

Minutes of the Emergency Joint meeting held between the Grady County Commissioners and Excise Board meeting on June 22, 2022

The Board of the Grady County Commissioners and the Excise Board met on this day for a special meeting with the following board members: Ralph Beard, Kirk Painter, and Mike Walker; Jerry White, David Richardson, and Cindy Rice.

The meeting was called to order and roll call: Ralph Beard, Kirk Painter, and Mike Walker; Jerry White, David Richardson, and Cindy Rice.

Discussion and Requests of Estimate of Needs from the various county offices:

Sheriff- Jim Weir and Gary Boggess were present. Jim Weir spoke to the Boards and informed them that this would be his last budget hearing, as he was planning to retire at the first part of next year. He stated that when he leaves, he wanted his department taken care of and explained that his deputies are being underpaid compared to other departments in the County. He also stated that he was losing good deputies to Counties that paid more. Therefore, he is asking to re-adjust his pay scales to reflect a comparable rate to the other departments along with the 6% increase to the employees' salaries. The Sheriff stated that he needs 3 more school resource deputies. The school would pay 90 % of the deputy's salary. The town of Alex, however, wants a full-time deputy for the town as well as the school and their full salary and benefits would be paid for by the town and the school. He also stated that his employees are acquiring a lot of comp time and are unable to use all of their vacation time as they are understaffed as well due to this issue, he is asking for four new deputies. The Sheriff's Maintenance and Operation has increased due to the fuel prices. His Capital Outlay needs an increase for 4 more new car leases as well.

District Attorney- Jason Hicks was present with his Estimate of Needs. He stated that his budget is the same and that \$65,000.00 was for the salary of the County ADA Charles Sifers and \$5,000.00 was for the Law library.

Election Board – Katrina Hughes stated that her Estimate of Needs has increased for the employee's 6% salary increase, travel increase due to fuel, and her Maintenance and Operation increased some due to having two big elections coming up. She also informed everyone that early voting started tomorrow June 23, 2022.

County Clerk- Jill Locke shared with the Boards her estimate of needs request. Ms. Locke stated that she has a 6% increase in payroll for her employees, her Maintenance and Operation increased as well to cover her KellPro License. She gave an estimate of how much money she will give back to General. Ms. Locke shared with the Boards that the Health Insurance cost was not only increasing on the County side, it was increasing for the employees as well including premium amounts, deductible, and copay increases.

Excise Board- The Estimate of Needs for the Excise Board went up this year due to a Statutory increase in the Excise Board salaries.

The boards discussed the Estimate of Needs for the Charity, Juvenile Detention, General, County Audit, and Capital Improvement.

Charity- The Charity account is used on Paupers burials if they are needed.

Juvenile Detention – This Account is being used for the housing of Juvenile’s, and was increased to cover the largest year the County had to pay for Detention care.

General – The Boards discussed the General Budget. It is increased because of a 6% pay raise and adding more money to the Contingency Account.

County Audit – was undetermined as of yet as our Budget Maker Chris Angel figures this for us.

Capital Improvement – Funds are used for Capital purchases and Improvements to County Buildings.

Emergency Management-Dale Thompson stated for his Estimate of Needs was a 6% increase to his payroll. Maintenance and Operation has an increased due to fuel and inflation of supplies. He also stated that he would need to replace 5 Radios.

Court Clerk- Lisa Hannah stated that her increase in her Estimate of Needs a 6% increase, she stated that she is currently down one employee however she hoped to replace that position.

Assessor-Bari Firestone gave the Board the abstract values. She stated that her Estimate of Needs this year includes a 6% increase for the employees and for training a new employee for an employee that plans on retiring. Ms. Firestone stated that she still had not converted to her new software system as of yet, and would take two or three more months.

Assessor- Visual Inspection-Bari Firestone stated that the increase to her Estimate of Needs for Visual Inspection is the 6% increase for the employees. Travel had increased due to fuel prices and she kept her Attorney fees the same. She informed the Board that she had settled with DCP for 90% of the original assessment due to the help of the Attorneys. She also informed the Board on the amount that she would be returning. Ms. Firestone ended with concerns of the 6% increase not being comparable to the increase in fuel, inflation, and insurance costs.

OSU Extension - Liz Taylor informed the Board that for the first time in six years she was fully staffed. She had increases due to mileage rate increase and inflation of general supplies. She stated with the budget she is requesting she would be fully funded.

Treasurer- Robin Burton stated that her budget included a 6% increase to employee’s salaries. The rest of her budget is the same.

After hearing all of the Budget Requests the two Boards discussed if the 6% increase for employees would be enough. Ralph asked if they should increase the amount. David Richardson stated that he would like to see the projected revenues first before they decided. Jerry White stated that with 8.6% inflation he felt that 6% was not enough and was in favor of increasing the raise after they saw the projected revenue.

Discussion was held on the Holiday Schedule for 2023. Ralph Beard stated that he would like the County to add Juneteenth to the schedule of Holidays. He also read aloud the list of holidays that other Counties follow. Commissioner Painter stated that he would add Juneteenth if they would add Good Friday as well. Excise Board Member Jerry White stated that he did not want to add any more days to the list as there were already 12 days that were being taken off for Holidays. Excise Board Member Jerry White made a motion to add Juneteenth to the Holiday Schedule for 2023 and remove Columbus Day. It

was seconded by Ralph Beard. AYE: Ralph Beard; NO: Kirk Painter; NO: Mike Walker; AYE: Jerry White; AYE: David Richardson; AYE: Cindy Rice. The motion didn't carry on the Commissioner's side. The Holiday Schedule will be re-evaluated and voted on at a later date.

Jerry White made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ralph Beard. Ralph Beard, Kirk Painter, and Mike Walker; Jerry White, David Richardson, and Cindy Rice.

Meeting Adjourned.

Passed and approved the 6th day of July 2022. Passed and approved the 27th day of June, 2022.

The Grady County Excise Board

The Board of the Grady County Commissioners

Chairman

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Vice Chairman

Member

Member

Attest:

Attest:

County Clerk

County Clerk

