

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

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. Silent roll call was taken by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments and Mr. Presnell asked to move items 3 and 4 under the Clerk to the Consent Agenda and renumbered those items 5c and d.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Mosquito Control Program

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said there was a new Mosquito Control director. He then called **Curtis Young, Public Works Director** and **Mr. Jamison Spencer, Mosquito Control Director** forward to introduce him.

2. Gadsden County Health Department

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said Dr. Adrian Cooksey-Wilson had a presentation. **DR. ADRIAN COOKSEY-WILSON, Director of the Gadsden County Health Department**, stepped forward and reminded everyone October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She recognized the Board of County Commissioners Public Works for being the winner of the Go Team Gadsden and said they lost a total of just over 200 pounds.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

CLERK OF COURTS

3. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills-September 2, 2014

4. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills-September 14, 2015

CONSENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED TO MAKE A COMMENT.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to recognize Alphonso Figgers in the audience, who had been very sick and absent from recent commission meetings. Mr. Figgers stepped forward and had a few words to say.

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

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 4, 2015 – Regular Meeting
- b. June 2, 2015 – Regular Meeting

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Economic Development Professional Services Contract

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for board approval of the Economic Development Services Contract between Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) and the Gadsden County BOCC.

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

7. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Greensboro for Animal Control Service

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Greensboro and the Gadsden County BOCC for animal control services within the city limits of Greensboro.

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

8. Review and Approval of the 2016 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the County's 2016 Legislative Priorities.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER. COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Mr. Doolin his opinion on the Legislative priorities.

Chris Doolin, Lobbyist, stepped forward to address questions and stated the document was

confirmed by the public at the previous night's scheduled meeting. He said they had asked for small county Courthouse funds for a number of years and it was a priority, a beautiful building and was a historic landmark of downtown and complemented the Staff because a different approach was being taken this year and the applied through the Historic Preservation program, were recommended for \$500,000 and felt they were veto-proof from the standpoint that they were not seeking an end-run. He said he also felt with the work they had done on the continuation of the Ag building project, funding had been received twice and felt that also was a cornerstone facility for strong economic development purposes in the community and felt they would be ranked fourth and recommended for \$600,000.

Commissioner Hinson asked what they were doing different in Gadsden County to set Gadsden County aside from other counties.

Mr. Doolin said they spend a lot more time monitoring specific projects so the intel, project development, focusing on the Courthouse, getting them postured where they were and communicating with the delegation very directly.

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

9. Approval of Agreement with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the agreement between the Gadsden Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center and the Gadsden County BOCC.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR CALLED FOR QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Taylor said during the budget process, they were trying to make sure there were additional dollars to go to this center to work in conjunction with business retention and expansion and wanted to make sure everything was reflected in this contract or reflected in the GCDC contract.

Mr. Presnell explained this contract was for \$80,000, an increase of \$40,000 from last year.

There was more discussion around the Board.

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

10. Approval of Amendment #4 to the Contract between Gadsden County and Big Bend Transit to Provide for the Continuation of Gadsden County Express Services for Twenty-four Months and for the Chairperson to Execute the Agreement

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval of an amendment to extend the current Big Bend Transit Gadsden Express Contract for an additional twenty-four months beginning October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2017 and to authorize the Chair to sign.

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

11. Transportation Agreement Between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc.

Mr. Presnell stated this was a related item to the previous item.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN CALLED FOR QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was separate from the Gadsden Express or Gadsden Connector and wanted to make sure this was the Quincy Shuttle and Mr. Presnell stated yes.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the City of Quincy was participating with some of the funding.

Mr. Presnell stated no, they were asking this board to fund.

Commissioner Morgan stated he had no problem putting funds toward that, but felt the City of Quincy should participate in this and asked to table this matter until Mr. Presnell could talk with the City of Quincy and bring this back before the Board at that time.

Commissioner Hinson said he would second that.

Commissioner Taylor explained there was a previous motion on the floor and Commissioner Hinson said he made the second. Commissioner Taylor explained not Commissioner Morgan's, but there was a motion and second to approve it.

Commissioner Hinson said, "Traditionally, like I always said when I was on the School Board, when a commissioner have an issue with an item and want to table it, I always say come back and we'll discuss it then. So I won't second Dr. V's motion right now".

Commissioner Viegbesie pointed out that Commissioner Taylor made the motion and he seconded it, it was up for discussion and felt now it could be called for vote.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

12. Approval of the Annual Contract Between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the Operations of the Gadsden County Health Department

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said pursuant to Florida Statute 154, this was for approval of the annual contract between GCBOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Gadsden County Health Department for the contract year 2015-2016.

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

13. Approval to Accept the Grant Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grant Program (FRDAP) to Renovate Scottown Park

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item for Board approval to accept the grant award in the

amount of \$50,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for a FRDAP grant to renovate Scotttown Park and for the Chair to execute the agreement.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a match required for the grant and Mr. Presnell responded no.

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

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

Mr. Presnell introduced item and said it was for Board approval to appoint or reappoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds for the Gadsden County Jail.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE.

15. Renewal of Medicaid Agreement

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of the attached agreement between Gadsden County EMS and the Agency for Health Care Administration and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

16. Request for Approval to Renew the Contract for State Lobbying Services for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Lawson & Associates)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to renew the contract for State Lobbying Services with the lobbying firm of Lawson and Associates for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

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

17. Request for Approval to Renew the Contract for State Lobbying Services for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Chris Doolin & Associates)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to renew the contract for State Lobbying Services with the lobbying firm of Chris Doolin and Associates for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

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

18. 2015 Paving Project-Additive Change Order #1

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Change Order #1 in the amount of \$18,608.00 to C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. to add the paving of St. Hebron Court to the original contract.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSISONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

19. Discussion and Direction on the Utilization of Student Intern Positions

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated the Board approved \$10,000 in fiscal year 2015-2016 budget to fund student intern positions and stated the Clerk's Office had concerns and had been back and forth with emails. He said Mr. Lawson felt it would be better to come to the Board and get a clear understanding of the utilization of the positions and specific direction in moving forward in the current budget year.

Chair Holt

"Commissioners, I look at the item here at your station. The reason that I asked for this information because we have a tendency to go back and forth that we don't know whether this is, what should or should not be and all that kind of stuff, because we have different issues come back and forth with Finance or with the Clerk and we all need to always know what's legal standing. That's why I asked for an opinion. I always bother the attorney. Give me an opinion and it needs to be based on the law, not what you think. Because we can go to jail on what you think, I can go to jail definitely on what I think. So, that's the reason that you always look at what the law says and that's what this says. I asked for it to be highlighted in yellow (inaudible). But, on the interns, once we voted for interns to be got, we did not as a Board decide on how we wanted that done. The Board didn't decide, so we said we approved it for interns and we kept going. OK? So, at the end of that fiscal year there was some more funding left in there and some more interns were appointed. Now, I think definitely we need some research people. We are going to almost have to have them, unless you want to do commissioners as a full time job. So you have to look, you have to have research for these items. When I got on this Board, sometimes we got our packet on Monday for the meeting on Tuesday and it wasn't even a bound book. It had a rubber band around it. You dropped the package, all your stuff was out of order and they were not numbered. So, yeah, you are going to need research people. So what we need to do, we may need to do, get the staff to go back and do some research and see how maybe other people are doing the interns. But, you need research and you need people doing things when you are doing upholding in communities for community meetings and all that. They do a lot of the leg work that they do. I did ask the Manager whether we should have interns or assistants part-time."

Commissioner Hinson

"Well, honestly, it's interesting that we are holding this conversation here, ah, we was able to give I had to give Senator Lawson, not Senator Lawson, Mr. Arthur Lawson a copy of job duties and responsibilities. If the County Manager would talk to him, Mr. Arthur Lawson has got all that information. It was dealing with research, everything you are talking about, matter of fact, they had given me, gave them an outline of duties and responsibilities they must do in order to complete and, ah, those red folders you guys have been seeing for the last month or so up there, those are some of the things that they had to accomplish and achieve during that time. If you want to, we can get one of your Staff to go up and pick up one of the red folders up there and they can show the Board exactly what's going on and what they are doing. I think they got a great, it was great for the students that was able to get out and do some research, understand the Board

packet by what's going on with the Board, and also going into the community and set up workshops in the community by some of the great things that we do in this county so that our community can know exactly what's going on. One, the transportation situation here, the dollar ride situation going on, they been talking about that, informed the community about public, I mean private to public roads, ah, those, they are going into different communities talking about, they not talking about it, they are going to bring the Staff there and you are going to be seeing it in a minute. Actually, they are still working even not getting paid. I told them 'You can only do it for one month but your project may not be able to complete within this month, but if maybe next month or whatever, I will give you time to do it so you can do it. That's their little personal project now. Anything after September 30th, that's community service from that point and they were able to agree with it. They was able to make a few dollars in their pocket, Pastor Harris agreed one guy, Tony Griffin, gave me a situation that he talked with Pastor Harris, they gonna set up a program there at his Church and they gonna be talking about different issues that the County doing that help out the community, they can help out our community. These kids really was on fire, I think that it was well spent and the thing is that, I think, the only thing, the only direction we have is that I can't spend no more than \$10,000 and my initial approach was four students, \$2,500 a semester, two students per semester to next semester, we would go with that. My student graduated early so the money had, congratulate her, she finished, I think she finished at Florida State, she's from Quincy, FL and she wound up finishing early so we couldn't continue her stay. There was a lot of little things going during at that time, my Mom had open heart surgery, so I wasn't trying to go back and hire students, I had to go back and figure out what's going on with my Mom first. So, after she finished, things just happened that way. So, ah, so at the end of it, in July, I asked Jeff (Price) about how much you have in the budget and he told me how much we had in the budget and I just said well, I just called students around from Quincy to Havana and Midway and not called students, I called community leaders in the community and said I got a few projects that I would like for them to complete. I think as long as I don't go over the budget, that's the only hiccup it would be, make sure we don't go over the budget. Other than that, I thing that everything else is just fine. And guess what, I didn't go over the budget. I think I was like a \$1,000 short."

Chair Holt

"OK, if I remember correctly none of us wanted an assistant, an intern, but we did set aside the money for the intern. Commissioner Morgan..."

Commissioner Morgan

"Thank you Madam Chair. So, ah, I guess I wasn't too clear on some of this. We've got interns that we have a commissioner directing their activities?"

Mr. Presnell

"No Sir."

Commissioner Morgan

"We don't, OK. I misunderstood you, I'm sorry. So Commissioner Hinson is not telling them what to do or giving them projects."

Mr. Presnell

"No Sir."

Commissioner Morgan

“OK, so, that’s good. I didn’t approve this, we just had a difference of opinion on it as far as interns. I wonder...”

Commissioner Hinson

“Actually you made the motion.”

Commissioner Morgan

“I did?” (Laughter)

Commissioner Hinson

“You made the motion for...”

Commissioner Morgan

“I shouldn’t have.”

Chair Holt

“I’m in favor of it, but go ahead.”

Commissioner Taylor

“Yes you did.”

Commissioner Morgan

“I’m going to have to go back and look at that. Anyway, so, why don’t we use volunteer interns?”

Commissioner Hinson

“You can, but, you know, I just want to pay them.”

Commissioner Morgan

“I really, Mr. Administrator, too, if I can look back and get the minutes on all that and see kind of how that unfolded, I’d really appreciate it.”

Mr. Presnell

“It involved Senior Citizens and Mainstreet.”

Commissioner Hinson

“That’s right.”

Commissioner Morgan

“I was deal making is what you’re saying” (Laughter) “OK, ok, ok, ok, so I was deal making. OK, but, but, my original question was, and I think you cleared it up, I don’t know how these volun...interns are getting their assignments, but that really is important to do that, you know, I haven’t taken part in that other than approving it apparently, so, but as long as we are meeting certain criteria and we are in line with all that.”

Mr. Presnell

“The item tonight is not to dispute the activities or the assignments, I mean, what we needed, the Clerk’s Office has some concerns, it was fine throughout the year, y’all had budgeted the money

and really no issue ever came up about direction of them or what. Then at the end of the year when there was multiple students, there was some questions from the Clerk's Office and basically all we had to go on, I pulled the minutes. But basically there had been some give and take in a budget workshop and it got put into the budget, but the Clerk's Office won't, but we got the kids paid and they are supervised by a county staff person, but basically, the only dispute is we need this Board to state for the Clerk's purposes basically..."

Chair Holt

"OK, Commissioners..."

Mr. Presnell

"How to proceed forward."

Chair Holt

"Let me say this right quick. In the yellow, Attorney's opinion. Give me an opinion on that."

Mr. Weiss

"Well, I think what this Attorney General opinion basically says is, it's the Board's job to determine what constitutes a County purpose and you do that by making a determination. In this instance you determine that it would serve a County purpose to hire some interns to assist with projects that would serve a County purpose. Again, you are looking at things that need to, that serve a public purpose. Once that determination is made by the Board, the Clerk doesn't second guess the County purpose aspect of it, but the Clerk does have to insure that how the funds are being used is not illegal prior to paying them."

Chair Holt

"Right."

Mr. Weiss

"Ah, so that provides a check and balance on the expenditure of public funds, just to make sure they are being spend appropriately. So, I think when the Clerk has a question regarding how the funds are being used before disbursement, ah, it's appropriate for the Clerk to ask the Board for clarification and ask for certain items to make sure that the policies are being followed and to make sure that the funds are being appropriately expended for County purposes. But what it goes on to say basically, however, if the Clerk doesn't have any question about the legality of the way the funds are being spent, it doesn't have to come back to this Board to then make payments. But that basically the..."

Chair Holt

"the gist of it."

Mr. Weiss

"Yes."

Chair Holt

"And that's why I asked for that to be highlighted, so if there is nothing illegal going on, we need to go ahead and move on. You don't have to vote on that item, but you, I think it's better to go back and do research and see if, how you want it set up for the next time. That's it and let's move on."

Commissioner Viegbesie

“Madam, I thought this was for just for, just for discussion...”

Chair Holt

“Right and so that’s what I’m saying...”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“It’s not an action item.”

Chair Holt

“So, We need to, if we’re good with that then go ahead and have a little bit of research done and see what we want those (inaudible) to be and then let’s do that. The only problem when I looked at the item, is you cannot have, if you are going to go out and do research, it’s hard in this County to do research when people are working. If they are working during the day you are not going to get that much research done, be honest with me. Because if you have to go out and say how many people did whatever in Havana and you are going to go out there and do some tallies and all that kind of stuff, that something that is part of your research, if you do that, if you are an intern. That’s just the way it works in local politics. We don’t really have a lot of people to do that so sometimes we 8:00 – 5:00 you may have something that’s going to be going on at the Library at 6:00, a meeting or something like that. So those are some things I’m talking about. But it has to be monitored by staff and we’ve taken care of that. Yes sir?”

Commissioner Morgan

“Madam Chair, so, the Attorney is comfortable with (interruption from the audience with ringing phone) the ah, we have these interns in a safe environment when they are out doing whatever they are doing, I mean, we’re not, correct? We are protected from any liability issues or anything of that nature since these are students, correct?”

Commissioner Hinson

“Because...”

Commissioner Morgan

“Are there any concerns there is what I’m asking.”

Mr. Weiss

“Well, I have not been made aware at all of what activities are actually being, are actually going on, I mean with respect to these interns. I don’t know exactly what they are doing.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Actually these students assist...”

Commissioner Morgan

“So when they agree, or we agree to hire them as interns, there is...”

Commissioner Hinson

“Student Assistant.”

Commissioner Morgan

“There is, ah, formal process for that, I guess is what I’m asking and we are getting...”

Mr. Presnell

“Yes Sir, they are processed through Personnel and they are supervised by Jeff Price.”

Commissioner Morgan

“Ok, ok. Thank you.”

Chair Holt

“OK, alright, so...”

Mr. Weiss

“Could I just make one comment? I think the only thing that, coming back to this item that the Clerk was looking for is to make sure that the Board is OK with however the interns are being selected, how they are being assigned, how they are, you know, because there was no real direction in that regard.”

Chair Holt

“Right, and so that’s what we are saying, we are taking care of no. When it goes back for and we are looking to how we are going to set up on the next round, because that’s already over. So we set it up how we want it and keep moving. It comes back to the Board anyway.”

Commissioner Taylor

“Excuse me...”

Chair Holt

“And I guess I’m saying if it, if they are going do the research, the Staff’s going to do that, how to set it up, then it comes back to the Board, we have to vote on it anyway. So, Commissioner Taylor, you were next.”

Commissioner Taylor

“Thank you, ah, I’m listening at the dialogue that is going on and I’m still kind of puzzled because the one moment Commissioner Hinson said that he had set out some guidelines for the interns and this was all compiled in a red book that we could validate the goals and the agenda that you set for the interns.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Right.”

Commissioner Taylor

“Then I’m hearing the County Administrator say ‘Well, no, this has been done through Jeff Price ah, as to how and what these interns are doing’. So I agree with Commissioner Holt in that, you know, just to keep ourselves consistent with one message that there needs to be some kind of a workshop. There needs to be some kind of a template put before the Board so that we can vote on it, agree on it and then allow these young people to work. I also hear the Attorney, because if you are talking about going out into the community getting data, getting information and that does put them in sensitive situations. So, a lot needs to be considered when coming up with a

format for these young people and we need to get something a little bit more formal and then implement it. I have no problem with implementing it, but there needs to be something a little bit more concrete from this Board that this Board can agree on. Like she said a moment ago, bring it back and consider all aspects when you bring this back, security, job performances, availability to other commissioners, other districts. It needs to be well thought out.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Right.”

(Several starting talking at one time)

Chair Holt

“Hold on, hold, hold on, hold on just a minute, just a minute. Dr. Viegbesie had his hand up, Commissioner Hinson and then you will be next..”

Commissioner Hinson

“OK.”

Chair Holt

“OK.”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“This particular program happened to be something that was agreed upon before I became a commissioner and ah, I would like to, I don’t what discussion took place before the money was approved. I would like to get us as a body to understand that those of us sitting up here, we are policy-making body, not the executive branch and when it comes to executing any policy in regards to the use of funds and carrying out the particular service, I think that should be left entirely to the executive branch, which is headed by the County Administrator and that would keep us in total clear of any kind of liability and lawsuits should something happen to those interns. That would be my position on it and if we are going to continue with it, that is something I would want to see before I even approve or support so to speak, whether it should go on, we need to know separation of powers and then let the Administrator and his staff execute in determining who becomes interns and what to do so that we don’t have the conflict I am hearing as to package being somewhere and somebody has to be the one in charge of it. So, that is all I have to say to it. Thank you very much Madam Chair.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Madam Chair?”

Chair Holt

“Yes, Commissioner Hinson.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Ah, first of all, I think that each commissioner, that’s why it’s important for each commissioner to go to conferences so that they can know their duties and responsibilities. If you go to Tallahassee, they got their own interns, they got their own staff, they got everything. So, first, they need to know their job. We got to do that before we do anything, because integrity is all we got. Second, second, since we, ah, big on ah, every time, it’s interesting, I, we, the reason I was able to win last

time, I had to go through the same speech again. I thought that speech was over last year, two years ago. That why Commissioner Morgan got tired of me talking and he went and voted for it. (Laughter) “

Commissioner Morgan

“Are we negotiating again, let me know now.”

Commissioner Hinson

“And, ah, and the thing is here is that only two things I fight ah, I’m very compassionate about, Senior Citizens and students in Gadsden County. Those two they are very, very compassionate about and ah, anytime I can help a student, you never hear me trying to fight for a corporation, company, whatever, I fight for people in Gadsden County and to be honest, it’s, it’s, I guess, I used to say I was passionate, somebody told me the other day, ‘Eric, you not passionate, you ‘s compassionate.’ I said, OK, great. I use that word compassionate; I’m very compassionate when it comes to senior citizens and students. But, I’m gonna do y’all a favor, so y’all can, we only talking about \$10,000 at the moment, cause, ah, we got a Million dollars on the board for economic development that I asked the Board to bring up \$300,000 extra and that \$640,000 and we have so many other things, we can’t lose our focus, the focus, the precious focus. So I move the motion that we just eliminate this \$10,000. Why are we worried about \$10,000? Let’s use our time wisely and talk about how we can pave some roads for our senior citizens, use our time wisely on how we can bring jobs in this community, ah, for our folks, how we can build more fire stations, ah and libraries, and how we can extend the hours on libraries. Maybe y’all will go against that too, as well, cause they were people, right? So, ah, I move a motion so we don’t worry about talking about this no more, that way maybe you guys be satisfied. Cause when I’m trying to help a person, these kids out, that’s when you want to get articulate. I’ve got a Master’s degree in Applied Social Sciences as well, that’s when we want to get a social stronghold on things, but for me not to slow down the progress because apparently what someone told me everybody’s echoing what one person told them, and so, and we can’t be polling on the Board too, as well, we can’t be polling. That’s not fair to our constituents, a person trying to figure out what this person is talking about and that person talking about. Let’s be fair to our constituents and make a decision to be open-minded and, and, ah, be fair to the citizens of Gadsden County. Those kids enjoyed themselves and I mean, they was great, we had a ball, I was able to hire a lot of them and guess what, as of today, I want to eliminate this \$10,000 right here up until I think it’s necessary to bring them back. I’ll probably bring it back in the future and, and, ah, so, we won’t worry about arguing about this situation no more. I think it’s a great thing to do, to, this is a month of ‘Go Pink’, ah, Breast Cancer Month and, ah, I don’t want nobody stealing my joy so that’s why I got the pink on. So, again, I really appreciate y’all for carefully discussing this beautiful conversation here over \$10,000 when we, we got what, about \$6 Million Dollars we need to figure out how we can use and we focused on \$10,000 to help our students in Gadsden County. So I really appreciate y’all, let’s just go ahead, don’t worry about tabling it, worry talking about it Ms. Holt, I mean, Madam Chairman. We go and move to the next conversation, because I don’t believe in slowing up the progress. You guys are beautiful, I love you all.”

Chair Holt

“Commissioner Hinson...”

(Several talking around the Board at the same time-inaudible).

Chair Holt

“Well, Commissioner Hinson, I, I, I admire your ability to look at ah, taking care of the youth.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Yeah.”

Chair Holt

“I do, and I’ve told you that before and I will tell you that again. If there was money left in any way that we could help young people, we better help them if we gonna help them now and I deal with them every day. You know that and several of us know that, and if you don’t do that, you end up with what you get. As I said over at the Public Defender’s Office, win some cases so that we can keep them out of jail. So, if they win some cases, we get to have a fewer seats in jail. But, what I am saying is that I don’t really think that it’s, it’s a problem. I really believe in that program and the reason I believe in that program is not so that interns, or student assistants or whatever we want to call them, can make money. I believe in it because it teaches them how to take care of business, to how to take care of business, how to come to work, being on time, how to dress, how to do some things that they never get to go to Tallahassee to do. Some of them only going over there when they’re trying to by school clothes, there is nowhere else for them to go. They don’t come to this building or the City and if they don’t go to these places and see things being done in the way we want them to do them, then we have a problem with them when we never taught them how to do it. So, all I’m saying is, if we had \$20,000 left in the account, we should be looking at those kids and these other programs. But now, this Board never said how to use the money, we didn’t specify, that’s why I said, it’s no problem, everything they done, the kids learned, that’s all I wanted to know. We need to move on, and the program is a good program. I, I, I don’t want you to think about not doing it, because if they can learn how to fix some, fixing something, and they learn how to fix something or they into Mr. Lawson’s office and they learn how to do interviews and they gonna learn something and that means they are not sitting at the house, going home, or hanging out on the streets, so they are doing something. But, I just, we need to move this item on. This packet right here, we need to keep in these books because every time other issues come up, whether we know we are on the right side of the law or not, we need to have these in this book, along with a copy of Policy and Procedures in the back of the book. If we can get those in there, I think we are doing well. I don’t think though, to take everything as a personal attack, I think that it’s a good program...”

Commissioner Hinson

“So you talking about the kids, and I’m saying, and I apologize, everybody know, like, I’m sorry, like someone told me last year, they say ‘Eric, you get so, so emotional talking about kids’ you know, but because I love, I just love children.”

Chair Holt

“Don’t worry about it, don’t worry about it.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Ah, but, because I love, I just love children.”

Chair Holt

“But don’t worry about it...”

Commissioner Hinson

“I, I just apologize...”

Chair Holt

“Dr. V has his hand up and we need to move on, Ladies and Gentlemen.”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“I don’t think, I’m not hearing anybody here that is questioning the product, what I am hearing is the process of the production. That is what I have heard people (inaudible) heard concern, it is not the product itself, it’s the process of the production so as to make sure that we are doing what we are doing according to law and order. That is all I have heard, so I think, Madam Chair, we have killed this thing and it is dead (laughter) and let’s carry on and ah, so that we can get out of here...”

Commissioner Hinson

“But, but, I think Mr. Lawson got, Mr. Lawson got, I think if I’m not mistaken, Mr. Lawson got a job description of, of this right here, he can get it to you, to everybody so y’all can see the job description. That’s what I was coming...”

Chair Holt

“OK, no problem, sounds good.”

Commissioner Hinson

“He got a job description, I’m just saying, ah, and you know what, real quick, we helped them kids and I really thank the Board, first of all, that’s what I forgot to say this here, you guys are unbelievable, we are moving forward in Gadsden County, ah, I pray to be helping kids in college than focus on Molly. Why won’t we help, like you said, why don’t we help those kids out, there’s a great chance that they’re not getting in trouble, and, and that’s all I got to say.”

Chair Holt

“OK, thank you...”

Commissioner Hinson

“And thank you for everything to, I guess I’ll keep the program then.”

Chair Holt

“Alright, let’s...”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“I move to move the Agenda.”

Chair Holt

Alright, let’s move on, next item. Thank you.”

20. Approval to Award Bid #15-15 for Security Services for the Quincy Library to Knight Security Services, LLC.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award bid number 15-15 for security guard services for the Quincy Public Library to Knight Security Services of

Gainesville, FL.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A SECOND.

Chair Holt asked if they were currently working there and Mr. Presnell responded no.

Commissioner Viegbesie pointed out there was a motion on the floor.

Chair Holt said she did not hear him and he pointed out that Commissioner Taylor made the motion and he made the second.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said it looked like an out of town vendor was selected for \$12.00/hour and was for 24 hours minimum for 52 weeks and a local vendor responded for a dime more per hour and asked why not hire a local vendor.

Commissioner Taylor withdrew her motion.

Mr. Presnell asked Mr. Lawson to step forward and said Mr. Lawson had instructed them they had to go with the bid.

Mr. Lawson said he had to make the recommendation based on their current procurement policy and the policy stated that for the low bid, they award and there were no provisions otherwise. He added if the Board decided to change that, it was up to the Board's discretion, but his recommendation was based on the current procurement policy.

Commissioner Morgan said that was his recommendation, but they could approve who they thought was the best company.

Mr. Lawson cautioned them that the low bid had the right to appeal per their bid protest, but he had no choice but to recommend the bid based on their policy.

Mr. Weiss said there was a distinction between an invitation to bid and the request for proposal and further explained on the invitation to bid services are identified and they were selecting a company based on low price and that was the only determining factor they could base their decision on.

Commissioner Morgan then asked why it was an invitation to bid as opposed to an RFP.

Mr. Lawson explained the services were pretty cut and dry, they list what services they want and companies would bid on it.

Commissioner Morgan said he was surprised they could not pick a local company to provide the services and Mr. Weiss said for them to recall they had before the Board an ordinance to amend the procurement policy to include a local preference, which would give them the ability to do what they wanted to do. Commissioner Morgan asked if they appealed it and Mr. Weiss said he would

not like their chances in winning the bid protest.

Commissioner Taylor asked what happened if they didn't choose a company and Mr. Presnell said it would be re-bid and Commissioner Taylor said that was what she preferred to do so they could put something in place in the bid to give preference to local bidders.

Mr. Lawson said one way to get that with bids as this one was to put something in the bid document that said the Board had the right to award to other than the low bid of "xy" and Mr. Weiss said if they were doing in invitation to bid, they have certain language in their procurement policy that said something along the lines of the Board reserves the right to reject all bids or award the bid to whoever it believed was in the best interest of the county, but did not think that language was particularly effective when they had an Invitation to Bid that said they were evaluating it solely on price. He added if they did have legitimate concerns over a response time that was issues that then they would put into an RFP rather than an Invitation to Bid and they could then evaluate based on things such as location, etc. He also said if the bid document did not specify that up front, they should not make a decision based on something that was not in the bid document. He further stated they could decide to reject all bids and then it could then go out as an RFP, but could not be based on a local preference because that was not in their procurement policy.

Commissioner Taylor said her reason to have it re-bid was because of what they had discussed around the Board and one of their priorities around the Board was safety and in the event the particular firm had limited availability to get to an area, then it became a concern.

Chair Holt said she would not vote to table, re-bid or anything else because they were following their procurement policy as of today. She added in the opening statements, they had a motion and a second for approval, and then there was a rescinding of the motion and rescinding of the second and all of it was public record. She added whether they changed their mind or not, she could not vote for something when they already had it out there to get the job done and then decide at the meeting to not do it after opening statements were made in favor of it.

Commissioner Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said when they have votes, they also have a time for discussion and something very rarely happened and in her opinion needed to happen more often, you take on a valued opinion of your colleagues and when Commissioner Morgan made the statement, he was right because if there was an issue, what they were saying now would be taken into consideration and she added the respected and heard his position and took it a little further with her position to say safety was also an issue and if she could see where a local could offer more, that was where she was paramount. She further stated her reason for withdrawing her motion was to insure they had ample safety around the particular areas and had nothing to do with price.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

21. Gadsden County Guy A. Race Judicial Complex Public Defenders Office Renovation Project Change Order No. 1

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for a credit change order for the Guy A.

Race Judicial Complex, Public Defender’s Office Renovation Project and \$3,571.95 of the contract funding was not required or utilized on the project.

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

Mr. Weiss asked that the record reflect that Commissioner Taylor not only voted to approve the change order, she also made the motion for same.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

22. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said they had discussed the Courthouse funding and Ag center funding and they did have them in State programs this year as well as the Stevens school for \$50,000.

Mr. Presnell said they had 150 free Bus tokens and all had been given out.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked when they would see the start of the paving of the roads and Mr. Presnell said in the next week.

Commissioner Taylor asked how they were prioritizing which roads were paved first and Mr. Presnell said it was according to the contractor.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

23. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not very studious of “attorney jargon” and asked him to explain if slot machines had been approved and he said not at the present and explained the process. He said the prior First DCA decision, which came from a panel of three judges, reversed DBPR’s denial of the license, which would give Gretna Racing the right to have slot machines. He added that since that opinion, DBPR moved for rehearing and the rehearing was granted and in the interim, one of the judges retired and was replaced by a new judge. He further added the new judge voted to uphold DBPR’s denial of the license, which meant no slots. He said like the prior opinion, there was a question certified to the Supreme Court as to what the statute means that Gretna Racing was operating under in order to get their license for slot machines and the intention was for Gretna Racing to ask the Supreme Court to take jurisdiction to answer that certified question. He thought they were going to also ask that the County support that by filing an amicus brief similar to what was done previously defending the County’s referendum. Commissioner Taylor said what she understood, the referendum that the County did do was illegal or not accepted because of the process they took. Mr. Weiss said the opinion said the issue was not that the County necessarily did anything wrong, the issue was the County did not have the ability to do anything at all because there needed to be further authorization from either constitutional or legislative authorization for the County to actually present or have the referendum.

Chair Holt said he heard the hearing would be moved up hopefully and said she had spoken to the Chief of Gaming for the Creek Indians and he was looking into keeping it moving.

Commissioner Taylor said it was her opinion, but she was leery when it seemed they were having such a hard time getting this going, they had gotten approval then denied by the same courts.

Commissioner Hinson said “sometimes it’s good to be jocular every once in a while”. He asked Mr. Weiss if they could get a summary of what he spoke of so if asked, he could articulate that. n Mr. Weiss said he had sent an email out to everyone concerning what he had spoken of regarding the casino.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Commissioner Viegbesie reminded them of the request Mr. Figgers mentioned for Shaw Quarters Community Action Day.

Traffic Calming Devices

He asked if what they adopted was a policy or ordinance and Mr. Weiss said it was adopted as a policy because there was not enough time to advertise it as an ordinance, but he would prefer it be an ordinance but was a decision for the Board to make.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it were appropriate to make a motion for them to consider converting it to an ordinance to be brought back before the Board.

Chair Holt said a motion was not necessary, he could request that it be brought back.

Update on Florida Trail project

He said he would like the Board to schedule a workshop or public hearing regarding the project and if the trail project was abandoned completely, the money would go to another county. He asked they pay close attention to this project.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 15TH AS PASTOR BENJAMIN WILLIAMS DAY TO REPRESENT HIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO RECOGNIZE AROMATHERAPY WORKPLACE IN HAVANA.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan wanted to reiterate what he had mentioned at the last meeting regarding potential paving to complete the unpaved roads in the county and asked if a workshop needed to be scheduled.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Commissioner Morgan if he was suggesting the present arrangement where each commissioner had a specific amount of money with which to determine the roads in their district to be paved and put all the money in one pot and use it for the unpaved

roads across the county. Commissioner Morgan said no, he was not talking about the project already in place, that was underway and phase two was coming behind that. He added once the two phases were completed, it would take approximately \$3 Million to pave the remaining unpaved roads and he would like to move forward on that.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she had nothing to report.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson reminded them of Havana Gospel fest 2015 was to be held at the old Havana Northside High school on October 24th from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

He added that he was very compassionate regarding kids and senior citizens and sometimes they had to agree to disagree.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said there were two vacancies coming up soon with the County Administrator and the Assistant Manager and she needed to look into replacements and would like to see something within the next two meetings regarding their projections for the County and what needs that needed to be worked on.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was a firm believer of succession planning to make the process go smooth.

Mr. Presnell said he could bring something back at the meeting after next.

Commissioner Taylor said they had no authority over the Assistant Manager position and Chair Holt said she was looking for direction from the Board.

Commissioner Morgan agreed with Commissioner Viegbesie regarding the succession planning and did not want the Manager and the Assistant to exit at the same time and felt it would be wise if the current administrator was willing to continue for another two years.

RECEIPT AND FILE

25. Proclamation Honoring Millie Forehand

UPCOMING MEETINGS

26. October 22, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 6, 2015 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 P.M.

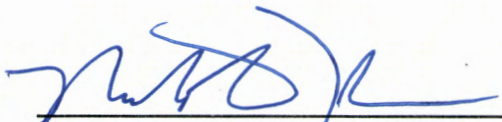
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA





BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 6, 2015 – Regular Meeting

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GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk