

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 13, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order, asked everyone to stand for the Invocation, and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She asked everyone to mute their phones and if anyone wished to speak, to fill out Speaker Request Forms.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

Chair Taylor welcomed everyone to the workshop.

2. Overview

Mr. Presnell gave a brief overview of the budget process.

3. EMS

Chair Taylor asked to start with the Non-Profits first.

Mr. Presnell said in 2013 County refinanced Hospital loan to lower interest rate from 5.03% to 2.95% and saved over \$1.91 Million for life of loan. Also County refinanced Gas Tax loan to lower interest rate from 4.53% to 1.44% and saved over \$366,000. 2016 County refinanced 2006 Library loan and 2013 Hospital loan and saved over \$573,000. County saved over \$2.8 Million in total and secured \$6 Million in new money for capital Projects.

May can change CRMA contract

Holt said understand going part-time-would part-time people come here?

Pippen appeared before the Board and said had been flooded with applications because of recent graduations in the area.

Hinson asked in the past, what was some of the magical things done then that could help in future. Asked if contacted FAC regarding problems with EMS-did not work with them on EMS issues. Think good to look over audit report so can see what they said. Think need to look at other options.

Taylor said her take on EMS-agreed with Hinson, had looked at other rural communities same size

Holt said when renegotiate with CRMC, need front part of hospital and want to negotiate space. Did notice with other facilities, they have contacted and said if pay reduced amount, will come off credit report

Taylor asked to speak about different cuts-does not eliminate problem. Presnell said cutting increase in costs. She proposed to look at what other counties were doing, She said privatization would get this off us if could find reliable company to do it. Don't want to compromise quality of personnel.

4. Non-Profits/Community Organizations

Nick Bert, 405 Live Oak Lane, W., Havana, TDC Grant Request, appeared before the Board speaking on behalf of the Havana History and Heritage Society and said they were requesting money from the TDC and asked if they were at the right meeting. Mr. Presnell said this was the wrong meeting. Chair Taylor said the TDC was a branch of the BOCC. Mr. Bert asked if Havana Main Street was on the agenda today and was told yes. He then spoke on behalf of Havana Main Street.

Commissioner Morgan spoke on behalf of Main Street starting in Havana.

Rob Thaler, 4446 Entrepot Blvd., Second Harvest, appeared before the Board on behalf of Second Harvest to request money.

Rosemary Farrell, 1204 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL, Capital Medical Society Foundation, appeared before the Board on behalf of We Care and requested money.

Leroy Smith, Diamonds in the Rough, Non-Profit Funding, appeared before the board for support for their program and requested money.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting

Commissioner Holt arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

A parent spoke on behalf of what this organization has done for her son and how he had turned around and now has a 4.0 GPA.

Commissioner Holt asked the length of time for his program-34 weeks. She asked what other contributors he had-if he had any requests in with the other municipalities-no

Mr. Presnell said there were 2 books that included the requests from the Non-Profits.

Taylor not in favor of funding GCDC and Chamber this year

Nick Henn, 118 East Washington Street, Quincy Music Theater appeared before the Board on

behalf of Quincy Music Theater

Lee Wagner, Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend, appeared before the Board to ask for support in funding for their program.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked about the funding they receive from the County and the parents still have to pay \$35.00 weekly. Mr. Wagner said the summer was the only time they charge fees and it was to offset their costs, their days are longer and students are there for a longer period of time.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had requested funding from anywhere else and he said they had requested funding from Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Morgan said the Board was familiar with their program.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he had looked at other models.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mrs. Maudie Nealy appeared before the Board and spoke in support of the Club.

Chair Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Taylor returned

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting and Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie reappeared at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out

Carolyn Ford, North Florida Educational Development, appeared before the Board on behalf of her program. She told the Board they had suffered set-backs this year.

Commissioner Hinson reappeared at this juncture of the meeting.

She continued to say not only did the Stevens School burn down, they also suffered the loss of Alphonso Figgers this year. She added with the burning of the school, they lost all of their equipment, refrigeration, freezers and the food.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Weiss stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Holt returned.

Scott Manion, Legal Services of North Florida appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of their program

Mr. Weiss returned.

Mr. Manion said a lot of their program was dealing with housing and Chapter 13 cases.

Commissioner Viegbesie left the meeting at this juncture.

Commissioner Holt said if she had to choose two non-profits to fund it would be the Boys and Girls club and Legal Services of North Florida.

Grace Robinson, Gadsden Arts Center, appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of their program. She congratulated them on behalf of the mural done by renowned artist Charlie Johnston. She thanked the County for their support in the past and said having the County, City and CRA monetary support, they were able to expand and will be able to finish by the end of the year. She said their request for was for program support.

Mr. Presnell asked for direction and Chair Taylor said she felt there should be a full Board to determine that matter.

Holt asked if all Main Streets were certified-all with exception of Havana. She added that the requested budget of \$542,000 was way too high and would like to stay between \$300,000 - \$350,000.

5. Other Budget Issues

Mr. Presnell said Commissioner Morgan would like to have a funding mechanism to finish paving all the dirt roads in the County.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to discuss working with a place in Havana, and getting 11-12 acres of land to do little park for the community to be able to use. He said he used close to \$100,000 to pay for a traffic signal for a road and that was a County Road and the road was used a lot by a lot of people and the money came from his road paving budget for a county project. He said they were in a good financial position and asked that they consider putting the money back.

Commissioner Holt said something could be divvied up some kind of way to cover.

6. Questions/Comments

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rob Thaler, 4446 Entrepot Blvd., Application

Leroy Smith, Diamonds in the Rough, Non-Profit Funding

Nick Bert, 405 Live Oak Lane, W., Havana, TDC Grant Request

Rosemary Farrell, 1204 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL Capital Medical Society Foundation

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 13, 2017-Budget Workshop

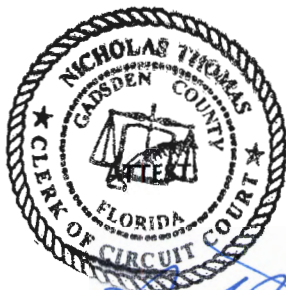
Nick Henn, 118 East Washington Street, Quincy Music Theater


Grace Robinson, Gadsden Arts, Inc.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:28 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA




NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk


BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners