

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Doug Croley, Chair-District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair- District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Sherrie Taylor (arrived late)  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Croley called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. He asked everyone to stand for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. A silent roll call was done by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Before going forward with the meeting, Chair Croley asked to take a few minutes to draw attention to the Commissioners' Pledge of Civility that is posted on the podium and pointed out that there have been times he had heard comments made that, "If I don't get my way basically, you're going to pay for it later because I'm going to vote against you or something like that along those lines. I want to encourage us all, every one of us, let's refrain from making statements like that at times, because it really sends a wrong message to the citizens and gives them the impression that we're up here squabbling rather than doing what's right for everybody."

He then asked if there were any amendments or corrections to the agenda and there were none.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRINTED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

There were no presentations.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

**1. County Finance and County Clerk Issues**

Clerk Thomas was present and had no report.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**3. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**

Accounts Payable Dated: September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 13, 2013  
Payroll: September 5, 2013  
Payroll Deductions: September 5, 2013

**4. Approval and Execution of the 2013 E-911 Rural County Grant Application for Warranty and Maintenance**

**5. Approval of Contractual Services Agreement with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for Mosquito Control Funding**

**6. Approval of Resolution #2012-021 and Carry Forward Budget Amendments for FY 2013 (Grants)**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

There were no items pulled for discussion.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3 minute limit)**

There were no citizens that requested to be heard.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**7. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial)-V-Stop, Douglas City, Variance Request (V-2013-01) Tax Parcel ID#3-09-2N-4W-0000-00212-0100**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said Mr. Ed Hinson was present if there were any questions.

Chair Croley reminded everyone this was a quasi-judicial hearing and those wishing to speak would need to be sworn in.

**Ed Hinson, 510 Highland Avenue, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker. He informed the Board that the new canopy, if approved, would be upgraded to allow for the higher wind loads.

Chair Croley asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak for or against the item and there was no-one.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**8. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial)-Florida Telecom Services, LLC 220' Self Supporting Lattice Tower Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2013-05) With Deviations at 39 Schwall Road, Tax Parcel #2-11-3N-2W-0000-00340-0000**

Mr. Presnell stated the attorney representing the Telecom company had requested that this item be continued until the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Croley asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak regarding this item.

**Amy McBride, 917 Schwall Road, Havana, FL**, appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and stated she was not here to stop this from expanding but she had asked them to do a survey regarding health issues concerning the radio-magnetic field and if they could tell her there were no dangers, it would be fine.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Croley said the question she needed to respond to at this time was whether she agreed to the continuance or not.

Ms. McBride stated that she did agree to the continuance.

Chair Croley stated there was updated info and asked her if she had received same.

**Jill Jeglie, Interim Planning and Community Development Director**, appeared before the Board, was sworn in, and stated the updated report had been added to the Staff Report and had been posted to the County website. She further stated the attorney and applicant will be present at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Croley added under ex-parte communications, that both Mr. Peavy and Mrs. McBride had contacted him regarding the matter.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE CONTINUANCE.**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. APPROVAL OF LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAM (LAP) AGREEMENT FOR PAVED SHOULDER IMPROVEMENTS & RESURFACING OF SHADY REST ROAD (CR-270) WITH PEAVY & SONS CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was a LAP funded project and there was no economic impact to the County.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ITEM.**

**10. REDIRECTION OF HALF CENT TAX AND TRUST REVENUES FROM CRMC TO MEDICAID IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for redirection of the half cent tax revenues.

**Michael Glazer, Esquire, Assistant County Attorney**, appeared before the Board and stated under the agreement, the State allowed funds to feed to Medicaid and this was matched dollar for dollar and was no-risk for the County.

Commissioner Holt said she did not vote for the item before because she did not see money coming back to the County and that was the reason she had a problem with this, if the money was

to be matched, the match didn't show coming back to the County.

Mr. Glazer informed the Board that, under terms of the law, the money could not come directly back to the County but returned instead to the Hospital.

**Ronnie Midget, CFO, CRMC**, appeared before the Board and said he appeared before the Board last year and in preparation of this meeting had pulled data he thought would be relevant. He explained to the Board the workings of the match fund.

Commissioner Holt said she was interested in getting funds to come back to the County, she added she was not saying they were not doing a good job, but would like to see money come back to the County.

Mr. Midget explained the match would enable them to bring the specialty clinic to the hospital and keep the level of care that they currently have.

Commissioner Morgan said this was going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year with CRMC (Mr. Glazer pointed out it had been since June, 2007) and had heard different projections and asked if the numbers were coming in as was projected and if it was progressing into a viable partnership.

Mr. Midget said the answer was yes but was hard to clarify because so many resources were intertwined with Capital Regional and that if it were a stand-alone facility it would be different.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could be briefed on Medicaid funding and added he would like to see a workshop held on this matter before any decision was made.

Chair Croley clarified that Mr. Glazer represented the Board and the Hospital corporation and the Hospital Board was a subset of the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Glazer said many years ago, the Board appointed members to the hospital board and the BOCC completely controlled the hospital Board.

Clerk Thomas clarified that the only money that GHA had was money given to them from the BOCC and added that the GHI Board had returned \$13,000 to the BOCC.

Mr. Glazer pointed out by approving the Agreement they would turn approximately \$460,000 into approximately \$920,000.

Mrs. Minnis said her firm does not double-bill, Mr. Glazer is the specialist and he handles the hospital.

Commissioner Hinson said they were paying twice as much because one attorney made more per hour than the other so essentially the Board was paying twice as much and asked again for a Medicaid workshop.

Commissioner Holt pointed out this was a time sensitive matter.

Mr. Glazer agreed this was a time-sensitive matter and added that AHCA always gets the

information out extremely late and the attorneys bring the matter before the Board as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Morgan said if they chose not to support this item, they were basically throwing out \$475,000 and at the appropriate time would like to move for approval.

Chair Croley shared there would be an opportunity when they RFP the attorney contract to discuss their billing, but they were facing a deadline with this agreement and it was time-sensitive.

Commissioner Holt stated she was in support of this and she asked when the information came in from ACHA.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ITEM.**

Chair Croley asked Mr. Glazer if his time schedule permitted, to reach out to Commissioner Hinson so they could discuss this matter further.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**11. APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF STATE AID GRANT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval of the annual State Aid Agreements with the State for library services.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ITEM.**

**12. APPOINTMENT TO THE WORKFORCE PLUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval of Colleen Stanley, HR Director at Talquin Electric for appointment to the WorkForce Plus Board of Directors.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to nominate Commissioner Hinson.

Mr. Presnell informed them it was a private sector seat.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**13. UPDATE ON BOARD REQUESTS**

Mr. Presnell informed the Board it was the time of year for the Value Adjustment Board to convene for their organizational meeting and this matter was time sensitive. He informed them that Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Morgan had agreed to serve again on the VAB Board and needed to be re-affirmed by the Board and the Board agreed.

He reminded them that on Friday between 10:00-11:30 the Secretary of DOT would be in town for a meet and greet.

Chair Croley asked about the new ethics law regarding the meet and greets and if it posed a problem for the Commissioners to be present at the meet and greet.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt asked that the attorney email the new ethics laws to them.

Chair Croley thanked Mr. Presnell for the email regarding the county maintained boat ramps and Mr. Presnell said the only county maintained ramp was some located at the lake and one off Iron Bridge Road. Chair Croley stated he thought there was a boat ramp on US 90 on the Gadsden County side of the River and Mr. Presnell said the County had never maintained that ramp.

Mr. Presnell added that in order to make any improvements, the County would have to take ownership of the boat ramp or enter into a long term lease in order to maintain or use the boating funds and added the County maintained the roads only.

Chair Croley asked about bids on landscaping and asked when that would be re-bid.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director** appeared before the Board and said he had contacted Shelia and asked her to advertise it again.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **14. UPDATE ON VARIOUS LEGAL ISSUES**

Mrs. Minnis said Commissioners along with several other Constitutional Officers were now required to complete four (4) hours of ethics training annually and classes would be available in the near future.

Chair Croley asked when the deadline was and Mrs. Minnis said there was nothing in the law concerning a deadline.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there would be any web-based training available and Mrs. Minnis said she would look into that.

Commissioner Taylor said she was certain FAC would have information regarding this.

She informed the Board that National Solar had executed a contract.

She also put on record that she would be requesting a private attorney-client meeting at the next board meeting regarding the Somos Uno, Inc. lawsuit.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **15. REPORT AND DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ISSUES AND CONCERNS PERTAINING TO COMMISSION DISTRICTS AND GADSDEN COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, DISTRICT 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to follow up on one item with the Administrator with regard to private roads and Mr. Presnell said he met with Curtis Young last Thursday and would be presenting it to the Board in the near future.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT, DISTRICT 4**

Commissioner Holt said she had one item regarding the Economic Development Council, Small Business and Industrial Board and would like to have the Administrator look into scheduling a meeting among the groups to look into economic development possibilities for the County.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan gave a tip of the hat to the Code Enforcement Department and encouraged the Commissioners that if any of them had not seen any of the reports, to take time to do so and thought they would start seeing benefits of it.

He said the public would soon begin to see the first wave of the new county-line signage on the county roads.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He asked the Administrator to be prepared to discuss raises for staff at the final budget hearing on Monday, but would like to have the fiscal impact provided to the Board to have info regarding raises.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON, DISTRICT 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he had nothing to report.

**COMMISSIONER CROLEY, DISTRICT 2**

Chair Croley said they held the CRTPA meeting yesterday and gave a brief report.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He added that Gadsden Express was scheduled to be expanded in 2014 to include Gretna and Chattahoochee.

He handed out a spreadsheet of the current projects in the work plan of the County, stressed the need to get signage and landscaping in place and discussed the projects.

He mentioned the rail site and wanted to reach out to see how the rail site could improve employment in the County and mentioned the possibility of getting a locomotive training program with TCC.

He brought attention to the Little River Bridge on High Bridge Road and he added he needed more input from the Commission on how they could leverage the transportation system to create jobs.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was list prioritizing the roads to be addressed.

Mr. Presnell said there was a list that had been done by Preble-Rish in 2011 or 2012.

Chair Croley said the problem was in the past, they were not as tied to CRTPA as they were today and they have to end up getting x number of money and have to get projects on the list and advance them to the top.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to figure the best way to balance this and wanted to make sure they were looking at the most critical roads in the county.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the status of lighting at the interchanges in Greensboro, Gretna and Chattahoochee.

Chair Croley said it was in the design stage, once that was done, he could push it on the list of projects.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Presnell for a list of all the dirt roads and Mr. Presnell stated he would put a list together of all dirt roads broken down by districts.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt asked questions regarding the railroads and the loading/unloading docks.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mrs. Minnis said she checked the website and the on-line training had been updated and would be offered regarding the Commissioners' ethics training.

#### **RECEIPT AND FILE**

- 16.
- a. FY2013 Administrative Budget Amendments

#### **SEPTEMBER MEETING(S)**

-September 23, 2013 (Final Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m.)

#### **OCTOBER MEETING(S)**

- October 1, 2013 (Regular Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)
- October 15, 2013 (Regular Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)



**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:37 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**DOUGLAS M. CROLEY, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk for  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**