

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 3, 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
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-arrived late
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 6:00 p.m., asked for moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said he wanted to pull Items 2 under Awards and Presentations and Item 6. He said he would also like to add Item 17A-Travel Approval for TDC

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Recognition of the Havana Kiwanis Club

Mr. Presnell introduced above item. Scott Whitehead appeared before the Board representing the Club to accept the plaque. Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud what was on the plaque.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

2. ~~Proclamation (World Pancreatic Cancer Day)~~

Item pulled

CLERK OF COURTS

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

- 3. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. October 6, 2015-Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pastor Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL- appeared before the Board regarding United Gadsden and added that they changed the name so to not be confused with any other organization in the County. He said that during their town hall meetings one of the issues or concerns that has come up were the commission meetings being televised and would like that brought back before the commission and be funded. He said another item he would like to see and President Obama had a press conference on it was for an executive order for all federal applications to ban the box for convicted felons. He said he would like to see eventually that that be tied in with contracts with the federal government.

Chair Holt recommended he get with the Administrator to have the items added to the agenda.

Viola Baker, 275 Date Avenue, Gretna, FL-regarding Gretna Senior Citizens and grant for Seniors-appeared before the Board concerning the Gretna Senior Citizens. She said they had first started out at Springfield AME and there were so many seniors coming they moved it to the Helen B. Franks Building in Gretna and said Commissioner Helen Franks was a volunteer and they had different activities there and needed help. She added it enabled the Seniors a way to get out and asked the Board to “do us good justice and give us the funds that we need to have out in Gretna for our Senior Citizens”.

Commissioner Helen Franks, PO Box 31, Gretna, FL 32332-funding for Gretna Senior Citizens Program-appeared before the Board. “As she said, I’m Helen Franks from the City of Gretna. I’ve been a volunteer with the Senior Citizens for fifteen years. I started out as Springfield AME Church when we had a group of about 20 and there was other people that was interested and they wanted to join and what happened, we moved to the Helen B. Franks Community Center where now we serve from 35-50 people because we got some additional funds that were promised to us. We were promised from this Board \$10,000, \$10,000 there were no stipulations given to us. They just said ‘We gonna give you \$10,000 to help you out with your program’, followed all rules that we normally follow when we spending somebody else’s money, had every receipt, turned then in, we, all the money was spent for the senior citizens. Now there was questions about stuff that were purchased like household goods and stuff. They came from the Dollar Tree, that’s a dollar gift that they won at Bingo, those are Bingo prizes. The food that was, we fed them, gave them a meal because they don’t, we don’t qualify or they don’t have enough meals at the Senior Citizens (inaudible) to feed them, to feed us because I’m a senior citizen as well. So what happened, I purchased meals, so that’s where the feeding came in, we purchased meals so we could feed them and then they go home. They are out mingling with other people and they are having a lot of fun, we have a lot of fun. We start out with an exercise program and go into other different activities. We have different stickers to come in and, you know, we been meeting this month at the Center for over a year. I was promised by Mr. Presnell and our Commissioner in our district, Brenda Holt, Chairman Brenda Holt that we were going to get \$10,000. Now somebody is renegeing on it. I’m sorry, that’s what I can come up with. We have spent this money because I was told we had it. Anybody gonna give me some money, I’m gonna go out and spend it, I’m not gonna hold on to it and, but

we spent it and it was spent for what the purpose that we were given it for, it was spent for the Senior Citizens. Every penny was spent for those senior citizens. I brought a bunch of them with me to witness that we had activities, we done it. We done everything. All of it was spent, I never spent a penny for nothing but for the Senior Citizens and I did it because I was promised the money, I thought we had it until recently they, they said that we don't, they're not gonna pay us and we need our money. That's why I'm here tonight. A promise, I'm like a child now, a promise is a promise and I mean, I need you to hold up, hold onto that promise, give us the money, not only for this past year, the year that we finished the program that we've been working, we need to continue the program so we still need additional funds so we can continue. Without your help, we can't do it. We are from a poor city. Gretna don't have the money to give up so that we can have these kind of activities, that's why we were meeting in the Church. The Church got to where they couldn't fund the program. They just couldn't fund it. So then we got a chance to move out and got some promised money, promised, it was promised money so that we could do some expand. Got more seniors coming in, more still coming in. People retiring every day and when they retire, they join us and now We don't have the funds to continue the program as well as pay for the ones, to pay for the money that I have spent, and I spent it, because it was promised to me, **personally** I was told that we were going to get the \$10,000. I had every receipt for every item that was purchased. I turned it in to the City every day that I purchased stuff for the Senior Citizens. I did everything that I thought I was supposed to do. When I worked for the State, I purchased items for the patients there, I returned the receipts and when I finished shopping, I did the same thing every time I shopped for the City, I always brought receipts back in. I did the same thing with the money that you promised me that I thought I had. So that's where we are today. We need the funding that you promised us and we need continued funding. I think that's about all I had to say, I want I didn't leave anything off my notes. Oh, like I said, we done, I've done everything I could to make sure that money was spent correctly, it wasn't spent incorrectly. Those things that's been, the letters that we been getting saying that they were supposed to be done this way and that way had no idea what it was supposed to be done, they just said the money was ours and we spent it according to our rules. Thank you."

Chair Holt

"Commissioners, this item was voted on and that's why it's not agendaed. Normally we don't comment, We say get with the Manager, whatever. This item has been voted on, it was agendaed and We were, the City of Gretna was following what We did and we voted on it and we told them that we voted for all the Senior Citizens in Havana, Chattahoochee and Gretna to get up to \$10,000, so this was not a new item, it's not agendaed for tonight because if I'm not mistaken Mr. Attorney, it said something in the State law that said you do not have to come back for an item that was already voted on, I don't have it right in front of me, but you don't have to come back and vote on another item if the Clerk's Office didn't find anything that was illegal, then it would have to be paid, if it was not illegal, so I'm looking to you for that verbiage, what does it say?"

David Weiss

"Yes, and I, under our Rules we should probably defer any conversation on this until maybe Commissioner Comments later, but generally, yes, that is an accurate statement once the County Commission has made a legislative determination that it served a public purpose, then the Clerk, after reviewing the items to make sure they are legal, can pay the items, but the Clerk dies have an obligation to review to determine whether or not they are legal."

Chair Holt

"Right, and so by that, it means if something's not paid, then it had to be defined as being illegal, so if it's determined legal or illegal, it should be addressed in writing saying that something is illegal. If it's not illegal, then we need to address it, either way we need to address it because we voted for them to get the money. Yes sir?"

Commissioner Morgan

"Madam Chair, and Mrs. Franks, thank you for your comments. I've kind of stayed pretty close to this situation because what's been going on at Chattahoochee as well in talking with the Administrator. But I think, shouldn't this re-agendaed for us to discuss it in the future since this is actually Citizens Comments and while we certainly want to be made aware, if we have further discussion and action, I have no problem with re-agendaing this for the following meeting and let's have this discussion there as far as moving forward. Would that be appropriate you think?"

Chair Holt

"I'm not thinking that so, the reason I'm saying that is because and it's contrary to what State law says, it says that you don't have to re-agenda it because once you give an order, a legislative order for it to be done, then it's to be done unless something was found to be illegal. So now what I'm saying is, it needs to be found to be illegal, something has to be found that is not appropriate or illegal that breaks the law. But I do agree with the attorney to take care of other commissioners' comments and that way we can determine then what we want to do with it."

Commissioner Morgan

"Yeah, that's all I'm saying, just moving forward..."

Chair Holt

"I don't think we should go back and agenda it because we've already voted once it was done, it was done. Ah, but Commissioner Franks, I really do appreciate, Seniors, would you please stand up? I hate for you to come out there and say we didn't even recognize you. Alright, thank you for coming out."

Commissioner Franks

"I said I but we have over eight volunteers. Our program is on a volunteer basis, we run this program out of just volunteers so I just want you to know none of the money was spent on funds for our salaries or anything. It was strictly for the use of the Senior Citizens. Thank you."

Chair Holt

"OK, thank you so much..."

Commissioner Hinson

"If they could hold off about another 45 minutes, we should be finished..."

Chair Holt

"Yeah, we're going to try to move on so you don't have to stay too late, if you're like me I started going to sleep early now, OK? What we are going to do is ah, we're going to look at this item, if not, we may have to take a break ah, in this, in a meeting or something like that

between some items and we may have to address it then, but we don't want you to have to stay up late up here with us. Hold on just a minute."

(Chair Holt had a sidebar with Mr. Presnell)

"Mr. Presnell was just showing me another law, I know I studied it quite a bit and it says the same thing that we should not have to make another determination once we did that. So we need some legal advice on this and then we will know how to move forward. So Mr. Attorney, it's going to be on you at the end of the meeting. OK, next item."

Commissioner Morgan

"Madam Chair, I was just going to suggest, I mean, I hate for the Seniors to stay around for that extra hour if we can't do anything moving forward, but that's up to, I mean you are obviously the Chair, I just wondering..."

Chair Holt

"If you want to address it now, it's fine with me."

Commissioner Morgan

"I'm just saying is there anything that we're going to be able to do moving forward since we've already done it is my question and that's a question for the Attorney I guess."

Chair Holt

"Well, I don't know what your statement was, I'm sorry, Dr. V was saying something to me."

Commissioner Morgan

"So, you're saying that we mentioned this moving forward in the Commissioners' Comments at the end of the meeting. What I'm saying is, based on what I thought I was hearing and I think what the Administrator was saying, there is no further action for us to take on it."

Chair Holt

"Other than legal, you can always take legal, because either the Clerk's going to pay or he's not and we're going to end up in legal battle or not, but one way or another we have to make some determination. Cannot say we vote on something, we rule on it, we say this is what it's going to be, but then we don't have anything to say what we did was illegal then it must be followed."

Chair Hinson

"Madam Chair is there any way possible, I'm not sure, can we just move this up first, talk about it first, then we'll start..."

Chair Holt

"It's possible if the Attorney's ready."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Is it legal, is that the appropriate thing procedurally?"

Mr. Weiss

"I think procedurally, I mean I'm certainly prepared to discuss, but procedurally I think we need to follow the Agenda and, I mean, our rules are pretty clear in terms of not having

Commissioner comments during Citizens To Be Heard.”

Chair Holt

“OK, we’re going to move the Agenda then. Let’s move it. OK?”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. PUBLIC HEARING (FIRST): Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was the first required public hearing to apply for a Community Development Block Grant and the 2016 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant required an applicant to hold two public hearings.

Chair Holt announced it was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from public and there were none.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING (LEGISLATIVE): Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment from AG 3 to AG 1 on 5 acres Along Cox Road at the Florida/Georgia State Line (CPA 2015-04)

Item pulled

7. PUBLIC HEARING: Approval of Budget Amendments #16002 and #16003 and Resolution #2015-021 for Funding of the Election Equipment

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2015-021 fir Budget Amendment number 16002 and 16003 and for authorization for the County Administrator and the Clerk’s Finance Director to execute amendments and authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution.

Chair Holt announced it was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from public and there were none.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Approval of and Authorization for the Chairperson to sign the Certification of Single Source Provider to the Division of Elections, the Sales Order Agreement with Election Systems & Software, LLC for the Purchase of New voting Equipment, and the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of State for Reimbursement of the Funds Expended for the Purchase of the New Voting Equipment

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the Certification of Single Source Provider to the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections for the purchase of new voting equipment and the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department for reimbursement of the funds expended for the purchase of the new voting equipment.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND
COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if the actual equipment and the provider recognized through the State of Florida.

Mr. Presnell stated Mrs. Knight was available for questions.

Shirley Knight, Supervisor of Elections, appeared before the Board and said she had no reservations, they had been using the vendor since the early 80's and they were just upgrading the equipment because some of the equipment they had, they would have to continue to use, for example the disability and ADA equipment and all they were doing was upgrading. She added that last the Secretary of State sent out letters recommending if the equipment was more than ten years old, they should consider replacing that. She said the equipment was about in 2002 and they were having to do maintenance on it yearly and was time to replace.

Commissioner Morgan asked with this expenditure, she would have adequate equipment and Mrs. Knight replied yes.

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

9. Approval of the Distribution of Funds for the FFY-2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the distribution of funds for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program in the amount of \$37,519.00.

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

10. Appointment/Reappointment and Alternate to Serve as Gadsden County's Representative on the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for appointment or re-appointment to serve as the Chairperson of the Gadsden County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and to select an alternate also.

UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON.

11. Request Review and Approval of Student Intern Policy

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said the Board Staff had requested a review of the approval of the Student Intern Policy.

Chair Holt

"On this item, am, I'm not sure if this is the right terminology because I was thinking about assistants and so, when I looked at this item, I would want the young people to learn about being in government, not so much working at Public Works or working as a secretary or working

down in Probation, I'm more interested in them being out there working in government under elected officials. That's what I'm thinking, that's my whole process is that if they are going to do that then I'm more happy with it than I am and not necessarily being supervised by a County Commissioner, but I want them to learn government part. Because they could learn how to be a secretary anywhere. They could learn some of these things anywhere. We need new leaders. I'm hoping something that of more of that nature than it is just coming to work in a department. Commissioner Viegbesie?"

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Madam Chair if I hear you correctly, are you in this particular item looking at something more an aide than an intern?"

Chair Holt

"Yes sir."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Someone who would actually understood the policy making process of government as opposed to the executive part of government, which is interning."

Chair Holt

"Right, that's exactly what I thought that we were going to do with those positions, I'm more in favor of that than anything else, ah, so that way that we can get people out there that active in government because hopefully all of us are going to eventually do something else and we want our young people to be up on what local government should be and I thing that would work out a lot better. I looked at this description and I wasn't in favor of it at all where it is right now. That's my opinion. Commissioner Morgan."

Commissioner Morgan

"Thank you Madam Chair. So for position, if I understand you correctly, you are looking to offer an opportunity for young people to learn more about government, their local government and setting policy and things of that nature, or..." (Chair Taylor started to speak) "OK, I'm sorry"

Chair Holt

"Not necessarily because they would get that in Government class. What I'm looking at is for them to be on the ground doing some of this..."

Commissioner Morgan

"For learning experience..."

Chair Holt

"Yes."

Commissioner Morgan

"So my question would be what's limiting us from offering them that opportunity now? Why do we have to pay them to do that?"

Chair Holt

"Because people work for pay."

Commissioner Morgan

"But this is an opportunity for them to learn I was thinking..."

Chair Holt

"Right, but you learn better when you've got a little money in your pocket. It's not much because you're only talking about \$10,000 for everyone you get. If you get five aides you are going to have five aides and you're are still not going to spend any more than \$10,000."

Commissioner Morgan

"Well I guess that's \$10,000 we could use for our senior centers I guess."

"Chair Holt

"We already put money in that and the Clerk won't give it to them, so, we can't do that."

Commissioner Hinson

"Can I ask a question real quick? Just curious"

Chair Holt

"Sure."

Commissioner Hinson

"What was the reason why you brought this up? Because I had a couple of questions here." (Mr. Presnell pointed to where the Clerk sits.) "No, no, I want you to answer that question for me Robert because I won't attack no staff, because someone attacked me for bringing this up. I'm the County Commissioner. So, I want you to answer this question."

Mr. Presnell

"We had inquiries from trying to get the students paid from Clerk's Office and it was a back and forth and ah, they were wanting clarification on this and that and we brought that to the Board's attention and that's when y'all directed us to, at the last time it was before you, you said 'come up with type of policy and bring it back' and our Human Resource Department checked out neighboring counties and Mr. Lawson could probably explain it better than me, but, because I personally know that they have them in Leon County and I think it has something to do with being a chartered county. Here, ah, it seems that we are very limited by our rules that we have to work under about who signs their timesheet and who supervises them."

Commissioner Hinson

"Right."

Mr. Presnell

"And that drove the policy that you have before you tonight, but, again this is just a proposal."

Commissioner Hinson

"So, so, the Clerk said that."

Mr. Presnell

"Yes sir."

Commissioner Hinson

"Because, I had a question for Clerk as well, but unfortunately I scratched that off, apparently he knew that y'all was coming" (looking to the audience) "so he decided not to show up."

Chair Holt

"Alright Commissioner..."

Commissioner Hinson

"So, ah, I had, just give me..."

Mr. Presnell

"I think I forwarded those e-mails to all the Commissioners when all that was going on, from the Clerk's Office about who picked them and pay and who supervised them..."

Commissioner Hinson

"I mean the reason why I was, the reason why I was looking at this Mr. Presnell, I was like, you know, as a Commissioner, I was surprised that you didn't give me a call because Commissioner Morgan stated during the time that we were, he made the motion that Commissioner Hinson could have student assistants, right? And I was surprised you didn't bring me to the table and say 'Commissioner, what's, what's some of the things that you need' instead of doing it yourself there at the end of the thing here. You are the one instead of a Commissioner determining who many students he want to receive in this form here, you said that ah, from this thing here, it say that you will be the deciding factor of how many students we can bring into this program here. And so, which means that you over-rided me more so, this, this your program other than it's something that they are helping me with. I was kind of perplexed about the whole thing here. Ah, so, if you can, you can, I mean I'm not sure what was the problem, we did not spend, we didn't spend, actually we turned back \$960 back to the County. So we spent less than \$10,000, we didn't spend over \$10,000. We had a pleather of students that was a part of it and got a great experience ah, so the kids enjoyed it, the parents, I was at a church the other day, matter of fact, the Pastor was speaking and a few, two students, one student became the Sophomore of his class at Florida A&M University, other one was ah, was also sophomore last year of his class of the entire university and, we told, these kids from Gadsden County. Ah, we have another student from Quincy, she finished, got her BA degree from Florida State, ah, I'm kind of confused. We doing what we supposed to do, right? So why are we having a problem getting these kids funded. I'm not sure why though, so I'm not sure."

Chair Holt

"Commissioner, hold on, just a minute, Commissioner Viegbesie."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Thank you Madam Chair, if I recall correctly my memory serves me right when this item was discussed the last time it came up, I think we are going back to the same conversation again in the way I hear this conversation going. I think this policy was something that the Board requested so that because this intern, as they are referred to are now workers upon being employed to do that work and since that is the case, it should be supervised, the supervision and determination of whose employ should come out of the executive branch of the government and the Chief Executive Office we know is the County Administrator and not to be

run or supervised by a policy maker, a commissioner. So the conversation the last time was not a condemnation of the product, it was actually an issue with the process and the process of how the interns were brought in, who supervised them and who kind of determined what they did during that period in the program was what, if my memory serves me right, was where the confusion was and the recommendation to staff was go and put together a policy for interns so we know for sure who is going to be supervising these interns for insurance papers and all other discussions we had if my memory serves me right. I don't know, I have not gone back to read the minutes for me to know exactly what the conversation was, but that is what my memory recalls. So, now we are going back again to the issue of the process and the product. It's not the product of the fact that it's a good experience for the youth, it's not the issue with the fact that this participant had an opportunity to earn a little money during the time that they were on it, but it is who is actually doing the supervision and who is doing the job description for each of the interns, which is the process. I think that was what the concern was and I think we should look at the process more than we do the product. The product is we want these young people to have the experience but how do we go about it is where the confusion is, that is my understanding."

Commissioner Hinson

"Personally I don't have any problem with what the majority of the stuff in here, the problem I have is, you know, first of all, that's the reason why I go to training. I don't rely on my memory, I rely on my knowledge, ah, because when you go to training, you understand and you see other, other commissioners like people from Escambia County on down, they have aides. They have student assistants, they not charter schools, they are charter districts, so I don't listen to the Board, I look at what I have acquired over the years as a County Commissioner so that way I can make a valued decision based on what I have acquired over the years. So, that's the reason I brought this up, ah, and when you talk about a County Manager is determining who you select, that person may select and may not have the same have the same passion, or the same compassion that I have. I got to find somebody who, who pretty much work with me who understand how to serve the people, who love people. I tell all my staff members, I mean, all the youth, I said that you represent me, you love people in the community, you care for seniors, you care for young folk and so, but if they don't have the same drive, then why, if the county commission (inaudible) to me, they may not be the same person that I want. So then you give him the option to, because, if you give him the option to add more than two people, suppose the only thing I want is two, he want four. So, why would he have that, I think he should come to me, we, County Commissioner; I should get my proposal together, right? Just like we did already, I present it to the County Administrator, I gave him all the stuff that fit the need and we work together and once we work together we come up with common thing that it doesn't hurt the district or the County, then, and then we can move, then we can move forward. But I don't think that the County Manager should be the person who making these decisions here, based on what Commissioner Morgan ah, proposed, he said Commissioner Hinson have, he would have, he can select student assistants, if I'm not mistaken Commissioner Morgan."

Chair Holt

"Commissioner Morgan jump right on in there."

Commissioner Morgan

"Thank you Madam Chair, what, what we approved there was to put it into the budget..."

Commissioner Hinson

"That's right."

Commissioner Morgan

"Ah, and as we talked about before, that was during a negotiation process for me to get funding for (laughter) Chattahoochee and several different areas, so, ah, it pretty, I mean, listen, whatever the Board, I agree with the comments that Commissioner V made, Dr. V made earlier, we're talking about not the project itself, but now the process and, and..."

Commissioner Hinson

"So after you got all your stuff for Chattahoochee, now you want to go back to...(laughter)"

Commissioner Morgan

"No, I didn't, no and I, I've been very clear how I feel about aides and interns myself. It was, what we approved was getting into the budget, so, I know where I am on this and I know I believe if it's something that is going to move forward with the Board, I agree with Dr. V as well. This is something that the County Administrator has to oversee, not the Board, not the Board. So, but again, we can disagree on that if we need to, but to (Commissioner Hinson started talking) but..."

Chait Holt

"Commissioner, ah, ah, Commissioner, hold on, let me make a couple of comments. OK, in this, and I'm interested, like I said in more of aides than I am in student interns. I would like for them to go back and look at if possible so that we can have aides. Now, employees are employees of the Manager, if they are going to be employees, they are employees of the Manager, we don't get to have employees. But I do see your point, if they are going to be someone that's working out there, let's say in District 2, and that's what they are looking at, doing research and stuff like that for District 2, if that's possible, they would go through the same, maybe same employment process, but an aide would, if they are going to be, that's going to be their area, maybe we need to go back and see if that's possible. If it's not possible, then we're discussing a moot point. OK? So, can we just table this and send it back?" (Several started talking at one time.) "Hold on, hold on."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Yes Madam Chair, that was going, that was going to be the motion I was going to move, that we table this item on the agenda and bring back for a conversation for an aide on this particular..." (Commissioner Hinson tried to speak).

Chair Holt

"Let me second it and then you can make your comment. OK, I'll second it. Go ahead."

Commissioner Hinson

"The comment I have right here, right, ah, I already explained it, we have someone here. I, I think the process is right. I do agree with Dr. V, Commissioner Morgan you, I hadn't had the opportunity to hear Commissioner Taylor yet, and I do agree with that. The only thing I'm talking, I'm saying here is that, I think they should go through the process, they need to go through the process to get, go through the same process everybody else goes through. I think what we did, we had, we are, we had their director, their boss, ah, Jeff Price, and they was

coming to Jeff if they need some informational help, they go directly to Jeff Price. I don't think we need to change that thought, just keep it going like it is. I think the problem was that we just had, I hired like six students about, four from Havana, two from Quincy, whatever, six students in one month. If that's a problem then we need to go with that piece, which I don't think should be a problem because we still submitted back now \$106.

Chair Holt

"OK, Commissioner, the reason I wanted that looked at was not because of that, it's really because of the, the, if you want to work in budget, then you can would in budget, but I think when you are looking at an aide, you are looking at more of the governmental side of it. That's what I'm looking at. Ah, ah, ah, the aide for Congresswoman Graham out here (looking in audience) raise your hand. That's what he does; you see what he's doing? He's at a County Commission Meeting, he's doing everything, he's going to get back with the Congresswoman, he's going to say this, that and the other, that's what, that's that process that I'm really looking for. That's why I want it to be tabled and go back. But, Commissioner, let's move forward..."

(Several people talking at one time)

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Madam Chair I call the question..."

Commissioner Hinson

"OK, OK, OK, no, see the problem that I have someone here that I promised her, like we said promises, right, that they going to be working tomorrow..."

Chair Holt

"You can't, can't do it."

Commissioner Hinson

"And so, once you call that question, I'm going to have that person, wait a minute, I'm a grown man like everybody else here. Alright? Ah, value my opinion Dr. V, I know that you got your doctor or title on your back, on your shoulder, but just value my opinion. Don't be shaking your head; I'm a grown man just like you..."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Commissioner, don't go there, don't you go there with me, OK, Madam Chair, I call the question."

Chair Holt

"The question's been called, we have to vote. Thank you for standing up Officer. Alright, we are going to call for the vote. All in favor of tabling this item to be brought back to look at the possibility of having aides for the Board, all in favor. "(Vote was 4-1-Commissioner Morgan opposed) "Item passes 4-1. Next Item."

12. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Big Bend, Inc. for FY 2015/2016

Morgan had question-asked how much and asked for specific amount so each club received equal amounts and if reporting back on how funds spent. Mr. Weiss said under Paragraph 9

explained that.

Hinson said give multiple year funding so would not have to come back before the Board.

Weiss said revise the contract and have them approve with revision. Presnell said with revision make motion for Chair to sign once approved to save time.

Hinson suggested multiple contract with three years-V suggested multiple years at budget time

Holt asked administrator if did multiple year, would still come out each year-yes.

Weiss said could not commit funds for future budget cycle

Morgan approval of option 1 with changes/V 5-0

13. Discussion of a Succession Plan for the County Administrator

Mr. Presnell introduced above item.

Hinson said when they hired new Administrator, he should be one to hire new Assistant Manager.

V said he had talked about this many times and think advertising would be good thing and time should be given for newly hired person to have transition and suggested changing title to Deputy Administrator. Suggested advertise and decide when administrator leaving and give him ample time to work with replacement.

Chair Holt asked for clarification,

V said current Administrator's contract up October, 2016, suggesting when deputy hired, extend time for current administrator to work with newly hired Deputy to transition smoothly into position.

V said one person who should be involved with selection was current administrator and

Hinson said understood where V coming from, but Board did not select deputy, Administrator did and person may not be in line with commissioners.

Morgan said not sure if more important topic-could affect 1) tax payers; 2) County Administrator; 3) employees of County. Only way he felt could do that, felt had very good administrator now, he entered into drop program last year so available to work additional 4 years and maybe he could hire new Deputy to groom to take his place who in turn could hire their own assistant.

Taylor asked why not allow Administrator to hire new assistant to work and train, concerned her that possibility of three new commissioners and may affect Administrator

Taylor said needed to pay attention to the will of the Board, when he came in, he could have voted if he chose to,

Morgan asked if Mr. Lawson would be working through the end of his term or if would be taking time off-working through

Chair said no problem if Administrator not doing job putting in motion to terminate but new Administrator should be one to hire assistant.

Holt said not confusing, when new person hired, they would work alongside with current administrator and when time to hire new assistant, they

Morgan asked if need for new Administrator and if majority of Board satisfied, Administrator may want to stay on Board, Holt said if don't put hook out, never catch a fish.

V sked if anything in succession plan that would preclude Assistant applying for Administrator position. David said Board had control over Administrator

Hinson said maybe needed to have retreat to see what Board wanted to do. Chair asked if he meant workshop and he said no, wanted retreat, needed to decide where they wanted to go.

V made motion to workshop succession planning because of new approach of method of hiring and needed time to go through succession planning process and maybe could get succession planning agent to work with them/Holt second

Hinson said wanted retreat not workshop.

Holt 5-0

Morgan stepped out.

14. At-large Appointment to the Planning Commission

V reappoint Davis/Taylor 4-0

15. Approval to Accept the 2015-2016 Mutual Aid Operations Plan between Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and Gadsden County Fire Departments and the 2014-2015 Annual Forestry Report and Operating Plan

Hinson/V 4-0

16. Discussion of Appointment to the Planning Commission

Taylor to appoint Lori Bouie/Hinson 4-0

17. Approval of Radio Tower Lease Agreement with Mobile Communications of North Florida, LLC.

V/Hinson 4-0

Morgan returned

**17a Travel Approval to FL League of Cities
Mr. Presnell**

"Now, the final item under General Business 17A that we added was one you added Madam Chair for travel approval for Florida League of Cities 55th Annual Legislative Conference for the

TDC Chairman.”

Chair Holt

“OK, that one, Commissioners, we voted for that on the Tourist Development Council also there is a tour, what do you call it, agri-tourism deal and information that they are going to be doing out there. What’s the will of the board?”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“Madam Chair, is this particular item, this action item, is it time sensitive?”

Chair Holt

“Yes.”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“Move for approval.”

Commissioner Morgan

“Question.”

Chair Holt

“Yes. I’ll second that vote. But go ahead.”

Commissioner Morgan

“So, help me out on this because we just got this information and I need some clarity on this. So, this is a meeting to the Florida League of Cities, is that correct?”

Chair Holt

“Yes.”

Commissioner Morgan

“Their annual conference. Mr. Dowdell is a Quincy City Commissioner.”

Chair Holt

“Yes.”

Commissioner Morgan

“He should already be going, right?”

Chair Holt

“Well, he should be but Tourism is sending him and well one reason why we, one reason why we voted to do that is because of those items on there that we are trying to get some leverage on with the League of Cities that helps tourism.”

Commissioner Morgan

“So, why isn’t the City, why isn’t he going on behalf of the City of Quincy so he can do this?”

Chair Holt

“I have no idea, probably why they are not paying for the bus system. I don’t know.”

Commissioner Morgan

"That's a good question there too. So..."

Chair Holt

"We pay for the bus system."

Commissioner Morgan

"I just don't know that ah, this is appropriate for us to do that. "

Chair Holt

"If you look at the title of it, it makes sense what you 're saying, but when we looking at the Tourist Development that we're looking at, trying to get it and then doing it, then it make sense for him to go.

Commissioner Morgan

"Who else is going on this trip?"

Chair Holt

"He's the only one that is going on that. But now, the reason we are doing that is to get the...Mayor Dyer of Orlando, his son wrote this big packet on agri-tourism and when I talked to the people down at the City of Orlando, he is doing some presenting down there and they are doing some live and there is also an agri-tourism bill coming up in the legislature. So we are trying to get some in on that because we get, we have all these fields in tomatoes and all that stuff and for some reason, the Villages were just up here the other day and they came touring the County because they want to come back and do touring and all that. So we are trying to get as much bang for our buck as we can get. And I'm a research nut so...Yes sir?"

Commissioner Viegbesie

"My understanding is that because this is the Gadsden County Tourism Development Council, the City of Quincy is paying for some part..."

Chair Holt

"Yeah, something like that, I heard it too..."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"...of the registration or something when I read the materials, so actually the City of Quincy is covering some part of his expense, right Mr. Manager?"

Mr. Presnell

"Ah, no sir, they are not..."

Chair Holt

"He's paying the registration."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"He's paying the registration."

Chair Holt

"We're paying the travel."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"We're paying the travel and the City of Quincy is paying the registration."

Chair Holt

"Something like that, he, but we're not paying the registration."

Commissioner Taylor

"The City of Quincy is not paying anything."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Anything?"

Chair Holt

"He's paying, he said he would pay the registration, but really, to be honest with you, we are looking to get; it's just like Mr. ah, Commissioner Viegbesie, when I did the thing on the mural up out here, I didn't do it on what I was being sent down there with FAC. I had to go back and did it under Tourism in order to get to be able to go over to St. Petersburg, take those pictures, do that research and come back with an Economic Development plan. So that's what I had to do in order to get that and that's something that I had to do on my own, but, yes sir?"

Commissioner Viegbesie

"My question then is if that is the case based on what Commissioner Morgan just said, I think we are probably going to on this expense hit a brick wall of public papers from the County I think."

Chair Holt

"What's the brick wall?"

Commissioner Viegbesie

"I don't know, maybe this is, ah, I don't know, the Clerk of the Court was going to approve this expense or was going to pay even though we approve to do it so if we make sure that that is cleared today before we go through this, I have no problem with the Tourist Development Council being sponsored on this training. I have no problem."

Chair Holt

"The Tourist Development Council already voted for him to go. We have a motion and a second right now, we are going to call for the vote in a minute, but go ahead."

Commissioner Hinson

"Yes, Mr. Attorney, do we have any issues with this situation here before..."

Mr. Weiss

"It appears from the Clerk that, I mean the reason I think this has come before you is because the Clerk has said that they do not believe this to be a tourism related expenditure. That's the reason it's before you ah, is that the Clerk is concerned with that. Ah, so that's the issue here."

Commissioner Hinson

"No, what I'm saying is that do we have an issue..."

Dr. V stepped out at this juncture.

Commissioner Hinson

"...is there anything illegal thought, I'm not talking about how the Clerk feel, from that standpoint of it, but is there anything that we are doing now, we're approve this. I know it's time sensitive and can't wait until next meeting because the meeting would be, you know, everything would be over with, we're running out of time now. So, is there anything illegal going on here."

Mr. Weiss

"The question is, is it tourist related. I mean, is there, I think there were concerns with the TDC that was raised, a couple of the council members did raise concerns about the similar concerns that are being raised around the this Board about whether or not it was a tourism related expenditure and apparently the Clerk agreed that there are concerns in terms of what, I think..."

Commissioner Hinson

"I mean, what I'm saying, if we approve this, right, is there anything illegal that we are doing, so regardless, if we decide to approve this, would the Board be doing something illegal by approving, would everything be legal? I'm not saying because somebody say 'I got you' moment, here you go right here or there. I'm talking about whether or not it's illegal or not illegal. Because anybody can pick out anything and say like the trip that the Commissioner went to, we could have picked at that as well like 'I don't think that's county related stuff, you know, she's talking about painting the walls on the street. But that brought back value to the County. So I'm just saying, if we approve this, would it be illegal, would we be challenged, not by the Clerk..."

Chair Holt

"That a very good question."

Commissioner Hinson

"...but by would the County be doing something, because I would hate for the Clerk to call me back tomorrow and say 'You know what, ah, I saw something different' if we didn't approve it, so as long as legal, then I'm not sure, I'm not saying I'm approving it, I just want to know if I did decide to approve it, is it legal to do it."

Mr. Weiss

"I think it's a matter of whether it is a tourist related expenditure and I think on its face it's questionable, which is why the issues have been raised with the Tourist Development Council, which is why you all are asking the question and which is why the Clerk has raised the question."

Chair Holt

"May I say this? The Clerk and I talked and the Clerk said 'Present them the Economic Development Plan' like I did with the murals and present some other things that he's saying

that, and I called the League of Cities. I did not, like I said, I'm a research person, I love research. I called them. They said this, that there are plenty of things within their agenda that deal with economic development and that's what your tourism should be about, is how do you increase the number of hotel stays at your hotel. How do you do these things and they said yeah, they didn't title it that way, but all the cities are going with economic development, they are going for jobs, they are going for tourism. So that's what they are doing and then I said 'Well, how do we get in on some of that' because Commissioners, we are, there are 67 counties but there are a couple of what, hundred cities in the State. So what we are trying to do is get in on what they already plan to bring back stuff to the County. That's what I told the Clerk. The Clerk said 'Give me economic development plan for it' and I told him you can't get it if you stay home. I know what happens, people are not doing lobbying. Because you go lobby, if you are not in the room, you don't get anything. And that's why I told the Clerk the same thing. I said if people hear what had to go and they had to go stand in those halls and had to lobby to try to get something to come back to the County, they would want to be at the League of Cities because they would have more people there, they have more agencies than we have with the County Association. And so, if you are not in the room, as the young lady with the League of Cities said..."

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting

Chair Holt

"...Commissioner, if they are in the room, they are able to lobby for things. I called Mayor Dyer's office in Orlando. They said 'Why wouldn't they want you tourist development chair to come?' I said because they are not thinking on that level. You have to think on that level. Because if they have a meeting on agri-tourism, now the Mayor's son is the one that wrote the program. If they are having that discussion on there, how is it we are going to get in on what we need to do to start agri-tourism here if we are not there? That's the only thing that really bugs me about this. People that don't lobby, and I was over there at the Capitol today, had to be there all day. Was there anything on my agenda that said, no, but I know Gaming was on there and if I don't go and go after that for Gretna, and for this County, then no-one's going to say, 'Well I was going to go, but I didn't feel like it, my hair got wet, my dog got sick', but someone had to go so I went. That's 800 jobs that we are talking about. Yes sir?"

Commissioner Hinson

"Commissioner, I think that wished they had of given us a detailed program, you know a layout thing, that way you could look and see exactly what's going on, but I think I see something here, I'm not sure, the Regional Advocacy Teams Strategic Planning Meeting. I think that that would justify that portion too as well and also they have other roundtables going on as well, so ah, I mean as long as we aren't doing anything illegal and was time sensitive, I'd hate to say no and all of a sudden next week they come up with something that said it was OK..."

Chair Holt

"Yeah."

Commissioner Hinson

"...ah, we talking about, what, about \$400-\$5—or \$200-\$300 I think that we are..."

Chair Holt

“OK, Commissioner...”

Commissioner Hinson

“It’s on page 1.”

Chair Holt

“Yeah, I was looking at page 2, but, ah, and I was looking also at a couple of other things, but the one thing that I really looked at and spoke about in the meeting was this on Growth Management and Economic Affairs. That’s the first thing that I looked at. If you don’t get in where the money is, where to do go? I mean, what’s the purpose of sitting here and divide up what the State’s trying to give us when we could go after more money. But Commissioner Morgan, I think you had your hand up.”

Commissioner Morgan

“Yeah, ah, thank you Madam Chair, just real quick there’s 2 things I’m hearing on this issue. One: I think the Attorney is trying to be as frank as he can with us in advising us not to move forward with it because of concerns that he stated and right here in the analysis gathered by staff, you know, it clearly says they talked with the Clerk’s office, the Finance Department, they carefully reviewed it and per Florida Statutes, they identify the section that deemed it as an inappropriate expenditure. I just...”

David said section cited not correct section, but only tourism related expenditures were authorized.

Chair Holt

“What’s the section that makes it inappropriate?”

Commissioner Morgan

“Ah, Section 125.01040(4)(c).”

Chair Holt

“And what does it say?”

Commissioner Morgan

“I don’t know what it says.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Can you tell me what it says”

Commissioner Morgan

“No, I, that’s why I had the Clerk tell me that. I just know, I mean if you talk long enough you can justify whatever you want to, I just don’t think this is a good decision, a wise decision to do that.”

Chair Holt

“To be honest with you, and I understand what you are saying Commissioner and I was in that meeting and like I said, I didn’t wait for Mr. Dowdell to call me, I called the League of Cities. I spoke with them. I called the City of Orlando, I called Orange County, I called Tourist Development and they said, ‘Yeah, they can send an economic development plan.’”

Commissioner Morgan

"Can you call the City of Quincy and see why they won't pay for it?"

Chair Holt

"I don't want to know because they still have an answering machine where you can't speak to anyone."

Commissioner Hinson

"An answering machine?"

Chair Holt

"Yeah, its something. But, what I'm going to say is, and I'm really serious about this, is that if we stay home we get nothing. If we stay home we get nothing. We have a shot at getting something and I just look at the numbers and if the numbers make sense, I'm for it. Commissioners we need a motion on this one way or another."

Commissioner Hinson

"Hold hold, the attorney's looking over something."

Mr. Weiss

"Well it's not, that section cited is actually not the correct section."

Commissioner Hinson

"Wow, so I tell you what, since..."

Mr. Weiss

"So, basically, what you have to keep in mind is it has to be a tourism related expenditure is authorized and that's basically..."

Commissioner Hinson

"So why would someone put this in a document and our decision be made based on their recommendation though."

Mr. Weiss,

"It's not the right, it's just the wrong subsection, it's not, the statute section is correct, the subsection (4)(c) is not what, that's not what determines the..."

Commissioner Hinson had Mr. Weiss read aloud subsection (4)(c) because that was what he was going by and Mr. Weiss did so.

Mr. Weiss

"None of the rest of these relate to what we're talking about. There is another subsection which is subsection 9, which talks about making expenditures for this type of purpose to attend for transportation, lodging, meals, other reasonable necessary items, services, ah, authorized travel, all travel and entertainment related expenditures, again, they all, and detailed justification for all travel and entertainment...Again, once again, it's tourism related."

Chair Holt

"Let me jump in there, so, so, they, he quoted, the Clerk, they pulled the wrong section, or whoever did the item. OK, now, listen at the carefully. We paid on the Tourist Development Council, \$2,000 for the people that came from the Villages up here to tour the County. Now we paid for that out of Tourist Development Funds, that Board agreed to pay it, OK, to come up here and see about tourism in this County. So we can't send the Chairman of Tourist Development Board down to Orlando to see what we can get to get down there and see if we can, if we can't get any energy, environment and natural resources. That's what the tourist development, that's what the Villages came up here to see, what our natural resources are. They went to Havana, toured, they ate over there, they went up here and they toured historical homes, they left there and they toured up here at Chattahoochee, they ate up there, they went down to the lake. That's what they did, that's what we are doing. So what we should be doing is doing the same thing to send people down there to get information, but, listen, let's vote because I'm tired of thinking about this. That" (Commissioner Hinson tried to interject) "got the gavel, you better be quick. Call the question, somebody."

Commissioner Hinson

"Taxation, alright, can you define taxation."

Chair Holt

"Come on, he gonna tax somebody,"

Mr. Weiss

"Define taxation?"

Commissioner Hinson

"Yeah"

Chair Holt

"Come on, come on, Commissioner, Commissioner, let him go on that, come on."

Commissioner Hinson

"Don't worry about that one?"

Chair Holt

"Not ah, come on, let's go. (banging gavel) "There is a motion and a second, no-one called the question. Commissioner Taylor."

Commissioner Taylor

"Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak. I hate to see this Board find itself in the same situation as the seniors that are here this afternoon, because I've been very supportive and I've talked to you about trying to do what I can to help. But if you set here and improve an item that you've already gotten an opinion from your Financial Officer and have said no, this is inappropriate, we are going to have someone sitting out there again in three-four weeks after this with an issue of their bills not being paid because he has that right to look at these items closely. It's a check and balance system that we have with that Clerk's Office and this Board and he makes sure that the expenditures are appropriate and he has said that this one is not. He has said that. Now it is a time sensitive item, I understand that whole-heartedly. A

wonderful football game going on down there this time of year! Wonderful game going on! Wonderful.”

Chair Holt

“So you mean y’all don’t go to the League of Cities when y’all go down there?”

Commissioner Taylor

“Wonderful game going on down there this time of year, know that that’s happening. So, but that is around the 18th and we do still have some time to get the Clerk over here and give us his justification. Might be the wrong section that he quoted there, but if you want to do due diligence and protect this Board and the decision that we are making, I say let’s get him over here within the week. Let’s just make a little quick, a special meeting or what have you, get him here and get us a decision that we can all stand the next day and say well, we did the right thing. The guy’s going to get the information that we need or the guy is not going because we shouldn’t do this per the law that you just asked the question about Commissioner Hinson.”

Commissioner Hinson started to speak.

Chair Holt

“Commissioner, wait a minute, hold on.”

Commissioner Taylor

“So, all I’m saying is, let’s just take a couple of minutes, make sure it’s the right thing and don’t get hasty about this. It’s a trip, it’s a trip. It’s nothing that’s going to make or break this County. Is it an important one, I’m sure it is, but do we need to do this and not do our due diligence, get an explanation from the Clerk, get this thing set up within days, it’s been done before, so that we can make the right decision. That’s all I’m saying. I’m not willing to vote for this tonight because we’ve gotten sound advice from whom we have put over our dollars, from whom we get our response from. Don’t want this thing to come up again like it has tonight. Let’s get him, and while he’s in here, let’s get him to talk about what happened to their (seniors) money and how can we go about getting their money. So we just kill two birds. That’s my opinion. Thank you.”

Chair Holt

“OK, Commissioner Hinson, make your point now because we’ve got to vote.”

Commissioner Hinson

“I’ll make it real quick. Mr. Attorney, just like I said just then, OK, if we vote yay or nay, is it illegal? That’s the thing, I mean, just say, not saying it’s his own, because the Clerk is the only entity with the County Commissioners. I mean, are we doing the right thing? Don’t worry about what he says, are we doing the right thing? So I don’t...”

Mr. Weiss

“So, basically what you’re asking is my opinion as to whether or not this is a tourist related expenditure.”

Commissioner Morgan

“Right.”

(Several talking at one time)

Mr. Weiss

"That's what it boils down to and I mean, I would agree that on its face it does not look like tourist related expenditure and the fact that we are discussing this at length suggests that there are other people would tend to agree with that. I'm not going to say, I mean, I'm not someone who can make a policy level decision like that. That's not my decision to make. Ah, so..."

Commissioner Hinson

"So growth management is not a tourist..."

Mr. Weiss

"I mean, I suppose there could be something in growth management that is related to tourism, I mean, you know..."

Chair Holt

"That's because you don't go to our workshops, right?"

Mr. Weiss

"No."

Chair Holt

"But see, that's what I'm saying, I do. I go."

Commissioner Hinson

"What about what's, what about advocate for the County, you don't think that's dealing with tourist, I'm just curious, so that's what I'm just saying"

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Call the question."

Chair Holt

"OK, call the question. There is a motion and a second for approval and I would like to say right quick, I'm all for this because I go to workshops all the time, but, all in favor of approval."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Aye"

Chair Holt

"All opposed."

Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Taylor opposed.

Commissioner Hinson

"I'm opposed with another question."

Chair Holt

"No, no, no, no. You are either for or against because it's the time to vote."

Commissioner Hinson

"Because my proposal is for a meeting next week with the Clerk, but..."

Chair Holt

"No, You can bring back up another motion."

Commissioner Hinson

"OK, I vote no so..."

Chair Holt

"OK, so motion fails so, as 3-2. OK, now, right quick, you gonna put in another..."

Commissioner Hinson

"Oh, yeah, I'll put in a motion to meet next week..."

Chair Holt

"With the Clerk on this issue?"

Commissioner Hinson

"With the Clerk on this issue (inaudible) the senior citizens too as well, get them both out of the way."

Commissioner Taylor

"Thank you. Is that what I just said to you?"

Chair Holt

"OK, do I have a second?"

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Second."

Chair Holt

"I have a motion and a second to meet with the Clerk next week and you'll have to schedule the meeting Mr. Manager as soon as possible."

Mr. Presnell

"Will this fall into the category of an emergency meeting? Is there any way we can do that Mr. Attorney, or we going to have to meet the regular advertising? It's an emergency?"

Mr. Weiss

"What's our..."

Commissioner Taylor

"It falls within the criteria of being an emergency meeting."

Mr. Weiss

"There again, that's a policy question. Do you consider this to be an emergency? I don't, I don't know that there is a definition of an emergency that I'm aware of."

Chair Holt

"Make it an emergency."

Commissioner Taylor

"May I, may I say this?"

Chair Holt

"Commissioner Taylor..."

Commissioner Taylor

"Thank you. Ah, since there's not a definition and since this Board does make policy, I make a motion that we call an emergency meeting within the next seven days to hear from the Clerk on both issues, 1) this travel and his opinion toward this travel and the expense that the senior citizens have incurred in Gretna for the \$10,000 allotted. That's my motion."

Chair Holt

"We have a motion..."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Madam Chair..."

Chair Holt

"Yes."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"For posterity, we had a motion for the, that Commissioner Hinson made, is he going to withdraw his motion so that we can entertain a new motion?"

Chair Holt

"He has to if we gonna, he has to if you are going to go with the second motion."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"He would have to withdraw his motion and second and then..."

Chair Holt

"Was there a second?"

Commissioner Taylor

"There wasn't a second."

Chair Holt

"Commissioner Hinson, are you willing to withdraw your motion?"

Commissioner Hinson

"Ah, I don't have a, but we..."

Chair Holt

"It fails for lack of a second if you don't."

Commissioner Hinson

"Because we can send to Tallahassee Democrat and it still can be, right?"

Mr. Weiss

"We'll still have to provide notice, I mean, you have to provide notice..."

Mr. Presnell

"And I think I..."

(Chair bangs gavel)

Chair Holt

"Will you withdraw your motion?"

Commissioner Hinson

"OK, I withdraw, I'm sorry."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"I second Commissioner Taylor's motion."

Chair Holt

"Commissioner Taylor's motion for, to address this issue and the Senior Citizens of Gretna issue at an emergency meeting and we have a second by Dr. Viegbesie. Now, that is, Commissioners, you must look at also the Clerk has to agree to this meeting. OK, all in favor."

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Aye"

Chair Holt

"Opposed? OK, so we're looking at next week and the Manager's going to get with the Clerk. OK, alright? We finally got it ladies and gentlemen."

Chair Holt

"Ah, Ms. Franks, you understand we're trying to get up a meeting with the Clerk for next week?"

Ms. Franks

"I understand that, but the Clerk has already said that they not going to pay us."

Chair Holt

"OK, we're asking for that meeting anyway."

Commissioner Hinson

"Personally, Ms., Commissioner, it's my humble opinion though, I think that since they been

waiting this whole time here, I think we should just go ahead and move forward the meeting for them first, then if the Clerk got a problem, he can meet with them next week on top of that piece. I don't want her to wait forever on that."

Chair Holt

"OK, so, what we're saying, anything else you want to address with us tonight?"

Ms. Franks

"Yes, I want you as a Board..."

Chair Holt

"Come up to the microphone."

Ms. Franks

"Yes mam, I want you as the Board to go ahead and agree to pay that \$10,000 that you promised us. The Clerk has already said they are not going to do it. Not once, but how many times? So if they not going to do it, I'm looking for you all to go ahead and do what's been promised. They not going to do it. We can meet with them all day and night. I don't feel like in my heart that they going to do it. They already done turned us down and they've paid us \$3,000 plus couple of dollars, part of the money and they refusing to pay the rest. I feel like it's gonna come to this Board anyway. So I'm asking you to make the decision to go ahead and pay us."

Chair Holt

"Commissioner Franks, there are certain steps that we have to go through. I do not disagree with you one bit, but there's certain steps that we need to go through and I feel that we've got to have the attorney there in order to take care of this. I don't think that your speaking on this issue again is going to make any difference to be honest with you. It's going to be between this Board and the Clerk, that we voted on the item, we passed it, the Clerk may have some legal where he stands at, that needs to be worked out between him and this body."

Commissioner Taylor

"May I say this? If we can, because we aren't to discuss this any further, would you please make sure that they know when the date is so they can be here in numbers."

Mr. Presnell

"Absolutely."

Commissioner Taylor

"And what's different this time is that like the Chairperson has just said, this is now between the Clerk and this Board and that's where it should be after you doing your due diligence. So leave out of here this afternoon with a smile because now you've got another chance to get in this (inaudible). I don't know what's going to happen, but we are going to take it to the next level that we can. Fair enough? Have a nice day."

Ms. Franks

"Because I had this opportunity to be here, I'm asking that you continue funding that program. Without your continuing funding we don't have a program. Thank you."

Chair Holt

“Commissioner, you don’t worry about that part, let’s just get past this part. We have no problem with that. Thank you very much and thank you ladies and gentlemen for coming out because it means a lot that you came out and we, this Board passed the order for that to be done. So what we are going to do now is meet with the Clerk and then we will get some justification, if we have to go down each item on there. Y’all have a good evening.”

Commissioner Hinson

“Make sure y’all bring 60 next time now. Get 60 people next time now.”

Chair Holt

“Oh yeah, you won’t get a chair in here.” (Looking at Mr. Weiss) “You better be on your game because it’s going to be a mess (inaudible).”

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell reminded the Commissioners of another workshop scheduled for Thursday, 6:00 p.m. in Chambers with FDOT regarding the bike trail and will send an electronic reminder to everybody.

He said he was trying to coordinate dates with the Board and GHI for a joint workshop and was shooting for December 3rd or 10th.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

He asked for approval for a Proclamation for TCC for their 50th anniversary

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

He then asked for approval for a Proclamation for Retired Master Sargent Isaiah McMillian to be presented at a later date.

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

He reminded everyone that the Veteran’s Services was having a program on the Courthouse square at 11:00 a.m. on Veteran’s Day. Commissioner Morgan asked if there would be an opportunity to recognize Jerome at the Veteran’s gathering this year. Commissioner Viegbesie said he may be coming to the Veteran’s event a little late because he intended to attend the event in Havana before coming to this one.

Commissioner Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt said in recognizing Jerome, if not at the first of the meeting then some of the Commissioners would have a chance to catch it.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report was available for questions if anyone had any.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. 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 said he had two things-wanted to commend and applaud what the Road maintenance team has been doing and said he had received lots of complements for specifically in District 2 with the road mowing and ditch clearing. He asked that Mr. Presnell express sincere gratitude and appreciation in hopes they keep doing it across the entire county. He added that he just found out that one of the staff members left and this month was one year that he had been sworn in and had nothing but tremendous support and assistance from the entire staff and Stacey Hannigon had worked in an eclectic manner in every aspect that he had seen her do and asked for some form of recognition or accommodation for what she had done for the County.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR RECOGNITION FOR STACEY HANNIGON.

Commissioner Taylor concurred that Ms. Hannigon was a hardworking young lady, but her only concern was they would be starting something that would be continued and if they missed someone, didn't recognize them, there might be fallbacks.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment to that would be those that wanted recognition needed to work their butt off.

Chair Holt said normally the Manager made recommendations and Board approved it.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he would like to offer the opportunity to televise commission meetings and asked that it be placed on next agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO HAVE THE ITEM PLACED ON THE AGENDA.

He said also regarding some of the issues that the Board was starting to experience as a result of funding different organizations in the county, that while he supported what they have done with the funding but felt as they go forward, it was necessary for them to adopt a policy that was devoted to clearly communicating the process of reimbursements of funds.

Mr. Presnell said Commissioner Morgan was right and they had recently developed an Interlocal Agreement to be used and would be coming to them in the near future for approval.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she was piggybacking off the contracts and was looking at the one between the Boys and Girls Club and what the reporting requirements were for them was very vague and wanted to see it be more specific with records and services so they would know what they were funding.

She said they had talked about TDC tonight and their expenditures and asked that they get some type of list of items that have been approved and added they needed to be mindful because TDC has a lot of money.

Mr. Presnell said he would get her a list for the past year of expenditures.

Chair Holt said she thought the report should be on-line and added they should have a report from all boards.

Commissioner Taylor also asked for minutes of TDC meetings from April to today's date.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at the news today and when the issue came up in Tallahassee about the box, he thought it was crazy when he first heard about it and after doing research and hearing the comment earlier in the meeting, saw that it gave the employer the chance to meet the person and after meeting the person, they are going to vet the person anyway, then someone else said if the person committed a small crime when they were 18-19 years old, was a great citizen years later, went back to school, got a degree, was now 30+/- years old and wanted a job, once they put on the application that they had committed a crime earlier in life, normally the application would be thrown out, even though that person could potentially be the most qualified for the job and a lot of folks were being discriminated against by the box and felt they needed to jump in front and ban box as well on their application.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE,
THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO AGENDA TO BAN THE BOX**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they needed to cancel the next meeting because the Board would be out of town for the legislative meeting and they would not have a quorum. Chair Holt said everyone else would need to be present to have a quorum, but they needed to decide who would chair the meeting.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4

RECEIPT AND FILE

- 21.**
 - a. Clerk's Statement of Revenue**
 - b. Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report**
 - c. Gadsden County School 5 year District Facilities Work Plan**
 - d. Talquin Electric Notice**
 - e. Florida Department of Health (EMS County Grant Award Letter)**

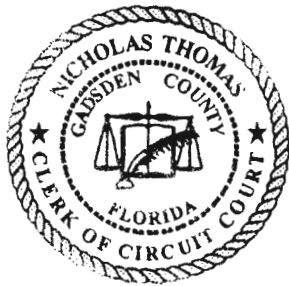
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
November 3, 2015-Regular Meeting

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 22. November 17, 2015-Workshop-Discussion of Proposed Multi-Use Path Along SR 12 (Arts Trail) from Quincy to Havana-6 p.m.
- 23. November 17, 2015-Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:28 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY FLORIDA



**BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk