

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 20, 2016 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

Present: **Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5**
 Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late
 Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2-attended by phone
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor asked everyone in the audience to please make sure their phones were on silent. She then called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to address the change in the format of the Agenda before the meeting started and asked how it would affect First Amendment Rights. Mr. Weiss said if there were concerns on issues specific to agendaed items, they would be able to address it during that item, if there were concerns that were raised from discussions of items but not related to items themselves, it would be appropriate to do one of two things: 1) As it currently stands, they could ask the Administrator or the Attorney if there were issues that come up during discussion of items, or 2) there could be potentially another place to discuss those items.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his first concern was citizens that wished to speak were placed lower down on the agenda and the format could adversely impact the commissioners’ comments.

Chair Taylor said this was tentative and they would still have the chance to speak at the end of the meeting and they could change it back later.

Mr. Presnell said there were amendments to the Agenda and he would like to add the Resolution to change the facsimile stamp to represent the new Chair’s signature as Item 6a under the Consent Agenda and to pull Item 8 at the Attorney’s request. Commissioner Holt said she would like discussion on Item 8. Chair Taylor asked if the Item was being pulled so it would not be publically heard or was it being pulled because it was not completely prepared to be heard. Mr. Weiss said it was being pulled because he heard today from the Attorney who represented the green corridor and there was some concerns about the agreement that he had sent. Chair Taylor suggested if he was comfortable letting it stay since the Commissioner had questions, she would like to honor that.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD

VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Honoring Kendrick David Evans

Mr. Presnell said they had before them a Proclamation honoring Mr. Kendrick David Evans. Chair Taylor asked him and his family to come forward and the Commissioners joined him in front of the dais for the presentation.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was not present and the Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, said there was nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

2. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she would wait until the end.

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would also wait until the end.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked the status of the Concord traffic light. Mr. Presnell said there was no change since it was discussed last week with the contractor and there had been additional rain since then. He further stated that it would be after the first of year but they would go ahead and install the light and put on flashing as it currently was and then they would have representatives on site when the ceremony was done and will then switch the light to the functioning mode.

Commissioner Hinson then asked if they were still moving forward with Brickyard Road. Mr. Presnell said yes and thought he sped the process up a little, sent information to him after the last meeting and was with Preble-Rish for the design and as soon as they were finished, they could send out the bid. Commissioner Hinson said for the record, he was corrected when he said he was sent an email, but he was correct in saying it was in December and Mr. Presnell said it was March and asked that the record reflect he was correct in stating it was in December.

He then said the last few years he had been asking for workshops or during the meeting to have Parks and Recs come talk about their program and give an update along with the Library, Animal Control, etc. so everyone would know what they do and offer. He suggested having one per meeting to give updates. He said he found out something very interesting, he was at the Tax Collector's Office and noticed they had a lot of beautiful parks in Gadsden County and liked what they were doing there. He then said he had a conversation with someone the previous night and thanked the Board for funding the Havana, Midway, Gretna and Chattahoochee Senior Citizens but the one that was funded most was the Gadsden County Senior Citizens. He said years ago they were going full time and the County was paying them full time money so they could come every day and was receiving \$5,000 - 10,000 from the County along with \$1

Million funding from Elder Services and they still come twice a week and he thought they needed to look at why they only meet twice a week with the kind of money the County put into it.

Commissioner Holt asked if he wanted a report from each department before meeting or during meeting and he said before each meeting.

Housing

Commissioner Hinson then said a lot of seniors live in trailers that have leaks in the roof or holes in the floors and houses in the same condition. He said the Board was doing some great things for the people of the County.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan asked about the Annual Report and said he knew they were waiting to get the final copy and Mr. Presnell said 100 copies had been sent to all elected officials and municipalities and Commissioner Morgan confirmed that each of the individual elected officials had received copies and Mr. Presnell said he would check to make sure.

He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Hinson said he had one more item he would like to address and said they had met with all the cities in the County and asked what was next and how they planned to follow up with them and come up with one focus before meeting with the Legislature. Chair Taylor said that would be ambitious since they meet in February or March.

Mr. Presnell said they had the Cities back together last week and Midway has hired a lobbyist to represent them and he was invited to the meeting as well to make finishing touches and with the Speaker's new requirement that everything had to have a bill number so all the cities were called back in and had our lobbyist here to help them fill out the forms and make any last minute changes to their request. He said they had continued on a Staff level to continue working with the cities.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor said she recently met with a group of citizens that had issues and concerns with sub fire stations and had spoken with Andre, the Fire Coordinator for the County, and learned a lot of information she thought the Commissioners needed to be aware of. She said the volunteer fire numbers were decreasing and said there were a number of reasons: 1) People were not interested in doing it anymore; and 2) It takes almost six months to get certified and was a cost the volunteer would have to absorb. She said she thought she might bring this to the Board so they might could look at coming up with something creative of how to recruit and have a dialogue with the different sub stations and heard it may or may not be issues with the equipment. She also said when she spoke with Andre, he conducts annual inspections of equipment, etc. to things were ready when there was a need but in talking with firemen, she was hearing something little different. She felt they, as a Board, needed to look at this in the very near future, either in a report from Andre as to the status of the sub stations. She said another concern with the Fire Department heard from the citizens, when they dial 911, depending on where they are, the call could be routed to Tallahassee, etc. and while giving pertinent information in a hysterical way because of the situation, sometimes are given a lot of

information to find out that they had called a wrong station and the call had to be re-routed.

Economic Development-

She said they knew the Comprehensive Plan needs tweaking in order for Developers to want to come in and said she had recently had conversations with some of the major developers that wanted to come to the area and all have vowed either to not come in and do business or discontinue doing business because of the tedious process they had in place. She said she would like for them to have a conversation with developers to see what the Board, along with Planning and Zoning, could do to help the process along. She asked the Board if they were willing to schedule meetings.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem and felt it was always good to communicate with the different areas and felt it would help to have a packet of information that had been verified to be the case because every time he had these types of conversations, most instances 80% of what was said doesn't actually happen or have taken place because they certainly want to provide the best service available and Chair Taylor agreed.

Commissioner Holt said with regard to the workshops, especially Planning and Zoning, the Comprehensive Plan book is the problem and they need to go through it section by section and the information needs to be informative and they need to compare with places that were progressive and compare what they are doing and what changes we might need to make.

Chair Taylor said the Administrator could bring that back to them.

She then said there were concerns regarding the format of the Agenda, one the purpose behind it was citizens were there at the start of meetings and then leave before meetings were done and this way they could hear what was said and she was trying to make the Agenda more effective and efficient.

CONSENT

Mr. Presnell said the Consent Agenda was before them.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, BEFORE THE VOTE, COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED TO PULL ITEM 4.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ITEMS 3, 5 AND 6.

- 3. Approval to Accept the FY 2016 4th Quarter Report**
- 4. ~~Approval to Dispose of Surplus Property and Equipment~~
Item pulled for discussion**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. September 6, 2016-Regular Meeting**
 - b. October 4, 2016-Regular Meeting**
 - c. October 18, 2016-Regular Meeting**
- 6. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

6a. Approval of Resolution for New Chairperson – Facsimile Stamp

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Approval to Dispose of Surplus Property and Equipment

Commissioner Hinson said he pulled Item 4 and said he did not see dates on the computers and there was quite a few on the list. Mr. Presnell said this was items found at the Health Department and everything the Health Department purchased through the State became County equipment under the Board's control and this was items they deemed obsolete, but being County equipment, had to go through the County process to dispose. Commissioner Hinson asked if they look at it to see if there was anything useable and Mr. Presnell said they fill out a form saying the items were no longer usable. He said he was unsure if the IT Department had looked at them, but knowing the history of items deemed obsolete, it was probably junk. Commissioner Hinson asked the next step and Mr. Presnell said it would be given to vendors the Board approved and the last two sales were done on-line and people bid from all over and the County was pleased with the sales they did for the County. Commissioner Hinson said lot of non-profit organizations and students that could possibly benefit from the computers and said apparently no-one had investigated to see if the computers could be used. Mr. Presnell said the IT Department with Department of Health deemed them surplus but could not say for sure that the County IT Department had inspected them. He added they had been crated, palletted, saran-wrapped, but they could table the item if the Board wished to do so.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to table and added they did the same with the School Board when he was a Commissioner and there were a lot of groups that needed computers and was a win/win for everybody. He said he thought it would "help enhance our kids and make sure they have a computer in the household".

Mr. Presnell added it had been their experience when they sold computers, people do bid on them and buy them but it was for the metal, the silver, in them and people get the precious metals out of them. Commissioner Hinson said if they were usable, he felt it would be great to do so. Mr. Presnell said he would get an answer for the Board.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem in tabling the item and added that they could look at them to see if they were usable and was interested if they did dispose of them they may could use the money to go toward non-profits.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the computers had been wiped and Mr. Presnell said he was sure they had been.

Chair Taylor said to Commissioner Hinson her only concern was if the computers were refurbished, would be more costly to a family that could not afford it to afford it and maybe Commissioner Holt was onto something

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-022, an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, creating the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing and correction of scrivener's errors, and providing for an effective date; and adoption of Bylaws for the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for the adoption of an ordinance creating the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the adoption of the Bylaws for the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said Item 7 was not in his packet and he had not had a chance to review this item and asked to table this.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

8. PUBLIC HEARING-Approval and Execution of Resolution 2016-030 and the Non-Exclusive Interlocal Subscription Agreement Granting the Green Corridor Property Assessment Clean Energy (PACE) District Owners for Qualifying Improvements to Commercial and Residential Properties

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of Resolution 2016-030 and the Non-Exclusive Interlocal Subscription Agreement Granting the Green Corridor Property Assessment Clean Energy (PACE) District the Authority to Offer Voluntary Financing through Non-ad valorem Special Assessments to Gadsden County Property Owners for Qualifying Improvements to Commercial and Residential Properties. Mr. Presnell said approximately two years ago the Board approved the PACE Provider, it had not been utilized and there was a request by a business owner to have this other provider come in and he would let the attorney speak to that.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and she liked to have some discussion so the audience would know what the item was about. She then asked for input from the Attorney and said afterward she would ask for input from the citizens.

Mr. Weiss said the Administrator summed up the item and it was on the Agenda and currently there was one PACE provider who was authorized to operate their program within the County, but it was only for non-residential, commercial and jumbo loans and this would allow this provider to operate both commercial and residential and if they wanted to apply for qualifying improvements, which were clean energy, solar energy, wind resistance, etc. they could go through a PACE provider, the provider can pay the upfront costs and there was a loan agreement with the property owner and the loan was repaid through non-ad valorem special assessments and would go on the tax bill and the property could be lost if the taxes were not paid. He added the County would not be doing anything other than allowing the provider to come in and operate within the County and they must have authorization by the County in order to operate.

Chair Taylor asked if there was any input from the audience and there was none.

Chair Holt asked when negotiations started with the company and Mr. Weiss said he did not know if there were ever “negotiations”, there was a request from a property owner to add this provider and sent some proposed documents. Commissioner Holt asked when they were sent and Mr. Weiss said a month to 6 weeks ago. Commissioner Holt asked when he responded to them and he said a couple of weeks after they were sent. She asked if any changes were made and Mr. Weiss said yes. Chair Holt asked why the item was tabled and Mr. Weiss said he a received call/email from the attorney yesterday afternoon and said she had concerns to the revisions he had made and requested they pull the item because there were certain provisions she did not want to recommend her client agree to. Commissioner Holt said lately they were pulling items at the last minute.

Chair Taylor said she did not feel they should act on the item since there were issues regarding it.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County BOCC

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County BOCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure it was known that this was a sole source contract and asked to put it out there so the public would know.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program-Florida JAG Direct

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Sub grant in the amount of \$3,660.00.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson said at times things move so quick and the public did not understand what was happening and asked if they could give a brief explanation.

Brian Alexander, Gadsden County Sheriff’s Department, Sgt. of Narcotics TASK Force, appeared before the Board to explain what the grant was used for.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

THIS ITEM.

11. Lease of County Property-Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid 16-27 to lease space in the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Building to North Florida Thyroid Center in the amount of \$1.00 annually.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Presnell to recap the process and level of discussions because he wanted to make sure everyone was given the information.

Mr. Presnell said they were approached about this and took the proposal to GHI, it was vetted there, and the contract with CRMC gives them the right of first refusal. Their blessing for the project was received to move forward, they put out a bid for the space and only received the one bid from Dr. Hart to provide services one Saturday a month to see if she could build a clientele.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they attorney and Mr. Glaser had reviewed this and Mr. Weiss said yes. Commissioner Morgan then asked the fiscal impact to the County and Mr. Presnell said basically none because utilities were on now and with her working a few hours on Saturday it would be a limited impact.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious and asked if all she wanted was one day a month and Mr. Presnell said the wording was there to approve four days a month in hopes her business grows.

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

Dr. Celeste Hart appeared before the Board and said she was already here two Mondays a month working with the Mother Care Network and has begun to establish herself in the community.

12. Grant Documents to Complete Execution for Renovations to the Old Courthouse

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to request the execution of the Restrictive Covenant document between the State of Florida, Department of State, Florida Division of Historical Resource and the BOCC was awarded \$500,000 to complete renovations to the Courthouse and they must be completed by June 30, 2018.

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

13. Stevens High Removal of Regulated Asbestos Containing Materials Grant Agreement Document Execution

Mr. Presnell said this was a similar item for Stevens High School for the removal of regulated Asbestos containing materials and was awarded \$50,000 and the renovations must be completed by June 30, 2018.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A SECOND WITH A COMMENT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Holt said she requested a grant for this facility and since she was already talking with School Board officials about Havana Elementary and the County owned Stevens School and they could try for a business incubator there and there were several grants they could apply for.

Chair Taylor asked about the matching grant and Mr. Presnell said it was waived because we were a small county.

Commissioner Morgan asked the total costs and Mr. Presnell said it would have to be bid and Commissioner Morgan said when they start talking about removing/abating asbestos, it could get expensive and wanted to make sure there was no fiscal impact to the County, the County would get started and not have to money to get the project done. Mr. Presnell said they were only asking the Board to approve the \$50,000 tonight.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14. USDA Rural Business Development Grant Submission

Mr. Presnell introduced the and said it was to request the execution of grant submission documents for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG). He added it was for \$500,000 to renovate Stevens High School to its original glory.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said the Crappie Tournament was scheduled to be held on February 3rd & 4th at Lake Talquin and there was already over 80 boats registered for the tournament.

He said the responses for the RFP was put out for legal services and there were three responses and Staff asked for direction if the Board wanted them to rank them or set up interviews. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to interview them. Commissioner Hinson said Staff could look at them and bring them back.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the interview process would work for him. Mr. Presnell said prior to the next three meetings workshops was scheduled and they may have to do this on a different evening, possibly a Thursday. Chair Taylor asked when the current contract would expire and Commissioner Hinson said February 2, 2017.

Chair Taylor said since the date was so close, they may need the Administrator to rank them and then have the interview process.

Mr. Presnell then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said they were having a get-together

at LR's on Thursday night.

Commissioner Morgan said the Rosedale water project upgrade was underway and hoped they could get Staff to do an update for the newspaper to update everyone.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for an update on the situation with the Gadsden Senior Center.

Mr. Presnell said there were some new additions to the Board and was discussion from the Commissioners about the terms of some of the longer serving members and that had not been addressed yet.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell said it was like the Fire Departments, hard to find volunteers.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie commented about comments Chair Taylor made earlier regarding Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and asked about creative ways they as a Board could come up with to recruit volunteers. He then said he was dealing with several concerns and there was a road beginning to have cracks in it. Mr. Presnell said the Public Works Director and Justin Ford looked at it and the recommendation from both was it was reflective cracking from the existing pavement that was in the slag road and it was not alarming and he would provide him with a copy of the finding.

Commissioner Hinson asked the status of the Havana Heights apartment sidewalk and when it would start and commented it was approved two weeks ago. Mr. Presnell said he would have to ask the contractor about the intended start date and would get the end date to him.

Commissioner Hinson asked in future for January, he would like to address mental health and homelessness in the County because they coincide. He then mentioned maybe some property county owned by the County could be used to house people whose house burnt to ground for month or two to enable them to get back on their feet. Mr. Presnell said there was a new coalition that had been formed tri-county and thought Commissioner Hinson would be a perfect addition because they receive federal funding and was like CRPTA, the County has one seat. Chair Taylor said there was more of a need than resources, but was something they needed to discuss.

Commissioner Viegbesie requested the Administrator look into a specific case that was brought to his attention and was not sure what could be done in those situations and they needed to look into how they could assist.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Holt said when they were talking about fire, there was a Governor's commission she had been watching on Public Television and they were talking about reducing requirements because could not get volunteer firemen and this was throughout the State. She said Franklin County Commissioners were Department Heads and they come to the meeting and report to the Board on what they were doing. She added that Escambia County would come in one hour before every meeting and take care of questions before the meeting began.

She said she was asked by a citizen if the County could sell internet thumb drives through the Library.

She said she had mentioned to the Attorney her hopes of getting a historical grant for the Butler Building. She said the Economic Development grant for \$199,000 they could get through USDA, she was looking at that for the Stevens school to pump in as much money as could be got to get it done in a nice way.

Receipt and File

17. a. Letter from FDOT
 b. Letter from Mediacom

UPCOMING MEETINGS

18. **January 3, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
December 20, 2016-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:51 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk