

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 15, 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  
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**

Chair called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked for moment of silence and then led in Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to pull Item 17 that was in the Agenda and replace it with the replacement before them.

**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**

**1. Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Update**

**David Gardner, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce**, appeared before the Board to give an update for the Small Business Service Center.

He gave an update of staff and said he knew the BOCC had recently come up with a Mission Statement for the County. He also gave a brief overview of the Chamber, listed objectives and key Chamber initiatives.

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

**Dr. Nick Comerford, UF-IFAS**, appeared before the Board and said a few words concerning the GROW GADSDEN program.

*Commissioner Taylor re-appeared at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Rob Nixon, Small Business Program Consultant**, appeared before the Board and said a few words and gave the Commission an update regarding the Small Business Services Program they had invested in. He listed the purpose, mission and the services they provided and said the services were provided to any Gadsden County resident and they did not have to be member of the Chamber to take advantage of the program. He added through the Chamber they were able to

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market the businesses. He also gave a breakdown of the Program Metrics and stated to-date they had served 109 businesses and of those 39 were sole proprietorships, 19 were current incorporated businesses and 51 were unregistered businesses. He added they were not seeing "easy" businesses such as car detail shops but instead was seeing more hands on, labor intensive businesses starting.

**Marlon Marshall**, whom they met through the Re-Entry Program, appeared before the Board and told them how the Chamber had helped him in creating and presenting his invention to FAMU, with the help of Mr. Nixon and the Chamber, and they were now in the process of putting it into fruition and added it could bring jobs to Gadsden County.

Ms. Tammy Ceasor appeared before the Board and said briefly how appreciative she was of the Chamber and went to them with a 25 bed idea for a group home facility, but decided to go with a smaller facility and hoped in November to be able to open a 15 bed facility.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Nixon if he had been checking with the cities and county regarding permitting because she had new businesses telling her they had not been contacted by the Chamber.

Commissioner Viegbesie entered into record that he was a member of the Canvassing Board and would not be present for the entire meeting because his presence was required at the Canvassing Board.

*Commissioner Viegbesie left the meeting at this juncture.*

Commissioner Taylor thanked them for their presentation, said there had been a lot of accomplishments and would like to see presentations from them more regular.

Chair Holt added that she would like to see a monthly presentation from both the Chamber and the Development Council.

**2. Recognition of Linshell's Boutique and Gifts, LLC**

Chair Holt presented a Certificate of Recognition to Linda Dixon and Linshells' Boutique and she brought some models with her that modeled some of the clothing that came from her boutique. She also mentioned that she had been asked by Thomasville to come over for their Kentucky Derby Party and sell her hats.

**3. Super Why Summer Reading Camp**

Mr. Presnell stated Mr. Harrison was not present.

Commissioner Hinson asked to recognize all females and said March was Women's Month and specifically wanted to recognize both Chair Holt and Commissioner Taylor.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

**4. Value Adjustment Board Information**

Clerk Thomas told the Commissioners that the Value Adjustment Board was a statutory requirement that allowed citizens to petition for review of their property taxes. He explained there were five members, two of which were BOCC members, one School Board member and two

citizens, one that was appointed by the BOCC and was a homestead property representative and the other was a business owner that occupied commercial property that was appointed by the School Board. He advised them that Ms. Martha Peeler did not wish to participate this year and wanted to allow them enough time to find a replacement. He also pointed out the provision that allowed the School Board to pay two-fifths of the costs of the Attorney with the Value Adjustment Board making the appointment. He advised them to allow their Attorney to review this matter.

**CONSENT**

Mr. Presnell said the Consent Agenda was before them.

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

5. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **November 5, 2015-Workshop Meeting**
  - b. **January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes**
6. **Ratification to Pay County Bills**
7. **Consideration of a Transmittal of a Support Letter to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council for the Application of a Grant to Study the Feasibility of a Trail in Western Gadsden County**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Linda Dixon, 4332 Attapulgus Highway, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and had questions regarding the Chamber's presentation this evening and asked that they stay firmly involved. She and asked how individuals received help regarding their program and stated there had been no contact with her regarding her business. She added she was concerned with what they were designed to do.

Chair Holt said the individuals that appeared here tonight stated they had gone to the Chamber but she was looking for the Chamber to contact businesses.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING-(First) Community Development Block Grant**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said they needed to adjourn the meeting for a short period for a public hearing.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

Mr. Presnell stated the purpose of this hearing was to obtain citizens' views regarding community development prior to drafting the application. He also said this was the first of two required hearings. He explained the County was eligible to apply for up to \$750,000 in neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization and housing rehabilitation categories and up to \$1.5

Million in the economic development category.

Chair Holt asked if there was any public input and there was none.

The meeting was re-convened at this point.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any specific project in mind. Mr. Presnell explained this would go back to the Citizen Advisory Task Force and when it came back before them, they would have the particulars at that point. Commissioner Morgan asked what he was approving tonight and Mr. Presnell said it was for them to apply for CDBG funding for development.

**Dee Jackson, Grant Writer**, appeared before the Board and said there was a project they were looking at but was not able to elaborate until the second public hearing was held.

Chair Holt said they were simply approving the process tonight, not the project at this time.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND AND HAD A QUESTION.**

She asked if the meeting was re-opened correctly and Mr. Weiss explained that technically they were not in a BOCC meeting but the correct process had been followed.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **9. FDOT Grant Application Cycles**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to submit grant applications to FDOT under the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) and County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP).

Commissioner Hinson said there was a road in his district in Concord and was not on the list and could not recall the road name and asked that Curtis Young to step forward and Mr. Young said it was Horseshoe Road.

Commissioner Morgan moved approval of Option 1.

Commissioner Taylor said her understanding was roads in the districts had already been looked at and asked when the work would be done.

Chair Holt had questions regarding roads in her district.

Justin Ford, Preble Rish, appeared before the Board and said roads could be switched out and Ben Bostic was in much worse shape than Atlanta Street.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Glade Road was part of this and was told no, that there were a ton of roads in each district and they tried to select strong candidates.

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

**10. Approval of Task Order 2016-001 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Bettstown Road Paving Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for the Bettstown Paving Project.

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

**11. Approval of Task Order 2016-002 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Brickyard Road Paving Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for the Brickyard Road Paving Project.

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

**12. Approval of Task Order 2016-003 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Howell Road Paving Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for the Howell Road Paving Project.

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

**13. Approval of Task Order 2016-004 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Peck Betts Road Paving Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for the Peck Betts Road Paving Project.

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

**14. Approval of Task Order 2016-005 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Telogia Creek Road Paving Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for the Telogia Creek Road Paving Project.

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

**15. Approval of Task Order 2016-006 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers, for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the McPhaul Road Paving Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for the McPhaul Road Paving Project.

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

**16. Approval of Task Order 2016-007 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for Phase II of the Gadsden County Road Improvements Projects in County Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the Chair to execute a Task Order with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for Phase II of the Gadsden County Road Improvement Projects in County Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

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

**17. Approval of Lease Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the William A. Inman Agriculture Center-Livestock Pavilion (Material to be Provided)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and this was for Board approval of Resolution 2016-007 to authorize the submittal of a rural business development grant application in an amount not to exceed \$199,000 to the United States Department of Agriculture and attached also was a letter supporting the Ag Extension/Farmer's Market Project.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a deadline and Mr. Presnell said yes.

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

**18. Request for Law Enforcement Educational Fund for Training Purposes**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to use Law Enforcement Educational Funds for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Active Shooter Training Exercise at Gadsden County Schools. He added the total amount requested was \$12,400.

Commissioner Taylor asked if funds identified in another source and Mr. Presnell said it was collected from tickets and the funds set aside by the Clerk and was to be used for law enforcement training.

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

**19. Approval to Appoint New Library Commission Member**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a request for the Board to appoint a new member to the Gadsden County Public Library Commission. He added that a member had recently resigned and approval was sought for the Board to appoint Mrs. Ethelyn Cunningham.

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

**20. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Down Payment and Closing Cost Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to satisfy the Special Assessment Lien that was agreed upon by the Homeowner and Community Development State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Down Payment and Closing Cost Program and authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

**21. Request for Monetary Support for the Relay For Life of Gadsden-American Cancer Society**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was seeking monetary support from the BOCC for the "Team Gadsden County" Relay for Life to help raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Commissioner Morgan said he supported this but asked why they were giving funds from taxpayer dollars and felt it should be a personal contribution instead.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure the public had clear understanding and thought in the past only a few dollars was raised and they wanted to help out. He then asked how much had been raised to date so far and Mr. Presnell said there had been two events and so far had raised \$1500 approximately.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE \$1000 FOR RELAY FOR LIFE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**22. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded the Board that summer was coming and they were trying to get work out about the 2016 Youth program and would be accepting applications March 24<sup>th</sup> - April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Holt was concerned about hospitality training and stressed the importance of same. Commissioner Hinson talked about training and mentioned this last year the need for staff to be patient with kids and parents and they needed to start with training Staff.

Mr. Presnell reminded them Thursday was the chicken dinner for Relay for Life at lunch on the Courthouse Square.

He reminded them of the Industrial Development workshop on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 before the regular Board meeting.

He reminded them Thursday was the joint workshop with the Hospital Board at the Havana Library March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

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He asked for a Proclamation for Roberta Stephens who was celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION.**

He also asked for a Proclamation for National Library Week.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION.**

Commissioner Hinson also asked for a meeting or workshop with the librarian and would like a workshop with all staff and when they have the meeting, for each one to make a presentation.

Chair Holt suggested holding it once a month.

Mr. Presnell asked for a Resolution for Melvin Ray.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

Mr. Presnell reported to Commissioner Taylor regarding the property on Joe Adams Road for the park that there was nothing restricting the property from being used as a park if they wished to pursue it.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**23. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said there was nothing to report but was available for questions and there were none.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**24. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she understood the second round bidding for paving came in under costs and ample dollars were left. Mr. Presnell said some districts had money left and some had nothing left. He also said if anyone had something they wished to change to please let them know so it could be addressed.

She asked to agenda the park item and said she was interested in how they concluded it was a safe area.

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



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Commissioner Hinson had a question regarding the lease agreement for the Ag Center and wondered with rural development if they could have a Farmers' Market on the east side of the county around Midway or Havana instead of the west side. Chair Holt said they were trying to get money built up for renovations and the building belonged to the State.

Commissioner Taylor said she was very touched with the comments by Commissioner Hinson with regards to him recognizing her and Chair Holt and felt it was very heartfelt.

He said they were able to get \$150,000 for a water study in Midway and \$300,000 in Chattahoochee for replacing water lines. He said as County Commissioners they need to be prepared and get infrastructure in and increase the tax base.

Mr. Presnell said he was having a joint meeting with Auburn Ford Friday to discuss projects dealing with infrastructure.

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

Chair Holt advised him to meet with the Manager concerning what he wanted.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked when pick-up for large items would be and Mr. Presnell said it was usually during the fall of the year.

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

Chair Holt asked everyone to keep their ears open for events to help veterans.

She said with the City/County joint meetings, to make sure they get with them and get/give a list of wants and needs that they need.

She asked when meeting was scheduled with the Industrial Board, and Mr. Presnell said it was April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. She said they needed to have information on the new industry and the Casino was not dead yet.

She mentioned the bill was passed and minority farmers would be able to go after contracts.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned they were working on adding a red light on Concord Road and said in the meantime he wanted to add caution lights/speed sign showing how fast cars were going on Highway 12.

He said also there had been complaints on Highway 159 and Highway 27 where some folks have been killed.

Commissioner Hinson also said he would like to have a press release regarding the widening of High Bridge Road because a lot of folks had died on that road and he wanted to let everyone know that funding to widen the road had been found. Chair Holt said to look at the list and publish that to let everyone know what they were doing.

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Receipt and File

25. **Substitute Canvassing Board Member Appointment**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

25. **April 5, 2016-Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**  
**April 19, 2016-Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:52 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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**BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**