

## **Minutes of the Special Joint meeting held between the Grady County Commissioners and Excise Board meeting on July 18, 2023**

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

The meeting was called to order and roll call: Kirk Painter, Gary Bray, and Zachary Davis; Cindy Rice, and Jerry White. David Richardson came in after the meeting started.

### **Discussion on the Grady County Estimate of Needs for the Fiscal year 2023-2024:**

Chris Angel was present and gave some history on the Grady County Financial trend, how the General Fund Budget is figured, and where the money comes from. He stated that he is estimating on revenue for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 conservatively \$12,111,800.00, but in his opinion could be up to \$13,000,000.00. He also stated that the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 carryover amount was \$14,185,239.65. He explained that to get the amount of money that the County had to budget for the Fiscal year 2023-2024; you take the anticipated revenue for Ad Valorem current taxes, which is \$8,100,000.00; as this is the most guaranteed part of the Counties anticipated revenue source; and added that to the carryover amount. Therefore, the Counties FY 2023-2024 General Fund Budget would be a total of \$22,285,239.65 (he did state that the County is still waiting on the Tax Commission for the final valuation which could change the Ad Valorem anticipated revenue). He explained to the Board members that when the County approves the budget the reoccurring budget needs to take up the Ad Valorem part of the budget and only one-time expenses should account for the carry over amount, this would keep the County from having trouble in the future of not being able to fund their reoccurring expenses. He stated that the current Estimate of Needs submitted by the Elected Officials and department heads reoccurring expenses is a total of \$14,088,442.54. Chris stated that we were about \$2,000,000.00 above where he would like to see the reoccurring expenses. Kealee Romero stated that the Contingency Fund has \$1,000,000.00 in it and last year we budgeted \$800,000.00 and returned \$600,000.00. She explained that the Contingency Fund is set up in case any department runs short in their budget, they can go to the Excise Board and request a supplement from the Contingency Fund so the entire Grady County Budget does not have to be altered. She also informed the Board that the Sheriff's Resource Officers will be getting reimbursed around \$1,000,000.00 for their salaries back to the County. Chris stated that he did not have that information from last year, along with the Contingency the EON's are close to where he would like to see them. He asked the Sheriff if he could cut \$300,000.00 out of his Capital Outlay, with the understanding if he ran short or anything came up, he could request the money from the Contingency Fund. The Sheriff agreed that he could do this. Zac Davis stated that he would like to see the departments that requested more than 3% employee increases to lower theirs to a 3% employee increase as well. Kealee stated this would affect Emergency Management, Election Board, Court Clerk, and the Assessors EON's. The Excise Board went over the increases to each department. They asked what the increase was other than insurance and employee increases for the County Clerk, Court Clerk, Assessor, Sheriff, Treasurer, Election Board, and Emergency Management. Kealee Romero explained the County Clerk's increase was due to a request to scan and preserve the Commissioner's Minutes that begin in 1907 to current. Kealee also stated that the Court

Clerk added an M&O and Capital Outlay account to her budget for the first time this year which she needed for storage and cabinetry/shelves. Bari Firestone stated that her budget only increased due to the insurance and percentage employee increases, she also explained that most of her Visual Inspection budget is reimbursed by the schools. Gary Boggess explained the increases to his budget was due to the need to have a minimum of two deputies on duty at all times, school resource officers, and a new tactical vehicle which would ensure the safety of his drug task force. He stated that he understood that he had a large budget, but that he has been making numerous drug busts, and it was imperative for his task forces safety. The school resource officers are for the security of our children and schools, he felt very strongly that this was also another top priority. Kealee explained the Election Board's increase was only the insurance and employee increases. Amanda Wilkerson stated that Emergency Management's increases were due to insurance, employee increases, and the overall increase of supplies and fuel. Jerry White stated that fuel was no longer going up. Jerry also had questions on some of Emergency Managements purchases and need for those purchases. He gave the example of a remote start. Amanda stated that the remote start was needed for their office as they go out on calls at all times of the day or night. Cindy Rice was concerned with other purchases including snacks, flower beds, and the amount of Amazon purchases. Amanda stated that the snacks are for the first responders when they are out on calls, they would take them the snacks. She stated the flower beds were so they could put out a good image and represent the County. Finally, she stated that she tries to order most of their stuff from Amazon. Kealee Romero stated that if the Boards agreed the departments could go back and update their EON as follows; all departments with employee increases would be at 3%, and the Sheriff which had agreed would lower his capital outlay budget by \$300,000.00. After those changes were made and resubmitted, they could be presented to the BOCC for their approval to be submitted to the Excise Board. At that time, the Excise Board would be able to review the budgets again and make a final decision if there were any more changes that needed to be made. The Boards agreed that would work.

After the Budget review the two Boards decided to discuss the 2023-2024 holiday schedule at a later date.

Kirk Painter made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Zachary Davis. AYE: Kirk Painter, Gary Bray, and Zachary Davis.

Jerry White made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Cindy Rice. AYE: Jerry White, David Richardson, and Cindy Rice.

Meeting Adjourned.

Passed and approved the 31st day of July 2023.

Passed and approved the 1st day of August, 2023.

The Grady County Excise Board

The Board of the Grady County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

*Keith L. Winter*  
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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman

*Debra L. Bryan*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

*Z/R*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

Attest:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

*Trill Locke*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

