

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 1, 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-arrived late
 Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 Debra Minnis, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for prayer and Reverend Key then said the prayer. She 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 there were some amendments to the Agenda and added Item 4A-Adoption of County Mission Statement to formally adopt the Mission Statement of the County and there were two revised items- Items 8 and 10. He said they were in the packet and advertised but changes were made by the Legal Department.

Commissioner Morgan asked why add the Mission statement to tonight's meeting since it had not been properly advertised. Chair Holt responded it was not a money issue and felt it was not improper to add.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was indifferent and felt the sooner the better but if there were concerns or something else needed on it or a reason to delay for proper announcements for the hearing and as long as "it stands the legal ground as it has from the point of view of our attorneys, I don't see why we don't do it now or we delay or whatever difference it makes, whatever the Board chooses to do, I will vote with it. But I think we worked on developing it and we need to start using it. That is my personal point of view."

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR WITHOUT ADDING THE MISSION STATEMENT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. (CHAIR HOLT ASKED THAT IT BE NOTED THAT COMMISSIONER HINSON WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE).

Commissioner Morgan said he felt Reverend Key would like a moment to speak to highlight the program he was working on and Mr. Presnell said he would be able to speak after the presentation of the Health Department.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. State Surgeon General Community Champion Award

Rachel Guy, Health Educator and Healthy Weight Coordinator, Gadsden County Health Department appeared before the board, made a presentation and then presented an award to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

Bobby Key, Chaplain/Evangelist with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, appeared before the Board and had a few words to say.

CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk Thomas was present and said he had been previously informed by the auditors the audit may be little late to no fault of the auditors or the Clerk's office but due to a new add counting standard called GASB 68 that required as of September 30, 2015 (end of fiscal year) that the audited financials reflect the County's portion of the liability in the Florida State Retirement System and every County was going through it. He added the Clerks' Office was informed by the Division of Retirement that the schedules would not be ready until the end of March and counties would be notified when they were ready.

CONSENT

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

- 2. Approval of Minutes
January 5, 2016-Regular Meeting**
- 3. Ratification to Pay County Bills**
- 4. Approval to Accept the FY 2016 1st Quarter Report**
- 4a. Adoption of County Mission Statement**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Jane Hayes, 1253 W. L. Martin Road, Chattahoochee, FL 32324, drainage ditch easement. Mary Jane Hayes appeared before the Board regarding an easement that was deeded to the County off Glen Julia Road for drainage purposes in 1965 to be maintained by the County. She requested the ditch be maintained and said it was vitally important to the drainage on their piece of property and Mount Pleasant. Chair Holt instructed her to get with the Manager to discuss the issue. Mrs. Hayes said they had been to County Road and Bridge Department and a work order was done in April 2014 and then told them a piece of property needed to be cleared of the dirt and cattle fence and this was done last year. She then said they had been back and a Supervisor and employee walked the ditch and discussed cleaning it out and after that they said there was no recorded easement or deed for easement and the Hayes' had a recorded copy. Chair Holt advised her to get with the Administrator to see if it could be solved with him.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. PUBLIC HEARING-Transmittal of a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment for Approximately 25 acres on Fantana Lane to the Department of Economic Opportunity for Review (LPA 2016-01)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to transmit the proposed amendment to the Department of Economic Opportunity for review as an amendment of 25.52 acres from Agriculture 3 to the Recreation land use category. He added the amendment was necessary because of the acreage the board bought six weeks ago for the park in the St. Hebron community.

Commissioner Viegbesie moved for the approval of the transmittal of the Map Amendments to DOE for review and comment.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the wetlands and how the issue could be addressed because that was one of his areas of concern for Gadsden County was the development of the wetland areas. Mr. Presnell said it was over a 20 acre tract and a stream was located on the back side of the property in the associated flood plain and there were no plans to develop in or near wetlands. He added the park would be up on Fantana Trail on about 15 acre parcel that was level, but added they might decide in the future put a walking trail in but not at this time.

Commissioner Morgan asked how the adjoining landowners had been notified and Mr. Presnell everyone within 1500 feet was mailed a certified letter and had one response asking questions about the intent.

Commissioner Hinson said he was interested in the flood zone and it interested him "because according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map they say this parcel has an area of Flood, I mean, Zone 'A', which is defined as area of 'special flood hazard subject to, to, what..."

Mr. Presnell said in the creek there was a band on either side that was within FEMA flood zone designation but was confined to the creek itself. Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Presnell with his knowledge and judgment, if it were a good piece of property to invest in. Mr. Presnell said they had been on the entire property and the front piece was a good, level piece and usable and the backside had the creek and not developable other than maybe walking trails and when the Board made the decision to purchase the property, it was quite a bit below appraisal. Commissioner Hinson said they were purchasing 25 acres but only able to use 15 acres and the ten acres was "really just something just out there."

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was one looking for property for a park and recreation center for the community and the property came to his attention and he had personally walked the property and the part where creek is (sensitive land) could be used for a walking trail, a part of recreation,

and that part of the creek could be reclaimed and made into fishing pond where kids could do recreational fishing and the 15 acres was good for basketball, softball, baseball, etc., and the remaining 5+- was still suitable for recreational use of other forms of recreational activities. He said all 25.52 acres would be used for recreational activities of different kinds.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a great idea, but hated to tamper with wetlands and flood zone areas and infrastructure was something they needed to look at and keep an eye on hurricanes and tornadoes.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING (Legislative)-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2016-004 for Amendment to the Future Land Use Map for a Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment (SSA 2016-01)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a public hearing to adopt Ordinance 2016-004 for the amendment of a cumulative total of 5.97 acres of land of the Future Land Use Map from various categories to the Public/Institutional land use category for five different volunteer fire station sites in unincorporated Gadsden County. He further explained this was a clean-up item, that a glitch had been found on the map when they worked on the project at the Concord Fire Department and also found many fire stations were in AG and this was a clean-up item to get all fire departments in the Public Institutional category.

Chair Holt asked if the public had any comments.

Dusty House, 434 Mt. Calvary Church Road, Quincy, appeared before the Board, asked how this would affect the Robertsville Volunteer Fire Department. Chair Holt said it only changed to zone the land public and aside from that, nothing else changed.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Tactical Drug Enforcement Training-Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and it was for approval to pay training cost for ten Task Force Officers to attend the Tactical Drug Law Enforcement training at the Institute of Police Technology and Management in Jacksonville, FL from March 28-April 1, 2016.

Commissioner Morgan asked if training was given locally in the region and Mr. Presnell asked Deputy Sheriff Investigator Alexander to come forward.

Brian Alexander, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Investigator, Narcotics Task Force Commander, appeared before the Board to address questions. He said the class was only offered once a year and it rotated throughout State and was scheduled for Jacksonville this time. He added that the money was for registration fee, hotel and per diem for each officer.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why there was only one representative from Midway and Investigator Alexander said it was because of staffing, they could only afford to have one member to be on Task force and as they increased the number of officers, they would be able to increase the number of members on the Task Force.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Administrator to identify the training fund source. Mr. Presnell said there was a law enforcement training fund that was collected every year and the Clerk maintained the fund and was set aside specifically for law enforcement training of some type.

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

8. Impose a \$5.00 Fee on Civil Traffic Violations

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for direction on the Gadsden County School Board's request for the County to impose a \$5.00 fee on Civil Traffic violations and added the funds were to be specifically used for drivers' education programs.

Commissioner Hinson said he had had an opportunity to do research regarding this to see if other counties doing this and found a lot of areas approved this and he was in support of it.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney if the civil traffic penalty statute said \$5.00 or up to \$5.00 and Ms. Minnis explained the statute was specifically for \$5.00.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was no impact on the Clerks' office having to collect the fine and Mr. Presnell said he never received specifics but there may be some impact. Mr. Thomas said the impact was \$1,250. Commissioner Morgan asked of the \$5.00 collected per violation how much would go to Gadsden County Schools and Mr. Presnell said it was to be evenly divided and the State was not receiving any money. He explained the Clerk could not use it to purchase the software; it would be disbursed to the schools.

Mrs. Minnis explained the statute, that it shall be used for enhancement and not replacement of driver education program funds and to be used for direct educational expenses and not for administration and it was Florida Statute 318.1215.

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

9. Approval of Resolution 2016-006 Supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST to Apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding Through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature by the Chair in support of the CTST applying for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program for a sidewalk at the Crossroad Academy.

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

10. Florida Arts Trail Task Force Recommendation

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the letter of support for the recommendations of the Florida Arts Trail (Trail) Task Force. He said the BOCC workshop was held on November 5, 2015 to hear an update from FDOT and to discuss the trail project. The BOCC directed the County Administrator to appoint a task force to make recommendations regarding the Trail and the task force met three times. They addressed concerns from residential areas and agreed that measures should be taken to address the issues of the businesses along the proposed trail route. He said both he and Commissioner Viegbesie met individually with the business owners and their concerns were identified and took them back to the task force to incorporate into the recommendations. The task force recommendations were prepared and presented back to the Board for consideration tonight. He explained to the Board the task force recommendations, one of which the length of the bike trail would begin in the Town of Havana and end at the intersection of Point Milligen Road and that the extension of it going into the City of Quincy was not supported at this time.

Jack Kostrzewa, Interim Executive Director, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA), appeared before the Board and said they had taken on this project three-four years ago and the premise behind it was economic development and connecting communities and providing safety. He added this was a high-priority project and his concerns were if it stopped in Pt. Milligan, the project would drop in priority and they would move on to another project.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad they were now handling the project in the manner it was being handled and including citizens in the project and felt if they had been included from the start, they would not be where they were now. He added if the suggestions the citizens had made would impact the project and change the classification of the project and dropped it lower in priority, that was what the citizens wanted and they were here to represent the citizens' needs and not to impose upon them anything they did not want. He suggested to adopt the recommendation and said he would take it to CRPTA and "let the chips fall where they may".

Commissioner Morgan said he knew a lot of work was put into this item and had a hard time understanding how the economy would benefit and how it would impact in a positive way. Mr. Kostrzewa said it would attract people from different regions to utilize the trail, they would be stopping in the businesses along the way and once word was out, more and more people would utilize the trail. Commissioner Morgan said he was not necessarily an opponent of the trail, but had an issue with where it was being proposed for safety reasons along with the other reasons stated. He asked if the project could be considered in the future for a different route. Mr. Kostrzewa said if it was moved off Highway 12 it would require a different assessment of where it would go.

Commissioner Hinson asked the costs for this project and Mr. Kostrzewa said it was hard to say but somewhere between \$7-9 Million.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the workshop, economic impact questions were asked and there was no doubt trails had a positive economic impact and use of the trails would provide a ripple effect of other businesses coming in to provide services. He added there was a bike ride Sunday from Havana through Georgia and back and Havana saw the impact on the businesses and there would be economic impact from the bike trails. He also said he understood this was a project grant and the money was specifically designated for that project and could not be used for another route. He said he would like to see the County have it but not to the detriment of those

that would be affected.

Commissioner Taylor echoed the sentiments of those out there that would feel the impact and recalled a meeting that was held where the citizens did not have an opportunity to have input but to listen to what was given from the representative that was designing the road. She said if everyone was satisfied and their representative spoke for the majority and was the will of the people, she was willing to second it and move the question.

Chair Holt said at the time the public meeting was held, she was on the Board along with Commissioners Morgan, Taylor Lamb and Croley and it was discussed several times, but she did not remember the notification part but it was passed. She said she had seen the bike trail on the South side in Tallahassee and it was beautiful and the one in Savannah was outstanding. She added she felt if they did it, it should go from Havana to Quincy, even if it was altered some and not stop halfway. She said the outcry should have been when this was first discussed and decided. She further said there was a big problem with doing all the work with CRTPA doing the work and putting this project first and other ones were put back.

Commissioner Morgan said she made mentioned reference to when the prior board first considered the project, he wanted to note that no-one realized there were thirty-one residential properties impacted by this or the safety issues on the other end of Highway 12. He said he was not opposed to an arts trail but was opposed it in the wrong place and felt important to consider the fact that the only thing worse than not funding something is funding it at the wrong time or funding the wrong project. He said she made reference to the public but felt there was a lot of the public not happy with the proposed bike trail, even with the changes and recommended that they not move forward with it.

Commissioner Hinson said "What I've heard from you is that if we approve this right here there's a chance that it may be moving down, maybe as far down or taken off and also for some people, it would send a bad message toward Gadsden County that why I know they want a project but just like, I know you want that bridge over there. That bridge is about to fall over, but if we wind up approving that bridge and put all our investment in that bridge, these business folk, they understand what I'm talking about. They may not like this particular project, but they understand what I'm talking about. They may not believe in that bridge, we want to approve this bridge, but once we approve it and put all our staff out there and put millions of dollars into it, then a change of guards at election hit again, they may say they don't want the bridge. So I don't think we need to be focused on Gadsden County. I think we need to focus on Tallahassee and Jefferson County and other areas. That's how business folks operate. So, if, I think that we need to do, we need to make sure that all five folks or people and business folks that was on the plan here, we need to make sure they accomplish, we as a County Commission can offset some of this stuff and help them out some kind of way. We got funding, each Board member got certain dollars in their district just like I got to put up \$112,000 to fix lights over there in Concord. Commissioners in district probably can figure out ways that he can do that before you guys get there. But to let you go out now and go back to the office tomorrow, that project is over with and so that project's done. That \$9-10 Million that y'all had y'all were investing to Gadsden County is gone. That lady who's leaving who plan on leaving, she's gone. A lot of other folks in Tallavana community could be gone and so personally we got to look at the...I was born and raised in that District, I was born and raised there, and so what I'm saying, they got issues. Let's solve those issues that they have, maybe the County Commissioner could solve those issues, I'm not sure. Thing is about the time

you guys get there, we already satisfied the problem. I'm not sure it may cost us about \$100,000 whatever, \$200,000 to get it done ourselves but we need to let it happen. That's \$8-10 Million we about to let it go and also the chance for us to provide safety. I can't imagine got hit, a guy told me in certain communities that some cars is almost to their bumper about to hit them. So we don't want to have that on our shoulders and in our hands. So I'm just curious about that, again, we need to take care of those concerns but yet we don't want you to go back tomorrow and say 'Hey, they don't want it so forget about it'".

Mr. Kostrzewa said it was great they were involving the public to a greater detail about the project and whatever comments there were they would take to the Board and Department of Transportation because they would be ultimately responsible for the PD&E study. He said some of the issues brought up were valid concerns and the PD&E study was worst case scenarios and they were looking at standards that laid out the trail based on the standard that was adopted. He added when it came to the design, that would be when they take a look at where they could get variances and move project lines and move them away from properties but that could not be done in the PD&E study because they were looking at the worst case scenario for the project. He said their comments would be addressed and asked them not to shy away from the questions they wanted to ask and encouraged them to ask the questions now. He said there were variances that could be done beyond the PD&E that could make the project work.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Mr. Kostrzewa had spoken on what he was going to speak on and said the concerns of the businesses the County would not have to address, it would be addressed by DOT during the design; but the DP&E was where the trouble was. He further added if they altered the PD&E, it would impact the ranking of the project. He explained if the PD&E was allowed to stay, and the concerns of the citizens and businesses' safety would be put into action in the design of the project itself. He added to change the connectivity of the project, would adversely impact the PD&E. He added to approve the recommendations of the task force and him as the representative of CRPTA would present it to them and CRPTA and FDOT would be the ones to decide whether or not they would go through with it.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.

Commissioner Taylor pointed out there was someone that wished to speak.

Suzanne Letz, FDOT Urban Liaison to the CRPTA, appeared before the Board to clarify that the PD&E was not approved until such time Federal Highway approved it and was not finalized and the final approval did not lie with CRPTA or FDOT, but with Federal Highway.

Commissioner Hinson said why he was so compassionate about the situation was because unless he was looking at something different, the Havana merchants were anticipating a crowd coming and patronizing them.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED.

A gentleman in the audience asked what the vote was for. Chair Holt explained it was for the approval and authorized the Chair to sign a letter in support of the Florida Arts Trail Task Force recommendation and ask that the recommendation be included in the PD&E and project development process design and right-of-way acquisition. Commissioner Viegbesie explained every item the citizens recommended would be presented to CRTPA at their next meeting.

11. Request for Procurement Policy Amendment

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to amend the Procurement Policy for heavy equipment repairs specific to Public Works Department. He said repairs done by vendors could not always be completed in a timely manner without having a considerable amount of downtime, which hampered road repairs and maintenance and since the Board changed the procurement policy to the \$5,000 threshold, it had worked well in most of the day-to-day operations but they were running into problems with Caterpillar and John Deere. He said most of those repairs were expensive and there was nowhere to get the required bids that the Board required and they were running into difficulty with the Clerks' Office. He explained if one of the companies came to do a diagnostic, they would break the equipment down and then may have an \$800 bill for it; then to get other inquiries or bids; it would have to be put back together and pay them to bid it out. He asked the Board that the policy be amended very specifically to the Public Works Department and specific to certain pieces of equipment.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not understand the issue with making the amendment and was unsure of the negative impact it would have and at the proper time he would make approval of option one to amend the policy.

Commissioner Hinson said they recently purchased six dump trucks and felt before they made that move, to wait until budget season and discuss it before making that decision tonight.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the amendment was just an amendment of one section of the entire Procurement Policy and dealt specifically with heavy equipment. He also pointed out in Section 2.3.1 it was highlighted and stated that 'should a purchase exceed \$5,000, the County Administrator shall agenda the item for ratification by the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting' for the expenditure to be made.

Mr. Presnell explained to avoid down time, they needed the policy change.

Mr. Thomas also told the Board that the Finance Department supported the policy change.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not see where it contradicted the present procurement policy and would only expedite the fixing of the damaged equipment.

Chair Holt said if it went over \$5,000, it would come back to the Board.

Mr. Presnell said he just needed the authority to get the machine back operational and would still get the appropriate approval.

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

12. Approval of a Temporary Easement and Resolution with the Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to enter into a Temporary Easement with the Florida Department of Transportation on Commerce Blvd. in Midway, FL.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said a workshop with the Industrial Development Board was scheduled for April 5th prior to the regular meeting at 4:30.

He told them the Hospital Board workshop was scheduled for March 17th at 6:00 at the Havana Library

He said Becky at FAC had been working with them in scheduling training for appointees and will be held at the IFAS Center but no date was scheduled yet.

He said Gadsden County Development Council has a soft launch on their new website and once the kinks were worked out, they would incorporate it into the County's website.

He spoke with George Hackney regarding a tour of the new facility at the medical marijuana facility maybe on March 15th prior to the regular meeting.

Chair Holt said she spoke with the Manager and felt before a meeting would be a good opportunity to tour the site.

Commissioner Taylor asked about one of the businesses that was not able to proceed had protested and Mr. Presnell said there were several that protested and one that had protested had already had the hearing and the hearing was in their favor. He added that the State was looking at issuing more licenses in other areas to settle the lawsuit but this was exclusive from Pensacola to here. Commissioner Taylor asked about the number of jobs available and Mr. Presnell said it was not big at this point but there were some.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had the opportunity to be present at the First Baptist Church breakfast when the engineer and co-owner of the business came to do a presentation and he was very impressed with the operation. He said this was not the kind to get you high; it was used for medicinal purposes and had jobs that pay because the skill set was higher but other jobs within the operation that would require skill set available here.

Commissioner Taylor said quite bit came out of the retreat and some goals were outlined, one in particular where they would start working with other municipalities and since the Mission Statement had been adopted, it was time to start putting it in action and asked Mr. Presnell how soon he thought he could bring back objectives to the Board on how they could be implemented. Mr. Presnell said very soon and they rushed the Mission Statement tonight so the work could get out and announce some of the other initiatives, goals and objectives the Board worked on. He said

they would be making goals and dates with the Staff and be accountable for them.

She asked at an earlier meeting about land for possible recreation/parks area on Joe Adams Road and wondered when it would be agendaed. Mr. Presnell said the Building Department looked it over and found nothing negative regarding safety related.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Update on Various Legal Issues

Ms. Minnis said she had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

15. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had a number of things to comment on and expressed his sincere appreciation and complements to the Body and Staff for the collaborative job well done at the last retreat where they were able to develop a Mission Statement for the County and hoped they continued to put the interest of citizens first.

He added that now the Mission Statement had been developed, there was another document he had not seen and he had been on the Commission for almost two years and had not seen nor been provided a standardized annual job performance evaluation instrument for the County Attorney and/or the County Administrator. Mr. Presnell said there was one for the Administrator, but he had not seen one for the Attorney. Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to see one developed for the Attorney. He also stressed at this point it was not an attack on anyone and asked everyone to listen intently to what he was saying.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO LINSHELLS BOUTIQUE AND MS. LINDA DIXON.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said the first thing that came to mind regarding Commissioner Viegbesie's comments regarding the evaluations was to reach out to Vince Long again.

He asked the Administrator about an update and renovation to the Park on Hardaway Road and wanted to see about how they could get restrooms added to that Park.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked where they were with the current paving project and the future bidding process regarding the paving of the roads and Mr. Presnell said the bids would be opened this Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

She asked if it was too soon to talk about workshops for the budget and Mr. Presnell said the first one was set in May.

She then apologized to the Board regarding the last meeting and her conduct and said they were there for a reason and that was to stay on task and be courteous to one another. She said she was trained better and now that the meetings were televised and they had a mission, they needed to stay focused with that mission. She assured the Board going forward that would be her constant reminder and demeanor to stay focused, professional, courteous and do her best to be the very best Commissioner she could.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said last year they had talked about bringing a Community Center to Havana and asked if that was moving forward.

Commissioner Taylor left at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell said that had been discussed when they were doing the CDBG proposals and that would have to come from the Citizen Advisory Task Force but there had been no further discussion since the Board chose housing. He added they were working on an economic development CDBG grant now that they would hear at the next meeting. Commissioner Hinson said the biggest problem they had now was the Health and Fitness Center in Havana closed and they were trying to identify a spot and half of the attendees were senior citizens and need somewhere to work out along with something for the kids. He thought he had talked to Staff and thought they were working on something to try to identify a building. Mr. Presnell said Dee Jackson may have been working on something other than the CDBG because there were a lot of different grants and she would be back next week from maternity leave and he would mention it to her.

He felt it would be good to have another retreat and talk about staffing plans and direction of the Board.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said they would not be able to do the Canvassing Board and had spoken to Shirley Knight and she said thought at first they could vote on someone to stand in. Chair Holt said she then spoke to Judge Sjostrom and he was putting his staff on it and Chair Holt told him Mr. Presnell could fill and he agreed a citizen could do it. She said she would like to put in a motion to have Mr. Presnell serve as an alternate if needed.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with regard to the Canvassing Board, there were only two dates in March he would not be available to be there at the exact time they were needed to be there because of class and if someone had to be there, if Mr. Presnell could, then he would relieve him as soon as he could get there.

Commissioner Hinson made the second.

Commissioner Morgan had questions. Ms. Minnis said she understood there were four dates the board would meet and two of the dates Commissioner Viegbesie could not be there at the time it started and Mr. Presnell could be there until Commissioner Viegbesie could arrive and this was a safety measure.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE MR. PRESNELL AS AN ALTERNATE.

Chair Holt said she liked the idea of having copies of statutes available when items come up so the Commissioners could see it for themselves.

She then said the City of Gretna was annexing a large parcel and the Board could not control what they annex, but there had been questions from citizens regarding that. She told them to contact the City of Gretna if the annexation did not take roads, then there would be problems. She further stated that because of the annexation, 1,300 feet of roads now belonged to the City of Gretna and they would have to maintain those roads now.

She mentioned that the Bill to include minority farmers passed Monday and the Slots bill was kicked back and hopefully it would come back.

Commissioner Hinson recognized the former Mayor of Gretna Howard Randolph and former City Mayor Keith Dowdell that was present at the meeting.

Receipt and File

16. a. Letter from DEO
- b. Letter from City of Gretna re: Voluntary Annexation
- c. Resolution Honoring the Life of Mrs. Irene Houston

UPCOMING MEETINGS

17. March 15, 2016-Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 1, 2016-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA S. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk