

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 3,
2015 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1-arrived late
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

<u>INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL</u>	
Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a silent prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Marcella, Blocker, Deputy Clerk.	
<u>AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	
Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the agenda and Mr. Presnell said he would like to add Item 1A, Mr. Alex Quintana, Field Representative with Senator Gwen Graham’s office was present and asked to pull Item 8 and said they would re-submit at a later date.	
UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.	
<u>AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES</u>	
<u>1.</u>	<u>Recognition of Americorps Gadsden Reads</u> Chair Holt asked everyone to step forward for the Presentation of the Plaque. <i>Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.</i> Chair Holt read the proclamation aloud and then presented it to Americorps Gadsden Reads.
<u>1A.</u>	<u>Alex Quintana, Field Representative with Representative Gwen Graham’s Office,</u> <u>Alex Quintana, Field Representative for Representative Gwen Graham,</u> appeared before the Board and said she had asked him to visit the District because she was going to start having office offices in each county once a month. <i>Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.</i>
<u>2.</u>	<u>Update from Bid Bend Transit Regarding the Gadsden Connector</u> Shawn Mitchell, General Manager, Big Bend Transit, appeared before the Board to give an update regarding the Gadsden Connector that Mr. Presnell had mentioned at the last meeting.

Mr. Mitchell stated they had been working hard to provide transportation to the citizens of Gadsden County and the last two years he has been working with the Administrator to find solutions to the problems.

Commissioner Taylor reappeared at this juncture of the meeting.

He said they reached out to the State and received grant money for two years to help provide transportation from Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna into Quincy to Havana and back several times a day and were hopeful the service would give people in Gadsden County an opportunity to move about for educational, work or commerce in general. He further explained the cost was a fixed rate of \$1.00 per passenger trip.

Commissioner Taylor thanked him and said was happy to see it become where more could take advantage of the services. She said when she sees the transit come from Tallahassee to Quincy; it was always $\frac{3}{4}$ to full capacity. She asked if the Shuttle around the area would be activated and was informed that it was on the agenda later at this meeting.

Commissioner Hinson thanked him for attending the meeting. He asked about expanding the services and having different “drop-off” spots. Commissioner Hinson added that when the commissioners held their retreat, Mr. Mitchell should attend.

Mr. Mitchell explained that he spent a lot of his time looking for grant money because he realized this was a small county and did not have a lot of money and wanted to tap into all State and Federal resources possible.

Chair Holt said when this started initially, it was done with Star Metro and the agreement fell through and still wanted to look at transportation issues because the bus leaving Quincy was too small. She said it was great they were looking for grant money, but they also were looking for opportunities.

Mr. Mitchell said he met with Mr. Presnell a few weeks ago and he will be coming to the Board in an upcoming meeting regarding matching funds a little more so they could add more trips.

Mr. Presnell asked him to enlighten the Board regarding the “Call Ride” program.

Mr. Mitchell said they were getting some funding opportunities in place and said they had van pools and with the program in place, if they used the Gadsden Express or the van pool service and need to go home early, there was a voucher program where they would be given a voucher for a taxi ride back to Gadsden County.

CLERK OF COURT

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

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE

BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.	
3.	Approval of Minutes
4.	Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program
ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION	
There were no items pulled for discussion.	
Commissioner Hinson wanted to recognize Black History Month and thanked everyone for their sacrifices over the years and who paved the way.	
CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS	
	Mrs. Kruize, Quincy Inn, Black Heritage Museum
PUBLIC HEARINGS	
5.	<p>PUBLIC HEARING-First Public Hearing Regarding Community Development Block Grant Application for the Purchase of a New EMS Facility</p> <p>Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and announced it was the first public hearing to discuss the CDBG Block Grant for the purchase and renovation for a new EMS facility and required two public hearings to be able to move forward with the grant. He further explained as part of the application process, it required a Citizens Advisory Task Force to hear comments and input from the public regarding the application and they met on January 8, 2015 and voted unanimously not to proceed with the project. He added that was an advisory opinion and this Board could vote to move forward and this was one of two required hearings in this process.</p> <p>Chair Holt asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this item and there was no-one.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan said he had looked through the item and recognized the Citizens Advisory voted against the building and did not see their reasoning against it and asked if someone could explain why because he could not see a downside to it.</p> <p>Tommy Baker, EMS Director, appeared before the Board and informed them the Advisory Task Force voted to pursue funding for a new facility on the grounds of the hospital since there seemed to be adequate property there.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan asked what the problem was with the existing property.</p> <p>Mr. Baker said he was unsure, he only knew that was their recommendation.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan said he understood Mr. Baker’s opinion had always been to move forward with the existing facility and asked if that had changed.</p> <p>Mr. Baker said he liked the facility and liked the business deal because it seemed they would be</p>

able to move into it without any costs and that was a major appeal.

Commissioner Morgan asked why they move away from that and was there any specific reasoning other than wanting to be at the hospital.

Mr. Baker said not from his perspective, but was the recommendation from the group.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Baker how far away from the Hospital was this piece of property located and Mr. Baker responded maybe a quarter of a mile.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood the line of thinking of the Task Force. He said that he personally toured the grounds last week at the hospital and this was a facility that had 72,000 square feet and only 15,000 square feet are presently being used with 62,000 square feet being unused. He added there was land around the hospital that was presently available and thought it made fiscal common sense to use what the county had and not go to the expense of using the grant money for the building.

Commissioner Morgan asked how less money would be spent or invested in this by doing that option.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they already had the land and available space at the hospital and “a penny saved is a penny earned” and if the county saved what they had by using what they had and not purchasing the new property, there would be more money to actually build what they have now to a higher standard.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator if he agreed they would use less money by renovating a portion of the existing building versus remodeling the hospital for use.

Mr. Presnell said the rehab on the building would be approximately \$250,000 and would properly be less than the hospital. He added that he thought Commissioner Viegbesie was alluding to the fact that a CDBG grant was for \$650,000 and that was for the purchase and would leave \$250,000 for the rehab. He further added that some of the discussion with the Task Force was to possibly seek a CDBG grant for the rehab as well.

Commissioner Morgan asked his opinion of what he thought best.

Mr. Presnell said he always liked to use grant dollars to keep the Board from having to take County tax dollars to do it.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Baker the makeup of the Citizens Task Force and if there were representatives from each district.

Mr. Baker said he did not look at districts they came from and the basis of the committee was a previous committee that had worked with Phyllis Moore’s group on housing grants and they had to add to it because they had to have low to moderate income people.

She said they had made the commitment and saw both sides. She further reiterated that Capital City Bank had agreed to write the grant, make sure there was at no costs to the County

and if they had to build out the hospital, which was a great idea, that would be at county expense if they were unable to receive grant dollars.

Mr. Presnell said if they were unable to obtain a grant, they would have to look at General Revenue dollars but he was sure the Board would want to exhaust all avenues for seeking grant funds first.

She asked if a funding source had been identified to retrofit the hospital.

Mr. Presnell said the CDBG was what had been discussed and had not gotten in-depth because they needed a decision from the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked with the contract they currently had on the building with Capital Regional, if a CDBG grant and its criteria conflict.

Mr. Presnell said no because they had only leased CRMC a portion of the facility.

Commissioner Taylor then asked with the facility in its present state, would there be a conflict with a CDBG grant.

Mr. Presnell said he did not see how and if they got to the point of applying, it would be checked into legally.

Commissioner Taylor said she was concerned that there would be a cost to the County if they moved forward with retrofitting the building because they all knew with the CDBG grant there still had to be matching in it and they knew there was no-one available to write it and there would be a cost to have someone write it as well as implement or facilitate it. She added they would not have those costs if they stayed with where they were originally. She further stated she did not think they had enough information in front of them to know all the costs and be able to make an informed decision.

Commissioner Hinson said personally he concurred with everything everyone said. He added that he believed in purchasing property because they may need property down the road and if they were being given five acres of land with the building, did not see where they could go wrong.

Chair Holt said she was against the project from the beginning, the hospital was not built out and if they were presented with the opportunity to build out the hospital that was an opportunity to go after. She added at other facilities, EMS was located at the hospital and she was not in favor of getting this to take the property off the tax roll. She said they were hiring a grant writer anyway. She said she saw getting a free piece of property, but she did not see having the taxes not being paid because government does not pay taxes. She said she felt they needed to back up, fix the hospital and do what they told folks they would initially do.

Emmanuel Sapp 821 2nd Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board, and stated he was of the same perspective of what Commissioner Viegbesie and Commissioner Holt had stated. He further stated he felt the community would need to be polled and see how they felt with the noise coming to their area and also the housing expansion plan needed to be taken into account

with more housing going in on the east side.

Commissioner Hinson asked once the property was obtained, did it have to be used for EMS.

Chair Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell said if it was obtained with grant money, it would have to be used for the EMS facility.

Mr. Weiss said it would come as a package deal where it would be for the purchase of the property and the rehabilitation of the facility.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could be shown in the contract where it had to be used for an EMS facility.

Mr. Baker appeared before the Board to explain and said the grant application was being worked on by the consultant and if they moved forward, it would be presented at the next public hearing. He further explained that their direction for the grant was written around the EMS facility.

Chair Holt reappeared at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said before making a decision, he wanted to have all facts before him.

Commissioner Taylor agreed there was not enough information before them and additional information was needed. She asked for clarity with regards to the hospital; the referendum voted on clearly stated that three-fourths of the indigent funds collected were to go to indigent people that needed assistance with any type of medical issues and one-fourth was to go to the hospital. She further stated that when it was campaigned to get the vote, people thought the money was primarily for the hospital as did she until she read everything. She added she was hopeful that before long, people would be able to stay there. She also said that she was mindful of what they put in the neighborhood, but she said for them to take into consideration the emergency facility they were discussing putting into the hospital was in a community and where they were discussing placing it, there were no houses because it was a car lot at one time.

Commissioner Morgan said he was for approval of Option 1 and added that he heard the discussion but it did not make good sense to him.

Chair Holt said they had looked at one option, but there were two options, one being at the hospital and one at the car lot and they could have applied for two CDBG grants and they did not because the Board wanted to buy the property from the bank. She said for them to not take the property off the tax roll, instead fix the property they were supposed to have fixed up.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR,
BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER HINSON CALLED FOR A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was not approved, would there still be another hearing.

Mr. Presnell said there was a required second public hearing that would be the first meeting in March.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they had to approve it first and if it was not approved, it would be dead and he hated to kill it because he would like to see more research.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the motion was for adoption of option 1; to approve continuing the process to apply for the grant to purchase and renovate the Thomas Motor Cars property and if that were approved, that would be the direction it would go. He added there was no saying “think about it”, either it was done today or done for some other purpose and not for the purpose of purchasing the building.

Mr. Weiss pointed out he had not been involved in the grant application process. He said he did understand there would be a second public hearing that would come back before the Board.

Chair Holt asked if this were approved tonight, how it would affect the contract, because there was an agreement in the contract that said if they approved this step, it said they moved forward.

Mr. Presnell said if they voted in the affirmative, there would be more expenses incurred because it would come back for a second public hearing.

Chair Holt said they needed the opinion of the attorney and the attorney did not agree with this because he did not know enough about it and she advised then as a commissioner to wait because the attorney could not answer their questions and concerns.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this item could be tabled.

Dr. V said the motion was not to approve the process to apply for the CDBG grant, if the motion was to apply for the CDBG grant that would be an action by itself, but the motion was to apply and if approved, then the dealership would be purchased and the second public hearing would have nothing to do with the cause of action. He added it needed to be voted up or down.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this item could be tabled, if they vote against it, it would die and if they move forward, they will have a second hearing.

Mr. Weiss said there was no reason it could not be tables, it was a timing issue.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE, SAYING THERE WAS A MOTION AND A SECOND FOR APPROVAL TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS TO APPLY FOR A CDBG GRANT TO PURCHASE AND RENOVATE THE THOMAS MOTOR CAR PROPERTY. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR VOTED AYE. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE VOTED NO.

COMMISSIONER HINSON

“Well, I’m not opposing neither.”

Chair Holt

“But you have to vote one way or the other. What you have to do...”

Commissioner Morgan

“He did, he voted to approve.”

Chair Holt

“Again, well, he’s talking so I have to explain it...”

Commissioner Morgan

“You called for the vote...”

(Gavel banging)

Chair Holt

“Wait a minute Sir; I’m the Chairman, OK, now stop.”

Commissioner Morgan

“Madam Chair, Rules of Order...”

Chair Holt

“Stop, I am, I’m following those, now stop talking, I’m the Chair. OK, now, if he had not started speaking, I wouldn’t address him. OK, I didn’t ask him for a question. I’m letting him speak. Commissioner Hinson...”

Commissioner Hinson

“Right, well, (sigh) I would hate, the reason why I asked that question you say you got to vote on it. I don’t want to, I don’t want to vote for it right now, I want to take...”

Chair Holt

“Commissioner Hinson, Commissioner Hinson, listen now, if you do not vote, it’s accepted as a yes. You have to say ‘no’ if you do not want to vote for it. As I’ve said before, whatever action you want to bring after that, that’s up to you.”

Commissioner Hinson

“OK, I got...”

Chair Holt

“OK, now, there were two in favor, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Morgan; Commissioner Viegbesie and I were opposed...”

Commissioner Hinson

“And I oppose.”

Chair Holt

“OK, so, alright now, so that’s...”

	<p><u>Commissioner Morgan</u> “Madam Chair, if I may...”</p> <p><u>Chair Holt</u> “Yes sir, go ahead.”</p> <p><u>Commissioner Morgan</u> “”You know as well as I do that’s inappropriate and my comments are over. Thank you.”</p> <p><u>Chair Holt</u> “OK, I know you had a comment. But, as I said Commissioner Hinson, when you started speaking I allowed you to address the issue.”</p> <p><u>Commissioner Hinson</u> “Right.”</p> <p><u>Chair Holt</u> “OK, for clarity (pointing to Commissioner Hinson), now you can vote either way you want.”</p> <p><u>Commissioner Hinson</u> “Oh, yeah, I know that.”</p> <p><u>Chair Holt</u> “OK, alright, that motion failed.”</p> <p><u>Commissioner Hinson</u> “Well, now, I want to make mine.”</p> <p><u>Chair Holt</u> “Now, Commissioner Hinson, you want to put a motion on the floor, go ahead and do that.”</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO TABLE THE ITEM, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, MR. PRESNELL HAD COMMENTS.</p> <p>Mr. Presnell stated this was a Public Hearing and asked if it were proper to continue it?</p> <p>Mr. Weiss said yes and he thought they should re-publish it.</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.</p>
6.	<p><u>Approval of Agreement Between Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. for the Operation of the Quincy Shuttle</u></p> <p>Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for Board approval of the agreement between Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to provide Quincy Shuttle service in and around the City of Quincy. He added that he had been in contact with the City of Quincy</p>

	<p>and it would be taken up at their next meeting to contribute some to the County.</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board</u> Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said was for an appointment.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Roy Moore and due to misunderstandings; he had not been attending meetings but would be able to attend the next meeting on April 2nd.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan asked who the recommended replacement was and Chair Holt stated it was Ms. Chelsea Douglass, Human Resource Manager of Teligent EMS.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan said he felt it was the correct course of action to approve the replacement, but he had nothing against Mr. Moore.</p> <p>Chair Holt said she was in favor of keeping Mr. Moore and said if he did not receive the information and there was a problem, it could always be brought back.</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOODOOOICE VOTE TO RETAIN MR. MOORE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Conduct the 4th Annual Rural County Summit</u> Item pulled</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Approval of Agreement with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center</u> Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for Board approval of the Agreement with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center and the Gadsden County BOCC.</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, THERE WAS DISCUSSION.</p> <p>Chair Holt said she had spoken with Mr. Gardner and said the reporting part was the only thing she had concerns with going forward and he said he would be able to do that and she would like for it to be in this contract.</p> <p>Commissioner Viegbesie said he strongly supported this item but saw a “sore spot” with the conversation was focusing on accountability. He said in reading the contract, he did not see and believed if included, the Chamber would get \$40,000 with no continuous argument or discussion if they would include in the contract a monthly or quarterly account of the list of businesses that attend the training or workshop. He said he would like to see a sign-in and who attended the workshop and an evaluation of the attendee as to what was learned or how beneficial the training was to them. He said he felt if that was added, performance based for</p>

the money, then he thought that would ensure the continuous funding from the BOCC.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Chamber had ever failed to provide a report when they had been asked and Mr. Presnell said no. Commissioner Morgan then asked if they had ever been late and Mr. Presnell said they might have been late.

Commissioner Morgan said they had an agreement that the Chamber had approved before them, the Chamber had been before them before to talk about the success of the program for local business owners. He further added that it was his opinion that they did not need to put reports required in the contract just because someone wanted to get some reports from someone. He said they had legitimate reasons for not wanting to provide signed signatures and there were reasonable confidentiality issues. He said he commended Commissioner Hinson for moving on this and his second to the motion would stand.

Commissioner Taylor said she always contended that that anyone that was spending taxpayers' money be accountable for it.

Commissioner Morgan replied they were.

Commissioner Taylor said where she was going with that was the GCDC has a contract and whatever reporting that was required of the Chamber, needed to be required as well of the GCDC and whatever deliverables that each was responsible for needed to be made transparent to the Board because they were responsible for the fiscal affairs of the County. She said she had no problem with reporting, but wanted to make sure they were fair across the board with all entities.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Hinson if it were possible to include the two items Commissioner Viegbesie had suggested and she had no problem in having that added to GCDC or anyone else. She then asked Commissioner Viegbesie to restate the items he would like to see added.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Chair was asking if he would amend his motion to include the fact that this performance based (inaudible) who have signed in the businesses that had the use of the Chamber and the evaluation be added. He said he felt if that were added, they would no longer be spinning their wheels regarding this particular item.

Commissioner Hinson asked when the checks would be cut and Mr. Presnell responded they were cut quarterly and the Board had instructed them they would like to have regular updates.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they would have to appear before them before the next check was cut and Mr. Presnell said no, if this was approved, it would be an annual contract and they would draw down on it quarterly. Commissioner Hinson said he thought everyone was doing that and Chair Holt agreed.

Commissioner Taylor said he had been misinformed, because according to the contractual agreement with GCDC, they would receive \$80,000 upon signing of the contract.

Mr. Weiss said that was accurate with this contract and the GCDC contract provided for one-half

	<p>of the money immediately upon signing of the contract and the Chamber contract was a little less clear of how the other half was to be disbursed. He further explained that the other half with this contract was based on an invoice six months later. He said it did require updates on a quarterly basis and did require presentations to be made upon request. He said it also gave the county the ability to inspect records at any time related to the money that the County was spending.</p> <p>Chair Holt said that was the documentation she had asked for in the past, but for them to forget the past and include the two items for both organizations and move on.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson said the problem he had was they did not do that for the other group and Chair Holt said “do it now for the other group, give them a rider, they’ll sign it and let’s move on”.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson said the contract had been approved already.</p> <p>Chair Holt said “You go back, when children do wrong, you go back and straighten them up, you don’t sit and complain about what they did wrong. So now, the GCDC, they are adults, I’m sure they will agree with this and, in fact, they have only been funded two years. We’ve funded the Chamber for over thirty. So all we have to do now is go ahead and do what we are going to do. Let’s take the vote and move on”</p> <p>Commissioner Taylor had one comment. She said it was her opinion they could not entertain another contract because it had not been agendaed , but did agree it needed to come back at a later time and did not think they needed to amend the GCDC contract, but it did need to be brought back. She further stated they needed to move forward with the Chamber’s contract, but not try to tack onto another contract, because it was not properly advertised and they did not have the authority to do so, per their own policy and procedures.</p> <p>Commissioner Viegbesie said he had called a question for the item and asked that they vote.</p> <p>CHAIR HOLT SAID THEY WERE VOTING FOR A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CHAMBER SMALL BUSINESS AND GADSDEN COUNTY. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Approval to Sell House owned by the County Located on Brumby Street</u></p> <p>Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for Board approval to sell a house on Brumby Street owned by the County.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson asked if this had been advertised.</p> <p>Mr. Presnell said yes, it was listed with a realtor once the County decided to dispose of it. He said it was put out for bid and was in all three local papers.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson asked if the money could go back into the affordable housing pot.</p> <p>Mr. Presnell stated it could not this fiscal year, but they could budget that, but the money would go back into the General Revenue.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was built by the County and was not a foreclosure, seizure or lien property.</p> <p>Mr. Presnell said no.</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A COMMENT.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan said this was what some would call a “teachable moment” and said the County had spent \$150,000 of taxpayer dollars to build the house; \$100,000 to build it and what money that had been spent since then had been several thousand dollars. He added he hoped it was a “prime example of what a poor decision can do to taxpayer dollars, we are taking \$150,000 that we spent out of General Fund and we are now going to realize \$18,000 for a piece of junk house. I agree with Dr. V, we should take this and run.”</p> <p><i>Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.</i></p> <p>Chair Holt explained that when the County did the house, it was to stop patching up houses so much and the program they looked at was to build a house, have people qualify for it, they would move in, money they received from different governmental programs, take that money and move it over to the building of the house.</p> <p>CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Approval to Sell a Parcel of County Property located on Crawfish Road</u></p> <p>Mr. Presnell introduced this item and said it was similar to the previous item. He added that a property owner adjacent to the lot contacted the County and was interested in purchasing it. He added the property was bid and only one bid was received from that property owner for \$1,500.00.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.</i></p> <p>Commissioner Viegbesie said this was one of the things he expressed concern with at one of the last meetings. He said he was not sure what methods were used where only one was received and thought they needed change to attract more bids.</p> <p>Chair Holt said they needed to see the proofs of the advertisements attached to the agenda item.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson said he thought it needed to start with this one and he was not for selling property at all, but if it were the will of the Board, he would go with it.</p> <p>UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>Discussion of Lease-W.S. Stevens Alternative School</u></p>

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for discussion of the W. S. Stevens Alternative School lease.

Emmanuel Sapp, 821 2nd Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the board. He said Mrs. Ford had been a good housekeeper of the property and the only problem was since 2010, the same governing board that regulates this facility has been using the facility for personal gain. He said he wanted to bring it to the Board and the Attorney's attention that one commissioner may be overstepping and receiving personal gains from building. He presented documents and asked that it be looked into and be rectified. He felt that if the Board would re-negotiate the lease agreement with Mrs. Ford, any organization to sublease any part of it, the Board would have to approve it. He then presented the documents to the Deputy Clerk.

Mrs. Priscilla Stephens Kruize appeared before the Board and said she had been at the Stevens School since February, 2014 and said her only reason for being there was to be a service to the community and to present artifacts and build self-esteem among the youth and instill appreciation among other people. She said if the Commissioners could help in any way, she would be most appreciative because the building was very cold and she did not received help from any grants.

Chair Holt said she had spoken with Mrs. Ford, had spoken with Commissioner Taylor and had spoken with the Manager. She added that one of her concerns that Mr. Sapp had spoken on was "conflict of interest" and asked that the Attorney look into that and she did not want to make judgment calls. She also wanted proof continuous insurance and upkeep, and individuals that were on the property that did not have a contract but had access to the building.

Commissioner Taylor asked that she hear from Ms. Carolyn Ford.

Ms. Carolyn Ford appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked that Mrs. Ford clarify the validity of the sub-contract concerning Children Are Our Future and anything else she could share with the Board.

Mrs. Ford said she only had one sub-lease that was a month-to-month lease with Commissioner Taylor. She said as far as the upkeep, she had been there twenty-three years and at the beginning, she had to replace the roof and has tried to maintain it. She mentioned it was the last black high school and elementary school left in the County. She mentioned that she had been unable to receive any grants because the County owned the property. She also mentioned that she had a \$20,000 budget that she used to maintain the building.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a question raised regarding compensation for the building, she had spoken with the attorney and there was clarity that was presented and there was no compensation on her behalf. She added there was an agency and those funds were directed to that particular cause and Mrs. Ford was made aware and signed off on it. She assured everyone that nothing was done underhanded and documentation was in place to support what she said. She asked Mr. Presnell if he had toured building and he responded yes.

Mr. Presnell said he and the Building Inspector had toured the building to see if it had been properly maintained and found it was in good shape.

Commissioner Taylor stated for the record, she asked for the tour. She added that she came into that building before she was commissioner and was in the building around 2001 and provided after-school tutorial programs for children who had no place else to go. She said there was a grant received from Department of Education and has provided services for 23 years of tutoring, math, reading, computer technology, music, arts and crafts, physical fitness, etc. She further stated that the program was measured by the school district as to its success and was ranked number 1 because children showed gains from attending the program. She said they also provided parenting classes and adult education, employment and had a budget of almost \$10,000-\$15,000 monthly in salaries. She said the program was still providing services and just this past Christmas, forty free computers went to families. She said they provided a lot of great services. She said this was after her and had nothing to do with the school and "was a shame because you are taking something good and trying to blemish it. I've been doing business a long time and I'm intelligent enough to know not to entrap, not to do anything I don't have too. Authorization was given by my contractor, by Mrs. Ford to do whatever was done out there, she knows about it, it was in writing, documented. So to cast this, it's not necessary, I'm big enough, you don't have to come through a program for children and for the community. So I want to say progress, do what you need to do. I stand vindicated and I'm very happy and very pleased with what has happened out there and let me caution those, let me caution those on this, when a person is fulfilling its purpose in life, be careful attacking that person because my purpose is to serve and to help people. That's my purpose, is to serve to help people to be mindful of all ages and that's what I'm on this journey to do and it's exactly what I'm going to do. Through this I will be protected, so that's all I have to say. I will come back if any other comments are made that I think I might need to address. But, thank you for the moment."

Chair Holt asked Mrs. Ford what different programs were located at the school.

Mrs. Ford said she had allowed Mrs. Kruize to come in and at the present time did not have a contract. She added there was a training program there on the west side and a large food pantry where she served residents of the county, 400 families a month and a small office to administer that program out of.

Chair Holt said the things asked about: conflict of interest; individuals in the facility without contracts; the Church and the issue with that was liability insurance on the facility itself. She explained if someone was to get hurt, there needed to be continuance insurance on the building.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mrs. Ford if she approved everything that went on there.

She replied she did not approve everything that went on there. She clarified that she sub-contracted with Ms. Taylor and some things she does not approve, they happen and then she would find out about it and then would contact Ms. Taylor and she would explain what was going on.

Commissioner Taylor said on occasion, there were people that would contact her because they were under the impression it was her building and she would have them contact Mrs. Ford. She further explained that the young man with the Church had his own insurance and the ultimate decision regarding anyone coming into the building was with Mrs. Ford.

Chair Holt said this facility must be treated as any other county building and instead of going through everything, research it, do what needed to be done and move on. She added that the back and forth was not going to work because sooner or later someone would file suit.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was “the new kid on the block so a lot of these things I don’t have the history of” and asked with the subleases and them having their own insurance, if someone was hurt, who would be the primary defendant, the County or the one who subleased the building and had their own insurance but the indemnity may not be large enough.

Mr. Weiss said that any and all parties would be included in the lawsuit (if one) and that would include the County. He said he had had reviewed the lease and it did require insurance in the amount of not less than \$500,000 and has an indemnity provision. He added that indemnity was only as good as the money to indemnify it. He explained if the organization did not have enough money to indemnify the County, someone got a judgment against the County; there was a judgment against the County.

Chair Holt said if the organization had insurance and it met the criteria, then they were probably ok because both parties would be sued, but there was no proof of insurance.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a phone call from a young lady and asked if everything that county rents to Mrs. Ford was in her name.

Mrs. Ford said she subleased, she subleased to Ms. Taylor and in her sublease, she was to maintain her part of the building, have insurance, etc. and that she had advised Mrs. Kruize to have her own security because there were so many break-ins. She added that she did not charge anyone any money; they paid their own utilities and maintained their own space and insurance.

Chair Holt asked if the Administrator had requested proof of insurance.

He responded he had asked Mrs. Ford and have not received it.

Mrs. Kruize re-approached podium and said she did try to get insurance and was not able because of the condition of the building and she could not afford to renovate. She stated she was willing to stay there and felt it important to the Black Heritage because of the school.

Commissioner Taylor said she was glad to have this discussion because it needed to be made clear about the community center. She said the after-school programs stopped in 2011 or 2012 and her responsibility was the upkeep and utilities and there was no agreement in place and they had liability insurance when they were doing services there. She added she was “glad that this had come to surface for many reasons so that we could move forward and get this passed. This is ridiculous, but I totally understand why and where all this is coming from.”

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13. Update on Various County Issues

Mr. Presnell said the Economic Development Incentives ordinance had been completed and

asked for a workshop starting at 4:00 prior to the meeting on February 17th.

Focus Group

He said the Focus Group was going well and they would continue to meet each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and if any of the Commissioners would like to recommend someone to participate, it was a community effort.

Black History Month Appreciation Dinner

He said there will be a Black History Month Appreciation dinner at Riverchase and they would be receiving an invitation.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the Focus Group and they had talked at length regarding ideas and how to proceed and asked if they had been implemented and asked to see the ads that were being used.

He asked that he be provided a copy of the existing Planning and Zoning ordinance that addressed the make-up of the Board and asked it be agendaed for discussion.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought with commissioner's appointments to various advisory committees and boards, a document was given that specified what board commissioners appointed to and numbers and thought every commissioner was to appoint two from each district.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Morgan if he would tell them what problems he had.

Commissioner Morgan stated he would like to discuss it before the public to see if there were any updates that needed to be made, for example, they were allowed to appoint two members but they did not have to be from their own district; and felt that they were not necessarily getting fair representation throughout the County on the Board. He said there were other items he would like to discuss, but did not think it appropriate since the item was not on the agenda and would like to discuss it in a public meeting.

Televising Meeting

He said if they were in the financial position to do so, would like to see it agendaed for discussion and mentioned he had asked for it four times.

Chair Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how much money was in the bank when the meetings were televised and mentioned he thought there was \$6.4 Million.

Commissioner Morgan said that was not so, the County almost had to borrow money to meet payroll.

Commissioner Taylor said the reason she would not support this now was because of trying to get funding in the middle of the fiscal year.

Chair Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.

	<p>Commissioner Taylor said she would support it, but not until the next budget cycle.</p> <p>Chair Holt stated she was not in favor of it.</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan commented he knew and understood why she was not in favor of it.</p> <p>Chair Holt stated “When I tried to keep it, you wanted it out. I had to fight to keep it in...”</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan started to talk.</p> <p>Chair Holt stated “Commissioner, I’m speaking now, I wasn’t speaking when you were speaking. We do have an officer or someone out here somewhere...”</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan said “Oh, you’re going to remove me? I don’t think you are.”</p> <p>Chair Holt stated “I don’t know she and I haven’t talked about it yet.”</p> <p>Commissioner Morgan stated “Oh well, I’ll (inaudible) you won’t.”</p> <p>Chair Holt stated she thought it was good all the time, but now since they have not had it, did not see it and unless they need to bring in the television camera, which is already here and assumed when something was very important, the news media would be called in anyway.</p>
<p><u>COUNTY ATTORNEY</u></p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>Update on Various Legal Issues</u></p> <p>Mr. Weiss stated he had nothing to report but was available to answer any questions.</p> <p>Commissioner Hinson asked if there had been any discussion with the other attorney regarding Havana Heights.</p> <p>Mr. Weiss deferred to the Administrator.</p> <p>Mr. Presnell said there had been no response.</p>
<p><u>DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS</u></p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p><u>Report and Discussion of Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission Districts and Gadsden County</u></p>
	<p><u>Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, PhD, District 2</u></p> <p>Commissioner Viegbesie said he had two items he would like to discuss tonight:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Havana Elementary School-he heard there was a potential buyer for the property and did not know if the Board was aware of what the potential buyer’s plans were for

property since their drive was economic development. He said he would like to work with them to see if it could be used to facilitate economic development.

- 2) List of Discretionary Expenses that was sent-He said he thought Commissioner Hinson had asked for it and it was lengthy. He added that his understanding on those items, the Administrator had a discretionary power of spending up to \$25,000 without having to come through the Board.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at this juncture.

Commissioner Viegbesie went on to say that said personally, he thought that was tremendously liberal discretionary latitude and if not out of order thought the amount should be reduced. He added he would like to move to reduce the amount from \$25,000 to \$2,500.

Commissioner Hinson said he would second the motion.

Mr. Weiss said if they were going to amend the procurement policy, it needed to be placed on the agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO HAVE THIS PLACED ON THE AGENDA. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED TO MAKE A COMMENT.

Commissioner Taylor pointed out that with that low an amount, it could hinder progress for the County and everything would need to come before the Board at every meeting.

Mr. Presnell asked the Commissioners to keep in mind each item on the list would be an agenda item.

Chair Holt said it could be discussed when the item came back and asked the Commissioners if they had concerns, suggested they call the Manager or the Assistant Manager.

Commissioner Taylor said her only intent was to make sure when it came back before them, Mr. Presnell has all the answers and information and particularly how it may hinder the flow of government.

Chair Holt asked that when it was brought back, to bring back what was normally funded and its location, like if it's a monthly bill or something paid monthly that may not need to be moved or may be something that needs to be moved. She added for example, if there were 200 items on the list, they were going to look at the list and there needed to be a section on how it was done. She further stated that for years the County did not have \$25,000 cap, it was just upped when they were being progressive and building things. Never before had the Manager been able to spend \$25,000 without coming before the Board, but they were building libraries, building fire stations, were paving roads and they not doing that now.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to have on record his suggestion was not an indication or accusation that the County Administrator in any circumstance, had abused the Power, he just thought the latitude was too liberal and this was his personal opinion.

	<p><u>Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3</u></p>
	<p><u>Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5</u> <u>GCDC Contract</u> Commissioner Taylor said they talked earlier in the meeting about the GCDC Contract and adding in the necessity of reports from them as well as The Chamber and wanted to make sure it would be brought back at some point and time and that other contracts be amended and added that they needed the accountability.</p> <p><u>All County Buildings</u> She said if they were going to discuss one, talk about all of them and added that if you walked in any of them, you could be sued. She wanted to look at the structure and be accountable.</p> <p><i>Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.</i></p> <p>She said she was concerned about the tabling of the CDBG grant and thought they may have missed the boat and was hoping not because there was a need for another facility.</p>
	<p><u>Commissioner Eric Taylor, Vice-Chair, District 1</u> Commissioner Hinson thanked the administration team for their hard work last week with working closely with the Chamber of Commerce in making sure the project moved smoothly. He also complimented Curtis Young and his team at Road and Bridge.</p> <p>He said he was one of the most liberal commissioners, in America probably, but was conservative when it came down to County government; they needed to make sure the money was there. He explained the reason for his “pausing and holding off for a little bit, just for right now, because I got a lot of stuff from my consultants and they give me updates about what’s about to happen in the future throughout the State of Florida.”</p> <p><i>Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.</i></p> <p>He went on to say “The Governor cutting back taxes, cutting taxes this year and I was at the inauguration, his inauguration. I think he was feeling proud and if I’m not mistaken, he said he was going to cut back forty-three taxes within the next four years, have forty-three tax cuts within the next four years. So we’ve got to be very careful now about spending, got to be very careful, so we need to jump in front now and say ‘let’s hold everything for right now’ until the end of the year and as long as we can keep it safe and do what’s right, if we know a project, we meet every couple of weeks so if a serious project coming up, bring it to the Board. If it’s that serious, we can go and approve it and move on. But, I’m looking at the Governor, he (inaudible) he know what’s right and so I’ve got to do what’s right too, as well and to make sure that we look out for the best interest of Gadsden County. So we need more Curtis’s out there, we need more public workers out there, we need more librarians out there. But when I talk about hiring employees here, the Board got a problem with hiring employees here. People’s gonna have jobs in Gadsden County, so it must not be in that bad of shape. So again, I want to thank again the Commissioners for doing a great job last year. We did a super job. I want to thank the County Administrator and his staff too as well. Thank you very much”</p>
	<p><u>Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4</u></p>

Chair Holt said the Focus group did a good job and said they would be meeting with a grant organization and looking at going after funding and added that the group was very energetic and the question they were posing was “What would make you want to stay in Gadsden County” and there was a long laundry list of things of why they would go to Tallahassee go to Tallahassee at 1:00 a.m. to eat, etc. She added that they were all about being innovative and the need to bring the community together.

She encouraged the Commissioner and the public to tour the hospital, see the sections that were not developed and said there was a physician that asked about putting a facility there. She added that when he spoke with some other people in the community they were interested.

She said with the Governor’s proposal, he suggested in his proposal budget, he said 1,300 state workers would be laid off, She said sixty percent of the residents in Gadsden County worked in Tallahassee, and the rest work at Florida State Hospital, the School system and they needed to be creative when it came to economic development and if the four I-10 exits do not develop, there was trouble.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to thank Shawn Mitchell for getting the grants and thanked Stacey for doing an awesome job her first month. He added they needed to make sure to find a full-time economic development person. He added that Tallahassee just added an international airport and economic opportunities would be coming to Gadsden County.

Chair Holt reminded them that the Focus group meets Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he was trying to get in contact with Gwen Graham, he wanted to see if there was any way to get a match to bring in economic development.

RECEIPT AND FILE

16. Gadsden County Development Council January 2015 Newsletter

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**17. February 17, 2015 – Regular Meeting
 March 3, 2015 – Regular Meeting**

MOTION TO ADJOURN
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK