



Gadsden County, Florida

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Havana Town Council Joint Workshop

JOINT WORKSHOP MINUTES
May 19, 2016 at 06:00 PM
Havana Library

Present: County

Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4 (excused absence)
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

Present: Havana Town Council

T.J. Davis, Mayor
Vernell Ross, Mayor Pro Tem
Karen Bass
Shirley McGill
David Norman (absent)
Matt Thro (absent)
R.L. Miller (absent)
Howard McKinnon, Town Manager

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order (Eric Hinson, Vice - Chairperson)**

Vice – Chair Hinson called the meeting to order. He then welcomed everyone and gave a moment of silence for Chair Holt with the passing of two of her brothers.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3 minute limit) – N/A

General Business

2. **Legislative Priorities (Robert M. Presnell, County Administrator)**

Mr. Presnell welcomed everyone. He said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss legislative priorities for the Town of Havana and Gadsden County as a whole.

Commissioner Morgan commented how this was a great idea coming together with the different municipalities. "When any County has a win the whole county as a whole has a win." He said there are a

couple of points they will identify. He said this year it was water supply, but you must have identified some items.

Council woman Karen Bass said her item was revitalization of the downtown area.

Howard McKinnon, Town Manager, commented on the sewer project and spray field. "We need to help put down payment on land for the sewer" Other items mentioned:

- Water – they have CDBG
- community center
- fire station
- CDBG – housing rehab
- 9th Ave repaving – SCOP

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said what he is envisioning, is what they can go after, there is power in numbers. He mentioned Gadsden County Day where all the municipalities have identified objectives. He spoke on a united front.

Councilman Ross said his concern was about the elementary school for recreational facility.

Commissioner Hinson said a proposal was given by the County to the School Board advising they wanted to sell. He said they would find out more information at their joint meeting.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:28pm

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said there was a private proposal that out bid the County and it failed, they will find out more when they meet with the school board. He also inquired about the old high school.

Public Concern

Amy Mc Bride stated her concern was cable and internet connectivity in the unincorporated areas of Havana.

Commissioner Taylor asked about going into internet services for yourself in their town. She spoke of the need and revenue that could be generated. She said a good starting point would be to talk to the City of Quincy and get some feedback as to the do's and don'ts.

Mr. Presnell said he would contact AT & T and try to get communication started as to what is the problem and how it can be resolved.

Commissioner Taylor said let's get them to the table and maybe the Town of Havana can generate some revenue.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned Broadband increase as top priority for the County.

Amy McBride, concerned citizen spoke of the High School and Middle School; Recreational Services for children and the remodeling of the Senior Citizens as other areas that need some attention.

Commissioner Hinson spoke on Senior Citizen upgrade. He said there was an issue of utilities, help with bill. He noted County provides \$10,000 and a van and mentioned the renovations that had already taken place.

Councilman Ross asked when the money is allocated does the Center have any accountability.

Commissioner Hinson said they do.

Councilwoman McGill asked who is over the \$10,000.

Mr. Presnell said the Center is over the funds.

Commissioner Hinson discussed the need for a Community Center; he said they will need land or old building.

Commissioner Taylor praised Commissioner Hinson stating he had really been working on his areas.

3. Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) Appointment (Robert M. Presnell, County Administrator)

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie discussed CRTPA and how they would resolve the municipality representation on CRTPA for Gadsden County. He mentioned some other counties rotate every 2 years. He said the language is very difficult; this is why he suggested it rotate every 2 years within the municipalities.

Attorney Weiss said they can donate their vote to the county representative. The municipalities need to decide.

Mr. McKinnon said he was appointed by the Town of Havana in the past to be the representative. He said he would talk with other City Managers.

Councilman Davis spoke on how ineffective the meetings use to be.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said the meetings are very productive and Gadsden is being paid attention too. He said the other smaller counties they all look out for one another.

Commissioner Morgan asked who determines how the Board is set.

Attorney Weiss said the State makes that determination.

Mr. McKinnon discussed Bike Path.

4. Infrastructure (Robert M. Presnell, County Administrator)

Mr. Presnell said lighting and bridge had been discussed.

Commissioner Hinson talked about paving projects: such as 4th Avenue and Hampton Heights sewer issues.

Mr. McKinnon said they have done a study on the sewer and will get with Mr. Presnell on the results.

5. General Discussion (All Board Members) – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:23 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

**Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Gadsden County, Florida**