

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 16, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance. A silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to add Item 1a-Legislative Update and asked to remove Item 2-Armada Ammunition Update. Commissioner Holt asked to add the Mural to the agenda for a vote and Chair Taylor said they could not add anything to the Agenda for a vote especially if it had a monetary amount attached to it. Commissioner Holt disagreed and said there may not be a vote and might not be money involved and she would like to discuss it. Chair Taylor said she could bring this up under her comments for discussion but there would be no vote. Commissioner Holt said she would like for there to be a vote but it did not have to be for the money. Chair Taylor said she would not be able to add it to the Agenda tonight and they were going to move the Agenda and 1a was added.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. (NO-ONE SAID AYE AND NO-ONE SAID NAY.) COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THE AGENDA WAS NOT APPROVED AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID HE DID NOT HEAR A SECOND FOR THE APPROVAL. CHAIR TAYLOR POINTED OUT THAT COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND AND HE AGREED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Public Works Week**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a Proclamation honoring Public Works Week and they had some of the employees present to accept it.

Chair Taylor asked the Public Works Department to come forward to accept the Proclamation. She and Vice Chair Hinson read the Proclamation aloud.

Chair Taylor said this Department was one of the departments where you could see government at work.

**2. ~~Armada Ammunition Update~~**

Item pulled

**1a Legislative Update**

**Chris Doolin, Lobbyist**, appeared before the Board to give a legislative update. He said it was a very difficult session and asked the Administrator to have the Department Heads review the hand-out as there were several things that would affect them. He added they anticipated a substantial amount of the budget to be vetoed. He added that the County had three major funding requests and two were not funded and the Gadsden County Re-Entry Program was funded at \$200,000 of the \$250,000 requested. He said the County relied heavily on State Grant Programs and Revenue Sharing and gave a list of programs and said most were funded at the current level. He added that Counties were eligible for up to \$100,000 from the Firefighter Assistance Grant. He said no parks were funded but in the Cultural Community they did well and no water projects were funded for Gadsden County. He added the salary increases for the State of Florida would benefit the community and there were changes to the Retirement. He added in November, 2018, there will be a Constitutional Amendment to increase homestead exemption by an additional \$25,000 and the Legislature will put on the ballot Statewide a proposal to increase the homestead exemption and will be for houses of \$100,000 - \$125,000 value and they were successful in getting the fiscally strained Counties offset and it will not affect the revenues, residents would get the exemption and the Legislature has agreed to pay the costs that would have impacted the communities.

He said they needed to continue working with the municipalities to get things ranked suggested they get the NGOs, Historical Society and whoever has the capacity to promote their program along with the cities and they coordinate an overall program where they set up a booth for the day in Tallahassee and have an Agenda set up. He also informed them the Legislature will start meeting in January.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for wonderful job done on behalf of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to think about this carefully and would rather get something instead of nothing.

Commissioner Morgan thanked them for their efforts and added they needed need to keep in mind who the audience would be when they have Gadsden County Day and need to understand current environment & need to show how the County was changing and progressing and working with regional neighbors and needed to positively brand them.

Commissioner Holt said they definitely needed to look at how to do things now.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they were discussing issues with food stamps and asked how that would impact the community. Sarah Bleakley said she was not certain of what passed but would get back with the Commissioners regarding that.

Chair Taylor said she thought this was little premature because government had the last say-so.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

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

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **3. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

##### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she brought up earlier the mural that was being put on the wall and there was an error and asked the building inspector to come forward to explain. She said the building was measured but did not go to the top of the building, added that the Historical Society said the part from top of mural to top of building had to be painted and this was time sensitive.

**Roosevelt Morris, Building Inspector**, appeared before the Board and said he met with the artist, he has pressure washed the building and a lot of loose paint came off. He did not realize what he was not to paint would be affected and suggested the entire building to be painted but was not in his scope of services that were approved. He said he bid on an area of 18 x 65 foot and there is an additional 5-6 foot above that would need to be addressed to give the best design. They came up with a plan for him to paint the entire wall and that was why they were here tonight.

Commissioner Holt said the Historical Society said that wall needed to be painted. Mr. Morris went ahead and got bids and the majority were ranging around \$4,800-\$4,900 additional to what was awarded.

Commissioner Holt said they had \$25,000 set aside for the job, he bid on the area that was sent to him and could add at a cheaper price to have him do the whole wall. She said he was already here from Canada and working on wall and he was willing to do it. She said the windows were a concern for later as there were pieces missing.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Board approved up to \$25,000 and asked with changes would they still be within budget and he was told yes. He said the contract was approved and this would be a change order and was told yes.

Chair Taylor said this was an item that needed to be agendaed and would like to have something formally from the Historical Society. She also said she understood it was time sensitive but this needed to be placed on the Agenda.

Commissioner Holt said she not received an email and asked what it said and he read aloud from the Code of Ordinances 2-45 **Order of business** subsections (b) and (j) that concerned this matter.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the question he asked earlier was if the issue was a change order and did not think a change order would be precedence because they had moved to change orders without placing them on an agenda before for other projects and felt as long as it was within the approved amount did not think they had to wait two weeks for the next meeting to have this matter approved and saw nothing wrong with it legally.

Chair Taylor said there had been change orders in the past but they had been agendaed. She

said nothing could be added without it being properly advertised

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with an emergency meeting on Friday. Chair Taylor said she would not agree to an emergency meeting for a mural and it did not impact anyone's like. Mr. Weiss said they could call an emergency meeting and explained how to advertise for it.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING FOR THE MURAL AND DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a copy of the contract and Mr. Presnell said the contract was for \$18,500 starting at the bottom of the windows the entire length and instead of the County paying to put it back red above the point for about the same price the painter could incorporate the mural as was shown on the screen they were viewing. Mr. Presnell added the artist had to know the next morning. Commissioner Hinson asked what was in contract and when was his last day. Mr. Presnell said he had to be done and had to leave by June 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hinson asked what the contract said and Mr. Presnell said the contract gave him square dimensions with the content. Mr. Presnell said the artist said he could paint the mural he was contracted for but felt it would not be as good a product.

Chair Taylor reminded her colleagues there were laws when it came to spending taxpayers' money and said they needed to follow the process they had in place. She added she did like how it looked but they had procedures in place and if it involved a fiscal impact, per their rules, it should be placed on the Agenda and they waited over a year and they could wait a little longer. Commissioner Holt said the contract was in place and the County needed to do what they were supposed to do.

Commissioner Holt said the Attorney told them this could be resolved with an emergency meeting and it could be posted in the City Hall. She reminded the Commissioners they had budgeted \$25,000 and he was charging \$23,500 and was saving \$\$2,000 of what was set aside.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Attorney mentioned an emergency meeting and this was not a project that could be placed on a computer screen and stretched to fill the screen up.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had a soft spot for Dr. Furlow and had met Dr. Lefall. He said to save peace, asked if they could approve this in two weeks and was trying to throw options out. He said if it was going to be approved in two weeks, why not just approve it so the project could be finished and wished the artist was present.

Chair Taylor pointed out the law stated if there was a fiscal impact, it had to be agendaed and suggested they follow their laws. She said they could not approve anything unless it was agendaed and asked that they not start tonight. She added they had not approved anything that had a fiscal impact unless it was on the agenda since she had been on the Board.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Attorney if this was a policy the Commission put in place and was told yes. He asked if there had been a situation where they had approved a Change Order

without it being on the agenda or approved it and the agenda was put out the following week.

Mr. Weiss stated said he could not recall when a change order that had a fiscal impact was added to the agenda.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was something in his district he wanted to change, it would go on the Agenda first. He then asked about the motion on the floor, if it worked in the rams of an emergency and added he was looking at the General Revenue, would this affect the change order put in place. Mr. Weiss said that was a better question for the Administrator. Mr. Presnell said there were two ways to look at it-the Board originally approved \$25,000 and that amount was budgeted and it was General Revenue dollars and everything affects it. Commissioner Holt said they affect the General Revenue when they put roads on the Agenda and then change roads.

Chair Taylor said to put things in perspective, with roads, that item was on the Agenda and properly advertised and tonight this was not on the Agenda and had not been advertised. She asked that they not set precedence tonight. Commissioner Hinson said he hated to see it prolonged and hated to approve without seeing what was previously approved. He asked if they did have an Emergency Meeting, what they would then do from that point.

Chair Taylor said if they changed the Contract, they were giving him more days and added she agreed with Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Viegbesie but wanted to do what was right.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was motion on the floor and he called the question.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED THE QUESTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AN EMERGENCY MEETING. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Mr. Presnell said it needed to be as soon as possible and asked if they could do the Emergency Meeting Thursday morning.

Chair Taylor said to set the meeting for Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Holt said the Supreme Court should rule on Gretna hopefully Thursday.

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked Staff for the wonderful things they were doing and was glad to announce there was no longer a County-owned unpaved road in District 2.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked Staff and Chair for their leadership.

He also thanked Staff for a great workshop that was held at 4:00 earlier.

He said he had an opportunity to take students from East and West Gadsden to visit FAMU School of Environment and it gave them an opportunity to see different things regarding the environment and the kids were very intrigued.

He asked what the water quality was in Gadsden County and if there was a difference between the East and West of the County.

Mr. Presnell informed him there was a difference and he was talking about drinking water and in Gadsden County there was ground water and the main differences were the quality was good and said the extreme east and west had pockets and was not as good as the center part of the county.

Commissioner Hinson asked that the Commissioners be provided with a Water Quality Report from all municipalities that was available.

He reminded the Commissioners Graduation was this week.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor asked for a Resolution for Ms. Jeannette Wynn.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**Summer Jobs**

She asked if they were at the point of hiring and if selections had been made. Mr. Presnell said they had selected about half and notices should go out at first of the week.

**Eviction Costs**

Chair Taylor said she had mentioned something regarding this and Mr. Presnell said it was on the Agenda tonight.

She talked about the motion that was approved regarding the mural. She wanted to make sure they steered clear and did not set precedence.

**CONSENT**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. August 11, 2016 Local Healthcare Providers Workshop
- b. March 7, 2017 – Regular Meeting
- c. March 9, 2017 Joint Workshop
- d. April 18, 2017-Regular Meeting
- e. May 2, 2017 – Regular Meeting

**5. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said two weeks ago Chair Taylor asked the attorney to look at the by-laws for Gadsden Senior Services and did not see it agendaed and asked about the follow-up.

He said there was a conversation some time ago regarding mental health and knew Apalachee provided services and asked if it was coordinated with other health care services and if an officer had to transport to Tallahassee, it took away from patrolling here.

**Economic Development Council**

He said he had a conversation with Rob Nixon on Wednesday and he mentioned one thing that was handcuffing him. He said there were seven small businesses in the incubator and could not get micro-loans from lenders in the County. With other Counties and municipalities, the banks they were dealing with, they, on behalf of that County, had gone to banks and asked if they could provide micro-loan and would be guaranteed because they had someone over the program providing a business plan on behalf of the businesses and would make sure the loan would be paid back. He asked if they could ask Mr. Thomas to see if he could approach the banks to get help from County's banking institution.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING-Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of the FLZ plan to promote the planning and funding of infrastructure improvements.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan asked if only one public hearing was required of this and was told yes.

**Beth Kirkland, CECD, Executive Director of the GCDC**, appeared before the Board and had with her Marita Pennington, a planner with Pennington Consulting. Ms. Kirkland said the purpose of this was to provide a freight logistics zone to facilitate freight activities and services within the region.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR ADOPTION AND APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan Asked what the blue piece on the screen was and Ms. Kirkland said it was the land owners.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not have a major problem with this but thought they should have a workshop regarding this so they would have a clearer understanding of this item. Chair Taylor agreed.

Commissioner Holt had questions for Ms. Kirkland. She asked who the property owners were and was told Clara Farm, Inc. and Gamboa, Inc. She asked what the property would be used for and was told it would be a inter-mobile logistics center. Holt said this was same they were doing in Mississippi and this was getting the site ready and was part of the process.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 FOR APPROVAL. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED AND THEN CONCURRED AND MADE THE VOTE 5-0. CHAIR TAYLOR AGREED THERE NEEDED TO BE A WORKSHOP.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. CR 269**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry-Preble Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Little Sycamore Road Paving Project.

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

**8. Howell Road**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Task Order 2017-002 with DPB & Associates, LLC. for the construction engineer and inspection services of the Howell Road Widening and Resurfacing Project.

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

**9. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink**

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

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

**10. Approval of Task Order 2017-001**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Task Order 2017-001 with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for Phase III of the Gadsden County Road Improvements Projects in County Districts 1, 2, and 4 and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Chair Taylor asked if there was money left over in the Districts and Mr. Presnell said yes and she asked how they could close out with money left and he said this was Phase III and they were would be doing Phase IV.



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

**11. Approval of Book Check and Detection**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization of the annual service agreement for Book Check and Detection Devices to be provided by Bibliotheca/3M Library Systems for the William A. "Bill" McGill Library.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked for it to be explained.

**Tabitha Washington, Director of Library Services**, appeared before the Board to explain the use of this. She said it detected the books that were checked in or out

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

**12. Discussion on the Half Cent Tax for Indigent Care**

**Mr. Presnell**

"Madam Chair and members of the Board, this next item I was asked to bring back for your discussion. It's presented to the Board to provide a background information regarding the Half Cent Sales Tax for Indigent Care. Attached on there we give you a little history of the last five years of how that half cent has been disbursed."

**Chair Taylor**

"OK, we do have someone that wishes to speak on this item. If you want to go on with just a little discussion about this particular item so you're gonna have to help me to recall the reason for it being brought back was...and who was the Commissioner that wanted it brought back, do you recall?"

**Commissioner Taylor**

"I wanted to see if..."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Well, I brought it up, I asked the Board to, Mr. Presnell to give us the information so we could see it. I had a Pastor that came to me that Sunday before the Board (inaudible) so I said I would like to know myself so I'm glad..."

**Mr. Presnell**

"And briefly, I'll just, I'm sorry..."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"As a matter of fact, I am glad that this has been brought back for discussion because being the newest member of this body and particular initiative was approved before I actually relocated to Gadsden County from Leon County, I think this would give me a whole lot of opportunity to gain

a whole lot of knowledge about this project. So, Madam Chair, if fellow Commissioners, if you can indulge me with me a little bit, I have series of questions that I will need to ask with regards to this conversation so at least for my own educational growth on this item. I would like to ask these questions. One of those questions is what was the original intent of the half cent sales tax? In other words, what I'm asking is what did the political action committee that pushed to get these initiatives through and put it on the ballot and get it pushed through to get it approved by the citizens. What were these voters voting for? What was the language on the initiative itself? What was the purpose of the..."

**Chair Taylor**

"Indigent Care"

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"OK, so that is indigent care is, that was the purpose?"

**Chair Taylor**

"That's the purpose."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"So then, my other question is, when this money was to be generated, the revenue, with all of the half cent sales tax generated revenue go for indigent care or is there a split in the generated revenue and if there is a split, how was the split meant to be divided, between programs or was it all strictly for indigent care or is there some for prescription drug and some for this, what was the split on the original intent of this half-cent sales tax revenue."

**Chair Taylor**

"You're right, but the formula for the split I never knew. I'm going to lend to him (pointing to Mr. Presnell.) But you're right, prescription, hospital, indigent care, you're right."

**Mr. Presnell**

"Madam Chair, the agreement that was done with the Board at that time was to, they borrowed money to renovate the hospital and it requires that the payment on that be paid with the proceeds first of the half-cent to make that payment. Then the Board, to provide indigent health care, contracted with Capital Regional, who put into the facility out there and they get approximately 60% of the remaining proceeds and the other proceeds go to the Health Department and there is a PAMS, a drug program that is run with some of the funds as well. At one time there was some funds that had built up, whatever reason, really kind of before that time, it was about \$350,000 and something and those were given to the Health Council and that is where you see the We Care Network. Indigent people could contact them and they would be referred to someone, those monies ran out two years ago and they were one-time funds that had accumulated. So currently we service the debt on renovating the building and buying the equipment, Capital Regional gets approximately 60% and the 40% is spent on various programs."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"The other, I mean I really do appreciate the Board, Madam Chair, can indulge with me because I am learning a whole lot more than I ever knew in regards to this with these questions. The other question I have here is what where the County's health ranking numbers before the

approval of this half-cent sales tax for indigent care? “

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“Was the County healthier then than now or was now than then?”

**Mr. Presnell**

“Dr. Cooksey is in the audience, she might can answer that better than me. We can research it and get that for you but I don’t have that tonight.”

**Chair Taylor**

“OK, I think the expression on Dr. Cooksey’s face and I concur, she can tell you as far back as when she came into the folds that she can certainly give you definition. But as he just said a moment ago, he will get you that information. But we’ve always been somewhere between 63 – 67 as far as I recall.”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“I appreciate that Madam and Mr. Administrator. Ah, I think I’m going to yield to the rest of the Commissioners and ah, let them, maybe some of their questions and conversation that are answered or address some of the other questions that I have here.”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Yes, thank you. When that item was discussed and debated in this room long before and I’m the only one left that was on here, it was for a hospital. That was the debate, that was the direction of the people that came to the microphone. Now in between that time and the time it was written up it said for indigent care, ok, and it was included in, and you can go back and pull some of the tapes, I think a couple of pastors taped it. But it said for a hospital.”

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Holt**

“The attorney I want to say at that time said that you can do it for indigent care to leverage that money, indigent care tax. That’s why you will see people saying we were supposed to get a hospital, because that’s where they came to the microphone and testified and they spoke in different meetings and workshops throughout the County ‘cause that what they wanted. In the Health Council, the meeting, that’s what they discussed and I think Ms. Battles is back there, she was on that group. They said that’s what they wanted them a hospital. So under the indigent care tax, it didn’t say to build a hospital but that’s what the citizens requested, that’s what they wanted, that’s what they campaigned for. So, that’s the problem that somehow between them and the Board and the writing of that law and then the issuing of that money was not done what they asked to do.”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“If I may interject Madam Chair, so, Commissioner Holt, am I to insinuate from that conversation that there was actually some element of false advertisement of the project or the initiative to the citizens as to what they voted for and what intent of the initial service?”

**Commissioner Holt**

"To use a legal term 'Pretty much'".

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"I'm just, I mean, I'm not a very smart person in this, I'm just asking questions."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Uh-huh, what I'm saying is this, the attorney said, and we discussed it, that that was the best way to levy the tax at that time. Now, should we have put the description on there what we wanted to money for, because of the evidence of people coming up here testifying saying that's what they wanted, they had caught rides to Tallahassee, they wanted to be able to, especially for minor things, like one man said, 'I hurt my ankle, I've got to go all the way to Tallahassee' and they wanted to be able for observation especially, stay in the County. So, even at parades and different events, people were advertise we want to open our hospital, they chant, we had t-shirts, they, we had everything, hand-outs, and so, that's why, ah, everyone saying that they thought the indigent tax was gonna go towards the hospital, not towards an Emergency Room. When people are saying that they are really telling the truth. They are not joking at all. As I said, and I don't know if Ms. Battles wanna come up and say the same thing because she's one of the people that led to help open the Health Council."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"So what I'm hearing is, the half-cent sales tax when it was approved, the citizens were made to understand that at some point in that facility that we have here on Blue Star Highway, eventually they were going to have some number of beds..."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Right."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"...for them to stay when they need medical care. So, the questions now when I follow that is, when are we going to use this money to do what we promised the citizens that the money would be used for, which means, when are we intending to change how this revenue generated is used so that we now have overnight beds at that location."

**Commissioner Holt**

"May I Madam Chair?"

**Chair Taylor**

"Sure."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Ah, the and could Ms. Battles come up?"

**Chair Taylor**

"Sure."

**Commissioner Holt**

"And I would like to say while she's coming, that when, this was a totally separate commission

that passed the referendum. It passed in July, August somewhere that summer, that fall, maybe September. Then the Commissioner changed in November. So the whole intent of it changed, OK, but what also happened was when the other contracted company that was going to renovate the hospital and open the hospital said 'These are the number of beds we can do' and in fact Ajax out there was the one that was going to do the work. They still had it in their plan, to this date they had it in their plan. But, when the other contracted company came in and took over the contract, they did say at one time 12 beds. So that was a start but the 12 beds never came after they renovated the Emergency Room. So there are still no beds out there, but they said they would provide 12 beds, that's what Capital Regional said. So, if you don't mind Madam Chairman, Ms. Battles is going to speak."

**Arrie Battle**

"My name is Arrie Battle and I did chair at the (inaudible) at the half-cent sales tax. What Commissioner Holt is saying was what happened out in the community, but we also told the citizens that if they voted for the half-cent sales tax, when they went to the hospital for minor stuff with our without insurance, they could be seen, which is not the case anymore. But that's what the citizens were told. I thing we won the election with 99% to get it passed."

**Commissioner Holt**

"It was put on the ballot. It was overwhelmingly voted for, then it changed later. The Board changed it, but let me say this also. Indigent Care money can be used exactly like she's saying because we researched that, that if you were, it's a supplement, you come into the Emergency room, you didn't get the bed but they could supplement and TMH and Capital Regional does this now. They do indigent care for people that don't have money to come to the hospital."

**Arrie Battle**

"Well, at first Commissioner, it was \$268,000 (turning to the audience) right Dr. Cooksey? Was it \$268,000 when Dr. Hercules came aboard? And Dr. Hercules, so we do workshops in the community every two weeks and we recruit all month and for everybody we sent to the Health Department got medical attention. But all of a sudden, it was a one-time deal for the \$268,000 because there was interest on top of the half-cent sales tax. But now we don't have any place to send citizens who got high cholesterol, diabetes off the chain, no-body except Dr. Hart and Dr. D. J. Johnson who won't charge them anything. And that's the problem"

**Commissioner Holt**

"What she's talking about, what we did was they kept, the organizations kept coming back. Now the committee that she chaired came before this Board consistently after that happened and they still kept asking for the same thing that the Board had promised. What happened is this, and I tell people this all the time, the Board change your promise doesn't change, your word doesn't change, even though the Board changed because you are government. In Florida, if I'm not mistaken Mr. Attorney, an oral agreement is notwithstanding in the State of Florida."

**Attorney Weiss**

"That is..."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Yeah, if you have witnesses, but we were televised I'm sure. Like Attorney Theriaque usually beats the devil out of us every time he challenged us on zoning because he usually used the

cameras to do it. But what I'm saying is, so that when it came back, they could not get the beds, they could not get the Indigent Care at the Emergency Room. Then they said 'Maybe we could get a doctor or someone over at the Health Department to see the patients that didn't have any money. So we took part of that half-cent sales tax and moved it over there, but the problem was, when that money ran out, the Board didn't come back and put it back in there. So that cut all those patients off again. So that's why you will see them with all these conditions sitting at the house because they don't have any money, or they don't have enough money, or they do not have insurance.'

**Arrie Battle**

"They have to make a choice."

**Commissioner Holt**

"They have to make a choice, you have to eat or you know, that's it."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"So, my other, my other question, thank y'all Commissioners for allowing, for giving me this enlightenment and ah, Commissioner Holt and Ms. Battle, I owe you both debt of gratitude for this enlightenment, this education that you have provided me and I hope with others. But it's very enlightening to me. So, ah, what happens to the split in the contract that this Board entered with Capital Regional with regards to the split, the sixty something percent that goes to the Hospital? Does that impact what goes to providing this indigent care for those who are not insured that were being seen but now no longer have money to run that aspect of it? Now they can no longer be seen, would that be one of the reasons why because some of that sixty percent or sixty-five percent or whatever you just said it, is the split that goes to Capital Regional and they are not providing that kind of access to health care to the indigents, those who don't have insurance.

**Mr. Presnell**

"You want me to respond? Ah, in response to that, that 60% as well as the other 40% that goes to some other organizations increases incremental each year because the half-cent raises more money. So there's been increases on both sides of the fence but to direct that specifically to when they were, when they got that money was during the We Care stuff, they can refer these people and get them treated. No money was ever directed in the original agreement or since then to fund that. It never has been. That money was just setting aside in an account and the Board voted to fund that program at that time and it ran out. There's never been any of the half-cent directed to them."

**Arrie Battle**

"May I say something Ms. Chair?"

**Chair Taylor**

"Yes, and then we're going to wrap this up."

**Arrie Battle**

"Even though there was never, ever any mention in the original plan Mr. Presnell, the citizens are putting the half-cent sales tax in place and it's only fair that they citizens get something out of the deal because we have 500 miles of Gadsden County. There are citizens who are literally

going without their insurance and the Health Council thanks you for the PAMS Program because we send people there all the time to get their medicine, but they still have to have \$25.00. But to go to the Emergency Room and not have any insurance or no money, try to change your dress attire and you try it and see what happens.”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Madam Chairman?”

**Chair Taylor**

“OK, we’re going to go around once, I do have a citizen that still needs to be heard and then we are going to wrap this one. We’re going to go around one and then we are going to wrap this one up. If you don’t mind Commissioners, let’s lend to our citizen, ah, Pastor Morris, would you care to speak now Sir?”

**Pastor Morris**

“Absolutely (inaudible) Good Evening again Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the half-cent sales tax. Just like our Chair spoke to earlier, I believe that anytime we’re giving out any money anywhere, there ought to be some form of accountability and what’s been lacking, either by way of perception or by way of actuality is no accountability for the half-cent sales tax. In terms of deliverables, so my Commissioner, Dr. V, I’m glad he asked two of the questions that I was going to ask. I want to go a bit further and ask because what we’ve been provided on the screen is the general category but what is actually involved and engaged in that, what’s behind these figures, what is the income and expenses behind it. We know the income is \$1.6 Million, but, ah, when we break this down, where does this money actually go. And that ties back in to Dr. V. Dr. V was asking what was the original intent so I would like to see the language of the original intent and I would like to see how this has changed or morphed in the years since it has been passed. Only because, unlike Dr. V, I’m not totally in the dark about this. I just go on the internet and google other counties that charge a half-cent sales tax, so (inaudible) and Polk County has one in place and they have gone from the 60’s and they are consistently ranked in the mid 30’s now, but they had a plan and we don’t have a similar infrastructure for a plan. So, therefore when we came last year asking to set up a position, that position no matter who filled the position, would have been an ombudsman to at least oversee on behalf of the County all of the health activities that was going on and we still need that. Polk County has a (inaudible), they set up an infrastructure where there is actually a department within the County Commission. So they report to the County Administrator down there. They have (inaudible) in all of their resources, they have all the hospitals, they have the Health Department, they have Mother Care, they have the Health Council and everybody else engaged, but their department, their department gets to decide where the flow of money goes and how it can best suit the citizens of Polk County and I don’t thing Polk County any better than us and I believe that we just need some kind of oversight over this whole process of collecting the half-cent sales tax and then making sure the percentage the percentage that we do get goes to us. The final questions I would like to ask is what about is it in stone that Capital Health gets 60%? Was that a part of the legislation because that’s what folk were actually voting on. Or did somebody else decide that or either here at the Commission or, you know, the meeting before the meeting. So I would like to see that legislation as well. Who put into position the 60/40 split. Because it’s not working for the citizens because we’re still 66<sup>th</sup>, wow, we moved up to 66 this year, no longer 67. Wow, we’re 66<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much.”

**Commissioner Holt**

"Ah, yes, this item, I would like to see it workshopped. Ah, this is one that (clears throat) excuse me, this item needs to be workshopped every so often to be very honest with you. Ah, and I would like to see the documentation that Pastor Morris asked for in the workshop but I would also like to see a couple of other things. He did ask for a copy of the referendum, that's very important. Whether, no matter how it comes out, we all get to look at it and review it every so often. Our contract with Capital Regional on the funds, you are right, I have written on the funds at 60%, I would like to see that again and it's a breakdown within these areas. Also taking of the debt. We need to see some paperwork on that, how long is it going to take, need to see an agreement on how we are paying it back and that type of thing. Need a contract, to review the contract with Capital Regional they have on the hospital itself. I really, really, really believe that we need to narrow that back down because of the front of the hospital is not used. The back part is not used. The only part that is used is where the Emergency Room is. One reason why we looked at it at the time was of the other spaces because they said they were going to put in beds. Since we don't have the twelve beds and it was never done, ah, and as I said before, ah, I really believe that a man or woman's word is what it should be. If you're not going to do it, then don't say it. Ah, and so, we need that front part. Dr. Hart was not here last Saturday simply because they were saying that the part in the back was not adequate. It really isn't. Ah, in the front on the right hand side of the facility is where you need to see your patients. You need to see them where you have them that you get shown in the best light. As I said, we are government. We are professional people and we want someone that's coming to volunteer her time, volunteer, not getting paid, a couple of Saturdays to see people on a walk-in basis. We need to at least present ourself in that facility in the best light and that contract needs to be brought back. We need to have a workshop and it may take a couple of hours because this is not something that is going to go by quickly. Ah, do I need to put that in a motion or wait?"

**Chair Holt**

"Just hold on for a second and let's hear from him (pointing at Commissioner Hinson) then we will come back."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Sure, thank you."

**Chair Taylor**

"Yes sir?"

**Commissioner Hinson**

"So, ah, I ain't realized that when I looked at the numbers are quite the different in here, because I remember someone saying if we don't give anything towards Health Care services and I didn't realize that we give the Health Department \$383,000 plus the \$125,000. I didn't know that either. That's, that's something that threw me off right there. That's almost \$500,000 toward the Health Department. Ah, ah, I'm just looking, I'm just looking at numbers, it's interesting. Ah, too, when I was listening to y'all talking here, it's kind of hard to believe that that would happen because in actuality, people go to jail for that. I'm just being real. Lawyers go to jail for it and commissioners go to jail for it, if that's true. It's almost impossible for ah, anybody to tamper with it so I just can't believe it. Because nobody ain't go to jail. Tallahassee you go to jail. You put down that ah, half-cent sales tax for the school system, y'all heard me



didn't you? The school system in Tallahassee, cause you know he (point in audience) and I had an argument about that the other day. I said, I said it's almost impossible because whatever you put it down for, that what you've got to use it for. So I just can't believe it, it's farfetched to me. Because it can't be true. Because everybody is still here. So I don't believe it. I thing we got to be doing something right because nobody is in jail. You cannot, in Leon County if it's for the building of the schools, you can't use it for curriculum, the building, it's supposed to be for the building of the school, not for the curriculum or staff or anything else. So, I don't believe it personally because again, this happened 6 years ago and not one person went to jail for it. I mean, it's not all about what the Commission said, it's all about is anybody been incarcerated yet? That's what it boils down to, because you cannot change what you say you are going to do. Last time I checked now, maybe I may be wrong, maybe Leon County can, the School Board can say 'Yeah, y'all voted for it but now we gonna put all the money from the School Board and put it into, instead of put it in buildings like we said, we gonna put it in salaries. That's farfetched. So, and I wasn't sitting here when that happened so that's why I can't say this and say that. But what I do know that people go to jail if they change, I don't care if you're on the Commission or not. You cannot change what a Statute say or what that say, that's State of Florida, so, you know, that's, let you know I think we must be doing something right, the system must not be wrong because something got to be right because nobody not in jail. Oh, second thing. Now Polk County, that where my family, because I got about 14-15 aunts and uncles live in Polk County, or more. That's my Grandma, she was 90 years old and we did the Proclamation for her last year and she passed away the end of last year too, the beginning of last year."

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Polk County, almost a million people live in Polk County if I'm not mistaken. That sounds crazy ain't it. We have orange groves about 25 years ago, you didn't have that many people live there, now it's almost a million people, close to a million. That sound farfetched ain't it. So that's the whole difference between Gadsden County and Polk County because we talking about three times the size of Tallahassee. That's hard to believe. Almost farfetched to believe that Polk County grown that quick. And I would like to see the referendum too as well, ah, because then I can know what's going on as, ah, all my family members and friends and people that I know utilize the service and I think everybody in here got a love for people so I don't think our intention was to want to hurt someone, so I would like to see that information and that's why I brought it up because it's near and dear to my heart too as well. And also all the other proposals, I'd like to see the proposals that was made for the referendum and proposals that were made from the Board of County Commission when they decided to change it and then we'll look at that. Then at the end of the day if nobody in jail in 2-3 weeks, 2-3 months after that, then you know everything just find. Not, whether or not what we gonna do, whether or not someone going down the road. That's it, I mean I'm talking about, we talking about the attorney, because the only one can go to jail is the attorney and County Administrator."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Ah, commissioners go to jail every day."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Oh, Commissioners go to jail too?"

**Commissioner Holt**

"Yes sir."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"So, ah, this can't be true because nobody ain't in jail."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Well, you got to report it and file suit."

**Chair Taylor**

"Excuse me just a second, just a second..."

**Commissioner Holt**

"I'm sorry..."

**Chair Taylor**

"Thank you..."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"That, that hard to believe, so that's why, I think on the right page but I think we got some things that people just need to straighten out a little bit. I don't think nothing is illegal, it can't be because, based on, based on this information. I think, I'm hoping that the Board, the past Board too, that looked out for the best interest of the people and everything else because I just can't see that happening. But something we need to look at though, we know who we are giving money to. We need to know what they are doing with the money we give to them. That's a whole another, that's a whole, I think that, because there is no reason for ah, ah, Havana Neighborhood Health, whatever, can't provide services. I know they said that We care Network was giving funding to them a little bit, that's where they stopped, and ah, in other areas because the money we using here, we can set up shops all over the County and really help a lot of people out because Quincy got the Quincy Health Department, actually they got about two or three in Quincy and, you know, you can use some areas, I know Havana got one over in Havana, then, I'm not sure if Midway got anything. No, Midway don't have anything. But I know Chattahoochee had some stuff over there. So, if we can do it, if it's legal like you said, maybe we can look at how this money can be disbursed so everybody can help the citizens out in Gadsden County. Because, if it's the correct thing to do."

**Chair Taylor**

"Thank you. Commissioner Morgan?"

**Commissioner Morgan**

"Thank you Madam Chair. I think to Dr. D's original question, my recommendation would be for him to go sit down and speak with the Clerk to gain a little bit of a history as to the referendum with the half-cent indigent care tax and also to print out the actual referendum that was on the ballot and there's been a couple of folks that have alluded to that. But it reads in a very complicated manner and I think there were different ways that that referendum was promoted within the County to our citizens and I think it could be very confusing. It actually passed at 59% approval and ah, and ah, I think it's also important to remember we have an expert on Staff with our attorney firm that I think would be very helpful in speaking with and that is Mike Glazer,

who's very close to some of these discussions also as far as presently the model that we've got. Ah, I think that it's also important to remember that there is a, not that one is right and one is wrong, but when we were going through this indigent care tax situation and referendum, there were strong feelings that we should have a full-fledged hospital here in Gadsden County. There were also feelings that we could not afford to have a full-fledged hospital here in Gadsden County based on historical performance or lack thereof. We had several bankruptcies simply because they were just simply not enough of a market to support that and on top of that, during the last 7, 8, 9 years in particular, the health care landscape has dramatically changed not just across the country with insurance coverage and things of that nature, but it's also changed drastically for smaller, rural counties. And to your point Commissioner Hinson, we are not a Polk County, we don't have a tax base or the population of Polk County. We are similar to our neighbors at Calhoun County and what has happened over there recently and so many others. So I think it's important just to decide what type of model we want to have, what type of model do we have now; is it working, how can we improve on that. We all want to see the best services for our citizens here in the County. I don't think anybody does not want to do that and if the answer is making changes, then we obviously ought to have a workshop and talk about how to do that. But I think we need to let people lead us and guide us in those discussions as we move forward. Also understanding during that time that we really have been quite successful here over the past few years in the services that are being provided to our citizens here locally and I think that is important. And yes, we can always improve. Thank you Madam Chair."

**Chair Taylor**

"Thank you. The year that item was on the ballot was the first year I ran as County Commissioner. That's the first year. The second time. The first time it failed. Second time, the year that it got the majority of the vote was the year that I also won as County Commissioner. I went to the Public Library. I've told this story before. They took me down there about a week after I won and the idea was for them to discuss with me some major transitions or transactions that were going on with the County. One week after I won. One of the things they talked to me about was the half-cent sales tax. Now I'm a reasonably intelligent woman, resourceful, knowledgeable somewhat. When I sat there that afternoon and what they told me floored me because I too thought that I was voting on opening the hospital. That was what I thought I was voting on. But when they told me that I was voting on an indigent tax to help people who don't have insurance or means to pay for healthcare, I was floored because I listened to what the people were campaigning as opposed to reading. I listened and so did 59% of the people. So when I came and took my seat again, like Commissioner Holt said, the language was already written on a ballot so that language was done during her term with a Board other than what is sitting here now, because all of us are relatively new when it came to that particular item. When I found out what it was about and like she said, people were looking for a hospital but that was not what they voted on. But that was what they were told so there was the difference in what people were told versus what was written down as a referendum. That's where the difference came. But, when you look at these items that are presented to you tonight, you still see a large percentage of the dollars going toward indigent care. In these items that are listed here, with the exception of the debt service, everything else is going toward people who cannot afford to pay full or normal price of people who are on sliding scale. It's still there. I agree it should be workshopped so that we could make it better. Now this is gonna probably floor you Sir, I'm talking to you Pastor Morris, it's going to floor you what I'm about to say now, but I agree with you Sir. I agree with you in that we should not be at the level we are at today given

the fact that we put so many initiatives in place. It is insane to expect change if you let everything remain the same. So obviously something more needs to be done. I agree with you on having a workshop. I am not a healthcare professional. I think Capital Regional can improve upon their services. If they are turning people away, then we need to know more about it. I've never heard them turning people away. I've heard them recommending them get services elsewhere after they made their observation of them, but not turning people away before they've made the observation. But if that's what they are doing, then that is a practice we need to address because they are supposed to see everyone that goes into those doors. You go down by line, I mean these numbers come from our Chief Auditor's Office; they come from the Clerk's Office, \$81,000 for this, \$582,000 for that. Those are monies that are set aside for indigent care. The Health Department does not charge a regular fee when they come down there and they got a nice portion of these dollars for indigent care. So the money is there. So all I can say at this point Ladies and Gentlemen is that there has been some good discussion, some great discussions. A lot of good points made around this Board but we need to move. What I would like to do and if it's the consensus of this Board, is to schedule a workshop. I can ask you Mr. Administrator to get with the Commissioners and find a good date and I agree with you Sir, that Mr. Glazer should come and speak because he is an authority on this subject. He is our attorney. Yes Commissioner Holt?"

**Commissioner Holt**

"Yes, I was just going to remind you so that I could finish that up. The indigent, I just want to clarify right quick..."

**Chair Taylor**

"Commissioner we are going to move through it real quick."

**Commissioner Holt**

"This is my last point right quick. The indigent care tax was a vehicle to get the hospital. That was taxes that we could use so it wasn't that you did it to get the tax, you did it to get the hospital using the indigent tax. It's like when you apply for a CDBG, you're not applying for the CDBG, you're applying for the funds, you just have to go to that group, that organization to get it. That's what the indigent tax was for. But I just wanted to give some clarity there. But if we're going to workshop, we're good."

**Chair Taylor**

"We will workshop this, but we should have been, we should have had clarity on that referendum and said these dollars would be used to both fund indigent care and open the hospital. As basic as that. But is not what was said. Your intent and your thoughts may not have been interpreted by others. Your intent was to use these dollars as a vehicle to open the hospital but that was not what came through with on the referendum. So now, what we are going to do, what we're going to do at this point, because I think this thing was for discussion only, so we will schedule a workshop. I look to you Sir. Let's move on to the next item."

**13. Approval to Accept the Grant Amendment from the FDEP**

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for Board approval to accept the grant agreement amendment to revise the work plan for renovations completed at Scottown Park and fir authorization for the Chair to sign.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval and Execution of Lease with North Florida Education**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of a lease with North Florida Educational Development Corporation (NFEDC) for the use of the south building located at 349 Cone Street, Quincy, FL 32351 for use in promoting community interest and welfare through the provision of a food pantry to the citizens of Gadsden County and for adoption of a resolution approving the lease and setting forth its terms.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked if insurance was in place and Mr. Presnell said yes.

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

**15. Discussion of Cost for Landlord Eviction**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said that Chair Taylor had requested this item for Board discussion of the cost for Landlord Evictions.

Chair Taylor said she was told this was set by the Legislature and Mr. Presnell said it was and explained the fees.

Chair Taylor asked how much went to the State and how much stayed in the County and Mr. Weiss said he thought it all went to the State and was then distributed to the Counties. Chair Taylor said people were getting out of the rental business and there was already limited housing in the County.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**16. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell gave a quick update on the Stevens School and said they had to make amendments to the \$50,000 grant and they were hoping to work in other things besides the roof and may be able to work in door, window improvements, painting and pressure washing and State approved it but the timeframe was very tight and the work has to be done by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

FSU Medical Students will be by Library on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Hinson asked if they were here for research or what their purpose was and Mr. Presnell said this would be his first time attending.

Mr. Presnell informed the Commissioners they received the \$30,000 Oral History appropriation.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him and Beth Kirkland for their expeditious installation of the solar controlled caution light he requested that was placed on Point Milligen Road that connected Highway 12

Commissioner Hinson said they might look at this as well and said May was Mental Health Month and asked if they could do a Resolution and felt this was a serious situation.

Mr. Presnell said there would be an upcoming workshop regarding mental health.

Commissioner Holt wanted to see something on CRA funding.

Asked if Presnell had chance to check on the security window at the hospital and Mr. Presnell said the County Architect designed the building and it was a security measure that the hospital employees liked because there is trouble there at times and fights do break out. Commissioner Holt said they might like it but the citizens do not and since they are the taxpayers, felt they should have the say so. She said she would like that brought back as an agendaed item.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the BP oil spill and asked if Gadsden County was a part of it and if there were any connections to the lawsuit? Mr. Presnell said there had to be losses and did not file a claim because it had to affect tourism and it did not.

Chair Taylor asked about the communication workshop with the Sheriff Department and Mr. Presnell said it would be June 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **17. Update on Various Legal Issues**

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

Commissioner Hinson asked about the BP oil spill and where was Gadsden County connected? He said he was told Gadsden County could be a part because of Chattahoochee and was curious about it and if they could be a part how could they could they get in because there was billions of dollars there.

Mr. Weiss said he was almost positive it was too late for claims and they had to show an impact. Chair Taylor said to let "them" tell him and asked that he research it and then he would be able to report to them.

Commissioner Hinson believed there was a loophole.

#### **Receipt and File**

19.
  - a. Resolutions
  - b. Florida Department of Health
  - c. Gadsden County Division of Emergency Management Quarterly report

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**May 25, 2017-4:00 p.m.-Budget Workshop.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
May 16, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:51 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**