

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 1, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Doug Croley, Chair-District 2
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair-District 1 (arrived during the prayer)
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 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, took a silent roll call.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following amendments were made to the agenda at the request of the County Administrator and he added that the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector were present to answer any questions:

- Add 6-A- Extension of 2013 Tax Roll pursuant to Section 197.323 F.S.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADD ITEM 6-A TO THE AGENDA.

Commissioner Morgan asked to move Item 12 to Item 6-B.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO MOVE AGENDA ITEM 12 TO ITEM 6-B.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, 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 was present and had nothing to report.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD

VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

- 2. Approval of Minutes**
-August 20, 2013
- 3. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**
- 4. Approval of Annual Contract between Gadsden County and the Florida Department of Health for the Operation of the Gadsden County Health Department**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens that requested to be heard.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Public Hearing-Escambia County Housing Finance Authority-Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Program for First Time HomeBuyers

Mr. Presnell said this item had been before the Board many times.

C.J. Pipkins, Assistant Executive Director of the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority, appeared before the Board and explained in their last program they were involved in they provided \$47,500 worth of down-payment assistance and had helped 14 homebuyers in the last three years. She explained the current program they offered and said if the Board wished to continue participating in the program, they would need to adopt a Resolution approving that they would be able to work in this territory and this would be good for three years.

Chair Croley stated with this being a public hearing, he asked that she be sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and asked her to re-state her name and title for the record.

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

Commissioner Holt asked if she had any data as to how many people from the County had applied and how many were approved.

Ms. Pipkins responded that she did not have that information, but she could contact all the lenders and gather that information.

Chair Croley asked that Ms. Pipkins gather the requested information to be provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Ms. Pipkins for coming and said he was interested in how they were measuring the success with the program in Gadsden County. He also said in entering into the relationship with them over the next three years did not believe it limited them in pursuing any other type of housing assistance program.

Ms. Pipkins said that was correct and added that the SHIP program and other programs also take a third.

Chair Croley thanked her for coming and asked about the foreclosure rates and the values of the re-sales.

Ms. Pipkins told the Board that their housing program had been very successful and have had an 8% foreclosure rate in the last few years.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR OPTION 1.

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval to Confirm the Appointment of the Planning and Community Development Director

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

Arthur Lawson appeared before the Board and gave a brief background of Ms. Gutcher and highly recommended the Board to confirm her employment.

Allara Gutcher appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Taylor said one thing that had been an issue had been the ability to “turn dirt quickly” and asked that a streamlined process be developed to encourage businesses to come to Gadsden County.

Commissioner Morgan said this was a great opportunity and said for some reason it seemed to be difficult for companies to do business with Gadsden County and asked how she addressed issues pertaining to that in Bay County and how she trained people to be proactive with customer service.

Ms. Gutcher said most recently with her time in Bay County she had a great staff and their whole mission was customer service, she added she believed in customer service, being polite and kind and trying to find what the win was in any given situation.

Commissioner Holt said she would have a tough time herding the Commissioners into looking into the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Presnell said Ms. Gutcher brings the ability to change the comprehensive plan and it be done in-house and the Board would not have to hire consultants to do so.

Commissioner Taylor suggested that after she was in for 30-45 days that she appear before the Board again with proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Croley said he agreed with the other commissioners and added that the Codes were not correct, the Land Use Map was not in good order, but disagreed that the County was difficult to do business with.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF MS. GUTCHER.

6A. Extension of 2013 Tax Roll Pursuant to Section 197.323 F.S.

Dale Summerford, Gadsden County Tax Collector, appeared before the Board and stated that regarding the Value Adjustment Board, petitioners needed to have 25 days' notice prior to the hearing date asked that they approve the extension of the Tax Roll prior to the completion of the Value Adjustment Board proceeding and that they sign the attached Resolution.

Chair Croley said he did not like to amend the agenda that had not been in the public for seven days before the meeting, but understood the importance of this matter.

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

6B. Selection of Economic Development Services for Gadsden County (Item 12)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated this was for selection of Economic Development Services for Gadsden County. He stated they had asked for a proposal from Gadsden Development Council and the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Henry Grant, Secretary for the Gadsden Development Council, appeared before the Board and said their biggest problem was they had done visioning, studies and planning for 13 years and had not been able to implement anything because of lack of money. He said they were presenting an outline of Gadsden County Development Council with their mission, plan of work, project response and management and what they intended to do as far as an activity report.

Mr. Presnell asked Dr. Grant to list the members of the re-vamped Board of the Development Council.

He listed the County, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, School Board, Workforce Plus, Department of Economic Opportunities, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Talquin Electric, Focus Credit Union, and TDS.

Chair Croley asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Dr. Grant had been on the Board the entire 13 years and he replied yes. Commissioner Morgan asked how their goals and objectives changed during that time.

Dr. Grant stated they had not changed, they have had two strategic plans and none of the data had changed and they were five years apart. He added that he was not before the Board to say they had the experience, but collectively on the Board, there was the experience.

Chair Croley said out of fairness to Dr. Grant, he asked if this was the "Jackson County model" for economic development.

Dr. Grant said when this was organized, Jackson County was their model and that was the actions they had taken.

Mr. Presnell said they have a commitment from each of the municipalities to contribute financing if the County chose to pursue economic development activities with Gadsden Development Council.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready to vote.

Commissioner Morgan said if this was a different proposal than before why were they looking at something dated for 2000.

Dr. Grant said the packet was to give them history of the organization.

Antonio Jefferson, City of Gretna, appeared before the Board and stated their plan was relevant, members were members that represent the entire community and that now the cities were willing to put their “money where their mouth was”. He added that they felt they could do just as good a job as the Chamber, they need an opportunity, they have what it takes, have the relationships to get this done, have a great plan with a lot of people committed, but no money and would like to have the Board’s assistance.

Jack Peacock, Volunteer Chairman for the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, appeared to petition for the continuance of the existing economic development contract for the County.

Commissioners had no questions for Mr. Peacock.

Commissioner Morgan wanted to point out that they are all in agreement in what they wanted to do and in the past 5 years, the Chamber had been successful in delivering what they were to deliver. He added the Chamber has been underestimated and the Board hurt themselves by asking questions at the wrong time and how they dictate who businesses could hire, etc.

Chair Croley said the idea of economic development was very important to everyone and the importance of the municipalities being involved was very important.

Commissioner Taylor said she was trying to think of the correct department that Governor Scott had developed-DEO-they need to be at the table, there is a need to have a balanced Board and it was time to move forward with something new, something different.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator the levels of relationship with municipalities in the past and with the relationship with the Economic Development arm of the Chamber there were specific requirements and they met them each time every year and was successful in doing so. He said at the appropriate would like to make a motion to approve the agreement presented by the Economic Development arm of the Chamber of Commerce. The Motion died for lack of second.

Chair Croley reminded that no-one implied the municipalities did not get to participate.

Commissioner Holt said she knew the Economic Council was dedicated in this because who would wait and work 13 years for funding.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE GADSDEN

**COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.
COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Mr. Presnell said the Chamber was a voting member of the Development Council and would have input.

Mr. Peacock asked to address comments made by Commissioner Hinson.

Chair Croley said on behalf of the Board and County said they would be remised if they did not thank them for their efforts in keeping things in a positive way.

7. Approval of the Appointment of Peter Patel to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council

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

8. Approval of the Small County Outreach Program Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation and Resolution #2013-018 for the Widening and Resurfacing of Lewis Lane

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

9. Approval of Interlocal Agreements with Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for Road Maintenance and Special Projects Activities

Mr. Presnell said this was a new, revised agreement.

Commissioner Morgan said a lot of things have changed and asked that the Administrator highlight changes and asked if quality services could be provided without losing money.

Mr. Weiss said changes were in the language not in the responsibility.

Chair Croley asked questions regarding the billing rate.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR CROLEY OPPOSED.

10. Approval of Revised Fuel Services Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Presnell explained this was a similar agreement.

Chair Croley asked how current everyone was on the bills.

Mr. Presnell stated everyone was current.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was good business sense based on the history of fuel services. He asked If the Sheriff left, how that would impact the County, would not have money for fuel but

would not have usage also.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR 10¢. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they could consider two different rates:

- .10¢ if it was timely paid:
- .20¢ if fall behind more than 30 days.

Mr. Presnell said if it was 45 days behind, services could be terminated.

Chair Croley said there was a motion on the floor unless Commissioner Holt wished to amend her motion, that motion needed to be considered first.

Chair Croley said he would second the motion on the basis if the .10¢ covered the costs, fine.

Commissioner Holt asked what number it would take for the Sheriff to stay.

Commissioner Holt withdrew her motion.

Commissioner Morgan asked if .5¢ per gallon covered the costs of handling this business.

Mr. Presnell said no. He added that Public Works was the biggest user and somewhere between .5¢-.8¢ would cover the costs.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO CHARGE .07¢ PER GALLON FOR ONES WHO PAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OR 45 DAYS BUT IF MISS 45 DAYS, TO GOES TO .20¢ PER GALLON, CHAIR CROLEY SECONDED FOR PURPOSES OF DISCUSSION. THERE WAS DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE.

Taylor said did not want to lose Sheriff and understood everyone under strains in the budget.

CHAIR CROLEY CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONERS HOLT, HINSON AND TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE .6¢/GALLON. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

11. Approval of Real Estate Sales Contract with Capital City Bank for the Acquisition of a New EMS Facility

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item

Commissioner Morgan moved for approval.

Commissioner Hinson said he strongly supported this item until someone opened his eyes and said a brand new facility could be built for less than \$100,000 - \$250,000 and with that he could not support this.

Commissioner Taylor did not believe a building could be built for that amount of money but thought they could get it for lot less because there was retrofitting to be done.

Mr. Presnell said he did have reservations early on regarding this and asked Tommy Baker to come before the Board.

Tommy Baker, EMS DIRECTOR, appeared before the Board and said a new facility had been looked at and one not as big would cost approximately \$1.2 Million.

Mr. Presnell added that the renovations would be included in the CDBG grant and was one of the reasons they thought this was attractive.

Chair Croley stated if a building was built, capital would have to be put out for it and this would be covered by a grant to pay 100% and would make good business sense to go after a building that didn't cost anything.

Commissioner Hinson said there would be closing costs and renovations to be added in.

Mr. Presnell said the renovation was covered by the grant.

Commissioner Hinson said it would be another \$100,000 plus closing costs. He added that he "was embarrassed to know that our Administrator would come to us with this proposal at this juncture, it's almost a slap in our face, it's a question of integrity really about this piece right here and personally, \$500,000, taxpayer dollars, I don't care if it's a grant, it's still taxpayer dollars, still coming from them. Everybody on this Board is supposed to be fiscal conservative, they don't like grants and they understand it's still taxpayer dollars. So, regardless how you get it, we pay taxes, that's what's going to happen. So, that's my point on it, I just can't support it. I appreciate your vision; I'm not saying 'you' talking about you in particular. I appreciate the County Administrator's vision, but I think that I don't want to spend money we don't need to spend right about now".

Chair Croley said Commissioner Morgan had a motion and called for second. Chair Croley seconded and applauded the Administrator for bring this before the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could receive a grant to renovate part of hospital and renovate the old bomb shelter.

Chair Croley said with the Affordable HealthCare Act that took effect today that may not be option.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY CHAIR CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FAILED. COMMISSIONERS HOLT, HINSON AND TAYLOR OPPOSED.

12. Selection of Economic Development Services for Gadsden County Moved to 6B

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13. Update on Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said memos had been sent out regarding the ethics training.

Commissioner Hinson said he had been hearing a lot of concerns regarding Havana Heights Apartments and people were very upset, residents were unable to park in the parking lot, the parking lot was full of potholes, a new person owned building and seniors were having a hard time parking, they have to park far away.

Clyde Collins appeared before the Board and informed the Board renovations were going on, new electrical panels were going in every apartment and they were resurfacing the parking lot.

Chair Croley asked that the contractor be contacted to see if something could be worked out.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss informed the Board that the Legislature had enacted a dual public employment statute that states no public officer, including County Commissioners, may accept public employment with the State or any of its subdivisions if the Officer knew or should know that it is only being offered because of their position as a public officer in order to gain an advantage or influence. He also explained that there were provisions for being “grandfathered” in.

Commissioner Morgan asked with it being “any division of the State” if that meant any employment where you were invested in the State Retirement Program through that service or is that impacted at all.

Mr. Weiss stated he was not sure of the answer to that question, but he thought it meant being an employee and not contracted with the Department.

Chair Croley said this State had one of the highest numbers of public official fraud. He also mentioned that the Value Adjustment Board needed to be careful and make sure there were no odds with the Board members and any entities that came before the Board with Petitions

Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor asked why be placed on a Board that could cause conflict of interest for the Board member.

Commissioner Holt said it had to be where the Board member would make a profit themselves.

15. Recess BOCC Meeting and Reconvene for a Private Attorney-Client Session

The meeting recessed for the private attorney-client meeting.

16. Reconvene the BOCC Meeting

The Meeting resumed at 8:55 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked when the Plan and Growth Adoption would be coming back.

Mr. Presnell stated Mr. Young was working on that and should be before the Board in two meetings.

She asked if an RFP had been issued for District 5 for the mowing.

Mr. Presnell said it was done and opened two weeks ago and no bids were received. He added they would possibly rebid in Spring and there might be more interest then.

She asked that at the last meeting, they were looking at potential repaving projects through SCOP and wanted to make sure High Bridge Road was on that list because there has been so many fatalities on it.

Commissioner Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt agreed with Commissioner Taylor about how very dangerous High Bridge Road was.

She said that on the issues of Economic Development and planning, they needed to look at the urban ring around the counties and what comes from that. They need to look at industry and look at planning for step-down models because not everyone wanted to be in an industrial park.

Commissioner Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan thanked everyone that helped put together everything for the meetings.

He asked about tree limbs on the power line on Bonnie Hill Road and asked about trimming.

He also asked to agenda the senior services issues and how they are funded, where the centers are located, how they differ and how to move forward.

Lastly, he said Commissioner Hinson made comments on how to have a deeper investment with the Chamber of Commerce with regard to economic development.

Commissioner Hinson, Vice Chairman, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the staff for being helpful and the Board for working so hard.

He said regarding Bainbridge College, he wanted to see what could be done to embrace everyone, added Chipola College and asked that they be allowed to make a short presentation.

He added regarding Economic Development, he would like to add to the agenda as to what form support should be taken with participation.

Commissioner Croley, Chairman, District 2

Chair Croley said regarding High Bridge Road, the bridge is on the list and have asked that the safety history of the road be provided to CRTPA for improvements to be made. He said they were seeing a \$16 Million project being kicked off at US 90 and Little River, Shady Rest Road and several other roads.

He asked the Administrator about canopy roads and urged commissioners to consider the remaining canopy roads and to offer protection of them.

Commissioner Hinson said this might rub people wrong way but had to say it, issue with pay raise increase, can't do-budget been adopted.

RECEIPT AND FILE

18. August 12, 2013 Letter from Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority

OCTOBER MEETING(S)

-October 15, 2013-Regular Public Meeting 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER MEETING(S)

-November 5, 2013 –Regular Public Meeting 6:00 p.m.

-November 19, 2013-Regular Public Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 1, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:18 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

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