

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HELD IN  
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ON AUGUST 26, 2010, THE FOLLOWING  
PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Eugene Lamb, Dist. 1  
Commissioner Doug Croley, Vice-Chair, Dist. 2  
Commissioner Morgan, Dist. 3  
District 4 - Vacant  
Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, Dist. 5  
Johnny Williams, County Administrator  
Jeff Price, OMB  
Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lamb called the Budget Workshop to order with a quorum present at 4:00 PM and turned the meeting over to the County Administrator.

Mr. Williams presented the Board with a memo 'short synopses of where they are at this point with the budget, that he feels decisions need to be made on these items and then asked Mr. Price to go over the items included in the memo.

Mr. Price briefly explained each item -

(1) Additional Cost in health insurance premium rate of 4% for \$33,000.00 is in the budget from general fund balance. He explained the total increase was 8% or \$66,000.00 -- 4% had previously been included and the last 4% is now shown in the budget - Overall Total increase of \$66,000 - 8%.

(2) Public Works—Two additional employees (one sign tech and one fleet tech) - \$73,000.00. That is now in the budget from Public Works funding and is not coming from the general fund balance.

Mr. Williams explained Ms. Chess had originally taken these out of the Public Works budget to balance it, but the positions are essential and should never have been taken out.

Mr. Presnell added Ms. Chess had taken the two positions out because they were vacant at the time. However, these positions

have always been in the Public Works budget; should not have been deleted and are simply being placed back in the budget. He said six positions had been cut and placing these two back leaves four positions still be cut from this year's budget.

(3) Prison Work Crews - Approximate cost per crew of \$58,000, which includes 10 inmate laborers, one guard and a State truck.

Mr. Presnell said the highest cost would be \$58,000.00 per year because if an inmate out for any (class, weather, etc) reason that is deducted so the cost would probably be \$54,000-\$55,000.00 annually. He said the inmate laborers have historically been furnished free from the Liberty County Annex here in the County, located next to the County Jail. In order to fund that without coming up with new money, the County would be looking at the trade of three employees (salaries and fringe benefits) for one crew. Mr. Williams added it would essentially be paying the guard's salary.

Commissioner Croley said he was confused because he thought he had been told the County (Public Works Department) had its own inmate supervisor, the inmates would be free, and a County van would be used for transporting the work crew, but now he is hearing they were getting those inmates for free and the County was being furnished a vehicle-

Mr. Presnell responded Public Works does have their own inmate supervisor but that is for a different crew; Public Works has four crews and each crew is supposed to have five inmates, but some days they only get three.

Commissioner Croley "So, we are paying for four inmate supervisors that are getting three or four inmates and the public is paying for the van to transport them and the guard."

Mr. Presnell "That is correct."

Commissioner Croley "And we can get a State van, ten men and a guard for \$58,000.00 per year, and that seems like a pretty good deal here to me for \$58,000.00"

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Presnell, what are they limited to; what can they do and what they can't do?"

Mr. Presnell "They can pick up trash, weed eat around guard rails, road sides and such; they can pick up limbs and feed the chipper, but they are limited. There are limitations as they

can't operate equipment or drive a vehicle so it would be basically picking up trash, laying sod; just general labor, but they can weed eat."

Commissioner Taylor asked that at some point had the Board not been told this was being given a second consideration and the County would be getting the services free, or if that was for a different program. She said she thought this had been worked out about a month ago and Mr. Presnell explained the program they are talking about now 'The State Cut Out' that Mr. Williams had tried to get the program for free but it didn't work out. Mr. Presnell said this is State-wide and the State is offering this service for \$58,000.00 which is what they consider the salary and fringes for that one employee.

Commissioner Croley asked about the inmate supervisors the County (Public Works) currently has and how much those positions are costing and how much the vehicles are costing.

Mr. Presnell responded approximately \$45,000.00/year for salary and fringe benefits. On the vehicles he explained they are pro-rated over 5 years and you add the gas so it mounts up quick. He said they have a trailer with a portable restroom that goes with each crew - there will be no savings there, even with the State crews because those portable restrooms are required.

Commissioner Morgan "Doesn't it make more sense financially to have two crews as opposed to one crew and then what you (Mr. Presnell) are describing as an existing situation?"

Mr. Presnell "From a strictly business standpoint it does make sense; like on a rainy day just as with a private contractor, you don't pay." He said the crews would come five days per week, Monday - Friday, but they are on a somewhat different schedule. The crews usually leave about 3:30 PM because they have to be checked back in and there is a specific process they have to go through in being checked in; Check-in time is 4:30 so the facility wants the inmates back at their location by 4:00 to meet the required 4:30 deadline. Their day usually begins around 8:00 AM.

Chairman Lamb "Robert, in your opinion - your recommendation to the Administrator; what do you recommend?"

Mr. Presnell "Well, this is what we are dealing with. If you want the inmate labor, then this is the deal. Is it a good deal? Yes, in terms of a van, ten employees and a supervisor.

Really, there is a supervisor assigned there too, it would be like with an employee, you just tell him what you want done that day and he takes care of it and turns in his check list. The downside is to make this trade we would lose some employees and that's always bad for anyone, but just looking at a straight business deal you would have to say it's a good deal."

Commissioner Taylor "What do you mean by losing employees?"

Mr. Presnell "It would take about three employee's salaries and fringes; on average three of our own employees for each crew unless the money came up from somewhere else."

Commissioner Taylor "So you would have to lay people off to do this?"

Mr. Presnell "I would think that would be -"

Mr. Williams "Well, we haven't identified yet how we are going to cover this; that is what we're trying to do today."

Mr. Presnell "I mean, if ya'll had money to pay for them, then yes it's a good deal if there was extra money, but right now the budget is balanced and it's not in the budget so yes we are talking about either new monies or we would trade them for some of our supervisors or a mix of maintenance workers, operators and inmate supervisors."

Chairman Lamb "You're talking about regular employees?"

Mr. Presnell "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Taylor "I have a question for the Administrator. At our last budget workshop we were up \$253,000.00 in revenues. How did we get balanced if we didn't add anything in or take anything out? I mean, how are we now balanced? We should have had \$253,000.00 additional to spend tonight. We should have had \$253,000.00; plus almost a \$170,000.00 found in other places (\$30,000 from the County Attorney; and another \$70,000 from hospital utilities); that would be approximately \$400,000.00 - \$450,000 the Board would have to spend. "I just want to know what happened."

Mr. Williams "I'm not sure where those figures came from. Jeff do you have a list of those, did you turn that over to -- have you kept up with a listing of those?"

Mr. Price "No, I do not have that list. We are still working on a couple of funds; the hospital fund is brand new and we have not balanced that one out with Finance so that one is incomplete. So, I don't know where those funds are."

Commissioner Taylor "Well, I'm confused, what --"

Mr. Williams "Did you keep a list of them?"

Commissioner Taylor "Yes, I did".

Mr. Williams "Can you go through those again for us so we can record them. Some how we didn't get them recorded. You say \$30,000.00 from the attorney?"

Commissioner Taylor "The attorney had \$234,000.00 and we took \$34,000.00, leaving them a total of \$200,000.00. Also, the Clerk suggested we take half of the \$120,000.00, I think that was the Indigent Care because he didn't think we wouldn't need as much because the Hospital is now open, but you had budgeted \$120,000.00 in that line item so the Clerk recommended that \$60,000.00. Then there was a line item, the end where the county is responsible for the hospital because I'm understanding that the operational part; Capital Regional is paying its utility. But the end where the County is responsible for they had allocated \$178,000.00 in utilities and other costs and at that time Clyde thought that was a bit high because we were not averaging that much utility costs on the part that we were responsible for and they were supposed to come back with an amount that we would be responsible for out of the \$178,000.00; I'm thinking that's what the line item was and according to what Clyde had said, only \$75,000.00 would have been needed which would have left almost \$100,000.00 to be used. So, the **\$34,000.00** from the attorney, the **\$60,000.00** from Indigent Care, the **\$100,000.00** for excess utilities with the hospital should have had us at about \$200,000.00, plus there's the \$253,000.00 where we were not balanced in the beginning so that's \$400,000 that we should have tonight, plus revenue."

Mr. Williams "There was 250,000.00? Now where did that come from?"

Commissioner Taylor "\$253,000.00. That's your front sheet where you gave us early on where you had \$17 million as revenue and requested expenditure came to a little over \$16,800,000.00 and she (Ms. Chess) showed a difference in \$253,000.00."

Mr. Williams "Ok. Good, maybe we're in very good shape"

Commissioner Croley "Mr. Chair, any time you can get 22 additional personnel and two vans for this amount of money to develop two crews that's a no-brainer."

Chairman Lamb "If we have the money."

Commissioner Croley "Well, he just told you we can get the money by - you may have to make some changes in the present situation, but the State changed the rules. We have to live with the present environment so from a business standpoint that's what needs to be done. Folks may not like it but, hey, we got to move forward and we need to get the most production we can for every dollar we have to spend. Now I want to make sure you can get with -- Mr. Administrator and figure out how to transition any of these folks in such a way --"

Mr. Presnell "Ok, how many crews you want?"

Commissioner Croley "I want to do two if we can. If we don't have the need for but one then that's a different matter. What are these, what are supervisors doing if they're not getting inmates any longer?"

Mr. Presnell "Well they're getting inmates but some mornings they do only get two or three and what we have had to do is put those two groups together, take that inmate supervisor and put him on another job. That does happen, but now I do agree it's a good deal but if you want to do this then why don't we; like the fleet tech, that would help lessen the impact. The vacant position that we have, now we could use it in trying to get to the point that you want to get to, and it would take less people as well."

Commissioner Croley "You just told us we have to have that employee."

Mr. Presnell "Well, the shop says - they have to work on those ambulances every day; but I'm just mentioning it as lessening the impact, but if you're looking at doing the two crews then it would be six (6) people."

Chairman Lamb "Do we need two?"

Mr. Presnell "We need the inmates; we work them now, and it's just a matter of whether you want to do the DOC deal or the way we've been doing it with County inmate supervisors."

Chairman Lamb "So what you're saying is that we do need two crews and they going to find work to do if we get the two crews?"

Mr. Presnell "Absolutely, we need all the help we can get."

Commissioner Croley "I'm going to be very aggressive on this and say get two crews. Do we need a motion on this or -"

Chairman Lamb "Wait a minute. I want to ask him something else about that. You mentioned the fleet tech; you can do without that position?"

Mr. Presnell "Well, I was just trying to help lessen the impact. If we didn't fill that vacant position then that money could be used -"

Chairman Lamb "Can you live with that?"

Mr. Presnell "Well, I'll just make the shop live with it; everybody is tightening up. You know we gave up four employees in operations and this is going to be a continuing thing. It's going to be worse next year. That's just part of it."

Chairman Lamb "What would you recommend?"

Mr. Presnell "What do I recommend - At this point I would probably recommend just one crew to lessen the impact to personnel; you would reduce the number of layoffs. There would still be layoffs and if you were to go with the two, then I would suggest the layoffs coming from some of the existing because these inmate crews are limited in what they can do. We don't want to cut an equipment operator to get the money to pick up paper so really I would recommend if you're going to do this that the money come from the inmate supervisors, or a mix of inmate supervisors and maintenance workers, or maybe a mix of one of each but I would look at inmate supervisors for funding of the new crews."

Chairman Lamb "We really should have had a recommendation coming from the Director to the Administrator for us to make it better for us to decide what we really are going to do. We really should have had that before going through all of this discussion because you (indicated Mr. Presnell) are like hands on and you know what is needed and what needs to be done and that kind of decision needs to be coming from people out there in the field where it really is and not from us. We just need to pass it. We need to consider the recommendation and then go forward; so what we are having to do now is discuss and come up with an idea of what we need to do."

Mr. Presnell "My recommendation -- I'll tell you now, Robert Presnell's recommendation would be one. If ya'll decide to do two, yeah it hurts but the deal is still good and the help will be utilized because I can assure you there is still plenty of work out there to do."

Commissioner Morgan "What are the individual costs of those two employees, the fleet and the sign tech? I know it's \$73,000.00, total. Of those two, which is more important?"

Mr. Presnell "The sign tech."

Commissioner Morgan asked how that would break out and Mr. Presnell said they would be pretty close.

Commissioner Morgan "Ok so you could take \$40,000.00 of that and keep the sign tech, and you could be real close to that second crew?"

Mr. Presnell "Yeah, absolutely."

Commissioner Taylor "Robert, you're right; to take this on is a bit much. Two crews will mean \$116,000.00, is that what that means?"

Mr. Presnell "Yes."

Commissioner Taylor "Ok, let me just ask the Board a question. Instead of considering someone's job, why not the surplus that the manager has just said there clearly is that might just be in the budget, that there are surplus dollars. Now we don't want to lay anyone off, if at all possible. Now, on those two crews have we been having access to them all year long, because we've been crying about the condition of the sidewalk anyway."



So, if we've been having them and it's not going to be anymore productive than what we've seen --"

Mr. Presnell "We've had them for a number of years but it got real sporadic last year and then we lost them all together about four months ago."

Commissioner Taylor "If we're going to fund it I just wish we would consider the surplus instead of laying anyone off."

Mr. Williams "I think layoffs would be the last consideration; we would look for every possible way before we would lay off anybody."

Chairman Lamb "That makes sense."

Mr. Williams "If there's another way to do it."

Commissioner Croley "Here's my point. We've got a situation of the tail wagging the dog. I'm not interested in that any longer. I'm interested in getting production done in the field for the benefit of the citizens. We can use two crews and it is not a rocket science here to figure that out. You can see that very clearly. Now, I'm saying to the Administrator, I'm saying this to the staff, if you can figure out how to keep your people on that's fine with me, but I want those two crews myself and I'm asking this Board to support that because it is the right thing to do for the production and benefit of the citizens of the County. Now, if you can figure it out, that's fine but I'm not going to support cutting maintenance workers in the garage 'cause you made it very clear you needed that and if you didn't need it, you shouldn't have put it in the budget Mr. Presnell cause I feel like I'm getting mixed signals. I mean --"

Mr. Presnell "We need it."

Commissioner Taylor "But Mr. Croley he put one crew in there as a request; you're asking for two which increases his bottom line, so you're putting a little bit more out there than what he's asking for, than what we're asking for."

Commissioner Croley "No, Mam. He said he could definitely use those 22 men and those two vans. There is not -- that is good business sense to get advantage of this program and on rainy days we don't have to pay for them and that makes sense."

Chairman Lamb "Ok, let's decide. The Administrator has already said he will do everything he can to look at the necessary funds to take care of these two crews."

Mr. Williams "Yes, we're going to go through all of these. We didn't know what kind of action you were going to take on any these but when we're through we'll come back with a plan on how we plan to cover these. It may involve layoffs, it may involve some fund balances, it may involve some of the things Commissioner Taylor mentioned"

Chairman Lamb "Ok let's decide right now do we want to go with one crew or two crews - I'll entertain a motion."

**Commissioner Croley "I'LL MOVE TWO CREWS"**

**Commissioner Morgan "I'LL SECOND.** I do have a comment, Mr. Chair, at the appropriate time."

Chair Lamb "I have a motion and a second to go with two crews and the Manager has said he will be looking to see can he find that, and he probably can but we got to give him time to do it. When he brings it back we'll know it."

Commissioner Morgan "I think this is just one example, if I'm understanding what Commissioner Croley is talking about I do agree with this because we are at a time now where we have to consider every possible way to minimize our overhead and maximize our production and this is a good example of being able to do that, so I think - However, as we move forward through all of these, I want to encourage us to do so in a positive way and not to try to force some of these things without understanding there may be some exceptions. I think we just need to look at that. That being said I'll go ahead for the vote, but I just wanted to comment and say I think a lot of this could be minimized if we receive our packets with the recommendations ahead of time so that we can review these."

Mr. Williams "You need them at least a week ahead of time. I apologize."

Commissioner Morgan "This is the third time I've commented on this and we got it today; first time I've looked at this information is right now, and that's my only comment."

Chairman Lamb "And that's why I commented on that - we need the recommendation, not just the information."

Chair Lamb called for a vote on the motion.

**Vote Recorded 4-0, by voice vote, in favor of the motion as stated above for two crews.**

**(4) Road in Midway - Cost of Approximately \$100,000.00**

Mr. Presnell said it's Fortune Boulevard, a County road that was built with grant funding. In response to questions from Commissioner Morgan, Mr. Presnell explained Public Works will repair Fortune Boulevard and just a small portion of Commerce Way.

Chairman Lamb "Ok, what's your recommendation Robert?"

Mr. Presnell "It's currently in our budget."

Mr. Williams "Is it currently in there?"

Mr. Presnell "It's currently in our budget and we are balanced unless ya'll want to -"

Mr. Williams "Ok, well we can - unless ya'll want to take it out, we can just skip over it."

Commissioner Morgan "Well, this says it's not included the budget, that's what I'm looking at."

Mr. Price "Right, that's the information I had at the time I prepared this and I talked with Robert today and he said it is in there."

Mr. Williams "Ok, well if ya'll don't want to take it out then we can just move on."

Commissioner Croley "Mr. Chair, this is an economic matter and needs to be done."

Chairman Lamb "Right and I don't think anybody has a problem with it. Robert, you need to go forward on that."

**(5) Senior Planner** Approximate cost for FY 2010-2011 is approximately \$68,000 - salary and benefits.

There was a brief discussion and Mr. Matheny explained his department is good to go with where their budget stands right

now, but if at a later date some money were to become available, he would certainly like to discuss with the administrator the possibility of hiring a senior planner or a couple of ordinary planners, but at this time no funding source has been identified but right now maybe do an amendment to shift around some funds to get some part-time help. He said at this point he is looking at possibility of hiring an intern for filing, scanning; running errands, etc., by using some of the department's designated consultants funding.

When asked how many land use changes they are getting right now that would cause the need for all of this additional planning work, Mr. Matheny said not that many right now that goes before the Planning Commission, and he said that doesn't mean they still are not extremely busy. He did add that if the economy picks up they will be in need of some additional help; possibly in additional consulting services instead of additional full-time staff.

After additional discussion, Chairman Lamb said this item would be on hold for now.

**(6) Emergency Housing Repair** Requested \$40,000.00.

Mr. Williams explained this was in last year's budget as requested by Commissioner Taylor and it came in very handy when they had an emergency (tornado) occur last year and was very glad they had that money available at that time. He asked if the Board wanted to continue the funding in this budget and if so they will need to set aside the funds.

Chairman Lamb asked what criteria was involved and Mr. Williams explained it would have to be declared an emergency (roof about to fall in, etc.) and it would have to meet the SHIP Program guidelines; it would have to meet income requirements.

Chairman Lamb "They don't already have something in place for this?"

Mr. Williams "No, No Sir they don't."

Chairman Lamb "That would be my concern that the criteria you use for Gadsden County because we're not talking about a whole lot of money."

Commissioner Croley "I think it's good to have emergency housing repair in this County. You don't have to go far out in

this County to find sub-standard housing and they can't get insurance on it and you have a wind shear come through and it puts a tree through somebody's roof and the volunteer firemen but the tree off and I would like to see people be able to get Help. I don't think one house should get the whole amount of money. I think the criteria should be limited per structure and certain income levels and all of that because people do - we do have a lot of people in this County, as you know, who are in a very dire financial situation -"

Chairman Lamb "I think they've got criteria already set up for this."

Mr. Williams "Most of these are somewhat like a mini-grant; couple thousand dollars here and a couple thousand there to fix a specific problem. "

Chairman Lamb "You recommend it?"

Mr. Williams "Yes sir, I think it was a good program last year."

**UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE ITEM #6, EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIRS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00, AND UPON A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

**Let the Record Reflect Vote Recorded as  
In Favor – Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Croley, Commissioner Lamb  
Against – Commissioner Morgan**

**(7) Jail Locks – Cost Approximately \$175,000.00 and Jail Renovations (Female Pod) with cost of approximately \$30,000.00.**

Mr. Williams explained the Board has pretty much made a commitment for this and it needs to be

Funded, but at the end of end fiscal year everything is closed out and has to be re-budgeted. He said it could be carried forward but it will be in fund balances.

**COMMISSIONER CROLEY MOVED THE \$175,000.00 FUNDS EARMARKED FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE AT THE JAIL BE CARRIED OVER AND CHAIRMAN LAMB MADE A SECOND TO THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Morgan "It says here an additional \$30,000.00?"

Mr. Williams "That's something Clyde discovered when he went down there. That's some additional costs he discovered."

Commissioner Morgan "So we're talking about \$205,000.00 total, not \$175,000.00?"

Chairman Lamb "We don't have a detail -- he said approximately \$175,000.00 and approximately \$30,000.00 but he don't know if that's what it's going to cost, but that's the figure he gave us."

Commissioner Taylor "According to the Clerk's report that night there is \$400,000.00 for the repairs so it's well covered; the one funding source he discussed that night, so it's covered. Will we be moving the entire \$400,000.00, that's the question?"

Commissioner Morgan "From where?"

Commissioner Taylor "That penny sales tax."

Mr. Williams "Actually we got a ruling from our attorney that we can't use it for anything but infrastructure."

Commissioner Taylor "That is infra-structure."

Mr. Williams "No --Well it was at one time but it got redefined."

Commissioner Croley "No, I think what Commissioner Taylor is referencing is the questions I asked the Clerk -- the money that had to do with the culvert repair at Frank Smith Road, the road repair in Commissioner Taylor's district -- Talquin Avenue and the road repairs at Dodger Ball Park Road were going to quote be, as you had advertised be coming out of this \$175,000.00. But, the Clerk determined the money to do those transportation repairs were already in the Transportation Fund but you can't use the penny revenue for anything according to the County Ordinance except Public Works, Fire and Water & Sewer projects and Public Works being defined as Transportation. This would have to come out of General Revenue and you've got some of the money in this year's budget that he didn't spend and you're simply talking about carrying it over."

Commissioner Morgan "That was in facilities management was it not?"

Commissioner Croley "Yeah and it needs to stay in facilities management."

Commissioner Morgan "Correct. And what is the balance there? That's the question I'm asking."

Commissioner Taylor "I remember \$400,000.00 coming from somewhere."

Mr. Williams "There were other projects in facilities management that did not get done, so that's what she is talking about; mainly because we spent so much time on the hospital that people just didn't get around to it. We didn't have the -- so there was money left in there."

Commissioner Croley "Well, you had the jail handler budgeted at \$30,000.00 and there was \$30,000.00 remaining there. You did do the jail camera system. The jail lock down was \$175,000.00 and the jail renovation department total was \$30,000.00 so that's where you're carrying money over from."

Commissioner Morgan "We're carrying that total amount over."

Chairman Lamb "So it can be carried over. Can I get a motion please?"

**UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO CARRY OVER \$175,000.00 ALONG WITH THE ADDITIONAL \$30,000.00 (THE BALANCE OF THE MONEY THAT WAS TO BE USED FOR REPAIRS AT THE JAIL) AS SHOWN IN ITEM #7 AND UPON A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR THE BOARD VOTED 4-0, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Chair, just a statement of clarity. This is a workshop."

Chairman Lamb "Yeah, I'm just getting approval, that's all."

Commissioner Taylor "Thank you."

Chairman Lamb "The next time they come we'll have to, they'll have to recommend it. "

Commissioner Croley "We'll have the public hearings."

Chairman Lamb "Yeah, that's when we'll vote on all this. We're just getting approval for them the go ahead to work it out."

**(8) Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency \$5,000.00**

Commissioner Croley "I want to make something clear on this. This has nothing to do with me; the Chairman just appointed me to serve on it. This is the four counties of Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla and all of the municipalities. It is the organization that the Federal and State, or it's my understanding, requires us to be in." He further explained the monthly meetings are for the purpose of getting approval on all of the Federal and State transportation monies, with the exception of the small county road assistance, SCRAP/SCAAP and that Mr. Presnell may want to comment about the legal requirements of this Program.

After a brief discussion the following action was taken:

**UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO APPROVE ITEM 8 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00, THE BOARD VOTED, 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

**(9) Opportunity Florida -- \$4,000.00 request.**

Mr. Williams said this is also a very important program and it was inadvertently left out of the budget because they did not charge the County anything last year. This is for the Broad Band Program where the County has already received a grant for a portion of \$23 million through this Agency.

**UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO APPROVE THE \$4,000.00 REQUESTED IN ITEM 9, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

**(10) Chris Doolin Lobbying Services -- \$25,000.00 requested.**

Mr. Williams "Mr. Doolin for \$25,000.00. I assume he is still going at that rate. He really didn't say when he was here, but he used to be at \$50,000.00 and we reduced it last year to \$25,000.00."

Commissioner Morgan "And another one, I'll argue that we have already got our moneys worth."

Commissioner Taylor "For that size of an amount it should be bid out. It should not be just going to one person and I think that's our policy because it's a service that we are buying. He is not part of this Government; he is separate, so according to policy we should bid it. That's my only statement."

Chairman Lamb "Bid that service?"

Commissioner Taylor "Bid that service and if he wins that bid, then I'm willing to line item that amount. In other words line item that amount for lobbying; we'll put a line item in there but not specifically give it to one person, but that we follow policy."

Chairman Lamb "Mr. Lawson, so \$25,000.00 has to be bid?"

Mr. Lawson "\$25,000.00 and over, unless you do a continuing contract."

Chairman Lamb "And we can do that if we want to by a majority vote."

Commissioner Croley asked for clarification on the \$25,000.00 for Mr. Doolin and asked if the Small County Coalition fees are shown in the budget and Mr. Price said it is not in this budget. Commissioner Croley said the County needs to pay the \$5,000.00 for the Small county coalition. He then asked if the Florida Association of Counties membership was included in the budget and Mr. Williams said he was pretty it is in the budget and Mr. Price explained the past couple of years the County has paid about \$6,700.00 for this, but that it is not included in this budget.

Mr. Lawson said he believes it is in the Commissioner's budget under professional services and Mr. Price said he would have to go back and look at that further.



Chairman Lamb responded if it isn't in there then it needs to be put in.

Commissioner Croley said both the Small County Coalition needs to be included as well as the Florida Association of Counties membership. Then, as previously stated by Commissioner Taylor they need to do a line item on lobbying services for Mr. Doolin, unless the Board wants to do a continuing contract.

Chairman Lamb asked Commissioner Morgan if he had any comments and Commissioner Morgan responded that he probably shouldn't say anything.

Commissioner Taylor said she just wants to be sure everything, just like they have been doing all night, and that everything is done according to policy and procedure so the County is getting the best service for their dollars.

Chairman Lamb said he believes Commissioner Morgan's main concern is the quality of service they would get when they bid it out – He said he knows what the County has now, but he doesn't know what they will get if they bid it out and it's all about quality of service.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem bidding out the service but feels it is important to recognize that the county will be facing the same battles and main issues this year as they faced last year; that they have a firm very familiar with the history and they have successfully defended the county in the past. He said to him, it just makes perfectly good sense to remain with the same firm. He said if the Board wishes to bid it out he certainly has no problem with that, but thinks in the scheme of things they should stick with what they now have.

Commissioner Croley said what they need to do is put the \$25,000.00 in as a line item now, and when they bring this item up and if they wish to continue the contract with Mr. Doolin, then that would be the topic of discussion at that time, and they can make a decision on whether to extend or go out for bids.

**It was then the consensus of the Board to put \$25,000.00 in the budget as a line item only for lobbying services at this time.**

Mr. Williams explained that was the last item for discussion as stated in his memo.

Commissioner Taylor asked the County Administrator and Mr. Presnell about some roads that they previously had estimates on and the Board was interested in them, and she asked if the roads had been considered in this budget and Mr. Presnell said they had, but with the capital funds being limited, they have had to re-prioritize. He said the total capital money in the budget is about the road they talked about earlier in the meeting along with one backhoe and a flatbed.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there is a possibility of additional funds coming in through DOT throughout the year and Mr. Presnell said everything the Board has approved everything that has been submitted to this point and if new opportunities come they will bring that to the Board.

Commissioner Croley said he had asked about the total estimated revenue for the County, where they are supposed to be setting aside five percent of revenue in reserves. He said he had asked if the 5% was going to be adequate to build the cash balances the Clerk indicated are necessary to tie the County over until new revenues begin coming in, as well as to protect the citizens as a reserve for the operation of County government.

Mr. Williams said "5% of \$41,000,000.00 would be about \$2 million and there is currently a balance of about \$2.2 million and at the end of this year we should be at about \$4.5 million."

Commissioner Croley said that is heading the direction Clerk Thomas, as the Chief Financial Officer, has indicated that he wants the County to go. He also asked if there are other organizational changes that can be made to improve the efficiency in cost effectiveness of County government in the coming months that the Board needs to entertain those. He said the Board needs Mr. Williams to be thinking about those actions. He also asked when they would look at the Constitutional Officers or if that would be further addressed.

Mr. Williams said the Board had not really raised any issued about the Constitutionals and the purpose of tonight's memo was to address concerns the Board had expressed, and if they had raised concerns in any of those areas, they would have been listed in the memo. He also said no changes have been made to any of the Constitutional's request because the Board had not recommended any changes.

Commissioner Croley said one change he would like to have considered is for the County Administrator to discuss with Sheriff Young the possible move of Emergency Management and E-911 back under the Board because that is a responsibility of the Board and for some reason it was delegated out some years ago. He asked how many counties in Florida have it housed under the Sheriff's Department and Mr. Williams said approximately 10% of the 67 counties in Florida have it under the Sheriff. Commissioner Croley asked the Chair that this item be handled in whatever manner the Chair deems appropriate and not in an effort to slight anyone, but to look at the possibility of moving that back under the Board as it is the responsibility of the Board as assigned by law.

Chairman Lamb said he would have to get a majority vote of the Board to have the County Manager look into it.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to be sure that Commissioner Croley is asking for more of a discovery process, to have the County Administrator look into it but not to start the movement process of those departments under the auspices of the Board as they don't know whether they can manage it and what the costs would be to do that.

Commissioner Croley then made the motion that **A COMMUNICATION BE HELD WITH SHERIFF YOUNG ON MOVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND 911 ADDRESSING BACK UNDERNEATH THE BOARD THE WAY THE PRESENT STATUTES REQUIRE, AND THAT THE BOARD LOOKS AT THAT; TO LOOK AT**

**THE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF DOING IT.” COMMISSIONER MORGAN  
MADE A SECOND TO THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said she could not support this as she doesn't feel this is the proper time to consider this; it doesn't impact what is being done tonight and this was advertised as a Budget Workshop. She said she has no problem with the concept if it can be done fiscally and the Board can take care of it and provide the same level of services but she doesn't feel this is the right time to ask for this.

Commissioner Morgan said he would like to have some history on this why as to why it was moved several years ago, what the circumstances were.

Commissioner Croley explained these are two separate operations/functions of the Sheriff's Department, totally different than law enforcement and corrections, jail operations, etc.

Ms. Straughn “It was done as a settlement agreement with the Sheriff's Office.”

Commissioner Croley “A settlement agreement to give him additional revenue?”

Ms. Straughn “They did not budget him adequately –“

Mr. Williams “He challenged it to the Governor which he had the right to do and there was a settlement and this is what they agreed to do.”

Commissioner Taylor “They being?”

Mr. Williams “The Board and the Sheriff had an agreement. The Sheriff has the right to appeal his budget if he doesn't like it. I don't know who the Sheriff was then, but he did take that appeal to the Governor and he wanted more money and this is the settlement they reached and by giving him these two operations he would receive more money.”

After additional discussion **THE BOARD VOTED 3-1, BY VOICE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF  
THE MOTION AS STATED ABOVE.**

**Let the record reflect Commissioner Taylor voted against the Motion.**

Commissioner Morgan said there has been concerns expressed on abandoned, and/or neglected cemeteries throughout the County and asked if there are any funds to address that.

Mr. Williams said they had looked at it and there are probably many, many of those cemeteries throughout the County and that it looked like something they didn't want to get into because of the budget restraints.

Commissioner Morgan said it is something that would be worth checking into.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID HE WOULD MAKE A MOTION THAT AT LEAST A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS BE SET ASIDE TO ADDRESS THE MAINTENANCE OF THOSE TRULY ABANDONED/NEGLECTED CEMETERIES AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR REVIEW THIS AND BRING BACK INFORMATION OR AN OPTION ON THIS.**

Mr. Curtis Fletcher said in Liberty County they use the prison crews to do that type of work, and that is something the Board may want to consider with the two prison crews they are going to have.

Commissioner Morgan expressed concerns from conversations they have had for janitorial services in the County's libraries and the Board had talked about additional funds to address that as well. He also requested that if they are going to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> that the Board receive the information they will be considering at that meeting at least three days prior to the date of the meeting. He requested they have it by Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>. He further stated this is not nearly as productive as it needs to be because they do not have the information to look at. He said that is the third time he has brought this up.

Mr. Williams apologized and said they would do their best, but it will be very difficult based on everything the Board has given them to do.

Commissioner Morgan "Well, then I would appreciate a call that says we're not going to be able to do it so we're going to schedule it for a different date."

A question from the audience was raised concerning whether or not there had been any decision made on the paving of Avalanche Lane in Havana because Mr. Williams had stated at a workshop previously there was some legal issues on the shared costs and the residents would like to know if the County had found a way to come up with the \$18,000.00 and the residents pay the rest – one-third/two-thirds as has always been done in the past..

Mr. Williams said that has been discussed with the County Attorney and if Ms. Minnis was present that she would also state "if it's done on assessment basis, it's done the same for streets as it is for drainage ways, etc. and it must be assessed equally to all of the property owners"; it will assessed to the property owners at the full 100 % cost as that is State law. He said the County could do it if it was not on an assessment, if they were just doing it as a program on their own/ but if done as an assessment then the full amount has to be assessed to the property owners.

Commissioner Croley said he had spoken to the County Attorney on the property owners behalf and asked for a written opinion so the property owners would have something in writing that would fully explain it to every one. He said they do not, as of yet, have that from Ms. Minnis and if the Administrator would follow up the Board would still have time to consider this.

Chairman Lamb asked that the Administrator get with the county Attorney and advise her the Board needs something in writing for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting because they have all been

under the impression that it has always been done under one-third/two-thirds and if that is not legal they need something in writing.

Commissioner Croley said he noticed one member of the press making notes on the discussion of possibly moving Emergency Management and E-911 back under the Board, and he asked that the Administrator confer with the Sheriff, promptly, on the situation before it appears in the newspapers that a decision has been made when, in fact it hasn't.

Mr. Williams requested one more workshop and it was set for Thursday, September 2, 2010, at 4:00 PM.

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**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS TIME, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:45 PM.**

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**Chairman**

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**Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk**

As Transcribed by Deputy Clerk Jean Chesser