

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 5, 2016 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-arrived late
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5-arrived late
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner Hinson asked to say the Prayer and then Chair Holt led the in Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Commissioner Morgan arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Proclamation-Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Tallahassee Community College**
Mr. Presnell said there was a Proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of Tallahassee Community College and Chair Holt read the Proclamation aloud and then presented it to Dr. Murdaugh.

CLERK OF COURTS

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIRGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

- 2. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sarah Figgers, on behalf of her brother, Alfonso Figgers, 215 N. Chalk Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board regarding Shaw Quarters and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Commissioner Morgan thanking him for what he has done for their community. She also invited

the Commissioners to attend a ribbon-cutting on January 9th at New Bethel AME Church for a literacy reading room.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. PUBLIC HEARING-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2016-001 fir the Amendment of the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to adopt Ordinance 2016-001 for the amendment of the Conservation Element of the Gadsden County Comprehensive Plan. He explained there were comments from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on page two and asked the Board to approve this item with the changes.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone had any comments and there was no-one.

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

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Appointment/Reappointment of Board Members of Gadsden Hospital, Inc.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to seek approval of appointments or reappointments to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors. Mr. Presnell added that three of the members' terms were due to expire December 31, 2015 and Chairman Craig McMillan said two of the three had expressed interest in remaining on the Board. He added that Shelia Atkins did not respond and Shaia Renè Simmons had moved from the area and her position was also vacant, which would expire December 21, 2017.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT HERB SHEHEANE AND FRED DUDLEY FOR ANOTHER TERM AND APPOINT SAM PALMER TO REPLACE SHELIA ATKINS AND ARRIANE GRAHAM TO REPLACE SHAIA RENE' SIMMONS TERM. THERE WERE QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the candidates were from individual districts and if commissioners had any input in placing candidates on board. Mr. Presnell said there were no criteria as far as he was aware.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they could vote individually and not collectively and Commissioner Viegbesie did not wish to amend or withdraw his motion.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

5. Selection and Appointment of Members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for selection and appointment of members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council and stated Mr. David Knight had resigned and others had terms expiring.

Mr. Weiss pointed out there was a statutory configuration on appointments and was very specific by Florida Statutes how the appointments must be done and all three appointments must be involved in the tourist industry and at least one of them needed to be a bed tax collector and it could be two.

Commissioner Morgan said in looking at the list he was not aware of anyone beside Joe Munroe who was qualified and that was his recommendation.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE MOTION TO REAPPOINT PETER PATEL, APPOINT JOE MUNROE AND CAROLYN FORD. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. BEFORE THE VOTE, COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson agreed with Commissioner Morgan but did not want to overlook someone that owned a hotel because they had a vested interest.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

6. Approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Quincy, and authorization of the Chairperson to execute the Agreement

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control services with the City of Quincy.

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

7. Approval of Award Bid #15-15 for Security Services for the Quincy Library to Barkley Security

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

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Weiss if it was proper to go with the second lowest bidder or if they should re-bid this. Mr. Weiss said typically if the award was rescinded, they could go with the next lowest bidder and this was a little different because the contractor was selected and began performing and was later terminated. He said a rescission at this point was a little awkward, the library needed security services and with the previous company being terminated, there were no security services at the library. He felt Commissioner Hinson was correct and felt it needed to be re-bid in a short amount of time, but the reason for the current action was so there would be security services at the library in the meantime.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in hearing the conversation, asked why they could not award this to the next lower bidder for 6 months and then re-bid.

Commissioner Morgan said this had been put out for a bid, chose the low bidder, they failed to perform within the agreement and asked why the County and taxpayers were burdened with having to go through the expense of rebidding as opposed to taking the second lowest bidder.

Commissioner Hinson felt they should look at a RFP instead of a bid.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he hated to see the library with no security provided and agreed with Commissioner Morgan to let the second bidder finish out the term of the contract.

Mr. Weiss said his opinion was to reach out to the second lowest bidder to see if they were interested in providing services on a short term basis until they were able to get a bid submitted and then select a vendor at that time.

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

8. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Program

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signatures for the special assessment liens that were agreed upon by the homeowner, contractors and the Community Development Administrations SHIP Housing Down Payment and closing costs Assistance Program for the purchase of the new home.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had read through this item carefully and asked if they had gone through every opportunity to be successful...

Mr. Presnell asked Anita DeSilva to step forward.

Anita DeSilva, SHIP Administrator, appeared before board to address questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked "Did we go through every step, ah, we went through every single step there so we could make sure that, you know, that this, we won't get to this point here?"

Ms. DeSilva sked what point he was referring to and explained this was for a purchase of a new home through the Homebuyers' Assistance Program and a lien was placed on the home just for the first time homebuyers' closing costs.

Commissioner Hinson said he had misread the item, thought the home was being foreclosed on and then asked if they could go into incorporated areas and render services to other citizens. Ms. DeSilva explained they handled city and county.

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

9. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program or Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program "ER"

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts that were agreed upon by the homeowner, contractor and Community Development Administration's SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program or Emergency Repair Program for the rehabilitation of their home.

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

Commissioner Hinson said Ms. DeSilva was on top of her game.

10. Public Officials Bond Review

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said twice a year the Board was required to review the sufficiency of the Bonds for County Officers that included the Commissioners and constitutional officers.

Commissioner Morgan asked if these were individual bonds and Mr. Presnell said there were some that were grouped. Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Presnell to explain the purpose of the bonds and Mr. Presnell said it was to cover the taxpayers any losses in an official capacity for the County.

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

11. Approval to Sell a Parcel of County Property located on Archie Jackson Road

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said he wanted to explain to everyone that Craig Quattrain, the person who had bid on this, had recently passed away and he had not spoken to his wife as of yet to see if she was interested in purchasing the property. The attorney interrupted him and informed the Board that they could not convey property to someone that had passed away.

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

12. Approval of Non Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Human Senior Services for FY 2015/2016

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Human Senior Services for FY 2015/2016 and for authorization for the Chair to sign the documents.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THERE WERE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE VOTE.

Commissioner Taylor said they might want to tread lightly on approving a lump sum and not stating an amount not to exceed in a lump sum and felt there needed to be measures in place to

be assured that services were being rendered and dollars were being spent accordingly and they were accountable and responsible.

Chair Holt asked the County Manager if there had been problems with the senior citizens performing services in the past and he said not that he was aware of. He added the Clerk had issues that they had been working on and the agreements was developed in conjunction with the Clerks' Finance Office, the Attorney and all the Non-Profits had signed and agreed to it. He also pointed out some items that were in the agreements that was necessary for the funds to be received.

Chair Holt said she had no problem with the organizations receiving the lump sum up front and Commissioner Hinson concurred.

Commissioner Morgan said specifically with Gadsden Arts, they send out every year a detailed budget to show how the money was spent and he agreed with what Commissioner Taylor said. He added he spoke with the Clerk, read the agreements and the Clerk agreed with them and now knows they had deemed the organizations are to a County good and there was public good toward dollars invested. He also added that the Clerk had a concern of paying the dollars out in a lump sum up front and thought it would be much better for him to pay out quarterly as the reports were turned in because he was personally liable for every dollar approved through his office of taxpayer funds and felt even if funds were approved by the Board and not deemed appropriate, they should not be disbursed.

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

13. Approval of Extending the Agreement with Gollahon Financial Services, Inc. for Financial Advisor Services

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to extend the agreement with Gollahon Financial Services, Inc. and for authorization for the Chair to sign. Mr. Presnell also explained his services were only used if they did a bond or refinanced a bond.

Chair Holt asked what his last contract was for and Mr. Presnell explained his fee was a flat \$18,000 per bond. Chair Holt then asked if this was a service they should bid out. Mr. Weiss stated this was a service that should be bid out but they were looking to extend this contract and could be done for up to three years.

Commissioner Morgan said she asked some very good questions and had no problem with the agreement if it made sense fiscally and asked what the true fiscal impact had been to the County the past three years.

Chair Holt said they could bring this item back with more information.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said the Development Council would like to do a workshop regarding the incentive policy on January 19th at 4:30 p.m. prior to their regular meeting.

He then informed the Commissioners they were working with Midway to open a branch library.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said he had concerns and asked that when something was going on in his district that he be informed and said he had also learned that EMS had moved and learned this in Church.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell said they had to move a camper over to house them and the floor fell out and they had to re-locate them. Commissioner Hinson said he was unaware when it happened and Mr. Presnell said they had nowhere to place them.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was not sure that Mr. Presnell had the authority to make that decision and Mr. Presnell stated it had not happened that long ago and they had nowhere to place them and Commissioner Hinson said that was not the problem, the problem was it happened months ago and said anytime anything happened, he would like to know because "it was an embarrassing moment".

Mr. Presnell also mentioned the email concerning the invitation to "Galvanizing Gadsden County" that the Development Council, Chamber of Commerce and Mainstreet was hosting at the Arsenal in Chattahoochee and said the County was to receive recognition from the State.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss informed them they were granted leave to file an amicus brief in the Supreme Court for the Gretna Racing and would be filed the next day.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was no uniformity of signage in incorporated areas of the County and felt a need to re-evaluate the County's policy regarding billboards on the I-10 corridor and added that people traveling along I-10 would be able to see the billboards and get information

on services and attractions there were in the County. He also wanted to discuss the BOCC policy on signatures on resolutions and felt it should be from the Board and all should sign and when presented, all five commissioners should be present and not just one person. He asked the Administrator when they would issue an RFP for the second phase of road projects and when should the Board expect the projects on the agenda. Mr. Presnell said they were a week away and had a meeting this morning and was still working on some of the Commissioners' technical specifications for some of their selections. He then requested the Board schedule a retreat regarding recommendations that had been previously made as soon as possible.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney if he was looking into the policy of Resolutions and Proclamations and Mr. Weiss said he was. He reminded them that the County Commission acts as a body and they could not take any action on the behalf of the Commission without having a vote of the majority of the board approving. He added for a Resolution to be adopted, it needed to be considered at a public meeting and the majority needed to vote to adopt the Resolution and did not need to be signed by everyone but the Chair at least needed to sign after approved by the board.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO PRESENT POSTHUMOUSLY A PROCLAMATION TO THE FAMILY OF ELLEN BRYANT.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said based on attorney comments, asked if they wanted to issue a Resolution on their own behalf in their own district if they had the ability to do so. Mr. Weiss said he was not aware of any prohibition and Commissioner Morgan said that was all he needed to know. Commissioner Morgan said there was a vacant seat coming up on Planning and Zoning and would like to have it placed on the Agenda the first meeting in February. He asked for an update on the first phase of the roads as to when they would be laying asphalt.

Curtis Young, Public Works Director, appeared before board and said hopefully they would be able to resume by the end of this week and stated the cold weather had interfered and would be in District 3 hopefully the middle of next week.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said it had been brought to her attention at the intersection of Pat Thomas and Crawford Streets there had been a few accidents and asked if they could put in a request to FDOT to do a study for a traffic light. She added that she was aware it was a State road and said maybe a request could be made

She also said were three items on the Agenda that were legal issues that apparently had not been reviewed prior to the meeting tonight; two were tabled because of lack of information and one was postponed regarding the security at the Library and she was concerned.

She said she heard Commissioner Viegbesie on his quote from the Bible of items not being personal and he has mentioned that constantly since he has been on the Board and she said they have personal interests on what is around the Board and they talk from their hearts and experiences, have to position themselves from their knowledge and said it was almost impossible to separate yourself when trying to come up with good decisions for the citizens and felt they had

to maintain some type of intuition and integrity where they make decisions.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked Commissioner Viegbesie on bringing up the signage and asked if the sign on I-10 could have Midway added to it coming from Tallahassee because it only says Quincy even though it was a Midway exit. Mr. Presnell pointed out it was a State road and Chair Holt said it might work better if the City of Midway requested the change along with the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested with that item and the one that Commissioner Taylor mentioned regarding Pat Thomas Highway if Mr. Presnell would give him some pointers on it he would take it to the to the next CRTPA meeting.

He thanked Commissioner Morgan for talking about the delay in the road paving and had had citizens calling him for a status report.

He then asked about the red light in Concord and asked the status. Mr. Presnell stated the engineer was not present and he would follow up with him and said there was a “very good vibe from DOT that they would fund the project” and he would follow-up on it.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said if there was an opportunity, she asked that folks go to Quitman, GA, because there was a grain bin with a beautiful mural on it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if it was Quitman or Colquitt and she confirmed it was Colquitt.

Commissioner Hinson said when he was in Tampa and Plant City over Christmas break he noticed they had palm trees and thought it would be a nice addition to have that on the I-10 exits to invite people into the County.

Chair Holt said to Commissioner Taylor regarding items being vetted, she wanted them to come to the Board because if not, there was no input and she was not very strict on what was or was not on the Agenda and felt discussion was a good thing.

Receipt and File

17.

Gadsden County Division of Emergency Management Quarterly Report

UPCOMING MEETINGS

24. **January 19, 2015-Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 5, 2016-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:49 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk