

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
September 14, 2026 – 5:30 PM

The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1 469-551-3616 and enter code 908825494#

COMMISSIONERS

Mark Hatch, District 3, Chairman
Jody Stephenson, District 1 – Not present
Daniel Wood, District 2 – Not present
Jamie Storey, District 4, Vice Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

John Jenkins, County Manager
Roy Bass, Assistant County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator – Not present
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer
Christie Zander, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark Hatch called the Final Budget Hearing to order and welcomed all attendees, thanking everyone for coming.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Vice-Chairman Storey led the Invocation and Chairman Hatch led the Pledge to the American Flag.

DISCUSSION

Final Millage Rate — Resolution No. 2026-43

Brenda Royal reported that the county had reached the rollback rate in three major funds and thanked constitutional officers and department heads for their work on the budget.

Royal presented Resolution No. 2026-43, establishing the final operating millage rates for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026:

- **General Fund:** 9.4446 mills
- **Emergency Medical Services Fund:** 3.0223 mills
- **Library and Recreation Fund:** 0.4603 mills
- **Total operating millage rate:** 12.9272 mills, stated as no increase over the rollback rate

Motion by Commissioner Osteen to adopt Res. 2026-43 Final Millage Rate. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Storey. Board approved. Time adopted 5:34 p.m.

Final Budget — Resolution No. 2026-44

Royal presented Resolution No. 2026-44, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2026–2027, beginning October 1, 2026. The transcript states the budget amount as **\$46,195,987**; please verify this figure against the adopted budget document.

The resolution covered county funds and accounts including the General Fund, Communications, Core Facilities, Cross City Airport, Fire District, Library and Recreation, County Transportation Trust, Solid Waste, Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement Trust, Emergency 911 System, and impact fee funds.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Storey to adopt Res. 2026-44 Final Budget. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Time adopted 5:36 p.m.

Closing Comments

Mark Hatch thanked Royal, her staff, and the constitutional officers for their work during the budget process. The chair asked for additional comments or concerns; none were recorded. A final motion and second were noted, and the meeting concluded. **The transcript does not clearly identify the final motion or its vote tally.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

No public comments.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Storey. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen.

Meeting adjourned.

PLEASE BE ADVISED *that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearings, he/ she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he/ she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

“Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (352) 486-4931 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.”

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Individuals that would like to be placed on the agenda should call Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court, by 4:00 PM on the Friday Preceding the Board meeting, at (352) 498-1200.