AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 6, 2010 AT 6:00 P.M. , THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ.

Present: Eugene Lamb, Chair, District 1

Doug Croley, Vice-Chair, District 2

Gene Morgan, District 3 Sherrie Taylor, District 5 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk

Mike Glazer, Deputy County Attorney for Attorney Deborah Minnis

Johnny Williams, County Administrator

Absent: District 4 Seat - Vacant due to resignation of Brenda A. Holt

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The chair called the meeting to order and called for a moment of silent prayer. He then led in pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was amended as follows:

Added: Hospital Update by Mike Glazer added as 1A.

Added: Summer Youth Program as 1B.

Move item 12 to follow Item 9 (ahead of Item 10) on the General Business Agenda - Approval of Bid Award for Frank Smith Road Repair Project, to Duggar Excavating, Inc. for \$249,413.80 (Road Culvert Replacement)

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SEOCND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED ABOVE.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

<u>1 . Pipeline Update – Thomas Nestor, Public Relations Consultant, Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC</u>

County Administrator explained that Commissioner Taylor had requested that someone from Florida Gas Transmission come to the board and explain the pipeline construction project that is going on within the county.

Administrative Coordinator Charles Chapman introduced Thomas Nestor, the Public Relations Supervisor with Florida Natural Gas and Pipeline. He also told the board that Florida Gas Transmission is laying a new pipeline throughout Florida.

Mr. Nestor addressed the Board saying, "Florida Gas Transmission Company is an interstate natural gas pipeline. We have been operating in Florida since 1958. We are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, commonly known as FERC and the U.S. Department of Transportation. When we started in 1958, we had one single pipeline that went from South Texas, all the way around the Gulf and Mexico down to just south of Miami. Today, we have roughly three pipelines going most of that way.

Approximately 80% of the natural gas that will be transport into the state always has and still is used for the generation of electricity. Our Phase Eight expansion, about 90% of that will be used to generate electricity.

I originally contacted Gadsden County in early 2008 and I was directed to the Growth Management director and the assistant county manager. I informed them about our project and the process that we had to go through in order to get permission to build it. In January of this year, I met with the assistant county administrator and said that we had received our certificate from FERC and we were approved to go ahead with the project and that we would begin construction in the spring of this year.

Phase Eight expansion is mostly in Alabama and Florida and consists of 483 miles of pipeline. It will bring an additional 820,000,000 cubic feet per day of transportation capacity into the state. This will bring our total delivery capacity to 3.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. That is a lot of natural gas and it generates a lot of electricity.

In Gadsden County we are adding 20 miles of 36" pipeline. If you started at the eastern boundary of Gadsden County right at Leon County and came west 20 miles, you would arrive at our compressor station. That is where the pipeline is being constructed. It is all south of I-10. It is also being built parallel to our existing three pipelines that go through Gadsden County. Construction started in Gadsden County in May of this year. It is about 85-90% complete at this point. It will be completely finished probably in mid-August. They have to do some tie-ins with the existing line, then finish the grading of the right-of-way and then seed it. The in-service date For the whole Phase Eight expansion is in the spring of 2011. As a side note, Florida Gas does pay property taxes to all the counties that it passes through. If you will ask your tax collector, you will find that it is a substantial amount of money.

I have a summary of my presentation which is very brief. I was told to be very brief. I hope I was brief enough. I will leave it for your use later. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Lamb:

Commissioners, do any of you have any questions?

Taylor:

I am Commissioner Taylor and it is my district. I know that portions of it has already come

through. There were some questions as to - Number 1 – were there jobs available for folk to apply? Number 2 – Was this a safe operation? It is dealing with gas. Then, Number 3 – I did not understand because I never, as far as I could remember, we never entertained you coming before us to discuss this going forward. You mentioned earlier that you did meet with the assistant county administrator. I didn't know we had an assistant. But, you did mention that you met with this person and I just thought it should have been entertained here so that we would be able to speak intelligently about it. So, jobs was one issue. Safety is another. Then, I don't know the process. I didn't understand the process of getting them out there and getting them started with the operation without it coming before the board.

Nestor:

Taylor:

As to jobs – pipeline construction is a very specialized field. The contractors that we hire – we hire contractors, we don't do the work ourselves – Their employees travel with them from state to state. There may be some local people hired for certain things, but I really can't answer that question. I would say that most of them are from out of state because that is what they do. They travel to where the jobs are.

The safety issue — We operate the pipeline in as safe a manner as we can. We don't want anything to happen. It is a high pressure gas line. The pipe is constructed, put in the ground, then it is cleaned internally. It is then filled with water and the pressure is raised to twice the maximum pressure that it will ever operate at. So, if there are any weaknesses in the pipe, you would know then. Plus the pipe is tested where it is built at the factory. Then we weld the 80 ft. sections together. Every section is X-Rayed to make sure that the weld was done perfectly. So, it is a very safe process. Since we have been operating, for over 50 years, actually almost 60 now, there have been very few incidents with the pipeline. Every year, the quality of the steel gets better and better.

As to not appearing before the board, my job has been to contact all the counties. I usually call the county administrator and say, "I would like to tell you about our project." I was directed to the Growth Management Director at that point. I always offer to come if the board would like to have a presentation. I think I have done two or three — Most boards listen to what their administrator or manager tells them. Then if they have any questions, they follow up.

Taylor: Thank you.
Lamb: Anyone else?
Is there anything else that you want to add?
Nestor: No.

reduction in their costs? Some of the folk around here have high utility bills. Just a footnote here. Is that a possibility?

Nestor:

The pipeline is only constructed for current demand. We can't build excess capacity. You could tap into it and there are times when there is excess capacity that you can buy or rent from other shippers.

Taylor:

So, what you are sending through is already purchased by some end user?

Nestor:

Yes, but there is always excess capacity at times of the year. The City of Quincy is served by a pipeline from south Georgia. There are no customers that we serve in Gadsden County. Not because we wouldn't, but because we have never been asked.

Taylor:

Oh, really? Thank you very much.

Lamb:

Thank you very much for the update.

Taylor:

Do you have contact information that you can leave with us?

Nestor:

Yes, I have my card in here.

1A <u>Hospital Update – Attorney Mike Glazer</u>

Glazer:

Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for allowing me to provide this little update to you and to talk about a couple of other issues that we are moving forward on.

First of all, at this point, the hospital has only been open for three weeks, but in that three week period, they are averaging about 45-50 patients a day, which is fabulous. Not that I am wishing any will on anybody, but that is about double what they had originally projected. They are being very well received. We know we don't have any precise numbers at this point, but we know that a lot of those patients are folks who are covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. They are getting quite a mix of patients. It is still very early so it is hard to provide too much detail after only three weeks, but certainly the hospital has been well received.

I spoke with Chief Crum at the EMS service also. It is interesting. A couple of quick facts. First – even in the first three weeks, the ambulance transports out of Gadsden County are already down about 30 - 40%. That is really something. Something that I just learned – prior to the hospital being opened, every week and sometimes almost every day, Gadsden County would have to call

on its mutual aid agreements. That is they would have to contact their sister agencies in Leon County or other surrounding counties for help because there wasn't an ambulance available in Gadsden County. That was a very routine occurrence. In the last three weeks that has not happened even once. That is not to say that it won't, but that has dropped dramatically.

Lamb:

Excuse me. To those In the back – there are some seats up here if you want to come up here.

Glazer:

So, again, it is still very early, but some very encouraging signs. We have already had some meetings with the folks at Capital Regional to deal with the next steps and maybe using some of the additional space in the hospital for other purpose, maybe bring some other physicians to town. So, we are off to a very good start. That is a good segway into the real reason I wanted to bring this item to the agenda.

It is something that I brought to you two weeks ago, but now we need some action from the board. When Gadsden County reapplied for the hospital license from Ashford, the prior operator, there were literally tons of old furniture, fixtures and equipment. That old stuff was not actually purchased by the county. It was essentially given to the county, so you don't have any capital to speak of invested in it. But, you do have possession of it. It literally takes up thousands of square feet of space in that building. It is space that we now need to use. It is also old furniture and equipment that needs to be disposed of. A number of months ago, you all, we talked some about this subject. Since then, there has been some donation of some of the furniture and equipment to the Senior Center and some to Gadsden Technical Institute. But, there is a lot left. Way too much.

Let me distinguish what I am talking about and what I am not talking about. There is and you have heard me say this before, too. Right before they closed, they bought a whole bunch of new hospital beds. We do not want to get rid of those. So, I am not talking about those old beds. Likewise, I am not talking about old medical records or financial records. We are going to have to deal with those separately. I will be back before you on that at a later date. What we are talking about is furniture, computers, an old X-Ray machine that's got no value, and it is just stuff. But, we now need the space.

There are records in the space that has been leased to Capital Regional that we need to make available to them. And, we need to move all this old equipment out of the hospital so that we have the flexibility to do more things with that building. The old computers can actually be given to Goodwill. Goodwill will come and haul them off, decommission them and discard them properly, I think, at no cost to us. There are other items that just really need to be thrown away, frankly.

Mr. Collins is here and he can attest to the fact that this property is of no value. I know some of you have been out there and seen some of it. It is just taking up a lot of space. The Law actually provides a mechanism for disposal of the property by the Board of County Commissioners. There are two statutes that are out there. One is called a surplus property statute.

The other one has an odd name. It is called alternative procedure. The alternative procedure statute provides you with the greatest flexibility. If, in the course of disposing of this, we actually find that there are some items that can still be donated, that might have some little bit of value that we can realize, this alterative procedure that I am presenting to you this evening would give the county the flexibility to dispose of that in a different manner. But, it also provides the flexibility to just throw things away if that is what we need to do. Again, you don't have any money invested in that equipment, you just kind of inherited it.

What we are suggesting to you this evening is that you provide the county administrator, working in conjunction with the Clerk, because the Clerk does has some sort of an inventory of that material, to give the authority to dispose of these items under this alternative procedure. While it would be helpful as we discussed before, it would also be helpful to ratify the donations that have been made. So, what I have done this evening is I have drafting certain findings that I would like to read into the record followed by a motion that I would suggest that one of you make that would allow us to move forward with that procedure. I can either take questions or I can go ahead and read that into the record, Mr. Chairman, then take questions.

Lamb:

Go ahead and read it.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

Glazer:

O.K. I am asking the Gadsden County Commission to make certain findings. There are certain items of tangible personal property including furniture, fixtures and equipment in storage at the Gadsden Memorial Hospital building. Those items are not leased to Capital Regional Medical Center. Excluding the newer patient beds and the medical imaging and financial records, the Board of County Commissioners hereby determines that the remaining furniture fixtures and equipment are without commercial value. The Board of County Commissioners further determines that it is in the best interest of Gadsden County that this obsolete furniture, fixtures and equipment, which serves no useful function and the continued use of which is uneconomical or inefficient should be disposed of by the county in accordance with the alternative procedure for disposal of such tangible personal property codified in Section 274.046 FS. THUS, IT IS HEREBY MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR GADSDEN COUNTY FLORIDA AUTHORIZES THE GADSDEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DISPOSE OF THIS PROPERTY IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY POSSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS. THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR IS FURTHER DIRECTED TO WORK WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE CLERK TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ACCOUNTING FOR THIS PROPERTY IN A REASONABLE AND ECONOMICAL MANNER. THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FURTHER RATIFIES THE PRIOR DISPOSITION OF ANY SUCH PROPERTY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Someone can so move.

Croley:

So moved, Mr. Chair.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 6, 2010 Regular Meeting

Lamb: O.K. Do I have a second? Morgan: Second. Lamb: It has been moved and properly seconded that we will comply with this particular motion. You have heard the motion. Are there any other questions? Ready to vote. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye." All: Aye. Lamb: The "Ayes" have it. Thank you. Morgan: Mr. Chair? Lamb: Yes, sir. Morgan: Just a note that I would mention, that I would encourage the administrator and his staff. I know that we have reached out to Senior Services as well as Gadsden Technical Institute. But, as they say, one man's junk is another man's treasure. There may, in fact, be some area medical facilities or these organizations that administer expired medications and also pre-owned medical equipment and other medical accessories that third world parties and countries can use and benefit from. I would ask that you guys really do your homework and reach out there before you just "junk" this stuff. But, I do understand the immediate need to remove that from our facility. Lamb: Anything else? Glazer: I am done. Thank you.

EXCUSAL OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN'S ABSENCE FROM THE JUNE 15, 2010

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AT THE JUNE 15^{TH} MEETING.

Commissioner Taylor recommended that a roll call be added to the agenda at all meetings in the

future.

LIBRARY SYSTEM

Dr. Olga Connally:

I am here as part of a larger group of citizens who have come together to support the Gadsden County Library Youth Services Programs. Many of us are parents of children who participate in these programs year round. My own daughter, who is now seven, has been participating since before she could speak. I am also here as a former teacher. I was in the classroom for 13 years, the last five of which I taught reading and basic math to developmental students and high school dropouts. I have witnessed first hand the difficulties that struggling readers face in every aspect of life. It is therefore of great concern to me that the youth services programs are struggling. Our librarians have worked for over a decade to build a vital educational network. They not only helped those children who come through the doors of the library, they also interact with children in schools and daycare centers all over the county. Their partnership with the daycares is often the key to accreditation. Beyond this, they have developed onsite programs that nuture reading and thinking skills in our children and engage whole families in the learning process. They are truly on the front lines of education.

If we want to point to examples of how we are meeting the goals of reading first and the goals of the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Print for Reform, we can point to the Gadsden County Library Youth Services Programs. We should be highlighting these programs as some our best accomplishments, not cutting them. I and others are so concerned that we have been working since February to bring this issue to people's attention. When we learned that the crayons and coloring pages have been removed from all three library branches, we dropped suggestions in the suggestion box. Some patrons even attempted to donate these things back to the library. They were again removed. When we learned that the special guests would not appear this summer, we sent e-mail testimonials to Dr. Carolyn Poole, the Library Director, explaining the value of these high impact educational experiences for families in Gadsden County. We also explained that for some families, the library provides the only affordable way to see a professional story teller, artist or musician. Dr. Poole's response was that the summer programs would continue, but she could not justify high priced entertainers. As a result of Dr. Poole's refusal to engage special guests, Gadsden County lost an opportunity to be part of the four-county cooperative in which Gadsden Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla share special guests. Engaging special guests before the spring deadlines allows us to engage them for days when they are already traveling through this area. This is generally a win/win. A cost savings for us and better income for them.

In March we became aware that the library staff was paying for most of the arts and crafts supplies out of pocket. Needless to say, they could not continue this for long. As the last bottles of paint ran out, we knew we did not have enough funding to get through the spring much less the summer months. Quickly, we contacted the Friends of the Library and appealed for help. The friends asked us for a cost proposal to be reviewed first by Dr. Poole, then forwarded to them. Our proposal, a joint effort between Youth Services and parents, showed a reduced cost method for implementing the summer programs. The grand total was \$2, 735, an educational bargain considering that hundreds of children would have access to arts and crafts, movies and even special guests. Instead of passing on our proposal, Dr. Poole allowed it to sit on her desk. We

discovered this only by accident in late May. This was the point at which we realized that we had a serious difference of opinion with Dr. Poole. It was in May that we did three things.

First, we initiated a material drive as a stop gap and emergency measure to keep the Youth Services Program afloat. The flyers for this were distributed in Quincy and accompanied by request in two county newspapers.

Second, we formed a parent group to meet and discuss the status of the children's programs at Gadsden County Libraries. This group has been meeting for more than a month now donating both time and money to support Youth Services. On June 3, 19 parents and children gathered for an entire evening to prepare materials for the summer. Some parents even took materials home, spent many more hours preparing them and brought them back. This volunteer night was necessary because we had so little money to spend and because we got such a late start on the summer schedule.

Third, I communicated with Dr. Poole through email as well as face to face meeting. I let her know that the parents were becoming very frustrated. Our view, both then and now, is that we were being forced to pay for our programs three times over. One, in our taxes, two in our time and three from our pockets and kitchen cabinets. I also let her know that our role as auxiliary fund raisers was strictly temporary. Dr. Poole explained her budget restraints to me. Quite thoroughly in fact. However, she did not account for her priorities or lack of priorities for the children of Gadsden County. For whatever reasons, she would not make herself available to attend the parent meeting.

By early June, we understood that things were deadlocked. Therefore, we drafted a petition to seek a permanent solution to this problem. This petition has been circulating among the citizens of Gadsden County for approximately five weeks. In addition, I has been delivered to 16 daycare centers and one elementary school. I think you will agree that the results are impressive. We still have names coming in.

We believe that the problem is not with the budget itself as Dr. Poole claims, but with the way that budget is being managed. Why do we have money for a roster of adult computer classes in the spring, for example, but no money for arts and craft supplies? Why did we install a new state of the art copy machine at Bill McGill, but leave no money for special guests? Why do we now support an additional cataloger, but do not support our children? Remember also that we moved into summer 2010 with two collaborative summer library programs. Make a splash for school age children and make a wave for tweens and teens. These programs were approved by Dr. Poole. Why then, did she neglect to fully fund them?

In my email to you on June 27, I said that we needed help to correct situation so that families throughout Gadsden County will receive the educational support they deserve. We would like to publicly praise and thank those who have already jumped in to do just that. WE appreciate those school board members and the community leaders who have been proactive in the past two weeks. All have attempted to do something immediate and real to help the Gadsden County Libraries Youth Services Programs.

The next step, as we see it, is outlined in the petition. We believe it is extremely important to establish a permanent operating budget for Youth Services. A discretionary budget will only mean that we will have to gather here again next year and repeat this conversation. I hope you will see th wisdom in giving Youth Services a line item and I thank you for your time and attention.

Lamb:

Thank you very much. I think all of us heard it very clearly and she had it very well outlined. I think what we need to – instead of going through a whole lot of dialogue here, we need to give it to our administrator and hopefully, the administrator can get with the organization as well our library director and fix the problem if there is a problem. I don't think we need to go through anything a whole lot. I think he is already working on it.

This is my first time really, really knowing about it. But, by the next meeting, I would like to have an update, Mr. Administrator, on where we are. Hopefully, you will have it fixed by the next meeting or as soon as possible. I think that is where this needs to go.

Unidentified Audience member:

May I make just one point. We keep hearing "Summer" programs. This is a year round issue.

Lamb:

Come to the mic, sir.

Connally:

My name is Tom Connally. The point that I want to make is that we keep hearing "summer programs, the summer programs." This is a year round issue. She stopped funding things in February. If it wasn't for the parents, there would be NO programs. She likes to take the flyer out and say, "Oh, look at these wonderful summer programs." There would be none if we weren't there. That is where three quarters of this room is right now. They are parents that want simple funding.

Lamb:

O.K. We are looking to our administrator to bring us back a report. We don't want to criticize anyone in this meeting. We will give it to our administrator. (

Speaking to the county administrator: Take care of it, fix it and bring it back to us. We will expect a report at the next meeting.

Thank you very much, sir.

Taylor:

Mr. Chair?

Lamb:

Yes, ma'am.

Taylor:

Before you go, and I concur, not trying to make this one side versus the other side, but I think the county administrator needs to have the echo and the sentiments of the other commissioners that you have just outlayed so that he can understand that there are other commissioners behind you that want to see this matter resolved.

Lamb:

Exactly.

Taylor:

I, too, have spoken earlier in the year about issues that were raised by parents – lack of color crayons and some other things. I thought things were well underway.

I support this type programs. As a matter of fact, this is a service that we use. The young lady is absolutely correct. It gives merit to a program when the bookmobile comes to that program. You don't want to lose that kind of services. So, I am just echoing the chairman in that whatever way we can work this thing out, we need to work it out so that we can continue the services to the community. That is imperative. I am echoing what he is saying. Just to let you know that I support it.

Lamb:

My fellow commissioners, do you all have comments?

Morgan:

Mr. Chair, I have a couple of things and I appreciate it.

Thank you for the detailed update. We appreciate you all coming out and speaking with us and letting us hear about the frustrations that you have.

Mr. Administrator, I spoke with you a couple of times about this very issue and this goes back several months ago. I have spoken with the local folks over on the Friends of the Library, not only in Chattahoochee, but in other areas of the county. There are a couple of things that I want to comment on here.

It is very frustrating when there is no open communication. I think when we don't have that, we truly do have issues that escalate and then the damage is done. So, I would encourage us to open up those lines of communications. If there are some changes that we need to make, let's sit down at a table and talk about why they are being made and those types of things.

I want to speak just a minute in defense of Dr. Poole because the reality is that earlier in the year, during the legislative sessions, we did not know if Gadsden County was going to receive any dollars at all from the State of Florida or what those may be. Quite honestly, we are going to face those same hurdles during the next state legislative session. So, it really is and issue as far funding of Libraries. That being said, I don't know how many meetings that I have attended here since I have been on the board where I haven't talked about priorities of funding things when we have needs versus wants. This is a prime example of a need. We are talking about our children. Future contributing adults in our community. These summer programs are critical in so many ways.

As Mr. Connally mentioned, these year round programs are critical in so many ways. This is not an issue that is uncomplicated. But, it can be addressed effectively with open lines of communications and priorities for funding. This is going to be something that we should address in our budget sessions coming up. Next year is going to be tighter than this year. So, again, I would encourage us to talk among ourselves and try to reach out and find some solutions and understand that this is something that we do need to consider budgeting for.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Lamb:

Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I certainly want to add my voice to the fact. As I sit here and I look at the faces of these parents and these children, I recognize and see the sincerity and desire to see improvements made.

Mr. Administrator, as you and I have talked in the past few months about the library system, I, too, want to see a plan as to how you are going to deal with this. But, I want to see a communication plan as to how the present library administration is going to be better engaged with the community. It comes down to communication, the capital requirements needed to provide these programs. We may not be able to do everything that has been done in the past, as Commissioner Morgan references because of the state budget cuts and the general state of the economy, but, our folks need to see a commitment to the public in some form or fashion so that they know what to expect. We, as commissioners, on their behalf, know what to look for from your administration and especially from the library administration. If we have a library board or a series of boards or something that can pull, the Friends of the Library, that can pull some of things together for better communication and guidance back to the board, I think that would be an important element as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Lamb:

Your observations are on part of all of you. I look forward to seeing this being taken care of in the near future. I know they want to get started with the summer. Like we have said now, the way the cuts are and so forth from the state level, we might not be able to do everything, but that is why you can establish that communication to this group and they can give a helping hand. I am almost sure that they are willing to give a helping hand. But, you've got to have that communication. So, Mr. Administrator, take care of it for us, please.

Taylor:

I want to make sure that our directions are clear. What I am hearing that they are asking for is that there is a budget in place that have line items for some of these items. Not that it comes from contingency funds, but there is a budget put in place where they can pull and make sure that

there are some activities are funded.

Now, yes, the Legislature is talking about cutbacks, but that is for 2010/2011. So what is happening now doesn't have anything to do with what is going on at the Legislature. So, just wanted to make sure that going forward, that there is a line item in the budget for these services so we don't have to worry about looking for money. That this will be protected money. If the funding is available, that this goes forward in this way. Like she said, she won't have to come back anymore.

That is what I would like to see. Thank you.

Lamb:

Thank you commissioners and Mr. Administrator.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items 4, 5 and 7 were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ITEMS 2, 3, AND 6 BELOW.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2010 Regular Meeting

3. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills

Accounts Payables Dated: June 18, 2010

June 25, 2010 July 2, 2010

Payrolls Dated: June 17, 2010

July 1, 2010

4. Post Approval of Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding — 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program JAG Countywide Certificate of Participation from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Grants — A Reimbursable Grant of \$75,160,000. (No county match required.)

Gadsden County receives annual grants from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Grants for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Drug Taskforce. These funds are used to partially fund one Narcotics Investigator position and operating expenses for the Narcotics Taskforce Unit. The grant period is from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

Questions raised by Commissioner Morgan about why it was submitted so late by the Sheriff's office. The letter was received from FDLE on May 21.

This item was removed from the consent agenda for discussion

5. Resolution 2010-034 Approval of the Supplemental Local Agency Program Agreement(LAP) – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) — County Road 269 (Resurfacing of South Main Street in Chattahoochee) (Authorizes Chairman to Execute the LAP Supplemental Agreement 1) — Financial Project 426685 1-58-01

This items sought board approval and execution of the attached LAP Supplemental Agreement for acceptance of a reduction of funding for the CR 269, South Main Street in Chattahoochee.

The State of Florida is administering Federal Funding for road projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These projects are selected from the candidate projects submitted by the County and approved by the FDOT. This item will reduce the amount of the funds in the contract from \$272,023.00 to \$148,233.00. The remaining balance of \$123,790.00 will be returned to the State for projects of need.

This item was removed from the consent agenda for discussion

6. Approval of Public Works Mosquito Control Budget FY 2010-2011 (Anthropod Control)

The County must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for Matching funds to operate the Mosquito Control program in Gadsden County (FS 388.341) Annually the County must submit a Detailed Work Plan Budget. DACS reviews the documents and if approved, the State of Florida provides partial funding for the spraying of mosquitoes during the year. Based on historical funding, the proposed Work Plan will provide for the spraying of mosquitoes during the next fiscal year. It includes a base salary for one employee and required materials to carry out the program. The County match is \$36,686 for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

7. Approval of Contract for County Auditing Services with Purvis Gray and Company of Tallahassee, FL

On May 18, 2010, the board approved Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP as the auditing firm to provide auditing services for the county for the years ending September 30, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Board requested that certain items be added to the contract in addition to the basic contractual terms. The requested items are included in the contract as follows: 1.A — Audit Report Delivery Date; 1.F — Requiring the auditor to provide a written report of individual audits of each constitution officer's operation; 19.G — includes a provision to disallow immediate family members of the contractor to be employed or under contract with any unit of Gadsden County government during the term of the contract; Section 8 — increases for funding based on ability to pay and service satisfaction.

CONSENT AGEND ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Post Approval of Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding – 2010 Edward Byme Memorial Justice
Assistance Grant (JAG) Program JAG Countywide Certificate of Participation from the Florida

<u>Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Grants</u> - A Reimbursable Grant of \$75,160,000. (No county match required.)

Gadsden County receives annual grants from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Grants for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Drug Taskforce. These funds are used to partially fund one Narcotics Investigator position and operating expenses for the Narcotics Taskforce Unit. The grant period is from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

Morgan:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of quick questions. This is a post approval for a grant. My question was just, "Why are we approving it past the due date?" And secondly, I need to know what the true fiscal impact of this is going to be to the county. I do see under the "Fiscal Impact", it is anticipated to be a totally reimbursable grant. I already knew that, but I don't see anything as to whether this is a "zero" impact to the county. Are we talking about adding another position with these funds?

Lamb:

That is that JAG grant. There is no impact. There is no match.

Williams:

There is no match.

Morgan:

Yeah. Well, I saw that there is no match, but potentially, we could use this to fund a position, so, potentially, there is some fiscal impact in the future to the county.

Williams:

I don't know if there is anybody here from the Sheriff's office, but as you know, with these JAG grants, they have varied deadlines. Ever since I have been here, which is a little over a year now, we have always had problems with them getting them here on time.

Morgan:

This arrived on May 11th from FDLE.

Williams:

May 11th?

Morgan:

Yes.

Williams:

It has been a problem ever since I have been here.

Morgan:

The deadline was June 25^{th} and this is July 6^{th} . I am just curious to see if that was a concern to anybody else.
Lamb: Right. It was, Commissioner Morgan.
Williams: We put them on the agenda when we get them.
Lamb: And I did speak to the financial person there and told them to do what they can to get them to us on time. She promised me that she was going to do that. I went ahead and signed this one because I knew it was late coming to us. I didn't want to lose this money. That is why it is signed. I think they will get it to us on time from now on.
Croley: What happens to you if we don't approve it?
Lamb: I don't know.
(laughter)
Morgan: We have already mailed it off, I think. Haven't we?
Lamb: Yeah.
Morgan: Yeah, we have.
Lamb: (inaudible) That is one of those things and they have been talked to about it, but I didn't want them to lose the money.
Williams: It is a continuing problem. I don't have a lot of faith that it is going to be corrected, quite frankly.
Lamb: O.K. Can I get a motion to approve it or do whatever you are going to do?
(Laughter)
Taylor:

I so move.

Let me say this. Let me say this. Obviously, none of us around this board want to do anything to get in the way of combating crime. These dollars will help with the Task Force. I have seen these people in action. I have seen the reduction in crime. So, no one wants to stop \$80,000 from coming in here. We have heard time and time again that dollars are not going to be available. So, whenever there is an opportunity for a grant, obviously, we want to do that. Would we like to see these things in front of us sooner? Yes. But, unfortunately, we have to deal with what we have in front of us. Let's get these dollars in here to help folks from coming through other folks windows and selling drugs on the corner. So, I am going to motion to approve it.

Lamb:

Second.

It has been motioned and seconded that we approve this item. You have heard that motion. Are there any questions? Any other questions?

Croley:

Commissioner Lamb and Commissioner Taylor is correct. It is my understanding that this grant is administered among the different municipalities, I believe. They have a committee that does that. I think Commissioner Morgan's point about the time frame is a valid one, but certainly we agree with Commissioner Taylor and yourself in that we can't hold this up. So, when you are ready for a vote, I will support it.

Lamb:

Question?

Morgan:

Just a comment, Mr. Chair. I didn't say that I wasn't going to support it. My point is that complete and timely information. We owe that to our voting citizens out here. There is a right way and a wrong way to do things. That is the right way to do it. Anyway, I am ready to move.

Lamb:

They know the right way and I think they are going to follow the right way. Any other questions?

We are ready to vote.

All in favor, let it be known by saying, "aye."

All:

Aye.

Lamb:

Why are ya'll giving me that hard time?

(Huge laughter)

Croley:

We like to shake you up a little bit.

5. Resolution 2010-034 Approval of the Supplemental Local Agency Program Agreement (LAP) – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – County Road 269 (Resurfacing of South Main Street in Chattahoochee) (Authorizes Chairman to Execute the LAP Supplemental Agreement 1) Financial Project 426685-1-58-01

This items sought board approval and execution of the attached LAP Supplemental Agreement for acceptance of a reduction in funding for the CR 269, South Main Street in Chattahoochee.

The State of Florida is administering Federal Funding for road projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These projects are selected from the candidate projects submitted by the County and approved by the FDOT. This item will reduce the amount of the funds in the contract from \$272,023.00 to \$148,233.00. The remaining balance of \$123,790.00 will be returned to the State for projects of need.

Morgan:

I just have a quick question and Mr. Presnell might be the one that can clarify this one for me.

This is actually looking at the LAP agreement for Main Street in Chattahoochee where we just completed that paving over there. It looks like we are sending back a considerable amount of grant monies. The question that I had is, "Why didn't we use all of it and pave some more?"

Presnell:

We were not allowed to is the simple answer. This is some of the "Obama money" as I call it. They pick the limits, since it goes through DOT, they pick the limits of the project work. We pick the street. We wanted to do Main Street. Well, DOT sent folks out and they said, "Well, it is this amount of money and you can only do this. The limits will be here." Then, through and agreement, we administer the project. Basically, that \$123,000 reflects how much more efficient we are than a state project. They took their estimates and said, "You can only do this length of work." We bid it and had it done. Preble & Rish handled the CEI services and there was \$123,000 left in the grant. We weren't allow to extend the project and we did not have those options. They picked the length of work and all you could do was beef up the thickness, put thermoplastic stripping and we did all of those things. That is the amount of money that was left over.

V	lor	ga	n	
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You could not use these dollars in any other manner at all? Is that what you said?

Presnell:

No, sir.

Morgan:

O.K. That was my question. I am ready to move on that now. Thank you.

Croley:

Well, to follow up on that, since this money is going to go back to projects that are needed, is that going to be projects outside this county?

Presnell:

Yes. It goes back into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act fund that DOT is administering statewide.

Croley:

Well, I understand that, but then we don't have any opportunity to get this money back into the county?

Presnell:

Yes. If you remember about six weeks ago, we had some monies left over on another project that we returned. We were able to get about \$500,000 for a bridge project. That is one example of how the money pools around. But there has been nothing talked about for this \$123,000. It is going back into the pot.

Croley:

That is why I am asking if it is possible to get this money for that bridge?

Presnell:

Yes.

Croley:

Well, I would like to make sure, Mr. Chair, that our administrator and our attorney and the public works director make a formal written request to the powers that be at DOT to get this money back for our bridge repairs cause we need it.

Lamb:

O.K. That sounds good.

Taylor:

Mr. Chairman, while Mr. Presnell is there, I have just one quick question. Part of the Obama Money, as you referenced it, was suppose to do sidewalks as well. That is what the initial plan was - stripping and sidewalks. I have had numerous requests recently for sidewalks in various neighborhoods. Are there any dollars anywhere? Are there opportunities anywhere for that?

Presnell:

Not for the county. We spent most of ours on stripping. Midway and Gretna combined spent about \$900,000 on sidewalks. Those two municipalities spent their money on sidewalks.

Taylor:

Will there any opportunities in the future? In 2010 or 2011?
Presnell: Not that I am aware of unless there is another round of stimulus funding .
Taylor: Well, there is supposed to be, isn't there?
Presnell: It is nothing official yet.
Taylor: O.K. Thank you, then.
Lamb: Is there a motion to approve Item number 5?
Taylor: So moved.
Morgan: Second.
Lamb: It has been moved and properly seconded that we approve Item number 5. Are there any questions?
(no response)
We are ready to vote. All in favor of the motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."
All: Aye.
Lamb: Opposes?
(No response.)
The "Ayes" have it. Thank you.

7. <u>Approval of Contract for County Auditing Services with Purvis Gray and Company of Tallahassee, FL</u>

On May 18, 2010, the board approved Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP as the auditing firm to provide auditing services for the county for the years ending September 30, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Board requested that certain items be added to the contract in addition to the basic contractual terms. The requested items are included in the contract as follows: 1.A – Audit Report Delivery Date; 1.F – Requiring the auditor to provide a written report of individual audits of each constitution officer's operation; 19.G – includes a provision to disallow immediate family members of the contractor to be employed or under contract with any unit of Gadsden County government during the term of the contract; Section 8 – increases for funding based on ability to pay and service satisfaction.

Taylor:

I am going to vote against this and I am going to tell you why. When I asked the last time about some of the other firms that had a applied and one in particular received "0" in every category. I was told that this company received "0" because there was one item that the county had required of the applying companies that this particular company did not have. So, it gave "0's" in every category. I think that was unfair. I asked the question, "Why?" They said that they didn't meet this particular criteria. But, in looking at some of the other bids that we have done previous of that, there were other companies that did not have all, but were subsequently allowed to go forward in the bid process. In particular the Telecommunications was one of them. The one company did not have certain services that we needed to get the program out in the community, but this particular company was allowed to go through the process and was subsequently won the bid. But, that company didn't have all the criteria that was in the packet. So, this does not seem consistent to me. I have a problem with the fact that this one company that applied for the auditing services failed one criteria and subsequently zeroed out on all others that they did have experience in. Then, now we are saying that is the reason why, but we did another bid process totally different and allowed companies to move forward who did not have all the criteria. I know that may sound a little rumbling there, but I am going to vote against this process. If we are going to be consistent, if we are going to say that you have to have every one. If not, you can't go forward. Then I will support it, but I am not going to do one company one way and another company another way. I think that was an unfair process. So, that is why I pulled it and that is why I am not going to vote for it.

That is it.

Lamb:

O.K. Commissioner Croley.

Croley:

Mr. Chair, I believe – Mr. Attorney, if you would correct me if I've got this wrong, but, the board had already made the award to Purvis Gray and Company. All that this is is the approval of the contract with the provisions in it that we asked for. The actual bid award had already been previously approved. Is that not right, Mr. Chair and Mr. Attorney? Isn't this just approval of the contract, itself?

Glazer:

I wasn't at that meeting, but I believe you are correct.

Williams:

That is correct. You asked for certain changes in the contract and those have been incorporated. You know, this process of selection is a little bit different than other processes since it is in Florida Statutes and some representatives of all the constitutional officers must be on the committee, it does operate a little bit different than our usual processes.

Croley:

But, we have heard from Clerk Thomas.

Williams

That is why there may not be some consistency there.

Croley:

This was consistent with Clerk Thomas's recommendation and the other members of that committee and tracks with proper procedure. On that basis, Mr. Chair, I move this item forward.

Lamb:

O.K. Can I get a second?

Morgan:

Second.

Lamb:

It has been moved and properly seconded that we approve Item number 7. You have heard that motion. We are ready for questions.

(no response)

We are ready to vote. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

Morgan: Aye. Lamb: Aye. Croley: Aye.

Lamb: Opposes?

Taylor: Aye.

Lamb:

Make that 3 - 1.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Kimberly Renee Henry-Cooper addressed the board on behalf of the young people who have benefited over the years from the Youth Services Program . She stated that her daughter, Velvet, started attending such programs at the age of 2 and she is still attending at 10 years of age. She reported that she and her daughter have been enriched by the programs which are educational and fun. She then read a letter into the record from Velvet. She encouraged all commissioners and the adults present to visit the library and see the benefits of the art programs.

Sharon Franklin addressed the commissioners representing "Whole Child Gadsden." She explained that they are working throughout the State of Florida to build a community where children thrive. She said, "Children need every opportunity to see what they can do and to embellish what they are learning. With this you need art, music and all those things that happen. One of the big things is "Story Telling." Ms. Sherrie Taylor is one of the best. I have seen her take over a room full of adults with her story telling. She doesn't come in just her blue jeans, she comes dressed as the character or the person who may have written the story she is telling. So, please help us take care of our children. It is easier to raise a child than it is to repair an adult. We are spending a lot of money trying to repair adults. Let's put the money back down where it needs to start as we build lives and children in Gadsden County."

Millie Forehand:

I am here to speak briefly if I can about a development order that has been issued.

My name is Millie Forehand, first of all, with Crossroads Academy Charter School and CEDO of Gadsden County. As policy makers, we sometimes make policies and decisions and then when we turn around and look at them from a realistic standpoint, we wonder what it is that we said we were going to do and ask, "Does it make sense?" So, I am here because we agreed to do this sidewalk on Kelley Road for the school. We looked up and started doing it and said, "What is this? This doesn't make sense." It is on a narrow road that is not maintained. It is an "alleyway" We were asked to put in a \$85,000 to \$100,000 sidewalk in between the grass that is not kept and to a road that is not maintained and into bushes that is supposed to be a buffer zone. So, I am asking the commissioners to look into this and see if it makes logical sense. We could really hire 2.5 teachers with what it is going to cost to put a sidewalk that nobody is going to use.

Mr. Presnell, if he has that \$123,000 left and can go and get it, we could certainly use it for a sidewalk instead of sending it back – if you just must have a sidewalk. But, please, I just want to know – Does it make sense? It just doesn't make sense. If you can see it in the way I see it, it just doesn't make sense. We could use that money for a lot more practical things.

If you will, please consider that for me.

Taylor:

Just one comment on that if I may.

Lamb:

We don't discuss anything on the Citizens to be Heard Agenda, now. You can make your comments at the end.

July 0, 2010 Regular Meeting

Taylor:

O.K. then, let me make it at the end.

Millie Forehand:

I've got plenty of time left of my three minutes.

Lamb:

I know, but we can't discuss this now.

Croley:

No, we can't do that.

Taylor:

I will go ahead and hold it up toward the end, but I did want to address this if I could.

Lamb:

O.K. No further discussion on this at this time.

Thank you, Ms. Forehand.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

8. Public Hearing – Transmittal of Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Policy 1.1.5(D) – Neighborhood Commercial (NC) (CPA-2010-01)

On April 6, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners voted 5-0 to remand Policy 1.1.5(D) Neighborhood Commercial (NC) back to the Planning Commission to discuss and recommend amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code (LDC) NC is a land use overlay which is designed to provide commercial services to rural communities. Policy 1.1.5(D) was amended in the second comprehensive plan cycle of 2009. The Cycle 2009-2 amendment to Policy 1.1.5(D) expanded areas where such uses are permitted by removing intersection criteria and allowed historically existing waterfront commercial uses to expand as a special exception use with Board approval (Ordinance 2009-032.) NC uses were limited in intensity and size to more specifically ensure that the scale of the commercial uses remains compatible with the existing neighborhoods and community. The on/off premise sale of alcohol was added as permitted with BOCC approval.

Subsequent to the adoption of the amendment, there was concern among some of the commissioners over the addition of alcohol sales and the removal of intersection criteria that would allow commercial uses "smack in the middle" of residential areas. Therefore, the BOCC brought the matter back for consideration and remanded the issue back to the Planning Commission for further review. .

In response to those concerns, the Planning Commission recommended changes to Policy 1.1.5(D) to permit alcohol sales only as accessory to commercial retail uses or for consumption in a restaurant use. No free-standing liquor stores would be permitted.

Intersection criteria are proposed that would require that NC uses in Agricultural (AG) Future Land Use categories be located within a .5 mile radius of an intersection of greater than local roadways. In Rural Residential (RR) NC uses must be located within a .25 radius from an intersection of greater than local roadways. The Planning Commission found that the proximity to an intersection should be greater in the designated AG use areas due to the large size and greater roadway frontage length of parcels. The test was also revised to be consistent between the AF & RR Future Land Uses districts.

No changes in density were proposed as part of this amendment.

Once the amended policy is adopted, it was proposed that the LDC be amended to be consistent with the language proposed by the amended Policy 1.1.5(D)

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance

Newspaper Advertisement of Notice of Intent

Attachment "A" – draft of policy 1.1.5(D) with changes proposed

Comp Plan Amendment Process Flow Chart

Anthony Matheny, Growth Management Director, addressed the board then turned the matter over to Ms. Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner to explain.

Chair Lamb called for questions and comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor stated for the record that she had been on the prevailing side of the motion that approved the NC text change originally. After further consideration, she became aware of pitfalls in the policy change and asked that it be revisited and remanded back to the Planning Council.

Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner, Growth Management and Community Development Department, explained the changes as noted in the attached document.

Following discussion, the board made no other changes to the text amendment.

Chair Lamb called for public comments:

There was no response.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO TRANSMIT THE TEXT AMENDMENT TO DCA FOR THEIR REVIEW AND COMMENTS.

9. Mears Two-for-One Variance Request (V-2010-01)

Owner: Marilyn Mears

Agent: William Jolly and Gay Steffen

Property Location: South Side of Flat Creek Road, west of Lonnie Clark Road

TAX ID: 3-06-2N-5W-0000-00433-0000 (30 acres) Parent parcel

New TAX ID #S if Approved: 3-06-2N-5W-0000-00433-0300 (In Lieu of payment, Ms. Mears deeded this 10.27 acre parcel to Charles A. Curran in January 2009 who bargained to file the Two for One subdivision of the parcel in 2009, but he failed to do it.) & 3-06-2N-5W-0000-00433-0200(20.25 acre parcel still owned by Ms. Mears who now wishes to subdivide it into two ten acre parcel.) Since the first subdivision did not take place timely in 2009, she is prohibited by the LDC to do the Two-for-One of this parcel unless the board will allow her to do two subdivisions of the parent parcel in the same year.

Requested Action: Variance from Gadsden County Land Development Code (LDC) Subsection 6003.G(5) and to allow two (2) Two-for-one subdivision to be filed and approved in 2010 (under normal circumstances, only one subdivision would be allowed during the course of one year.) **Type Action:** Quasi-judicial action in conjunction with the advertised public hearing as a Type III action per Subsection 7203 and 7301 of the LDC.

Planning Commission Recommendation: June 10, 2010 – Unanimous Approval based upon findings that the applicant's hardship met all seven requirements as identified in the agenda report, Attachment 3, but contingent on the special conditions noted in the draft final order (Attachment 2),.

Anthony Methaney, Growth Management Director – Administered an oath by Muriel Straughn. He explained that one of the subdivisions proposed was only correcting an error that occurred in the previous year. The other is actually adding another subdivision of the parcel.

Chair Lamb called for discussion among the board.

No other testimony was given.

Chair Lamb called for public comments. There was no response.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTE 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE REQUESTED.

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. Approval of Bid Award for Frank Smith Road Repair Project, to Duggar Excavating, Inc. for \$249,413.80 (Road Culvert Replacement)

This agenda item seeks Board approval to award the contract for the repair of Frank Smith Road to Duggar Excavating, Inc. Staff also requested approval for the chairman to execute the agreement, Notice of Award and Notice to Proceed. Staff hopes to negotiate a reduction of the contract amount to \$200,000. There is \$100,000 in the current fiscal budget for \$100,000 which will not be adequate. A budget amendment will follow once this contract award is approved.

Frank Smith Road is the only access in or out to approximately 40 homes. It has served as an earthen dam for an impoundment until a failure in 1994 and has failed on three occasions since that time due to water overtopping the roadway and breeching the road and back slope. The pipe under the road is undersized and has been repaired twice and additional culverts have been added to increase flow capacity, but the structure remains substandard and is a safety hazard.

Eleven bids were received for the project. The low bidder, Cal-Co Construction and Development, made a written request to withdraw their bid. The next lowest bidder was Duggar Excavating, Inc.

Robert Presnell addressed the board.

Williams:

Number 10 is the approval of the bid award for Frank Smith Repair project. I will have to add a caveat here. This is going to require a budget amendment which we have not yet had the opportunity to prepare. I was out all of last week and we just didn't get it done. But, the money is there and we've got the mechanism for funding it and I encourage you to do so because there is some urgency involved here. If there are storms forming in the gulf and this thing has blown out I don't know how many times. Robert, two or three times?

This is the final fix.

Lamb:

O.K. Robert.

Presnell:

Yes, sir. What we are here tonight asking the board to approve is the award of the bid to Duggar Contracting. There was, just for the record, eleven bids received. There was a low bidder who asked to withdraw his bid in writing. His company was the low bidder. We knew we were over budget when we received the bids. The manager and I met and we worked on that. We plan to negotiate with this Duggar Contracting if you so chose to award the bid, to stay with our original design with concrete headwalls that was in the original set of plans. We will have three 60" pipes that will safely pass a hundred year storm event. It will be very safe and up to anyone's standard project. We are over budget, but we do plan to do a budget amendment to come up with the extra money to complete the project. As well, we will be back before you with a change order. We are negotiating some things with the low bidder to lower that contract amount. You are awarding this contract tonight for \$249,000, but I assure you that we will be back with a change order to lower that amount. We are shooting for about \$200,000. So, just for your information tonight, you will know that ahead of time. We will be back with a change order, but it will be to lower it.

We have a representative here from Preble-Rish if there are any technical questions you may have about the design.

Lamb:

O.K. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Croley.

Croley:

Thank you, Mr. Presnell and thank you, Mr. Administrator for re-enforcing the point that this is a major issue of public safety. I would like to ask that the engineer representative come forward because I know that there are residents here from Frank Smith Road Community that might want to hear you re-enforce a point that this is the original design that I believe that you -

Clark:

Yes, sir. I am Matt Clark with Preble Rish. I have talked to the contractor and he has agreed as Mr. Presnell said to do the original design for around \$200,000.

Croley:

If this design is approved and completed, we can expect this to take care of the issue for within our lifetime

Clark:

Yes, sir. It should be there for 100 years.

Croley:

100 years.

Well, Commissioners, I need not remind you how important this is to the safety of the Frank Smith Community and to Gadsden County Emergency Management in having this drainage matter addressed properly.

Lamb:

It needs to be done.

Any other commissioners?

Taylor:

So moved.

Croley:

Second.

Morgan:

I have some comments.

Lamb:

I am going to come to you. It has been motioned and seconded that we approve Item no. 12. You have heard that motion and we are ready for questions.

Commissioner Morgan.

Morgan:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had some input here before we got to the motion and second.

Robert, if you could help walk me through some of this, I sure would appreciate it.

I am looking at the bid tabulation form. First of all, let me say that I understand that this is a project that we need to complete and get done. It is certainly critical that we finish this up. But I just don't understand how some of these things unfolded and I need to see if you can help me out.

We had one, two, three, four, five, six people respond to the bid that we sent out. The one that we selected originally, the one that withdrew, Cal Co, was basically \$100,000 cheaper than everybody else. Did that throw up any red flags at that point in time?

Presnell:

We knew at the bid opening that there was a problem. He soon did and he found a mistake in his math and his calculations. (To the engineer) Was it on the concrete or the dirt?

Clark:

On the dirt.

Presnell:

He left off a zero.

Williams:

He dropped a zero.

Presnell:

So, he immediately, the day of the bid opening, he said, "Oh, my God, will ya'll please help me here?" We told him, "Just submit a letter withdrawing your bid." It happens sometimes.

Morgan:

O.K. Then secondly, we were are at basically \$250,000 and you are saying that the folks that we are going to be contracting with have already agreed to lower that price for that \$50,000 and they are going to complete the project in the same manner?

Presnell:

That will involve – we are going to furnish the dirt. We are changing the scope of the project some, but when we went back to negotiate with him, when we knew we had a problem, we talked about negotiating with maybe the three lowest bidders, but immediately, Mr. Duggar says, "Well everybody knows my numbers now. We can't rebid this. What do I have to do? I don't want it rebid, I need the job. Where do you need to be?" So, I told him around \$100,000 is where you need to be, (laughter) But, we have some access problems with this job. I think you are aware of that and we may still go out a different way, but that kind of fell through. So, we are going to have to maintain traffic. We should have had him adding another \$30,000. During good times, there would not have been a decrease, but he is not only willing to maintain traffic, but we are going to furnish the dirt to him for the project and that is not that big of a deal. He is going to lower it

down substantially.

Morgan:

Have we done business with this person in the past?

Presnell:

I have. The county has not. Preble Rish is very familiar with him. He has done work in Blountstown, Calhoun.

Morgan:

I just happened to notice that C.W. Roberts is actually just about \$4,000 or \$5,000 difference here and that is basically a local firm. We have obviously done many, many projects with Mr. Roberts. I guess I would have to question – you know, we know what we've got with Mr. Roberts. He has always done a great job and then some. I just don't know how these decisions were made and I am asking some questions here.

Presnell:

We went with the low bidder. Upon advice of legal counsel, who was in our meeting as well. Deborah was there and she recommended – when we (Johnny and I) talked about negotiating with the three lowest bidders, she recommended, she felt more comfortable if we just negotiated with the low bidder and then do a change order to reflect any changes. She was more comfortable with that. We did discussed negotiating with the three. We can still do that if you so desire.

Morgan:

I don't want to. Obviously, this has been an on-going project and I know that it is critical that we get it completed. I understand all of that. I am very concerned about processes and how we do things. It seems like there are just some things that we are missing here and I just don't understand why.

Presnell:

We sure don't want to. It is not our intention to miss anything. We will try to give emphasis to any questions. Nobody is perfect. We may have missed something here. I will be glad to get it for you.

Morgan:

O.K.

The only other question that I have and this will be for the attorney. Is there anything in this process that we are going about that would put the county in a legal bind?

Glazer:

Well, this is new to me so I am not familiar with it. Deborah has been dealing with it. But, as I understand it, it has already been bid. The time for challenges is long past, hasn't it?

Presnell:

Yes.

Glazer:	
Usually, after t	he bid,
Presnell:	
Well, no, it is a	fter the award. After tonight, they will have so many days to challenge it.
Glazer:	
Oh, so the noti	ce has not been posted.
Presnell:	
	nis had a problem with that. She said that as long as we are dealing with the low more comfortable with our process.
Glazer:	
But, you are go	oing to be posting the notice after tonight.
Presnell:	
Everyone will g	et a letter.
Glazer:	
And an opport	unity to challenge?
Presnell:	
Yes, sir.	
Glazer:	
	nissioner, what is happening, and this is not unusual, at some point in the process, a le and there is an opportunity to challenge. It is a very narrow window. You have gardless.
Morgan:	
I'm good.	
Lamb:	
O.K. Are we re	eady to vote. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye."
Croley: Aye.	
Lamb: Aye.	
Taylor: Aye	
Lamb:	
Opposes?	
Morgan:	
Nay.	

Lamb:

Alright, make that 3 - 1.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 3 – 1 (BY VOICE VOTE) TO APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR FRANK SMITH ROAD REPAIR PROJECT, TO DUGGAR EXCAVATING, INC. FOR \$249,413.80

10. Department of Homeland Security Grant for Planning, Training, Functional Exercise and Equipment Contract No. 10 CC 43 02 30 01 (CFDA 97.067)

This grant is for \$7,000.00 to fund citizen emergency preparedness planning, training exercises and equipment for Gadsden County first responders and volunteers. This program is referred to as the Citizen Corp Program (CCP) This is a federal non-matching grant with a period of agreement of October 2009 through April 2012.

This item followed Item 11.

11. Approval of Contract for Emergency Debris Management Services - Ash Brit Environmental Services

The Board of County Commissioners currently has a contract in place with Grubbs Emergency Services to handle debris removal and emergency repairs if Gadsden County were hit by a major hurricane or other emergency.

FEMA is currently implementing a Public Assistance Pilot Program which increases the federal cost share of these grants by 5% (80/20). To qualify, a county must have an approved debris management plan and at least two prequalified eligible contractors. Public Works would like to add an additional debris contractor to comply with this requirement. Staff issued RFP and eight firms responded. Ash Brit Environmental Services ranked the highest total score based on the criteria described in the attached agenda report. (familiarity with the area; experience, etc.)

Mr. Presnell explained, "It will cost us little to nothing. If we were to have a devastating Category 3 hurricane and it tore up more than we could handle in the county, this board decided to bring in a disaster contractor. A lot of them are working now in the oil spill area. They will bring in some help. In our case, FEMA would pay them 75%. We would be responsible for 25%. DCA would pay 12.5% of that. The board will be responsible, but if you were to call these people in, at that point, money will not be that big of an issue. We would be dealing with a problem."

Commissioner Croley inquired, "Is there any agreed upon rate, a monetary rate?"

Mr. Presnell continued, "Yes, there is a schedule for use of dump trucks, excavators, backhoes,. Each one of them, in their submittals, stated their rates. They are all pretty close. They mirror the

FEMA rates and there is not a lot of difference."

Croley:

In the future, Mr. Administrator, in order for us to make a more informed decision, I would like to see those kind of maths.

Presnell:

We are not supposed to rank them on rates.

Croley:

I understand, but I would like to see what the rate is for one that you ranked as number 1 just because I think that is good business to know what we can expect.

Presnell:

I will forward, through the administrator, a copy to all of ya'll of the contract and the book.

Croley:

Just a summary. I don't need the whole book. Just something of the rates that show us what that is going to be. I am assuming

Presnell:

They all – I would be happy with from the first up through Syrius. From Ash Britt all the way up to Syrius.

Croley:

I don't have a problems at all with your recommendation. The other thing – Will we see this back before us as a contract?

Presnell:

Yes. Yes.

Croley:

That will give plenty of time to provide that.

I so move approval.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE ASH BRIT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AS THE SECOND CONTRACTOR FOR DEBRIS MANAGEMENT IN GADSDEN COUNTY IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH FEMA REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING.

12. Approval of Bid Award for Frank Smith Road Repair Project, to Duggar Excavating, Inc. for \$249,413.80 (Road Culvert Replacement)

This agenda item seeks Board approval to award the contract for the repair of Frank Smith Road to Duggar Excavating, Inc. Staff also requested approval for the chairman to execute the agreement,

Notice of Award and Notice to Proceed. Staff hopes to negotiate a reduction of the contract amount to \$200,000. There is \$100,000 in the current fiscal budget for \$100,000 which will not be adequate. A budget amendment will follow once this contract award is approved.

Frank Smith Road is the only access in or out to approximately 40 homes. It has served as an earthen dam for an impoundment until a failure in 1994 and has failed on three occasions since that time due to water overtopping the roadway and breeching the road and back slope. The pipe under the road is undersized and has been repaired twice and additional culverts have been added to increase flow capacity, but the structure remains substandard and is a safety hazard.

Eleven bids were received for the project. The low bidder, Cal Co Construction and Development made a written request to withdraw their bid. The next lowest bidder was Duggar Excavating, Inc.

Move to go ahead of Item 10. See above.

10. Department of Homeland Security Grant for Planning, Training, Functional Exercise and Equipment Contract No. 10-CC-43-02-30-01 (CFDA 97.067)

The above named grant amount is \$7,000.00 to fund citizen emergency preparedness planning, training exercises and equipment for Gadsden County first responders and volunteers. This program is referred to as the Citizen Corp Program (CCP) This is a federal non-matching grant with a period of agreement of October 2009 through April 2012.

This item followed Item 11.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REFERENCED CONTRACT.

13. Approval of Resolution No. 2010-035 Approving Participation in the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC.

This agenda item is an economic development initiative seeking American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to construct a "middle mile" broadband trunk line in the big Bend region.

In January 2010, the Office of the Governor re-designated Gadsden County as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) by Executive Order 10-22. As a RACEC, each county is encouraged to participate with its regional economic development organizations to align the critical mass of resources and talent needed for success therefore increasing the competitive advantage of rural communities. In the summer and fall of 2009, Opportunity Florida, on behalf of its members, applied for and has subsequently been successful in proceeding to the due diligence phase of a \$30 million broadband technology infrastructure grant allocated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The success of this grant is hinged upon the creation of the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC.

Local internet service provider will be able to purchase bandwidth from the Florida Rural

Broadband Alliance and the FL State Department of Management Services and install the "last mile" connectivity to end users in the local area.

Charles Chapman addressed the board explaining the resolution. Rick Markham was present representing Opportunity Florida was present to answer questions of the board.

Chapman:

By creating Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC, we will basically construct a trunk line for broadband services that is a middle mile connection. We are not an internet service provider. We are not an end user. We do not sell to residences. This basically is selling electricity to the end using utility provider that connects to the homes. Once this trunk line is in place, it will be guaranteed at certain cost rates and levels that the government will monitor. The federal government will monitor it. The great thing about this for Gadsden County is that it comes at almost no cost to us. There will be some right of ways that we will need to look at in the future, but outside of that utility easement, it is going to be a great benefit for our residents and our corporate partners alike.

What does this mean for us? It means that our end user ISPs will be able to buy broadband at a lower guaranteed rate and drive the cost down for them. That way, the cost to the end users, the businesses and the homes, the schools, the universities, the hospitals, the corporate businesses altogether will be lower.

Lamb:

Do you have any questions?

Commissioner Croley has a question.

Croley:

Thank you, Mr. Chapman. Thank you, Mr. Markham, for coming.

Now, it seems like some months ago we had a group here from Tallahassee that had some sort of broadband service that they were trying to put together that had something to do with the rural counties, but upon examination of their permanent board, we found no representatives from the rural counties on their board. This is a new LLC? Is that correct?

Markham:

What we have done is we have joined the South Central RAECEC - six counties there — along with our eight counties. Due to the fact that we do not touch, we couldn't go through a government authority, so the best we could do was form an LLC. What we called it was the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance because it brought the rest of the rural counties, the critical concern counties, into this grant. We have applied for a \$24 million infrastructure into two networks. One up here and one there and we came up with another \$10 million worth of private sector commitments for matching funds that are needed for the grant itself.

Croley:

Tell me who all is on the board. Tell me about Florida Rural Broadband Alliance LLC.

Markham:

Each county will have an appointment to that board with an alternate. That is part of the resolution that you are looking at here. You will have to nominate someone to sit on that governance authority and an alternative. The other RACEC will – each RACEC has 8 people sitting on the board of governance. They will have 6 – one including the Seminole Indian Tribe and they will have one other unincorporated area that will have an appointment as well.

Croley:

My question is, in this instance, we have the county administrator and the alternate as Mr. Chapman. The question I have for you – Will these be permanent members of that LLC board in so far as this county commission approving them and removing them.

Markham:

They will be able to — if this commission were to change any personnel or anything like that, they could reappoint. That is why we are coming here to you for that appointment. We didn't select. We are letting the counties make those selections.

Croley:

But, Gadsden County will have a permanent representation. That is what I am trying to get at compared to what we heard some months back.

Markham:

They will have a permanent representation. Yes. Jackson – only the RACEC counties. There are basically two members to the alliance. Opportunity Florida and the South Central RACEC. Then on ours, we have one from each county sitting on our eight seats.

Croley:

Now, as Mr. Chapman has referenced, if we have this high speed trunk line coming through here, how will that affect those of us who may be using AT & T Broadband in our homes, or TDS or St. Joe .

Markham:

One of the requirements of this grant is that it has to have open access. What we are basically building is – let's call it an interstate highway. If someone wants to access that interstate highway and they are willing to build a road, then they can develop anything along the road that they do and get those people to the highway. What we are doing is providing the backbone. In other words, all the capacity. One of the things that we are looking at to connect all the hospitals. We will be able to provide, if the hospitals request it, 1G per second of speed, which is tremendous. We doubt very seriously that anyone will do that, but with the points of presence that we have identified in conjunction with the Round 1 grant that was given to the North Central RACEC, we will really maximize all the capacity for the 28 rural counties.

Croley:

So, in theory, for the benefit of the citizens of this county, if they were to go and use the Capital Regional Medical Gadsden Memorial Campus facility for medical tests, that information could be

easily transmitted to their doctors who may also have offices in other communities.

Markham:

And the same thing with the Department of Corrections, all your colleges, your libraries and those things. We will bring more capacity and it is open access. Let's say that ABC ISP wanted to start selling broadband. They can. No one is permitted. The City of Quincy of Quincy could do that as well.

Lamb:

Does anybody else have any questions? Can we get a motion?

Croley:

I move approval.

Taylor:

Second.

Lamb:

It has been properly moved and seconded that we approve Item no. 13. Are there any questions. (No response.) Ready to vote. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Lamb:

The "Ayes" have it.

Thank you, sir.

14. Approval of Bid Award and Notice to Proceed for Drake Acres Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program Renovation and Authorize the Chairman to Execute Contractual Agreements with North Florida Construction for \$135,611

Approve Bid Award, Notice to Proceed, Authorize Chairman to execute the contract and authorize staff to make appropriate change orders in advance.

Chapman:

Because we are a RACEC county, we also carry a ready designation and the match for this grant program has been waived. So, that is one of the benefits that you are receiving from being a RACEC and REDI county. This grant was awarded some time back as the administrator noted. North Florida Construction was the low bid. During the process, there were eight bids total. North Florida Construction bid \$108,905 and were the low bidder. As such, we do have the remaining balance within the grant funds that are available of \$5,364.35. This item tonight asks for you to do three things. Approve the bid award and the notice to proceed in one swoop. Approve the contractual agreement which is attached and to approve the staff to make the appropriate change orders in advance similar to using that \$5,000 balance left over for extra picnic tables, water

fountains, benches and those kinds of things that would be used in direct effect related to the playground itself and the children...

The scope of the work will basically be the destruction and removal of the unsafe equipment that does not meet international playground manufacturers standards. Basically, what we are used to and what we grew up on were the metal slides, the spinning ferris wheels and those kinds of things. Unfortunately, those have all been deemed as unsafe by the powers that be. With right case loads to substantiate to insurance companies that say that this things are very unsafe. I know that I have cooked my legs on the metal slides in the summers, too. So, we are going to remove all the dangerous equipment, fix whatever infrastructure we need to, meet stormwater requirements that occur on the books with Northwest Florida Water Management District and then come back, reconstruct the playground, reconstruct the basketball area, picnic pavilion, picnic facilities, benches, water fountains, parking facilities and make it into a full service park in that area.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE OPTION 1 – APPROVE THE BID AWARD TO NORTH FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION, APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH NORTH FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION AND AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS TO BE MADE BY STAFF.

15. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with State of Florida Governor's Office for the "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" (RACEC) Designation for Gadsden County.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR THE DESIGNATION AS A RACEC COUNTY.

16. Approval of Bid Number 10-13 for Solid Waste Division Portable Restrooms Service at Rural Waste Sites and Authorize the Chairman to Execute Contractual Agreements - to Talquin Portable Restrooms (Waste Sites and Post Plant Pit)

Taylor:

I have a question and a comment. I spoke with one of the businesses that did it last year. They informed me that they did not receive notice of the bid. I did read in this description behind Item 16, that you did use three different newspapers as your source of giving out information out there. But, did you still follow up with letters to those who had bid it the previous year to inform them that this bid was back up? This particular company is one of the well known local businesses as is the one that received the bid, I am sure.

Chapman:

Yes, ma'am. I believe that is standard operating procedures. But, I would have to confer with Mr. Lawson's office. But, I know they typically do that service for those previously bid vendors.

Taylor:

They typically send letters to those who have bid previously – to inform them that this bid was

back up.
Lawson: Mr. Chairman,
Lamb: Mr. Lawson.
Lawson: Yes, Commissioner. We send letters to everybody who is on our vendor list. If they are on our vendor list and have bid previously, they were sent a direct invitation.
Taylor: Is this normal that you would only get one bid for this? I remember last year that we had a tug of war between three bidders. I think we were back and forth. So, did anyone call to say they didn't get notice of this?
Lawson: No one called me.
Taylor: O.K. Thank you.

Croley:

Before I make a motion, Commissioner Taylor, I've got the same contact. Mr. Chapman, I compliment you. All your items are very thorough. This one, while I have a concern about there only being one bid, given the fact that in the past we have had several different businesses bid on this item. I was contacted probably by the same vendor you were, Commissioner Taylor, and they represent that they did not receive any communication. While it is very clear that legally this has been advertised and maybe we have dotted all the "I's" and crossed all the "T's" in this process so that we have to go forward with this bid, I hope that the staff will make an extra step in the future to make sure that they go back and look at all the businesses that have bid on this contract in past years and make sure that they are properly notified by letter. I don't put much confidence in the legal advertisements in the newspapers. On that basis, that is all I have to say.

Lamb:

Another thing, the vendors that claim they did not know about it, they need to contact them, too. Don't hold them responsible for them not being able to see it. They know about what time this happens anyway. So, they ought to be contacting the staff. We don't want to hold the staff hostage saying that they didn't hold up their end of the job. Anyway, they will make sure that they get the letters out like they did before.

Can I get a motion to approve?

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 3 – 1, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AWARD TO TALQUIN PORTABLE

RESTROOMS. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR CAST THE LONE DISSENTING VOTE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

17. Update on Board Requests

Williams:

I want you to take note of the two new maps on the wall which you requested. The board requested. They were prepared by Clyde, I believe. Clyde can give you a couple of pointers about what he has found out there.

Clyde Collins:

Basically, all it is that we have, all the SHIP Programs and the Rehabs and the new houses that we have done, we actually put a circle on there to represent each project. The address is on them. We put them in the respective areas on the maps. You see that these triangles are new construction, the circles represent rehabs that we have done in the past five years in the county.

Taylor:

Is there any way we can get a condensed version of that so that I can take a look at it?

Collins:

Yes, we can shrink it down.

Taylor:

I would like that so I can take a closer look.

Collins:

It will be really small dots, but, we can do it.

Taylor:

I need one that I can read, obviously. Not too condensed. I mean, if that size is available, is there something smaller that I can pick up from the office?

Collins:

Yes, ma'am.

Taylor:

Thank you. I appreciate the work and the effort.

Lamb:

Are there any other questions?

Croley:

Mr. Collins, thank you for putting that map together. I believe I am the one that suggested it. At the same time, I noticed that over on the western side of the county, certainly I understand about population centers and all, but I know in Commissioner Morgan's district here, and I am not trying

to get into his business, but you can see that there is what looks like less activity than perhaps in some of the other districts. Is there an explanation for that? Is it population or what?

Collins:

I don't really have a good answer for that. I guess it is the population area. It is the process of the applications that have been sent in. If they send in first, then they get services first.

Croley:

I think that Commissioner Taylor's whole point in a lot of the discussions that have taken place up here about this is just trying to make sure that within the legal framework of the programs that you have a good -

there she is (speeking of Ms. Phyllis Moore) We needed you up here to begin with here.

If there is some way to better spread the participants within the legal framework of what you are allowed to do by notice or advertisement or public relations or whatever.

Collins:

We have to go by the applications that come into the office.

Croley:

But, there is nothing prohibiting you from making the public aware of that program, is there.

Moore:

We go out into the community and actually work it and do the applications on site.

Collins:

You can see right here where we rehabbed one house right here and the whole neighborhood called about it.

Croley:

I understand.

Williams:

Have you been to Chattahoochee?

Croley:

But, at the same time, you can do it in the other communities as far as community outreach.

Moore:

One other thing for the reason that it is like that is because the city has applied for CDBG grants and we can't do CDBG for the county within the city. That is another reason you see more dots in some places than other places. If it is in the city, we can't work a CDBG in that area.

Croley:

I want to thank you all myself for providing that map because I think a picture is worth a thousand words. That helps everybody see it is spread out more than what some may have first thought.

Collins:

We are going to try to get out into your area.

Morgan:

It looks like there are about 12 in district 3. I counted about 12 in district 2.

Moore:

It is spread out. It is about even. Another thing is new construction. We don't have a right to tell people where they want to live. They live where they want. That is one reason that you see more new construction in the Midway area than you will see in any other area. That is another thing to consider. Also, we have another map where we did a CDBG in a target area. We completed thirty something units and replacement in the Shiloh area. All of that was totally in District 5. All of those people have been serviced and we cannot go back and serve people that have already been serviced.

Croley:

Good job, Mr. Chairman.

Lamb:

Any other questions on that?

If not, Mr. County Attorney?

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

18. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Glazer had no report.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Morgan, District 3

Budget Workshop

Morgan:

Just a couple of things. I know that as we move forward in the budget process, we certainly want to focus on the five goals that we had from the retreat. I guess the administrator is going to be providing

that to us in the budget packet. I mean, we heard a very serious issue tonight with the youth programs and the library. I think that is one prime example of some things that we need to prioritize and take a look at. I hope that is going to be coming to us pretty quickly. I know we've got our workshop scheduled here, but that is going to be upon us very soon and it is going to be a difficult year again. I am sure everyone understands that.

Hospital

I did want to mention the hospital just briefly, Mr. Glazer. I know that you just gave us an update. I was out there this afternoon for about 20 - 30 minutes. I was talking to some of the technologists and other staff out there. In fact, I happened to recognize some of them out there from my visits over to Capital Regional for work reasons. So, it truly is the same personnel. We actually had the lead technologist from CT that was here at our Gadsden Campus. That was very encouraging to me when I walked in there. That truly talks about the commitment that HCA has given us and Capital Regional has given us over here in Gadsden County. I was asking him some questions because I had heard some of the numbers thrown around here for the first three weeks of operation. They are right on target with what you provided us with. Capital Regional is very encouraged because of the number of patients that do have insurance that are going out to our facility. The lead technologist was actually commenting on the equipment that we have here in Gadsden County. He said, "You all have things over here that we don't have in Tallahassee." They were very impressed with the commitment that has been made to this facility. They are very encouraged. In fact, he pointed out that in years past, he worked over here in Gadsden County at the previous hospital. He said, "It is night and day difference in every single facet from the staff to the commitment with equipment to how it has been handled in moving forward." He said the he was very surprised and very impressed. So, I wanted to relay those particularly to Mr. Collins and to Mr. McMillan if he is still here. To the administrator and everyone else involved in getting this going.

Sawdust Park

The other item that I did want to mention and Mr. Chapman may comment on this. Mr. Administrator, you may want to comment on it. We had a meeting, the three of us had a meeting with some of the community members out at Sawdust Park. We made some commitments to those folks and I want to follow up and make sure that we have met those deadlines and that we are moving forward. Maybe, Charles, if you can say, "Yes, we are getting there." I don't need a long drawn out thing, but I just want to make sure that we still have that on the front burner.

Chapman:

We have that and we are honoring those commitments. We ran into a small scheduling snag with the ward in Liberty Correctional Institute with the availability of the inmates, but it is one the front burner. The materials are in house. We just need the inmate labor to execute.

Morgan:

O.K. Great. Thank you. I appreciate that.

Pubic Works Roadside Program

Then the last thing I was going to ask - Mr. Administrator, you may want to comment on this, but the public works mowing and weeding and weed killing program. I know that we've got that implemented. I can look in different parts of the county and it looks like in some areas that it has been done very haphazardly. I just was curious to see if somebody could tell me why that is. I mean, or is that something that you – a more appropriate comment might be – Can you check into that and see if

Williams:

I will have to check into that. I haven't personally seen that myself, but I will certainly check into it with Robert.

Robert, are you aware of any haphazardness that is going on?

Presnell:

Define haphazard.

Morgan:

Well, here are some of the things that we have done, which I really think is great with some of the spraying, but for example. One particular sign has got a area of killed grass and weeds that is enough to land a space ship on. It looks like a UFO has landed on it. I don't understand why that is as opposed to just spraying around a sign or doing it in an organized fashion. What I have noticed is that these folks are doing it from the truck. They are not

Presnell:

We mounted it on an old surplus pickup truck. If it is level enough, sometimes they will do it from the window. If not, they will do it from the tailgate. Again, this is our first year. And the personnel. I know what you are talking about. Go over and look at the one on Smithtown Road in front of my house.

Morgan:

Yep. Yep. I know. That is a classic example. Doesn't that make you wonder how that was done? I mean.

Presnell:

It is as big as a (inaudible) there. But, again, they were new. We did send them for some training. We have had the state come and train them, but I guess when they first started – when you first spray it, and you don't see the dead spots. They sprayed weeks before the results, but I know what you mean by haphazardly now.

Morgan:

Would you agree that it has helped. That program that we have put it, would you agree that it has helped us?

Presnell:

Yes. As far as the vegetation management, yes. What we are concerned about now is erosion problems. We have gone back now and started spraying the concrete and the ditch paving.

Morgan:

Croley:

And this is weed killing spray. This is not – there is a difference in weed killing and grass killing. I want to make sure Presnell: This kills whatever it comes in contact with. It is systemic. Morgan: What I am saying is that what we are using is working. Presnell: Yes. Morgan: Is there something that might be better? Presnell: No, sir because you have a broad leaf type chemical which will only kill certain plants. Or you can use a grass one. We are dealing with briars, broad leaf and bahiagrass. What we need to do - Grady Littlefield is the person we have assigned to this program. He is heading it up. He is aware of it now. When he first started doing the ditch paving, we were trying to kill the seams and edges where grass was growing up. But, the overspray, I am sure you have seen it, would be up the hill several feet above the ditch paving and several feet on this side. So, we are concerned about the erosion now. He is getting better, but again, he sprayed a lot of miles before he learned. Morgan: This is something that I have gotten some calls on and questions. The other thing I wanted to ask you about was the Williams: Robert, how are our complaints this year versus last year? We get very few complaints. We have received very few complaints as far as grass mowing and stuff like that. Williams: I remember a year ago, that was tremendous. Taylor: Commissioner would you yield? Morgan: Yeah, I will, but I do have one other item.

Let Commissioner Morgan finish.

Taylor:

I wanted to comment on this though.

Morgan:

I will allow it.

Taylor:

I learned something new that I didn't know about from what he is talking about. Well, when you get a moment.

Croley:

Well, commissioner, let's stay on track.

Morgan:

The other thing I wanted to mention then – I am sorry –

Croley:

No, you go ahead and finish, then Commissioner Taylor can have her time.

Presnell:

I want permission to use your term at my next staff meeting at work. Haphazard. I want to use that.

(Laughter)

Morgan:

The other thing I wanted to know about was the mowing. I saw you are over in District 3 last week. Is the weed eating program following the mowers? I mean, if they are up that road, are they coming right behind them?

Presnell:

They cannot keep up. We've moved them twice trying to keep them right behind it. We started in your district with setting them up. They did pretty good until they got around to the south end of the county. The mowers just left them. We caught them back up again over in District 1 in the Havana area. They are behind again. They just can't keep up physically with the mowing machines.

While you are one the subject, I don't know if the administrator has informed you of this, but we have lost two inmate crews from the State, officially due to their budget problems or whatever. That is going to have a tremendous impact on public works operations as far as trash. We had two crews assigned and they are doing real good, ahead of the mowers. But, it takes two full time crews to stay ahead. That is the only way. Even that is difficult at times. But, we lost the two crews and I have asked the administrator to call on all of ya'll to make any contacts you may have. It is devastating. If you want to — if we can't do something about that with getting more inmates from either the state or the county level, to maintain this level of service with trash and so forth, you are going to have to hire some people.

Morgan:

And that leads into my last item and then I will be done, Commissioner Croley. There seems to me to be evidence of more trash just strewn among the roadways all throughout the county. It seems to be more. Maybe I am just noticing it more than I have in the past, but this seems to be a very, very serious issue and I am wondering, Mr. Administrator, I just think that we need to come up with some sort of game plan to address the issue. Whether it is an awareness program among the public on how, you know, some things that we can do – it's just – I don't know.

Presnell:

Each district has it's own special areas. Commissioner Croley's district is at Point Milligan. In your district, you know it is going out to I-10 and Hardaway Road would be your number 2 one. Each district has specific areas where if you pick it up today, it is back there tomorrow. They are isolated, it is not the entire county, but there are specific areas in each of your districts and it is almost a daily job.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR'S DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Roadside Mowing

Taylor:

The reason why I wanted to yield while you were on the subject of killing weeds is because I didn't know that we were doing that and I just think that is not positive. It is certainly hazardous to the environment. We had a plan, but I don't know what happened to our plan. It was one that I thought was discussed through our budget where we would take the \$125,000 or the \$120,000 and get three contractors to take care of three districts and then public works would be responsible for the other two. But, then that contractor would be responsible for picking up the trash, doing the culverts and cutting only in that district. Now, it is reduced to three months of weed eating. We are living in the state of Florida where grass grows at least 10 months out of the year. So, ideas of what we need to do to counter this, now that we have lost the inmate crews, we are going to have to sit down with the sheriff's department and figure out what it is that he can with his inmates to help us. We are going to have to sit down and talk to him. Calling people up. Obviously the people in their own neighborhood are not the ones littering their neighborhood, it is the people who are coming thru and driving thru that is doing this. So, that is not going to rectify our problem. Telling people not to litter – you know, we've got signs up and down the highway about littering and the cost of the fine that is associated with it, but, that is not stopping it. So, the reason that I wanted to comment was that I didn't know that we were poisoning the weeds. That concerns me going forward. I am hoping that in this next budget year that we might look at going back and let the contractors who have their own equipment, their own manpower that will take, I don't know how much time it will take to cut a district, but at least it will be constant. Then we won't have that expense on us. It just makes more sense to do that. Give one contractor \$40,000 – three different contractors taking up three different districts for an entire year. That just makes more sense that what we did with the money this year. That is one thing.

Tourist Development Advertisement Dollars

Now, on to my items. I was listening at the news and tourist development, rather the Tourist Council is what is being used to attract some of those dollars for cleanup and (inaudible) to help advertise our county so that we'll let folk know up north, out west, out east that we are still a county that is free of oil spills – that we are still a vital county and we want you to come and fish here. My request is that we

make sure that the Tourist Development Council is giving some of those advertisement dollars to keep Gadsden County on the forefront of those who may be skeptical thinking that we have had some kind of damages from the spill. So, I want to make sure that they are out there getting some of those advertisement dollars since there are billions that are being set aside.

Florida Gas Transmission

The gentleman that came in to talk about the Florida Gas Transmission. I am just going to ask, if we can, that the staff talk with the other municipalities who are selling gas and who are selling utilities, that they talk with this gentleman. He clearly said tonight that no one has reached out to him. I know that if they can get gas or power at a lesser rate that they would all be interested. He said that there are opportunities.

Kelly Road and Crossroads Academy

A few minutes ago, Crossroads Academy came up. I did go out there and I did take a look at what is going on. I want to address this and see if we can help them. That school, out of over 1300 schools statewide, excuse me, I think it was 13,000 schools statewide – that school was one of 30 that has been designated as a distinguished school. It does well out there with the children. I went out there and I have already seen that they have begun to pour that sidewalk. I am for letting that go forward. They did the framework for it. I know the director doesn't want to, but I am for putting that sidewalk in and out of the way because it has already begun, but there are some things that she did mention that I think we might want to look at. Kelly Road is like an alley. However, they have donated to us, the right of way on both sides of that road. At least, they have donated the right of way. We do need to be able to maintain it. Now, you've got a brand new sidewalk out there and a road filled with potholes. So, I am asking this board if they will consider putting it in our next year's budget – some money to pave it. You've got a brand new school, a brand new sidewalk and you don't want that road running adjacent to it the way it is now. So, I am asking if we can consider looking at that through our public works department. It won't cost much. That road is no further than from here to the bank, so to speak, that we would need to do some resurfacing. And, that we maintain it, the cut-a-way, because it is going to be a very, very nice area out there. So, let's maintain the cut-a-way.

One other thing that they were asked to do was to put up an earthen buffer in a particular area out there and the area that they (the planning department) wanted them to put up a buffer is the area where they are going to have their playground. It is already an earthen buffer there because there are trees and other bushes already there. I would hate to see them go out and buy a bunch of trees that they are going to have to cut back in order to have a playground area. Right now, they are going across the street because that is the only clearing that they have available to them. That area will, in the very near future, become their playground. So, that is one area that I hope that we can not hold their feet to the fire. As I said, there is a buffer already there. There are already trees and bushes at a nice height there. It does the purpose in its present state. I would not want to see them buy trees. They put the sidewalk in and then we maintain it. That is what I am asking at this time, Mr. Chair.

Lamb:

I think I concur with you because I have been out there myself and looked at the whole picture and I believe that street is a county road, but it has not been well maintained. I did speak to Robert concerning that. What I would suggest that we do is have Robert bring us some figures on it and get it

back to the administrator and we can put it in our budget to resurface that road as well as complete that sidewalk out to Kelly Road or to Stone Road. I talked to Robert about that. I don't see a problem with that. I think that once he brings us the figures and everything back, then we will consider putting it in the budget.

Taylor:

Well, I know that the director said that the CO was being held up because of some things that they were still discussing, but I am hoping that we don't have to follow through. If you don't mind, your planning and Zoning director might be able to just come and answer this question.

The little buffer that is being required, the planting of the trees – knowing now that they are going to use that as a playground area, that we may not mandate that. What is there, like I said, there are already trees, the underbush is already there. They will fence it once it becomes a playground area. They will fence it. We have already had that discussion. But, let's not let that be a mandate at this point. Let the sidewalk stay, just like you asked for.

Metheney:

Let me go out there tomorrow and look at it as see what we can do to help them. Let's do that.

Taylor:

That is the key.

Lamb:

To support her on the tree situation, that is something that they can look at in the future. There are enough trees there now for a buffer.

Metheney:

I promise you that I will go out there and look at it tomorrow.

Taylor:

Thank you. That is it for that.

Senior Services

Now, you do know that we now have a new director down at the Senior Services. I understood that they are only going to be there a year anyway, but, that trend has still continued. A year, a year and a half, and they are gone. You really need to look at why.

Housing and Community Development

I am glad for the map. I want to know this question though. If you don't mind, Mr. Clyde, do you have an intake letter so that when folks do call in and ask for services, that there is a record of their intake so that we will know when they called in, the date, so that I can take a look and see the this one is due to get services now. Is there an intake letter?

Clyde Collins:

There should be list of everybody that has called in or that has come in and filled out an application. There should be a detailed list of them.

Taylor:

But, is there an intake letter? In other words, a little basic information that you take as they call in. You just write it down, the date, this is who wants services, this is what they have done, then file. Do you have anything like that?

Collins:

I don't know if we've got anything like that or not. I will have to look and see.

Taylor:

Alright. We talked about the weed eating. We talked about the – That is it.

Tahnk you.

Lamb:

Commissioner Croley:

<u>Commissioner Croley Discussion Items. District 2</u>

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Williams, again, I wish to formally extend our condolences for your recent loss and your immediate family.

<u>Certified County Commissioner Designations</u>

The second item I would like to do is recognize Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Morgan for having completed the certified county commission designation. I certainly applaud Commissioner Taylor because she said she would get it done and Commissioner Taylor, you got it done. So, good for you.

Commissioner Morgan, we missed you last week, but Gadsden County was well represented and they took plenty of pictures to document that everybody was there where they were supposed to be.

The other part of this is something that Florida Association of Counties did host. That was a report of projected state—revenue. As Commissioner Morgan already pointed out a little earlier in this meeting, the financial outlook for the state is very challenged. I think that as we are moving forward here in our budget planning process, that everyone needs to go into it with both eyes open. It is going to be the case and that we are going to need to focus back on the basic public works that need to be done, the promotion for economic development and for our health and safety and welfare focus.

Oil Spill Impact on Gadsden County

I also want to remind county staff that another part of the Florida Association of Counties program was a great deal of attention to the oil spill and it's impact here on the state revenue. It's impact on our tourism and what affect that can have on all of us. We had a representative from BP Claims regarding the need for us to file our claims now. We don't have to prove them, we just need to file them. Mr. Attorney, I need to remind you and the county administrator and I know we have brought this up with Clerk Thomas here at the last meeting. WE need to get our claim filed as an interior county. The other counties here in the panhandle recognize this as well because we do have people coming through here going to the coast and this could have an impact our revenue sharing with the State. It was strongly recommended and I even asked the question point blank of the PB representative, "Do we need to file

as an interior county?" He said, "Yes, you do." So, we don't know exactly what the damages will be, but we need to get that called in.

Roadside Spraying for Vegetation

Going to the last point that you, Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Taylor elaborated on having to do with the spraying.

Robert, I would like to call you back up and wind up on this note.

I, too, have been noticing the spraying. My question to you is "Has the operator completed the agricultural training in the applicator training that is offered here through t his extension office?"

Presnell:

No, he has not yet completed that training. It is actually going to be public right of way.

Croley:

Well, I realize that you have some exemption from that, but I think it would help because I agree with Commissioner Morgan, I have seen areas as big as basketball court, it looks like sometimes or a half court anyway. They are wasting chemical which is a waste of resource, when they should have really just sprayed right around the post as we were talking about. This is a safety issue for the public. The guard rails that were overgrown in the Johnson grass does need to be sprayed.

One other thing, are you using any type of liquid dye marker or anything in the solution so that the applicator can see where he is spraying?

Presnell:

No, we are adding a recommended surfactant, but no dye. He is getting better. As late as last week, Wednesday, we had a state official to come over and provide a couple of hours of training. I had Grady there as well as all of our supervisors who attended the training last Wednesday to address this problem.

Croley:

I see other rural counties – I was over in Jefferson County watching them spray and it looks like to me that you ought to be using some dye in there so you will know where the spray is going. I don't think the dye is that expensive. You see it used on all of our farm activities, so it would seem to be logical. They need training about the drift. I don't want to hear about you got into somebody's fish pond and all the other things that can happen.

Presnell:

Again, I have taken my test. Grady hasn't yet taken the course. It won't be for the ag plant, it is public right of way license, the state license. Again, we just started this this year to address concerns with vegetation. It may not be something that we continue to do.

Croley:

Well, I think it is very effective, but I sure don't want to look like where you have killed all of the vegetation along the road.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Lamb:

Commissioner Lamb, District 1

Two or three things and I will be done.

Mr. Administrator, I will direct all concerns to your regarding the spraying. Will you make sure that all procedures are followed the way they are supposed to be. WE can communicate with you directly to make sure that all those little things are carried out. I will direct my questions to him.

The other thing is that I want to commend Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Morgan for completing their certification to become certified county commissioners. I thought that was a great thing that you all did. I want to commend you on that. I think everybody on the board now is certified. As you all know, I am certified as an advanced county commissioner. So, I am a little ahead of ya'll. (laughter) Everything went well. The governor of Florida came down. Governor Crist came down and spoke well toward the county and he gave the county his support. As well, the CFO, she came down. Alex Sink, she came down and gave the commissioners great support. So, I really enjoyed the speakers that came down on behalf of the Florida Association of Counties.

I would like now for us to go ahead – I will entertain a motion to approve the county administrators evaluation. We have went over the evaluation with the HR director as well as the county administrator. I would like to entertain a motion to approve his contract.

Croley: So moved.

Lamb:

I've got a motion, do I have a second?

Morgan:

I will second it.

Lamb:

It has been moved and properly seconded that we approve the county administrator's contract be approved. You have heard the motion. We are ready for questions. Are there any questions?

Taylor:

Just a comment.

Lamb:

Commissioner Taylor.

Taylor:

Just a comment. I saw where the average rating for the administrator was just a little below 4 points, but was given an outstanding or beyond expectation with that rating. Those two just didn't jive with

me, but I can say with all honesty that the things that I requested have been met in a timely way. To this administrator, I can say that. The only area of concern that I have had and I have had this discussion with him is employees morale. That is the only issue that I have with this administration – the employees and their desire to come to work, the desire to do their jobs, them being able to work in a friendly environment. As I have said, I have had that discussion and I want the public to know that is an area of concern for me. I had hoped that we can improve that and start making some innovative ideas about how to improve this county. Right now, all the directions that have been taken are pretty much derived from this board. I would like for some ideas to come to us on how to grow, how to think outside the box. How to progress. In essence, we are saving dollars, but we are not progressing. That concerns me. I am not hearing anything.

Just now we learned that we are losing two inmate crews. This you already knew. There should have been a solution ready for us tonight to follow up on. How do we generate revenues outside of the ways that we are now getting revenues? What grants are out there that we can track and apply for? I don't hear these things. So, that is a concern for me. That is not our job and we hear this often enough from one another around this diocese that we are not to get into the day to day operations. But pretty much all that has been done is pretty much what this board has been projected. We need to know about ways to make this government stronger and better and more productive for the citizens and we are not doing that. Again, I will never deny that anything that I have requested this manager that he followed up with me on. He does that, but I just don't see the vision. That may be something that we need to ask him to bring back to us. The vision and how it is going to work for every department within his auspices. We need to know what he is going to do to take us into the 21st century. To take us into 2010/2011. We need to know and that is the only thing that I am not hearing. There is no vision that I have been made aware of. That concerns me. If we don't plan, we don't grow.

aware of. That concerns me. If we don't plan, we don't grow.
Thank you.
Lamb:
O.K.
Commissioner Croley.
Croley:
May I ask a question of Mr. Lawson?

Mr. Lawson, I want to verify something. Mr. Lawson, the county administrator's contract in continuous, I believe unless it is cancelled.

Lawson:

That is correct.

Croley:

Has there been any change in the contract in terms of compensation or any benefits or any thing other than what was originally negotiated?

Lawson:

No, sir.

Croley: So, everything is just a continuation and the recognition that he has been evaluated according to the annual requirement. Lawson: That is correct. Croley: Thank you for that. Lamb: Any other comments? I think those are those are observations mentioned by Commissioner Taylor. I will say, Commissioner Taylor, if you and I were co-administrators, you and I would have all these same morale issues. They would be mad with us if we were co-administrators. You wouldn't satisfy everybody. But, you have a good point. Any other questions? Ready to vote. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye." All: Aye. Lamb: Opposes? (no response) The "Ayes" have it. Thank you. Is there anything else? (No response.) This meeting is adjourned. **RECEIPT AND FILE AGENDA** 20a. For the Record: Gadsden County CDBG-Ed Contract – Bradwell Huddle House Project – close out **<u>20b.</u>** For the Record: Appointment of New Executive Director for Gadsden Senior Services, Inc. Latoya G Moody, MSW **20c.** For the Record: Budget Amendments – Approved by the County Administrator

ADJOURNMENT

OMB-BA 100085; 100088; 100089; 100090; 100081; 10087

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEET ADJOURNED AT 8:15 P.M.	
	Eugene Lamb, Chair
	-
Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk	