

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 17, 2015 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4-appeared by phone  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-appeared by phone  
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 , PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Taylor (acting Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:02, said prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt appeared by phone.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to add a presentation by Harry Reed from CRTPA and would like to pull item 11.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

Harry Reed, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, appeared before the Board to say farewell as his last day was yesterday with CRTPA after 9 years.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

**Clerk Thomas**

"Madam Chair, I understand I need clarify a few things, make some comments and answer some questions that you might have.

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Can I ask you to please speak up because the Commissioners that are by phone may have difficulty Sir?"

**Clerk Thomas**

"Alright, well I want to take a minute if it's fine to clarify a few, my position on a few things and answer any questions that you might have because I've missed your last couple of meetings. The first thing I need to clarify is my position on, because I think there was a misunderstanding of my position on any additional increase in funding to the Gretna Senior Citizens in the future should absolutely not be tied

to the receipts that were denied in the fiscal year 2014/2015, OK? It's the County Commissioners prerogative to determine the level of funding, you know the appropriate time for that usually is the budget process, ah, but you should absolutely not tie any additional funding to the denial of those receipts. Again, that's because there were some significant problems with the receipts, I'll just give you a couple of them. I'm putting this out there, you know, for example, there were 5 receipts for TVs, OK, and there's only one in the building and that was confirmed by the City Manager of Gretna, so, never accounted for where the other four were and there was one receipt that was dated the year 2000. Of course the Finance Director listed numerous other problems. Board of County Commissioners and Clerk have personal liability, I'm telling you there were issues so when the Clerk makes these kind of statements we are doing it because it's in, we think it's in the best interest of County. It's in your personal best interest, OK, and then the burden of proof, if you think I'm wrong, is on you, OK? So, that's one statement I want to make. Another statement, another issue, there was some assertion that we were treating Havana and Gretna unfairly or differently and there are two different issues here. So, first of all, Counties can contribute to non-profit organizations or have different missions from what the County has and, you know, the model to follow is how the State does it. If you get money from the State you are going to sign an Agreement up front. Yes, you are going to submit financials because most of the money is reimbursable and I'm not suggesting that you make your process reimbursable, but you are also going to submit audited financials and that has a way of insuring that the money you are doling out is accounted for, better accounted for. I think our current process basically, many people sometimes people get money and feel that they don't have to be accounted for; I think somebody even stated in the meeting that they thought they could do whatever they wanted to do with it. But back to Gretna, Gretna was a volunteer group; it was not an incorporated not-for-profit organization. Good thing they were going to use the City of Gretna as a conduit so, you can't just give county money to volunteer individuals and the best practice, our Governmental relation's best practice, when you are giving money to one group through a conduit is to have an Interlocal Agreement, and that was what we wanted. We couldn't get that, we were given all these receipts and I told you we went through these receipts and when we have to pay from receipts, we apply the County's standard and that's what we did and we determined how much of that that was legitimate that we paid under the County's standard. In the future, we have, back to Havana, Havana Carver Heights was listed as a not-for-profit organization. You are right in that they did not provide the required documents and that was, let me get this right, the County Administrator, I think under undue pressure from Commissioner Hinson, convinced the Finance Director that he would provide that documentation forthcoming really quick. She took him at his word and, yes, they were paid. That type of undue pressure is unacceptable and I think a couple of commissioners have been pushing the boundaries and we will push back, we're not going to have that. We are going to do what is right, what's legal and we will push back against any undue pressure from any commissioner, OK? Ah, any other questions about that particular issue with the funding of the Senior Citizens?"

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Are there any questions, yes, Commissioner Morgan?"

**Commissioner Morgan**

"Mr. Clerk, thank you for being here and I appreciate it and thanks for responding to that because I had some questions about it and it sounds like you have answered one of my questions regarding the Havana issue vs. the Gretna issue so I think that clarified that. I think one of the things we had talked about moving forward since we have chosen to fund these different senior centers, which I have no problem doing that. I certainly on the same page as you..."

**Chair Holt**

“Could you speak into the microphone a little bit louder?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“A little closer please, the microphone, just bring it closer.”

**Commissioner Morgan**

“So, ah, I lost my train of thought there. But, no, I was going to say that I have no problem in funding if we choose as a whole to fund these different senior centers, that’s fine, but I agree with you 100%, it’s got to be done in the right way when it comes to these receipts or whatever, We have to work out among these Interlocal Agreements. I think what will help moving forward is just clear communication with these different organizations on not even just the senior centers, but anyone that we fund and have these agreements with, what the expectations are both from the Clerk, and from the Commissioner, you know, the Board and the Administrator. So, I think that will help us out, but thank you for clearing that up and thank you for being here.

**Clerk Thomas**

“Well, I agree with you. There was a question about the travel issue for Commissioner, City Commissioner Dowdell, who is head of the Tourist Development Council going to some event that the Clerk’s office determined was not related to tourism. These funds are special revenue funds, which mean they have to be used for a specific reason, OK? We concluded that the agenda provided was not related to tourism and therefore weren’t going to spend tourism money. I’m not sure if you are familiar with the situation out in Okaloosa County. They are dealing with a totally scale of money, hugely different, but they had some troubles spending tourist development council money and the government and cabinet summoned the whole County Commission and Clerk over to the Capitol. So people ended up losing their jobs as a result of that. So, special revenue money is collected for a specific purpose, we concluded that it did not meet that purpose. The burden of proof is then on the Board or whoever is challenging it to provide us with documentation to prove that we are wrong and we didn’t receive anything that convinced us that we were wrong on that. Let me, since we are talking about travel, had a couple of issues with travel and I’m talking Commissioners’ travel, OK. I’m not sure if you are aware of this, but it’s important. A couple of the County fuel cards were cut off and why did this happen? OK, several departments use these accounts and we need the receipts back in order to reconcile these accounts for the proper departments and the expenditure budget. When that didn’t happen timely, the card got cut off, that’s not a good thing because you could potentially have some of your staff out of town and needing to use those cards. Commissioners, when you travel, you need to come back and do your reconciliation, present the documentation because there are consequences when a Commissioner decides ‘Hey, I’m a County Commissioner, I don’t have to bring back the receipt’, OK? So, ah, yes, I’m talking about Commissioner Hinson, Commissioner Holt. And then, one other thing with travel while we are at travel; one commissioner gets rental cars and it appears that he is keeping that car a day or two after the event and back in town, that car is not being turned in timely. I think that is a liability to the County and certainly costs that that Commissioner should be bearing himself and not County. These things get put on the purchase card, but we are going to start doing, we are going to book these things that are due from that Commissioner so we can deal, we are going to nip these situations in bud and we are not going to accept undue pressure from any Commissioner thinking they can break the rules or get away with things that shouldn’t be.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Thank you Sir. Are there any...”

**Chair Holt**

“Commissioner Taylor”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes Commissioner Holt?”

**Chair Holt**

“Please, yes, I could not hear anything the Clerk said at all, but can you paraphrase right quick because I have some questions.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes I can. The Clerk talked about first Gretna and Havana. He did agree there was some disparity between the two. He did say that Gretna was not represented by a non-profit, however, Havana was. He did indicate that receipts should have been forthcoming from Havana, however, one of the Commissioners kind of, through the Administrator, promised that receipts would be forthcoming and because of that particular promise, the Clerk’s Office then released the funds to Havana.”

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

“But, subsequently, I don’t think those receipts were indeed received, so there is a default on the receipts from Havana so picking that particular item out at our last meeting indicating that there were no receipts, that’s the reason why there were no receipts from Havana because they were guaranteed in as much by Commissioner Hinson that those receipts would be forthcoming through the Administrator. He went on to talk then about, Commissioner Holt, about the travel for City Commissioner Keith Dowdell. His position there is that that particular travel does not meet the criteria outlined for using those funding. He then said...”

**Chair Holt**

“Criteria outlined in what?”

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Taylor**

“He said that he did not, he could not see where that travel was an allowable expense because of the rules and regs already set out by those dollars have been collected for TDC. But he did say something that was interesting...”

**Chair Holt**

“Alright, hold on, let me say this because I spoke with the Clerk and he told me if I got the information to him for the events he would be attending, and I got those from the mayor’s office and the representatives because looking at tourism items that we are hoping to bring back to Gadsden County and also the economic development part from the League of Cities to try to get funding for some of those items through the Legislature. So that’s why I sent over all of those items for tourism to the Clerk’s Office and that’s what I had a question about because their schedule and its all tourism and it’s already set up. That’s what the young lady sent over to his office.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“You are absolutely right and he did indicate to us tonight that if this Board could present to him evidence that...”

**Chair Holt**

“That’s what I did...”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Well, let me finish this one statement because that, here’s where your caveat comes in. If this Board could present evidence to his office that made that department, his department felt as if their decision or opinion was incorrect, they would subsequently change...”

**Chair Holt**

“I can barely hear you, you’re coming in and out.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“OK, let me just say it quickly. The evidence you present did not change their position in essence.”

**Chair Holt**

“And I’m wondering why because all of its tourism.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“I guess that’s a conversation to be had with him, but based on what he shared with, and Clerk please interject at any point...”

**Clerk Thomas**

“That’s correct.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Based on what he has shared with us, Commissioner, can you hear me? “

**Chair Holt**

“Yes.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Based on his position that he shared with us, it has to be evidence that could change their position and so according to what he said tonight at around 6:25, his position has not changed.”

**Chair Holt**

“Well, I have a question for the Clerk.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes.”

**Chair Holt**

“I need to know from the Clerk what would qualify as ‘tourism’ if not the items I sent because that’s what the City of Orlando is using as tourism. They have other data too. They even have people to take

Mr. Dowdell to look at some of these and look at the data. It was (inaudible) and one of the items that they have that they have been doing had over 20,000 people to show up in one year and that's also in the data and those are tourism items. That what we are hoping to try to get to bring back. I even got some (inaudible) a gentleman that is over tourism, he's supposed to have some information from Orlando also. So what I'm trying to figure out is what is tourism, if there's 20,000 there for one event and then there's another event that they sent to me today and there are several in that packet, so if those aren't tourism items, then what are? If he can just answer that for me and they can send something else."

**Clerk Thomas**

"He's approved to go to a particular event. The particular event is not related in any way to tourism. He's approved to go to a particular event; the particular event is in no way related to the tourism. Here we go again with this "stretch", right, I mean, we're not going there with this "stretch" to make something that's not there, we're just not going that route, OK? That's my position. I'm not going that route "stretching" something that's not. You're approved to go to this particular place, this particular event but it's not related to tourism and she goes all around trying to get this stuff and we read it, one said something about a duck pond or something, one of them. So, I don't understand this "stretch" to, when you are approved to go to something that's not related...Now, let me tell, so, if a member of the Board of County Commissioners wanted to go to this event that Commissioner Dowdell was approved to do to and was approved, you were paying for it from general fund money that will be fine, would be absolutely fine, OK? So, this "stretch" to use money that is collected for a specific purpose is not acceptable, OK?"

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Hold on just a second Commissioner, I did recognize Commissioner Viegbesie and certainly you thereafter Sir. But, but, Commissioner Holt, were you able to hear the response form the Clerk?"

**Chair Holt**

"No, I could not."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"OK..."

**Clerk Thomas**

"I really wish she would come back and we have a..."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Hold on Sir. Can you hear me?"

**Chair Holt**

"OK, I can hear you."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"What he said was, this particular event that Commissioner Dowdell has requested to attend, does not relate to tourism. He also said the information that was shared to him does not have the appearance to be on point for tourism. However, however, something you said a moment ago may help that that is for the two of you to talk and maybe give some additional information in lieu of what you have given instead of what you've given..."

**Chair Holt**

“I can’t hear, you said something about additional information...”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yeah, because what you’ve presented thus far, Commissioner, I don’t think has gotten you to the point that you want, but hold on, we do have a couple more comments if you don’t mind, because you did have the floor.”

**Chair Holt**

“OK, I was under the impression that economic development was part of tourism and that’s what the League of Cities said, that what part of that was. They fund different issues. The League of Cities is doing economic development, that’s part of their workshop that they are going to have in their legislative session and you are able to lobby these as we are for the Association of Counties, you go to the meeting, lobby for your position to try to get funding, then the League of Cities goes to the Legislature and helps you lobby for your funding. So that would be the plan, that’s the way Florida government works. But you have to get groups to lobby behind you because we can’t afford those types of lobbyists.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Alright, I think we understand your position. Can you yield just for a moment for two Commissioners?”

**Chair Holt**

“What I will do, I guess I will talk with the Clerk tomorrow, because I was told by him that if I provided the information, that he would approve it, the same as I did when I went to St. Petersburg for the murals.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Thank you, thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Viegbesie?”

**Chair Holt**

“Well I will give him a call tomorrow on that and on Gretna and anything that needs to be brought back and see if I can bring it back to the Commission I guess to not hold up the meeting because we’re policy and he’s auditor and we should be setting policy. No-one else in the County should set policy but the County Commission.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes, yes, OK, Yes mam. Hold on just for a second.”

**Chair Holt**

“Thank you.”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“Thank you Madam Chair. I think one of the things I was going to suggest is what Commissioner Holt has just said that she was going to do. What I’m hearing from this confusion is the fact that there is, I’m hearing the Clerk say there is a separation of, or there is a correlation between tourism and economic development and that these monies were raised for specific purpose of tourism and he does not see that particular trip as meeting the criteria specified toward the purpose. If Commissioner Holt and the

Clerk meets and they talk with one another about it, I hope they are not going to talk at one another about it and this would probably be resolved and will have no reason to come back to the Commission. Thank you Madam Chair.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Commissioner Morgan?”

Commissioner Hinson tried to speak.

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Hold on just for a second. I’ve got Commissioner Morgan and then I will recognize you Commissioner Hinson. Thank you.”

**Chair Holt**

“Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Hinson called you.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes, I’ve got him, I heard him, I’m going to recognize him as soon as Commissioner Morgan concludes.”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“OK, great.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Thank you Sir. Yes sir?”

**Commissioner Morgan**

“Thank you. So here’s why we’re having this discussion. I didn’t vote in favor in favor of this and I spoke directly with Commissioner Dowdell. Let’s be completely transparent about what this is. This is a Florida League of Cities meeting that will be attended by a City Commissioner whose City paid the registration but does not have the money to pay for the travel. They are looking for another opportunity to have the travel paid for. That’s why we are in this position. That’s exactly what Commissioner Dowdell told me and I would love for him to go and I think it would be beneficial. It’s just not right for the County to be paying for this trip. That’s just the way it is. That’s the right thing to do. So I’m not going to support that and I think that is what the Clerk is trying to tell us in a very professional manner that it’s just not the right thing to do. It’s not that we don’t want him to go and I’m sure it would be very beneficial, but let’s just call this what it is. It’s a Florida League of Cities meeting being attended by a City Commissioner from a city who has paid the registration and unable to pay the travel. Thank you.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Commissioner Hinson?”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“Yes, thank you Madam Chair, ah, for some reason I can’t hear as clear as you guys are hearing there right now. But I have a question for you Madam Chair. Can you please repeat what was said about me, Commissioner Hinson, I think you said that the Clerk of Court, he brought my name in there somewhere, I’m not sure what he said.”



**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes sir, ah, and please be aware I’m repeating and trying my best to paraphrase here. But what was said sir, was, ah, with regards to the receipts for expenditures from the Havana Senior Services, they should have been forthcoming, they should have been made available, but according to the Clerk, you talked with the Administrator and had the Administrator to contact the Clerk’s Department to ensure that if they would pay for those expenses, expenses, that receipts would be forthcoming is what he said. There were some other things but you asked about the Havana issue where your name was mentioned, so that’s pretty much in essence what he had said with regards to you on that particular issue.”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“Madam Chair...”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes?”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“First of all, I don’t recall saying that at all. I never talked to the County Administrator about making sure if they do this we’ll make sure that the receipts come through. So that’s an inaccurate statement from someone.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes sir.”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“So, I object to that. In fact put it on record. I did not say that, ah, I’m not sure where he got that from.”

**Chair Holt**

“Commissioner Taylor?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes mam?”

**Chair Holt**

“I’d like to say something in response to what Commissioner Morgan just said.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes mam.”

**Chair Holt**

“There is no right or wrong in policy and procedure to just have the approval or you do not approve it, but as far as the League of Cities goes, the League of Cities is the one that financed those roads that we got paved for that \$10 Million. That’s how we worked with the League of Cities before and it does not matter whether anyone thinks that an organizational title makes them assert the authority at the State level. The League of Cities has worked with the Association of Counties for years. In fact, the League of Cities sued before on behalf of a County Commission, sued the State and then the County Commission got in later. So, the fact that Mr. Dowdell is a City Commissioner is not important. What is important is he is Chairman of the Tourist Development Council and that Council, we need information coming to us where we can look at projects to bring to Gadsden County. There is no right or wrong in this, but it does

not make any sense for anyone in this County to believe the economic development, which is what they have on the agenda, that they're using for the projects with their cities. It's not important; yes of course that is tourism. The people at the City of Orlando laughed when they said 'You mean to tell me that 52 Million visitors coming to the City of Orlando to look at the projects that they have financed is not tourism? They said they will take anyone from up here around and show them the projects. It doesn't have to have tourism in it. In fact Mayor Dyer (inaudible) agri-tourism that is before the Legislature now, that proposal and that the agri-tourism is in the (inaudible) committee right now."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Well, Commissioner, I think you said it, I think you said it best earlier in your comments when you said two things that I jotted down. One was that needs to be another conversation between you and the Clerk and I'm sure you will be back here in ample time and then the other was, well I forgot what the other was. But, let's do this, no, I know what it was. You said you didn't want to delay this issue any further. So that was great. So, let's move off of it. Apparently..."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Madam Chair?"

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Yes? I did want to say this about you Commissioner Hinson. Please make notation Deputy Clerk of Commissioner Hinson's position on the statement made earlier, which was denying the comments made. OK. I'm sorry, Commissioner Hinson?"

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Yes mam, Madam Chair, also too, I'm just curious about this right here because I think during this time, I think like 2014, I'm not sure what year it was, I think Commissioner Croley was on board at the time, the ah, when I first brought this up about the Senior Citizens and they said as long as it was for County use or we think it's in the best interest of the County, ah, that we can, that we shouldn't have a problem. Now we didn't say anything, the Board didn't say anything about bringing back receipts or anything of that nature, if I'm not mistaken, and so, we just said as long as we think it best interest for the County and you know, they show us how they gonna, what they gonna use for that particular project, whatever. So I'm kind of unclear about changing rules without the Board's decision. I'm not sure because I hadn't heard anything about the position, I hadn't heard anything from the County Attorney about this situation here, maybe the law changed within a year or two, I'm not sure, but ah, also, ah, if I'm not mistaken, it doesn't have to be a non-profit, if I'm not mistaken as well, as long as the County says it's being used for a good cause and so, even that don't have to do anything with Havana, but, that's what I was, that's my understanding. So, I'm not sure, maybe, maybe the rules changed within a year or so. I'm not sure."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Well, well, you're bringing up some great points because to be very honest with you, as far as the rules with expenditures, I'm not quite that clear either Commissioner Hinson. So it seems as if we might need to at some point and time get some clarity, you know, but we'll have further dialogue. May I know acknowledge Commissioner Viegbesie, Sir, if you are finished?"

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Yes mam, I'm finished, I'm finished."

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes, yes, yes.”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“Thank you Madam Chair. I was just going to move that we move the agenda.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Ah, there is nothing on the floor, but ah, at this time, Commissioner Hinson, Commissioner Holt? We are going to go, we are going to follow on with the agenda, but in conclusion, I think it would be a great idea to speak with the Clerk and Commissioner Hinson, I’m on board with you with maybe having some dialogue or workshop or what have you so that we can have clarity on these expenditures going forward. So, we are moving on with the agenda.”

**Chair Holt**

“Do you think everyone, you think everyone will come?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“I’ll be there Commissioner.”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“Will the Clerk be there?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Oh, will the Clerk...yeah, he’s going...”

**Clerk Thomas**

“The Clerk will be there.”

**Chair Holt**

“Does he say he’s going to be there?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes, he just said it, just because you asked for him. Both of you asked for him so he agreed to be there as long as the time is convenient for all of us, OK?”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Taylor...”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Yes sir?”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“Just for, I know they threw my name out there, but I didn’t hear anybody that said I was untrue, so why, how did Commissioner Hinson’s name come up about what they said.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“Well, here’s what we are going to do. We are going to allow that conversation to be held with you and the Administrator because that seems to be the origin. So let’s, when you get back, why don’t you make

sure you have that conversation, Sir and get some clarity.”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“You don’t think the people that are there now needs to know that, so that they know we all on the same page?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“I think the people heard you clearly when you denied the statement made by the Clerk and I definitely asked the Deputy Clerk to make sure that goes into the minutes. So your statement has been recorded Sir...”

**Commissioner Hinson**

“Thank you, thank you very much.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“...in all fairness to you, Sir. Yes, Commissioner Viegbesie? You asked to move it”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“That’s what I asked for.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“The item has been moved. Next item Mr. Administrator?”

**CONSENT**

Mr. Presnell said the Consent agenda was before them.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Taylor asked Commissioner Hinson if he wished to pull anything. He said “Some things, like, ah, the minutes, sometimes, sometimes ah, I’m proud now to know that the minutes here are more rapid now, but sometimes the minutes be so long and so much out, some things you don’t remember (inaudible). So, this time I’ll say yay, this time.”

Commissioner Taylor asked if he said yes to the approval and he said yes. The vote changed to 5-0.

- 1. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**
- 2. Approval of a Resolution: Florida’s Healthiest Weight Initiative**
- 3. Approval of a Proclamation Honoring “World Pancreatic Cancer Day” on Gadsden County**
- 4. Approval of Minutes  
-October 20, 2015-Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING-Approval of Resolution 2015-022 Close-Out Budget Amendments for FY 2015**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2015-022 and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and Senior Management & Budget Analyst to complete and sign all budget amendments necessary to close out the 2015 year budget.

Commissioner Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from public and there were none.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIGBESIE AND SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 FOR APPROVAL OF 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**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was consideration of an ordinance to amend the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map for approximately 5 acres of land along Cox Road at the Florida/Georgia State line from Ag-3 to Ag-1.

Commissioner Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments.

**David Van Aman, 671 Ball Farm Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and asked the definition between AG-3 and AG-1.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Presnell explained Ag-3 is one residential unit per 20 acres and Ag-1 allowed one home to 5 acres.

Mr. Van Aman asked if the County had a minimum as far as if a person was able to rebuild if the home was burned, the Administrator said if the home burned, a person would not have to go through the process.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Van Aman said in Madison County you had to live on 5 acres of land and if the home burned, you weren't able to rebuild. Mr. Presnell then said he would have to check with the Planning Staff and he would not want to give an incorrect answer.

**Allara Gutcher, Planning and Community Development Director**, appeared before the Board. She requested to speak with the gentleman outside because his question had nothing to do with the issue at hand.

Commissioner Morgan asked to speak to Ms. Gutcher and asked her recommendation. She recommended approval of option 1.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE**

**BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE. (COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.)**

**7. PUBLIC HEARING: Legislative-Adoption of Ordinance 2015-013 for the Amendment to Chapter 2, Definitions and Interpretations of the Gadsden County Land Development Code**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to consider the adoption of amendments to Chapter 2, Definitions and Interpretations of the Gadsden County Land Development Code.

Commissioner Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Commissioner Morgan asked to speak with Ms. Gutcher. Ms. Gutcher appeared before the Board. Commissioner Morgan said he knew they were working on streamlining and updating the documents and Ms. Gutcher said they were working on each chapter and as they were progressing through, they were being brought forward to the Planning Commission, who makes the recommendation to the Board and there will be more in the future.

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

Commissioner Taylor asked the Administrator acknowledge visitors that were at the meeting. Mr. Presnell said the Warden from Liberty Correctional Institution and Gadsden CI was in the audience and asked him to step forward and he said a few words.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8. Approval to Accept the FY 2016/17 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposed budget calendar for the year 2016/2017.

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

**9. Approval of a Lease Agreement with Neighborhood Medical Center to Lease the Havana Health Clinic**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a lease agreement with Neighborhood Medical Center to lease the Havana Health Clinic located at 604 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Havana, FL.

**THERE WAS A MOTION FOR APPROVAL BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OF OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, MR. WEISS ASKED TO SPEAK.**

Mr. Weiss asked Commissioner Viegbesie to amend his motion to include the Resolution and state the approved lease agreement and adoption the resolution approving the lease and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Viegbesie amended his motion to include adoption of the lease agreement between

Neighborhood Medical Center and BOCC and authorize the Chair to sign and adopt the Resolution 2015-023 and Commissioner Morgan amended his second for same.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to talk with the County Attorney and Neighborhood Health Center before it was voted on because constituents called him with questions regarding this matter because they have been turned away from services there and needed to see how the situation could be improved.

Mr. Weiss said in response to Commissioner Hinson's comment, this was for a one year lease and the current contract had expired.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Authorization to Enter into a Grant Agreement and Authorize the Chairperson to Sign the Grant Agreement with the State of Florida DEO for Year Two of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and authorization to receive \$40,000 by entering into a grant agreement for Year Two of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program and authorization for the Chair to sign.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.**

**~~11. Approval to Purchase Six Dump Trucks~~**

Item was pulled

**12. Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2015-2016**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the second part of the 2015-2016 State Aid to Public Libraries that required submission of a Board approved Annual Plan of Service.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE OF THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if a workshop could be held regarding this matter so the Commissioners would know what was going on and how it could be improved. Commissioner Taylor said she agreed and asked him to bring this back up under his comments.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**13. Approval of Distribution Percentages of 6-cents Local Option Gas Tax to Gadsden County and Municipalities**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for acknowledgement and review of information received from Florida Department of Revenue regarding effective date and rates of the 2015/2016 distribution percentages for Gadsden County that the Department currently had on record concerning the Local Option Gas Tax on Motor Fuel and Special Fuel for Gadsden County

and eligible municipalities.

Commissioner Morgan asked how the percentages related to dollars based on the past year. Mr. Presnell said Gretna's 1.3% related to approximately \$30,000.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he imagined the percentages were reflective of the population of the municipalities and Mr. Presnell said they were based on budgets of the municipalities or road budgets, depending on how they do them and the biggest one, Chattahoochee for instance, had to show documents that they were spending so much on their road improvements and maintenance.

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

**14. Approval of the 2016 County Commission Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the 2016 County Commission Meeting Calendar.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it would be more appropriate to wait until the reorganization of the Commissioners and then approve this matter.

Commissioner Morgan said all this item was doing was setting the two meetings for the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was thinking what Commissioner Morgan said.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**15. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the workshop scheduled with GHI on December 3 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Quincy library.

Mr. Presnell stated that, as instructed, he contacted the Florida Association of Counties; they did not have anyone that they could send, but they found Vince Long, Leon County Administrator, who would be coming over December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., to hold a workshop concerning administrative succession plans.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**16. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available if anyone had questions and there were none.



**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had nothing to say other than to request a resolution and asked for a resolution in recognition for John Andrews for being inducted in Florida A&M Sports of fame. He said the event would be held on November, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12 p.m. at the Havana Magnet School in the gymnasium.

*Commissioner Holt rejoined the meeting at this juncture.*

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR MR. JONES.**

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to have a workshop scheduled on the library.

*Commissioner Morgan left at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Taylor asked the Board for a resolution or proclamation for Roselyn West Smith, who recently passed away and would like to have something presented at her service that was scheduled for the upcoming Saturday.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION FOR ROSELYN WEST SMITH.**

*Commissioner Holt re-joined the meeting by phone.*

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR KENNY’S TEES FOR BEING INDUCTED INTO THE GADSDEN COUNTY HALL OF FAME.**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she would like to let the Attorney know when they have their meeting regarding the policy and procedures for granting money to organizations that he be prepared and she asked that the meeting with the Clerk and any other interested entities be scheduled.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO HAVE MEETING SCHEDULED WITH THE COUNTY BOARD AND THE CLERK'S OFFICE AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES.**

Commissioner Holt also had a word of caution for the Commissioners when speaking about the Florida League of Cities and how they have helped in the past and reminded them they did finance the County's road paving project.

Commissioner Hinson also asked for a proclamation for parents, who have been married for 50 years.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR COMMISSIONER HINSON'S PARENTS.**

**RECEIPT AND FILE**

18. a. October 23, 2015 Letter from FDOT
- b. October 27, 2015 Letter from FDOT
- c. October 28, 2015 Letter from DEO
- d. Proclamation Honoring Benjamin Franklin Williams
- e. Clerk's Statement of Revenue

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

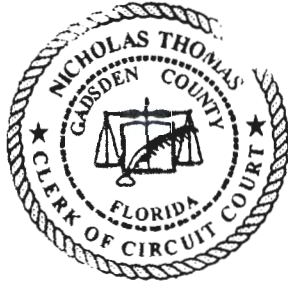
19. December 1, 2015-Regular Meeting

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
November 17, 2015 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

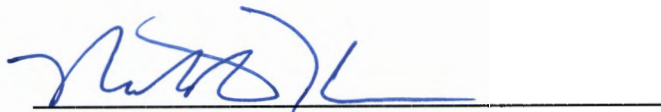
**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:26 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
SHERRIE TAYLOR, Acting Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS,