

## **Minutes of the Special Joint meeting held between the Grady County Commissioners and Excise Board meeting on July 9, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order and roll call: Zac Davis, Kirk Painter, and Gary Bray; Jerry White, Cindy Rice, and David Richardson.

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

Election Board – Katrina Hughes stated that she was returning \$50,000.00 back to the General fund. She was needing \$5,000.00 in Capital Outlay for new computers, and is asking a 5% increase for her employees. Ms. Hughes informed the Boards that if the Fire Department did not get the Sales Tax Ballot on the November election, then the County would have to cover the cost of the election for the Fire Sales Tax. Therefore, she added it in her budget just in case, but would return that to General if the money was not needed.

District Attorney- Charles Sifers was present with the District Attorney Estimate of Needs. He stated that their budget was composed of \$75,000.00 was for ½ of the salary for the County Civil ADA, Charles Sifers and \$5,000.00 was for the Law Library for a total budget of \$80,000.00.

Emergency Management-Amanda Wilkerson stated their Estimate of Needs increased due to doing programs that they did not get to do last year. She stated that they are asking for a 5% raise for employees and the conferences are costing more this year therefore they need more travel money. Maintenance and Operation has an increase due to postage going up on the Passports. Ms. Cindy Rice asked for more detail in their M&O budget and more detail in their salary breakdowns.

County Clerk- Jill Locke informed the Board that she asked for a \$100,000.00 increase to her budget last year to preserve the Commissioners minutes. It cost around \$60,000.00, and therefore she is returning the other \$40,000.00 and an additional \$20,000.00 of her budget back to General. Ms. Locke stated that she is asking for a 5% increase to the employees' salaries, licensing cost and postage has gone up as well. She stated that travel increased to send her employees to training. Overall, her budget is down from last year. Commissioner Painter said that he was glad the project to preserve and scan the Commissioner's Minutes were done and liked the way they looked. He did, however, wish the Commissioners names from 1907 until now were on the books. Ms. Locke agreed that she would also like to see the list of Commissioner's on the books, however, to compile the list a person would have to read through all the minutes to find the names as there is not currently a list of Commissioner's from statehood forward. She stated that her office would not have time to take on that project but if the Commissioner's had an individual, they wanted to start working on it to let her know and she would give them access to the books.

Excise Board- The Estimate of Needs for the Excise Board went down this year but is still overestimated.

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

Juvenile Detention – This account is being used for the housing of juveniles’ and has stayed about the same as last year.

General – The Boards discussed the General budget. The extra expense on the budget this year is a pickup and trailer for the Construction Superintendent, but after discussing this item Commissioner Painter said that he would give him a pickup that he is not using at this time.

County Audit – was undetermined yet as our budget maker, Chris Angel figures this for us and cannot be correctly determined until the public service amount comes in.

Capital Improvement – Funds are used for improvements to County buildings. The courthouse is needing extensive renovation for plumbing and electrical issues.

Assessor- Bari Firestone said gave the Boards an update on the values for the year, she stated that this was without public service and that would not come until August. Ms. Firestone stated that she would be returning \$26,982.00 back to General from the Assessor’s budget. She is increasing her employees’ salaries by performance and if they pass their tests. Ms. Firestone stated that she has 6 employees on the Assessor budget and that would allow her to have their longevity, safety bonuses, 1/2 of their family’s insurance paid, and include her employees with a gym membership. She stated that her M&O increased due to an increase on website and software.

Visual Inspection – Ms. Firestone informed the Boards that she decreased her attorney budgets due to only one lawsuit remaining at this time, she bills all the entities for this amount. Everything that she is doing for the Assessors employees she would be doing for the Visual Inspection employees as well. Commissioner Painter asked if she should start having a deputy go out on the grow house evaluations, she stated that she would check into doing that.

Treasurer- Robin Burton stated that her budget included a 5% increase to employee’s salaries. She stated that M&O was raised because of postage and that she will have to do an additional mail out this year letting everyone know that the date in which taxes will be due is changing and this comes from the statute per the auditor’s office. Ms. Burton informed the Boards that she has a \$1.2-million-dollar resale right now and when she came into office, they only had \$88,000.00 in their resale and explained that that is where the refunds to tax payers come from.

Court Clerk- Lisa Hannah stated that her increase in her Estimate of Needs includes a 5% for her employees. Ms. Hannah stated that she will be needing to fill two positions this next year. She informed the Boards that Mica Hackney will be taking her place as of September.

OSU Extension – Liz Taylor is asking for \$6,000.00 increase and right now the State has not increased their salaries. She stated that they are fully staffed now. She is asking for \$3,000.00 more in her M&O and \$3,000.00 more in their travel for out of state travel. She stated that \$10,000.00 was returned to General fund.

Sheriff- Gary Boggess gave statistics on crime in our County and how everything was down. He stated that is in part by putting more deputies on the streets. Sheriff wants to buy a server and have someone come in and scan the old records to that server. Sheriff Boggess stated that the Swat team has been

called out 27 times this past year. He wants to build two separate teams so that they can always stay rested for the next call out. He needs new sniper rifles because the ones they have are close to 20 years old and do not shoot as well as they should. Boggess is asking for 25 new pistols to keep everyone with the same gun so they can switch out magazines if needed. He said they have started work on the warehouse and moved all evidence to that location. He told the Board that one big expense is fuel and it keeps going up. He stated that his budget includes \$600,000.00 to pay for Grady County prisoners housed at the Jail. He also stated that his School Resource Officers salaries will be reimbursed from the schools for about \$1.2 million dollars that will go directly back to the General Fund.

Zac Davis made a motion to table the FY 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Conference. It was seconded by Kirk Painter. AYE: Zac Davis, Kirk Painter, and Gary Bray.

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

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 6th day of August 2024.

Passed and approved the 15th day of July,

The Grady County Excise Board

The Board of the Grady County Commissioners

Chairman

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Vice Chairman

Member

Member

Attest:

County Clerk

