

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER
16, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Eric Hinson, Chair, District 1
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, PhD, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Holt called meeting to order at 6: 02 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the agenda and there were none.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Introduction to New Markets Tax Credits

Mr. Presnell introduced Chris Rietow from the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and he came forward, along with Jamy Dinkins from the Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance.

Chris Rietow, Executive Director, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, appeared before the Board and announced he was here to talk about the Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance. He explained that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council was a governmental entity that consisted of a nine county region and they primarily focus on economic development, transportation, emergency management and technical assistance. He said they met every other month to discuss issues and look at any regional issues.

Jamy Dinkins, Florida New Markets Tax Credit Alliance, appeared before the board and explained they were a group that represented a number of cities, counties and other local governments, including the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and the application for Federal New Markets Tax Credits, which was a relatively complicated concept that he explained in a short form. He added that the ARPC was lending their expertise and guidance to build the strong application. He added if they were successful, they would determine where a majority of the credits went and determine which projects were funded. He stated the deadline for the application was October 1, 2014, the deadline was met and the County would find out in April or May before finding out if the application was successful and if so, how much it would be.

Chair Holt explained she sat on the ARPC board and currently Gadsden County did not have a project and a decision needed to be made so not to miss the deadline of receiving a share of the \$65 Million in credits.

Commissioner Taylor asked that the tax credits be explained and how they would benefit Gadsden County and asked that he identify two or three different potential projects based upon his knowledge of Gadsden County.

Mr. Dinkins said the federal government allocated a specific dollar amount to each of the successful applicants and the number could be anywhere from \$25 Million at the low end up to \$110 Million at the high end. He said an application had been submitted and if it were successful, the federal government would assign a dollar value. The amount allocated would be the tax credit and that could be applied by someone that had significant tax liability over the course of seven years and it is divided out based on each year.

Commissioner Taylor asked why this had not been applied for.

Beth Kirkland, GCDC, appeared before the Board to explain. She said they worked with Suntrust Bank and she explained we were in line first to receive allocations if we submitted a project.

Chair Holt explained other counties already had projects they had submitted and Gadsden County needed to submit a project to “have something in the hopper”.

Commissioner Taylor asked how we could apply.

Mr. Dinkins answered there was a number of ways and explained. He added that by being a part of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, the County had applied for this year and assuming they were successful for this year and the funds came in, as long as there was a Gadsden County project that qualified, that project was just as likely to be considered by the Planning Council as any other project.

Chair Holt said other counties have projects that are already in and Chair Holt was saying Gadsden County needed to get a project in to be in the number of projects they already have. She added that the funding had been applied for and she wanted one of our projects to be in the game. She said they needed to have some workshops and come up with some projects.

Commissioner Morgan thanked them for the information and asked even though there were no project currently; one could be identified and included.

Mr. Dinkins said pursuant to the New Market Tax Credit Program the answer was yes, but he could not speak for Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

There was more discussion regarding the program. For more information and details, please go to www.gadsdenclerk.com.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
-October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting
3. **Letter of Agreement Authorizing Tallahassee Big Bend Crime Stoppers, Inc. to Act as Gadsden County's Agent for the Purpose of Applying for and Receiving Monies from the Crime Stopper's Trust Fund**
4. **Approval of Resolution for New Chairperson's Facsimile Stamp**
5. **Adoption of Resolution 2014-026 Designating the Portion of U.S. Highway 90/State Road 10 between Gretna and Chattahoochee in Gadsden County as "James Harold Thompson Highway"**
6. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items pulled for discussion.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Alphonso Figgers, 215 North Chalk Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board regarding Shaw's Addition Crime Watch and reminded the Commissioners they were in the process of putting together fruit baskets for the elderly and would appreciate any donations.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Discussion of the Citizen's Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said the BOCC had requested that the Citizens' Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights be brought forward for discussion. He added should the Commissioners direct staff to make any changes to it, it would be forwarded to the Planning Commission in January for hearing and their recommendations and then would be sent back to the Board for a vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was his fourth meeting as a Commissioner and everyone sitting on the Board had talked about economic development and as one of his mentors once said, "you cannot bark with the dogs and run with the rabbits". He said he had read the entire document and items A through G were stipulations that impede economic development. He added that the document as written and filed on record contained insurmountable barriers to any new business locating to Gadsden County and those already here from growing. He added that upon those grounds, he moved to repeal Ordinance 2010-005 and it be replaced with a more economic growth favorable ordinance.

Commissioner Morgan asked why a motion was needed because this item was for discussion only.

Mr. Weiss clarified that the Motion would be to send the document to Planning and Zoning for consideration to come back before the Board.

COMMISSIONER VIEGEBESIE MADE A MOTION TO SEND THE DOCUMENT TO PLANNING AND ZONING FOR DISCUSSION AND TO BE BROUGHT BACK FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE BY THE BOARD AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WERE CITIZENS THAT WISHED TO SPEAK REGARDING THE MATTER.

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL 32351, appeared before Board and said this was one of the issues he has asked Board to consider and Commissioner Viegbesie made a very good case for the repeal of the ordinance. He asked the Commissioners to promote growth

Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and said he was concerned this would be discussed and discussed and never be brought to a vote. He thought they would be voting on this matter tonight. He asked how long it would take with Planning and Zoning and the procedure.

Mr. Presnell explained it was adopted as part of the Land Development Code and the regulations required a notice hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commissioners prior to it coming for a final vote before the Board and it would be addressed at the Planning and Zoning meeting in January. He said it should be back before the Board in February.

Larry Ganus, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and disagreed with what had been said so far and said his feeling with being a property owner and the President of a Property Owners' Association, that this type of thing was needed to provide for citizens input on decisions that were being made. He added that the current document provided for citizens to sit in an informal atmosphere to discuss the happenings in their neighborhood and help in the decision making process. He felt it was a bad idea to completely do away with it, maybe there were some modifications they would want to consider.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board as a board member of Gadsden United, Inc. She said Gadsden United had been very active in implementing positive changes in the County since 1994 and one of the issues they had worked hard on was to improve the quality of notification to citizens and public when land use changes and major developments were being proposed in their neighborhoods. She pointed out the ordinance was specifically for applications presented by developers for major developments and not for individual land owners and homeowners. She added if the Ordinance was repealed, citizens' rights would be taken away on what was going on in Gadsden County and citizens deserved the right to protect changes to their neighborhoods.

Linda Dixon, 4332 Attapulgus Highway, Quincy, FL. Chair Holt said Ms. Dixon had filled out a form and she was for repealing this item but left before the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not sure if he understood the comments regarding economic development being against something that provided a way for communication and information for those within the county. He asked the County Manager if there were any instances where this had caused a project from being completed.

Mr. Presnell said there had been none that made it through the process that was voted down.

Commissioner Taylor said she hoped the citizens could understand what was cited in the amendment and the part she favored was citizens needed to know what was being built in their backyard and the Bill of Rights provided that notification. She added that she agreed there were certain portions of it that needed to be amended, but she would never support “wiping it all away”.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he may have been misunderstood that he wanted the entire document thrown out, but instead he wanted it modified with another document that was more favorable to include citizens’ participation. He added that citizens should be aware of what was coming to their back yard, but it should be done in a way that would foster economic development.

Commissioner Taylor said she was glad he clarified his position. She asked for clarification on the motion and second.

Chair Holt said there was a motion and second on the floor for it to be sent back to Planning and Zoning and she held the vote for comments from citizens and board discussion.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Attorney that it was an item for discussion only, and were they within protocol in going in a different direction.

Mr. Weiss said the way it was agendaed for discussion purposes indicated that the Board could not take action on the document itself. He added they were not taking any official action to change anything; they simply wanted it to go to the Planning Commission for discussion purposes and modifications.

Chair Holt asked if there were any other comments, said the item was being sent back for review and called for the vote.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM TO GO TO PLANNING AND ZONING. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

8. Board Direction Regarding the Allocation of Funds for the Provision of Economic Development Services for Gadsden County

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it sought Board direction for allocation of funds for economic development.

Commissioner Holt said a workshop had been held regarding this matter and there were three entities vying for funding, GCDC, GEDC, and the Small Business and the total funding was \$240,000.

Mr. Presnell said Staff needed board direction as to how they would like the funds allocated.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR \$100,000 TO GCDC FOR A TWO YEAR AGREEMENT; \$100,000 TO GEDC FOR A TWO YEAR AGREEMENT AND \$40,000 TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR A TWO YEAR AGREEMENT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK

OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the one that came up with \$240,000 and would like to change it and would like them to consider bringing the amount down to \$150,000-\$180,000.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not follow what Commissioner Hinson was saying.

Commissioner Hinson said initially they put aside \$240,000 and \$400,000 seed money for an incentive. He said that the \$400,000 was not needed right now and would like to reduce so more money could go to business owners.

Chair Holt explained the earlier workshop to the audience and that the GCDC was set up and funded by the Board last year to go after businesses. She said the other group was the Chamber of Commerce and they were vying for funds for training for small business. She said there also was the Economic Development Council that was set up by the Chamber. She said the one with the (city) managers was GCDC and the Board asked them to come back with a plan and they did that. She said she had nothing against the Chamber, but she had a problem with no business coming to the area. She added she was in favor of contracting with the GCDC tonight.

Commissioner Taylor said there are two groups and each one had their own strengths -one had outside of the county resources and the other knew the clients. She said the County was not positioned at this time for new businesses to come and the best opportunity for jobs was to expand on what was here. She added that both groups had the ability to do both, but apart, they were not as strong. She thought it would be good to have a mediator to sit with both groups that was neutral. She said it had previously been mentioned that the Board had funded the GCDC and that they came off the Chamber because there was no progress seen and the Chamber realized that because they lost their funding last year. She further said when the Chamber received no funding last year, they formed the GEDC.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his position was made at the workshop that he would not support two economic development bodies. He added if they could come together for the good of the County, he would have no problem voting in support of funding one body for the amount allocated.

Commissioner Hinson said his intent when he brought up \$240,000, if you looked at other counties no-one has put up as much money. He said if they “did not give a dime to either group, we have incentive still, that’s the most important thing in economic development...most Chambers, Commissioner Taylor, is self-sufficient because they knock on doors and say ‘Hey, I need you to join my program’, that’s how they make their money, they are a private organization”. He stated he was for funding the Chamber, but there needed to be one group formed.

Commissioner Morgan said their job (as Commissioners) was not to create jobs; their job was to set policy that provided for a business friendly environment and to have sources that were available within reason. He said there could be one voice with more than one organization and people wanted to see the private and public sector working together.

Commissioner Viegbesie yielded so the citizens could have a chance to speak.

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL 32351, appeared before the Board and said he thought everyone should come together. He said in looking at the job situation, most of the jobs were with the County, Florida State Hospital and School Board. He further stated there was a need to fund and promote the kind of jobs people could retire from.

Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and suggested that there was a certain spirit that should be operated in and that there was a need to see what we want to accomplish and have deliverables from them.

Antonio Jefferson, 14615 Main Street, Gretna, FL, appeared before the Board and said that part of the problem was there was no shared community vision. He said the one good thing regarding GCDC was it began community discussion and has won support of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity through the Competitive Florida grant that was \$40,000 to develop the community plan. He stated they had spent the last three months trying to convince the Board to fund them another year and that was three months they were not productive. He added there had been a lot of momentum built with outside organizations and GCDC “was prepared tonight to do the whole gamut” and asked the Board to make a decision tonight.

Dot Inman-Johnson, City Manager, City of Midway, appeared before the Board and wanted to ditto everything Mr. Jefferson said. She reiterated that the Board created GCDC to bring everyone in the community together to help expand and retain small business and bring big jobs to the area.

Harold Emrich, City Manager, Town of Greensboro, appeared before the Board and was there in support of GCDC.

Lee Garner, City Manager, City of Chattahoochee, appeared before the Board and echoed what the other city managers said and that there needed to be one entity in Gadsden County for economic development.

Chair Holt said GCDC was the group the Commission established and once asked, the cities signed on. She said it was specifically asked that the Chamber have a seat and the Chamber left. She said her suggestion was to fund the group they put together.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the earlier proposal was a collaborative proposal presented by GCDC and called it Gadsden County Consolidated Economic Development Plan and he had no problem in going with that proposal.

Mr. Garner and Beth Kirkland re-appeared before the Board.

Chair Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Garner said the consolidated plan was what the GCDC put together and the Chamber was not there and they had tried to meet with GEDC.

Chair Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Garner read aloud their plan and said GCDC recommended the funding be distributed as follows:

To include retainers of \$160,000 operating budget to include retaining Beth Kirkland and Rob Nixon to work together; \$40,000 for the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and \$40,000 to be held in reserve. He added that earlier in the day, they agreed Beth Kirkland and Rob Nixon would work together.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Nixon where he was with regard to what Mr. Garner had read and was he in agreement to move forward, but not at the risk of the division and hoped to find a solution.

Mr. Nixon said the attempt with both the Chamber effort and the Gadsden County Economic Development Council effort was to bring back deliverables that could be divided and assured them he was 100% committed to each entity working together. He said one point he wanted to clarify with the initial conversation he had with the County Administrator, he provided him with a discussion document that was entitled "Consolidated Economic Development Plan". He added that in that plan, it said they all would agree on a program of work that focused on each of the elements of economic development. He pointed out in that document; it clearly stated that the Chamber and GCEDC agreed with the County Commission that the GCDC should be the lead organization to handle all recruitment inquiries to represent the County externally and to field all the requests in the region. He further added that their position was "Businesses first, Jobs Now". He added that Beth Kirkland and he had worked historically together and believed they could come together as a staff and also believed they each had specific skills. He said he was willing to work in any capacity necessary to better the county and get jobs in this community.

Commissioner Taylor said he did itemize out in a deliverable form what could be done, and felt what she was hearing about the proposed plan could be a reality, but felt it could also continue to divide. She said if this came together, she would like to see a negotiated term and wanted to see one entity and another name with both of them coming together.

Mr. Nixon said there was great conversation earlier that would fully endorse their approach that they could construct a plan that the Board would be satisfied with, but more importantly would meet the needs of the community. He respectfully requested that the Commissioners be a commission and let them be the practitioners.

Chair Holt said they needed to move the item.

Commissioner Taylor asked of Commissioner Holt if Mr. Nixon was saying they wanted to work on this matter a little longer.

Chair Holt said no.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was putting on his professional hat as an economist and had looked at the numbers doing a simple cost benefit analysis and his opinion was they needed to go with the scribbled proposal funded for one year and see how they work together and if they go further.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE MOTION TO ADOPT SCRIBBLED PROPOSAL IN THE WAY ELIGIBLE TO EVERYONE SO BOTH GCDC AND GEDC WORKING TOGETHER WITH SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES STAYING WITH THE CHAMBER AND SEE HOW CHAMBER REFORMS AND IMPROVES THEIR PERFORMANCE AS THE BOARD MOVES FORWARD. CHAIR HOLT SECONDED FOR DISCUSSION AND CLARIFIED \$160,000 TO GCDC; \$40,000 TO CHAMBER FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious about the comment “commissioners being commissioners and...”

Chair Holt said for him not to worry.

Commissioner Hinson said he “wanted to worry about it before I give some money out, I was curious, just curious, not sure if you were coming after me or who you were coming after.”

Mr. Nixon responded (from the audience) he was not coming after anybody.

Commissioner Morgan said what Mr. Nixon was referring to was letting the Board set policy and let them carry out the day-to-day because that was their expertise. He said what had been heard very eloquently from Mr. Nixon was they were willing to come together and work together, but what was not heard (inaudible). He said they were looking at the current motion and \$160,000 for GCDC and \$40,000 Small Business Service Center and \$40,000 to be held in reserve.

Commissioner Taylor asked if \$40,000 was to be contracted out to Mr. Nixon of the \$160,000 and she asked the attorney if he had looked at the agreement and he had.

Mr. Weiss said the general terms were \$160,000 to GCDC and \$40,000 to Small Business Center and with respect to remaining terms, the remaining funds was earmarked for reserves.

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarification that \$160,000 operating budget to include retaining Beth Kirkland Consulting, LLC and Rob Nixon and \$40,000 in reserve and asked if they were in agreement and Mr. Weiss said yes.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

9. Approval of Lewis Lane Paving Additive Change Order with Peavy & Son Construction

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it sought Board approval to issue a Change Order to Peavy & Son Construction for the Lewis Lane project. He explained the request was to utilize a portion of the remaining funds to further enhance the project and said if the funds were not utilized, they would have to be returned to the State.

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

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting..

10. Gadsden Senior Services, Inc. Board Request for Commission District Representatives

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained it was for Board discussion to get names from the Commissioners for someone they would like to see appointed to the Senior Citizens Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked how many names from each commissioner was to be submitted and added that she had a name but needed to verify before submitting it to the Administrator.

Commissioner Morgan nominated Champ James from Chattahoochee but needed to confirm first.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he has someone but also needed to confirm with them first.

Commissioner Hinson nominated Lillie Doris Stokes but needed to confirm also.

Chair Holt asked if the names could be submitted to the Administrator later and he responded he did not see a problem with that.

11. Approval of Members for the Citizens Advisory Task Force for the CDBG EMS Facility Grant Application

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said this was for Board approval of members for the Citizens Advisory Task Force for the CDBG application for the EMS Facility Grant.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 FOR APPROVAL OF THE NAMES

12. Approval of Re-appointment/Appointments to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained it was for Board approval for the re-appointments/appointments for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and said that currently Commissioner Holt served on the Council and the City Representative was Deloris Madison from Midway. He said they have requested that an alternate be selected for the County-elected representative and the municipal-elected representative to ensure coverage for all meetings.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN CALLED FOR A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked if attendance was problem for Chair Holt because the attendance sheet showed her only at two of the six meetings.

Chair Holt assured them she had been attending the meetings and did not know why they did not show her attending the meetings.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem then.

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

Chair Holt asked if they wished to elect an alternate.

Commissioner Hinson nominated Commissioner Viegbesie and he respectfully declined the nomination.

Commissioner Hinson then nominated Commissioner Taylor and she respectfully declined.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE ALTERNATE.

13. Discussion of Appointments to the Planning Commission

Mr. Presnell introduced THE above item and said it was for discussion of appointments of three persons to the Planning Commission as a result of expiring terms of service.

Chair Holt re-appointed Dr. Gail Bridges-Bright

Commissioner Viegbesie appointed Gerald McSwain and Johnny Yeomans for District 2.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS.

14. Board Reviews and Discussion of the 2015 BOCC Legislative Priorities

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained it was for review and discussion of the current draft of the County's 2015 Legislative Priorities.

Commissioner Hinson said his focus this year was infrastructure so Midway and the I-10 exits could be addressed, along with parks.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had met with the County Administrator and made his suggestions and his comment was more on procedure and would like to see the lobbyists to arrange scheduled meetings with BOCC, Chair and all high ranking members of each committee that handled the items that were on their agenda. He added it would be good if the Representative and Senator could be with them during the meetings with the ranking high member of each of the committee and would like to suggest they have a Legislative Day so the Commissioners could meet with the members of the committees.

Chris Doolin appeared before the Board and said he was thankful that Senator Lawson had become part of the team and he would be a valuable asset. He said they would try to integrate the issues into the Legislative process at a number of levels. He explained the process of working with the Delegation. He said there were specific priorities that would take specific initiatives, such as the Courthouse, the Ag Center, water projects, continuation of the Enterprise Zone and the Medicaid Cost Share.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his suggestion was not that they went directly to the Chair of the Committee, but they work through the lobbyists to provide a unified front.

Mr. Al Lawson appeared before the Board and said the Report given was one of the most comprehensive reports he had seen throughout his tenure and it may need to be narrowed down to which ones were more appropriate to be funded. He added that normally the Legislative Day was done by the Senator or Representative.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

There was more discussion. To follow the discussion, please visit www.gadsdenclerk.com for more detailed information.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt asked when the deadline was to get the proposals in and the response was the Senator's deadline was January 30th, but the document needed to be approved by the Board before presenting it to them.

Mr. Doolin said the Board needed to get their priorities and requests in with the Administrator and make sure the Department Heads had reviewed it.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell said they had reached out to the managers for their projects and one issue that came up was expanding the gaming.

Mr. Doolin said that entity had a full set of lobbyists working on that issue.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many projects they needed and was told four to five projects.

County Administrator

15. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell informed them of the Kick-Off meeting held for the Competitive Florida Partnership and the Department of Economic Opportunity staff came and the County's application was selected and would involve the Board and around the first of March it would be to the point where there would be a big meeting and the Board would then be needed. They would help to show the weaknesses and strengths and was a great thing.

He reminded Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Morgan they needed to complete their Ethics Training.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss stated he had nothing to report was available to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked him to provide them with the information regarding the questions about powers and duties of the BOCC versus the powers and duties of the County Administrator regarding hiring and firings. He added it was under the County Administrator's powers of duties to hire and fire, etc. He said Commissioner Hinson asked about the policy in terms of job description of positions, open and close dates, etc. and his response was that could be addressed by the Board through policy level decisions and if it were the will of the Board to bring back the personnel policy to review it and determine if certain revisions should be made to give the Board more or less authority, that would be the appropriate method.

Commissioner Hinson said most Boards, when discussing job descriptions, they were the ones that approved the descriptions and there might be job descriptions that were approved 20-30 years ago, but times have changed. He added that before they start hiring, they needed to make sure it fit their needs.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the BOCC wrote the job position description or Human Resource Department of the Executive body that determines what position and what the position did that fit the need of the Department.

Mr. Weiss said the BOCC was in charge of setting policy and they would certainly have input and be subject to their review and approval, but in terms of how they would like to implement that, he felt they would want the HR Department to have substantial input into what they needed out of a person to fit the needs of the County.

Commissioner said it was like when he was on the School Board and other boards he served on, if there were a job description, the Board had to approve, but he was not saying the Board could tell the County Manager who to hire and fire, but he felt they could say that a PH.D or a Master's degree was needed for a certain job. Commissioner Hinson also asked that before someone was hired for a certain position, the job description be looked at first, because the position with Emergency Management, the job description was brought to them, they looked it over to see if it fit, there were some questions. He said where he disagreed with the situation, the job description and the person were brought in together, the hire had been made already and it put the Commissioners in a compromised situation. He asked that in the future before they hired someone, for the Commissioners to be able to look at the job description first, and then hire the person.

Mr. Presnell pointed out that each year the Commissioners approve every position the County had.

Commissioner Morgan commented it was very important the Board not get involved in job descriptions so the minimum requirements fit someone they might have in mind for filling that position, because the job description would end up being changed because a Commissioner has promised the job to someone and they would be encouraged to hire that person. He said that would change the job description because a Commissioner had promised a job to someone and they would be encouraged to hire that person and he was aware that was already going on. He cautioned them to think long and hard about what they were discussing.

Chair Holt said this could be brought back as an agendaed item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, PhD – District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had a couple of matters:

1) Regarding the Animal Shelter on Selman Road, he had received complaints regarding people dropping off unwanted pets on holidays and weekends and it was becoming a threat to the citizens and neighbors. He said if there were not such a thing, maybe they could provide a cage where cats could be left in it and they could not come back out.

2) He said he would like to have list of all advisory bodies created by the board and lists.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said there had been a lot of participation with the Social Security satellite program that was placed at the Library and there had been an experienced work person placed there to help log in names, get information so the tracking could be kept up with. She added that the person’s term was coming up and she was worried they might lose the piece. She asked if the Manager could look into it and maybe identify some sources to help keep this going, at least for another year to keep the stats coming in. She asked if this needed to be put into a motion because someone was needed in that position.

CRTPA

She said that one of the issues was a lot of the projects that were being pushed through CRTPA, was geared toward a particular area, and her issue was a list was never supplied to the Representative so they were doing a presentation, they would be able to look at the County as a whole and she asked that the list be given to the current commissioners. She added that it was her opinion geared to one area and she would like a list to be given to the current representative so the area could be looked at as a whole and some of the priority projects may be given more consideration.

She said when she looked at the list for the Legislative Priorities; there were some specific parks that were not identified.

The last thing she wanted to discuss was the Editorial in the paper regarding the money list to Chamber and it divulged some of the Commissioners allegiance to supporting one arm of economic development. She said she first thought not to address it, but then felt the need to, she said it was not a true article because at the last meeting, there was no vote. She pointed out if the document were looked at carefully, it was selected material because she said the last time she looked, there were 67 counties in Florida and the list only represented 29 counties.

She added that she was looking at every avenue to support economic development.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson wished a Merry Christmas to everyone.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said she felt like it had been very productive in December.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there would be a contract with better clarity from the two entities for economic development and was told yes. She also added that the privacy agreement that was given with the Economic Development Council, they register with DEO, and when you check, you will see there were no privacy agreements from Gadsden County with any businesses. She further said that if any businesses that wanted to come in and receive the incentives, they would need to register themselves so there would be a location, they did not need to know who they were or what their business was, but they needed to register.

She said the Board had done a great job so far in what they were doing and they needed to come back and make time to workshop.

RECEIPT AND FILE

UPCOMING MEETINGS

18. **January 6, 2014 – Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**
January 20, 2014 – Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:35 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk