

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL, ON JANUARY  
17, 2013, AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING  
WAS HAD, VIZ.**

Present: Doug Croley, District 2, Chairman  
Eric Hinson, District 1-Vice Chair  
Brenda Holt, District 4 (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Debra Minnis, County Attorney  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Gene Morgan, District 3

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Croley called the workshop to order at 6:05 p.m.

**1. Introduction-Jack Peacock, Chairman, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Peacock addressed the board with "Happy New Year" greetings from the Chamber. He made a statement of good will and joint expectations for the upcoming year. He reported the following:

- The chamber has listened to the board over the course of last year and through partnering and collaboration, they will continue to listen and cooperate with the county.
- With regard to Commissioner Holt, he acknowledged her desire to have a greater seat "at the table" as it relates to having a bigger stake in the business development process. Through their new initiatives, the chamber will work with the administrator and department heads to that end.
- To Commissioner Hinson, he acknowledged his desire to have a shared vision and teamwork and pledged the Chamber's effort to work with the Commission to present a unified front.
- To Commissioner Taylor, he acknowledged her strong desire to see tangible results and deliverables. He pledged their best efforts toward a renewed focused to do whatever it takes to make more and better jobs available to the citizens of Gadsden County. He thanked her for her professionalism in serving as Chairperson to the Board in 2012.
- To Chairman Croley, he thanked him for communicating the board's vision with the Chamber on various topics. He acknowledged his desire to have agri-business and economic development and he pledged his efforts to preserve it as a standing part of the formula for the economic success so that the culture and quality of life is not threatened in the effort to bring commercial prosperity to Gadsden County.
- To Commissioner Morgan, he acknowledged the support that he has given the Chamber and he pledged his continued efforts to make the board proud of what they expect to bring forward in 2013. He also pledged the Chamber's efforts to go "arm in arm" to protect the jobs at Florida State Hospital.

Mr. Peacock closed by saying, "Today, we begin anew. Hopefully, the actions in 2013 will speak louder than the words I am communicating tonight to improve relationships, reduce mistrust, foster a greater mutual understanding and last, but not now least, provide a very definable return on your investment in economic development. So, tonight, the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce begins the first of a series of forthcoming educational workshops. We will try not to waste your time and we will be as brief as possible, but we do have some guests with us tonight, who will communicate the big picture in regard to economic development as it relates to commerce in Gadsden County and also this region. I am sure that all of you will be familiar with what we will address tonight. The presenters are here with us and we will entertain your comments and questions after all of them have presented if you will accommodate us until then.

Just one change on the agenda here, Ms. Kimberly Moore with Workforce Plus was called away to Tampa at the last minute and will not be able to speak tonight. We will have her back at a forthcoming session speaking specifically on jobs. "

## **2. Importance of Economic Development and Visioning-Dr. Dale Brill, President Florida Chamber Foundation**

**Dr. Dale Brill, President, Florida Chamber Foundation**, appeared before the Board and shared with the Board that economic development is emerging and "We are stronger together than we are individually".

Commissioner Holt arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

He stated the reason there was so much interest in recruitment is that was where the fun is. We are in the middle of a larger transitional world.

Change words from economic development to economic progress.

Rural communities have luxury of no congestion.

Stage 2 gardening was developed to work in areas such as ours.

Power of regionalism is absolute key.

## **3. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs-Kim Moore, CEO Workforce Plus**

Kim Moore was called away to Tampa

## **4. Regionalism- Sue Dick, President and CEO Tallahassee Leon County Chamber of Commerce**

**Sue Dick, President and CEO of Tallahassee Leon County Chamber of Commerce**, appeared before the Board and stated she was to touch on regionalism and there really was not a county line when it comes to what is needed. She stated she would speak on regionalism but also about what was being done in Tallahassee.

## **5. Targeted Businesses-Luis Perez-Codina, Manager**

## **Business Development, Enterprise Florida**

**Luis Perez-Codina, Manager of Business Development, Enterprise Florida** appeared before the Board

Core Focus: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs.

Along with that, it is what kind, types of jobs, quality of jobs.

Strategic partnerships-reason here tonight.

Looking to bring high quality jobs to folks that are going to be beneficial to this community and have job leaders that will create small businesses.

### **6. Commissioners' Questions and Comments**

Commissioner Holt stated she was looking for more specifics. She said she was interested to know who ribbon cuttings were for and would like to know before the cutting in case there was anything they might need that the Board could help with.

Mr. Perez-Codina stated once a company plans to come, there would be plenty of opportunity to work with them before the ribbon cutting.

Commissioner Hinson stated he just came to listen. We have right workforce here. We are thinkers here and are smart. Stated speakers must have heard his campaign and he is intrigued.

Commissioner Hinson asked Dr. Brill how economic gardening differed from incubators.

Commissioner Hinson stated what concerned him was constituents would visit Tallahassee, shop in Tallahassee, pay taxes in Leon County that benefit schools, businesses, etc.

We need to figure out steps in Gadsden County, where to go to get loans, grants and what programs are available for training.

Commissioner Holt said we have several boards; we need to get to know each other instead of the standoffishness.

Enterprise zones-businesses not seeing credits they should. Dr. Henry Grant is local contact person for enterprise zone grants. She said there was gap that needed to be fixed.

On partnerships with other groups, partnership with county and city and some other big entities on health insurance.

Commissioner Taylor had couple of comments. We need to prepare and need to be prepared. We need to look at how to streamline permitting process; need to do our infrastructure, north, south, east and west.

She asked Dr. Brill what funding and what business could he bring to us.

We need to come up with plan. Can't turn dirt in East Quincy with no sewers there.

Tonight she saw resources.

Chair Croley spoke. Had questions for Dr. Brill.

Focus on positive-CRTPA went from 26 million last year to 45 million this year.

Have new shooting range going in in Midway, Frito Lay putting in distribution center, BASF expanding, we have the Hospital, law enforcement academy, t-shirt manufacturing, Progress Energy, gas transmission line expansion, gas refueling at Flying J, 2 railroads, airport, Tallahassee airport, agribusiness, over 96 billion in agribusiness here, golf course, art center, Quincy Music Theater, camp grounds in Chattahoochee, lot of assets in Gadsden County.

We have a lot more going on positively in this county than we get credit for.

Commissioner Hinson applauded the Chair for fighting for the citizens.

We're all here to work for the better of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt-we need agenda for next meeting. Want to see how money was spent in past and what we're doing wrong.

She stated Chair Croley made good points.

Commissioner Taylor commented on what the Chairman said, happy on what was brought out and commented on what businesses have closed.

Chair Croley thanked everyone on behalf of the Board.

Chair Croley asked what commissioners would like to see on workshop in future.

Commissioner Taylor stated we need to formulate goals and plans.

Mr. Presnell stated he was working with Governor's office with economic opportunities-have commitment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.