

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 3, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5**
 Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1
 Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Prayer and led in the 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 7 from General Business on the Agenda because legal counsel for the Grantor wanted to make changes.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was present and stated he had no report tonight.

Commissioner Holt asked the Clerk if Christmas decorations were considered for the good of the Public. Mr. Thomas explained they had a standing policy in the past to budget to give \$1,000 to the City of Quincy at Christmas. She said she had done some traveling and noticed in two of the cities she visited there were quite a few people there taking pictures of Christmas decorations and that helped to boost the income. Mr. Thomas said the Board had a practice of giving a nominal amount of money if they declared a public purpose. Commissioner Holt said if they did not want to give a nominal amount of money, they could purchase Christmas decorations for the Courthouse while they were on sale and other cities and counties were doing that. Mr. Thomas pointed out in the past, they had budgeted money for the City of Quincy and they would...Commissioner Holt said she understood that, but they had no reason to decorate the trees at the Courthouse or do other things, they were only doing the streets. She said she would like to encourage tourism during the holidays and they needed something the tourists would come see and would like, if possible, the Manager to get with him and purchase decorations now while they were on sale. Mr. Presnell asked if she was looking at decorating the Courthouse in particular and Commissioner Holt said any facility they County had, she wanted to make sure tourism was invited in the County. Mr. Thomas pointed out anything over \$500 required approval by the Board under the Ordinance declaring a public purpose. Commissioner Holt said they could bring

it back.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad Commissioner Holt brought this up and one of the things he thought of when he saw the window decorated, he was looking at the possibility, during the Budget Workshop, to discuss with the Attorney the possibility of some minimal amount of money in the budget to decorate the Courthouse and grounds to make it more Christmassy for the holidays. Mr. Thomas clarified the intent of the Ordinance was to cover minimal ceremonial type expenses for swearing in of commissioners, etc. and cautioned them against “stretching it beyond the original intent” and said he did not know if the Attorney had an opinion regarding this.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not mean to sound like Scrooge, but felt they did not need to do it.

Mr. Weiss agreed with the Clerk in that they did have the general public purpose and they did not need to stretch things too far because once they did so, it was hard to rein back in.

Commissioner Holt said anything could be stretched too far and she was not asking for that, simply asking them to look into this while Christmas items were on sale. Commissioner Viegbesie added it would be a non-recurring expense. Commissioner Morgan asked how the front window in this building was done. Mr. Presnell said staff brought in things they had and a small purchase was made for lights. Commissioner Morgan stated when they had to say no to certain basic services, they did not need to take taxpayer dollars to buy Christmas ornaments.

Chair Taylor said she did like the concept of decorating the area and wanted to give the Manager time to look into this and bring it back to the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

1. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked the Housing Department on the grant that was received today.

She added there was funding for firemen training available with the State and they need to go after that. Mr. Presnell said there was a workshop planned before the next meeting for fire services to cover a number of issues.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to go back to an item he suggested at a previous meeting with regards to exploration and creation of a special fire service district because at the last meeting his understanding was they were expressing fire service for the entire County and asked that they explore the special fire services assessment to fund the movement towards establishing full fire services in unincorporated areas and suggested the Administrator look into the possibility of using an assessment funding for unincorporated areas.

He then asked for an update regarding the National Incident Management System Certification which would increase the County’s chances of receiving funds for services needed.

He also asked for an update regarding the mural image.

Additionally he asked for an update regarding the Teen Court program, said he had asked specific questions and needed a response so he could answer questions when asked by the citizens.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for the Workshop held earlier today and hoped everyone will have an awesome New Year.

Concord Light He asked Mr. Presnell how things were looking for the traffic light. Mr. Presnell asked Curtis Young, Public Works Director, to come forward to give an update and due to the rain it would not be this week but should have done by next Friday.

Commissioner Hinson said he would also like to hold more conversations regarding Midway with the community that had only one way in and out because it was a dangerous area.

He asked what was going on in front of Hampton Heights and when the sidewalk would be put in. Mr. Young re-appeared and said the contractors had shut down for Christmas break.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items tonight.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor thanked the Commissioners for following the Agenda.

She asked if they were ready to meet with the other cities and if so she would like to get dates arranged. Commissioner Viegbesie said the sooner the better.

Mr. Presnell said they had communication with the School Board in regard to arranging a joint meeting.

She congratulated BOCC for winning the Christmas decorations contest.

She disclosed she had a conversation with a gentleman that had a grant and he has been held up because of a stipulation made on his approval to move forward through the Planning and Zoning and asked the Attorney to get with the Administrator to help this move forward.

Commissioner Holt asked if they did not need to know what the problem was and Mr. Presnell said it would come before Board.

Shiloh Park She said the parks were not maintained regularly and the road was washed away along the side.

CONSENT

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **BOCC/Gretna Workshop Minutes May 12, 2016**
 - b. **BOCC Special Meeting Minutes-November 1, 2016**
 - c. **BOCC Regular Meeting Minutes-November 22, 2016**

3. **Ratification to Pay County Bills**

4. **Public Officials Bond Review**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. **PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-001, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL, amending the Tourist Development Plan, providing for repeal, severability, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors, and providing for an effective date**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of an Ordinance to amend the Gadsden County Tourist Development Plan. He said the only changes to the document was P&Z decided it would be beneficial to make smaller venues eligible for funding and 25 or less could qualify for up to \$2,000 if they generated 25 or less motel rooms, 25-50 could be eligible for up to \$2,500 and significant impact 51-75 would be \$3,500 and over 75 room nights could be eligible for the full \$5,000.

Mr. Weiss said there were a couple of goals and objectives deemed to have had been met by the TDC and they wanted them removed due to them being met and it made the plan a little shorter than it previously was.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Chair would ask for public input.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and no-one did.

Commissioner Morgan said noticed on the impact rankings there were five different categories and asked who came up with that and what it meant.

Mr. Weiss said the words did not mean anything more than what the numbers were and Sonya Burns came up with the wording and TDC approved this.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue with that, his issue was they were talking about \$8,000

for something that would provide a marginal impact and he was curious about the feedback received from local bed tax collectors and their opinions.

Commissioner Holt said they were not getting much input from the community and the hotels have cards that patrons fill out.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they were collecting information and Commissioner Holt said TDC personnel were contacting the local hotels asking them questions. Commissioner Morgan asked if a survey had been done and Commissioner Holt said no. Commissioner Morgan said these were questions they need to expect and have the information and thought they needed to look into this.

Chair Taylor felt Commissioner Morgan's questions were valid and asked how they had come up with the amount and agreed they needed to be answered.

Chair Taylor said she did not see why this should be held up and in hearing some of the explanations there did not seem to be anything in place but Commissioner Holt agreed there needed to be something done in order to collect the data.

Chair Taylor said she would like to see what had been collected thus far.

Mr. Presnell said there were three bed tax collectors on the TDC.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Training Cost-Department of Homeland Security Basic SWAT Training Course in Barnwell, SC

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to pay for training costs for an Investigator to attend the Department of Homeland Security Basic SWAT Training Course scheduled for February 27, 2017 through March 5, 2017.

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

~~7. Approval and acceptance of the Perpetual Drainage Easement from Ingram's Marina, LLC for the construction and maintenance of a drainage system from Cook's Landing Road to Lake Talquin, and instruction for the Clerk to record the Easement with a copy of the minutes showing approval and acceptance~~

Pulled

8. Board Direction on County Auditing Services

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction regarding the County's auditing services.

Commissioner Holt said for them to bid the contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the contract was bid, if not why and why was it just coming before the Board. Mr. Presnell said it was part of the contract with the current auditing firm that they could choose to exercise or not and they were putting the option before the Board.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Chair Taylor commented the reason she didn't second the motion, the firm had done great job but did not see what the cost would be and Mr. Presnell commented it was listed in the Fiscal Impact that the company agreed to keep the cost the same.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BID THE CONTRACT AND THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR AT \$130,000 AND THEN BID THE CONTRACT AND CHAIR TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked the motivation behind the motion and Commissioner Viegbesie said the contract had expired and they needed someone to do the audit.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to address the "elephant in room" because they had an engineering firm and Waste Pro that their contracts had expired and said it was management and they were looking at the Administrator for letting contracts expire and it was not fair to citizens.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was his question and concern also was procrastination and it needed to be addressed so they did not find themselves in a bind and was why he pushed for a succession plan. He added that he did not want to go without an auditing firm.

Mr. Presnell said the auditors would finish handling 2016 and to answer the questions about procrastination, a former employee handled the contracts and there were some issues, that contract was not handled in a timely fashion before the new person started handling the contracts and they now have a way to track them.

Commissioner Hinson said the firm had done an outstanding job along with Waste Pro but he wanted to go through the process.

Commissioner Holt said she had nothing against the company, but before contracts end, they should be brought before the Board.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE-YES
COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
CHAIR TAYLOR-YES**

COMMISSIONER HOLT-NO
COMMISSIONER MORGAN-YES

MOTION PASSED.

9. Appointment of an Alternate Representative to the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for appointment to the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA).

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO APPOINT CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT.

10. Approval of a Proclamation in Honor of Health for Hearts United Leadership Unit

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Proclamation in honor of Health for Hearts United Leadership Unit.

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

11. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature 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.

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

12. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien State Housing Initiative Partnership Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts that were agreed upon by the homeowner, contractor and Community Development Administration's SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program or Emergency Repair Program.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the special meeting regarding the proposals for legal services that would be held January 5, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. and said three firms had applied.

Chair Taylor asked if they would have common questions to ask the firms and Mr. Presnell said yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they had asked questions regarding hospital experience and asked why only hospital, why not transportation and infrastructure, etc.

Mr. Weiss said he would advise that they not get too deep in conversation.

Mr. Presnell said they each would have a packet and would have time to review before hand and they used the form from last year that Mr. Lawson had developed and felt transportation was very important.

Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned areas that needed to be looked at regarding ranking.

Mr. Presnell said they used the form that was used at the last evaluation.

Commissioner Holt said one of the areas she wanted to look at was transportation and road paving and they dealt more with that every day than they did medical issues.

Chair Taylor said there should have been a number of things they looked at and asked if anyone had heartburn to put this back out for bid and asked everyone for their opinion from each on how they wanted to proceed.

Commissioner Holt said a workshop was already scheduled and she had no problem in holding a workshop and meeting with them.

Commissioner Hinson concurred and said he was willing to do whatever the Board decided.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he concurred with the other fellow Commissioners and the workshop was scheduled.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with the discussion around the room and felt the workshop was a good idea and added that it was his opinion that the importance of someone that had a specialized attorney with healthcare background was critically important along with the land use experience. He felt the current firm had a team of attorneys that specialized in different areas.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Taylor said they would move forward with the workshop regarding items the Board discussed tonight.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the “aggravations” the Board members mentioned could be brought to the Board so all could see, i.e., conflicts, grievances, professional liability insurance, potential conflicts.

Mr. Presnell said it was advertised as a special meeting so a decision could be made if they wished to do so and asked if they now wanted a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson suggested to keep it as it was and if they wanted to vote they could and if not, they could wait.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they also had the option to table the decision if they chose to do so at the special meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss congratulated the Chair and the Board on moving through the Agenda.

Chair Taylor said Commissioner Holt had asked him to research an item and get back with the Board and Commissioner Holt said he had emailed it to her but her point was they received the agenda two weeks ahead of time and there was time to research things and get with the Board.

Mr. Weiss said he understood people deserved advance notice and assured them as soon as he was made aware of an issue, he would immediately make the Administrator aware and not wait until the day of. He said there was also some things that they may not know until the day of or the day before like what happened at the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Mr. Presnell could everything breakdown regarding the attorneys and make everything the same so it would be easier to look at and pointed out it was not a bid but an RFP.

Commissioner Holt pointed out if they include more in retainer than County needs, they did not need a retainer for nothing and the retainer needed to be for the services the County needed.

Receipt and File

15. Mediacom Letter

16. FDOH Letter-EMS Grant-December 7, 2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 18. January 5, 2017-Special Meeting – 4:00 p.m.
January 17, 2017-Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 3, 2017 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk