

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ON AUGUST 17, 2010, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ**

PRESENT:

Commissioner Eugene Lamb, Chair Dist. 1
Commissioner Doug Croley, Vice-Chair Dist. 2
Commissioner Gene Morgan, Dist. 3
Dist 4 - Vacant
Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, Dist. 5
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of the Courts
Johnny Williams, County Administrator
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Lamb called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with a quorum present. He asked that everyone stand for a moment of silence and then led in the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Lamb called for any amendments to the Agenda and Mr. Williams said he had two.

Add to Awards & Presentations: Request by Mr. Jack McLean, Quincy City Manager, to make a short presentation on jobs.

Add as 7-a, General Business: Request by Commissioner Morgan for approval of a Budget Amendment to pay the Town of Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department \$12,164.50 for 2009-2010 for funds that were not paid.

UPON A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED, AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES:

Chair Lamb stated Mr. McLean was not present at this time and the Board will come back to this item when Mr. McLean arrives.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes - June 1, 2010, Regular Meeting
June 15, 2010, Regular Meeting
2. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills
3. Pulled at Request of Commissioner Morgan
4. Approval of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant -
Morris Young, Sheriff
5. Approval of COPS and Kids Summer Camp Program (CKSCP) -
Morris Young, Sheriff
6. Pulled at Request of Commissioner Taylor

UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE REMAINING ITEMS 1,2,4,5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA -THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Items Pulled for Discussion:

3. Approval of the Increase to the 2009-10 Law Enforcement Appropriation - Morris Young, Sheriff

Commissioner Morgan said it appears this item is a \$2,500.00 increase from the already established Law Enforcement Budget and where the Board was going to get the money from.

Mr. Williams said that was correct; it's for the kids program, but wasn't sure what it stood for.

Clerk Thomas explained "It is third party money and is not coming directly from the Board. He is simply asking for authorization to spend third-party money he received from another source; and technically he is supposed to ask the Board because it does increase his budget, even though it doesn't come from the Board.

Commission Morgan "So, in fact there is no fiscal impact for us, is that correct?"

Clerk Thomas "That is correct. He is just trying to comply with the requirement that he has not always complied with in the past."

Commissioner Morgan "Ok, then I have no problem with that."

UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO APPROVE ITEM 3, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

6. Approval of the Supplemental Local Agency Program Agreement
FDOT - Robert Presnell, Public Works Director

Commissioner Taylor asked if this item is indicating the County will be getting additional dollars in the future or if these funds have already been spent and if so, does the Board have any input as to which roads will reap the benefit of these dollars coming in?

Mr. Presnell "No, this was a program where the County benefited from grant monies through the Department of Transportation and this is a clean-up item. At the end of the project we were short some funds and we asked DOT to add the additional funds, basically to pay the engineers and they approved it so this alters the agreement between the Department and yourselves to increase the total dollar amount; but it is just to close out a project."

Commissioner Taylor "So, you're saying any projects that are yet to do or yet to be completed is what these dollars are going to?"

Mr. Presnell "No, Mam. That's for a specific project. It's just to close it out; the project is completed -"

Commissioner Taylor "You needed \$500,000.00 to pay an engineer, the engineers?"

Mr. Williams "No, the grant amount increased from \$500,000.00 to \$519,000.00."

Mr. Presnell "I can tell you what happened. The grant allowed for 10% for engineering fees but we spent the entire amount of the grant on the road so there was no money to pay Preble Rish

and, of course, they didn't like that so we went back to the Department and asked for an increase of that amount to pay their fees and they agreed."

Commissioner Taylor "So we got an additional \$519,000.00 or \$19,000.00?"

Mr. Presnell "\$19,000.00."

Commissioner Taylor "Ok, alright."

Mr. Presnell "It just closes out the project which has been completed with prior approval by this Board, and this is just asking for your approval to increase the total amount of the contract."

Commissioner Taylor "Ok, thank you. I just thought I had an opportunity to get another road paved; that's all, thank you."

Chair Lamb called for a motion.

UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO APPROVE ITEM # 6, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Citizens Requesting to Be Heard on Non-Agenda Items:

There were none.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

7. Approval of Prescription Assistance Medical Services Program Funding (Howard McKinnon, Chairman, Gadsden Community Health Council, Inc., and Maximo Martinez, Executive Director, Gadsden Community Health Council, Inc.

Mr. Williams said previously this money came from a Federal Grant, and it is now being requested to come from the half-cent Sur-tax.

Mr. McKinnon addressed the Board representing the Health Council and that the Board had given charge to the Health Council two/three months ago to come up with a Comprehensive Health Plan and bring a recommendation back to the Board. He explained they are still working on ironing out several things in the Health Plan and will bring that final plan back to the Board as soon as

they have it completed. The PAMS (Prescription and Medical Services) Program is part of the Comprehensive Plan and at one time the County funded a portion of PAMS; then a Federal grant that has been funding the program for about two years; however, that grant runs out this year (September 2010).

PAMS was part of the original Comprehensive Health Care Plan when the vote on the half-cent sales tax was taken and PAMS is currently serving about 700 citizens that are now getting drugs through the Program with only two employees. These two employees handle all of the applications; they have to search the data base as well as other organizations trying to find these people the drugs. The drugs are provided at no cost, and a lot of criteria is involved in determining eligibility for this much needed program.

Mr. McKinnon requested approval for \$81,250.00 which is one year's funding for the employees in order to provide this function. He explained the employees currently have no benefits, the plan was that October 1st the Health Department would become the fiscal agent which is more a part of the Comprehensive Health Care Plan that will be coming back before the Board because the Health Council is at a point where they need help with a fiscal agent to pay the bills, etc., and that is where the Health Council would fall under the benefits of the Health Department. Mr. McKinnon said he understood the Board still has some questions or concerns and if they need additional time that is also understandable; however, without some funding the program will end next month and if the Board is not comfortable with the full year's funding, that they would appreciate at least receiving three months worth.

Mr. Martinez briefly addressed the Board, reiterating what Mr. McKinnon previously stated and added that the PAMS program services 80% of the elderly citizens. He also responded to Chairman Lamb that the PAMS Program serves not only Gadsden County, but also the surrounding counties; the Tallahassee area and the Bainbridge, Georgia area. There are 152 doctors enrolled in the Program with approximately 35 doctors actively writing prescriptions for these people and the reason for providing the service to those areas is because some of the patient's physicians are located in Tallahassee or Bainbridge and as long as the patient is a resident of Gadsden County they are eligible to participate in the PAMS program.

Commissioner Taylor said in going forward the Board needs to see a budget for items specific; what makes up the \$81,250.00? Don't just indicate two employees, but rather a breakdown of how much

is spent on salaries, benefits, etc. because that gives the Board a better picture of how the funds are being spent but that she has no problem with this program going forward and she inquired about the \$266,000.00 and Mr. Martinez explained the \$266,000.00 is the very "small balance" they receive from the half-cent sales tax to run a Comprehensive Health Care Plan.

Clerk Thomas said the Board had requested the Health Council go back and come up with a plan, but to come up with a plan they needed to know how much money they will be working with. He said this was discussed at one of the previous workshops and he provided the Health Council with a schedule from the half-cent sales tax based on the first 18 months. He said at the work shop they talked about debt service being paid first which would take about 60%, and then the Board's agreement with Capital Regional would be 50% of what's left after debt service which would be 20% of the money; those two items would equal 80% of the total collected from the half-cent sales tax going towards 'hospital related', leaving only 20% and that is what the Health Council based their budget on, beginning in April because that is when the Board would begin paying the debt service. Clerk Thomas said he thought it would be much clearer if the Board would agree to that to begin making the Health Council's disbursements as of April beginning with the 50% left after debt service and going forward. He said the Health Council would have to provide the Board with a budget but it would be much simpler from his standpoint if that is what the Board would agree to do. He said the Board hasn't technically agree to that, but it does seem to be the reasonable thing because originally this Program under the Ordinance was to get two-thirds (2/3) of the money and now they are down to 20% and the Council is willing to come up with a budget based on the 20%.

Clerk Thomas said the Council is asking for part of that today, but it would be much simpler if they come to an agreement (he wasn't sure if the attorney needs to put that in writing) 'that they get 50% of what's left after the debt service is paid. Let me restate that; the debt service is roughly in round numbers around \$800,000.00. That leaves \$250,000.00 going to Capital Regional, \$250,000.00 to the Health Council - it would be more than that, probably \$266,000.00 just using round numbers, so from April forward 100% of the half-cent sales tax is now committed - April, forward. He said there is some money left over prior to April from the beginning of collections through March, and Mr. McMillan perhaps has some plans for it at the hospital and the Health Council may make a claim on it; it's roughly about \$400,000.00.

Chairman Lamb thanked the Clerk for explaining/clarifying everything and added that it looks like the whole 100% has already been decided as to how it's going to be used.

Clerk Thomas explained that would be at the beginning of April because that is when the County begins paying the debt service and the hospital's agreement calls for them to start getting their 50% in June. He said he thinks it is reasonable the Health Council begins receiving their 50% if the Board agrees; the Council is willing to accept that and the Council's budget is based on that and they need to present that to the Board.

Chairman Lamb agreed with Commissioner Taylor that the Board really does need to have a budget from the Health Council so they can see exactly how the funds are being spent.

Commissioner Croley asked Mr. Martinez if it would present a big problem if the Board would approve funding at this time for a three-month period, allowing the Council three months to get back with the Board in presenting their budget in total for what they will fund with their share of the half-cent tax revenues.

Mr. Martinez said that would present a big problem and he added the Council did have a budget for the whole \$266,000.00 and it was given to the County Administrator with the Council's package to be presented this morning; they were asked to come back this morning and present only the PAMS portion of the budget and to then come back in September and present the whole budget, and those are the instructions they followed.

Commissioner Croley inquired as to whether or not the Clerk's Office, the Hospital Board and other parties had seen the budget Mr. Martinez explained that on August 3, they met in the County Administrator's conference room and Mr. McMillan was present, Dr. Steven West who sits on the Council's Board of Directors and represents Capital Regional was present, the Health Department's Administrator, the Chief Financial Office and the Chief of Operations for the Health Department was present, a City of Quincy representative was present; all the stakeholders were asked to attend the meeting. The budget was dispersed and discussed.

Clerk Thomas said he had met with them earlier, along with Mr. Marlon Hunter, and one of the things that gave him assurance was the fact that Mr. Hunter (Gadsden Co. Health Department Administrator) will administer this money; it will go to the

Health Department. He also explained at the end of each month, Debt Service would be paid, Capital Regional would receive their share and the remainder (\$266,000.00) would be given to the Health Department.

Commissioner Croley said he thought the whole point made by Commissioner Taylor was the Board has not seen a budget from the Health Council and won't see it until September and Mr. Martinez responded that recommendation was made by the County Manager was for them to just present the PAMS portion today, come back in September to present the entire budget because this would be a short meeting because the Board wouldn't have enough time to go over the whole budget today. Mr. Martinez said they were prepared to go over it today if the Board would like them to do so.

Commissioner Croley said his comment would have to be to Mr. McKinnon in closing. He asked Mr. McKinnon if the function, as he had initially stated would work until the Board can see the budget in its entirety.

Mr. McKinnon said they would certainly prefer the entire year but they have to keep the program going. He said they can understand the Board has not seen their budget, but he also reminded them the Health Council had met, had hammered out a budget and had made a recommendation on it, but if the Board is more comfortable with just three months at this time, then certainly the Council could live with that; they have to keep the program going.

Commissioner Morgan said the funds are available and what they are talking about is simply how to put the process in place. He stated that, personally, it appears all of the parties have been involved in looking at the budget, other than the Board of County Commissioners. He said he would have no input on how the Health Council would spend those dollars because he doesn't know anything about the program other than the basics of it; and he has complete faith and confidence in Mr. McKinnon as Chairman of the Health Council. Commissioner Morgan further stated the Health Council is asking for a specific amount (\$81,000.) and nothing further at this point. He said his personal opinion is that this Council is in place, they have come to the Board with this request, the funds are there and he would recommend the request be approved. He agreed with the concerns of Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Croley on the need for a budget and that he too would have preferred to have seen a budget attached with the agenda request, but that "it is what it is."

After further discussion Commissioner Taylor said the Board needs to stop, and begin doing things the right way and she addressed the County Administrator "that going forward, I don't ever want to see a recommendation for money unless there is a budget attached to it - so the language should be Mr. Chairman that we get language in place, legal terms so that we can dispense this money." She said the full \$266,000 is not there, it comes in monthly from the half-cent sales tax and is then dispensed proportionately as explained by Clerk Thomas. She said she is supportive of the program and will support this request for the \$81,000.00 at this time, but her concern is simply that the Board needs the proper procedure, with legal language to dispense the funds, not just the \$81,000.00, but also the entire \$266,000.00. There needs to be an agreement in place that the Council only gets 20% or 30%, but whatever the amount, but the language needs to be clear by means of a legal document.

Commissioner Morgan agreed with Commissioner Taylor's comments and reiterated it has always been dead clear that his belief is the Board should always move forward in a proper fashion; all t's crossed and I's dotted. He then asked Clerk Thomas (1) if the \$81,000.00 is currently available and Clerk Thomas responded "yes, the money is available"; (2) If the Board has the authority to approve the \$81,000.00 without having the language in place as previously described by Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Croley "That's a legal question."

Attorney Minnis "It's kind of a combination question."

Clerk Thomas "I think you have that authority and it can be done by amending the budget."

Commissioner Croley "Ms. Minnis the only thing I would like to hear you say is it -- can we legally disburse this money? I understand our financial officer here says we have the funds available."

Ms. Minnis "It's one of those situations where you have the authority to disburse it. Whether you decide to disburse it after the contract is signed or before is a different question, but you do have the authority to make the disbursement and we can put together the contract for them to sign to make that happen."

Commissioner Croley said his position is he has no problems with the disbursement of the full amount of money on the budget the

Health Council recommends because he will defer to that recommendation after proper review, etc. He said the Clerk has stated the funds are available and if the County Attorney says they can legally disburse the \$81,120 then he has no problem with it because he supports the Health Council and what they are doing; this is just more procedural. He said he would have to rely on the County Attorney's legal opinion as to the correct way to handle this.

Mr. Martinez said his problem with just the 3 months funding is because he is afraid the makeup of the County Commission could change and he would rather deal with the current Board because they are aware of everything that has gone on with the half-cent sales tax and the Health Council's position. He said the Council is aware an agreement is required and the Council had drafted and presented a proposed contract to the former interim County Manager. He did agree with the comments of the Commissioners and the County Attorney that a contract must be signed and put in place.

Ms. Minnis said a contract must be signed. The Board has the authority to disburse the money and it is up to them to decide whether they will disburse it before or after the contract is signed; it is two different questions because this does fit into the parameters of the half-cent sales tax because it is going towards indigent care and based on that Ordinance for the half-cent sales tax the Board does have the authority to disburse this money for this purpose. The other part is that part of the instructions was to have an agreement in place.

Commissioner Croley said as long as the Board could legally disburse the money, he has no problem with it.

Mr. Craig McMillan briefly addressed the Board and said he is very supportive of the PAMS Program. He said he does have some questions about the use of the other money as far as the indigent healthcare is concerned. He said he believes the Board should approve the PAMS money but he would hate to see them approve a budget that has been presented to them for the rest of the money, and that in effect being an approval of an amendment to the healthcare plan but he believes the Board needs to look at how those funds are going to be used.

In response to questions from Chairman Lamb, Mr. Martinez said the Health Council is a 5013C stand alone. He said the Board had appointed and blessed the Council as an advisory health

council to the Board so the Health Council reports to the Board as to the health status of the county.

Mr. McKinnon gave some further history - the Secretary of Health for the State of Florida came to Gadsden County in the late 90's to appoint a group of citizens to look at the health disparities in the County and the idea was that you had to start with the grass roots to make changes; thus the group was formed-known as 'Healthy Gadsden 2010' with a ten year goal set. He said he was part of that initial group and from that grass roots group to educate came the health experts through the Health Council. He said this effort has been on-going since 2000.

Chairman Lamb inquired as to who pays Mr. Martinez' salary and Mr. Martinez explained his position is sort of a dual role as he is the Director of Population Base of the local Health Department and also the Executive Director of the Health Council; he is a State employee and his salary comes from the State.

Chairman Lamb "Mr. Clerk I just think the Board wants a good check and balance, they want to know, we want to know exactly what the monies are spent for."

Clerk Thomas "Absolutely, and I am just trying to help facilitate this situation as it has been drawn out for a long time and we are getting to the end of the fiscal year and some of this needs to be resolved. Decisions just need to be made about; the debt service has been settled, the matter with Capital Regional has been settled and now it's time to settle this issue."

UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN THAT THE REQUEST FOR \$81,120.00 FOR THE PAMS (PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM) BE APPROVED AND WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Chairman Lamb called for the next item on the agenda.

7A (**ADDED**) Approval of Budget Amendment for the Town of Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department for the First and Fourth Quarters of 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Mr. Williams explained this as a request in the amount of \$12,164.50 to be taken from the 2009/2010 Reserves for funds the

Greensboro Fire Department did not previously receive for the second and forth quarters of the 2008-2009 budget.

Chief Crum said he doesn't know why they were not paid, but assured the Board this problem will not happen again as they are current on all payments to all fire departments this year. This is a clean-up of what was not done in the 2008-2009 budget.

Clerk Thomas said he would like to agree with Chief Crum that it will not happen again and apologized for it happening. He said he has spoken with the Finance Director and she did not recall seeing these and Finance would make an effort to- will hold their hands if they have to and call them at the end of the year to make sure they get the necessary forms in to Finance so they can get their disbursements. He also advised the Board the funds are available.

Commissioner Morgan said he has a lot of concerns and would encourage all of the fire departments (municipalities and other partners with the County) to send their reports electronically, not only to Chief Crum's Office, but also to the Clerk's Finance Department. He said by doing that there is clear communication as to who has and/or who hasn't submitted the required information. He said it is the responsibility of these fire departments partners) to submit this information and he feels certain they will make every effort to communicate and submit their reports in a timely manner. He also expressed concern that this type action has taken place twice within the past twelve months and feels that in both instances it was the fault of the County; and not a fault of the municipalities or other partners. Commissioner Morgan said he had also discovered some of the fire departments and cities are being prepaid for these services and that is a concern to him. He said he doesn't understand how it has happened, but there are three or four out of the ten where that is occurring. He said he doesn't agree with prepaying for any service before it is rendered, especially when paying with tax payer's money, nor in disbursing those funds if the reports are not accurate and complete and they are not looking at what they need to see. Commissioner Morgan explained he feels it is important for the Commission to realize this, that the Commission has a commitment to move forward and that it is done fairly for all of the partners across the County. All of these agreements come up for renewal in September, 2011, and effective communication between now and then will pay off for the County and their partners.

COMMISSION MORGAN MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF ITEM 7A IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,164.50, AND COMMISSIONER CROLEY MADE A SECOND TO THE MOTION.

Commissioner Taylor said she just wanted to be sure if the Board could dispense funds with it being added to the beginning of the agenda because sometimes it has to be advertised when getting ready to handle funds, but she has talked with the Attorney and been assured the Board is correct in dispensing these funds according to the Board's rules and regulations. Chairman Lamb called for a vote on the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AS STATED ABOVE.

Item Added to Awards, Presentations and Appearances

At this point, Mr. Jack McLean Quincy City Manager was recognized and he gave a report on the number of new jobs that have been created in the Quincy area since 2008. There have been 207 new jobs created, a lot of which is happening from small businesses, with some being created through new businesses and also from the hospital; hospital alone has not only created 45 jobs but has brought the much needed health care services back to the County.

Chairman Lamb thanked Mr. McLean for the information and said the Chamber has played a large role in this by their efforts in bringing in new businesses to the County.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. McLean to expand upon the City's relationship with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the economic development efforts and if it is a positive effort, if it was effective in the help in creation of the 207 jobs, etc., and Mr. McLean said the City of Quincy does support the Chamber economically. They are very supportive and proud of the Chamber and what they are doing in the community. Mr. McLean said the Chamber most recent effort in trying to bring a large number of jobs into the community was supported by the City of Quincy and even though it did not work (it was a community decision that this was not the right type of business) that does not demean the effort. It means they are still on the forefront of trying to find jobs for the community and are responsive to what the citizens want to see for their community.

Commissioner Croley expressed thanks to Mr. McLean for the information and for everyone to look at how the County has grown and how the municipalities are all working together for positive

growth and jobs, within the County; the economic development efforts of the Chamber and he asked for a brief update on the by-pass grant application and Mr. McLean said the preliminary grant application was filed in July and they filed it in the name of the City, but this time they are going to file it in the name of the County as the applicant, and that final application will be filed this month.

Chairman Lamb expressed his thanks to Mr. McLean for his efforts as the City Manager of Quincy for working with the other municipalities within the County in their endeavors to move forward in a positive manner for the County. He said this is what it will take from everyone, and the County is not looking back - only looking forward in these endeavors.

Mr. David Gardner of the Chamber of Commerce briefly addressed the Board and said the community may possibly be on the cusp of a "mini-boom" in economic development with small business through the Chamber's relationship with FAMU, TCC and FSU and these are exciting times. He said Gadsden County also played an important role in the endeavor of Deep Water Horizons to plug the Gulf oil spill by the use of the attapulgate clay and fuller's earth which is sold to distributors from local sources BASF or Active Minerals. He said BASF's employment numbers are up and Active Minerals is reconsidering the possibility of an expansion in this area which will also be an employment booster.

Commissioner Morgan said the Tourist Development Council will also begin marketing the County in an organized strategic fashion and the relationship with municipalities within the County is moving in the right direction and will have the wind at their backs in the coming months. He agreed there is nothing more important than securing jobs for the citizens of the County. He encouraged the Board to look at the most recent publication of "850" which has an article referencing Gadsden County.

8. County Administrator - Update on Board Requests
Nothing - Yielded to Co. Attorney
9. County Attorney - Update on Various Legal Issues
The Abatement Board Issue is scheduled
For the first meeting in September. It
Has been advertised and is on the agenda
1
10. Discussion Items by the Commissioners

Commissioner Morgan requested possible additional budget workshop and Mr. Williams said he has set one for August 26, at 4pm; this is the only one scheduled as of this time. They will meet and see how far they get, and if needed another workshop will be scheduled; the two required public hearings are scheduled for the first and second meetings in September.

Commissioner Morgan also inquired about the 2010 Third Quarter Financial Report update. He said he appreciates the report Mr. Price has prepared, it's easy to read and follow and asked when it would be available on the County's web site.

Mr. Price briefly explained the abbreviated report he put together prior to last week's budget workshop that addressed the different departments and funds and where they stand through the third quarter. He said he took the financial records from the Clerk's Office and put them into this report, trying to make it a user-friendly document and he said 75% of the budget has been spent through the third quarter. He said he would get with the IT Department and would make every effort to have it on the web site this week.

Commissioner Morgan addressed the County Jail Advisory Committee issue and asked that the Board schedule this as an agenda item and to give direction to the County Administrator to put together a format that could be given to the Committee. He said he feels if an effective committee is put together they will be able to address the concerns with things that aren't so good, as well as things that are good and come up with a game plan to be able to move forward in a positive sense. He said he would like to see this formally agendaed in the very near future, along with all of the background information so the Board can know and understand what they are reading, where they are now and what is needed.

It was agreed Commissioner Morgan and the County Administrator will get together and come up with a format as to what is needed and will then prepare it for being agendaed.

Commissioner Taylor said she has received a call and an interest has been generated throughout the community for a cannery - this program had been provided through Extension Services several years back and the general interest is to have this service return to the County. She asked the County Administrator discuss this with Dr. Grant and report back to the Board as to whether this is feasible.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the County Administrator had an update on the locks at the jail - the locks on the cells -have they been fixed.

Mr. Williams said the locks are a complicated thing; these locks are no long in production and will have to be redesigned and rebuilt - you can't just go down to the hardware store. He said it will take some time, some re-designing, some bidding, A contract, etc. He said Mr. Collins could explain further.

Commissioner Taylor said this was such a hot topic, the public brought it to the Board and she wanted to be certain they are well under way with this, and then asked where they are with the locks.

Mr. Collins said a contractor from Niceville came over and checked out all of the locks at the jail. Those specific locks have been discontinued and all locks at the jail will have to be retrofitted. "The truth is the doors work. There is only like one or two locks that will not lock unless a person actually goes and jams it shut; they don't lock automatically, but I have had a guy come out and look at the locks and he said they can be fixed. He didn't want to give me a price, per se, as a bid; he wanted to do it on an hourly rate because he didn't know what he was going to run into. I called another company from down South and they told me they didn't even want to come up here and look at them, but I'm still searching for people that do prison locks."

Commissioner Taylor "So there is also a manual way to lock all of the doors, is that right?"

Mr. Collins "Oh yeah, the doors do lock; they can lock all of them. The one door that doesn't lock, there are two others behind it that do lock."

Commissioner Taylor asked if they do have the possibility of access to get in and out that there is still concern for the safety of employees -- an employee being accosted, and Mr. Collins agreed. He added that jail over-crowding is also a concern - there will always be concern and danger for any person working there.

Commissioner Taylor "I think in terms of emergency or that it is very borderline that we act on that and to know that two weeks have come. I think it was two weeks ago we were discussing it and we had folks in here, so we might want to get someone, at

least to handle those locks. On an hourly rate, I can understand that person wanting to do that, but you know, you've got \$175,000.00."

Mr. Collins "Yeah, but I want to spend it wisely, so --."

Commissioner Taylor "Absolutely, absolutely and we want to put public safety and public health in the forefront."

Mr. Collins "And, you know, not only the locks but there's a lot of things out there that I have to do."

Commissioner Taylor "And that was well taken too that money is needed for quite a few things down there but I want to see us try to get started and try to find someone expeditiously on those locks because that is important." She said everything needs to be done by reaching out to other jails that have been recently built, law enforcement, and the county administrator -- un-stop all measures to settle the cry of the public and of this Board that we're doing all that we can to secure that jail. She said she would be asking about this at every meeting until Mr. Collins lets the Board know they are fixed. Commissioner Taylor said she would have to do that in consideration of what she was sworn in to do.

Mr. Collins "I'll get them fixed."

Commissioner Taylor said she hopes information that the Board needs to know is not being compromised in order to have a short agenda. She said she had made a note of this prior to when Mr. Martinez spoke and said he was asked to shorten his request because this would be a short agenda. She said she wants to be sure this Board is making decisions about this County and that all information that is supposed to be put before the Board is put before them. She said she wants to make sure one or two is not making a decision, but that any Board related issue is brought before the Board so they can look at it and do their very best in making decisions and direction for this County. She also briefly discussed the collaborative efforts the County is making between the municipalities within the County and would like to see a joint meeting with all of the municipalities collectively in the near future, with everyone bringing forth their suggestions/ideas in working for the betterment of this County.

Commissioner Taylor said an even hotter topic is EMS - the EMS investigation. Nothing has been said, not even a general

statement that the Board is aware of what is going on, here is a timeline and here is what they will do. She said that should have come forward from the County Administrator in her opinion. "For the last two or three, for the last month and a half to be more specific, I have asked for that EMS investigation report, I've asked for it. I did not find out the County had it by the County staff or Administrator, I found out from another source that the report was now in my administrator's hand. I still yet to have a confirmation from my administrator that the report is in hand. I requested a copy of that report and I've read a third of it and from what I've read there are facts in there that we need to have discussed, that we need to have a decision made on because you cannot continue to allow the department, based on the facts, not on opinions, to be run in the way it is being now. There are some major concerns there. We all swore to do the very best that we could as Board of County Commissioners to insure that this County is safe. Now we don't have a choice of what EMS services come to our house; we don't have a choice. We do have a choice of what medical services we want to provide services to us, what hospital we want to go; but we don't have a choice of what EMS service comes to our home. Now, the only thing I am asking for is that we get a report on what's going to be done so that the public will know that we are facing this issue. You've had two of our local newspapers to feature this article, yet here we set a meeting after those papers have hit and we have not even uttered one word about the report. That casts doubt and dispersion on us when we don't address those issues and I'm tired of being looked at as if I'm part of something being hidden or that we're not doing our job effectively. It is obvious to me from sitting here the last year and a half that reprimands, suspensions and firings is not done across the board universal. One department can spit on the ground and somebody gets suspended; another can jump in the bed with somebody and there's no problem, its horseplay. It's unreal what is going on and I'm going to say this because I've thought about this the last six or seven days. I'm going to say this and I've never thought this before. If something is not done, I will no longer support this administration. I will start calling for jobs. I cannot sit up here and allow what I know is going on and nothing being done and sit back and twiddle my thumbs as if it will work out by somebody else's effort. I am a Commissioner And there is no commissioner around this table with more power than the other. I am the County Administrator's boss and I am not pleased at this point with what I am seeing. I am very discouraged in our future under this leadership. I didn't want to get to this point, but to hide our head and bury it in the sand is not what we want to do at this point in time. We need

to stand up and say this has been wrong. Now, yes he has the right to look at the report, disseminate the facts and the direction, but I'm not being told anything. I don't know anything that is going on, I don't know the timeline or even if the report is going to be addressed, but I do know that there are issues and I'm not satisfied with the way with this county administration's direction is going. I'm not satisfied with what we've been getting in these reports, in these agenda packages, half information, whole information - I'm getting off this boat, I'm getting off this Boat and I want to see change and I want to see it immediately. We are responsible and I'm not going to sit up here and hold my hand, and do not send people to ask me to hold my hand and tie me down from speaking the truth. I'm not going to do that. We are in trouble and it's high time somebody, and I'm praying one of you around this Board sees that we are not given all the information, that we are being left in the dark and we are being made scapegoats in all of this. Somebody has to stand up and say this is not right and we need to stop it. When we first got this administrator and the attorney I said clearly we did it in the wrong way. We did not go through by process and when you do anything the wrong way you cannot get anything productive out of it. Now we have lawsuits and we've got low morale; now they're not going to tell you it's low morale because they're afraid they will lose their job. When we began the investigation down at EMS somebody went down there and said the County Administrator is 100% with you, we love you, we will support you, we like what you are doing. That made everybody else afraid to even talk. We've got problems. I told you I'm sitting on this little perch now and I'm saying what is right and we need to do it. When we started out with that hospital we did it right, we did it perfect and every obstacle that came before us we jumped it with no problems, and now we're just - Now we've done some positives but for the most part we have some problems and if we don't fix it, it continues to go this way."

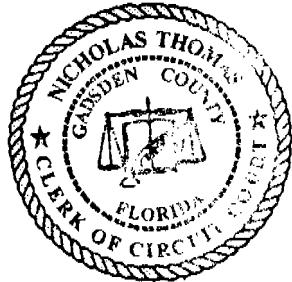
Commissioner Croley "On a more positive note, Mr. Chair, I would like to say how much I appreciate and recognize the fact that Clerk Thomas as the Chief Financial Officer is coming on a regular basis and taking part in giving good input into the financial wellbeing of this County. That's something that most of the time since I've been here on this Board that we did not get. I very well understand and appreciate why we were not getting that type of cooperation, given the environment at the time, but Mr. Clerk I want to thank you personally for the good job that you are doing and I know that your staff is certainly communicating much better with this Board's budget process than

ever since I've been here. And, you notice that we frequently rely on your input more and more and we appreciate your contribution in that regard; at least I certainly do. Mr. Administrator, despite the fact that we're not all perfect I do want you to know that I do think that you have made significant improvements here in this county government. Yes there are always going to be problems and yes these problems that may previously have been deemed inherited are now ours and we must claim ownership of them and resolve the issues that come before us in a very positive and constructive manner, but as the Roman Emperor Hagrin said 'Rome was not built in a day, it's brick by brick now citizens, brick by brick' and that's something that everyone on this Board needs to bear in mind. All of these things that they hear about often times are nothing more than somebody trying to make an issue out of something that happened before the people here today got in place. The administrator who was at that EMS Office is no longer there and a new one is there. Is he perfect, I don't know; time will tell. It's been very clear that those problems better be resolved. They better be resolved in other departments in this County. The Library better communicate better with the Library board or citizens committees. The Jail, as Major Morgan has pointed out earlier, we are taking proper steps to move this place forward and we're going to continue to do that. We may not always agree in how best to do that, but we are going to make progress. Ms. Minnis, you do a great job as the county attorney and you certainly have handled things much more positive that what we have seen in past years. You have been much more economical, you have been much more thorough and we appreciate that, or at least I do. Mr. Chair, this Commission is much better as a whole than what I came into approximately four years ago. It's light night and day difference. I'm looking at people who have come to these meetings and you ought to get citizenship awards for their participation, and guess what. I bet they can say it's a lot better than it was. Now, Mr. Chair you've done a great job in helping lead this Commission. There's going to be some decisions made next week as to whether or not we go forward or we go backwards. I believe the citizens will make the decision to keep going forward. Now, Mr. Chair that's all I have to say but I appreciate your leadership and your service."

Chairman Lamb "Thank you. You all have said a lot, and I appreciate all that you have said. In my six years of being here, this County is light years ahead from where they started in 2004. There have been a lot of changes that have taken place for the betterment of all the citizens of Gadsden County. A lot of the things that may have happened, the present administrator

and county attorney have kind of inherited some of these things and it's going to take some time to straighten them all out and I believe they will. Now if there's a problem down at EMS, and from indication there might be one; there might be some problem with that report coming in. I don't know what the report says. I haven't read it, I haven't seen it. I don't want to read it and I don't want to see it. That's personnel; I've got enough on my plate than dealing with personnel and that's why I don't get paid to deal with personnel; but I'm expecting personnel, though, to do their job and I think they are doing their job. They're looking into that report. When they get through with that report, the County Manager and Personnel - Mr. Lawson will act accordingly to that report. Nobody in this county, nobody will force me or entice me to interfere with somebody doing their job. I don't care who they are and I don't care what their problem is, or how much they may dislike somebody else, that ain't got nothing to do with letting people do their job and as Chairman of this Board and that particular item, and as the presider of this Board ain't coming before this Board until that manager and that administrator, that manager and the director of personnel complete their findings on that report. If it calls for the suspension or the firing of somebody that's their job - that's their job. Now if I have a concern about the report I'm going to go directly to the Manager and talk with him about it. That's what I would do if I feel that justice has not been served but as I said before, I'm going to wait until the manager does his job and the personnel director does his job on that report. I know there are people out there running their mouths and they would do that even if there wasn't a report so you can't just go by and let people put pressure on you. You got to stand up to pressure and that's easy to do if you want to do the right thing. So, I'm giving them time to do their jobs. It may take another two or three weeks, it may take a month or a year. It doesn't matter to me how long it might take, as long as the right thing is done. As I said before, I appreciate everything that has been said and we don't want to rebut anybody because everybody has had their opportunity to speak. I think the Board is on the right track and we are together. Everybody has their right to their opinion so always remember that." He asked that the commissioners, should they have a problem with something and it's coming from staff, to please communicate with the County administrator concerning their own concerns. He also stated the commissioners should not deal with personnel; it should be dealt with by the administrator and the commissioner individually.

THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS TIME, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:45 AM.



Eugene Lamb
CHAIRMAN EUGENE LAMB

Muriel Straught
Muriel Straught, Deputy Clerk

As transcribed by Deputy Clerk Jean Chesser