

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 4, 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
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and 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 he would like to pull Item 11 from the Agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Recognition of Mr. Nate Brown

Mr. Presnell said there was a presentation for Recognition of Mr. Nate Brown of Big Bend Transit. Mr. Shawn Mitchell appeared before the Board to accept the award on behalf of Nate Brown, who was running late.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

2. Recognition of Gadsden County Public Works Participation and Support in the Get Going Gadsden Healthiest Weight Initiative

Dr. Adrian Cooksey-Wilson, DrPH, MPH, Health Officer, Gadsden County Health Department, appeared before the Board and said "Get Going Gadsden" continued to encourage healthy weight and eating habits through exercise and nutrition. She said there were nineteen teams that participated across the County and accounted for 369 participants and this year they doubled the weight loss total from 2015 and collectively lost a total of approximately 1,200 pounds from January 2016 through July 2016. She said the GC Board of County Commissioners led by the Public Works team lost a total of 141 pounds and presented them with a trophy.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Health Department for their efforts and the Public Works Department for an outstanding job on their weight loss. He then said that four years ago he was

236 pounds and two weeks ago the doctor's office measured him and he was at 218 pounds. He said it was his goal four years ago to lose half a pound a month and had lost 18 pounds in four years.

3. Open Enrollment for Affordable Care Act Insurance Plans

Tomica Smith, Florida CHAIN, appeared before the Board and spoke about the open enrollment for the Affordable Healthcare Act Insurance plans. She said the open enrollment will start on November 1st and will end on January 31st. She said they would be in Quincy twice a month and would also be in Gretna, Chattahoochee and Havana. She said they also planned on attending large events to people could sign up.

Commissioner Morgan asked her if they discuss with people the prescription drug coverage as well and the impact that could have. She said yes and she explained.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were any handouts.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

CONSENT

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

4. Approval of Minutes

a. **August 2, 2016-Regular Meeting**

5. Ratification to Pay County Bills

6. Central Receiving System Grant Application Support Letter for the Apalachee Center

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval of Resolution 2016-022-Traffic Maintenance Agreement Attachment with the State of Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for approval of Resolution 2016-022 for the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement Attachment with the State of Florida Department of Transportation to fund the County \$11,742.00 for assistance with the Signal Light Agreement in Midway

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

8. Approval of Engineering Consulting Services for Gadsden County

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of one or more engineering firms to provide engineering consulting services for the County and Staff recommended the two already under contract.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A SECOND. CHAIR HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.

Chair Holt asked about Spectra that had applied. Mr. Presnell said this was not the first time Spectra Engineering had applied, when in looking at the scoresheets, they scored pretty close but when the evaluation committee totaled the points, Spectra was not in the top.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the light in Concord and said six to eight months ago the Board approved the traffic light there and was wondering why the light was not up yet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in looking at the metrics and the cumulative evaluation form, DBP and Associates had a total of 96.5 points and Dewberry/Preble-Rish had a total of 95.5 and asked the rationale why the firm that scored 95.5 was recommended over the firm that scored 96.5. Mr. Presnell said DBP was ranked ahead of Dewberry/Preble-Rish and the two were currently under contract, based on their decision two years ago to go with two firms.

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

9. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signatures for a special assessment lien for a CHIP Housing down payment and closing cost Assistance.

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

10. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessments Liens and Rehabilitative Contract-SHIP

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signatures for a Special Assessment Lien and Rehabilitation contracts for the SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program or Emergency Repair for the rehabilitation of a home.

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

~~11. Approval of the Renewal of the Contract with Con Techs Health & Safety to Provide Drug and Alcohol Screening Services and Training Services~~

Item pulled

12. Approval of Agreement with Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center

Mr. Presnell

"Item 12 seeks Board approval of the agreement with the Gadsden Chamber of Commerce Small

Business Service Center and the Gadsden County BOCC. “

Chair Holt

“OK, anyone here from the Chamber?”

David Gardner, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board.

Chair Holt

“Alright, tell us about your accomplishments.”

Mr. Gardner

“We did a presentation with a full report earlier, but we continue to take care of a tremendous amount of business opportunities, I think we are around 140 open files of folks that are trying to start businesses and I believe our job count is well over 100 now, I can get you the data around that. The reports we have given you has all the details on the accomplishments, the number of meeting, the programs that we have going on.”

Chair Holt

“OK, ah...”

Mr. Gardner

“We work very hard at it and...”

Chair Holt

“Ah, so, did you, were you able to get any businesses started, any up, who are they...”

Mr. Gardner

“We have a number that are opening right now with regard to specifics, I didn’t bring those particular businesses with me but you are going to see them very shortly downtown there are several, a couple in Havana, several in Chattahoochee that hare happening right now.”

Chair Holt

“You need to let everybody know David.”

Chair Holt

“Well, I wasn’t6, I thought he had already done the presentation around the specifics, but we can get you the list, you know...”

Commissioner Viegbesie

“Thank you Madam Chair. During the course of this current fiscal year, there were some questions that were asked and ah, I still need clarification on that question as to who is the contractor that we are signing with on this particular aspect on the agenda, the Chamber of Commerce or GCDC, because my understanding is the person who actually runs this Small Business Service Center is accountable to both of these agencies to have a collaborative effort with growing the small business sector of this community. I feel, I read through the contracts, maybe Mr. Attorney, maybe somewhere that I did not see who is the person responsible, who are they accountable to, is it the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce or the Gadsden County Development Council.

Mr. Weiss

"The contract is not specific to a particular person; the contract is with the Chamber of Commerce to provide services under the Small Business Center Services program. It's not specific to a person in any way, shape or form. And the services that the Chamber is agreeing to provide in exchange for the funding are on the exhibits.

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Because the reason why I'm asking was, if I recall correctly, if my memory serves me right, there was a point that I think came through this body as to the payment of the Small Business Services provider, Mr. Rob Nixon, who also gets a check for services provided because he works with the GCDC. That's why I'm asking that question, if he works with both organizations and I think in the project that we have for GCDC, there is also some monies in it for small business services and if he is the Small Business Service provider and being paid by both. That is why I'm asking as to who is this contract with. Is this a separate aspect of the contract with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and then we have another amount of monies with GCDC that is also a part of his services. That's all I'm, I mean this is fine with me, all I'm asking for is to get some clarity as to that issue because I (inaudible) at one point earlier on this year on this body.

Mr. Weiss

"Yes sir, there are two separate contracts; there's one with the Chamber and there is one with GCDC and neither of them are specific to any particular person, therefore sums of money provide economic development services and there, how that money is spent in terms of salary, wages, materials, education, you know, I mean, that's within the budgets for those organizations."

Chair Holt

"OK, Commissioner Hinson, you were next and then Commissioner Morgan."

Commissioner Hinson

"First of all, I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for their..."

(Chair Holt's cell phone rings)

Commissioner Viegbesie

"Madam Chair..."

Chair Holt

"I know I turned it off, it doesn't like me. Go ahead, I'm sorry."

Commissioner Hinson

"Since I'm the Vice-Chair, Madam Chair, you can be excused."

Chair Holt

"I can? I would love to but they won't let me."

(laughter)

Commissioner Hinson

"Well, I want to personally thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the citizens in

Gadsden County personally and in my district as well, also throughout Gadsden County. Because even with some of the projects that I call you guys for, and I know you get sick and tired of me calling ya'll. I call ya'll sometimes at 9:00 at night time for some issues there and you guys already to help someone, so I must give you guys credit for that and ash, I think ya'll deserve whatever it is, maybe twice as much maybe for me aggravating you guys about the citizens here in Gadsden County, so I had a Pastor that was able to start up a daycare center and ya'll was able to jump right on in and give him I think \$10,000. Someone else got credit for it but the Chamber of Commerce was the one that really jumped out there and did that. So, I really thank ya'll for that. 'Preciate that."

Commissioner Morgan

"Thank you Madam Chair. David thanks for coming before us again tonight. I know tonight's item in my opinion is about the agreement itself, not about the presentations and those kind of things we saw earlier. I did review those as well as the four quarterly reports that were sent out and I appreciate that. I get them every time. I think it's important for us as a Board to remember it's not, as the Attorney was telling us, this is not between individuals, it's between the County and the in this case, the Chamber of Commerce to provide services to maintain and grow the small business services. It doesn't matter if Rob Nixon is there tomorrow or not, and I think he does a great job, they may even contract within the Chamber with someone else to provide the services. The issue is, are the services being performed and I think the evidence to that is in the reports that we have been presented. So I appreciate that, but there are several moving parts and pieces on that as well. The Chamber participates also in retention and growth of our existing businesses and many other efforts under a rather large umbrella, so it's all kind of a part of a piece in the pie. But this one is strictly between these two organizations and the next item we are going to be talking about a different agreement between a different organization. So it's not individuals, it's the organizations and the services that we are asking for in return for that sum of money. So, and again, I appreciate the information, I certainly support it. Thank you Madam Chair."

Chair Holt

"OK, thank you, and I got, it's the Clerk's fault. I'm just teasing about the phone, ah, because I just got a message from over there. But, what I want to say is, the \$40,000 what I'm looking for, you know, someone you gotta blame (laughing and looking at the Clerk)...But anyway, the \$40,000 I'm looking for if it's tied to anything, how to we, you know, I'll be asking the other group the same thing, if it's for business retention, how much is going towards that as opposed to business recruitment for small businesses."

Mr. Gardner

"Right, everything that I understand, the contract is related to small business support that may include some expansion, may include some retention, but for the most part it is entrepreneurial, you know, start-up of businesses. So, that's where our effort is and like I said, we keep files on each company or entity that we're working with, which the County certainly can look at. As lot of these situations involve very private matters and related..."

Chair Holt

"I understand, I just wanted to know about what we are putting towards each one so we, when we look at it on the ground what do we see. That's the type thing. But, thank you very much. We have a motion and a second for approval. All in favor?"

The Commissioners voted in approval of this matter by voice vote 5-0.

13. Economic Development Professional Services Contract

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a related item and was for Board approval of the Economic Development professional services contract with the Gadsden County Development Council and the BOCC. He said this was for \$160,000 to provide economic development services and \$40,000 of that was also for small businesses.

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

14. Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained annually the Public Works Department must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for matching funds according to Florida Statutes Chapter 388.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked if another driver had been added and Mr. Presnell said that had been done for the season and were utilizing existing Public Work employees to operate a second truck that they owned.

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

Chair Holt asked that they take a break to address speaker forms that she received late.

Mr. Wilcox, 1380 Hutchinson Ferry Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board regarding issues in the community and how he felt regarding disabled youth. He said he was an Exceptional Student Ed teacher and was asking for support from the Board both socially as a Board and as individuals as he moved forward with trying to create opportunities for the disabled youth to enable them to be more involved in the community. Chair Holt suggested he get with the Manager to let him know of some ideas he might have and he could pass it on to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson said it was interesting that he appeared before them during the month of October and it was Anti-bullying month. He pointed out that the Board set aside ten jobs for special needs students during the Summer Youth employment and thought what he was talking about was more character building, self-esteem and other things that could help them and then said he was not sure what he was trying to say, but knew where his heart was at and knew it was a great conversation they needed to hold.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the name of the entity or organization he was working with and said it was a very commendable idea and said later on he would be asking to include in the agenda the creation of a position for a Director of Gadsden County Health and Human Services which

would include services for physically and mentally challenged children and individuals in the County. Mr. Wilcox said he was not a part of an actual organization but he was a school instructor and worked with them on a day-to-day basis and saw some of the things that were happening in the community that they were left out of.

Charles Roberts, Jr., 605 East Betlinet Drive, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and said he had recently retired from the Army and returned to Quincy. He added that he had been watching the Emergency Management Department and when Hermine came through, he watched things and his question was why there was not a dedicated staff for Emergency Management other than deputies outside of at the Sheriff's office and felt his mind was other places until something happens. He added that he felt the Deputy was distracted because if you visited the site, the documents and equipment was out of date, ranging from 2001 to 2014 and that some of the criteria within the documentation was out of date and FEMA no longer did that and some of the equipment, grants could easily be gotten for and he knew this from two days of research. Chair Holt explained the BOCC was over the Emergency Management and right now it was managed by the Sheriff's Department. She said they could not take action on things that come up like this; it would need to be agendaed.

He then asked when the Board would vote for applications for the other committees. Chair Holt said they have asked for people to apply and keep an inventory for when there were vacancies.

15. County Administrator's Contract

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an extension of the County Administrator's contract. He added that on September 20th, the Board discussed the issue and staff was instructed to bring back options.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the one that asked to bring this item back for them to look at it and make a decision. He then asked the attorney if there were any issues or if there were any changes. Mr. Weiss said it was an extension of the existing contract and there were no changes with the exception of the dates.

He personally thanked the Board for listening to him and felt they could go ahead with option 1.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was actually the one that suggested it be extended for one year but was concerned they had not received a succession plan showing a timeline that coincided with the end of the date of October 2017 to show a smooth transition and unless that was in place, they still "will be kicking the can" in 2017. He added that Mr. Lawson was no longer with the County to fill in as Interim and they now had the Administrator, who was doing a good job, but someone needed to come in when he left. He further stated it did not matter how long it was extended, but one year was better than six months. He asked how the County would move forward and how did they go from the end of his service to a new administrator.

Mr. Presnell said he sent information to them today and it laid out exactly what Commissioner Viegbesie had been talking about since day one. He further stated he received the information from the Florida Association of County Managers and that Vince Long was no longer President and the lady that has taken over for Mr. Long said they were willing to help for \$5,000.

Chair Holt said when they discussed this matter two years ago, she suggested they contact the

Association of Counties and they would look at the whole state and advertise throughout the whole country.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not sure Gadsden County went by kinship, friendship, relationship too much and wondered when they would start hiring people from Havana and Midway and was not fair for citizens of Gadsden County to apply for jobs and not get the jobs.

Commissioner Morgan said the email from the Administrator was what they had before them from Mr. Long months ago. He said the majority of this Board put them in the position they were in today.

Graves Williams, 1960 Solomon Dairy Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and said in listening to their comments they were on spot with how he felt. He added they could not hire someone off the street and they do a good job, there needed to be a plan in place. He added that he agreed with Commissioner Morgan and that they ought to keep Mr. Presnell for as long as he was willing to stay but agreed there needed to be a succession plan in place. He also said they could not hire someone off the street because it was a complicated job.

George Hackney, 1020 Dogwood Drive, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He said there were applicants that met the criteria for medical marijuana, they applied and received a call on November 23, 2015 that they were selected for Northwest Florida and had to have the building done in 75 days. He said Leon County told him and his partners there was no way they could get things done in the timeframe needed. They called Robert Presnell and things got done and they were first ones in the State to be dispensing and it was because of Mr. Presnell. He said he agreed with everything Graves Williams said and wanted to reemphasize the help received from Robert Presnell when he worked at Water Management and he helped to show him the way.

Mr. Williams re-appeared before the Board and said he had heard them talk about bringing new businesses to the County and they definitely needed to support the old-line businesses that have been here forever.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with the email he just received from the Administrator, he was ready to make a motion.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT FOR AN ADDITION YEAR. SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan said they could keep the Manager and he could hire an assistant and when it came time to fill the Manager position, the Assistant could apply if qualified for the position. He added that he heard from prior discussion, they have an employee that was in the Florida Retirement System and in the DROP, why not offer him the opportunity to serve until his DROP ended.

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

16. Review and Approval of the 2017 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a review and approval of the County's 2017 Legislative Priorities.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had taken time in looking over the priorities and this was an improvement to one they had previously and they were getting better. He then asked about the bridge replacement on County Road 159 at the Attapulugus Creek and thought it was funded and due to be started in 2018.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell said it was in the five year work plan and were requesting for funds to be appropriated for construction this session.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1, SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

17. Commission Appointment/Reappointment to Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for the Board to appoint or reappoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds for the Gadsden County Jail for the provision of inmate programs and services.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER GENE MORGAN TO SERVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

18. Appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority (QGAA)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint Mr. Clifford Hill as one of the Gadsden County representatives to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

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

19. Approval of Translator/Interpreter Contract for the Probation Department

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the translator/interpreter contract for the Probation Division.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said he had a few items:

The DEO Representative and the Enterprise Florida Representative would be present on November 15th for a presentation to the Board;

Some of the Commissioners had mentioned striping issues and the bid was going out and the third phase of the paving bid;

He informed them the Concord traffic light was bid and they received two bids and was on the next agenda for them to award the actual construction contract and said the project came in a little under budget. Commissioner Hinson asked when the light would be ready to go and Mr. Presnell asked Justin Ford to come forward.

Justin Ford, Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board and said they were on track for December and would be on the agenda in two weeks. He added there was nothing out of the ordinary with any of the equipment and realistically expected them to be out of there on-site to start the construction and believed they had 45 days to complete the installation of the light. Commissioner Hinson said it was interesting because he was talking to some citizens about this and asked if it took nine months to put the light up. Mr. Ford told him no, he was asked in April to start the design of the project. Commissioner Hinson asked questions. Mr. Ford said from April, they advertised it in September and that was five months; the first 2½ months they were bogged down in trying to communicate with the original company that installed the light 5-6 years ago. Commissioner Hinson interrupted and said he was sensitive about that because too many people have been in car accidents and this was not political and to play politics and prolong the situation, he hoped no-one would be killed by December. He added he did not think it should take someone 10 months to put up a light and asked if there were proof it took that long. Mr. Ford explained there was a due process and they had to prepare the necessary plans, documents, and the bidding process. He said it could have been done faster but they were attempting to save money and were ultimately able to do so. Commissioner Hinson said "I love the firm, if it weren't for your boss, personally, I got much respect for him. I'm just being as honest, if I mean, it just, it just that, the people man, they are frustrated in Concord in knowing how why this process is taking so long, 10 months, to put up one light. If the light breaks down in Tallahassee now, I mean, from a hurricane or whatever, you gonna have the light up within a couple of weeks, couple of months and so now you gonna tell me it gonna take 10 months to put up one light? That's far-fetched. But the sad thing is we got Board members sit back and act like there ain't nothing going on. We got people there that, I mean I have almost ran down the road myself about 2-3 times. I'm talking about me. If I know it's dangerous for me, then it's dangerous for everybody. I just hope we stop playing politics man and it shouldn't take another 2 months for this here to go on and ah, so, how long, how long will y'all think this might go. What are you forecasting now, what you think?"

Mr. Ford said they were completely out of the way of the scenario now.

Commissioner Hinson interrupted and said he along with everyone else in his district was frustrated. He said they had budgeted \$112,000 in April and asked Mr. Presnell for a timeline of when this project started.

Mr. Ford asked to "defend" himself and said that project had been his project and assured

Commissioner Hinson there had been no politics involved. Commissioner Hinson tried to interrupt and Chair Holt asked him to let Mr. Ford finish. Commissioner Hinson started to interrupt again and Chair Holt said he had asked him a question, to let him finish. Mr. Ford said standard process with any contract was it was awarded, it is executed that night, the next day the contract documents were issued the next day to the Contractor, they prepare their bid documents and bond documents, they were sent back to the County, and once they have the necessary bond information and insurance in hand, the Notice to Proceed is prepared and it is submitted. He added it was not the standard practice but to expedite the process, they could notify the apparent low bidder of the intent to award and let them at their own risk, start the process of securing the bonds and provide the insurance to the County so they could more expeditiously issue the Notice to Proceed and that would shave a couple of weeks off the process.

Mr. Presnell said he would like to meet with the Contractor after the Board awarded it.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Presnell to pull minutes from the date of the request and do a timeline from then until now to satisfy the Commissioner as to what happened.

Mr. Ford said he was willing to hold a community meeting to do what he could, there was nothing to hide.

Commissioner Taylor said to Commissioner Hinson she heard what he said and asked Mr. Ford if there were any kind of apparatus that could go there in the meantime to caution traffic and said she was aware there was a big sign there. Mr. Ford said yes they would put advance warning signs but the problem was there was a caution light and speed limit signs but people were not obeying the traffic laws that were currently in place, they were speeding and not coming to a stop. He added that all those factors in place resulted in the accidents and it was a dangerous intersection.

Commissioner Hinson said with the North-South (red caution light side) maybe bigger speed bumps could be placed there. Mr. Ford said if they put rumble strips there, they could stay after the light was installed.

Sidewalk contract Mr. Presnell said he met with the engineer and the Public Works Director regarding the sidewalk in Havana Heights and it would be in the paper Thursday and the bid would be opened two weeks from Thursday and would be awarded two weeks after that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said a citizen called him just before the meeting regarding a construction code enforcement violation at a structure on Neals Temple Church & county response to the complaint made had been slow. He requested that the issue be resolved as expeditiously and thoroughly as possible. Mr. Presnell said he was familiar with it; there was a wheelchair ramp issue at the Church; the Building Code staff inspected and was found to be non-compliant and had been corrected. He added it was also found there was a person doing sheetrock work inside the church was not regulated by the county. Mr. Collins said there were still some things that needed to be rectified; the ramp was rectified but there was a landing at the front door that had to be widened and was concrete so more concrete would need to be poured. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the citizen had been given an update as to where the concerns were and how things were progressing so they would know what needed to be done.

Mr. Presnell said he and the Chair had been discussing a minority small business policy or program

for the Board and was instructed to see what Leon County had and he passed that out to the Commissioners and the attorney could tell them how it could be addressed.

Chair Holt added this was looking at minority contracting and sub-contracting and there was no policy in place and they needed to have something in place.

Mr. Weiss said it he and Mr. Presnell had discussed this and the Procurement Policy could be amended to address it. He added that due to the Equal Protection constitutional concerns, one thing they had to do before they started giving preferences to minorities was to have a study done where there were specific findings to show that this was needed to redress an issue.

Chair Holt asked him to produce any statute or opinion in writing an wanted it agendaed to look at.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan wanted to bring to the Board and said the Administrator could address, he received a call a few days ago regarding a serious issue on the West end of the County regarding communication with firefighters due to the lack of adequate equipment, namely a need for a repeater so they could communicate when they were responding to calls. He added it was critically important and was hoping they could get it addressed immediately. Mr. Presnell said he had a meeting earlier this morning with Motorola and Fire Services as well as EMS and was aware of the incident that happened the other day with the lp gas tank. He said after talking with Fire Services and EMS, there was a serious ambulance communication problem as well and had been forever. Motorola was checking to see what the cure would be and they were working up an estimate and would involve a replacement of a repeater and after talking with them, they may want to replace the main repeater on the tower at the Jail as well to boost coverage. He added the price was not bad for what they would gain and he would have a proposal in the near future.

Commissioner Morgan then said he had heard this mentioned before and thought it was resolved; someone mentioned at the Mt. Pleasant Fire Station there was a problem with getting trucks in and out due to the pavement not being adequate or needed to be paved.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Presnell if he could get the volunteers and regular departments to do an inventory of equipment, age of, etc., to see what was there and what may need to be replaced.

Mr. Robinson appeared before the board again and said this fits into what he spoke of earlier regarding Emergency Management. He said the new equipment that FEMA or any entity would bring would not fit most of the volunteer equipment, especially the HAZMAT equipment. He added that Motorola could grant them one instead of the County buying one and added that he had worked with them before. He further stated they could grant several small ones to triangulate

the area so there would be more coverage.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said there were two issues she wanted to bring up:

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at this juncture.

She said the first was the Emergency Management; she has had concerns about it and did have a conversation with him after the last meeting and was impressed. She felt it was worthwhile looking into and bringing it back to board for further discussion. She said there were some areas that needed to be improved on and she was strongly in support of moving forward and improving the areas that needed improving.

She said she must have missed part of the budget workshop and stated when she received a phone call that they did not fund the local shuttle, she was not aware of it. She added she was unaware if they had all the information before they did that and in talking with the director at Big Bend, the ridership had increased almost 500 persons a month. She added when they stopped that, they stopped commerce with the 500 riders. She added she knew the Administrator had reached out to the City of Quincy and asked the Board if it was a closed subject in continuing the shuttle or was it because the City of Quincy was not investing and they decided to also not invest.

Chair Holt explained when the issue came up, it was that they were funding inside the City of Quincy and not the other towns and if they were going to fund it, then the City should help fund it and the bottom line was the vote was 4-0.

Mr. Presnell said he met with the City Manager and was told it would be placed on their next agenda.

Commissioner Taylor said they were in agreeance that the Shuttle went to other municipalities and Chair Holt and Mr. Presnell said it used to. Commissioner Taylor said the Shuttle for \$50,000 was strictly for the City of Quincy and they responded yes. Commissioner Taylor asked if she could speak with Shawn Mitchell, Big Bend Transit Director.

Shawn Mitchell appeared before Board. Commissioner Taylor asked him for some of the dynamics and locations and which shuttle went to the municipalities. Mr. Mitchell said for the record it was \$44,000 was what was budgeted. He added they did fairs less collected and totally the \$44,000 the Board approved comes out to roughly \$37,500 that was actually paid. He added they had three routes for fixed route service; Gadsden Express, Quincy Shuttle and the Gadsden Connector and the Board had always supported all of them. He added that the issue they were running into, people coming from Midway, when they come into Quincy, the way they would get to the Health Department, Walmart or paying property taxes or going to the Courthouse, they access that through the Shuttle. He added that the Gadsden Connector that was in Greensboro, Chattahoochee, St. Hebron, Havana, Gretna, they all ride the Gadsden Connector into Quincy and get on the circular to do their commerce within the City. He said when they took out the Shuttle, it crippled the entire system and it did not work. He also added that the contract expired September 30th and they had put together a transportation app for the fixed routes so citizens could know where the bus was, what the next stop was. He stated there were investments he wanted to make for bigger buses but was hard for him to do so when every year he had to worry about funding. He

also said he did not stop the shuttle, it was currently running and he did not want to let people down.

Commissioner Hinson apologized to Commissioner Taylor because he did not have clarity. He added if he had known that September 30th was the last day, he would have made a different decision. He suggested it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said Mr. Alfonso Figgers contacted him to make a request for Shaw Quarters Day; that they would be hosting Shaw Quarters Day and asked if the Board could provide them with some sort of financial assistance. Mr. Presnell said it had to be an event that the entire public would benefit from. Commissioner Viegbesie then asked that every Board member make a contribution. Commissioner Viegbesie asked that they include in the next agenda an action item with regard to approving the establishment or creation of a position of the Director of Gadsden County Health and Human Services in the next BOCC agenda. He asked if he needed to make a motion and Mr. Presnell said it was already on the agenda.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he was reading something from the Pastors that Gadsden County did not make any contributions to the health of Gadsden County. He said he wanted to make sure they received the right information, that they put \$135,000 into the budget for the Health Department and they did make contributions. Mr. Presnell clarified that they put in \$800,000 to help pay for peoples Medicaid. Commissioner Hinson added he was in favor of the position Commissioner Viegbesie spoke of but wanted to make sure they “were feeding the people so when they went out, they received the right information.

Commissioner Viegbesie said one reason in creating this position was because the services and things they were involved with was so fragmented and there was no-one bringing them all together.

Commissioner Hinson said there had been a lot of houses that had burnt down, one in Hampton Heights, another situation in Havana the house burnt to the ground also and a community fish dinner was planned for a fundraiser and plates were selling for \$8.00 a plate on October 7th starting at 2:00 p.m.

He then asked when the roads would be completed around Brickyard Road and Mr. Presnell said he thought there was only one road left in Commissioner Hinson’s district. Commissioner Hinson said he was speaking of Brickyard Road that would be around \$900,000. Mr. Presnell said they had been working on it, the temporary road had been put in for the barns and they were close to closing on the property.

He then asked if there was any way since they were building around Midway that they could connect their septic tanks and Chair Holt said that was their number one priority on their legislative agenda.

Commissioner Hinson then asked about the lights on Martin Luther King Blvd and Mr. Presnell said he had sent the estimates, two different options, to him. Commissioner Hinson asked when they could get going and Mr. Presnell said they needed to discuss the options and the prices.

Commissioner Hinson had more questions and Chair Holt interrupted him and suggested he and the Administrator sit down and discuss these items and proposals. Commissioner Hinson then said he was told by his Mom she watched the video and saw a man making a face and a Reverend told him that every time he talked they were making faces and Commissioner Hinson said "No, not people with Ph.Ds. there making faces, I said Wow, that's interesting. So the deal is, when you on a board make sure you have good proper etiquette because people looking at you and we represent the kids here in Gadsden County and we cannot show them bad examples on our reactions."

He then thanked the Board for working together.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said regarding the Emergency Management she wanted to reiterate they chose the Sheriff and they could choose anyone. She said they also had to remember the State Association gives workshops on Emergency Management all the time and they do tell everyone there are grants that could be applied for.

She said Commissioner Hinson had made comments about people watching the videos and comments had been made to her regarding the commissioners leaving early and coming late.

Airport Authority She said they were looking to address them with a letter and said the City and the County owned the airport and they needed to look at what they do and how it was a benefit to the County.

She thanked NACo for appointing her to the Health and Human Services Committee and the Rural County Committee. She said they provide proposals and suggestions on the national level to the US Senate, House and recommendations also to the White House.

She said when they did the tour with GCDC they saw things going on and they needed to do that again with Chamber and the Economic Development Council.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Brother Wilcox and said he had great ideas and would like him to put something together and meet as board maybe in a workshop and discuss his ideas.

Emergency Management-look at moving them into building-maybe do workshop

Receipt and File

- 16. a. Letter from FDLE
- b. Letter from DEO

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 17. **October 18, 2016-Regular Meeting**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 4, 2016-Regular Meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:29 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE A. TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk