

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., asked everyone to stand for 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.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said there were no amendments to the Agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Recognition of Miss T's Sets, Havana, FL

Mr. Presnell said there was a Proclamation to present to Miss T's Sets in Havana.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Proclamation and presented it.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

2. Recognition of Commissioner Eric Hinson

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was recognition of Eric Hinson.

Angela Sapp and Sylvia Jackson appeared before the Board and recognized Commissioner Eric Hinson for his services at Gadsden Technical Institute and presented a plaque to him.

3. Recognition of the City of Chattahoochee

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated it was recognition of the City of Chattahoochee and Ben Chandler and representatives of Mainstreet Chattahoochee came forward to receive the plaque.

4. Recognition of the GCDC Business & Expansion Consortium

Chair Holt presented a plaque to Rob Nixon and Beth Kirkland for recognition of the Gadsden County Development Council Business and Expansion Consortium.

Rob Nixon and Beth Kirkland spoke a few words.

5. Proposals to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Mental Health in the Communities of Gadsden County

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Victor Muhammad, Executive Director of Life Sciences of Washington, Inc., appeared before the Board and had a few words to say.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was present and said he thought some of the Commissioners were aware that Gulf County had recently offered Rhonda Woodward a position as Finance Director and she accepted it last month. He then reintroduced the Commissioners to Helene Michaels, as she first started in 1993 with the Clerk's Office.

CONSENT

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

6. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien/SHIP Program

7. Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report

8. Approval of Minutes

- a. July 7, 2015-Regular Meeting

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Approval of Interlocal Agreement Between Gadsden County BOCC with Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the six municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for road maintenance and special project activities.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

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

10. Additional Paragraph to Investment Policy

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said the Clerk's Office was seeking to input two paragraphs recommended by the auditors and place them into the investment policy.

Chair Holt had questions for Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas said the Legislature required all the Clerks of the State to develop policies as related to their role to the Board of County Commissioners and they did not conflict with any of their financial management policies that they had developed themselves.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

He added that constitutionally the Clerk was the Custodian of the funds and they (Clerk's Office) amended the policy last year to bring it up to standards. He added they missed the two paragraphs and this satisfied the auditors and was taken straight from the statutes and brought the policy into compliance.

There was further discussion around the board.

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if there was anything they needed to be concerned with and Mr. Weiss stated no, as the Clerk had stated, the additions were straight from the statute.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.

11. Approval to Write-Off Amount Due From Gadsden Hospital, Inc.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to write off amounts that were given as "start-up" funds to Gadsden Hospital, Inc.

Mr. Thomas explained this was initially set up to be due from the hospital when it was initially established it was under the intention that they would take over the operation of the hospital and that never happened. He added that the County later gave them money after the hospital closed and after the hospital re-opened, GHA closed their account and returned to the County the \$13,000 they had left over and this was housekeeping to write-off the amount.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.

12. Approval of Resolution 2015-009; Supporting Promoting Rural Economic Development

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval of Resolution 2015-009 to support rural economic development and joint efforts among the state's rural economic development organizations.

Jim Brook, Executive Director for Opportunity Florida, appeared before the Board and had a few words to say. He recognized Allara Gutcher and Antonio Jefferson for their hard work.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THERE WAS DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Senators could work with the Governor to let him know how important this was to small counties. Mr. Brook said their plan was to ask each county to provide a Resolution to the Governor in support of this. Commissioner Hinson asked him to quickly explain the “enterprise zone”.

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

Commissioner Hinson said had breaking news, he had just learned that Mrs. Catherine James just passed away and asked for moment of silence.

13. Approval for the Extension of the Contract for Marketing Consulting Services with Chisano Marketing Group for the TDC

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the extension of the contract with Chisano Marketing Group with the Tourist Development Council and for authorization for the Chair to execute the contract.

Commissioner Taylor said had questions concerning the contract and said it had 28 hours for \$2,500/month and after the 28 hours there were additional fees for the services rendered.

Mr. Weiss said this was an extension of the current contract, which had been bid last year with a provision for a one year extension.

Chair Holt said this was the best marketing firm she had seen.

Mr. Weiss said under the additional costs section, the reason this was put as it was, if not included within the 28 hours and additional, it went through the TDC first and then the Administrator would sign off on it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said it was his understanding this was extension of the current contract.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney if it was legally possible to alter the contract that was agreed upon there would be a one year extension upon the signing of the contract when it was originally signed in 2014.

Mr. Weiss explained they could not change it materially, but felt since both parties were entering into a new document and agreed to add that language; it did not materially alter the contract.

Chair Holt asked if they did the extension with the new language saying it must be approved by the TDC and the Administrator, would that need to come back to the Board after it went to him.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Weiss responded he felt they could approve it with the additional language and it could be amended and then go to them for approval.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE CAVEAT ADDED IN THAT IT GO THROUGH TDC BOARD FOR APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL EXPENSES AND THEN FORWARDED TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.

14. Approval of the Agreement with the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office (GAL) for FY2016 for the Trust Fund OPS

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for Board approval of the Agreement with the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office and for authorization for the Chair to execute the agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIEM THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.

15. Approval of Legal Services Contract for Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said was for approval of the Legal Services Contract for the County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were any changes from last year to this year and Mr. Presnell said they had increased their retainer fee and they had negotiated it back to the current year's level and their hourly rate changed from \$175 to \$185.

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

16. 2015 Paving Project-Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced item and said was for approval to award the bid of the 2015 paving project to C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$1,296,048.35.

Commissioner Morgan said he would make a motion to approve.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for a change order for a specific project from District 2 to include St. Hebron Court at the end of Mary Brown Road.

Mr. Presnell said he would bring back a change order and asked if any of the other Commissioners had any minor changes, they could go on one change order and it would come back before the Board.

Mr. Weiss said if they could approve the item and the Administrator could check to confirm that was not included, and if not included and it would have to come back with a separate change order.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a question and said there might be commissioners telling the public inaccurate steps and for the record, “to put out there for Dr. V, Ms. Holt, whoever, to throw it out there for them, ah, in the City of Midway, how much space you have out there, how many, could we repave projects in the City of Midway, in the city?”

Chair Holt said they should have an agreement with them.

Mr. Weiss said the use of these particular monies from gas tax revenue had to go to roads that were in unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Hinson stated “We may have commissioners that’s maybe passing stuff along to other constituents, you know, so I was just curious about that because that was the first thing I said when I was looking at the roads, I had to, I see Curtis Young back there, we rode around. I said a lot of the area in Midway was incorporated so we probably need to do some training on roads for the commissioners so they know that we cannot nib and dibble into incorporated areas because we would get in trouble and go to jail for that...Before we start directing people on things like that we need to make sure we give them concrete, factual evidence on things like that because it’s not fair to the citizens, because citizens trust us to make sound decisions. I thing I’m one of the most transparent people in America when it comes to transparency, and so, we start trying to state a case on some things, we need to give them factual stuff, feel good conversations because, and that’s my only reason because with Curtis, we looked back there and he said ‘Well, we can’t get there’, so I said ‘I tell you what then, I know Mr. Presnell sent a memo out, he said we had to get these roads within a day or so, whatever, so I said let’s get these first, if I’m not mistaken, Mr. Presnell, after this here six weeks later we give out another five, right? So, whichever road we left out of here, I only get a day to get this stuff out of the way, so I say let’s get it out of the way now, then whatever the other five that we got to get, then we just go get those five. We can talk one way about unity in the community or whatever, but when you inconspicuously, as that little snake that was in our grass a few minutes ago, my wife told me to get rid of the snake before I go, we can’t talk about unity in the community when we going behind our back and saying something totally opposite to our constituents. I just had to say that real quick, because I always get the last laugh.”

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would not take the comment personally with offense, “we are talking about unity of purpose and working together. If you, anyone on this commission is saying anything with reference to anybody, we should be human enough to say this is who told who this and not make a generalized statement on commissioners. I don’t think that is healthy for unity, it’s not healthy for working together. I am the kind of one if I hear you say something, I will come to you and ask you to your face. Innuendos don’t go anywhere. I don’t think there is a commissioner on this Board who does not know the difference between municipality government and county government to know there is a limitation in jurisdictions. So maybe the commissioners need to even go about educating their own municipalities within their district so that they know what needs to be done and what cannot be done.”

Commissioner Hinson started to interject and Chair Holt stopped him and said there was a deputy present and she was “not going to have this bulldog fight out in the yard”.

Mr. Thomas said because “the revenue sources are State and we are pledging the bond and this process was a little different from the past. In the past we drew money down and there was an

extra opportunity, we had to put money up first and we then they reviewed to make sure everything was OK and we drew the money down. This process is a little different, you already have the money, right, so I need to ask this question up front everything you award this if all these roads are county roads, are all of them meeting standards, are all of them serving a general public purpose. I'm going to ask that question because I know that the first thing the auditors are going to do is pick this apart, right? So, I just want to make sure that from an accounting standpoint there are no problems, legal standpoint, so I'm going to ask that question every time, just for the benefit of the County so that we can be comfortable that everything is OK."

Chair Holt said she was glad he said that because those questions needed to be on the front page of everyone's packet because it needed to be obvious to everyone and they were going to move the motion forward.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Presnell given the statement made by the Clerk with regards to stipulations in the selection of the (roads) process; they need to make sure roads taken do not fall in locations that would cause a problem. Mr. Presnell said they had vetted the roads, he and the Public Works Director review each project and no road would ever be put before the Board in an agenda item as long as he was the Administrator that was not perfectly above board and existing county maintained.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell pointed out the **850 Magazine** and said it highlighted the County and wanted to make sure the commissioners had a copy.

He mentioned the Task force dealing with "molly" and other issues and said a Summit at the Law Enforcement Center was scheduled for September 9th.

He said the renovation to the Public Defender's Office was finished and Nancy Daniels wished to have a reception to thank the Commissioners, a date would be announced at a later time.

He then said one of the commissioners would need to make a motion under their comments for a Proclamation for Reginald James, who was retiring as of October 1st.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR MR. JAMES.

He then mentioned the Legislative agenda scheduled for September 10th to meet with the cities to finalize the water projects.

He also added that Northwest Florida Water Management District grant cycle was open for local water projects through October 1 for projects that were ready to go.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report, but was available to answer any questions and there were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Ph.D, Commissioner, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said on September 20th, St. John Church of God in Christ would be having an appreciation for Pastor Ronald McCloud and asked for a Proclamation.

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

Issue of speed bumps on Streets

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for speed bumps to be placed on Neals Temple Road as well as Charlie Harris Road for safety and said he had asked the Administrator and was told a policy needed to be prepared for that and asked if a motion was needed.

Mr. Presnell said he had planned to have that on the next agenda.

He then asked for a Resolution or proclamation in support for the “Stepping Up” program at the jail for mental health.

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

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said regarding the speed bumps Commissioner Viegbesie had mentioned and asked if the policy coming before them would include that a vehicle could travel at a posted speed limit and did not necessarily mean it had to slow down, just meant if going at the right speed limit it would just go over the speed bump and that they did not want speed bumps that would cause potential damage to vehicles if not properly installed.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she had nothing to report.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chairman, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for the awards for the community. He then asked the Board for a Resolution for his Grandmother who was turning 98 years old.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR JOSEPHINE UNDERWOOD HINSON.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, Chairperson, District 4

Chair Holt said a few years ago she had a disagreement with former Commissioner Eugene Lamb and she was not allowed to respond (referring to the incident earlier in the evening) and said there would always be “bumps in the road” but they would move on from it.

RECEIPT AND FILE

- a. **Gadsden County Division of Emergency Management Quarterly Report**
- b. **Mediacom**
- c. **Letter from DEO**
- d. **Small Business Services Monthly Report**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

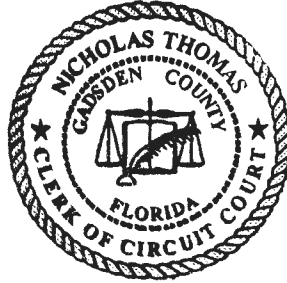
- 21. September 10, 2015 - 1st Public Hearing (Budget) – 6:00 p.m.
September 15, 2015 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
September 21, 2015 – Final Public Hearing (Budget) – 6:00 p.m.


Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 1, 2015 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA




BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk