

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 21, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Hinson called meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., said the prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call taken by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda. Mr. Presnell stated he would like to add Item 8-A under the Consent Agenda for Approval of Travel for Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt to the 2014 Economic Development Summit; add Item 8-B under Public Hearings for Adoption of Amended Procurement Policy; and Item 9-A under General Business Request by Property Appraiser for Reinstatement of Field Appraiser Position.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they could add a public hearing and Mr. Presnell responded it had been advertised in the Tallahassee Democrat to meet the ten (10) day requirement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA.

- 8A ITEM REQUESTING TO BE ADDED: Approval of Commissioner Hinson & Holt's Travel to the 2014 Florida Rural Economic Development Summit**
- 8B ITEM REQUESTING TO BE ADDED: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2014-007, Amending the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Procurement Policy to provide for a local preference in bid awards, to permit the utilization of contracts of other public entities on the same terms and conditions if the contract was competitively bid, and to permit bid awards to the next lowest bidder after rescission of the low bid without a new solicitation; providing for repealer, severability, and modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and providing for an effective date.**
- 9A ITEM TO BE ADDED: Reinstatement of Field Appraiser Position**

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Chair Hinson said they wanted to recognize Commissioner Croley for his service and hard work to the Board and the community.

Commissioner Croley had some words to share.

The Commissioners had comments for Commissioner Croley.

1. Update from Quincy Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)

(Regina Davis, Manager)

Regina M. Davis, Manager, Quincy Community Redevelopment Agency, appeared before the Board and gave an update. She said she began the job in October of 2013 and since that time, they paid off all outstanding bills, paid off the Regions Bank line of credit, obtained a permanent permit for Tanyard Creek-Phase 1 from DEP, closed out the BEO CDBG grant, along with other accomplishments. She invited the Board members to attend their board meetings that were on the second Tuesday of each month and the advisory board meetings were on the third Tuesday of each month and both meetings were at 5:00 at the Quincy City Hall.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there were any plans to apply for another CDBG grant to help with the senior citizen homes.

She said she was in the process of verifying information and when they were eligible to apply for another grant.

Commissioner Holt said when the CRA started, there was a big fight over the funding and that was the problem then on getting any representation in Havana or Quincy.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the CRA had a website or if it were a part of City of Quincy's website.

Ms. Davis said it currently was a part of the City's website.

Commissioner Croley asked the area that the CRA covered.

Ms. Davis responded to the businesses north of the Courthouse.

Mr. Croley said the reason he asked if there were any progress in securing a parking lot that would serve the downtown area.

Ms. Davis said during their workshop, she liked the vision that Joel Sampson had of the indoor corridor of parking, but was unsure of how many people responded, but would be looked at to see if feasible. She explained she was also researching other options for funding.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

2. Discussion on the Timetables and Issues Regarding the Road Bond Refinancing and New Loan
Jim Gollahon, Gollahon Financial Services, Inc. appeared before the Board to discuss the Road Bond Refinancing and new loan. He said he had been asked to address the transportation needs of the County and a fifteen year loan would help accelerate some of the transportation needs.

He added that the County currently had a gas tax loan that could be re-funded next year. He said if the loan was restructured, it could be combined with approximately \$6.4 Million of new money for needed improvements and payments on a 15 year loan would be approximately \$9.15 Million with an estimated interest rate of three percent, the payments would be \$760,500, which was just over \$10,000 more than was currently being paid. He further added that the security for the loan would be what it currently was, the 1¢ of the County's gas tax and 2¢ of the constitutional gas tax so no additional pledge was needed. He said the earliest the loan could be closed was April 27, 2015.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the fixed operating costs and the overall impact.

Mr. Gollahon said if the road was paved and no longer had to be graded, there hopefully would be savings.

Commissioner Croley asked Mr. Presnell how much asphalt had gone up.

Mr. Presnell said the last bid, which was before the fall of the decrease in fuel the past thirty days, was well over \$100 a ton.

Commissioner Holt asked about the \$2.7 million and if it would be rolled over into the new financing and how much of that figure was interest.

Mr. Gollahon said that was a principal amount and between now and April 27th, they would pay interest rate on the old loan and on that day, they would owe Suntrust Bank, who made the loan, \$2.7 Million. He added they would be paid off and it would be rolled in with the additional \$6.4 Million to whoever wins that bid and there will be one payment for both loans. He added if the interest payments hold in his estimates at three percent, the payment would be approximately \$760,000.

There was further discussion regarding the road improvement loan between Mr. Gollahon and the Board members. The audio/video can be viewed at the Clerk's website at www.gadsdenclerk.com.

Mr. Gollahon said the second project he was asked to discuss with the Board members was the bank loan for the new Sheriff's Administrative building.

Chair Hinson said he had instructed the County Manager as Chair, he did not want to discuss that matter at this meeting and was an "interesting situation" to him. He then instructed Mr. Gollahon that he could continue since the matter had been brought up.

Mr. Presnell said one matter they needed to discuss, and Chair Hinson interrupted him and advised him, as the Chair, he should have come to him so he "was in the light" since he set the agenda so he would not be "in the blind".

Mr. Gollahon said the information Mr. Presnell was referring to was in order to get the advantage of a bank-qualified loan, they had to keep their new debt under \$10 Million for the calendar year. He said he understood this loan as a part of their budget was approved this year and they had narrowed it down to two options:

- a) Proceed with this as budgeted and funded in this year and in order to do that and get the County the best loan, it would need to close by December 31st of this year;
- b) Wait until January, 2016 and if there were another project they wanted to finance, it could be rolled into the Administration Building and still get the better interest rate if under \$10 Million.

Commissioner Morgan said Mr. Gollahon was talking about the timing of refinancing/refunding and asked if the interest rates were trending upward.

Mr. Gollahon said for the most part, until the past month or so, rates were low, but generally, the thought process was the Feds cutting back, not buying the bonds in the open market to suppress the interest rates and rates should be going up, but at the moment they were not. He further stated if they wanted to close this fiscal year and take advantage of the interest rate, they would need to close by December 31st.

Commissioner Morgan said the Board had one meeting in November and there was not a lot of information to absorb and did not want this given to him at the last minute.

Mr. Presnell said they were not there to debate the question at this meeting, and he thought the Chairman thought he was trying to, but he wanted them to know that the \$10 Million they were limited to each year and they did the road bond, this project would be a 2016 project and he did not want them to find out about it in the middle of December.

Chair Hinson said that whomever was the Chairman, they did not need to be in the blind and as he suggested a few months ago, asked that any presenter who came before the Board to have the information for the Board members to review beforehand.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas said there was nothing to report.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked the placement of travel being on the Consent Agenda and had concerns since it involved money, if the Consent Agenda was the right place for that item to be and the item had not been advertised.

Mr. Weiss responded since the money was already in the budget, he did not think they were prohibited from adding it to the agenda.

THE CHAIR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 5, 2014 – Regular Meeting
- b. August 19, 2014 – Regular Meeting

4. Approval of Proclamation Supporting the Observance of November 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer

Awareness Month in Gadsden County

5. **Approval to Apply for the 2014-2015 EMS County Award Grant with the Florida Department of Health and Resolution 2014-019**
6. **Approval to Declare EMS Equipment as Surplus**
7. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program**
8. **Approval of Commissioner Hinson & Commissioner Holt's Travel to the 2014-2015 Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items pulled for discussion.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Maurice Grant, 8701 Salem Road, Quincy, FL, 5F Farm, appeared before the Board concerning events at Salem Road. He said he was told some issues were raised at the last meeting and he was not present to address them and would like to do so. He said he met with the County Administrator regarding an event that was held because there were concerns regarding noise, restrooms and parking issues. He said the event that was held was a family event and he was appalled at the allegations. He showed the Board a flyer promoting the event. He said his event monies go to TMH Diabetes Camp located in Gretna. He added that because of what the Governor signed in 2013, every one of the activities they had was according to the tourism law he signed in place.

Chair Hinson said the county did not scrutinize his event and said he was upset because he was not invited.

Commissioner Holt said normally the Board did not speak on things that came from citizens requesting to be heard, but since she had received telephone calls, that needed to be acknowledged that and told the ones that called to call and them have a get-together and if there were problems, they needed to learn to work together.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture.

Commissioner Croley said Mr. Grant's facility was in District 2 and he applauded him for the good work that he did. He explained there was two separate issues: 1) the music festival ordinance that did not directly affect him, but one gentleman, under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard did register a complaint with the situation that was going on on his property. He added he hoped they would be able to meet and them understand what he was doing and him to understand that their concerns were.

Mr. Weiss advised the Board members that according to their ordinance, the Commissioners should not, at this time in the meeting, be interacting because it was not an agendaed item.

Emily Rowan, 1200 Little Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL-Sycamore Fire Department, appeared

before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mrs. Rowan thanked them for the funding of the Volunteer Fire Department. She said their house caught fire in September and she was grateful for the assistance they received from the Sycamore Volunteer Fire Department and the fire was not that bad.

Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Linda Dixon, 4332 Attapulugus Highway, Quincy, FL-Annual Events. Ms. Dixon appeared before the Board and said she wanted to piggybacked Mr. Grant's comments regarding the event. She said she attended the event and it was well organized, decent and in order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8B Adoption of Ordinance No. 2014-007, Amending the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Procurement Policy to provide for a local preference in bid awards, to permit the utilization of contracts of other public entities on the same terms and conditions if the contract was competitively bid, and to permit bid awards to the next lowest bidder after rescission of the low bid without a new solicitation; providing for repealer, severability, and modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and providing for an effective date.

Mr. Weiss introduced the above item and said this was for the adoption of Ordinance 2014-007 for the amendment of the County's Procurement Policy.

Commissioner Morgan asked when the information was sent to the Board members because he had never laid eyes on it before tonight and would not vote on it.

Commissioner Holt said there were two items the Attorney was to look into and she had no problem in voting on it and she was one that asked to have it brought back to give a fighting chance for local businesses and contractors.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the premise behind this and asked where the fire was in voting on this item tonight.

Chair Hinson said he knew this was a pressing issue for the Board when they discussed it last time and it was after the Agenda package was put together and put out.

Commissioner Croley said, like Commissioner Morgan, he did not receive an email regarding the change in the policy and if it was going to be a public hearing, the public should have an opportunity to speak on it.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem in waiting, but felt it was very important that local people get a chance at the contracts.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COIMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Small County Outreach Program-Lewis Lane Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for the award of the Bid for the Small County Outreach Program for the Lewis Lane paving project.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

9A Reinstatement of Field Appraiser Position

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and it sought to reinstate a position that was temporarily removed from his budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

There was questions around the Board regarding this issue.

Commissioner Taylor asked if funds were in the budget and it was funded.

Mr. Presnell explained the Property Appraiser did have the job filled in previous years and the State has recommended he add a full-time position to specifically look at agricultural properties and review each parcel and he was asking to reinstate the full-time position. He further explained they would have to amend the budget, budget amendment would be presented to them in the second meeting in November and if it were approved tonight, there would be time to get the paperwork done and present it to them.

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarity and was this a State mandated position.

Mr. Presnell said it was not state mandated, but there was a letter from the Department of Revenue recommending that he appoint a full-time position to review agriculture classifications throughout the County.

Commissioner Morgan asked to hear from the attorney regarding this issue and what the dollar amount would be and where the funds would come from.

Mr. Weiss said this item was a little different from the earlier item regarding travel and it would impact the revenue and thought they should not take action tonight and made no real difference because nothing would happen until the next meeting and then would include the budget amendment.

Commissioner Holt withdrew her motion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

10. Commission Appointment/Reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for appointment/reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee.

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

11. Bid Award and Contract Approval for EMS Debt Collection Service

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a bid award recommendation for a contract for debt collection service for EMS accounts.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, BEFORE THE BOARD VOTED, THERE WAS QUESTIONS.

Chair Hinson asked how many bids were received.

Mr. Presnell said one bid was received.

Chair Hinson asked where the bid was advertised.

Arthur Lawson, Assistant County Administrator, stepped forward to address the questions and responded the bid was advertised in the three local newspapers, the website and the State PRIDE website.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was the same company that did the collections previously and Mr. Lawson stated it was a new company.

CHAIR HINSON CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

12. Approval to Lease Surplus Dental Equipment to Neighborhood Medical Center

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to lease surplus dental equipment to the Neighborhood Medical Center.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM.

Chair Hinson said he was able to talk with the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Medical Center and wanted to recommend the County to offer the equipment for purchase at the one-time fee rather than the year-to-year lease. He said his reasoning was only one person bid, the equipment cost almost \$100,000 and it would be good if they could put a price on the equipment.

Commissioner Morgan disagreed with him and said he thought the County should maintain ownership of the equipment because once they did not own the equipment, they would lose all options.

Commissioner Holt said there was a recommendation on the equipment for \$1,000 for one year and then the item would come back before the Board.

CHAIR HINSON CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

13. Approval to Apply for FRDAP Grant to Renovate Scottown Park

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to apply for a FRDAP grant to renovate the Scottown Park and October 30th was the deadline to apply.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Update on Various Board Issues

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the October 28th BOCC/GCDC meeting scheduled at the IFAS Center at 4:00 p.m.

He reminded the Board they needed to think about the list for the parks in their district.

He said they had seen the Annual report and the video that went with it and Staff was excited about it.

He said there had been a request for a new bus stop on the east side of town. He said he had spoken with Big Bend and starting November 1st, there would be a new stop at the Hospital.

He said they would be announcing a grant they had been working on that had been approved for expanded bus service and would be coming to the Board very soon for approval.

Chair Hinson asked if Big Bend Transit was still servicing citizens of Quincy.

Mr. Presnell said that service stopped in September.

Commissioner Holt said at the Economic Workshop that was to be held at the IFAS Center, she wanted everyone to come and discuss economic development.

Commissioner Croley commented that a great job was done on the annual report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available if there were any questions.

Chair Hinson asked the progress with Havana Heights Apartments. Mr. Presnell said contact was made and the ball was in their court.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Croley, District 2

Transportation issue

He wanted to make sure they were aware of the I-10 West improvements from West Highway 90 onto the Leon County line. He said there were plans to make the Leon County side six lanes coming into Gadsden County.

Commissioner Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said they had covered the annual report and expressed the need to make sure the meetings ran appropriately as they were required to do per State Statutes.

Commissioner Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she had nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Holt, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Commissioner Holt said they still needed to look at projects for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. She said the Council had decided they were going to vote on the next meeting to sell the tax credits of each County. She added if they did that the company that handled the sell would be able to get twenty percent of the sale. She said they were getting them each year but not using them and her concern was when they approved it, the company would go with the Council. She said she lobbied last meeting to try to make sure they would accept new projects.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it was restricted funds or earmarked for specific projects.

Commissioner Holt said they were told there were no restrictions because they received them anyway.

Commissioner Hinson, Chair, District 1

Chair Hinson said EMS was called and the patient had to walk herself to the ambulance and requested to be transported to Tallahassee CRMC and they brought her to Quincy instead. He asked what the protocol was if they requested to go to Tallahassee. Mr. Presnell said if there was an emergency or they were short of trucks, they would do that, but he would check on that.

He then thanked everyone for supporting the Senior Citizens throughout the County, thought they had an awesome budget this year and was able to bring in \$640,000 toward the economic development and \$400,000 toward seed money. He said he had been talking to local folks and they were advocating and calling other people to come to Gadsden County.

Commissioner Taylor said it had come to her attention since the Senior Citizens were mentioned, that Quincy was having issues regarding members on the Board.

Mr. Presnell said he had a meeting with them and said they did not have to be formal about it, if they would submit five names, they would be approved and placed on that board.

RECEIPT AND FILE

UPCOMING MEETINGS

17. November 18, 2014 – Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 21, 2014-Regular Meeting

December 2, 2014 – Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:24 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk