

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONER HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON JUNE 6, 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 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 the U. S. Flag. She asked that everyone please mute their phones or place them on vibrate.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said there were no amendments to the Agenda this evening.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Resolution Honoring Mr. Bruce James

Commissioner Taylor said there were three very special people being recognized tonight and asked that Mr. Bruce James, Ms. Nora James and Mr. Roger Lewis come forward. Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Resolution for Mr. Bruce James and then presented it to him.

2. Resolution Honoring Ms. Nora James

Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Resolution honoring Ms. James and then presented it to her.

3. Resolution Honoring Mr. Roger Lewis

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Resolution honoring Mr. Lewis and it was then presented to him.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

4. Presentation of New Countywide Communication System

Mr. Presnell said the next presentation was by Williams Communication.

Bonnie Hirst, Vice President of Government Relations, Williams Communications, Inc. appeared before the Board and gave their presentation pertaining to a radio communication system for the

County.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Board wanted to wait for a workshop or listen to the presentation now. Chair Taylor said it looked like it was orchestrated to come back and they could let Williams Communication make their presentation.

Ms. Hirst said they were present for the Board's Budget Workshop and they were very conscious of making sure that what they brought forward fit within the fiscal constraints and offer optional revenue sharing opportunities for the County. She then delivered their presentation.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

CLERK OF COURT

Mr. Thomas was not present and 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 everyone for their support for the mural.

She requested a Proclamation for Lemonade Day and said this was the first year there were two students from Gadsden County that would be involved.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR LEMONADE DAY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

She said she was bringing back the matter of hiring a Grants Coordinator and said they would need help with upcoming grants.

She asked they work with the Architectural School at FAMU with regard to the upcoming grant for Stevens School.

She asked to have placed on the Agenda the Policies and Procedures for the board.

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie asked that the Board consider purchasing a drone. He said during the bike race event, he watched an officer record the event with a drone and felt it would be a good instrument to use to events post to the website that takes place in the County along with departments to use, such as Code Enforcement, to not have to climb to the top of high buildings.

He asked for an update on the documentary project for Gadsden County Historical Preservation.

He also commented on the political strategy of the approach dealing with the Legislature and suggested they consider having workshops provided by an expert on political strategies so they would know how to go to the Legislature and push the agenda and be more successful than they have been thus far.

He also said there was a need to organize a workshop to develop a full blown economic development strategic plan that they would follow to know what they needed to do and how to go about doing it to be successful.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he would like to invite Provost Felicia Moore-Davis from TCC and the Gadsden County Humane Society to come do a presentation.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention for Economic Development the industrial training certification that was discussed earlier must be a county-wide effort.

Commissioner Hinson said he forgot to mention Mayor Ella Barber, former Mayor of Midway, passed away.

Commissioner Taylor said as the Chair, she would like to acknowledge the other Commissioners around the Board.

She asked the Administrator if the County still had a grants Coordinator and he said she was a grants writer.

She said someone asked the question about learning how to work within the legislature in Tallahassee and asked if they paid a lobbyist to go after the right bills and get them passed and felt that person would be a good lead-in or FAC. She said if they needed a workshop, they would do so but did not want to have so many workshops they were frustrated by items they did not pick them up.

Commissioner Holt said the process was not the problem they had, the process was what they gave the Legislature.

CONSENT

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

6. Ratification to Pay County Bills

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 16, 2016-Budget Workshop
- b. August 23, 2016-Budget Workshop

c. September 19, 2016-Final Budget Hearing

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ben Bass, Chattahoochee and Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Departments-wished to speak on an agendaed item.

Bob Bush, Motorola Solutions, wished to speak on an agendaed item.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-004, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, adopting revised Bylaws of the Tourist Development Council; providing for repeal, severability, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.

Mr. Presnell introduced to above item and deferred to the County Attorney to explain the item.

Mr. Weiss explained the Ordinance and said this was a public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance that would revise the By-laws for the Tourist Development Council. He explained some of the changes were to remove certain provisions which were included in the TDC statute and in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to avoid duplication and the TDC recommended meeting every other month and to allow staff to reschedule meetings upon determining there would not be a quorum present in to der to address lack of attendance. They also recommended a revised procedure for removal of members for lack of attendance and to allow the election of the Chairperson from any of its members rather than limiting the position to a bed tax collector.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and she would allow the Commissioners to talk if they had any comments.

Commissioner Morgan said he had looked over the item and was familiar with the previous bylaws and did not see a strikethrough and underlined version that would make it easier to see the changes. He said he felt it important to have a bed tax collector to chair this committee and was important to have someone chair the committee that understood the process. Mr. Weiss apologized for not having a strikethrough and underlined version.

Chair Taylor asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Holt said she currently sat on the TDC Board and one reason for changing who could chair the committee; they needed a Chair that could be there and did not see where it made a difference if the Chair was a bed tax collector or not, their concerns were the same.

Commissioner Viegbesie said regarding the comments Chair Holt just made, asked if the TDC had a Vice-Chair who could handle meeting in absence of the Chair. He said the lack of a strikethrough and underlined version was also a concern of his.

Commissioner Hinson concurred with the other Commissioners and felt they should have a strike

and add version first so citizens could see the changes.

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

9. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-005, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, adopting an Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors, and providing for an effective date.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and Mr. Weiss explained the purpose of it. He said the Ordinance would help protect local surface and ground water quality.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing.

Commissioner Morgan said he saw this was mandated by State Statutes and asked what would happen if this Ordinance was not adopted and Mr. Weiss said they would be in violation of State Statutes.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the same concerns as Commissioner Morgan mentioned and asked if there was a deadline this had to be adopted by and Mr. Weiss said it was July 1st.

Commissioner Holt said her first thought was about fertilizers and bombings.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Approval of Resolution 2017-007 Granting the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority area of operation authority to operate its Single Family Mortgage Loan and Mortgage Credit Certificate Programs within Gadsden County

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-007 granting Escambia County Housing Finance Authority to operate its Single Family Mortgage Loan Program.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Randy Wilkerson, Director of Housing, Escambia County Housing Finance Authority, appeared before the Board and addressed questions that Commissioner Hinson had and explained the program.

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

11. Approval to Lease or Purchase a New County-Wide Communication System

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to lease or purchase a new County-wide Communicating system and authorize the Chair to sign documents. He said this was being revised and would come back before the Board at a later date.

Mr. Weiss said this was not competitively bid and there was an exception in the current option that would allow them to piggy-back off other governmental contracts as long as they were awarded pursuant to provisions that were similar to their procurement policy and would need to come back for ultimate approval.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Attorney for his comments and said they needed the upgrades for effective communication but was concerned if Williams was being allowed to adjust their costs he thought it would be equitable if the other provider be afforded the same and was leaning on tabling this item.

Commissioner Morgan said he could not think of a single reason they needed to table such an important decision. He said since he found out last year there was a serious issue with dead zones and it could have a disastrous outcome and was a critical issue.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had two more questions: 1) Did they look at possibility of generating any revenue from other users on the towers and Mr. Presnell said no and he recommended to the Board to not do that because they would get cash upfront but would be leasing the tower over a long period of time; and 2) How would the School Board, Sheriff's Office, etc. that wanted to participate in the purchase affect the overall costs to the County. Mr. Presnell said the ones under the auspice of the Board were included in the price.

Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communication appeared before the Board and gave the interest rates for the different proposals.

Bob Bush, Motorola, appeared before the board and gave their interests rates.

Ben Bass, Chattahoochee and Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Departments appeared before the Board and explained his point.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator about purchasing or leasing the equipment and which would be more cost-saving for the County.

Chair Taylor said she heard the request to table and also heard to move forward and she was not in favor of purchasing because of things changing continuously.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO DELAY THE VOTE UNTIL A WORKSHOP WAS HELD AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND AND HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to see all options on the floor.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was leaning on part of both of service providers and wanted to be able to compare apples with apples and oranges with oranges.

Chair Taylor asked if they had heard of the term "hoodwinked" or "bamboozled" and asked them if

they had ever heard of contracts coming before the Board before being bid or going through the process.

Commissioner Morgan said he had concerns and wanted them to understand he did not think the Administrator was putting anything before them that needed to be before them and they should be selecting a vendor tonight. He encouraged them to select a vendor tonight and piggy-back on an existing contract.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie-Yes

Commissioner Hinson-Yes

Chair Taylor-No

Commissioner Holt-Yes

Commissioner Morgan-No

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO TABLE THIS ITEM.

12. Approval to Renew the Standard Contract between the State of Florida, Department of Revenue and the Gadsden County BOCC

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to accept the renewal of the standard contract between the Department of Revenue and the GCBOCC.

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

13. Approval to Award Bid 17-01 to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co., Inc.

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for Board approval to award Bid 17-01 for the supply of asphalt coated culvert pipe to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co., Inc. and for 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.

14. Approval to Award Bid 17-02 for Repairing Structural Damage to the Gadsden County EMS Building

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said to was to award the bid 17-02 for repairing the structural damage at the EMS building.

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

15. Approval to Award RFP 17-07 (Rebid) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Qualified Environmental Consultant

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to seek Board approval of DPB & Associates as the Qualified Environmental Consultant for the Community Development Block Grant (GDBG) Program.

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

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

16. Approval to Award Bid 17-09 for the Roof Replacement of the W.S. Stevens School Cafeteria

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to approve the bid award for the roof replacement at the W. S. Stevens School to the lowest bidder, Exterior Specialties, Inc.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

17. Approval to Award Bid 17-11 for the Carpet Replacement and Installation in the County Probation Office

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award Bid 17-11 for the carpet replacement and installation in the County Probation Office to the lowest bidder, Carpet Studio, Inc.

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

18. Approval to Award Bid 17-12 for the Construction of a Pole Barn

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Bid 17-12 for the construction of a pole barn for the protection of animal services equipment and to allow the Chair to sign documents.

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

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

19. Temporary Road Closure Pursuant to Completion of a Resurfacing/Railroad Crossing Reconstruction Project-SR267

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for temporary road closure on SR267 for approximately 7 days in accordance for construction plans for Florida Department of Transportation resurfacing/railroad crossing reconstruction project and authorization for the Chair to sign documents.

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

20. Public Officials Bond Reviews

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board review of the sufficiency of Bonds of County Officers.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell asked the Board for approval of a Proclamation for elder abuse.

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

He reminded the Board the July 4th meeting was cancelled due to the holiday.

He stated the Jackson Bluff dam in Leon County that forms Lake Talquin, the City of Tallahassee had been operating it and now withdrawing because of the new solar farm and it is reverting back to the State and they are looking for an operator.

Mr. Presnell said there was a health care provider that was interested in using the County facility in Chattahoochee and currently operate two others and have a good track record and would be bringing this to the Board at a later date.

He reminded them of the Economic Development workshop on June 20th before the next regular meeting.

He advised Commissioner Viegbesie the funds for the documentary project would become available on July 1st.

He also informed the Commissioners the County Managers Association had five applicants and they asked board direction on how to proceed on the interviews. Commissioner Viegbesie thought they had already designed questions to ask and asked that they reduce it to three applicants and rank them. Commissioner Morgan asked if they needed to talk about the timeframe.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for update on damaged, missing and hard to read road signs. Mr. Presnell said Public Works has been working on it and would get update at staff meeting

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were two potholes on Ames Barineau Road.

Commissioner Holt said she failed to mention the Legislature was having a special session meeting set aside money for development of infrastructure and an Economic development meeting in Marianna on Friday with 4 counties meeting

Commissioner Hinson said he looked at the mowing schedule and they were not in Havana until September and the grass grew different in Havana and they have soft grass and need added attention and really need everything mowed before July.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said at the last meeting he was asked to report on how they could accept property with dilapidated buildings on it. He said they could accept properties but there were lots of issues,

environmental issues, liens on property, etc. and County Administrator’s recommendation was to try to get rid of property they currently had before taking on more.

He said the Supreme Court opinion on Gretna Casino vs. DBPR was the 1st DCA correctly upheld in denying license for slots. Gretna Racing has filed a Motion for Re-hearing and they were waiting to see the results.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he attended his training and learned the Attorney acted as the Parliamentarian and Mr. Weiss said that was correct and was in their Ordinances.

Receipt and File

23. Resolutions

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 20, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 6, 2017 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:56 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk