

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 2, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:

Present: Doug Croley, Chair-District 2
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair-District 1
Gene Morgan-District 3
Brenda Holt-District 4
Sherrie Taylor-District 5
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
David Weiss, Assistant County Attorney
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Croley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and opened the meeting with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by the Deputy Clerk.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following amendment was made to the agenda at the request of the County Administrator:

- Add 8a - A Resolution Authorizing the City of Chattahoochee's Participation in the Florida Main Street Program

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

There were no awards, presentations or appearances.

CLERK OF COURTS

1. County Finance and County Clerk Issues

Clerk Thomas addressed the Board concerning the new retirement rates that took effect recently. Commissioner Holt said she could not retire again so she saved the County money. Chair Croley pointed out that would add an additional cost to the County overall for not only the Board but also for the Clerk, the judges, all other constitutional officers along with the high-risk officers.

CONSENT

Commissioner Morgan asked to pull Item 8a to make a quick comment.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA TO-WIT: Items 2 through 8.

2. Approval of Minutes

- April 2, 2013 Emergency Management Workshop/Meeting
- April 16, 2013 Enterprise Zone Workshop/Meeting
- May 21, 2013 Regular Meeting

-June 4, 2013 Regular Meeting

3. **Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**
4. **Approval of Participation in the Application Process for the FFY-2013 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**
5. **Approval to Commit the Existing County Building and Site Utilized by the Gadsden County Health Department for Renovation/Construction Funding through Possible Legislative Funding**
6. **Approval of Public Works Mosquito Control Budget FY 2013-2014**
7. **Approval of the Workforce Plus 2012 and 2011 Audit and 2013-14 Proposed Budget**
8. **Request Approval of Grant Funds from The Department of Elder Affairs and the Increase to the 2012-13 Law Enforcement Appropriation for Keeping Seniors Safe (KISS) Program**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

8a. A Resolution Authorizing the City of Chattahoochee's Participation in the Florida Main Street Program

Commissioner Morgan wanted to introduce Pamela Medley to the Board and stated she had been instrumental in spearheading the participation of many of the citizens to enroll in the Main Street program.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ITEM 8A.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Paisley Pryor, 352 Ashton Court, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and said this was a follow-up from the last meeting when she appeared before the Board concerning misuse of land use in her neighborhood. Chair Croley asked Mr. Presnell to give everyone an update regarding the situation. Mr. Presnell stated shortly after the last meeting, they met with several citizens in the neighborhood and discovered a number of things; some time back the landowner did come in and pulled an electrical permit and represented that the land would be used for a practice field for soccer. They went out during one of the events and observed the activities and learned it has grown into something more than what was represented by the landowner. Mr. Presnell stated while recreation was allowed in all three AG land uses, he read from the Gadsden County Land Development Code, Subsection 5611(g)5 Access to Residential Lots and stated that it clearly identified that would require a Type II review. He added that the soccer matches have grown into something more than what was initially represented from the landowner in the Type I review.

Chair Croley stated the Board would not entertain questions at this time and this would be brought up for further decision and things were moving forward.

Commissioner Holt cautioned the Board that under Citizens Requesting to Be Heard, they were not to have presentations and if there were, both sides should be contacted before that was done.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Public Hearing-Request to Use Law Enforcement Educational Funds (LEEF) for the Rural County Summit Training

Morris Young, Sheriff

Mr. Presnell introduced item and stated this was a request from the Sheriff's Office to use \$10,000 in LEEF (Law Enforcement Educational Funds) funding that is on account with the Clerk's office to be used for the 2nd Annual Rural County Summit they would be hosting and the money would cover the cost of the registration, facility and travel for various speakers.

Major Shawn Wood, Gadsden County Sheriff's Department, appeared before the Board and stated this was a safety summit and stated there were a number of speakers attending and what was significant was the scheduled speakers were coming from the Newtown Police Department and Dell County Sheriff's Office and were from small towns such as ours. He added that the State had given \$6,000 to help cover some of the expenses toward the summit.

Chair Croley called for public comments and there were none.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Privatization of Mowing Services Pilot Project – District 5

Robert Presnell, County Administrator/Curtis Young, Interim Public Works Director

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and stated they were proposing to take bids on privatization of roadside mowing services in District 5 to see if it made a difference having a smaller acreage to mow and see if local bids could be procured.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the overall objective was.

Mr. Presnell stated this was a cost saving measure, to see if doing this on a smaller scale would generate more interest and added in the past when bids were asked for a county-wide mowing service, there was little interest and the bids were too high.

Commissioner Morgan said he was looking to improve the quality of the mowing services.

Mr. Presnell stated the four tractors could not get around the county any faster than approximately six weeks. He added, if the Board approved this, he hoped to get some competitive bids for that district; he would then use the four tractors for the other districts. He also stated he hoped to see substantial savings and he was asking for permission to "test the waters".

Commissioner Holt asked if someone was doing this and what the numbers looked like and stated she was against privatization and was not for it without the data.

There was further discussion by the Board. For more information concerning Board discussion, please go to the Clerk's website at www.gadsdenclerk.com to view the audio/video recording.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY CHAIR CROLEY, BEFORE VOTE COULD BE CALLED COMMISSIONER HOLT CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

There was more Board discussion.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

11. Department of Homeland Security Grant for Training and Exercise Contract Number:13-DS-97-02-03-01 (CFDA# 97.067)

Major Shawn Wood, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Presnell introduced Item 11 and stated it was a request by Emergency Management to apply for a grant for emergency management training.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

12. Approval of Volunteer Fire Department Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements

Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements between Gadsden County, FL and Concord, Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Mt. Pleasant, Robertsville/St. John, Sycamore and Wetumpka Volunteer Fire Departments.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the volunteer fire departments' Interlocal Agreement that was expiring on September 30th this year and included all of the departments with the exception of Midway. Midway's City Manager informed the County Administrator that their Board would be approving the item at their next meeting and it would then be brought back to the Board at a later date.

Mr. Weiss had comments concerning the agreements and thought there were some issues that needed to be looked into further.

Commissioner Morgan asked the reason for the change in the length of the contracts from two years to three years and if they needed to wait to approve Midway, why approve any of the contracts tonight?

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, BEFORE VOTE COULD BE CALLED COMMISSIONER HOLT CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

There was discussion among the Board.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM.

13. Award of Construction for the Local Program Project-Florida Department of Transportation-Salem Road (CR 159)

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and stated it was for approval to award the LAP project for to Peavy and Son Construction for the widening and resurfacing of Salem Road.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. UPDATE ON BOARD REQUESTS

Mr. Presnell stated he had a few updates:

Audit

During the auditing process, the auditors had some concerns with EMS and their handling of the monies and those issues have been addressed and corrected. He also informed the Board that the other concern the auditors had regarding the plan for disaster recovery with IT would be brought before the Board at their next meeting.

Budget Workshop

He reminded the Board of the Budget workshop that was scheduled for July 25th.

Commissioner Taylor stated she saw that the citizens stayed concerning the soccer field issue and thought that it needed to be addressed quickly to bring resolution for the neighbors.

Chair Croley stated that he was aware that the Board needed to allow the Administrator to determine what action he was going to take and he wanted him to explain the situation while the majority of the people were present in case they wished to leave the meeting earlier.

Commissioner Holt stated that in a public meeting, issues cannot be discussed without everyone having an opportunity to be present. She also mentioned that regarding the mowing issue, she had seen on some of the home network television shows that some people were looking into a shorter growing grass to help cut down on the mowing season and asked the Administrator to look into that.

Commissioner Morgan applauded Mr. Presnell in his cost saving efforts and asked that when the mowing item was brought back, to please include details as to where they were currently and what was hoped to be achieved. He then spoke on the issues concerning the landowner and upset neighborhood and said if he lived there, he would want to know when the problem would be resolved.

Mr. Presnell said that all options were being looked into.

Chair Croley stated that while on the issue of the questionable recreation going on in that neighborhood, he was hearing from the commission that they wanted to make sure that a timely decision was made. He then asked the Administrator of the status of the locks at jail.

Mr. Presnell informed the Board that the mandatory walk through for potential bidders was scheduled for the next week.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. UPDATE ON VARIOUS LEGAL ISSUES

Mr. Weiss stated the only item he had was for the Board to recess at this time for a private attorney-client session regarding pending litigation.

16. RECESS BOCC MEETING AND RECONVENE FOR A PRIVATE ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION

Sumos Uno, Inc. v. City of Midway, FL and Gadsden County, FL

17. RECONVENE THE BOCC MEETING

Chair Croley called the Meeting to order and the meeting was reconvened.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion on Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission Districts and Gadsden County

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-DISTRICT 5

Commissioner Taylor stated they had been asking for a streamline process to brand this county and let everyone know that it only took a couple of steps for someone to bring their business to Gadsden County.

Mr. Presnell informed the Board that this would need to be work shopped because they were running into roadblocks.

Citizens Bill of Rights

She stated she was being told by developers that this was hurting the County and that it certainly had not helped and it was her opinion it was running businesses away and she was concerned.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO HAVE STAFF LOOK INTO THIS AND BRING THE MATTER BEFORE A JUDGE TO HELP THEM, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHAIR CROLEY CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

There was discussion among the Board.

CHAIR CROLEY CALLED FOR THE VOTE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER HOLT-DISTRICT 4

Economic Development

Commissioner Holt stated that economic development was very important and it must be addressed at every meeting to see if changes could be made and another option would be for the citizens to bring a lawsuit instead of the Commissioners to change the Bill of Rights. She said she really wanted to see if their Planning and Zoning Board could have workshops to try to bring in economic development.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO PLAN WORKSHOPS FOR PLANNING AND ZONING, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.

Grant Writer

She stated that the engineering company had mentioned that they had a grant writer and could the grant writer look at different grants that might be available and, if so, she would like to have a report back from the group as to what was out there.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN-DISTRICT 3

Commissioner Morgan stated there were two departments without department heads at this time and asked Mr. Presnell what his intentions were regarding that.

Mr. Presnell stated he would not recommend doing anything regarding that until after the budget was completed.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY CHAIR CROLEY TO LOOK FURTHER AT THE PRIVATIZATION OF COUNTY PROBATION SERVICES, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONERS HOLT, TAYLOR AND HINSON OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER HINSON, VICE CHAIRMAN-DISTRICT 2

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anyway the Board could advertise for a director of public works now and added he would like to see a permanent person in that position.

He further added he was at a meeting with the Superintendent on the collaboration of Havana Elementary School merging with Havana Middle School and as they discussed the merge and in talking with some of the constituents, it was mentioned about the County taking charge of the school to promote economic development.

Mr. Presnell asked if he wanted him to engage the superintendent about acquiring the elementary school for \$1.00.

Commissioner Hinson added that this was an awesome board, thanked everyone; he told Mr. Presnell he had heard compliments regarding his staff and thanked him for everything and thanked the Deputy Clerk.

COMMISSIONER CROLEY, CHAIRMAN-DISTRICT 1

Budget Workshop

Chair Croley mentioned the Budget workshop scheduled for July 25th and asked the Commission if they would consider moving it to the next week because he and Commissioner Hinson would be out of town at the National Counties conference.

UPON MOTION OF CHAIR CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO SCHEDULE A PLANNING AND ZONING WORKSHOP FOR AUGUST 1ST, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.

CRTPA Meeting

He said they continually meet with success for funding projects for lights and improvements at the interchanges and the bridge situation and things were very positive about getting help.

Health Insurance

He had a question regarding the health insurance and stated that last year due to questions being asked, the Board saved \$184,000. He said his next question was with the health insurance proposal and asked what CHP was proposing.

Mr. Presnell said the current plan was a 6% increase of \$138,000 if kept at the same level.

Chair Croley said there needed to be more options presented at the upcoming budget workshop.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Croley asked Mr. Presnell to look at costs of paying full coverage for the employee and let the employee pay for their dependents and asked him to have that information available for the next budget meeting.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

FAC Conference

He discussed the FAC conference and mentioned the economic development meeting that he and Commissioner Taylor attended, and one thing that was needed is a site supportive of future development, preferably where there are two railroads coming together with utilities necessary to support it to be a site for future economic development ready to go.

P&Z

He then discussed the process of Planning and Zoning and stated it was advisory. He stated the needed to look at the fees closely and maybe reduce them and felt like they were sometimes too high for what citizens were applying for. He also mentioned they needed to streamline the process so when the citizens made the applications, it was a well laid out track. He felt that it was too cumbersome and needed to make it more user friendly. He added having the three things in place, to-wit: checking fees, proper site plan, making the process more user friendly would streamline the process.

In closing, he added that he was going to mimic what Commissioner Hinson had said earlier in that he appreciated everyone here.

RECEIPT AND FILE

19. Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce March 2013 Economic Development Report

JULY MEETING(S)

- July 16, 2013-Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- July 25, 2013-Budget Workshop, 4:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 2, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:14 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

DOUGLAS M. CROLEY, Chair

ATTEST:

Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk