

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 21, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, 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
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to U. S. Flag.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

A silent Roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Recognition of The West Gadsden Panthers

Mr. Presnell said there were four items tonight under Awards and Presentations.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO MOVE ITEM 4-SUMMER UPDATE PROGRAM TO NUMBER ONE AND RECOGNITION OF THE WEST GADSDEN PANTHERS TO ITEM TWO AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CHANGE.

Mr. Presnell said this was to recognize The West Gadsden Panthers and to congratulate them on winning the State Championship Basketball playoffs.

Chair Taylor said the Head Coach, Andrew Moten, was not present due to surgery he had postponed until after the championship and she would like to have Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Holt present the plaques to the students since it was their districts. She said “Tonight it is not East Gadsden, it is not West Gadsden. It is Gadsden County being highlighted by a positive light due to what young men have done for this County.” She asked everyone to stand and give the students a round of applause on their accomplishment. She then asked the Commissioners to come forward.

Commissioner Morgan said they wanted to recognize not only the young players but their coaches

and the school and everyone who participated in winning the State Championship and encouraged all of the returning students to do this again next year.

Commissioner Holt told the students they were so proud of them and their accomplishments.

Each student and the Assistant Coaches were presented with a plaque to honor this momentous occasion.

Russell Harrison, Treasurer WGHSCB, spoke and said they were trying to get funds together to get the boys' championship rings and letterman jackets.

2. Update on County Administrator Position

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was an update on their County Administrator search as part of the transition plan.

Mr. Jack Brown, Florida County Managers Association and Escambia County Administrator appeared before the Board. He said several months ago Vice Long appeared before them and discussed the Florida Association of County Managers role and said they were interested in helping counties conduct searches for professional County Administrators. He added they needed to ponder and make sure they were in total agreement that they wanted to do a search or if they wanted to hold onto what they had. He added one of the things they needed to know from the Board as they moved forward was to talk to each commissioner and do a survey and find out exactly what they were looking for in a County Administrator and they would provide recommendations to some things that were critical. He said his understanding was there was still some debate as to moving forward or not and wanted to know if it was the Board's intent to move forward and the timeline the Board was looking at.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was "very amazed" that that statement was made and they had a succession plan and a timeline established and said he was asking questions that had been long established and felt it was very late at this point for him to be asking the Commission as to what their decision was. He explained a timeline had been set and a succession plan and they hired consultants to organize for the County Commission and they were paid to do the search. He said "the particular you just made is very, very untimely because you are asking questions that were asked before Mr. Long came and did a succession planning conversation with this body and gave a timeline for which we hired a consultant to help establish this succession plan with a timeline". He added he expected a timeline as to when the process would be completed, not a conversation of what they were thinking about doing. Mr. Brown explained there was a timeline in their packet and they would need to advertise for 30-45 days. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the advertisement had been done and Mr. Brown said no. Commissioner Viegbesie said they were in serious trouble if that has not been done and said the understanding of the Board was September was the last day and the new fiscal year would start October 1st. He further stated if they continued in this way, the County would end up with no County Administrator on the last day. He also stated he thought Mr. Brown was bringing to them "what numbers you have that have applied for the position because the position had been advertised a long time ago was the understanding of this Board. Mr. Brown said the letter that was provided to the Board and one of the things was the Boar's Human Resource person was to do the advertisement. Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Viegbesie said it had been advertised in October. Mr. Brown said the applications had not been turned over to them. Mr. Presnell explained to the Board Mr. Brown

was not privy to the discussion and the Board was on the timeline that was set and six months out from October the process was to begin; the advertisement and then the vetting. Mr. Brown asked if the position had been advertised and Mr. Presnell explained it was advertised last year but was not done by the Association. Mr. Brown explained they County HR person would do the actual advertisement and they would work with them. He said to Commissioner Viegbesie he understood they had developed the job description and Commissioner Viegbesie said the job description had been described, the requirements had been discussed and established as well as the Assistant County Administrator, who was working diligently with the HR Director before he left on retirement, was going to put together the advertisement. Commissioner Viegbesie further stated his understanding was it had been contracted to FACM and a search had been conducted and the process was going on and was why he requested the update to know the status of the search. Mr. Brown explained they were on timeline for that search to be concluded in September. Mr. Brown further explained as the applications come in, they want to make sure what the absolute things that were most important to Gadsden County and would be talking to each commissioner to see what skill sets they were looking for to make sure they find a good fit for the position. Commissioner Viegbesie said since this process had started, the County had developed a mission statement that stated what they were looking for and they had developed a job description, a position description that listed what they looked for in someone to be the County Administrator. He also said he thought all of that information had been provided to FACM. Mr. Brown explained they were on time for the agreed upon timeline that was provided and it was customary they sit with Board members or talk with them on the telephone to find the most important things they were looking for in a County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Brown if he had been provided the documents that Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned and he said he had not, he only was provided the Agreement Letter between FACM and the Board. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell where the applications were of the ones that had applied and he said they were in the Personnel Department and Commissioner Holt asked that he be provided copies of that as well. Mr. Brown recommended on the ones that had applied was the HR Department to contact each applicant and see if they were still interested in the position. Commissioner Holt said the Board had not done their job in notifying the applicants in a timely manner and letting them know if the job was or was not going to be filled and when. She then suggested to the Chair that he be provided with the documents and this item be re-agendaed. Chair Taylor asked if the documents Commissioner Holt had mentioned was documents that were to be shared with him per the contract and he stated yes. He explained the HR Department is to do the advertisement and they would take the applications, review them and rank them. Chair Taylor asked Mr. Presnell if there was a closing date for the advertisement for the position and Mr. Presnell said it was advertised late last summer. Chair Taylor said she was trying to get a rational reason as to why the documents, as per the contract, had not been forwarded to Mr. Brown. She said she respected his office and wanted to know why they had not been forwarded. Mr. Presnell said he was following the succession plan as the Board set it out. Chair Taylor said it looked like there was a little miscommunication between him and the Administrator and she understood him wanting to get his feel of the Board. Mr. Brown asked how many applicants there were and Mr. Presnell said seven or eight. He then asked if the Board felt that was a good pool to choose from. Chair Taylor suggested the documents be forwarded to him to review and him to get back in touch with the Board and let them know if he felt it was a “good pool”.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Brown for appearing before the Board and wanted to reset the

tone of the conversation because he felt it was important for the citizens to understand they were on track of where they needed to be. He said if they recalled, the Assistant Administrator position was open and it took a little longer than they anticipated to get it filled and he did an excellent job in filling it and they were very fortunate to have an experienced Administrator in place and there “was no house on fire” having to rush through this and not make a good decision. He also said the past fall the majority of the Board was up for re-election and they decided to wait until the new Board was in place and had no idea it would be the same Board and it was the right thing to do. He also said he felt they were exactly where they needed to be and they needed to move forward in a very decisive direction and was fortunate to have contracted with FACM and they should accept his suggestions and leadership and let him guide them through the process.

Commissioner Holt said she would like him to have the list to look at but was not for delaying this matter but wanted to make decisions and keep moving. She added she did not feel good about the applicants applying and the County not responding to them.

Commissioner Viegbesie apologized for his expression of frustration when he started his presentation and now understood he was not privileged to the information of the applicants.

Chair Taylor said she concurred with him receiving the necessary information tomorrow and expressed this was a time-sensitive issue.

3. Waste Pro Update

Mr. Presnell introduced the above referenced item and said the Representatives of Waste Pro was present to give an update..

Todd Mitchell, Division Manager and Efford Major, Operations Manager appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a large population of elderly citizens in his district and they had a hard time getting the containers to the roads for pick-up. He also mentioned bear episodes.

Mr. Mitchell said private roads were the issue and they could not be responsible for the possible damage that could happen to the road and also had an issue of being able to turn the trucks around on private property. He did add if the customer was willing to sign off that Waste Pro was not responsible for damage and they had a way of turning the truck around to get in and out.

They explained they did not mind helping and the customer could provide them with a doctor’s excuse and they would be willing to work with them and help out to the best of their ability. They said they also had bear-proof containers available for the customers that had bear issues, but they weighed considerably more than the regular containers they normally used.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad to see them here and had observed on his road, when the customers place the containers out for pick-up, after the trash has been dumped, they leave the containers in the roadway and it caused a hazard to drivers.

Chair Taylor said she first was introduced to Waste Pro when she was a City Commissioner and Ralph Mills came in and asked for their business and her only request was for them to give young men and women a chance who had issues with their background and she heard reports that he

had done that and that was a positive. The negative was as they travelled down the road and debris blew from the trucks she asked if they would be responsible to pick up debris and he agreed and that was the only thing that had not been a continuous agreement. She added someone had actually videoed that happening. Mr. Majors said he works with the Pat Thomas Second Chance Release program to give guys an opportunity; he also was working with a new program at TCC and if he is hiring at that time will give the guys an opportunity and also would be assisting with the Job Fair at East Gadsden to work with some of the students to give them some direction with a trade. He then responded to the trash collection part they would try to improve on that. Mr. Mitchell said one thing they had done was put go cameras on the trucks so they can view the trucks on the way they are driven. He said they also require the trash to be bagged because once the trash was in the bag it was very difficult for the whole bag to blow out unlike a small piece of paper.

4. Summer Program Updates

Dr. Monica Hayes, Lead Instructor/Coordinator Intensive English Program, FAMU, appeared before the Board and said she was delighted to appear before the Board and represented the Florida A & M University Division of Continuing Education and said they were having four camps during the summer, two for middle school students and two for high school students. She spoke on two programs, Summer Fundamentals Time that focused on math, science, reading, critical thinking, Spanish conversation & cultural activities; and an Intensive English Program that focused on speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension skills that would be held on the FAMU campus from June 5th – July 14th and would be \$125.00/week.

Efford Major appeared on behalf of Waste Pro and said they would like to sponsor five kids for the program.

CLERK OF COURTS

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

5. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked Waste Pro for their update and suggested they put on their Facebook page for customers to make sure to bag their trash to have less of a chance for trash getting out.

She reported she attended the GCDC meeting the other day and construction had started at Four Star Freightliner and had starting cleaning the lot off to build and they would be training at GTI.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned old road signs and said there were some so old they could barely be read from a distance and he had mentioned some to the County Administrator and they had been expeditiously replaced and they needed to look and replace all the old signs as soon as possible in case of emergencies to make places easier to find.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MS. LINZY MAE FIGGERS ASKNOWLEDGING HER SERVICES FOR THE SHAW QUARTER COMMUNITY AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he would be short because his Mom told him he spoke too long and he was trying to stay focused a little better. He said March was Women’s’ Month and recognized Chair Taylor and Commissioner Holt and said they had done an outstanding job on the Board.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan told Commissioner Hinson to “always listen to your Mother”. He mentioned to the Administrator that Commissioner Viegbesie had an excellent point regarding the road signs and also there were some that had gone missing and thought they should proactively go out and look and replace the ones that need to be.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor said there was so much going on in Washington, D.C. and she was hearing a lot about program cuts and if they went through it would have an impact on this County and may need to look at things here to prepare themselves. She also said she would like to look at a moratorium on hiring and did not want to impact quality and did not want that to be an issue.

She mentioned the summer youth jobs and said she had already been approached by students and parents concerning that.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked when they would start using their monitors and Mr. Presnell said the transition was going on and they had selected a vendor to handle this. He also said they would be adding another television to help the audience see better on the other side.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to look at the homestead property tax being raised and how it may impact the County. Commissioner Morgan commented according to the Property Appraiser it could impact the County \$850,000.

CONSENT

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

6. Ratification to Pay County Bills

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 16, 2016-Joint Workshop-BOCC/Midway City Council
- b. July 7, 2016-Succession Planning Retreat
- c. February 21, 2017-Regular Meeting

8. Approval of a New Road Name

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Adoption of the Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy 5 Year Update

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-009 Official Resolution of the Gadsden County Commissioner adopting the Five Year Update to the Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a huge document and felt they needed to workshop this matter. He added he had attended Emergency Training himself and may have some input and wanted to know their strategy and what training they had received. He also added this could potentially bring in millions of dollars to the County. Mr. Presnell said they needed to see if this was time sensitive.

Major Shawn Wood, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Board and said the money Commissioner Hinson was talking about was HMGP money and was a different pot of money. He also added that LMS money does bring in millions of dollars and LMS was a committee that the Administrator sits on and all Administrators in the cities along with Road and Bridge and other entities and the County and cities come together and pick the most important projects, rank them and when monies become available through Disaster Relief, they go toward the projects, such as Crawfish Island in Chattahoochee and the culverts in Havana.

Tashonda Whaley, Emergency Management Coordinator appeared before the Board and said the deadline for this is May 11th and everything had to be signed and turned in by that date. She further explained this was something they had to update every five years.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the suggestion made by Commissioner Hinson was very vital and most citizens did not understand the working of Emergency Management.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

Commissioner Holt said one reason they needed to look at it, they have to decide every so often as to if they still wanted to have it and how to handle it.

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

Chair Taylor commented that all of the Commissioners needed to go through the Emergency Management training.

10. Discussion of a New County-Wide Communication System

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for discussion of a new County-wide Communication System. He added that the current system that the County operated off of was over 30 years old, antiquated and not in compliance and there were serious issues with it. He added they had been working on this for over 1 ½ years and they were here for a brief presentation.

Chair Taylor said this was for discussion only and maybe should have been put under the

Presentations.

Bob Bush, Motorola Solutions Sales Manager, and Debbie Giles and Lamar Thomas from First Communications appeared before the Board. Mr. Bush said the current system was a three transmitter location site analog conventional system.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

He further stated there was one located at the jail, installed in the 80's and had repairs recently done to it; The Sheriff Mutual Aid, EMS, Quincy Police Department, County Road and Bridge and Corrections all had individual transmitters at that location and the other two sites were at the Chattahoochee Tower and Midway Tower and were receive only to try to improve coverage in the County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a copy of the PowerPoint and they did not have one.

Mr. Bush continued on regarding the current system and added with the analog system people could listen in with scanners. He said one of the things the FCC did in 2012 was narrow-banding and the impact the County had in becoming compliant with it cut the coverage on the system to approximately half of what it was before.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the County Administrator if there were other public communication providers they had vetted and compared to Motorola and asked how they came up with Motorola as the provider and Mr. Presnell said it was competitive. He said Motorola was the current supplier and had tested to correct dead spots. He said it was a lot to put on them but staff needed to get a feel and they needed to do something to correct the dead areas, replace equipment and this was the best solution. He explained to the Commissioners the system they were proposing for the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this was the time to look at other public communication providers and Mr. Presnell said they needed to get new equipment. He asked if they Board wanted them to explore other manufacturers.

Commissioner Morgan said Commissioner Viegbesie had asked very good questions and he fought hard to get to this point tonight and was not aware until four to six months ago of current issues and very serious gaps in coverage and they were coming up on budget workshops very quickly and could not think of a more important item that they needed to consider. His concern was this had not been properly notified to the Board of how serious this was and because of gaps, the deputies, EMS and different departments were at risk. He also said he was interested in the solution the equipment would offer and would entertain leasing this equipment as opposed to coming forward with the type of money it would take to do this.

Commissioner Holt thanked Commissioner Morgan for bringing this item forward. She said this would fall under Mr. Presnell's department and he said the majority of radio use was the EMS, Fire, and Public Works and did fall under the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said this particular contract was for equipment purchase and other counties already had this equipment and they might could piggy-back off them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was no doubt an upgrade was needed, however he did not believe Motorola was the only provider and it was imperative they explore other brands to determine which was best.

Commissioner Morgan said the main purpose he put this on for discussion was to make a path forward and they needed to set a timeline on how to handle this issue and asked who they were charging to get this done.

Chair Taylor said two things were said 1) a need to do this and 2) a local company. She said she had talked with officers and they had acknowledged they were having issues with their communication devices and she would like to keep it local and it was obvious they did their due diligence and knew what they needed versus what they had. She said she was in agreeance of going with Motorola because they were local.

11 McDonald Avenue Sidewalk-Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the bid of the McDonald Avenue sidewalk project to Sandco, the low bidder in the amount of \$290,108.00.

Mr. Weiss said if it was the will of Board to vote for option one, they needed to add at the end of option one that it was conditioned on the approval of the change order to reduce the contract price in the amount of \$71,100.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION ONE CONTINGENT ON THE FDOT APPROVING THE CONTRACT LESS \$71,100.00 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the bid tabulation forms.

Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board and said this was brought to them August last year and was waiting to get the inspection firm hired to bring this back before them and they saw bid results at that time and was why they were not included. He said he would be happy to email them to the Board.

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

12 McDonald Avenue Sidewalk-Change Order #1

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for the Change Order mentioned above.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

13 2017 Striping Project-Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the 2017

Striping Project to Akca, Inc., the low bidder in the amount of \$157,913.00.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

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

14 Approval of Resolution 2017-007 supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-007 in support of seeking construction funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program for a new sidewalk along Atlanta Street from MLK Boulevard to Ben Bostick Road.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

15 Approval of Resolution 2017-008 supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-008 in support of seeking construction funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program for a new sidewalk along 11TH Street and Iron Bridge Road.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

16 Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Gadsden County BOCC to utilize the AlertFlorida Statewide Notification System

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a Memorandum of Agreement between Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Gadsden County BOCC to utilize the AlertFlorida statewide notification system. He added the FDEM was funding and providing the notification system at no cost for a two year period.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

17 Adoption of the Gadsden County 2017 Updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Resolution 2017-010 and the Promulgation letter.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-007 in support of seeking construction funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program for a new sidewalk along Atlanta Street from MLK Boulevard to Ben Bostick Road.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBWESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

18 Agreement with the Management Experts, LLC to Develop a Multi-/year Strategic Plan in Coordination with the Emergency Management Stakeholder Advisory Committee and to Conduct a Workshop in Conjunction with the 2017 Annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was an agreement with The Management Experts, LLC to develop a Multi-Year Strategic Plan in coordination with the Emergency Management Stakeholder Advisory Committee to conduct a workshop in conjunction with the Annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise.

Commissioner Holt asked if this was a bid item and Mr. Presnell responded yes. He said there was a clarification letter from the Sheriff's Office; advertisements were published in all three local newspapers.

Tashonda Whaley appeared before the Board to address questions and said there was only one bidder. She added there was someone else that showed interest but only asked that it be placed on the website for minority businesses and sent her an RFQ but never heard anything from them.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they tried to work with The Florida Association of Counties so they could relay the information out and she said no. Commissioner Hinson then stated he felt they should re-bid this item. Ms. Whaley said this contractor had done multiple projects for them in the past and worked with the other local counties in Region 1 and Region 2.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a serious situation and when they talk about local, it was almost a joke and when someone reinvests back into the community that was when it was local and felt they should at least give FAC a chance. He then asked from her experience, did she feel she reached out to everyone and she said she put the RFQ out.

Commissioner Holt thanked Ms. Whaley for the proposal and said they needed to do a better job marketing the County.

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

19 Approval to Dispose of Surplus Property and Equipment

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to dispose of surplus property and equipment that was obsolete, damages and had no useful value.

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

20. Approval of the 2017 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the 2017 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

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

BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Hinson asked if DEP was connected to the Health Department and Mr. Presnell explained they had Environmental Services with the Health Department that dealt with septic tanks, fuel tanks in the County and DEP was the State agency.

21. Approval of the Contract with Joel Sampson Architects, Inc. for the Design of the New County Extension Building/Agricultural Center

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said It was for approval of the contract with Joel Sampson Architects, Inc. for the design of the new County Extension Building/Agricultural Center.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THIS ITEM. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson asked if a bid was done and Mr. Presnell said an RFP was done.

Clyde Collins, Building Official, appeared before the Board and said an RFP was sent out last summer, contracts were sent to USDA, and was now trying to get the contract with Joel Sampson approved so he could start designing plans.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the contract amount was and then stated he saw where it was \$122,200 and asked if that was the same amount as last time when it was bid out and Mr. Collins said yes. Commissioner Hinson asked if an architect was picked without a bid being done and Mr. Collins said an RFP was done for their qualifications to be shown and was picked based on that. Mr. Presnell explained professional services could not be bid on and Commissioner Hinson asked if other people competed and Mr. Collins said yes. Mr. Presnell said that was presented early summer and the bid was awarded and should have been attached again and would have been helpful.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was leaning toward instead of “killing trees”, put the date and firms that bidded in the item when it was first brought so they could refer back and save paper.

Commissioner Holt asked if she could speak with the architect regarding the design of the Farmer’s market.

Joel Sampson, Architect, appeared before the Board. She asked where the restrooms were located and he said there were two designs. She said she would like to see the door to the restrooms facing outside so the customers would not have to go into the building and she asked about seating for the Farmers Market and he said it was open space.

Commissioner Hinson said with the School Board, before they would get a contract, they had to show what they could present first and go with the best plan and who came up with the best plan was who they went with and here they had no input in this process and it was unfair.

Chair Taylor said Commissioner Holt helped to put this together and they had bid this and it was back for approval and they needed to move.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON

MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR ASKED IF A 3-D PRESENTATION COULD BE BROUGHT BACK.

Commissioner Holt said she did not have input into design and the restrooms were not where she suggested. Commissioner Holt said USDA looked at this particular design and they agreed with the restrooms facing outside.

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

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Sampson about the Stevens School project and deadline and he said it was June 30th and advertising would be in the next few weeks.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

22. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell told Commissioner Hinson they were doing a large item pick-up and it had been placed in the newspapers. Commissioner Morgan said he read they could not do pick-ups in rural areas that were on state highways and Mr. Presnell said technically they were not supposed to pick-up on state roads.

He reminded them the GCDC round table meeting was set for April 11th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the IFAS Center.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell the total costs regarding Motorola and he said it was \$2.1 Million for everything. He said he would bring back more options, only wanted the Board to be aware of what was going on.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed that Georgia was trying to get rid of Meals on Wheels and asked how they could be proactive and this was serious because the Federal Government was trying to cut it down. Commissioner Morgan said that was not entirely correct, he heard that initially but thought it was misreported.

Chair Taylor asked about the Emergency Management Workshop and wanted it agendaed as well as the CEMP.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if in the organizational structure anyone that was specifically in charge of looking at the homelessness within the County and Mr. Presnell said no. He said they fell under the umbrella with Leon County.

Chair Taylor asked that they look at a date for the Emergency Management workshop and Commissioner Morgan said it was critically important to have adequate background information and the different options prior to the workshop. Commissioner Viegbesie wanted to get across to the Emergency Management team, when they ask for updates on programs, the persons running the program feel they are being attacked personally and asked they get them to understand they were not coming before Board to be criticized personally.

Chair Taylor asked if they would like to have a workshop before the next meeting from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Presnell said they needed time to present a nice presentation. Chair Taylor said

maybe they could do it the last meeting in April or the first meeting in May. Commissioner Hinson said they would be in Tallahassee April 4th, 5th, and 6th and was unsure what the Board would want to do. Mr. Presnell said they had already decided that one meeting in July would be cancelled.

Commissioner Holt said the Florida Association of Counties usually does workshops for them and consult them and they can give updates and insight on what they could do before they meet with anyone. Chair Taylor said she had no problem with whatever resources the Administrator reached out to.

Chair Taylor asked the Attorney if they needed to officially opt out of the April 4th meeting because the majority of the Commissioners would be attending the meeting in Tallahassee. Commissioner Morgan asked if it went into the evening and Commissioner Viegbesie said the Ethics Workshop would go until 6:00 p.m. and the Board Meeting was scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. Chair Taylor said she planned on attending that workshop and suggested they made a motion to opt out that particular meeting and meet the third Tuesday of the month.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON THAT DUE TO OBLIGATIONS WITH THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, THEY SKIP THE FIRST MEETING IN APRIL AND HAVE THE MEETING ON THE THIRD TUESDAY AND INSTRUCT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Chair Taylor said she wanted to explore the moratorium on hiring because she did not want to compromise the quality of service but they needed to tighten their belt.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

23. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had no comments and was available for questions.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 28, 2017-Joint Workshop-BOCC/City of Chattahoochee 6:30 p.m.

April 4, 2017-BOCC Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

April 18, 2017-BOCC Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 21, 2017 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:18 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk