

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 for a Budget Workshop at 11:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

John Ahern, Chairman
Tim Stanley, Vice Chairman
Weston Pryor
Donna Storter Long
Donald Strenth

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Shelly Ridgdill, Finance Director - Glades County Sheriff's Department
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Duane Pottorff, GCSO
Tycee Prevatt, Glades County Extension Agent
Joe Helfenberger, Interim County Manager
Archie Branch, Public Works Director
Gail Jones, Glades County Tax Collector
Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant
Lorie Ward, Glades County Property Appraiser
1 citizen

Chairman Ahern called the workshop to order at 12:05 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, provided 3 different recap sheets showing the salary increases at 1%, 2%, and 3%.

EMPLOYEE RAISES

Chairman Ahern asked for input from the Board on the proposed salary increases.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would like to see the employees get at least a 1% raise.

Commissioner Strenth suggested giving a 2% salary increase.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she would like to see the employee's get a 3% raise but would go with the majority.

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Commissioner Pryor stated he would like to see a 2% raise.

Shelly Ridgill, Finance Director – GCSO, stated if the Board went back to GCDC for the last 2 increases it would amount to almost \$200,000.00. She stated a 2% increase for fiscal year 2018-19 would cost GCDC approximately \$100,000.00. She stated if the Board asked the GCDC Board to absorb the last 2 increases plus this one it would cost them over \$300,000.00 at one time.

Chairman Ahern stated the County had absorbed the increases the last 2 years for GCDC but now that GCDC was doing better financially, he would like to see them pick up this year's increase. He stated he would be meeting with one of the investors at GCDC on Thursday morning.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she did not believe the Board should ask for the past 2 years increases. She stated GCDC had struggled enough over the past few years.

Chairman Ahern agreed but felt they should be able to do this year's increase.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the GCDC budget included \$500,000.00 to the Glades County Sheriff's Office for administration. She asked if any part of that budget could be used for merit raises.

Mrs. Ridgill stated those funds were used to help offset some of the salaries at the Sheriff's Office. She stated GCSO did not do merit raises. She stated the 2% increase would cost GCSO approximately \$43,000.00.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if ICE ever gave any increases on the per diem.

Mrs. Ridgill stated they had just renegotiated the contract with them last year and they had increased the per diem from \$80.64 per day to \$90.00 per day.

Commissioner Storter Long asked about increasing the MSTU – Law Enforcement millage rate. She asked if they wished to consider doing this.

Mrs. Patterson stated she did not have the numbers for an increase but could by this afternoon.

Chairman Ahern stated the Board had several options last year.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would like to increase the millage a little bit to at least pay for the salary increases.

It was the consensus of the Board to give a 2% salary increase.

GOOD WHEELS

Commissioner Pryor expressed concern with the Good Wheels budget increase request in the amount of \$20,000.00. He stated there were very few rides being given throughout the County. He stated he would like to see what the surrounding counties were being asked to pay this year. He stated the benefit received did not match the increase in Glades County.

Interim County Manager Helfenberger stated he would get some more details about the number of riders and provide that to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Interim County Manager Helfenberger asked if the Board would consider market adjustment for the Public Works Department. He stated he was working with Ms. Ibietatorremendia on what positions needed to be adjusted.

Commissioner Storter Long stated these adjustments would not affect the General Fund and felt they needed review.

Chairman Ahern stated there were some salaries that were really low and needed adjusting.

Interim County Manager Helfenberger stated he would put together a proposed list together with the justification based on the study and provide each Commissioner a copy for review.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the money on the fuel taxes was more than what was originally expected.

Mrs. Patterson stated they were. She stated the attached sheets showed the figures.

MSTU – LAW ENFORCEMENT INCREASE

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if the Board wanted to consider increasing the MSTU for Law Enforcement. He stated he felt it should be increased to offset the money for the raises.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed.

Chairman Ahern asked if the Board would like to look at increasing the millage rate from 2.75 to 2.85.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked Mrs. Patterson to see what kind of increase would be needed to bring in approximately \$45,000.00.

Chairman Ahern stated there were some positions that were underfunded. He stated he had discussed this with Sandra Brown, Clerk of Court, and believed that Lorie Ward, Property Appraiser, and Gail Jones, Tax Collector, may also have some positions that

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were underfunded. He asked if the Board would consider looking at bringing these salaries up.

Sandra Brown, Clerk of Court, stated she was having a hard time finding someone with accounting experience that was willing to work for \$12.00 - \$13.00 per hour.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested having the Constitutional Officers gather the same information that the Road Department was providing so that the numbers could be reviewed.

Ms. Brown stated she had employees that have had been in her office for 20 years that were not making what the Sheriff's Office was hiring new employees at.

Chairman Ahern asked that the Constitutional Officers provide the Board with information about any employees in their offices that may need a salary adjustment.

Mrs. Patterson stated she would provide a range of millage rate increases and what funds they would generate.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if another budget workshop would be needed to finish up.

Chairman Ahern stated he believed any issues could be covered in the next night meeting.

Ms. Brown reminded the Board that they would be adopting the tentative millage rate at the night meeting.

Tycee Prevatt, Glades County Extension Agent, stated she also had an employee that she felt was underpaid. She suggested that not only the Constitutional Officers but the Department Heads, as well be provided the same opportunity to gather information on their underpaid employees.

It was the consensus of the Board to include the Department Heads.

Aletris Farnam, Glades County Supervisor of Elections, stated she was using 18 year old voting equipment this year. She stated this would be the last legal year that the equipment could be used. She stated she would need to purchase new equipment in the 2019/20 budget year. She stated she was looking into leasing the equipment versus purchasing it.

Mrs. Patterson asked when the Board would like the salary increase information provided to them.

Chairman Ahern stated he would like the information by the next night meeting

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Ms. Brown stated the tentative millage would be adopted at the next night meeting. She stated the Board could not increase the millage after that meeting but could decrease it, if needed.

Interim County Manager Helfenberger stated he believed the County was in fairly good shape with this year's budget.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board moved to adjourn the workshop.

There being no further discussion Chairman Ahern adjourned the workshop at 12:40 p.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: September 24, 2018

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE ENTIRE MEETING.