

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 4, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ.

PRESENT: Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5
Gene Morgan, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eugene Lamb, District 1
Doug Croley, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Johnny Williams, County Administrator
Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She then opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The roll was called by Muriel Straughn, deputy clerk, with all members present as listed above.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Item 4 was deleted from the agenda at the request of the county administrator.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED ABOVE.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Resolution Number 2011-003 Recognizing the Achievements of Onryll Lewis

Chair Taylor introduced Miss Onryll Lewis and read the above resolution into the record, then presented it to her. The resolution recognized her for having scored 500 on the FCAT test for the last two years on both parts. She is a student at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School.

2. National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, February 2011 Resolution 2011-004

Katie Jo Helm, Sr. Robert F. Munroe Day School Anchor Club read the proclamation into the record.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSION CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION AND DECLARED THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH IN GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

3. Community Redevelopment Agency Presentation

Charles Hayes, CRA Director of Quincy and Quincy Main Street Director addressed the board and made a report on the CRA of Quincy.

Havana Town Manager Howard McKinnon then did a similar report on behalf of Havana CRA.

Brief discussion followed with an understanding with the two cities that annual reports and financial audits must be filed each year with the Clerk of Court and with the board.

Mr. Hayes agreed to furnish the board with annual reports and financial audits for each year since the beginning of the CRA in Quincy in the year 2000. However, subsequent to this meeting, it was determined that separate financial audits do not exist until the FY 2008. Financial audits for 2008 and 2009 were filed with the Clerk and copied to the board.

Following discussion led by Commissioner Holt, it was clarified that even though the BOCC had asked for representation on the Quincy CRA, they do not have to do so as they can use those dollars as they see fit within the law. They are under no obligation to appoint a BOCC member to their board.

- ~~4. Update on Use of Hospital Building Office Space—Michael Glazer, Deputy County Attorney and Craig McMillan, Gadsden Hospital Inc., Board Chairman—This item was deleted from the agenda.~~

CONSENT AGENDA

Items 6 & 7 were pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE REMAINDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA, TO WIT:

5. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills

Accounts Payables Dated: December 17, 23, 2010

Payroll Dated: December 30, 2010

- ~~6. Approval to Accept County Commission Public Bonds for Re-elected Commissioner Douglas M. Croley and Commissioner Brenda A. Holt—Johnny Williams, County Administrator— This item was pulled for discussion. See below.~~
- ~~7. Signature of Chairman on Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification—Katherine Pondexter, CFO, GCSO—This item was pulled for discussion. See below~~

8. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens for Ebony Evans, Sylvia Cooper, Helenthia Rolax Stephens – Impact Fee Proviso (IFP) and State Housing Initiative (SHIP) Programs Clyde Collins, Building Official
9. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts for Winifred Stokes, Sally Ramsey through – Florida Homeownership Opportunity (FHOP) and State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Programs - Clyde Collins, Building Official

Consent Items Pulled for Discussion

6. **Approval to Accept County Commission Public Bonds for Re-elected Commissioner Douglas M. Croley and Commissioner Brenda A. Holt**

Commissioner Croley pointed out a mistake in the narrative, which is a part of the agenda report on this item. It states, “since Gadsden County does not currently have an ordinance in place regarding bonds for “County Officers,” it is not a mandatory requirement for County Officers.” - He noted for the record that the County does have an ordinance requiring bonds for all county constitutional officers. He then pointed out that the bonds do not track with the terms of office. Additionally, the premiums differ between the two commissioners, which does not make logical business sense. He questioned whether the prices were correct.

Commissioner Lamb suggested that when there are questions about items that are on the agenda, that the commissioner call the administrator in advance of the meeting to get clarification so that matters can be resolved more expeditiously.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE ACTION ON THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO GET CLARIFICATION.

7. **Signature of Chairman on Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification**

Commissioner Croley called attention to Page two of the report and asked if the money referenced in this agreement had already been spent and if it was asking for “Post Approval” of the paid expenditures.

Katherine Pondexter, Chief Financial Officer of the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office, explained that it is a report that has to be made annually showing how the money was spent. She clarified that it was not a post approval for monies which was spent without prior approval from the BOCC.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE CHAIRMAN’S SIGNATURE ON THE REPORT AND CERTIFICATION.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No citizen requests were received by the Clerk.

10. Public Hearing – Approval of Budget Amendments and Resolution to the FY 2010-2011 Budget Resolution 2011-001

Commissioner Croley objected to the way the amendments were “lumped together.” It was decided to review each amendment individually and vote on them.

OMB BA# 1100001 – Hospital Maintenance – The purpose of the amendment was to establish the budget for the maintenance for the entire fiscal year 2011. It was mistakenly left out of the budget approved in September. At the time the budget was adopted, it was uncertain as to what that position would actually cost. Since then, the cost has been determined to be \$80,000, which staff took from several categories rather than take it from the budgeted contingency fund or the unbudgeted general fund balance.

Croley:

Mr. Price, what I don’t understand is this – when we had our budget hearing and we set the budget – practically everything I see on this list was approved in the current budget. Why do we have to have a budget amendment to go back and do what the commission already approved? It was my understanding that we approved, for instance, this business about the hospital maintenance. Didn’t we set money in the budget for the hospital maintenance?

Price:

Not for the maintenance of that, we did not. Finance set up a new department, Department 50, for the maintenance for that and we just failed to budget money for that. That is why we have come back to you to do this now.

Croley:

Why did we fail?

Price:

It was miscommunication. Even the commission talked about \$120,000 at one time, but then the numbers were changing. During the transition, it just got misplaced.

Morgan:

Thank you for clearing some of his up for us. My first question is about Item Number 1 and the hospital maintenance fees. I do remember discussions about that and hence where those dollars were going to come from. My question or recollection is that I asked the question, “Could we use monies from the half-cent indigent care tax to fund the maintenance since a portion of that could be used for physical plant issues?” I know a portion of it had to go to debt service. I don’t remember the answer that I got, but is that a possibility?

Price:

I am not 100% sure on that. I would have to check on that.

Morgan:

That might be a question to ask rather than have to make adjustments. I have just received this, so I am not sure exactly what I am reading, but it says that you are reducing the budgets of the County Attorney by \$15,000, then Information Systems and Medicare Welfare by \$50,000.

Price:

Correct.

Morgan:

How did we come up with a reduction of \$50,000 in Medicare Welfare? Did we over budget by that much?

Price:

Last year they were over budget, I mean they were under budget by \$150,000. So, we thought we would have a little bit of leave way this year to take some of that money for this.

Morgan:

O.K. So, that was 450,000 we could have budgeted somewhere else already. I guess that is what I am saying.

Price:

Sure.

Morgan:

I have not ready the rest of these, like I say, I just got this. I may have some more questions in a minute, Madam Chair, but I haven't had a chance to look at all this.

Taylor:

Commissioner Holt?

Holt:

Yes.

Mr. Manager, I know I was on the commission for a while in the spring, then I retired and now I am back. We were looking at all this stuff in the budget before. This is a real, real problem with me. I am going to be honest with you. You are talking about moving several different things without a true explanation. You laid off 30 people, and I am just saying approximately 30 people. That \$400,000, the Clerk said was absorbed, so it is not there. Now, we are having to move money around again. This is another workshop date.

I keep asking for these workshops. You can't go and say we understand. To move \$50,000 from Medicare Welfare when we don't know what that section right there is going to look like later and what it is doing. What was the purpose of it in the first place?

You come down to the next one. You are going to move \$35,000. The next one says \$75,000. You cannot do stuff like that unless there is cohesiveness around this board in that we know what is going on. There is no way that I can vote for this. We have to have some clarification.

Now, it may be there. I will be honest with you. You were not here when I was raising sand about the budget in the spring. So were other commissioners. So, can we go through these five or six pages (or whatever the number of items here) and look at where that money is moved from and where it is going to.

Mr. Manager, I am not talking to him, really, because he wasn't here. But, we have to have some clarification, this board, before we can do anything. So, if you can tell me something tonight, I am willing to go along with it. But, that is the only way we can consent and go and do it.

Now, we can do it on some of the items, but I need some explanation as to why there was this many? Some of them, when I look at them, I agree with them.

Taylor:

Mr. Administrator, do you want to answer the commissioner's questions? –

Williams:

Well, you know, one of the things that were said earlier is that if you need clarification that is what I am there for. As a matter of fact, I met with our Madam Chairperson today with Jeff and we went over every single one of these items because she had questions. I would do the same for any of you. Anybody that is sitting at this table.

Holt:

Madam Chair, may I respond?

Taylor:

Sure.

Holt:

I do not mind calling the manager, but when something goes on the agenda, and it needs clarification, that is his job. You shouldn't have to call for that. That is not what you call for. WE have e-mail. But, the bottom line of it is this. Some of these things, like I said, I agree with. But, now, if it is taking money from "A" to go to "B," that is where I need to know the clarification – Is it going to hurt "A" to move it? That is the only thing. Like I said, some of these, I can vote for right now. But, that is why we need to go individually.

Taylor:

We are going to do exactly that. I have taken your request and followed through on it.

Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

I just want to say this. All this business about having to call all the time about everything and getting big long clarifications. Let me tell you something. These ordinances say that if we don't have all this information ten days in advance, and that includes all these extra write-ups that always get thrown in front of me, (and this was a complaint that I had with the prior administration) this item is supposed to be deferred to the next meeting. Now, that is in the ordinances.

Now, I am willing to go ahead, but, Mr. Price, you are on this fulltime. Sorry, but I am not here for the status quo. So, if I am offending anybody – get over it because here is a fact. I don't like doing business like this. We should have all this straight in this year's budget. You've got all this computer system. Mr. Administrator, you should know exactly what the situation is here on these budget items. As it is right now, we knew we had to maintain the hospital. I thought we put the money in for the hospital maintenance. (I see Commissioner Morgan nodding his head in agreement.) And yet, I find out that it is not. And, I am going to be on your case about some other things as we go through here.

Madam Chair, I am going to move to approve this simply because they've got the money. But, don't come up telling me that the attorney is short or whatever in this book and other things are short later in the year because ya'll didn't plan. I can only act on information that I am given. So, I make the motion that it be approved unless somebody else has something to add.

Taylor:
Hold your motion for just a second.

Croley:
I will hold it.

Taylor:
I am going to yield to the attorney for a moment. Now, let's back up for just a second. I understand the frustration from my colleague, but let's keep our comments directed where it should be and obviously, it is not Mr. Price because he was not here and we had two or three directors as we were going through the budgeting process. So, let's hold the pen right there.

This is a public hearing. As we go through each of these items, those of you who are in the audience are welcome to come up and voice your opinion from the discussions on each of these items individually. So, I need to say that for the public record.

Now, Commissioner Morgan, you had a comment.

Morgan:
I do. Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I do agree with most of the comments that I have heard around the table tonight because it is frustrating, particularly on something as important as the budget. I do want to say this and I know that the board will remember. You know, this past year, we have done so many things very well regarding the budget. That is why we had more money to put back in the county coffers than we have ever have in the history of Gadsden

County. We had a budget and we stuck to it. So, it is not all bad things. We are working our way through some things here.

Mr. Price, I have talked to you a few times and I appreciate some of the things you have done, particularly your last quarterly update that you provided. I thought it was very good. The frustration that I think you hear is - we, obviously, cannot run the day-to-day operations. We don't know every single line item in the budget. If there is one missing after we talk about it that can be a little bit frustrating. I am sure you have heard that in the past in your years of experience in doing this. But all of that to say that the thing that I would like to hear is what are we talking about taking from fund balances in order to have this work out? I haven't looked at each individual one. That is what I need to hear before I can vote one way or another. If that is alright with the rest of the board. What is the net difference? If we are taking \$100,000 that has not been budgeted and we are having to take that from fund balance to put over there. That is what I need to hear. I can see where we are talking about reducing certain areas to make that work out, but it looks like a couple of these items are having to pull from fund balance because we didn't have it budgeted. Is that correct or am I misreading that?

Price:

I believe one item, yes.

Morgan:

Just one item. O.K.

So, what is the net effect on fund balance?

Price:

From fund 112, County Transportation, we are taking \$239,000 from their fund balance.

Morgan:

But that we have had discussion and have already approved that. That is for Frank Smith Road Project isn't it?

Price:

No, that is for equipment for Public Works.

Morgan:

So, we did not have that budgeted. I thought we did. We had already talked about it.

Price:

Yes, we had talked about it, but it was in the wrong spot.

Morgan:

Right. O.K. What I am asking is what monies out of fund balance have to come that we do not have budgeted?

Price:

Under general fund, there is no fund balance.

Morgan:

We aren't moving any monies from fund balance to do anything on these amendments?

Price:

No.

Taylor:

I had a chance to meet with the administrator and the director of this department and if we will go through these one by one, I believe we can move them one by one expeditiously. You will find out all you need to know.

So starting with the first item 11-001: It is clear that this item will be taking items from all these other line items. What Mr. Price has told us is that they looked at the history and what happened last year and a year from there and saw they had an opportunity to move these dollars and not affect services for this year. So, this is very comfortable for them to do this. Now, yes, Commissioner Croley and Commissioner Morgan, we did discuss maintenance. We did not know the exact amount that we would have to budget for the year. But, remember Clyde was out during a couple of those workshops. So, we never nailed down a specific amount. So, let's go ahead and get this \$80,000 over there so we can maintain our portion of the hospital.

So, you make your motion.

Croley:

I make that motion.

Morgan:

I second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second. We have already had discussion again. This is a public hearing. Any citizen who wishes to come up and speak to this item may do so at this time.

There being none, all in favor to move this item, please let it be known

Holt:

Question.

Taylor:

I am sorry, there is a question.

Holt:

I am not in favor of this at all. I just can't do it. Even though they may be comfortable with moving the money, we don't know.

Taylor:
What I have gotten from him

Holt:
I understand. I understand. I am not going to prolong it.

Taylor:
No. No. I want to hash some facts for you because I appreciate your inquiries. There was \$150,00 surplus last year under the Medicaid. \$150,000 surplus dollars that were not spent. So, they are saying take \$50,000 of that and still have \$100,000 cushion based on history. All of this is based on history. Same thing with the \$15,000 for the attorney who has done an excellent job of keeping their costs down as well as IT. So, the dollars that they are taking won't affect services or quality of services. So, your comment has been taken. There is a motion and second. All in favor to approve this item, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

Morgan: Aye.

Croley: Aye.

Lamb: Aye.

Taylor: Aye.

Taylor:
Opposed, by the same sign.

Holt:
No.

Taylor:
Make that 4 – 1 for Item 11-001.

11-003 Again, this is a public hearing. Mr. Price.

Price:
Yes, this is simply an on-going grant for the EMS County Grant. We are re-establishing that into this fiscal year for EMS to purchase A/C power adapters for cardiac monitors.

Taylor:
Thank you, sir. There is no impact on our budget at all. We are just moving this money forward. Correct?

Morgan:
Any match for the grant? We aren't required to make a match?

Williams:
No.

Taylor:
I saw Commissioner Holt's hand.

Holt:
Yes. What is the amount?

Price:
\$4,341.86.

Holt:
Thank you.

Taylor:
Again, ladies and gentlemen, this is a public hearing. If anyone wishes to speak on this matter, you may do it at this time. (pause) Hearing none, may I get a motion?

Lamb:
So moved.

Croley:
Second.

Taylor:
We have a motion and a second. All in favor of approval of Item 11-003, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Taylor:
Opposed by the same sign. (no response) Ms. Muriel, that is 5 – 0.

Mr. Price, 11-004.

11-004

Price:
This is to carry forward funds from fiscal year 10 to fiscal year 11 for two projects. One is the Drake Acres Park, which is a FDAP grant and then also for the Shelfer Park for \$35,000.

Taylor:
Can I get a motion. Yes, this is a public hearing. Are there any citizens who wish to speak on this item? (no response) Hearing none, Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

You see, this is another thing. I support the parks- Shelfer Park and Drake Acres improvement with the grant. We had \$35,000 specifically budgeted this year for Shelfer Park. We said that in the budget. It was repeated in here several times. What I don't understand is why wasn't that money automatically in the budget if we approved it that way?

Price:

Right. This is just an accounting technical issue bringing it into the new fiscal year accounting software.

Williams:

Well one of the things

Taylor:

Excuse me just a moment.

Do you want to yield?

Croley:

Yeah, I want to hear what he has to say.

Williams:

Well, one of the things that we all need to understand is that we essentially have two budgets. We have a line item budget by departments, which is what you are referring to as being approved. Then, we have a budget by funds. What we are doing here, in effect, is amending the budget by funds to move the money forward. That is essentially controlled by the Clerk's finance office, whereas we essentially control the line item departmental budgets. It is a mechanism for changing it from one fund to another in the budget by funding.

Croley:

So, in essence, as far as your explanation is for the record, this is doing nothing more than what we basically approved in the budget process and reconfirming it.

Williams:

It is doing the same thing as putting it in the fund budget.

Croley:

I will move when you get ready.

Taylor:

So, for clarity, what we are doing is – Are you moving \$35,000 from last year into this year's budget? Or, are you justifying the \$35,000 that is in this year's budget? If you move what we had last year that we did not spend into this year's budget with the \$35,000 we budgeted, then you should have \$70,000 there. So, what are we doing? Do you follow what I am saying?

Price:

I follow what you are saying.

Taylor:

So, if we are moving it forward, and, as Commissioner Croley said so eloquently a moment ago, we already budgeted it, so there should already be \$35,000 there. If we are moving this, then we should have \$70,000. So, just for clarity, What is happening?

Price:

The \$35,000 that we budgeted for is for the budget side. The \$35,000 that we doing here is moving it from the accounting FY 10 into the accounting FY 11.

Taylor:

So, what is the total for this line item?

Price:

\$35,000.

Taylor:

Thank you very much.

There is a motion on the floor. There is a motion and a second. Again, this is a public hearing. There is a motion and a second. Are there any other questions? (no response) All in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed, the same sign. (No response.) Five to zero, Ms. Muriel.

11-005 Mr. Price.

Price:

This is to transfer \$75,000 for Shelfer Park from the Reserve for Contingency to the Capital Projects account.

Taylor:

Again, this is a public hearing. If anybody wishes to speak on this item, now is the time. Hearing none, we will now have questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Morgan?

Morgan:

Jeff, this is what I was asking you earlier. Not this particular item, but with anything on here coming out of fund balance. Is this not coming out of fund balance?

Price:

It is coming out of Reserve for Contingency.

Morgan:
Money that was not budgeted is what I am saying.

Price:
The Reserve for Contingency is budgeted.

Morgan:
How much do we have in reserves?

Price:
I think we are down to \$168,000.

Williams:
If you approve this amendment, it will leave us with about \$57,000 in contingency.

Morgan:
Thank you. So, basically, we started out a new fiscal year with about \$280,000 in Reserves for Contingency. We are one third way through the year and now we are down to \$60,000 essentially.

Price:
Right.

Morgan:
Should we be concerned about that or what?

Price:
I think the county administrator will have some good news later.

Taylor:
Yes, I do, too. Based on our discussions earlier.

Morgan:
I need to hear it before we vote on this. (Laughter)

Williams:
You want to hear the good news? Well the good news is that we're getting more money from the State in our Fiscally Constrained funds than we have in the budget. About \$200,000 more.

Morgan:
Now, is that what is budgeted? We haven't received that yet, correct?

Williams:
Yeah, but they passed it. We have budgeted \$1.068 million. We're expecting to receive \$1.257 million.

Morgan:
Is it before they meet in the session coming up?

Taylor:
It has already been approved in the last legislative session.

Morgan:
They know how to take that money back, you know.

Taylor:
Well, it has already been approved, so, actually you are looking at a plus of \$189,000.

Morgan:
I know this park means a lot, particularly to Commissioner Lamb. I know we have parks in other areas of the county, if I am not mistaken.

Lamb:
But, it will mean more to the citizens of Havana.

Morgan:
I understand that, but I am speaking to you because you worked hard to get that done. O.K. If you all are saying that we've got \$200,000 more dollars that I wasn't aware of, then that sure does make me feel better.

Taylor:
Commissioner Croley?

Croley:
If you have people that want to speak on it, then let's hear from them, then I have something that I want to ask .

Taylor:
Sure, I have already opened it up for public hearing. But, again, this an agendaed item as well, number 11. Right now we are doing budget amendments, so you might want to wait until number 11 and then speak. But, right now, we are going through the budget amendment process. I see nods. Unless there is someone else who wants to speak, you are more than welcomed.

Chapman:
May I, Madam Chair?

The item 11 actually speaks to this budget amendment specifically. It is duplicitous in its nature. It is actually providing more information about this budget amendment. It was a minor scrivener miscommunication between Mr. Price and me, so I apologize for that. But item 11 actually explains more about this budget amendment in order to provide more background information.

Croley:

Point of order, Madam Chair. Knowing that, I wanted to know if we could defer a decision on this item until we hear Item 11. I think the proper motion would be to lay this item on the table until we hear Item 11 which is more detail about it.

Taylor:

The only issue I have with doing that is that this is a public hearing item and it needs to be heard at this particular time. It was an agendaed item and we don't need to hear this particular item under General Business. So, it has to be heard because of what is being asked here and what is being put in front of this board. It has to be heard at this time.

Croley:

I understand, but I was looking for some interpretation. I saw her nodding so it remains my concern that I want to see District 1 get its park. I don't have a problem with that. But I have a concern about the cash flow at the rate this commission is spending money. I will say more about that at that time.

Taylor:

Again, I think I have already asked you guys, you citizens, if you want to be heard on this or do you want to wait until that particular item under General Business. So, I am going to ask that we move on Budget Amendment 11-005.

Lamb:

So moved.

Taylor:

There is a motion, is there a second?

Holt:

Second.

Taylor :

There is a motion and a second that we move Item Budget Amendment 11-005. All in favor of this item, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed by the same sign.

(no response)

Make that 5 – 0 for approval of 11-005.

Mr. Price.

Price:

We are on 11-006. This is taken in conjunction with 11-008. I would like to go to number 8 first because that is really where it begins. This is taking money from the general fund and transferring it to the building inspection fund. Now, going back to number 6 – this is taking the money that we just transferred into the building inspection fund and dispersing it into the expense accounts that it needs to be. This is for a vacant position that was filled in the building department.

Taylor:

So you are taking money from one department, the planning department, to finance a new position, which is housed under the building inspection department. And you are asking for a transfer of dollars between these two departments in the amount of \$20,154.

Price:

No, we are not transferring any money from the planning department. It is simply coming from the general fund to the building inspection department for some additional cost for the personnel. The new person.

Taylor:

You are transferring a position under the planning department to the building inspection department.

Price:

We are transferring a position. Correct.

Taylor:

I am clear now.

Commissioner Holt.

Holt:

I was about to say, "Did we lose someone?" So, that position did not exist.

Price:

A person from planning has been moved to the building inspections department.

Holt:

I understand that. Was that someone in building inspection that left?

Price:

There was a vacant position in last year's budget that this position is being filled with.

Holt:

Did we fire someone that we didn't know about?

Price:
I don't believe so.

Williams:
She retired.

Price:
She retired.

Holt:
She retired. O.K. I just needed to know how that position came about. Under the building inspection department – you said number 8. The increase there is coming out of general fund?

Price:
Yes.

Holt:
\$20,000. I will hold my comments until after this item.

Taylor:
I think we are all as clear as mud on this one. Commissioner Morgan?

Morgan:
Jeff, you have heard me say this two or three times tonight, but is that money not coming from fund balance? Where is that money coming from?

Price:
It is not coming from fund balance.

Morgan:
It says general fund transfers.

Price:
Right.

There are transfers that we have budgeted for to various departments from general fund. We are just reducing one of those transfers by the \$20,000.

Morgan:
Just making sure.

Taylor:
Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

I am still not sure. It says move from general fund to the building inspection fund to cover the cost of the new position. Well, what is this new position?

Price:

It is a vacant position that the person retired and so it is a permit tech position. It will be filled by the new person.

Williams;

Let me say a few words about this.

We had a GIS coordinator in the planning department. It was not really a fulltime position. We transferred that person to building inspection to be an assistant to Clyde, with the recommendations of Clyde and Anthony. Then we had a clerk who resigned last year and freed up \$25,000. We are using the differences to replace the GIS person with a planner, an entry level planner. This budget amendments are designed to effectuate these changes.

Croley:

O.K. Well, the person who was GIS and moved to the building inspection department, what is that person going to be doing in the building inspection department.

Williams:

I think Clyde is going to make him a building inspector. Is that correct?

Croley:

How many building inspectors – is this an additional building inspector or a replacement of a building inspector?

Collins:

Actually, what Spencer is going to be doing – we moved him from planning and zoning over to our department – he will be helping with permits, be my permit tech, he will be basically helping with anything we need him to do. We lost one. We have taken on two or three other departments. I just can't keep up with all the paper work and all the agenda items and all the stuff that we are doing as far as projects. We moved him over there so that he could help us. That is basically what that is for.

Croley:

So, now you've got a clerk though that is in the planning department that has retired?

Collins:

No, the clerk was in our office. She resigned and left. We have taken her salary plus a little bit more and put it him.

Croley:

My last question is who is going to do the GIS work and printing those maps, etc.

Williams:

Well, all planners this day and time are trained in GIS as is our new planner. Antony is experienced in GIS as well. So, we are covered.

Croley:

You are covered for the record. O.K. I would move approval.

Taylor:

Alright. First of all, this is a public hearing. If you have come to speak on this issue, you may do so at this time. (There was no response.)

There is a motion on the floor for Item 11-006. Do I have a second?

Lamb:

Second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second. All in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed by the same sign.

(no response)

Make that 5 – 0.

Now I need a motion on Amendment 11-008.

Lamb:

So moved.

Taylor:

There is a motion.

Morgan:

Second.

Taylor:

Again, this is a public hearing. Before I carry this item, I want to make sure that the public has an opportunity to speak. (No response.) Are there any questions on this item, Commissioners?

(No response) There is a motion and a second on the floor. All in favor of this item, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Taylor:
Opposed, the same sign. (No response)

Make that 5 – 0 on Amendment 11-008.

Price:

On Amendment 11-009 – this is fund 313 – we had a balance of \$361,000. It was all in one project. The Road Safety Enhancement project. This is simply taking \$132,000 that Charles will talk about later with a change order, and putting it all into the Frank Smith project. That is all.

Taylor:

This is a public hearing on Item number 11-009. We are going to be moving \$132,000 into finishing up a road project on Frank Smith. You may have public input at this time if you wish to do so. (There was no response.)

Morgan:
I move approval.

Holt:

I have a question and I will second the approval. On that project, Commissioner Lamb knows that I was not crazy about moving one park in my district over to his and I am happy that we are going to finish it up so we can apply for new money. Maybe I can get back in there. But, I thought we had finished up on Frank Smith. Did we not? What is going on with that?

Croley:

Well, they finished it up. Look, this stuff is all out of order, in my opinion, because we are not getting the details like you are asking for because the project is complete and I believe you did it for less money and returned about \$17,000 or \$18,000 back in as a result of savings on the project. So, this is an overstatement of the transfer, isn't it Charles?

Chapman:

The further details that are referenced in your agenda book can be found under Item 12 for this particular project. Yes, the project is complete. This is the first public hearing that we have had available to do a budget amendment to finish out the costs. We have been able to reduce the construction costs by working with the engineers and with the contractor of record. The original contracted price was awarded back in July 2010 at \$249,000 and some change. The current ending price for the construction cost is \$17,342 less than that contracted approved price that was ordered by the BOCC. We are simply asking for the budget amendment \$132,071.80 to round out the approved funding. There was \$100,000 already approved in the budget. This will just round out the expenses and let us close this project out.

Holt:

My question was not that. I read the item. My question was this. So, the project is finished. Are we approving the money after the project?

Chapman:
Yes.

Holt:
How can we do that?

Williams:
It has been approved.

Holt:
No, No, no. That is not what I am saying. I am saying that you are moving the money after the project is finished.

Croley:
This should have been done.

Williams:
Did you see the memo that Charles wrote? We had this on the agenda last fall. For some reason, it was pulled. I can't remember why it was pulled. I think it was because the engineer wanted to wait until we got the final cost.

Chapman:
I am not really sure. I would have to go back and read the meeting minutes, but I believe that there was quite a lengthy discussion at the August 3, 2010 was addressing the additional monies for this project that would have brought it up to \$200,000, but at that meeting, the engineering staff as well as county staff that a change order would be coming – that we were reducing the scope of the project, that it would cost less money. The board had already committed by awarding the contract to Duggar Excavating in July for almost a quarter million dollars worth of contracted price.

Holt:
So, we are back to my point.

Chapman:
Yes, ma'am. The board approved already with that contract, a quarter of a million dollars. They committed to a quarter of a million dollars. This is just simply a budget amendment to honor that contractual price at the reduced construction rate.

Holt:
Not really.

Lamb:
Madam Chairman.

Taylor:
Commissioner.

Lamb:
To really go back on this. We approved the contract. That was approved. So, all we are doing now is honoring the contract, really, by approving this budget amendment.

Holt:
So, the money was already there?

Lamb:
Yeah.

Holt:
That was my point and my question.

Taylor:
Well, actually, the money was not already there. That is what we are doing here tonight.

Holt:
I know.

Taylor:
We are moving some dollars over to pay for it. That is why the amendment. But, we approved the amount. Now, we are finding ways to pay it.

O.K. again. Do I have a motion for approval for 11-009?

Holt:
Yes, you had a motion by Commissioner Morgan.

Morgan:
And a second.

Taylor:
We have a motion and a second and I did ask for public comments. We have so many of these, please forgive me if I get off on them. There is a motion and a second. Are there any questions or concerns? There being none, all in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Taylor:
Opposed, the same sign.

Make that 5 – 0 for 11-009.

Mr. Price.

Price:

Thank you. Amendment 11-013. This is when we talk about fund balance. This is taking \$239,000 from fund 112, which is the county transportation and appropriating it to machinery and equipment to purchase a backhoe, a flatbed truck, and some work trucks. According to finance, the balance in there is approximately \$400,000 in that transportation fund balance.

Taylor:

In essence, what is happening here is that we are taking money that was budgeted in the wrong line item and now putting it in the correct line item for this particular purchase.

Price:

Right.

Taylor:

Again, this is a public hearing on this particular item where we are moving monies from one item that was approved during the approval of our budget, but didn't put it in the correct line item. Are there any public comments? If not, Commissioners, what say you?

Lamb:

So moved.

Croley:

Second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second. Are there any questions or concerns?

Holt:

I will hold my comments until the end.

Taylor:

I appreciate that very much.

There is a motion and second. All in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed, same sign. (No response)

That is 5 – 0, Ms. Muriel on Amendment 11-013.

Mr. Price.

Price:

Amendment 11-014 is just a housekeeping item. Finance identified a \$15.00 mathematical error in a calculation and this is just fixing that.

Taylor:

Again, this is a public hearing. If you wish to address this item, you may do so at this time. If not, Commissioners?

Lamb:

So moved.

Croley:

Second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second to approve amendment 11-014. Are there any questions or concerns. Being none, all in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed, same sign.

(no response)

Make that 5 – 0, Ms. Muriel on 11-014.

Mr. Price.

Price:

Thank you.

Amendment 11-016 is taking the \$75,000 for Shelfer Park from fund 344 and transferring it down into the project itself so it can be spent.

Taylor:

Again, this is a public hearing on Amendment 11-016. What is happening here is that we are taking it out of Capital Projects, which is where we put it earlier on this agenda, now we are putting it into an account for Shelfer Park. So, we are taking it out of one and putting it in another so that construction can begin on this project.

Croley:
Just for the record, we are not adding another \$75,000.

Williams:
No.

Croley:
I understand.

Taylor:
We are just moving it into there. So, we should be looking at the total \$110,000 at this time. The \$35,000 that we moved forward and now the \$75,000.

All in favor of this motion, well excuse me – do we have a motion

Lamb:
So moved.

Croley:
Second.

Taylor:
We have a motion and a second. Are there any questions, Commissioners? Hearing none, all in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Taylor:
All opposed, by the same sign. (No response)

Ms. Muriel, make that 5 – 0 for 11-016.

Is that it for you?

Holt:
Comment.

Taylor:
Yes.

Holt:
Commissioners, I have been on this board since 2002. I have never seen such a mess like this in my life. I know you have complained about other commissions and I have argued like I don't know what with Commissioner Dixon over some items, but he will tell you that he thought I was going to blows with him. But, these I save. I have a stack going back to 2002. I always save

them because I am afraid an audit is going to come and I am going to get stuck in it. But, this is a mess. You don't give this to a board on the evening of because it is money and it is not our money. This should not happen. Just let me put it that way. There are some good projects. They are good projects and I approve of almost all of them. It is just that when we do it, we have to be able to study this and not save it for two weeks. No, they were lumped together. In fact, I appreciate this part. I appreciate it because it is what I was asking for. Give me an explanation of what you are moving and why. But you don't do it by lumping them together. This shouldn't have been done and it is very unprofessional. It is very dangerous when it comes to taxpayers dollars. I don't think it should have been done.

I will be honest with you. I think and you all know how I feel about this. We need a change in administration. This is a good example of it. You don't do it. You just don't do it. It is not something that you do. We – not knowing how these other areas from where we are pulling money are going to look like at the end of the year, I don't feel safe with that. That is all I need to say, Madam Chairman.

Taylor:

Thank you. I can appreciate your comments, but I would rather have us take care of the issues on this side of an audit as opposed to having auditors come in and find them and then have findings. I can appreciate it not being palatable, but we are foresighted enough to see these areas and bring them before this board and have the proper proceeding so that we can correct them. We have done that tonight. I concur that it does not look right, but at least we can honestly say that we put forth a good effort. Considering the fact that there were so many change overs during our budgeting process, we had three different directors that came through at that time. They all had a hand in our 2010/2011 budget.

Excuse me, Mr. Administrator.

We had so many people working on that budget at that time, Commissioner Holt. But we made it through because of deadlines and constraints. I am glad that we did and I am even more proud that we found errors and we were able to correct them tonight before they landed up in the hands of our auditors. So, that is a plus sign.

Holt:

So, Commissioner Taylor, we should have work shopped this. This is something that we should have sat down and looked at.

Taylor:

They were amendments that required public hearings, though.

Holt:

I understand, but we could workshop it and not vote on it. That way, we would have gotten in there and found what we needed and we would have known what those accounts looked like where monies were moved from. That is all that I am saying. I am not disagreeing with the projects. The projects, I agree with.

Taylor:

I have to agree with you. Somebody should have been able to go through it and discussed it at length. But, then there were some sensitive items that we needed to correct right away. But I appreciate your comments and I am certainly not demeaning them at all.

Moving on, Mr. Administrator. General Business.

GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business

11. Approval of Budget Amendment for Shelfer Park Infrastructure Improvements – construction of the parking lot, walking trail, security lighting, fencing, driveway, culvert and stub plumbing – this item was approved earlier in the meeting as Amendment 11 – 016. However, the Chair recognized the following people for public comments.

- Shirley Aaron; 101 Cherry Ave., Havana, FL - She thanked the board for giving them the park.
- Nell Cunningham, 310 Bostick Road - She thanked the Board for their service and she spoke of her commitment to make Havana a better place.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0 TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR SHELFER PARK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

12. Approval of Change Order Number 1 for Frank Smith Road Repair Project with Duggar Excavating, Inc. and Authorize the Chairperson to Execute

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 1, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER 1 DESCRIBED ABOVE WITH CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSING ON THE BASIS THAT SHE NEVER APPROVES OF A CHANGE ORDER.

13. Ratification of Five Day-Eight Hour Work Week for Public Works Operations

This item was placed on the agenda for discussion at the request of Commissioner Holt. He explained that he changed the Public Works Department from a four day work week to a five day work week on July 16, 2009 because he felt it was a better way to conduct business. While he did not believe that the five-day workweek needed the approval of the board, he sought their ratification.

Charles Chapman, Public Works Director, directed the board to the analysis he had prepared in the agenda report. It included the benefits and advantages and disadvantages of a four day, 10 hour day, workweek versus the five day, 8 hours a day workweek.

He stated that the number of customer complaints have been reduced because of their availability on Fridays compared to the previous years. He also said that the fuel consumption has been reduced over the last year.

Holt:

We did a study in 2005 or 2006 before they went to the four day work week and there were cost savings. When I was listening to the board when the board changed and they wanted to do cost savings, the public works people said the same thing that I said, "Go back to the four day work week" because you save in transportation and in fuel and in man hours going back and forth to the sites. That is what we looked at in those savings. So, if there is not an analysis currently, then let's do one and see if it saves any money. If it doesn't save any money, then we can continue what we are doing. I think that would be a good recommendation instead of recommending one or the other. Look at it. If it saves money, let's do it. If it doesn't, then we don't.

Morgan:

I just had a couple of quick comments. Number 1 – we are hearing from the director of public works regarding the fuel consumption – we are not seeing an increase at all in the five day work week. I had actually heard a lot of praises for going back to the five day workweek from our citizens. We are offering another day of service to the taxpayers and it has been running very efficiently. I appreciate it.

Bottom line though, quite frankly, this is a decision for the county administrator. He runs the day to day operations and that is not something that we need to delve into as long as it appears to be working. There are always alternatives to really run any department. That is not our jobs. What our job to do is to either agree or not agree with how effective our administrator, overall, has performed. And, we heard just recently about how well we are performing financially due to some major changes and overhaul our administrator has made. Quite honestly, if it had not been Mr. Williams, there would have been somebody else in that spot that would have had to make some tough decisions just because of the nature of the economy. They were good ones for the most part. I applaud him for that and I think this is something that we need to put on his desktop and move on to other items of looking at policy and how our tax payer dollars are budgeted and those type things. This is an operational thing that we don't need to - there is no need for this, in my opinion.

Taylor:

Thank you. Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

Very briefly, I agree with Commissioner Morgan. On this one, I am going to have to disagree with Commissioner Holt on. There will probably other things that we will agree on, but on this one, I will take exception. First of all, all this four day work week got started with some of these DOT departments. If you're working out at Midway and you've got to send equipment down to Sumatra that is a long haul. That is a different matter. Your equipment, for the most part, you move around the county and leave on your job sites anyway, do you not, Mr. Chapman?

Chapman:
Correct.

Croley:
So, you don't have all that mobilization that I used to hear comments made about in here. Second thing is just what Commissioner Morgan referenced about good customer service. When you have a rainy day on a four-day workweek and your men are sitting at the barn and maybe you were supposed to be doing training or whatever. But, the truth of the matter is that they miss a day of work. So, if you have to turn out on Friday, you've got to pay overtime. Is that not correct?

Chapman:
That is correct.

Croley:
So, it cost you more money. In our rainy season during the summer months, when people see the motor grader sitting on the side of the road and say, "Well, it could be scraping my road or you could be cleaning out my ditches or you could be picking up that trash," whatever the case may be, but those employees are not there. Then we also had complaints from some of the employees that were running outside businesses on the side, is that not true, on that extra day off. So, I can understand that they don't like it. But at the same time, I am interested in customer service and cost to the county. It comes back that, truthfully, as pointed out, this man and this lady are the two people that we look to on a day to day basis to run and perform the county government. I think this is an intrusion into the county administrator's authority and I think it is an intrusion and perhaps even a violation of Florida Statutes to get engaged in telling him what the work schedules are going to be for the public works crews. I think that we have two good people. Let them run it and let us stay out of it. I don't think we need to tie up a lot more study.

Holt:
Commissioner Taylor, may I speak.

Taylor:
Yes.

Holt:
Thank you. This was my item and I do appreciate you allowing me to rebut some of these statements.

We had no business in the layoffs, but you made sure you were involved in that, commissioners. You made sure that the \$400,000 was used after you laid the people off. So, that was really none of our business either. That money should be sitting in the bank. That is what you told the citizens when you had the layoffs. So, you voted for the layoffs. Those people are laid off. You didn't care about whether that was the manager's decision or not. So, don't tell me that all of a sudden, this is an intrusion upon the manager's authority.

Financial changes, fiscal changes that is what you did. You took that money and you put it where you wanted it to be. O.K. Now, the manager could have done the recommendations in those and you could have stayed out of personnel pool anyway. Those people didn't have to be laid off, but you jumped in there. You spent those monies.

If you were worried about rainy days, why not on rainy days, do OSHA training. That way, you don't have to worry about accidents and different problems we have had with employee training.

Also legal issues that have been settled because of lack of OSHA training. This item – you want to save money, Commissioners, where you want to save money at. You are not interested in those citizens who say, “Look at this and analyze this and look at it and see if a four day work week saves money.” I am not asking that you go to a four day work week. You are saying that it is an intrusion on Mr. Williams, territory. You are his evaluators and you are saying it is o.k. to lay this person off, don't lay that one off. You know what happened at EMS with all that mess and those legal issues. You are ignoring other legal issues that are going to cost us money that could have been settled. So, don't come here and say all of a sudden, when you have to look at “Can we save a little money by going to a four day work week instead of a five?” Then there is a problem. It is an intrusion upon Mr. Williams's territory. No it is not – it is your job.

All I am asking of you is to look at whether it will save money. Why should that be such an effort for this board's part to do that? If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. I am not saying that Mr. Williams should go to a four day work week or not. That argument will come upon his evaluation.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Taylor:

This item was really just for discussion. I think we have had the opportunity to go over it.

Mr. Administrator, if you do see where it is warranted to do an evaluation, then do so. If not, then, again, that is up under your auspices as our administrator.

So, we will move this item. I don't

Holt:

There is a recommendation, Madam Chairman. So, that means it requires a vote.

Morgan:

I would move that we ratify the five eight hour day workweek for the public works department.

Lamb:

Second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second for Option 1 to ratify the five day workweek. There is a motion and there is a second. Is there any more discussion?

Holt:
Yes.

Taylor:
Commissioner Holt, if there is not a question, we are going to move it.

Holt:
It is not a question. You said if there was any other discussion.

Taylor:
Questions – I will respect you.

Holt:
The discussion on this is for the analysis – not for the move. His recommendation was to ratify. My question was for an analysis to be done. Not for him to go to a four day workweek.

Taylor:
Any other questions? I have already given, from this chair, direction to the manager to use his discretion as to how he wants to move forward with this. If he wants to do an analysis, then that is his privilege. If not, then again, that is the manager's responsibility.

There is a motion and a second for Option 1. All in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

**Morgan: Aye.
Croley: Aye.
Lamb: Aye.
Taylor: Aye**

Opposed by the same sign.

**Holt:
No.**

**Taylor:
Make that 4 – 1 to approve for Item 13.**

14. Discussion of RFP for State Lobbying Services

Taylor:
Before we can entertain this particular item, we have to put Robert's Rule of Order into play. Again, it was tabled, so what we have to do is look to those who were in the majority to table

this item to ask that it now be put back up for discussion. So there has to be a motion on the floor to put this item back up for discussion then move forward.

Croley:

Madam Chair, for clarification, it was moved – I made the motion to lay on the table until we could hear from the legislative delegation, who was supposed to be working on getting a meeting as they usually do for the county commissioners. So, it was to get a report on what impact privatization and other things may have on in terms of state operations. So, I just wanted to remind you and the commission that was the reason it was laid on the table. It was not laid on the table to delay or kill the effort.

Taylor:

That is totally understood. I did have the opportunity to speak to one of our delegates who thought it would be wise to bring this thing back up and put an RFP out. So.

Lamb:

I also have talked to the delegation concerning this. I am not waiting for them to come to me, I went to them.

Taylor:

So, let's do this, gentlemen and lady – let's again offer a motion at this time to discuss this item and see if we can move forward with an RFP.

Lamb:

So moved.

Taylor:

There is a motion. Is there a second?

Morgan:

I will second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and second to just bring this item back up at this time for discussion and possibly approval to move forward to do an RFP. Are there any questions? (No response) There being none, all in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed by the same sign.

(No response)

Make that 5 – 0 to begin discussion on Item Number 14.

Let me yield to you and make sure that I went through the process correctly.

Minnis:

It is officially taking the item off the table and that is what the motion was for.

Taylor:

To officially take the item off the table and bring it for discussion and possible and possible approval for RFP.

You have a comment, sir?

Morgan:

Yes, Ma'am, when we open up for discussion.

Taylor:

We are open for discussion, but before we do, let me share with you that I did speak with the city manager and I think this is a comment that you made at our last meeting, to find out who else might be willing to buy in to help with the cost of these services. The city manager of the City of Quincy did express an interest to buy in and help with the cost of bringing in a lobbying service. That conversation took place between the City Manager and me within the last day or so. I told him that we would probably go through the process to make sure that we get the best person for the job here. Based on some of the emails from the administrator, we have had some inquiries.

Legislative session does not begin until March. Obviously, if we do an RFP, we need to do it first thing in the morning and have someone for approval at our next meeting. So, those are just some comments I am throwing out there. There is someone and other municipalities that are willing to buy in.

Yes, sir.

Morgan:

Thank you, Madam Chair. As you know, I have been quite vocal on how I feel about this particular issue and the importance of it and how many folks are affected here in our county and our neighboring counties. I do appreciate the information being put back for discussion. I think it is absolutely critical. There have been many discussions as you may be aware of with the new administration that is now in place. The teams that he has put together have put forward some recommendations and it has obviously never been more important that for us to have that qualified presence for this particular issue.

First of all, I have absolutely no problem with putting this out for RFP. I would like to see that done in the next budget year. I think now, because of time and because of the fact that we have someone in place that is familiar and up to speed with this critical issue, that it is very important for us to simply approve continuing that agreement for another year. The money has already been budgeted. Let's move forward. As we approach the new budget year and wind down this

fiscal year agreement that we have in place, or hopefully that we'll have in place, then I think it would be appropriate to open up discussion for an RFP for the following year. I think that makes so much more sense. I think we would be doing a disservice to this particular issue and all those involved if we don't handle it that way. That is my personal opinion. But, again, I appreciate you all putting it back on the agenda for discussion. I certainly hope that we can approve the continuance of this particular firm that we have in place.

Thank you.

Taylor:

I appreciate the comment. At our last meeting, I think that you brought up the issue that we had gotten some information indicating that the new administration were looking at privatizing that hospital. Obviously, we need to do something. So many from your area and my area will be affected. That is a "no brainer." But, what we want to do and we want to make sure of is that we have the best person out there fighting for us. We want to make sure that we get the best price, which is why I have asked if we can go ahead and put it out. The person who is there now might come to the surface and be the chosen one. But, if we have some of the municipalities that are buying into this, then we need to have it as an open RFP so there is a fair process that can be done in less than two weeks.

When we approved this \$25,000, we said that it should be put out for bid. We said that. I know that I did and that is what I have stuck with. But, I am just one voice and I live in a democracy. So, whatever the majority says, it is fine. I am willing to carry it and move it, but I personally think that we need to do the RFP.

Lamb:

Madam Chairman?

Taylor:

Yes.

Lamb:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. As I have said before, I have communicated with our delegation for our area. I did it last year and I did it again this year. Now, we also need, and you might not be aware of this, we have two delegates that do not have a lot of experience in the Legislature. Now, you know Mr. Williams, Allen Williams, has not been there very long and Mr. Montford, who is a good person and will do a super job, but he is just getting there. Mr. Doolin, I feel personally is the best person for that job now. Price wise, I don't know. But as far as being the person to represent us over there at the Capital, in my mind, it should be him. That is who I will really support at this time because of his experience in knowing all of those legislators there at the Capital.

Taylor:

Again, this is open for discussion. So, however we decide to put it. Commissioner Holt, do you have a comment?

Holt:

Yes. You said that we are selecting a person at this time, so that is not on the agenda for right now. That is what I am asking about. I feel that with the change in the governor's office, the change in representatives in the House and the change in the Senate, we need to go with who we have right now that can produce those facts very quickly if the new governor's office needs that information when they make a decision. I just think that we have to have someone in there right now. I like some of the other people and some of the things that I have seen out there and especially some of the emails that I have gotten on this item. But right now, I want someone that can hand the governor and say what is going on at the Florida State Hospital - they can just hand it to them. I don't want anyone who is confusing his staff. His staff will probably be new. Then, we have two new people. One in the House and one in the Senate. I think we need to go on and later on we can put it out for RFP. I don't feel safe with the legislative session coming up so early.

Taylor:

Commissioner?

Croley:

I have a question for Mr. Lawson.

Mr. Lawson, when was the last time we did an RFP for the lobbying services? Wasn't it just a year, maybe?

Lawson:

We did a RFP, I believe a year ago and it was awarded to Mr. Doolin.

Croley:

So, it is really, the RFP will say that his professional services have not expired the three years. We are not into the third year, this will be just the second. Is that correct since you did the RFP?

Lawson:

I will have to actually check the file, but I think we did the RFP a year ago, prior to his last contract and it was awarded for one year. It expired on September 30th.

Croley:

Maybe Commissioners Lamb, Morgan or Commissioner Holt may remember or maybe yourself. I think we just did this last year, did we not?

Lamb:

The RFP? Yeah, we did.

Croley:

O.K. We said that if we were going to try to move forward with having lobbying effort on this that I would support Mr. Doolin's firm simply because they are already in place and have the information. I have my doubts as to whether or not this is a prudent use of the \$25,000 based upon, - I don't know if any of you attended or heard the inauguration speech today. If you did

not or if you did, I think you will find that this is an effort like standing in front of an oncoming train. It is not going to do you a bit of good and we are going to be wasting the money for this effort if we are the sole source of the endeavor. This is why I have a problem with it.

Now, I fully appreciate why Commissioner Morgan is passionate and concerned about this. I certainly appreciate that every one of us have employees of the Florida State Hospital as residents in our respective districts. But the fact of the matter is that you are swimming upstream as far as what I know and believe to be the case.

I have talked with the legislative delegation. I haven't waited on them to come to me either. But at the same time, I know that they are not necessarily in a very strong position. That is just the truth.

Now, I have serious reservations about going forward with spending the money other than as a "feel good" measure. But these taxpayers, I would hate to spend my money on something that is a hopeless cause. You go ahead.

Taylor:

Here is the issue – what we have agendaed – a discussion for an RFP for lobbying services. Now, it is clear and I am going to support the majority of my board. I am not going to stand in the way of it. But it is clear that we have one item that is agendaed. This question is for the attorney and I think Commissioner Holt raised this issue a moment ago, but there is one item that is agendaed, but we are looking at maybe extending the current contract with Mr. Doolin. Will that item need to come back and go through the proper process and be advertised as well as placed as an agendaed item.

Minnis:

I am looking at the item as you all were speaking. The recommendation was basically for board direction. So, there is no recommendation to actually issue an RFP in this particular item. It is for board direction. But my suggestion would be and I don't want to try to delay the activity, but since what was advertised was not to extend Mr. Doolin's contract, there may be some citizens that may want to speak to that issue. So, from the spirit of "open meetings" law, I would have a concern about approving the extension of the contract now without notification to the public that this is the action you are considering.

You can bring it back on the 18th because it does not require a public hearing.

Taylor:

O.K. Let's go ahead and agenda the "Continuation of Contract with Doolin & Associates Lobbying Services." At that time, we will entertain it.

Commissioner, do you have a question?

Croley:

I only have a question about you placing it on the agenda. Are you simply going to agenda it to call attention to other interested parties as well as Mr. Doolin. What are we trying to do?

Taylor:

We are going to let the people know that we are going to entertain this matter as far as extending Doolin & Associates contract for another year.

Croley:

Fine.

Taylor:

So, per the recommendation of our attorney, we are going to follow her recommendation and put this thing on the agenda for our next meeting.

Morgan:

Madam Chair?

Taylor:

Yes.

Morgan:

Also, in addition to that, maybe to save some time for the Commission and the public since we have discussed it so thoroughly, is it appropriate to place that on the consent agenda since the dollars have already been budgeted or does it have to be discussed?

Minnis:

I think the preference would be General Business.

Morgan:

O.K.

Taylor:

Then, it will be under General Business.

Now, again, this item did not require - or did it require - since the recommendation was for board direction, would someone please put it out there to have this item brought back?

Morgan:

So moved.

Lamb:

Second.

Taylor:

Alright. There is a motion and a second to have this item brought back as a continuation of the current contract that we had with Doolin and Associates. That is your motion?

Morgan:

Yes.

Taylor:
And that is your second?

Lamb:
Yes.

Taylor:
O.K. There is a motion and a second. Are there any questions?

Croley:
I do have one question. Is this money going to have to be moved or is it already set in the budget?

Taylor:
It is already set in the line item for lobbying.

There is a motion and second. Are there any other questions?

All in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Taylor:
Opposed by the same sign.

Five to zero to move Item 14.

15. Appointment of a Board Representative to Vote at the FACT Annual Conference in December 2011

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FACT ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER 2011.

16. Hospital Trust Investment Committee

Mr. Williams referenced a memo from Attorney Mike Glazer, Deputy County Attorney regarding the Hospital Trust Investment Committee. No action was necessary

17. Discussion of Reinstating Video Recording Services of the County Commission Meetings

Holt:
Madam Chairman?

Taylor:
Yes.

Holt:
I requested this item to be put on the agenda. One good example of why we need this is because there will be questions on these amendments to the budget and whether it was transferring money or whatever. It allows the public an opportunity to see what is going on. I had mentioned to some that Commissioner Morgan had mentioned before that they can go to the Clerk's website and they can see it on the computer. The first thing they said was, "The majority of us don't have a computer." So, that was one of the items that I thought was rather cute.

I think it is our responsibility to put it out there as much as possible. When I looked at it, you were saying in the piece here on the analysis, a company from Georgia had bid about \$575 per meeting. I think there were some other comments there concerning Mr. Southerland's bid for that item. What I am looking at is informing the public and that way we can have more information out there for them. I don't think – the last contract was for \$650 per meeting. That is broadcasting and everything also. If that is a problem, then we should not be moving money at all if that is a problem. We want the citizens to know what is going on. If they could look at it on Wednesday evening in their own home, they become more informed, and that is what they are asking for. They feel like they have been cut off from the meetings. They cannot watch them at home and they want to know what is going on. I was over near Wal Mart and some citizens were saying the same thing in their community. "Why is it not on television, Brenda?" "What is going on?" They really don't feel comfortable with us simply because they feel like we are keeping something from them. I told them, "I am sure you would love to come and sit with us for two to three hours." One little lady responded, "Yeah, but that doesn't allow my bathroom break." So, what I am looking for is a way to inform the citizens. Put it back out there. \$6,500 isn't going to be that much after we have spent several hundreds of thousands, or moved them, and for things that are needed. I believe this is needed also. Those citizens feel like they are being left out and I feel like we should include them.

Taylor:
Any other discussion.

Lamb:
Madam Chairman. I have had some citizens, not just in my district, but other districts, too who are concerned about it being on television. They would like for it to resume back on television so they can see it. One of my reasons for not supporting it in the past was because I didn't think it was getting out to some of my constituents. But I know that one of the vendors, Mr. Southerland has assured me that he has updated his equipment and that will be one of the dealers, I know that if it goes there or if it doesn't go there. But, he has updated his equipment and I am satisfied with what he has told me. There have been a lot of citizens who have talked to me saying they would like to see it on.

Taylor:

Commissioner Morgan?

Morgan:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the discussion. I think it is pretty clear how each of us may feel about this issue. But I do want to say, Commissioner Holt, I agree with you completely that it is our responsibility to look for the best way to inform the citizens and certainly at the most reasonable cost. What I have pulled up here on this iPad actually right now is the County Clerk's Website where I am looking at the minutes. There is an option for video play for each agendaed item. You can actually go to each one individually and look at all the comments and follow the video as well. So, we, in fact, are offering a service to every single citizen in the county. The reason that is because we offer computers at our libraries where people can go and access in their free time or if they don't have a computer in their home. We also have two different papers that cover every single meeting. We also have changed the meeting times to where they are more flexible. We have one in the morning and one in the evening for those that may have different work schedules or those that may not want to travel at night can come in the mornings.

I think this board should be commended for actually providing information to the public. It does require some responsibility perhaps if you don't have a computer. Basically, it is not a wise expenditure of tax payer money because we are providing the service now at no charge. It really works very well.

There is an email that we received from our tax collector this week. It discussed the fact that we could be looking at \$1.5 million reduction in county funds due to some things coming forward potentially. We have been warned by the property appraiser about our ad valorem tax base dwindling or heading in the wrong way. We have done such a good job and come so far in the last year and year and a half because of some of the wise decisions that we have made. If there is not a pressing reason to change how we are doing this, it just doesn't make good sense. I would tell you that I would have no problem informing the public that we have saved them money. That is what we would be able to let them know by not approving this. This is just not a wise move. That is all I have to say.

Taylor:

Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I seem to recall that we had this discussion during the budget process and it was decided by the majority that there would be no broadcasting and we would not fund it and we didn't have any money in the budget for it. At the rate this commission continues to spend money, we are not going to have any money to spend as has been pointed out in Commissioner Morgan's comments as well as what Clerk Thomas had to say. I will talk more about that a little bit later on during my commissioner remarks. I did tell you that we've got two newspaper reporters sitting here, you've got a camera that is filming this meeting, it is on the internet through the clerk's office and I have made mention before that through the technology that we have with the computer system that we probably apply and get a low powered digital television station license, put that on the county antenna that you already own and feed that

back through the county computers, that program right there and you have done what you are asking to do without us having to pay this money every month.

As far as broadcasts, in the comments that I have heard, contrary to what I have heard this evening, I have not had anybody to complain about the television program. Not one single person. I'll tell you what I have heard when it was broadcast – that it was the most hilarious and entertaining program that they would sit around and watch. They had very negative comments to make about some of their commissioners and their behaviors up here. So, all I can tell you is that if you want to get back into the entertainment business, maybe we can franchise it and pay for it that way. Otherwise, I would say that if you decide that you want to get into the broadcasting business, apply for a low powered digital television station license and do it that way and allow the clerk's office to move forward with what they are doing. That is how I see it.

Taylor:

I see that there is someone that wishes to speak on this.

Fletcher:

Curtis Fletcher, IT Manager for Clerk of Courts. We are the ones that do this. If ya'll just want to spend the money, we could use two new cameras and a splitter system that would cost ya'll a whole lot less than what ya'll paid for in a year to have it broadcasted. We can broadcast it all over the world through the internet. I have people that live out where I live and in Greensboro Providence area – we don't even get cable. So, it is not countywide. It is county funds that you are using, but it is not received countywide. That is just my comments.

Taylor:

Thank you.

Holt:

Commissioner Taylor, if there is not another comment, I would like for Mr. Southerland to say something. I did speak to him about his system also.

Taylor:

Alright, we are going to move on this, so this will be the last comment, and then we will get some directions.

Yes, sir.

Southerland:

O.K. Speaking as a citizen and resident of Gadsden County and not as Southerland Enterprises. The agenda is not about me, it is about whether you are going to do it or not. It might not even involve me. But, we are worldwide, too. We are on Comcast in the city area, but we are on the worldwide web. So, if you are in New York or anywhere else, whatever runs on channel 13, if you have a computer, you can watch it. That was not the case before, but it is the case with this firm now. Thank you.

Taylor:

Here is what is happening with Item 17. It is here for discussion to see if we want to bring back the video services and recording services. So, at this time, I am going to ask for a motion to have staff to look into bringing it back or approval to put out an RFP for these services if that is what the majority of this board wants to happen. We will have no more time for discussion. We need to move this item or have it denied. So, I am open now for a motion.

Holt:

Yes, I move that we put this item on the agenda for approval for an RFP.

Taylor:

There is a motion.

Lamb:

Second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and there is a second. Are there any other questions? Hearing no other questions, all in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

Taylor: Aye.

Lamb: Aye.

Holt: Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed by the same sign.

Morgan: No.

Croley: No.

Taylor:

Make that 3 – 2 to have staff move forward and bring this back in the form of an RFP.

18. Approval of the Affordable Housing Incentives Summary

Phyllis Moore, SHIP Administrator, addressed the board explaining that the State required Gadsden County to have an Affordable Housing Board and for them to monitor the Comprehensive Plan and to make recommendations to Board of County Commissioners relative to affordable housing. At the recommendation of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, the BOCC adopted an Incentive Plan for Affordable Housing in Gadsden County in December 2008. No changes have been made to the Comprehensive Plan since that time, therefore there is no need to change the incentives that are in place.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO CHANGE THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVE PLAN.

19. Approval of the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council Marketing Request for \$5,000

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTE 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE FUNDING REQUEST CONTINGENT ON THE CHANGES HAVING BEEN MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE BCC.

This money will be dispersed to Riverway South.

20. Approval of Resolution Number 2011-002 to Establish the Gadsden County Brownfields Advisory Committee

Anthony Matheny, Planning and Community Development Director addressed the board. He explained that an advisory committee is required under the Brownsfield Program. People have been contacted and have agreed to serve on the committee. The kick-off meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12 from 2 – 4 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAMB TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE AS LISTED AS FOLLOWS: Addie Brooks (Health Department) , Judge Helms (School Board), Gregory Wade (Local Business), David Gardner (Chamber of Commerce), Tim Waddle (Talquin Electric), Charles Chapman (Public Works), Anthony Matheny (Planning & Community Development).

Commissioner Croley stated, "I just want to be sure that the Board sees everything and that it is the Board that is approving it. The Chair and the Vice-Chair is only acting on what this board approves. I am confused by the wording that you've got in here. It's like some of these budget amendments. It seems like the cart is before the horse."

Mr. Matheny responded, "I was also confused by the wording. That wording was in the grant before I got here and it was pulled out of the grant application. What that means is that that is the signatory official after the BOCC has heard and approved any recommendation going forward – anything to do with Brownsfields."

Croley:

So, if it is the same procedure that we legally always go through, I don't a problem with it.

THE BOARD VOTE 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ABOVE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Update on Board Requests - Johnny Williams, County Administrator

Mr. Williams reported that he had received a memo from Tax Collector Dale Summerford informing him that there is a bill coming up in the legislative session that will increase the

discounts offered to the tax payers for making early payments, which will essentially double the discount.

Judge Garner's Restroom Facility – Given the good news that the county will be receiving more money from the Fiscally Constrained fund, he felt safe to go forward with the renovations to Judge Garner's restroom in her office if the board gives the direction to do so.

Building Official Clyde Collins told the board that the improvement cost will range between \$8,000 to \$9,000.

Chair Taylor noted that the administrator can approve it because it falls within the amount that he can approve. Hearing no argument from any of the other commissioners, there was a consensus to move forward with the improvement immediately.

Questions were raised by the commissioners.

Croley:

It is not often that Commissioner Holt and I agree on everything.

Holt:

Anything.

(laughter)

Croley:

But, I am going to say this, Mr. Administrator. I have been here now starting a second term and this is probably the worst, most poorly laid out agendas that I have ever received. I am just telling you how it is. I am very disappointed in it. I hope to see substantial improvements in the future. I don't think there was very good coordination on a lot of these items. I realize that you were on vacation and were not here to oversee it with the detail that you have in the past, but I need you to spend more time on getting this information in proper order so that it flows. This is embarrassing.

Williams:

It was done over the holidays while I was not present. Hopefully, I will be allowed to take a vacation every once in a while.

Croley:

Well, I don't have a problem with the vacation, but I have a problem with the way the agenda was provided. I am going to give you an example. This lumping together of budget amendments and putting financial matters on the consent agenda. I sat here and heard you acknowledge and give instruction – for instance, Clerk Thomas – whether or not he or his deputies wish to speak, according to the ordinances, he has a position on the agenda. Again, that was left off.

Williams:

Again, I was not here.

Croley:

O.K. I am just going to re-emphasize during your time and here is how it is. As far as Commissioner Holt's comments, I agree.

Williams:

You know, let me say this. There have been times when we had personnel out. Of course, anytime you have personnel that is out, you are going to have dysfunctions. Particularly in the last two years, I have lost a budget director right in the middle of budget season – two years in a row and was criticized for the poor preparation of the budget. When people are not there, you are going to have dysfunction. Everybody that works for the county is entitled to some time off. When I take off, there is going to be some dysfunction. Always. That is about all I can say about it. Now, if you want me to not take off and not to ever have vacation, then maybe we won't have that dysfunction.

Anytime that Clyde leaves for a week, there is going to be dysfunction. If Charles leaves for a week, there is going to be dysfunction. If I leave for a week, there is going to be dysfunction as well.

Croley:

Thank you.

Taylor:

Is that all for the administrator?

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Update on Various Legal Issues Deborah Minnis, County Attorney

Paving of Ames Barineau Road - She reported that she had verified that at the time the paving was done, the road had been accepted as a public road. Therefore, there was no paving of a private road with public funds. As to the assessment issue – that ordinance is a discretionary ordinance which the board can choose to do, but it is not mandatory.

Croley:

Is the current county ordinance now in proper order for assessments in the future? So that we will not encounter this problem again. Did you not update that ordinance?

Minnis:

That particular ordinance, I found out, had already been updated. When I got the correct one, that problem should not occur again.

Croley:

O.K. That is all I needed to know. Thank you.

Minnis:

I think we issued an opinion about how that should work. I think the staff well versed now on the process and how it works.

Taylor:

Are there any other questions?

Holt:

On that issue, yes.

One of those roads was in my district. I don't like the idea of us doing that process and these constituents agreed to pay and now we are saying they don't have to pay. If I was the next citizen, I would say, "Why should I?" I think we need to do a little more research on that and see what that process was. I am not saying that I want everybody in my district to go pay out some money- that is not it. But I do want to be fair. That is the kind of thing that I am interested in. As I said before, and I remember Mr. Suggs saying this, set up an MPO or an MBO, which is a special taxing district and go ahead and do that. If I am not mistaken, we went through it, we voted on it and everything. So, I am just a little bit concerned about that. I am not saying them to go out and say, "I want ya'll to pay out some money," but I do want it to be fair for the next person that says, "I have a private road. We want this private road paved. We are going to do 1/3 and 2/3, then let's do that." If not, let's clean it up so it will be really cleaned up. If it was an error on the county's part, then it was an error. But we need to look at it in just a bit more detail there.

Thank you.

Minnis:

This is the first time that a special taxing district has been brought to my attention. My understanding was that in the past, it was a special assessment.

Holt:

Well, it may have been. But, I know that Mr. Suggs, our former budget director brought that up. And I want to make sure that whatever we use in the future – if we have to set up a MPO or MBO – we need to do that. But we don't need to say that we are going to use this process when this process isn't going to work the next time.

Taylor:

Alright, let's move on.

Mr. Administrator.

23. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lamb, District 1

Madam Chair, Thank you. I have two things. Number 1, I want to thank my fellow commissioners for looking favorably toward Item 11 tonight. That was a big step in the right direction and I think it will be appreciated by all of my constituents over in District 1. This board saw fit to go forward in trying to get a park built over is District 1.

The other thing is that I concur with you, Madam Chairman that maybe the additional information for Item Number 10 could have been done a bit differently. But let's be more tactful. My fellow commissioners, let's be more tactful with dealing with my staff, please. Let's treat them the way that we want to be treated. Let's not, especially in a public meeting, and I said and I know that the public might hear it, but they don't need to know when I come down on my staff. I will do it in person. I am not here to put on a show to let the public know that I can jump on my staff just because I am a commissioner. I am saying this out of love. I don't like it. I know it is wrong. So, please be more tactful. Either go in or get on the telephone and discuss whatever you need to with your administrator or staff concerning items on this agenda. Let's take care of it before it gets here so you won't have to put on a show here regarding the staff. Please consider that.

Thank you.

Commissioner Croley, District 2

Croley:

As far as putting on any shows, I am not interested in that. I am telling you the facts.

Now, I want to start by saying, "Happy New Year," on a positive note. That includes all the commissioners, the staff and all the citizens out there.

Request for Report From Department of Corrections

Now, there is something that I would like to request, Mr. Administrator, that you put on the next agenda or as soon as we can get it worked out. I would like to have a presentation from the Department of Corrections and I will provide you with the contact information regarding the number of people that they have under probation supervision here in Gadsden County. We have seen recently headlines of very violent crimes and the suspects in the matters are referenced to have been on probation supervision. I think that we, as a body, as well as the citizens need to know what the Department of Corrections is doing to properly supervise these people for the protection of all the citizens and their families so that we can learn more about that process.

Taylor:

I am going to ask you to do one thing and we will try to make his permanent going forward. Would you put forth a motion for that.

Croley:

I would like to move, Madam Chairman, that this item be added to the agenda for a presentation as soon as we can get that.

Taylor:

From the Department of Correction, there is a motion to have this item added to our next agenda or as soon as you can. There is a motion, is there a second?

Holt:

I will second it.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second to have this item added to the our agenda upon discussion with our manager. All in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Move on, sir.

County Employee Kick-off "2011 County Visioning Kick-off"

Croley:

This next item, Madam Chair, and I hope that you are going to expand upon this under your remarks. I received your invitation regarding this retreat that the money was allocated for and I appreciate that, but I do not understand what is meant by "vision." Whether that is your vision or the board's vision or just what all that is about. We have had a visioning meeting and I know that the goals are taped right there for 2010. I will not get into the details of that. I think you are well aware that I am uncomfortable not knowing what is going on. I am getting no information. That is a request of you during your remarks.

Gadsden County's Financial Future

The other matter is something that I want to talk about is Gadsden County's financial future. As I said, today, if any of you had heard or attended the Florida Governor Rick Scott's inaugural address, and his focus was on job creation as a mission, he used such phrases in those comments that he made that pretty well sets the tone for at least the next four years of his term. We will eliminate and I am going to quote three sentences here, "We will eliminate the business tax and reduce the property tax."

Now, we have heard from the Clerk that we are faced with declining revenues for this year and yet this commission continues to spend. We have heard from our tax collector of the possibilities of further discounts that further reduces revenue.

I am going to make a comment to you and maybe some of you have heard this before that I have brought up in the past that back in August of 2007 that 35% of the revenue for this county comes from District 2. The other 26% back then came from District 1. What I am trying to tell you is that we've got a lot of people, that over half of the tax revenue coming from the eastern

side of the county just like the population that we talked about in redistricting. My folks are concerned about their money and about the way that it is spent. We are spending money up here left and right as of late. Now, you are getting \$200,000 and we haven't gotten that check yet. I am assuming that we will get it based on the representations made, but you haven't gotten it yet. So, you had better bear that in mind.

I am going to go back to the governor's second sentence, "Focus on spending those revenues smarter setting better priorities and demanding more accountability." Well, we brought up about reorganization in county government Phase II. That was supposed to be an objective that the administrator would move forward with that. But, as he pointed out, he's got no support up here for that effort, especially with comments made about lay-offs. Well, guess what. You are going to mess around and you are going to wind up having to lay people off because you are not doing anything to prepare this county for these declines in revenue. You are hand tying this man. The same fellow that I might criticize about some agenda matters, I am saying that I am trying to back up and compliment the fact that he did a good job in the first phase of re-organization. We need to look at that again.

And the last sentence, "Entrenched special interests may try to protect the status quo." Well, we've got three special interests around here. This is no criticism of you, but you are a status quo because you've got a vested interest in it. That is county employees and staff. The second one is the constitutional officers and that includes us because we desire re-election, more power and legacy. We see that in everyone of us (inaudible). And third is that third party interest, those vendors and service suppliers. Guess what. All three of those interests are feeding off the tax payer. The people are tired of it. The people are tired of paying the taxes. If they weren't, you wouldn't have the governor that you've got now.

I am saying to this commission and I am saying to the public and I hope the newspaper reporters, pay attention about this. You had better quit spending and you had better get your mind onto allowing this man to do what he is supposed to be doing. And, we had better get focused on this fiscal responsibility and try to look at growing proper private sector jobs because ladies and gentlemen, if you don't, you aren't going to have the money and you will be laying off people just by sheer necessity. By having to.

I am sorry, I didn't mean to editorialize any further than that, but it is the truth.

Here is the other thing that you are going to want to do. You are going to be wanting to raise the tax millage rate. I can hear that this next coming summer. Well, we've got to raise the tax millage rate. Well, guess what. I am not going to support raising the tax millage rate. I don't want to pay any more money. I am paying enough taxes.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Taylor:
Commissioner Morgan.

Commissioner Holt, I am sorry.

Commissioner Holt, District 4

Holt:
Thank you, Commissioner Croley for your comments.

Taylor:
Now, what we are going to do – We are not going to make comments to one another.

Holt:
No, no, no. I just said, “Thank you for your comments” because I did not watch the presentation by the governor.

Taylor:
Well, let’s just speak generally so we don’t have this back and forth.

GPS Installation on County Vehicles

Holt:
O.K. Question right quick for the manager. And I wasn’t going to say anything negative to him. I just said that I appreciated it.

Mr. Manager, the GPS systems on all the vehicles – what was the cost of that?

Williams:
We haven’t put them on all the vehicles. We have put them so far on the supervisor’s vehicles.

Holt:
O.K. Any particular cost on that item?

Williams:
It was budgeted – how much Charles? I don’t have that figure with me.

Chapman:
I would have to get the specific cost, but I believe it was just a little over \$5,000 for the actual units. That may be high. It included the actual annual maintenance agreement as well as the warranty and installation. So, it won’t be that high ever again. It actually will only go to be about – I think it is only a \$25.00 service fee per month per vehicle from here on out. Just the initial expense was that high.

Removal of Political Signs

Holt:
O.K. Thank you.

Mr. Chapman, if you will, I have a question that a citizen asked me. Is there a new sign ordinance? Mr. Manager, I am sorry, I am supposed to ask you if I can ask the director a question. Is there a new sign ordinance or something that you are familiar with concerning political signs? Not that I've got all of mine up, now, I am still looking for some.

Williams:

There is an old one, I don't think there is a new one.

Holt:

O.K. I was out there in Gretna Sunday evening and a citizen asked me if there was a new sign ordinance. He was really upset and asked if we had re-written the ordinance about political signs and all of that.

Williams:

There is a Florida Statute on political signs.

Holt:

What does it say, Mr. Manager?

Williams:

It just says that they must be removed after 30 days after the election or 30 days after you resign from the election.

Holt:

His question was, "By who?" His questioned his private property. He was concerned.

Williams:

It doesn't matter whether it was on private property or not. It must be removed within 30 days.

Holt:

He said, "By who?" If he wants to keep his sign, who is going to come into his yard and remove it? That is what he asked me.

Williams:

Code enforcement official would be the one.

Holt:

Do we have something in our policy or procedures?

Williams:

It is a Florida Statute that allows after 30 days, all political signs must be removed.

Holt:

I understand what the State Statutes say. I am asking if we have anything in place?

Williams:

The only ordinance we have concerning signs is that you can't put them on the right-of-way.

Holt:

O.K. Madam Attorney, do we need something in place because he seemed pretty upset about somebody coming into his yard.

Minnis:

I can look into it further, but my initial reaction is that if a State Statute has already given you the authority as the county to remove those signs, I don't know that you have to have an ordinance specifically.

Holt:

Well, it may not be an ordinance. What I am saying is - that citizen needs something in their hand on what they can look up. I am going to send them here. They want some information as to what they can and cannot do.

I will tell you a good example. In 2006, I ran out of signs up there to the polling place. I usually go around the neighborhood and pick up some signs and take them up there so people can hold them up. I went out there by the complex and a lady had two or three. So, I said, "I will get a couple of them and go back up there." She had a screened in porch and I went there and didn't see her car, so I went out there and grabbed a couple of signs out there right by the ditch. She said, "Put my sign down." I said, "I am Brenda Holt and I just wanted to borrow a couple of signs." And she said, "Those are my signs. I put them out every time you run. You put my signs back or they are going back on my porch." So, she wouldn't let me get my own signs.

So, what I am saying is the citizens could be confused. He didn't want anybody on his private property. So, if we have a policy or procedure in place -

Williams:

No, we have a State Law.

Holt:

I am talking about what does the county have?

Williams:

We follow the State Law.

Holt:

I know we follow the State Law when we don't run traffic lights, but we do it. What I am saying is get something together for the citizen so that I can put something in his hand. That is all. So if you need to get that and email that to me.

Williams:

She is looking that up now.

Holt:

That is fine, if she can get it. That is not a problem. I just need to give him something.

Williams:

By the way, we can also charge them the cost of removal.

Holt:

Well, let's not get nasty here cause he is pretty mean already.

Minnis:

I can give you the cite now. It is FS 106.1435 Subsection

Holt:

If you will get that literature to me, email it to me. That way he can look at it. His question was – I told him I thought it was 30 days, but I wasn't sure about being on private property. But his question was, "Who comes to get it?" I told him it wouldn't be me.

Williams:

No, it would be Code Enforcement probably.

Holt:

That is the stuff he needs.

On the budget amendments – I have already said what I wanted to say about that.

Hospital Space

The vacant space at the hospital – Is there a report coming a little bit later on that, Mr. Manager?

Williams:

Clyde has been working with the hospital people with a certain doctor.

Holt:

O.K. I don't need a full report, I just wanted to know if it would be coming a little bit later on. That is all.

Jai Alai Issue

Holt:

At the last meeting, I was instructed by you, Madam Chairman, to present some information. I went back and checked with the company. They said that they are going to open in Orlando. After they open in Orlando, they will get back with us. I told them we are still interested and didn't want them to go west of here, we want them to come here. As soon as they agree, I will be more than happy to bring something to you. I had that note.

If we are interested in saving money, we have to look at, as I said, saving money tactics. I am not for laying off anyone because you cut your possibility of getting the sales in the stores for them to spend that money within the county. Usually, if they are working in the county, they are going to spend it here. If you layoff, you lose jobs and then your crime rate goes up. The Sheriff stood right there and told us that. The more people you have unemployed, the higher the crime is going to be. They are not going anywhere because their families live here. They are going to stay right here and they are going to be robbing from us and they are going to be committing crimes here. So, I am not for layoffs and I will tell anyone that. Fewer jobs, the more crime you are going to have. It is as simple as that. But we need those jobs in the county and we need to be out trying to get some more. I don't know how to get that from the State level. I think they are going to be just like the federal government. We are going to have people in office and they are not going to know how to fix this either. We just need the jobs.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Commissioner Morgan, Vice-Chair, District 3

Positive Achievements for BOCC

Morgan:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to start by challenging us to accentuate the positive whenever we can. I think that we have had a lot of really good things that we celebrated. We began our meeting with some achievements by a young lady, Onryll Lewis, and we saw some other young ladies from an organization supported by several people that brought a really important issue before the board regarding National Teen Dating Violence Awareness. We took note of that and we learned some things from it. We talked about the success that we have had in the past by setting a very good budget and the rewards that we have reaped from that for our citizens in the past year. We've got a current budget in place that I think is very good. I think that we worked together to put a responsible document in place. We are having to consider amendments as we do every year. I am frustrated as well. We have heard some comments before about the process, but we worked our way through it tonight. I think that we, as a board, can be commended for that. We got through it and we handled the issues.

Cold Weather Shelter

Another positive thing that we have in the community is our temporary cold weather shelter. It worked beautifully again for three nights here in Gadsden County at no cost to the tax payer. That was a private organizations, local churches that did that. These are the kind of ways that we are able to govern more efficiently, by looking in some ways to the private sector to fund some things that we simply don't have the money to do. We have to continue to prioritize what is a need and what is a want. That is going to become ever so important and critical in the years ahead and the months ahead.

Contingency Fund Spending

The fact that we have got a reserve/contingency fund that has sharply been reduced from \$280,000 to just \$60,000 – I hope that throws up a red flag to everybody on this board because it really sends a strong message that we are moving away from what has brought success to us during the past twelve months. It is great news that we have an additional \$200,000 in fiscally constrained money. I am like Commissioner Croley, I would like to be updated when we actually receive that because that does fluctuate since they have been doing that. I want to say that 29 of the 67 counties are part of that fiscally constrained pot of money. It is very important to keep a watch on that. It is great. Let's put that back into some of these dollars that we have spent so we can build back the reserve fund.

You know, the new governor here said and has said so many times that his number one goal is jobs. The way that you reduce jobs is by improving efficiencies. Whether or not you are a public entity or a private company or an individual, if you improve the way you are doing things, you are going to have an opportunity, if you chose, to build up funds and reserves. By doing that, you see a way to prepare for the future. That is our largest responsibility that we have. That is to not only govern the present, but to prepare for the future. We had a room full of children here supporting their students here earlier. Those folks are going to be in a heck of a mess if we don't govern in a way that is fiscally responsible. And we did it last year. What did the clerk tell us? Never in the history of Gadsden County have we returned so many dollars back to fund balance. That is because you do two things. You set a good budget and you follow it. Now, we have the luxury of knowing that we have set a another good budget. That is great. If we don't follow it, it doesn't mean anything. So, it is really important that we continue to prioritize and follow that budget.

Now, of all the constitutional officers that have come to us with the same message about, and I am speaking specifically about the tax collector and property appraiser, and everything else that we read in the news today, our revenues are on a declining trend. Don't care if you are black, white, rich, poor, new citizen here, you are a 5th generation from Gadsden County – you are living in a small rural county of 50,000 people with revenues declining. So, that being said and thought about and realized forces us to do business better. We have done such a good job and we need to continue on that in my opinion.

There was an email sent out to us and we have referenced it that Dale sent to us. There is a bill that is proposed for the upcoming year that would really take a bite out of our revenue. Believe me, citizens will take advantage of a significant discount on their property taxes that are potentially going to be reduced anyway. When you talk about saving four percent by paying early, Dale can tell you how many citizens take advantage of that. I have talked with him and he is right in this. More citizens will take advantage of that discount because that discount has now doubled. It is significant dollars that we are talking about. Why would you not do that if you have the opportunity? A lot of people do. Our revenues are trending downward.

We talked about several items on the agenda tonight and I think that we handled them in a good manner. It is just a matter of remaining focused on how we prioritize things. One thing in particular – we have identified a better way of delivering goods and services at no cost. We are talking about replacing that and spending unnecessary dollars. Now, it doesn't matter if that is a dime of tax payer money or \$100,000 and a dime. It sends the wrong message. Mr. Croley is

right. People are fed up with having to pay unnecessary tax dollars and not having a say in how those dollars are managed. So, I hope that we will really think about that as we move through the year. Guess what? That fund balance that we did such a great job of increasing – all we need is about two more years and we are going to be in great shape. Unless we see something really terrible happen, we are going to be in great shape. It is a wonderful story to tell.

So, I apologize for being long winded, but I thank you for listening to that.

Madam Chair that is all I have. Thank you.

Commissioner Taylor, Chair, District 5

Taylor:

I think this is the longest meeting we have had since I became chair, but I have to concur with Commissioner Morgan in saying that we got through this. There were quite a few items, especially with the budget amendments, but we were able to move through them. I apologize that we had to extend our time.

We are within our budget. There have been some additional items that we funded that were not funded in this year's budget, but we funded those items out of the contingency fund. Out of the discretionary money. So, we are not outside our budget. We are still within our spending abilities. We had \$277,000 budgeted for discretionary funds in case that something came up that we could handle. We are still within our budget.

Now, there are some questions about the critical counties money. One of the emails that was sent out were facts about the allocations for each county that qualified. This is not a guess. This is information that came in as a fact that gave very specific numbers that was allocated to each county. So, this isn't a guess, this isn't a wish list. These are dollars that will be forthcoming with regards to the \$1.2 million and then the (inaudible) thousand dollars. We need to make sure, however, that we submit the proper documentation to be able to get these dollars. So, we want to make sure, Mr. Administrator that we are in line with submitting proper documentation that we can pull down these dollars that have been allocated.

I spoke with the property appraiser. Actually, until we got this last email, he was preparing to come back before us in April with some good news and that was that the that the \$2 million deficit that he thought that we would be seeing in property taxes, but actually we were going to do better. Those figures were going to be coming before us in August. So, our numbers are not as dismal as we once thought or as he had originally projected. He, again, being the property appraiser. I met with him last week. He had planned to come before this board to give us some positive news that we were not in the shape that he had thought we would be in.

Tonight, we did a couple of things. We did a couple of things. We could have gotten a road paved for \$100,000, but we came back and spent \$232,000.

It was clearly said on another item that this idea of prioritizing that hospital, in order to stop it is just like one of us standing on a train track trying to stop it. But we are spending \$25,000 to try to

do it. We each have our items that we are passionate about that is taxing this budget going forward. But I firmly believe that the dollars that we have just gotten back from fiscally constrained counties will replenish this contingency fund. We will put the money back in there and then we are right back from where we originally started, but we got some additional items added to our coffers. We got that road paved and people paid and we got lobbying services coming, we've got cold shelters now that are going to be available to us. We are spending this money. Some I call it wants, some I call it needs, but we are spending. And for that, we are now getting these dollars back in our coffers. So, we have not spent outside our budget. We have not. We are still within our budget.

There is a discussion that we have had previously about two roads that I want to put out there. These roads met approval sometime ago, but I want to make sure that we move forward on these two roads. They are Joe Knight Road and Talquin Ave. Want to make sure that staff takes a look at those, Mr. Administrator. If you want to go back and look at some of our previous meeting, this board did vote approval for those roads to be done. They have not been as of today's date. I saw that there are some additional dollars in enhancement funds to get them done. So, let's take a look at that, Mr. Administrator.

Are you there?

Williams:
Yes, Ma'am.

Laughter.

Taylor:
The comment and I thank God for this, the comment on more power and legacy and being re-elected. I get beat up so much that a lot of times, ladies and gentlemen, I don't even know that I am a commissioner. So, power is not a part of my – it is something that I am not gravitated toward. I can appreciate the concern, but as far as this commissioner, I want to serve. That is it and to do the very best that I can. Legacy – I hope to do well. No one on this earth walking wants to not do well in what it is that they are pursuing. So, to be re-elected – that is up to God, not me. And the people. These things are notable things, but let's well place these items.

I concur with Commissioner Lamb, a few minutes ago, about attacking folk in public. We need to be careful.

The Kick-Off. I looked at the goals and the Kick-Off has those goals right in play. How do you become fiscally responsible without laying people off? Well, you get your employees to tell you how you can cut cost within their departments. You get your employees to show you ways that you can reduce expenditures. You have to have that dialogue with them and you need to give them incentives. You put the goals – you put what you want to see done, but we haven't put down how we can get it done. If you want to be fiscally responsible, how can you get it done? You need to start talking to these employees and hear what they have to say. That is exactly what is happening with the property appraiser and the tax collector every year and that is why they are

bringing back \$30 - \$40,000 every year. They are talking to their employees and they are finding ways to reduce their cost each year. We need to do the same thing in every department.

Public Safety – the vision here is for us to start talking and working together. I found out in our meeting with the ones who want to participate with this – the constitutional officers – the Supervisor of Elections has one of the most well attended city elections that there is in the State of Florida. No one knew that. Employees need to know this. Why is it that it is well attended? Because of the things that she has done. And she is going to talk about this on that day. We need to understand why we might be looking at a layoff. We need to understand why citizens may have to start paying for some of these services. How are we going to get the message out there if we don't start talking about it.

So, the vision is not mine. You asked that question. It is not mine. It is a collaborative effort of all these constitutional officers and what they want to see going forward. That is all this is. Is this county coming together? That is number 1. There are 67 counties in the State of Florida and we are in the bottom in almost every category that we wish to be in the top.

It says here that it is unrealistic to expect change if we remain the same. We have to do something. We perish from a lack of knowledge and lack of vision. I don't know. I do know. This thing is going to work because it is good. It is not my personal vision. It is a collaborative effort from talking with the Sheriff, from talking with the Superintendent, from talking with the Property Appraiser, from talking to the Tax Collector, from the Supervisor of Elections and the Clerk. This is where it all comes from. Get a hold of it and help push it through. I told you this at our last meeting because you were hollering about it and you were fussing and saying, "We are spending too much, we are spending too much." I said, "It is good expenditure and this money is going to come back to us." Then we found out about the \$189,000 that is coming back to us. It is good expenditure. This is a good vision so it is going to do well, but we fail from lack of effort.

Now, this is a new year and I have a very positive outlook on this new year because we are going to work together. We have a lot of differences around this board, but no one got upset and no one got irate. We had differences and we had comments that we made, but we pushed our way through it. I respect and appreciate the intelligence of this board. I do. So, I am hoping that you are going to be there to support this because I need you. I need you. We need you. This county needs each of us to come together and pull together to show a combined force moving forward.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to say these words.

Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Lamb:
So moved.

RECEIPT AND FILE

24. For the Record: Letter from the Havana Herald Regarding the 5th Annual Outlook 2011 edition for the end of January

January Meeting(s) - January 18, 2011, Regular Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:11 P.M.

Sherrie Taylor, Chair

ATTEST:

Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk