AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 AT 9:00 A.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 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk Deborah Minnis, County Attorney Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator

#### Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She opened with a prayer then led in pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The roll was called by Deputy Clerk Muriel Straughn and recorded as noted above.

#### Amendments to and Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Lawson acknowledged the revision to Item 16 and the additional material added to Item 13. As well additional material was added for Item 8 on the consent agenda.

### UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE NOTED CHANGES ABOVE.

#### Awards, Presentations and Appearances

#### **Clerk of Courts**

- Cash in Bank Summary Report Clerk Thomas called attention to the Cash Report stating that it is simply a snapshot of the daily cash position. He noted that there \$4.5 million in the General Fund and \$10.7 million combined in all the funds.
- 2. Presentation of County Finance and County Clerk Issues

#### **Unfinished projects**

Because the fiscal year was coming to a close, the Clerk cautioned the board to be especially mindful about carrying forward into the new budget all projects that remain unfinished at the end of the fiscal year. For example, the \$250,000 Gretna Sewer Infrastructure Project which the board funded late in the current budget year – The finance department has still not received any requests for payment of invoices related to that project. He said it may be necessary to carry that project amount forward into the next fiscal year's budget if it is not submitted before the

end of the year. He encouraged them to take a second look at the new budget to insure nothing was left out unintentionally.

County Administrator Arthur Lawson was instructed to contact Gretna about the status of the anticipated invoices and take appropriate measures to insure that the project is carried forward in the new budget year if they are not processed timely. He was asked to inform the commissioners via email about his findings.

#### Consent Agenda

Items 8 and 10 were pulled from the consent agenda and placed for discussion.

## UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 3-7, 9, 11.)

- Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills (There were no warrant voucher dates submitted for approval.)
- 4. Approval for the Supervisor of Elections to Apply for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant for Gadsden County Supervisor of Elections Shirley Knight
- 5. Approval of Workforce Services Plan 2011-2012
- 6. Approval of Surplus Property Disposal Kimbrel Brown, Facility Manager, Gadsden County Health Department
- Approval of Annual Contract Between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Commission and the Florida Department of Health for the operations of the Gadsden County Health Department
- 8. Approval of Applications for the E911 Rural Grant Program Pulled for discussion.
- 9. Approval and execution of State Aid Grant Agreements Dr. Carolyn Poole
- 10. Approval of Inter-Local Agreement with Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board-This was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. See below.
- 11. Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) and Annul Certified budget.

#### Consent Items Pulled for Discussion

#### 8. Approval of Applications for the E911 Rural Grant Program

Commissioner Croley stated that he does not have a problem with applying for the grant, but that there needs to be an inter-local agreement with the Sheriff for them to administer this program just as was done for the operation of the emergency management program. He noted that the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for the performance and administration. Therefore, it would seem appropriate to know exactly what their business process would be relative to the program.

Commissioner Holt asked Attorney Minnis how many hours it took her firm to prepare the Interlocal agreement with the Sheriff for the emergency management operations and what the total costs was to the county for that agreement.

Ms. Minnis could not readily recall the exact cost or the number of man hours required to complete the work, however, she did recall that the cost was not extraordinary because it did not go outside the contract between the county and Ausley Law Firm. She said that she would provide her with the information later. She added that they would likely use that agreement as a basis to go by for this agreement.

Commissioner Morgan commented that he just received the information regarding this application. He said he would not vote in favor of it because he had not had adequate time to review it.

Chair Taylor concluded that conversation must occur between the staff and the Sheriff regarding an Interlocal agreement as well as conversation with the attorney.

#### This matter was left for further discussion on a future agenda.

Commissioner Croley concurred with Commissioner Morgan about not having adequate time to have read the information placed before them at this meeting. He said, "This item was submitted on September 7<sup>th</sup> and you said that additional information would be provided. Is that correct?""

#### Lawson:

Commissioner, we got that information yesterday.

#### Croley:

I mean, that is bad business. Is there a deadline on here? I haven't had a chance to read it. Have you had a chance to look at it yourself?

#### Lawson:

No, I haven't. The agenda deadline is always set. We notify the Sheriff's office when the agenda deadline is. They sent the item and said they would have the attachments to us within the next day. Obviously, that didn't happen.

#### Croley:

My other question is, and I know that Mr. Mason, who has been overseeing this, has recently passed away, regrettably. Do you know anything about a deadline in here that we are in jeopardy of missing?

#### Lawson:

Unfortunately, there is no one here from the Sheriff's office. I instructed them that when they have something on the agenda, they need to have a representative here. I am not certain as to whether or not there is a particular deadline, but this needs to go. Whether it needs to be passed at this particular time – I can't answer that question for you, Commissioner.

#### Croley:

Well, on that basis, I am going to move that this item be tabled until the next meeting pending an opportunity for your staff to research it.

Morgan: Second.

Holt: Madam Chair?

#### Lawson:

You've got a motion on the floor and now, there is a second. Now we are opening it up for questions. I recognize Commissioner Holt first and then Commissioner Lamb, in that order.

#### Holt:

I don't mind tabling it to the end of the meeting and allow the Sheriff to get someone down here. He is just down the street. It's not like we need to go somewhere to get him.

#### Chair:

I don't think that – hold on, let me ask the parliamentarian if it is best to table for just the end of the meeting or if we are following the proper procedure on that matter.

#### Commissioner Lamb?

#### Lamb:

I was going to ask about the time table. Mr. Lawson, they haven't told you when they have to have this or anything about time?

#### Lawson:

No, sir. They didn't tell me anything about the time table or anything. They just sent the item up.

#### Lamb:

I don't want them to miss the opportunity to get this grant. On the other hand, we do need someone here if there are any questions from the commissioners.

#### Lawson:

If you all would like to table this until later in the meeting, I can have one of our staff call the Sheriff's office to see if we can get somebody here.

#### Chair Taylor:

We have a motion and second on the floor. Excuse me, excuse me.

Yes, sir, I will entertain your question, but, you do understand the motion and the second on the floor does not have a time frame limit in which it was asked to have it tabled. So, we need to vote this one up or down.

#### Croley: Wait a minute. I want to amend it.

#### Morgan:

We are considering voting on an item that nobody on this board has read.

Taylor: Yes, sir.

#### **Croley:**

Procedurally, I was incorrect when I made the motion to table it to the next meeting. I can defer action; make a motion to defer action to the next motion. If I make a motion to table it, it would have to be tabled for this meeting. Now, I incorrectly stated that, but I do not understand how we are supposed to be digesting this information in this short amount of time. I will amend the motion to table it during this meeting for the administrator to have someone contact the Sheriff's office only to find out what the deadline is. Once we know the deadline, then we can go back and reconsider whether we hold it over to the next meeting or whether we will take action on it at this meeting. I want to know the deadline.

Taylor:

Fair enough. Fair enough, I think. You've amended your motion. Commissioner Morgan, will you amend your second?

#### Morgan:

No ma'am, I don't want to vote on anything that I haven't read.

Croley:

I just want to know the deadline. When we know the deadline, we can make a decision about what to do.

Lamb: That is what I want to know, too.

### Holt:

I second it.

#### **Taylor:**

There is a second to the amendment. Thank you very much for getting us through this. There is a motion and a second to have this item tabled until the administrator has a chance to contact the Sheriff's department and get a representative here. There is a motion and a second. Are there any other questions? (No response.) There being none, all in favor of this motion to table, please let it be known by saying "Aye."

Lamb: Aye. Taylor: Aye. Holt: Aye. Croley: Aye.

Taylor: All opposed same sign. Morgan: No.

Taylor: Make that 4 – 1, Ms. Muriel to table.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4 - 1, BY VOICE VOTE, TO TABLE ACTION ON THIS MATTER UNTIL LATER IN THIS MEETING ONLY TO DISCERN WHETHER THERE IS A DEADLINE ON THIS APPLICATION. ADMINISTRATOR LAWSON WAS AKED TO CONTACT THE SHERIFF DURING THIS MEETING. VOTE 4 - 1 (MORGAN)

#### <u>Approval of Inter-Local Agreement with Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School</u> <u>Board –</u>

Commissioner Croley took issue with the rates being charged for the services provided. He pointed out that the rates have remained the same for years, yet the cost of gasoline, etc. has certainly increased in that span of time.

Public Works Director Charles Chapman responded by saying that the board approved the rates that are presently being used. He added that he would be happy to do an analysis and make some recommendations based on the data he can collect.

Commissioner Croley turned to Clerk Thomas and asked if he or his staff had any comments regarding the charges.

Clerk Thomas offered no comments except that he traditionally left those decisions up to the board and the public works director.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE RATES AS STATED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CLERK, PUBLIC WORKS AND COUNTY STAFF WILL PERFORM AN ANALYSIS OF THE RATES BEGINNING OCTOBER 1ST THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR AND COME BACK TO THE BOARD TO DETERMINE A RATE WHICH WILL BE ADEQUATE TO FULLY REIMBURSE THE COST TO THE COUNTY FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

#### Citizens requesting to be heard on Non-Agenda Items

Bob Lauther – 805 NE 15<sup>th</sup> St. Havana, FL - TDC representing Havana Merchant's Association-

He stated that he came before the Tourist Development Council at their last meeting, but it could not convene because a legal quorum was not present. (The new appointee did not meet statute requirements and one other appointee resigned because the council appointments were not in compliance with State Statutes.)

He presented an invoice from Clear Channel Advertising for services for which the Merchants Association had engaged them with the assurance from TDC that the funds would be granted to them for that purpose. However, upon submittal of the bill, he learned that the Finance Department could not process the invoice for some administrative reason. In the interim, Clear Channel was threatening a law suit since the invoice is now four months old. He stated that his business integrity has come into question by Clear Channel. He appealed to the county commissioner s to get the invoice on the right course and direct the bill to be paid.

Mr. Lauther was directed to speak with Mr. Lawson and if he does not get the matter resolved quickly, he will bring it back to the board.

#### Public Hearings

There were no public hearings scheduled for this date. General Business

#### 12. <u>Consideration of Talquin Electric's Proposal to Extend Water Service 600 Feet North along</u> <u>Highway 27 near the Intersection of Highway 27 and County Road 159</u>

Growth Management Director Anthony Matheny addressed the board saying that he has been working with the citizens on this project for some time after Commissioner Lamb brought it to his attention. There are a number of residents who are without water. They have been buying water from a private well and from time to time, the owner will shut off their water supply. He stated he has visited the site and found some real health concerns in addition to the mere inconvenience. He added that he does not know whether the Health Department is even aware of the circumstances that exist.

He reported that he contacted Talquin Water to see if it would be possible for them to extend their lines to these residents. Talquin made a proposal to pay half the cost of extending the water lines down US 27 if the county would agree to pay the remaining half in an effort to deliver central water to the six residents. He reemphasized the health issues which are paramount.

Shirley Parker 3839 FL GA Highway, Havana, FL – Ms. Parker stated that they have been getting water from a renter on the property. Because the renter could change at any time, they are continually in jeopardy of losing their water supply since it would be at the will of the new tenant. Aside from that, she said that there is no water pressure with the current supplier and they question whether the water is even safe. She pleaded with the commission to help them get the Talquin line extended.

Henry Parker 3839 FL GA Highway, Havana, FL, reiterated what his wife had already said.

**Johnnie Mae Bookery, 3845 FL GA Highway; Havana, FL** –Reported that they paid \$1100 for meter from Talquin Electric a couple of years ago and it is just sitting there being of no use to anyone because they can't get the water line down there.

Commissioner Morgan had several questions: 1) Have they been using a community well and paying for water? Yes. The tenant is providing water, but the water pressure is not adequate. 2) Will the line from Talquin be a two-inch line and will it give them adequate water pressure? Yes, the engineers at Talquin figure that it would be adequate. 3) Funding sources - We are looking at Talquin providing 50% and the County 50%, which will be \$8,300? That is what Talquin has proposed. 4) What funding sources do we have for this? To be determined by the BOCC.

Commissioner Lamb asked, "What kind of health problems can come from a situation like this? Answer: Not having adequate pressure to flush the toilets could cause a sewage problem. If water pressure is not high enough at all time, there is all kinds of risks associated with bacterial contamination and infections. The stronger point would be that they don't have reliable water service. Someone with a well is holding them hostage – he could cut off their water at a whim. That person also has a small engine shop on the premises which could pose a danger to the water supply.

Commissioner Lamb clarified that the residents would be responsible for tapping into the Talquin Line. What has been proposed would only extend the line far enough so that they could tap into the well water supply itself.

Commissioner Holt stated that a similar situation existed in the St. Johns community and it was remedied. She asked if the residents had considered drilling a well for themselves to which Mr. Matheny answered, "No." She suggested that this matter be brought back with some alternatives and a recommendation as to which fund to budget for this unbudgeted item.

Commissioner Croley stated that the appropriate fund from which to take this money could be the one-cent discretionary sales tax fund. Water is one of the things identified in the ordinance for which the money can be used. His greater concern was being fair and consistent with all the requests that could likely follow this one. "Doing something for one that you don't do for everybody else. By that, I mean this. There are other property owners between the intersection of 159 and US 27 on the south side of 27. If we extend this waterline, is the line adequate for other property owners to tap on as well, including the man that has the well and the motorcycle shop? If he wants to tap on, there will be adequate amounts of volume for all of them?

Mr. Matheny replied, "As far as I know, Commissioner, it is only going to be what I have identified in the agenda item – about six families. As far as excess capacity, we would have to get Mr. Waddle from Talquin to give us that information."

#### Croley:

Without complicating this, it is a situation that needs to be addressed. We are all in agreement on that.

#### Lamb: Madam Chairman?

Talquin - they are not looking to extend the water line further north. They are looking at stopping it right there. Now, the gentleman who has the well – if he wants to hook onto Talquin,

he is welcomed to. They will help satisfy his water issues if he wants to do that. But, they are going to stop it right there where those families are at.

#### Croley:

All I am saying and I agree with that – what you are saying. But, what I am saying is – from where I am sitting at the intersection up to your house, so to speak, if the other folks want to tap onto the line and you are using public money to do that, they can. That is what I am hearing you say.

#### Lamb:

Right. But, there is nobody else close to that water line except the gentleman who has the well.

#### Croley:

That is what I thought. O.K. And the store on the corner, they already can tap in on CR 159. So, on that basis, that makes good business sense and I can see that it would be fair to everybody involved. If you can identify the matching money from some of the one-cent money, it seems like that ought to make it move forward.

Taylor: O.K.

#### Holt:

Madam Chairman?

One comment. As I said before, the reason that I brought up that other situation is because if we did not remedy it in the same manner, they are coming back. So, I want to make sure that what we are doing is what we need to do. That is all. I don't have a problem with them coming back.

#### Taylor:

I concur. Here is where we are and this is what we should do. I am sure all of us can agree that we have to look at each request case by case. Unfortunately, we can't group these all together. Commissioner Croley has identified a funding source. Obviously, there is a need. Planning and Zoning has gone out and identified how to remedy it. There is still money left in the contingency fund for this year to the tune of around \$35,000. As well, the one cent sales tax.

What happened at St. John? We might need to look at it again to make sure that we are doing the best we can. If it is only \$8,300, certainly we can offer some relief to those who put us in these chairs. So, I am going to yield to you.

#### Lamb:

Madam Chairman, you stated what I was going to say. We have always looked at things case by case. If there is another area, bring your case here and we will look at it and consider your situation. With that, I would like to offer a motion to approve Item 12 to pay 50% along with Talquin Electric and move this forward.

Holt & Croley: Second.

#### Morgan: Question.

#### Taylor:

Amazing. I like it when we all come together on a point. I just like that. It gives me chill bumps. There is a motion and a second. Muriel, you decide which one is second. There is a motion and a second. There is a question from Commissioner Morgan.

#### Morgan:

Commissioner Lamb, I fully support this, but would you be willing to be more specific about the funding source coming from the one-cent sales tax in your motion.

#### Lamb:

I think Commissioner Croley is the one -

#### Morgan:

I am talking about your motion. To not take it from fund balance, but take it from there. My concern is that if we start pulling from fund balance for this project, then you are - I am sorry, Madam Chair, did you have a comment?

Taylor:

It won't be fund balance. We have already clearly identified the source.

Morgan: Not in his motion. That is why I am asking.

#### Taylor:

He didn't identify fund balance either. He did not identify fund balance as a funding source.

#### Morgan:

Right. I am asking that he specifically identify where the funding is coming from. If you don't, you are potentially opening it up for it to come from fund balance in the future if you are not very specific on how we are funding it. I do support what we are trying to do here. I hope you will –

Taylor: Just a second.

Just a second.

Mr. Lawson, are there funds to take care of this within the identified funding source?

#### Lawson:

I know that there are funds in the sales tax as Commissioner Croley has said, **but**, **if you will just make the motion to allow staff to find a fund**, with the exception of fund balance, and we will find the money.

Taylor: Will you amend your motion?

Lamb:

I amend my motion to allow staff to identify the funding source, with the exception of the fund balance.

Taylor: Will you all amend your second?

Croley: I will amend the second.

Holt: I amend the second.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second which has been amended to identify a funding source other than fund balance. Are there any other questions?

Hearing none, all in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All: Aye.

Taylor; Opposed, like sign.

(No response.)

Let's see if we can get this done expeditiously so that we can give some relief out there. Let Talquin know, Mr. Administrator before the end of the day that the Board has approved the funding for that.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY & HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE MATCHING FUNDS OF \$8,300 WITH TALQUIN WATER TO EXTEND THE CENTRAL WATER LINE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND IN THE AGENDA REPORT. THE MOTION ALSO INCLUDED ALLOWING STAFF TO DETERMINE THE FUNDING SOURCE FROM A FUND OTHER THAN FUND BALANCE.

#### 8. Approval of Applications for the E911 Rural Grant Program –

Major Shawn Wood addressed the board.

Point of order was called by Commissioner Croley: I've got to make a motion to move this item off the table and you've got other citizens that are here and I am not prepared to make that motion yet. Taylor:

Mr. Woods, since that was made, I don't know if that is proper procedure or if that can be lifted by anyone around this board, but we will follow that until we get better understanding.

Woods: That is fine.

#### 13. <u>Approval and Authorization to Pursue TIGER Discretionary Grant Economic Recovery Funding</u> For Several Road Projects: Surfacing of Horse Shoe Road

Resurfacing of McCall Bridge Road Resurfacing of Lakeview Point Road & realignment of the intersection Resurfacing of Mt. Pleasant Road

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE STAFF APPLYING FOR THE TIGER GRANT LISTED ABOVE.

14. <u>Approval of Change Order Number 1 for Cairo-Concord Road (CR 157-A) County Incentive</u> <u>Program (COGP) to Close the Project</u>

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 1, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER DESCRIBED ABOVE.** Chair Taylor noted that her "no" vote is consistent with her commitment to never approve change orders.

#### 15. <u>Approval of Task Order 2011-120 for Preble Rish Engineering to Design the Resurfacing of</u> <u>Dodger Ball Park Road</u>

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER DESCRIBED ABOVE.

#### 16. Approval of Appointment to Tourism Development Council

Mr. Lawson reported that this item was heard at the last meeting when Mr. Clarence Jackson was appointed to the Tourist Development Council (TDC.) Subsequent to that meeting, staff learned that the appointment does not meet the requirements of State Statutes, making the TDC not in compliance. Because the TDC was not in compliance, Commissioner Morgan resigned from the TDC.

Mr. Lawson asked the board to rescind the appointment of Mr. Jackson and reappoint someone else who is a bed tax collector as well as consider reappointing Commissioner Morgan since the new appointment would bring the TDC into compliance with Florida Statutes.

# UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO RESCIND THE APPOINTMENT OF CLARENCE JACKSON TO THE TDC.

Commissioner Lamb had questions for Jeff DeBree, TDC Chair.

#### Lamb:

Mr. DuBree, when you all allocate to different municipalities or whatever, do you all keep a check and balance on how this is being spent. When you get the invoices back – like when you give somebody \$1,000 or \$2,000 – How do you all know that they are really spending that money for the purpose that you all gave it to them?

#### DuBree:

There are some compliance issues. Generally, the funds are given based on some criteria when the money is used for a certain type of marketing, for example. So, documentation would have to be given back to our administrative staff, which would be Anthony and Sonya Burns and show it to TDC to prove that it met the criteria.

#### Morgan:

Point of order, Madam Chair. I am sorry, Jeff. I apologize.

Taylor:

I understand. I understand. She just told me and I am going to correct it.

Finish your statement and then I will share what the attorney has told me. Finish your statement.

#### Morgan: Point of order, Madam Chair. Point of order, Madam Chair.

Taylor: No, no, no.

#### Morgan:

Yes, ma'am. This is not the item that is on the agenda and we cannot discuss that. Point of order.

Taylor:

Excuse me a second. I appreciate you pointing that out. (To Commissioner Morgan)

Continue your sentence. (To Jeff DuBree) Just finish your sentence.

DuBree: I believe I had completed it.

Taylor: That was the end of your sentence?

DuBree: Yes, Ma'am.

#### Taylor:

We show respect. We just show respect, and then I was going to clear the matter up and indicate that we cannot carry or move any motion around this board on it because it is not an agendaed item. But, we don't disrespect people when they are talking. I was not going to entertain any motions or directions from this board. But, we tend to discuss things that are not agendaed. So, I was just give you respect and then I was going to address the matter with the attorney.

#### Morgan:

Madam Chair, I was not showing any disrespect at all, it is just simply the right way to do business. We didn't have the item for any discussion other than appointment of members to the TDC. Thank you.

Taylor: Again, on several occasions –

Morgan: That doesn't make it right.

#### Taylor:

It doesn't, but it is something that we have done on several occasions, that we have often gone off from the item that has been agendaed. We have always respected one another.

#### Morgan:

There is never a right time to do the wrong thing.

Taylor:

That is still, Commissioner Morgan, you are out of order now.

Morgan: No, I am in order.

Taylor: No, sir. Morgan: Yes, Ma'am. Taylor: No, sir. Morgan: Yes, Ma'am. Taylor: No, sir. Morgan: Yes, Ma'am. Lamb: Come on, here. Holt: Come on, let's go.

Taylor:

Let me say this. Obviously, this type of behavior is not the norm. We do show better respect. We will move this on. I appreciate you, Mr. DuBree, for your comments. Again, we normally have conversation around this board, but, sometimes we get a little offensive on certain subjects and that is probably what is happening. We will move forward.

Now, Mr. Lawson, of your three, we have entertained one item in regards to having the vote rescinded. Again, there is someone out there that wishes to speak and I will now have Mr. Jim Kellum to please come up and let's speak to this particular item.

Kellum:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I appreciate the fact that the first part of what I was going to address has already been dealt with – The fact that we were out of compliance. The thing that I would like to talk about now is that I would like to say that I think Mr. Morgan has done a wonderful job in helping to move forward, the TDC. I would hate to have him removed or not put back on board. I understand why he wanted to resigned because we were out of

compliance. But I do recommend him highly. We have had several in the past in they have all done a good job, but, Mr. Morgan has done an exceedingly good job.

Also, I would like to address one other issue of membership. We – several times I have mentioned to the board that we - and several times at the TDC meetings, we have offered up names that were to be presented to the County Commission because that is the way it was before we had our joint meeting. That is the way it used to be – we would recommend someone that we thought would enhance and help the board. Then the county could decide whether they wanted that person or not.

Three or four months ago, we offered up the name Matt Thro in our board meeting and we passed that so that it could be presented to the county commission. It was not presented, but Mr. Matheny can vouch for the fact that we did vote on it, but it was not presented to the county commission. Why? I don't know. Then two months later is when another name came up, which was fine. A county commissioner put it into place, but I wanted you to understand that we had also put a name in place, which had nothing to do with the person that the county commissioner recommended. There is a third spot. We only have one businessperson on that three section - you can use business people. We have always had two people from Midway. We have always had two or three people from the Chattahoochee district and we have always had two people or more from Quincy. So, I don't know why it would be such a big issue to have two people representing Havana and that is why Matt Thro's name was put into place. I would like to put that name into place again today.

Taylor:

Thank you. Will that conclude your discussion? Is that all you have to say for the moment?

Kellum: Yes, Ma'am.

Taylor:

Alright. Let's get back to the business at hand. Again, the next item now – Well, Commissioner Holt, I am going to hear from you as to the person you wish to appoint at this time. It is my understanding that the position is still vacant, Mr. Lawson.

Lawson: Yes. Taylor: O.K. Holt: O.K. The person that I nominate for District 4 for the TDC is Mr. Curt Bradwell. He is a tax collector. He owns a business under Bradwell, Inc. and he is a tax collector and that is my nominee for district 4.

Taylor:

Do I hear you over there, Commissioner?

Croley:

Commissioner Holt, I have already made it clear that I support a representative from District 4 and certainly you will have my support for a qualified person from District 4 to serve on Tourism and Development. I do want to understand, though, a tax collector – Ms. Minnis, you may need to clarify this for me, but, I believe the tax collector that is referenced here has to be someone who is in the hospitality business that is collecting this particular tax. I am afraid that if this is the Mr. Bradwell that I am familiar with, I don't believe – ah, is he in the hospitality business?

Holt:

It will not matter because I have a second nominee. I came with two. I have a second nominee if he does not qualify.

Croley:

Well, if she could clarify that, I think that will help. The tax collector must be a hospitality -

Minnis: That is my understanding also.

Holt:

I withdraw the name of Mr. Bradwell and I nominate the name of Mr. Peter Patel for District 4.

Croley: Now, is Mr. Patel?

Holt: He owns the Hampton Inn.

Croley: O.K. But, that is in District 5.

Holt:

Yeah, but he lives in District 4 and he is a representative and he is looking at things to help throughout the county including District 4.

Croley:

I don't have a problem with that.

Now, I don't want you to take offense to this, but I want to ask a question.

Holt:

Sure.

Croley:

Does he have any business connection with you personally?

Holt:

I bought a license from him, but that doesn't have anything to do with this. I don't stay at the Hampton.

Croley:

Then I will second it. Just trying to make sure that we both don't get in trouble.

Holt:

I am just trying to appoint someone from the hotel part of it.

Taylor: Just a second. Just a second.

Are we ---Did we officially withdraw Mr. Curt Bradwell? Did you put him out?

Holt: I never got a second.

#### Taylor:

Never got a second. O.K. Just want to be sure we are following correct parliamentarian procedure. I have a question both from Commissioner Morgan and from Mr. Kellum. I am going to recognize you first. Come on up, sir.

Kellum:

I would like to say, Ms. Holt, you have made a very good recommendation in Mr. Patel. He has served on the TDC in the past and did an excellent job. He was very cooperative and actually went to a couple of conventions to try to learn more about TDC. He will be a very good representative.

Morgan:

This is very simple. This is to fill a vacant seat, correct?

Holt:

Right.

Morgan: Just wanted that on the record.

Taylor: Is that your motion to appoint Mr. Peter Patel?

Holt:

Yes.

Taylor:

There is a motion on the floor and a second by Commissioner Croley. There is a motion on the floor and a second to appoint Mr. Peter Patel to the TDC board. Are there any more questions?

Being none, all in favor of that motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All: Aye.

Taylor: Opposed - by the same sign.

(No response.)

Motion carries, sir.

Croley: May I ask this question?

Taylor: Yes, sir.

Croley:

I was not aware and maybe Commissioner Morgan said this in one of our discussions and I didn't pick up on it, but you officially resigned from the TDC.

Morgan:

Madam Chair, may I?

Taylor: Yes.

#### Morgan:

Yes, Commissioner Croley and I appreciate you bringing that up for clarification. At the prior meeting, I was urging this board not to approve the nomination that was brought forward. Certainly with no disrespect to the nominee because Rev. Jackson would have done an excellent job. However, it was clear that action brought us out of compliance and I tried to relay that. It passed 4 - 1. That next morning, I sent an email to the administrator and copied the attorney with receipt saying that I would love to serve on the TDC, but I am not willing to do that when we've got a board out of compliance with State Statutes.

#### Croley:

Now that it appears that the board is back in compliance with State Statutes, would you not be willing to continue to serve?

#### Morgan:

I certainly would be and I indicated that in my email to the administrator as well.

#### Croley:

Then, that being the case, I am going to make a motion to reappoint you.

#### Taylor:

Excuse me, excuse me, excuse me. Just a second before we go to that point, let's have some discussion. Just a second. Just a second if you don't mind.

I want to make this statement before we move on that. Item No. 2.

The night of the appointment, it was made clear that staff was to go back and verify that this individual was qualified. That was part of the motion. To verify that this individual was qualified to serve and if not, we would come back and entertain it. We certainly did not want to be out of compliance and we certainly did not disrespect what was being said by our representative, Mr. Morgan. But, we just wanted to make sure that the commissioner had the opportunity to make her appointment, which was clearly agreed to around this board that there needed to be representation out of district 4. But, there was also concern as to whether or not this particular appointee qualified. So, that was part of the motion. When we all received an email, I spoke to the administrator and did not know if that motion was clear to Commissioner Morgan that we were not trying to be out of compliance, that we were going to make sure that the appointee was within compliance. If not, then it would not move forward. Subsequently, to get him to

quit or submit his resignation, I thought was a little aggressive, given the fact of what was on the floor and what was being put out there so that we could make sure that we were in compliance.

We can't have this behavior when things don't go quite the way we want. To quit and come back, then we quit and come back.

Morgan: Point of order.

Taylor: Yes.

#### Morgan:

Madam Chair, it had nothing to do with being aggressive. I simply will not serve on a board that is out of compliance. I was very clear with the motion. I was also very clear in letting the board know that it would be out of compliance. Being on the TDC, I am a party to that information. When you guys voted to do that and put him on there, I simply in a very appropriate email to the administrator and copy to the attorney, I said I was not going to do that and would be glad to serve once the committee got back into compliance with State Statutes. So, I understand your opinion, but I didn't quit anything. It is just as simple as I am not going to vote on something that I haven't read. It is just the right way to do business. I understand that is not in agreement with some folks that sit on this board.

#### Taylor:

I heard your point of order. But, I am going to state this again.

Morgan: Go ahead.

Taylor:

We are going to learn or we are going to need to be able to handle situations professionally around the board.

Morgan: Which I did.

#### Taylor:

And be able to be respectful to this board. Again, it was clear that there may have been some concerns with the appointee, which is why there was a tag onto that motion and approval. Again, I am not going to be held hostage and I am not going to be disrespected because I don't show that around this board.

Morgan: I just wanted to point out where I am coming from.

Taylor: Excuse me, Mr. Morgan. You are out of order.

Morgan: No, ma'am.

Taylor: Yes, you are, sir.

Morgan: No, ma'am, I am not.

Taylor: Excuse me.

#### Minnis:

Mr. Morgan, she has the floor. Until she recognizes you from the floor, you are out of order.

Morgan: I understand.

Taylor:

You are out of order and if this continues, I will ask that you be removed from the meeting. Now, this has never happened before and I will not be disrespected this way. I don't show that kind of disrespect when anyone around this board is speaking. I don't' allow others to show that kind of disrespect. It is important that we remain professional no matter what is going on around this board. All of us have had heartburns, but we must remain professional.

Croley: May I, Madam Chair?

Taylor: Just a second, sir.

I am concerned with this and I just wanted to make sure going forward that we try and work together as a board and respect one another as a board. That is important. What we present to the public in important. That we show collaboration between us. There are going to be

differences, but we are going to have to be able to move past those in a professional manner and still conduct business for this county because that is the only reason that we are here. I have a problem with us being in the mindset that if it is a certain way, then we shouldn't be a part of it. Let's just work together. That is all I have ever wanted. That the five of us work together as often as we can. I am still going to maintain a professional decorum no matter what is being said or done around this board. If I agree with it, we will still carry it and move through with it.

Now, we are at the point of re-appointing Mr. Morgan or not reappointing Mr. Morgan. Yes, Ma'am.

#### Holt:

It happened since you have been chairman that we had a big dispute, but as General Patton said, "Blood and guts rule government also." A good fight is sometimes good for government. It changes what you have sometimes for the better. It happens in county commission meetings, too.

I appointed Mr. Jackson on the advice that you needed a person on there. A citizen. If you remember the conversation, it was for a citizen and the administrator would go and look at it and see if would comply. It said "a citizen." I said, "Mr. Jackson is a citizen." I love being discussed and act like I am not in the room. That is exactly what was said. Now, I chose Mr. Jackson because he is a citizen. District 4 needs a lot of representation right now because of the development out in District 4. Then they said a "Tax Collector." O.K. There is nothing in the literature that I had earlier that said it had to be a person that was in the hospitality industry. It said a "Tax Collector." Mr. Bradwell is a tax collector. The problem is with the information getting to us. That is the problem. O.K?

I don't have any problems with the TDC giving nominees. It is this board's last say-so to say who is on that TDC and who is not. I have not been in favor of having all the money going to one city or the other city. I said in the beginning with the TDC, "Spread that money equally and get out there and advertise." That way people would know if they were having events or that there is something going on and come to the TDC. That has been the problem with TDC all along, it is a closed organization. That is exactly what it has been.

I am not going to stop talking. I am going to say what I have to say. People sat here and talked about some of my nominees, so I am going to talk and that is the way it is going to be. Now, as I said before, Mr. Patel was a good nominee. If Commissioner Morgan decided he wanted to resign for whatever reason, he was at the same meeting we were at. He wanted to resign and I am just as happy with putting someone else on there. I'll serve on there. I don't have a problem with serving on there. I think that it needs to be divided up equally anyway. Whatever his reason was, that is his reason. I don't have any problem with him resigning and I have no argument with him. Let's do this and keep moving because right now, we are not going after any money. We need money.

Thank you.

#### Taylor:

Thank you very much. Again, are there any other comments? We are now at a point of either re-appointing or appointing a representative from this board to serve on the TDC.

#### Lamb:

I think he has a question for you.

#### Croley:

Well, I hope that the passions will subside here a little bit and rationale will be restored.

Obviously, Commissioner Morgan was under the impression that whatever was done was done improperly and he didn't want to be a part of it. We understand that. It has now been corrected and I know that Commissioner Holt at no time in the process meant her harm from her standpoint. I recognize, Madam Chair, that you mean no harm. I think that the thing to do is to try – We've got a good nominee that we have all come together on and I think we need to put Commissioner Morgan back in place and let things calm down and let's move forward. Then his term expires on 12/31/2012 and we can revisit then a new appointee if someone else on the commissioner wished to serve in his place. That is why I will state my motion again that Commissioner Morgan be reappointed to the TDC now that things have been straightened out.

#### Taylor: Now, again –

Croley: I've got a motion.

Taylor: There is a motion, is there a second?

#### (no response)

#### Motion dies for lack of a second.

Now, let me say this to you. You said what I just said. We had gotten it calm and I am thankful to Commissioner Morgan and I will never have any disrespect for him. He and I, I consider as a

tag team because we came on at the same time and I feel a kindred spirit with him. I do understand his passion and I am not taking anything from him. But, what you just said –"things are calm" and I understand passions. Some days I want to pull out what little hair I had. I am not taking any offense to what has happened this morning. I understand human nature. We get excited. I appreciate his respect in that we came back to a normal behavior around the board.

Commissioner Holt, we're not going to have "blood and guts" up here.

Holt: Why not?

Taylor:

We are not going to have it and we are just not going to do it. It is not necessary. We are professionals. But again, I respect and I appreciate Commissioner Morgan. I always have. So, I am not taking any offense. We are moving forward as recommended by Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Croley.

Your motion to re-appoint Commissioner Morgan has died.

Lamb: Madam Chairman?

Taylor: Yes.

Lamb:

I was disappointed with the statement that I got from the administrator that Mr. Morgan had resigned. I was concerned about that because I am the one who nominated him to go on the TDC. Now, it was made clear that we were going to let the administrator check into the qualification of Mr. Jackson and see if that was what we needed. But, now, I am also willing to show grace. With that, we need to let him serve out his term if he is willing to do that and with that, I will nominate Mr. Morgan to go back to his seat on the TDC to fulfill his current term.

Croley: I will second it.

Holt: You had better hurry up. (laughter)

Croley:

#### Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners September 20, 2011, Regular Meeting

Whatever.

Taylor: Are we having fun this morning?

Holt: Yes.

Croley: We need to move on up here.

Taylor: Commissioner Morgan?

#### Morgan:

My name has been used quite frequently around this board for the last 10 minutes. I appreciate your comments. Is there passion involved in what I do as I represent these folks? Yes. On this particular issue, I need to be very clear. I appreciate the nomination from Commissioner Lamb to be on this committee because I have enjoyed serving and I have learned a lot. I appreciate the comments I received earlier from Mr. Kellum. However, to be clear, once the appointment of Mr. Jackson to the TDC, whether that was going to be looked into or not, at that moment when he was appointed, that board was out of compliance. It had nothing to do with my willingness to serve or with me getting mad and not going to serve, being disrespectful to the seat, it is simply a fact that I sent a very professional email and the administrator has that. I will be more than happy to read it for the public if we need to. I stated clearly that I would be willing to serve once we got back into compliance. Nothing entered into my decision other than simply that we were not in compliance with State Statutes or anything that is going on improperly. It is not a matter of difference of opinion. It is not a matter of passion. It is what is right versus what is wrong. I appreciate being nominated and I will be glad to serve.

Thank you.

Taylor:

There is a motion and a second to re-appoint Commissioner Morgan to the TDC. All in favor of this motion let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All: Aye.

Taylor: Opposed – the same sign? (no response)

Motion carries. (Applause)

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO RE-APPOINT COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO THE TDC TO FULLFILL HIS TERM UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2012.

#### 17. Approval to Appoint Sonya Burns as the Tourism Development Council Administrator

Lawson:

The Tourism Development Council by Statute can utilize 10% of its budget for administration. Since Ms. Burns has been working with them for several years, we are recommending approval of Ms. Burns as the TDC Administrator and allow the county administrator to determine the additional pay, if any.

Holt: I move approval.

Lamb: Second.

Croley: I have a question on that.

Taylor: There is a motion and a second and now there is a question.

Croley:

I heard earlier about the distribution of funds. I think this tracts with Mr. Lamb was inquiring about. I think that does come under here. The distribution of funds – is that done by Mr. Matheny's office?

Lawson: Do you mean in terms of paying the bills?

Croley: Yeah, or does that go through the Clerk?

Lawson:

The invoices are submitted through Mr. Matheny's office and then they are processed to the Clerk.

Croley:

So, the Clerk's office is actually paying the bills and all that?

Lawson: Right.

#### Croley:

O.K. That is very important to me. I think that it is good to have a check and balance about that. You may process the invoice, but, I want to know that the checks are coming from the Clerk. Therefore, when we have a vendor who is not being paid, the proper place to make an inquiry is to the Clerk's office. If the Clerk's office hasn't gotten the correct documentation, then it comes back to our administrator.

I think that is what Mr. Lamb was referencing or at least something about that process so that we better understood it.

As far as Ms. Burns being appointed to be the administrator, I don't have any problem with that, but, is this an extra duty for the Clerk's office in handling this? They are not getting any compensation for this extra duty as well. How that is handled, Mr. Clerk?

#### Clerk Thomas:

We were not seeking any extra from the Tourist Development Fund.

#### Croley:

So 10% of the budget – is this something that was recommended by the TDC or is this something that came up internally? I would like to know.

#### Taylor:

Let me hear from the President of TDC and then I will hear from Mr. Kellum.

#### DuBree:

We had presented a budget to this board a couple of meetings ago that had a coordinator's position in it. Our current budget is \$90,000, which makes the part that can be used for administration \$9,000 to go toward what we called a coordinator's position. In the agenda, you have it listed as the administrative coordinator.

In our strategic plan, there is an addendum that you could reference, and I know you don't have it in front of you, but it has the responsibilities that we are looking to the coordinator's position to fulfill. Some of them are above and beyond what the administrator has done up until now.

As the TDC, what we voted on as a recommendation, was to move forward in our budget and have a coordinator's position that would free someone up (We think that Sonya will do a great job) to go out into the field ad work on some of our strategies. When you look at \$9,000, realistically, you are only looking at 10 - 15 hours a week on average. It might not be that every week, but on average. But that time would be spent to get out with our strategic partners and coordinate an event, coordinate us together, let people know what kind of marketing really works for the event and play that role – not just paper work in the administrative role, but play a pivotal part in putting together a marketing plan. The duties are all spelled out in that

addendum; too, so if you approve this item, I would like to see that you reference those duties as part of the approval of Sonya's role with the fact that realistically, it is probably only going to be 10 - 12 hours per week.

Holt: Madam Chair?

Taylor: Hold on.

#### Croley:

Wait a minute. I haven't relinquished the floor yet and I want to get through this. We got into a big mess on this thing earlier and I don't intend to have that happen if I have to rare myself.

Now, is this position going to answer to you, Mr. Administrator or does this position answer to the TDC?

#### Lawson:

She is still a county employee, so she would answer to her current supervisor. In terms of her responsibilities here, as he said, the coordinator, she is doing a number of these functions already and she answers to Mr. Matheny as well as she would coordinate these functions with the TDC. She will still be supervised by our staff.

#### Croley:

O.K. I just don't want to, you know, if you divide this chain of command, you are going to get into a bunch of confusion. I just want to be certain that the administrative accountability begins and ends with you. You are the county administrator and if she is going to continue to be a coordinator under your supervision, that is who I will be looking to supervise her. That is just good business.

I don't have a problem in doing this if this is your recommendation as long as it is clear that she answers to Mr. Lawson as the interim county administrator and whoever or whatever may happen up here. So, if you are looking for a motion, I will motion to approve it if there is no other discussion.

#### Holt:

Yes, I have no problems with Sonya or Ms. Burns doing that. The reason that the County went to someone to work with the TDC was to make sure that we had accountability throughout the county. That is the reason we had that administrator working with the TDC in the beginning. But, that person was over housing and whatever. But, my concern is twofold. One is that is going to be too much work for \$9,000.

#### DuBree:

We realize that. We would like to see it be more because we realize for 9,000 we are not going to get more than 10 - 15 hours a week.

Holt:

\$9,000 and she is going to take away from what she is doing for the county, she cannot, you cannot add 15 more hours to an 8-hour day and 40 hours a week. Also, even if it was a separate \$15,000, I mean \$9,000. You are not going to be able to get the production.

Do we not have marketing company that is supposed to be doing that?

#### DuBree:

We do have a marketing company now, but, the plan, the overall plan is not to continue to pay someone from the outside to do that. We feel like we can do it more economically ourselves. We may have a marketing company to do a specific project, but not to do the day to day things that a coordinator could do.

#### Holt:

Well, like I said, I don't think that is enough funding for that because you are talking about a lot work. But, my second thing is that I am looking for that person to report to us, letting us know if the funds are distributed equally throughout the county as I said. If there are dead zones in the county that are not getting the advertisement or whatever we need for tourist development. The tax was advertised as a job maker. That is how it was advertised and that is what people voted on. Now, the accountability in the job sector is not there. So, we have an administrator or coordinator, I am going to look to that coordinator to say, "Look, there is no activity going on or there is a lot of activity going on in Havana. Why is there not any going on in Greensboro? Why is there not something going on in Chattahoochee or Midway? These are things that have never been addressed by the TDC. Not just come and do your paperwork that is not what I am looking for.

#### DuBree:

That is we are hoping for also. We are hoping to get a little more also. One of the responsibilities of the coordinator in the strategic plan is to prepare an annual tourism and advertising and promotion budget. So certainly, that person can be given the direction by your board that you want it equally distributed. That is one of the duties that is listed on the strategic plan as to what we would like the coordinator to do.

#### Holt:

Madam Chairman, I would like to amend my motion that the coordinator report to this board also.

#### Croley:

Wait a minute. I had a motion out there that she never entertained a second on. I don't know whether I was going to get a second.

#### Holt:

But, I moved approval when we first started and I got a second.

#### Taylor: Yes, she got a second. Am I right, Ms. Muriel?

#### Straughn:

Yes. We have a motion by Holt and second by Lamb.

Croley:

0.K.

#### Holt:

So, you see, there was already a motion. But, what I wanted to say was that I want to amend my motion because I would like for that person to report to this board. We need some data. We need some information.

#### Croley:

Well, Ms. Holt, if she reports to the county administrator.

Holt:

Well, he can bring it forward; I don't have a problem with it. That is what I am saying.

#### Croley:

They are reporting to this board. That is why I was trying to help get that clarified. So, I think we are saying the same thing.

#### Holt:

Right. There is no problem with it. As I said, Mr. Manager, I don't think the funding is enough, but if you look into it and see whether you think it is or is not, I would like to know and I can just check with you personally.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

#### Taylor:

Let me have Mr. Kellum make a statement and then I will hear from Commissioner Lamb and then we are going to move this.

Lamb:

This goes to Mr. DuBree. In our package here, it says \$13,120.00.

#### DuBree:

That is our entire budget. 20% of that comes from previous years that was to be utilized for marketing funds. \$90,000 is what we will be pulling in this year from the bed tax funds.

#### Lamb:

So, that is where the \$9,000 comes from.

#### DuBree:

My thoughts were that it would be up to you all as to how that is written. The By-Laws were approved by the County Commission for the TDC and they say that only 10% of the funds can be used for a coordinator or administrative position. The remaining funds, if you chose to have more responsibilities, would have to be paid some other way or the By-Laws would have to be

changed to allow more. We kind of wrote the By-Laws that way so that the emphasis could be on the marketing aspect and not get it too heavily weighted on a paid position.

Lamb: O.K. Thank you.

Taylor: Mr. Kellum?

#### Kellum:

Madam Chairman, I have nothing but good things to say today. I have no complaints. I am the one who put Sonya's name forward. She has been serving with TDC under other people for the last six or seven years. She has always been very cooperative. This is a baby step way of trying to get out into the community, Ms. Holt. I agree with you that and I have always thought that all the county, every area of the county, should have the opportunity to receive the money. I took the Vice-Chairmanship this year after being offered the Chairman. I didn't want that. Jeff has a big enough job. But to help him and Sonya, if she is on board, where we will have those – we will go to Gretna and have those meetings. We will go to Chattahoochee and try to coordinate the county and try to get them to do a paper that we can swap. Quincy doesn't even have a paper that tells people where the merchants are and where the activities are and where the attractions are. These are things, I think, that with a little help and I talked to Sonya, and I know it is not a lot of money, but it is a baby step and if can coordinate that by going out into the community, then down the road we can build a better deal and we will have more money so we can use that as a promotion on the TDC. To have Sonya on board is the first step. Sonya is the best coordinator that I have ever seen. I think that the county will know exactly what is going on every month. I am glad to work with her. Jeff is too, and the whole TDC board. She is a great person to start that position.

#### Taylor:

I appreciate you confirming this.

Now. Before we move forward with the motion that is on the floor, Commissioner Lamb brought up something that we need to entertain. According to the write-up, The amount is \$13,120. So if we make a motion to approve the agendaed item, we are moving to approve \$13,000. But, according to what the president just indicated, we are actually moving on only \$9,000. So, that needs to be cleared up before we carry this particular item as to the actual amount that we are going to move on this particular agendaed item.

Mr. DuBree, can you give me the actual amount.

#### DeBree:

We are projecting our income to be \$90,000 from the bed tax. Our budget is based on that.

Taylor:

We have to have an exact amount if at all possible.

#### DuBree:

That would be the exact amount.

Taylor:

So, it will be a \$9,000 request for her salary.

#### DuBree:

That is the amount that we had as a line item in the budget that the TDC presented to you.

#### Taylor:

Alright. That is all I needed to know, sir. So, based on that information, we need to clear that up. If this item is approved, it is approved at \$9,000 exactly as opposed to what is indicated in the agenda package.

#### Holt:

Madam Chairman that cannot be done on the percentage on the 10% just does it on the 10%. If it is \$13,000, she will receive \$13.

#### Taylor:

I am just trying to clarify the numbers. That is all I am trying to do. I see what you are saying, but give me an actual number that we need to vote on.

Holt:

10% is the number to vote on. They are projecting \$90,000.

Taylor:

So, you want us to vote on a percentage rather than an actual amount?

Holt: Right.

Taylor: I follow you. Makes sense.

Holt:

I will adjust my motion to approve the position at 10% of the bed tax collection.

#### Morgan:

Thank you. I understand the discussion here. But there was a budget that was submitted by TDC and approved at \$90,000. We were basing it off 10% of the approved budget. My question is are we able to approve 10% of whatever the actuals are or do we have to budget that?

Holt: Madam Chairman?

Taylor: O.K. You may answer.

#### DuBree:

'We would have to know and have to have some direction about how to manipulate our budget that we presented to you, because we had the \$4,000 going somewhere else.

Holt:

You are saying that – What will the 10% be again? What will the 10% be by law?

#### DuBree

Our base budget was presented at \$90,000. The way that the Strategic Plan is - we did not spend a lot of marketing money over the years so the TDC had built up a fund with a substantial balance from previous years. The Strategic Plan has written in there, that we would take 20% of the reserves and put it into the current fiscal budget and use it toward marketing. It specifically says marketing. That will be an addition to try and kick start the TDC and put us on the map for the years that we did not do marketing until that fund is eventually depleted. Maybe it will never deplete down because we will be successful. That is also a goal.

Holt: So, what is your 10%?

DuBree:

In my opinion, it would be \$9,000. Our budget is \$131,000, but \$41,000 or 20% of that came from previous years that accumulated into a reserve fund. That money is to be used specifically for marketing. Perhaps, that is something the attorney might be able to give us an opinion on. If the 10% applies to the entire budget, then it would be \$13,000. But, if you base it on the income for this year based on the income that the bed tax will bring in this year, it would be \$9,000. In my opinion, it would apply to the current year revenue collections. That is the figure that we have all the line items based upon – the \$90,000.

#### Lawson:

Can we just say 10% of the budget that was submitted for this fiscal year?

Taylor: Yes, which is?

Lawson: \$90,000.

Lamb: Let's go with that.

Holt: We will go with it, but ----

Taylor: Thank you. Thank you very much.

No more comments.

We are going to move on \$9,000 which is 10% of the budgeted new revenue. Can I get a motion?

Holt:

Madam Chair, you would need to rescind the previous motion first.

Taylor: Can I get a motion to rescind?

Holt:

Madam Chairman, I made the motion and one interesting thing about it and one reason why I am interested in not rescinding it is because of this: If they budgeted \$90,000, which I think is not enough because she still is not going to get the \$9,000, one thing – does she even know that it is going to be \$9,000 instead of the \$13,000, Mr. Administrator?

I want to make sure that she approves of this while we are putting her into something.

#### Lawson:

Yes, she is aware and even though there is 10% in there, you know, it does not necessarily mean that she will get the entire \$9,000. Her salary is actually set by me. The money is budgeted, but

#### Holt:

Well I hope you feel a lot better about this because \$9,000 – if she is going to do all that and still

#### Lawson:

In addition to her current salary. So, that is ---you are basically approving her as an administrator with the 10% of the budgeted amount and we will decide how her salary is adjusted.

Holt: I hope it is adjusted up. I will rescind my previous motion.

Lamb: I rescind my second.

Croley: Commissioner Holt, are you going to amend it or what?

Taylor:

Let's do this. Let's do this. It has been rescinded and he second it.

All in favor of having that motion rescinded let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All: Aye.

Taylor:

Now, let's move forward on the 10% of the \$90,000. Can I get a motion?

Croley:

I move 10% of the present budgeted revenue amount of (\$90,000) to be under the county administrator.

Morgan: Second.

**Taylor:** 

There is a motion and a second to go with 10% of the current revenue budgeted (\$90,000) under the administrator.

Are there any other questions?

There being none, all in favor of the motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All: Aye.

Taylor: Opposed by the same sign.

(no response)

5 – 0 in favor of the motion.

Jeff Dubree, TDC Chair

#### Item 8 – revisited. Major Wood – Seven (7) E-911 Grant Applications

Commissioner Croley spoke briefly to Major Woods explaining that he decline to rescind his motion to table earlier in the meeting. He stated that the other people on the agenda had been waiting a long time to have their issue heard and he didn't want to delay them from getting back to their businesses any longer.

# UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, O TAKE ITEM 8 OFF THE TABLE AND BE PLACED IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Major Wood expressed condolences in the death of DeVane Mason, former E-911 Director for many years. He went on to explain that the item deals with a multitude of different grants.
The money is derived from the communications taxes on cellular telephones statewide. The money goes into a pool of money. As a county, the board of county commissioners must request the funds by way of a grant application. A statewide board decides how the money is allocated to the counties. The basic grants are based on the different priorities set by the state board. There are additional grants that can be sought in addition to the basic or general E911 grant. By way of applying for the multiple grants, the state review board would become aware of the needs for particular programs for Gadsden County and be abreast of the direction the county is attempting to go. The reality is that not all seven grants will be funded, but it will allow the State to know that Gadsden is looking to do those programs. As the years pass and as the various programs take priority, the funding becomes more likely in the future.

#### Croley:

My first issue is the same issue I have had. I certainly offer my condolences to the Sheriff's Department for the loss of Mr. Mason. As well all know, he was very zealous in carrying out his duties. So, please accept my condolences about that.

Now, the question was, "What is the deadline for applying for these grants?

Major Wood: October 1, 2011.

## Croley:

Now, appreciate, as I do, the fact that you have lost Mr. Mason and you have been not totally discombobulated, but, obviously, a little bit delayed by the paperwork side of it. We did not get this until apparently yesterday. Not a person up here including the administrator has had a chance to review these documents. So, our concern, or at least my concern, I can't speak for everyone, but I do believe I heard it around here, - we did not know what the deadline was. It may have stated it in here, but if it is, we have missed seeing that date. So, we wanted to have time to review. But, if we've got an October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, and as you know, we have complained before about late agenda items from the Sheriff's Office – last minute items – and we have had numerous occasions where commitments were made that this would not happen again and so on and so forth. I realize that when you have a death, that throws everything off. But, October 1<sup>st</sup> is the case and this is rather routine grant applications – is it not, Mr. Lawson. Aren't they what we have entertained in the past?

#### Lawson:

Yes.

## Croley:

I do believe that we should move it even if we haven't had a chance to read it as closely as we would like.

Taylor: Is that your motion?

Croley: That will be my motion.

Holt: I will second it.

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

There being no questions, all in favor of this motion, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."

Croley: Aye. Holt: Aye. Lamb: Aye. Taylor: Aye.

All opposed the same sign.

Morgan: No.

Taylor: Motion carries 4 – 1. Morgan opposed because information was submitted untimely.

#### **County Administrator**

#### 18. Update on Board Requests

Mr. Lawson had nothing to report.

#### County Attorney

## 19. <u>Update on Various Legal Issues</u> - <u>Status of the Interlocal Agreement with the Sheriff for</u> <u>Emergency Management.</u> –

Ms. Minnis reported that the county has signed the agreement, but, not the Sheriff.

#### Mr. Lawson was instructed to check with the Sheriff on this matter.

#### **Discussion Items by Commissioners**

#### 20. Commissioner Lamb, District 1

He reported that he had received some phone calls regarding the Gadsden Express – Some of the citizens are standing on the bus. Administrator Lawson has talked with Mr. Waters at Big Bend and was told that the buses are designed for standing patrons. "What I would like to see done is the Chairman and Mr. Lawson have a meeting with Mr. Ted Waters and bring us back a report and recommendations on that, please."

<u>Commissioner Croley, District 2</u> – Report and Discussion on Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission District Two and Gadsden County

He reported the following concerning the Capital Regional Transportation Agency Meeting:

- Budget for the operation was approved \$751,899.00 of which the majority of it comes from Federal Highway Administration and Florida DOT to try and coordinate for this whole Tallahassee Metropolitan Planning Area. Because the six fulltime employees are administered by the City of Tallahassee, a 1% Increase to employees' salaries was approved for October 1 and a 1% increase for March 1<sup>st</sup> to tract with the City of Tallahassee.
- Approximately \$3,000 was provided to Mr. Reed for his travel.
- City of Tallahassee has internal accounting firms set up for next year. Our cost went up due primarily due to the internal funds set up.
- A presentation was made by Port Authority Administrator from Port St. Joe. Gadsden is an impacted county and should entertain a presentation by them as well. (Tommy Pitts is the Port Authority director.)
- Review by FDOT on the interchanges along I-10. How does Gadsden County want to address representation during this review process? They are very vital to Gadsden County and Gadsden needs to be proactive in this process. Leon County is planning another interchange on the east side of Tallahassee.
- Sustainable communities' calculator work order program. CRTPA will offer free training on online maps system you can see how it will affect your own district.
- Bicycles there has been an emphasis on bicycling and bicycle events as part of the ecotourism. There is a big bike trail system in the works and several of the surrounding counties are in the midst of doing bicycling studies. These events generally cause conflicts with local residents. Gadsden must figure out how we are going to handle these events.

Commissioner Croley then filled the report with the Clerk.

#### Interlocal Agreement with Sheriff to Administer the E-911 Program

**Jail – Use of** <u>one-cent discretionary tax</u> we have an ordinance making the Sheriff Chief Jailer. However, there still needs to be an Interlocal agreement with the Sheriff about who is responsible for what in relation to operation of the jail.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR PLACE ON A FUTURE AGENDA WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS THE ISSUES AS FOLLOWS:

- DISCUSSION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SHERIFF ON OPERATION OF THE E-911 PROGRAM
- DISCUSSION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SHERIFF REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JAIL AND MAINTENANCE OF THE JAIL.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs – need to be able to count the number of businesses that are located in the county. He asked that the board have a discussion about possibly implementing a Business Licenses –not want to charge for a license; not be oppressive; he just wanted to see some type of registration of business for the unincorporated areas of the county so that "We can count them." Include economic development input from the Chamber of Commerce during the discussion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5 -0 TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR PUT ON A JANUARY AGENDA DISCUSSION REGARDING PUTTING SOME TYPE OF MECHANISM IN PLACE SO AS TO BE ABLE TO QUANTIFY THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES THERE ARE IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY. STAFF WAS URGERD TO PROVIDE DATA AND ANALYSIS IN ORDER FOR BOCC TO MAKE DETERMINATION REGARDING WHETHER THEY MIGHT WANT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH REQUIRING SOME TYPE OF OCCUPATIONAL REGISTRATION. THE STAFF WAS ALSO URGED TO CONTACT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO BE A PART OF THE DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt cautioned that she did not want any measures taken that would discourage people from going into business or impose any hardships on them that would appear to be burdensome.

## **Commissioner Holt, District 4**

#### Gadsden Express -

She reported that it had come to her attention that the Gadsden Express Shuttle is full when it leaves the Quincy Winn Dixie parking lot every day and that by the time it reaches Midway, people have to stand for the remainder of the drive. After making some inquiries, she said that she learned the buses were designed for standing passengers. She posed the possibility of talking to someone about seeking grant money to add another bus to the route.

Commissioner Croley responded with news that there is a CRTPA study committee has been formed to examine safety issues involved with overcrowded of buses among other things. As to grant possibilities from CRTPA, the funds are quite limited because of revenue shortfalls. He suggested that he would follow up with pertinent information with the administrator and she could him for that information. He also suggested that the administrator invite the City of Tallahassee Bus Director to come over and respond to her questions and concerns.

Commissioner Holt responded by saying that the most impacted bus route is the early morning route and the late afternoon route returning from Tallahassee. She suggested that perhaps they could run a larger bus for that route or else use two buses. She also stated, "I want you to be prepared to say that we will be willing to pay a little bit more because it is still cheaper that you having to drive to Tallahassee and finding parking and all of that."

She then inquired as to the status of finding a grant writer to which Mr. Lawson replied that money was allocated for a grant writer beginning October 1, but the search will not being until the new budget year.

Commissioner Holt stated that you would support collecting data with which to build an inventory list of the businesses located in the county. She made a point of saying that once the list is complied, the need for a specific type business could easily be identified within a community – such as the lack of a laundry mat or auto mechanic, etc.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO HAVE THE STAFF LOOK AT AN AVENUE TO REACH OUT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND MAINTAINING AN ONGOING INVENTORY OF BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTY AND ALSO DETERMINE WHAT BUSINESSES ARE NEEDED OR WOULD LIKE TO COME INTO A COMMUNITY. SUCH LISTS COULD ULTMINATELY DETERMINE WHAT TYPE BUSINESSES ARE NEEDED WITHIN A GIVEN COMMUNTIY DEMONSTRATED BY THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A BUSINESS.

## <u>I-10 EXITS</u>

She spoke briefly about the possibility of adding an interchange at the I-10 and SR 65 saying that during the last two hurricanes, State Road 65 was backed up with travelers evacuating from the coastal communities. She pondered about the appropriate way to ask for such consideration from FDOT.

Commissioner Croley responded by saying, "Here is the information on that master study plan. I only have one copy of this and what I was going to try to say is that maybe, Mr. Lawson, you can look through this and see that the Clerk's office gets it afterwards. I think the information you are look for is that there may be an opportunity for you to have input into that process. There is also a letter of the meeting with DOT and on behalf of the four county region, Mr. Reed and I were authorized by a vote of the CRTPA Board for he and I to go and hold a meeting with the new Secretary of the Florida DOT. Of course, I have to look at the whole picture, but, as I told Mr. Lawson, "It's a poor dog that won't wag his own tail." So, I figure if ya'll will let Mr. Lawson know some of the things that this county might be interested in, within proper diplomacy, we can make mention of it. So, Mr. Lawson, will you go through this and see what the commissioners might benefit from?"

## CSX Railroad Expansion Project Status and Possibility for Local Jobs

Commissioner Holt recalled that a representative from CSX Railroad came before the board some years ago about the plans for CSX service from Jacksonville to the West coast. She asked if the County Administrator could "Get with them and see about installation of additional rails. They were looking at two rails to go back and forth so that the train would not have a pull off. If there are jobs there and if they are still looking at doing that. See if they are still planning to do this and see if there are jobs associated with that project for Gadsden County. "

## <u>Jobs</u>

After spending three hours trying to help a young lady save her house from foreclosure because of unemployment, she was even more committed to trying to bring in jobs for local people. She mentioned the funding budgeted for the Chamber of Commerce. She said, "If we are going to give them money, they should be here every time that door opens. They should be helping us work through this. Every municipality and the School Board should be right there every time we talk about jobs. Every one of them gets money off that sales tax and property taxes. So, as I said before, all of these people work. They have not received food stamps or not gotten any public assistance. We owe just as we owe everyone else. But, we are going to have to do better as far as the job markets go. Forget about the State and Federal government. We are going to have to go for we can for Gadsden County and try to help them."

## Commissioner Morgan, District 3

## <u>Jobs</u>

Commissioner Morgan agreed that, "Jobs are extremely important, but, we need to remember, as we talk about jobs, local government, state and federal, while they can play a role in making it easier for the businesses to compete and prosper, it comes from the individual responsibility, as far as promoting yourself for a job. Learning about different skills, getting the education needed to make you more marketable – there is never ever going to be enough money from the government in order to insure that. So, I think that is something that our citizens are going to have to completely understand and embrace in order for us to be successful individually as private organizations, co-operations, small businesses here in the county. I just think we are sending mixed messages when we do not fund small business development center which exists right now and has been successful. We heard testimony here in our budget hearings, yet we do not fund it. These are individuals who have taken the initiative to go and make themselves more marketable. That is what you call, in my opinion, wise investment in the community.

So, as I have said from Day One, economic development is of the utmost importance and we should focus on that and we should fund it as our county goals that we put into place in 2010. Talking about doesn't get it done. We need to fund it consistently.

## Lights at the Interchanges

I have tried to express this and we have talked about it through Commissioner Croley detailed report with CRTPA. I always appreciate him bringing that to us. He does a great job of keeping of us informed.

#### **Interlocal Transportation**

Interlocal Transportation is something that is moving forward even in these economic times and will present itself in the future as the economy gets better. Our area is positioning itself to where we can benefit from that if we are ready. We have railroads, water, ports, interstate systems and things of that nature that we can effectively use in order to benefit our local economy. In those discussions we need to have productive relationships with the economic development arm of the Chamber of Commerce as well as local businesses. State government, CRTPA, local government has been at the table to discuss these issues.

#### Gadsden Express

Gadsden Express was also mentioned. I think that I agree with the comments. It has been a very successful program for the area that it has covered. We need to, as we promised the citizens when we first entertained this, to reach that program over to Gretna, Greensboro, Chattahoochee areas of the County. That is something that we need to practically inquire about in order to make sure that happens.

The last thing I would ask is that the agenda that we are discussing at each of our meetings and each of the individual topics during our discussions be displayed on our flat screens so the citizens can be more informed as we go through the discussions and better understand what it is that we are talking about. I think that we made these investments and I really appreciate our administrator, Mr. Lawson, and our IT team getting those installed and I think you all have seen the benefit of that as we have discussions where we have someone present a PowerPoint Presentation. I think that each meeting we should consider the citizens that are here, that make the effort to come to meetings as well as the staff for that matter, and the visitors so they will know how we are progressing on the item under discussion.

I appreciate it and thank you.

#### **Commissioner Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor stated, "Real quick and I assure you that in two or two and one half minutes, we are out of here.

## Gadsden Express

Number 1 - Gadsden Express – I assume that we have all been contacted by the same person, but I did have a meeting with Apalachee Regional Transportation Department on Thursday. The same issues came up with regard to the over crowdedness. The ridership has been awesome. So, Coleen will be applying for a grant for Transportation. Then, this board is probably going to have to come back sometime near midyear. I have already spoken to the administrator and look at putting in our part. I think our part was \$36,000. Extending it beyond – obviously, we will have to have discussions on that, but that will bring a price tag with it. The Planning Council along with Ted Waters who was there is looking at refunding it, keeping it going and re-applying. They are going to approach the City of Quincy as well as the county with regard to support ting it

and to continue the Express throughout the county. It has worked and it makes good business sense. So Gadsden Express is being entertained as we speak.

Tonight, there will be a public meeting with Waste Pro at 6:00 p.m. and those who are being impacted by eliminating the waste sites. That meeting is at 6:00 p.m. tonight. I am hoping, Commissioners, if you may, that you are in attendance because we have each had citizens to come to us with concerns about the closing of the sites. So many different versions as to why and what they are going to have to do next has been widely put out there incorrectly. So, this is an opportunity to get that information going forward correctly. It is my understanding that Waste pro will be here along with county staff to answer questions. I am hoping that the media will be here, too, as another means to get out into the community what is going to happen with those waste sites.

Mr. Lawson, please make sure that some form of media is here so that we can have another way of getting information and the issues straight.

#### Use of ITS Staff at BCC Meetings

Commissioner Morgan brought up about the televisions. I was going to ask Mr. Lawson if he could stag the hours of IT on Tuesdays, if that is amenable. I don't want to violate our personnel policy, but if we can get to where one of them is here for 2 ½ hours. After that, they could leave, but if we could stagger their hours so that we don't go into overtime, but, then someone is here to operate that and we can make use of it. That would be a good idea that they help us.

#### **Commodity Building**

We have a building that is being used by Gadsden Men of Action that is being used to distribute goods into the community. There are some other functions that we are looking at to go in there. They are amenable. Their lease has expired and what I would like to do is just put it on the floor that Mr. Lawson get with the different entities – one is a cold weather shelter – that has looked at the same building. The Gadsden Men of Action is amenable to co-habitating that building. But, what I would like for Mr. Lawson to do, and again as Commissioner Holt has just said, we are loading you down, but then again, you've got almost 300 people working for you so, spit it out and give other people some of these responsibilities. But, we would like for you to bring back some kind of lease agreement between the entities that might be interested in going into that particular building and see if we can make it a multi-purpose facility so that we could have as much out there as far as services to the community.

That is a motion. Can I get a second?

Holt: What building?

Taylor: The old commodity house. The old commodity warehouse.

Croley: I will second it. Holt:

What kind of shape is it in?

Taylor:

It is good. If you get a chance, run by there and take a look at it. Clyde has been doing different things to it. There are restroom facilities; there is heat and air in there. There is ample space.

Holt: Liability waiver?

Taylor: That would definitely be a part of the lease agreement.

Morgan: There is one in place. Definitely.

## Taylor:

All we are doing is just having him look at the different entities that are interested in going in there – the VFW. There are just a few people who want to co-habitat in there. So, I want him to look at it, come back for further discussions. That is my motion.

Croley: I second you motion.

Taylor:

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

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

We are almost there. Only one minute and a half to go.

## Passing of Notes among Commissioners

This is something that was highlighted by the attorney, so going forward we won't be passing notes or give any indication of any wrong doing up here.

## Use of Certain Terms in Meetings

Using the term "mess", you know, that is not a good term to use when we are trying to conduct business. Obviously, there are going to be differences of opinions. Sometimes it might get one way of another, but, the term "mess", I have always disapproved of it in a professional forum.

## Thank you to Staff

Last, but certainly not least – Thank you to the staff and to this board for doing a phenomenal job on our budget. I want to thank the staff for preparing the documents that we needed and in a professional manner so that we understood it and was able to follow it. There was a lot of

historical data as well as current information. I want to thank staff. Thank you, Mr. Lawson, for getting us and guiding us through our budgeting process. It was a very difficult one and I am sure what went thru was nothing different than what the other 66 counties in the State of Florida went through as well as counties throughout the United States. From me personally, you have done a yeoman's job. To the different department heads that tightened their belts and was able to absorb and move forward, I want to personally thank you all for a job well done with regards to our budget for 2011/2012.

To this board – yes, sir, yes, ma'am, there were some issues that gave us heartburn, on issues that we got and issues that we didn't get. But, we were able to persevere and get through the process. Now we have a 2011/2012 budget. One thing that we can all agree on is that it is a living budget. That budget is still alive and there will be opportunities to go back an amend it if needed. We are only projecting what is going to happen over the next 365 days. We are not Houdini's up here. So, there will be opportunities to come back and revisit if need be, but again, that discretion will be among the majority of this board. Thank you so much for all that you have done.

#### Holt:

I have a question for the attorney right quick.

Is it not true that we can pass notes, but they are open to the public and anyone can ask for them?

#### Minnis:

Basically, if you pass notes that relate to the business that is being done or the business of the board, then yes, those notes do become public record.

#### Holt:

That is what I was saying, but it is not illegal to pass notes. But, anyone can come up and ask for it and say "Let me see that note." I am not saying that it is right or wrong, but, I am saying that legally, we can do that.

#### Taylor:

I didn't indicate that it was illegal. It is just a perception that was given and we just want to be mindful and stay within accordance and try to keep harmony among us.

I went over three minutes, didn't I?

Motion to adjourn.

## **Receipt and File**

## **October Meetings**

October 4, 2011 Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

October 18, 2011, Regular Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

# THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD AND UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR, SHE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 A.M...

Sherrie Taylor, Chair

ATTEST:

Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk