPUTY CLERK  
FOR NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**