

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER
22, 2014, P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Eric Hinson, Chair, District 1
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4 (arrived late)
Doug Croley, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., had a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell introduced the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. PUBLIC HEARING-Final Budget Hearing for Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Mr. Presnell said the operating millage rate was 8.9064 mills and the calculated roll-back millage rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as last year was 9.1443 mills. He added that the current rate of 8.9064 mills would cause a decrease of 2.67 percent.

Mr. Presnell explained that Staff recommended the approval of Resolution 2014-016.

Chair Hinson asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064.

Mr. Presnell said the second part of the public hearing was for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Final budget and Resolution. Chair Hinson asked for public comments and there were none.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to reiterate this was a 5% overall budget increase, not 15% as was previously written he said and the fund balance they currently have was approximately \$6.8 Million, which was more than has ever been in the fund balance in the history of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Croley said his concern remained that they had the capacity to take out over \$1

Million for mostly "soft projects" that had on-going costs for the future, revenue would be short and they would be faced with raising taxes or making more drastic cuts next year and the bad outweighed the good in his opinion of this budget.

Commissioner Morgan said as had happened in past, they returned money at the end of the year and because money was budgeted, it did not mean the money would be spent. He added if they continued to follow a good budget, they could provide some services and they were in a county where social program services were extremely important to the majority of the population and they needed to work together as a Board for the good of the County and move forward.

Commissioner Holt said this was a good budget, they needed to look strongly at economic development, money was moved into that area and the Board has done well.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET. COMMISSIONER CROLEY OPPOSED.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 2. October 7, 2014**
October 21, 2014

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:08 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ERIC HINSON, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk