

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 1, 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
 Michael Glazer, Assistant County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order, asked everyone to silence their phones and said if there was something anyone wished to speak on to fill out a Speaker Request Form and give to the Deputy Clerk. She then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said there was one amendment and wanted to add Item 2A, an introduction to a proposal that was being worked on.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Healthy Weight Community Challenge

Mr. Presnell introduced Brittany Perkins.

Brittany Perkins, Senior Health Educator, Florida Department of Health, appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of the Healthy Weight Community Champion and then presented a Certificate to the County.

2. Strengthening Families Grant Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

Agatha Muse-Salters, Consultant for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department, appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of Restoring Families Grant Award. She said they received a Grant of \$200,000 from the Department of Juvenile Justice and it would be overseen by Major Barkley and she would be the Program Manager. She added they would be hiring four Non-Clinical Counselors and four Life Coaches and would be targeting youth in schools between the ages of five to seventeen and their goal was to divert them and stop being a statistic.

Commissioner Holt asked they step forward for a photo.

Commissioner Morgan asked how much of the \$200,000 would be for service vs. salaries. Major

Barkley appeared and said \$165,000 would go for a consultant and nine positions and the remainder would be used for services.

Ms. Salters reappeared before the Board to further explain the breakdown of the money received and said the counselors would spend 3 hours a week per child tutoring and the life coaches would work with counselors and find resources to provide for children.

2a. Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

Rob Nixon, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board and introduced Ken Sra, of Bhaasket Corporation, an international corporation, who appeared before the Board. Mr. Sra said this was an international investment corporation based in Florida and has roots in India. He said his vision was to bring skills training, manufacturing skills training and other curriculum into Gadsden County and hoped to be operational within next 30 to 60 days and hoped to bring 50 jobs to the County.

Mr. Nixon reappeared before the Board and said they would be able to work with the Gadsden County School Board to ensure they were able to equip the citizens with skills in the area of manufacturing and advanced technology. He said the group would invest over \$1 Million over time at the Havana Elementary site.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Nixon a few months ago and was trying to figure out a way to use the school.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad to have him and was good to see the school building be productive and needed to have manufacturing be a part here.

Commissioner Morgan welcomed them to Gadsden County and asked how they heard about Gadsden County. Mr. Sra said Rob Nixon had been a friend for a while and reached out to him and convinced him to come.

Shannon O'Keefe, Vice-President of Bhaasket spoke to the Board as well.

CLERK OF COURT

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

5. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Glaser, Assistant County Attorney about Sarasota County receiving a reversal on a decision regarding Indigent Care and asked how that could affect us.

Mr. Glaser said the decision was limited because it was based on a very specific provision that existed in Sarasota County and so far had been limited to Sarasota County. She asked that Mr. Weiss check into this matter.

She announced there were three young people that attended the National Junior Olympics, one young lady come in 82nd out of 3,000; a ten year old came in 14th in the Country in Shotput; and one more to run in the long-jump, jumps almost 14 feet and would jump on Friday.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the County Administrator, Curtis Young and Public Works for a job well done. He said he had given a list of roads in District 2 with old road signs and all have been replaced.

He also said he attended one workshop at the NACo convention, CGI Communications, and said they worked with Counties to work with Counties preview a series of meetings for their official website and would cost Counties nothing. He gave information to the County Administrator and asked he have them come do a presentation.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said Bishop Elliot Sheppard, Pastor in Midway, asked for a Resolution for their 30th Anniversary.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR MOTION FOR RESOLUTION FOR BISHOP ELLIOT SHEPPARD AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

Commissioner Hinson also shared he had an opportunity to attend the Early Childhood Development Summit in Charlotte, NC.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had asked for a copy of the sublease agreement with the City of Quincy at the Woodham Center and Mr. Presnell provided his a copy of it. He asked that the Board approve placing that item on an upcoming agenda to discuss and review the data.

He said he knew a budget workshop was coming up and wanted to make sure the “Pay and Pave Program” he mentioned for unpaved roads would be on for discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention the Apalachee Regional Planning Council meeting and said they were talking about another trip to Mississippi and she felt elected officials should make the trip, ones that sit on Boards that could make decisions. She added that the utility company built four substations to accommodate one business that runs 24/7 non-stop and the bill runs \$1.9 Million per week.

Commissioner Hinson said this Thursday from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. CareerSource will have a job fair, twenty companies would be there and would be at the IFAS Center on Pat Thomas Parkway.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor said the Sheriff's Department was bringing the Jail to another level and getting the \$200,000 grant was great and there were significant issues in the County with parents in and out of the penal system.

Chair Taylor then acknowledged Jeanette Wynn and said this had been on previous agendas and she had been unable to attend but was present tonight and she asked Ms. Wynn to step forward and the Commissioners had a few words to say and then presented a plaque to her.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie reappeared at this juncture.

CONSENT

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

7. Approval of Minutes

a. June 6, 2017-Regular Meeting

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communications, 5046 Tennessee Capital Blvd., Tallahassee, FL - Radio System, Agenda Item 5

Angela Grant Sapp, 821 Second Street, Quincy, FL – Stevens School

Bob Busch, Motorola, 167 Seville Chase Drive, Winter Springs, FL – Radio System

Ashley May, 1341 Woodward Road, Quincy, -Havana Fire Department – Radio System

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval to lease or purchase a new County-Wide Communications System and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents. He further explained this was not a proposal because it was a piggybacked purchase.

Chair Taylor said there were two proposals from each entity that was interested that offered a lease and that offered a lease.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he saw a tremendous difference between the purchase and lease amount and with regards to the purchase, have they factored in the estimated annual maintenance costs if the equipment was purchased outright. Mr. Presnell said there would not be any for some time, the equipment was warranted. Commissioner Viegbesie asked the lifespan of

the equipment and Mr. Presnell said over ten years.

Commissioner Morgan said to answer Commissioner Viegbesie's question, one lender put the option of buying or leasing, the costs would be identical whether it be a lease or purchase and the other vendor also offered a purchase and lease; one being a municipal lease and one a fair market value lease and the fair market lease was required to include the service costs and he encouraged them to set it up in the form of a lease. He reminded them of the critical issue with the current equipment and felt it was overlooked at the last meeting when they had both vendors in the room.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an issue and asked if they were doing the right thing with not bidding this out and Mr. Glazer said because this being a piggyback situation they did have that option and their purchasing policy authorized them to piggyback this. Commissioner Hinson said in the past, they always got the funding first and why not go in the direction of getting a bond and it not come from general revenue. Mr. Presnell said they looked at all options and had looked at grants for approximately two years and got the price of the system down to approximately \$1.3 Million. Commissioner Hinson said he knew the Board did not like to take a lot of money from General Revenue. Mr. Presnell said they looked at all options and going through the lease purchase, it would spread it over ten years and there would be a minimal payment. Commissioner Hinson asked what bonding company they looked at and Mr. Presnell said they did not look at bonding companies, they looked at financing options and what the vendors had was most attractive. Commissioner Hinson said normally they would secure the money first before proceeding.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the fact was that this was something that had to be done, was an absolute necessity, but his question was regarding the lease purchase or purchase alternative, he was looking at the costs differences and needed answers and wanted to look where it was the more cost efficient with regards to their options.

Commissioner Holt asked the lifetime of the equipment and Mr. Presnell said they hoped to get twenty years of service out of them and added there were different levels of maintenance and recommended having a maintenance contract. Commissioner Holt asked how many towers would be needed and Mr. Presnell said five and there were currently three and would be adding two. Commissioner Holt said she had a few people that were interested in having the towers placed on their property and wanted to know if, in the blind spots if radio communication could be used. Mr. Presnell said new towers would not be erected, they had found locations and would use space on towers already erected. She also asked for a side by side comparison of the purchasing agreement for the two companies. She also said the Florida League of Cities might be an option to consider for financing.

Commissioner Morgan said the way he saw it, they had \$145,000 annual payment with one vendor and \$152,500 payment with the other vendor. Commissioner Holt said with a spread and side by side comparison they would have what services were provided and they were looking at costs, not what each vendor would provide.

Commissioner Hinson said he had brought up at the last meeting about comparison and had not received it yet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in looking at the packet he did his best to compare but there was

technical “mumbo-jumbo” that did not make sense, saw the breakdowns of the two companies and tried to match but did not make sense to him with the technical terms. He said it looked like both firms were providing services that they were looking for and trusted the County Administrator and staff had done their due diligence and they needed to look at what was most cost efficient and service effective. He added they had “kicked the can down the road long enough”.

Bob Busch, Motorola, 167 Seville Chase Drive, Winter Springs, FL – County-Wide Communication System-appeared before the Board and presented their item. He said they expected the life cycle to last as long or longer as the current system had and software was a big part of the system and something they do is every two years they do a software release and would be updated regularly. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the equipment he provided would be Motorola equipment and he responded yes.

Commissioner Morgan said he mentioned the software upgrades as time progressed and asked if they were selected as the vendor if that could be added in their agreement in writing at no additional charge and he said yes.

Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communications, 5046 Tennessee Capital Blvd., Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board. She commended the Board for opening up the process and giving additional vendors an opportunity to come in. She said since they had come to the table the prices have dropped and were proud to offer their proposal that offered the lowest price if it was out-right purchased or a ten-year finance with the lowest interest rate and the same price to lease as if they were to finance it with a ten year purchase. She said they would not require the County to maintain it, they would assume that liability. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they would be purchasing the equipment from manufactures or if they had their own in-house manufacturers that would be maintaining the upgrade. Ms. Hirst said Williams Communications was an authorized reseller for a number of different manufacturers and all technicians were certified to maintain, install and engineer the systems. She added the County would contract with them and they contract with the manufacturers they represent and they were responsible for ensuring the system worked and was properly maintained. She also said they would meet the five tower requirement but did not identify the other two towers beyond the three that the County owned and said the County may want to construct the other towers somewhere at Williams’s costs; they would subcontract with a tower provider that would provide that infrastructure and they would lease the space back.

Commissioner Morgan said she mentioned a leasing option and said there was no difference in price regarding maintenance fee and wanted to make sure he understood her correctly and she responded they would not require the County to enter into a maintenance agreement under any of the terms. She said under the warranty period there was no cost but beyond the warranty the County would have a decision to make in terms of whether or not they wanted to enter into a maintenance agreement.

Ashley May, Havana Volunteer Fire Department, 1341 Woodward Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and said he was there on behalf of the Havana Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. May thanked the Board for allowing him to speak and for willing to spend the money to upgrade their radio system and said it was in bad need. He said he was in favor of Motorola and had been involved with volunteer fire departments throughout South Georgia and North Florida for 20

years, used a lot of different equipment and said if they had ever put on a fire suit and go into a house, you could not see your hand in front of your face, have a air mask on, your only lifeline was the radio strapped on the outside of it, it's getting hot and wet from the water and they wanted the best and Motorola was the "Cadillac" and hoped they consider what they were getting.

Chair Taylor said so many great points had been raised but she knew whichever system they chose, they would get best of the best, both companies could produce and provide the quality the County needed and would be a matter of determining which one. She added she was willing to work with that the Board wanted, even if meant having a workshop where they could have the comparison before them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said listening to both vendors and doing some computation, the difference was \$6,777.08 more and that one would guarantee maintenance on the equipment for the entire ten years whereas the other provider that was lower would only provide maintenance to cover warranty term of three years.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 2 TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED IN SPREADSHEET FOR THE MOTOROLA CAPACITY MAX DMR TIER 3 SYSTEM FROM MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AT THE ESTABLISHED PRICES PURSUANT TO THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL, SPREAD OVER A TERM OF 10 YEARS, WITH AN ANNUAL PAYMENT OF 4152,589.28, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS UPON APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WITH A GURANTEED STATEMENT OF MAINTENANCE FOR 10 YEARS AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A CAVEAT.

Commissioner Morgan felt it was important to mention that maintenance was not included by either vendor, there was a warranty period of three years and he supported his motion if he took the last part of his motion off and Commissioner Viegbesie accepted the amendment. Chair Taylor asked that he amend his motion to include the agreement of upgrade of the software as needed for the term of finance and Commissioner Morgan made the second to the amendment. Commissioner Hinson had questions.

Commissioner Hinson thought they were going to hear from both companies and wanted to make sure they did the right thing and added he had specifically asked the County Administrator to bring him side by side information and he had refused and he had a problem with it. Mr. Presnell said they had asked for a side-by-side comparison and this was what was provided to him by both companies. Chair Taylor said Commissioner Holt, Commissioner Hinson and herself look for side-by-side and noted he could only give what was provided but should have been expressed to both vendors what was requested from the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was not an item they needed to "kick the can any further", he had read through the Agenda item and that was where his questions had come from and he understood they were about to spend \$3 Million. He said both had good services and good equipment and said his question was, was the life of a volunteer firefighter worth less than \$3 Million and did not believe they should kick the can any further today.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to put definitive measures first, such as he asked they put a Community Center in the area and Commissioner Viegbesie had said he wanted to be

conservative and said sometimes when looking at other things, they were looking at apples and oranges. He said his family lived in District 2, he played football in District 2 and Commissioner Viegbesie refused to put the Community Center there. Commissioner Hinson said no-one on the Board was talking about not doing this, everyone agreed with it. He said he was one of the most straight-shooters ever found and could not play politics with people. He added he had a cousin that died in a fire and knew the importance of this and why he put EMS in Midway because it was needed. He said you could not play with people and focus on emotion. He said the problem was he gave direction to the Administrator to bring something back to the Board and he refused to do so. He further stated Mr. Presnell expressed that he wanted Motorola from the get-go and was not fair to Williams Communication and they needed to do what was right for the people that were paying taxes. He said he if wanted to help Commissioner Hinson's district or District 2 out, it would be great to build a Community Center, something the Board agreed with. He said it had nothing to do with the fire department, it had to do with him not getting information he requested.

Commissioner Morgan said he was taking little different stance and was not backing off of the importance of getting this situation solved and Commissioner Viegbesie was right and they needed to move on this issue. He said they had gone through the process the past 1 ½ years gathering all necessary information. He added he felt with what information that was provided was very complete and easy to follow and to understand, the Administrator did a great job in making sure they had all information needed and they received binders with information. He said the best decision was not to postpone this any longer and needed to make a decision to get this problem solved and needed to address this situation and this meeting was the time to do it.

Commissioner Holt said a comparison would have been easier to follow with a flow sheet side-by-side to be easy to see. She said they were both correct in the need to do this and would like to know if they paid for this for 10 years, she would like to have seen maintenance agreements and what it would cost and what was done with other counties. She said she was concerned with Williams was in the middle with having different companies they were working with and was not manufacturing the equipment. She said to Commissioner Hinson if they did not receive the information needed, they needed to look at that but did think they needed to move and do something.

Chair Taylor said there was a Motion and Second on the floor and asked for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie voted yes;
Commissioner Hinson voted no;
Commissioner Holt voted yes;
Commissioner Morgan voted yes;
Chair Taylor voted no.

The item passed with a 3-2 vote.

6. Approve New Sublease for EMS Location on Florida State Hospital Property

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the State of Florida Department of Children and Families Sublease Agreement for sublease of a portion of Florida State Hospital property to house the ambulance that the County uses in Chattahoochee.

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

7. Approval of Task Order 2017-012 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers for Completion of a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Task Order 2017-012 with DPB & Associates for completion of a Project Development and Environmental Study and for authorization for the Chair to execute all related documents.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED THIS BE BETTER EXPLAINED.

Mr. Presnell said this was a task order for the Florida Greenways and Trails grant that was previously approved. He said they were asked for a PD&E study of the site to finish the processing.

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

8. Interlocal Agreement with the Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District for Dispensing and Filling of Fuel

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District for dispensing and billing of fuel.

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

9. Gadsden County Lobbying Services

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for direction of Gadsden County's current and future needs as it related to State Lobbying Services.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why there was not a Legislative Day during the 2017 Legislative session.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt said when she spoke to some of the other Counties, they said the reason they did not have a Legislative Day was because of it being a tight session.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt they needed to hold off on this until they figured out the direction they wished to go. Chair Taylor said there was a motion and second on the floor. Commissioner Morgan had questions.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted clarification-the Motion and second on the floor was to approve the agreement. He asked if Commissioner Hinson had hesitation and he said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to put everything on the floor first and discuss this during budgeting time before they approved this and he had hiccups about this agreement.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn either way, felt Commissioner Holt explained the situation very well, they had gotten good services out of them and in response to Commissioner Viegbesie's questions, Commissioner Holt explained very well.

Chair Taylor said she had to agree and even with the Motorola contract, when approving an item just prior to the budget and have not identified the funding source, it puts them into a quagmire.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he heard Commissioner Hinson's concern with the budget but thought they did need the lobbying firm to begin to do the grunt work during the off-session season to put County's items in place. He said when the budget time came; he would personally call for discussion regarding the lobbying services.

Commissioner Holt said if they let Mrs. Wynn get away they would be losing lot and needed her lobbying for the County.

Commissioner Morgan said the current agreement expired on September 30th and with the budget workshops coming up, why not bring up after that.

COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

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

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

10. Grant Agreement Execution for Utilizing Oral Accounts to Find Gadsden County's Minority Groups' History

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to request the execution of a grant award agreement between the State of Florida, Department of State, Florida Division of Historical Resources and the Gadsden County BOCC for \$30,000 and the deliverables must be completed by June 30, 2018.

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

11. Approval to Award Bid No. 17-20 for the Clean-up and Debris Removal at the Old Stevens School

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid 2017-20 for the clean-up and debris removal at the old Stevens School to the lowest bid, Barnes Equipment Company and for authorization for the Chair to sign and execute the contract.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this junction of the meeting.

Angela Grant Sapp, appeared as herself and City Commissioner representing City District 2. She implored them to clean the area and use it to represent the culture and diversity of District 2.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION ONE WITH AN EXPEDITED CLEAN-UP

AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIOENR HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked the difference in the bids and clean-up and what would be done and Mr. Presnell said it was for clean-up of the site, debris to be hauled off and they would save the brick until the Board decided what they wanted to do at the area. He added that the next meeting there would be a full report along with the fire report.

Commissioner Holt asked the difference between the bids and the low bid was \$35,200 and the high bid was \$133,931.25.

Chair Taylor said the building was historic and whatever done needed to represent the community and the area and added that she lived in the district as well. She then asked the timespan and Mr. Presnell said it should be completed thirty days from commencement and he should get started this week.

Commissioner Holt said they needed to make sure it was graded and leveled. Mr. Presnell said there would be a hole there and would require yards and yards of material and Public Works could do that work.

Chair Taylor said for the record, after clean-up was done, the County would then come in with their resources to fill the holes and level the ground. Mr. Presnell said that was what was in his mind to use dirt from the County pit and would be no charge for materials.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to make sure this was done the right way; maybe they should instead do an RFP. Chair Taylor said to give Barnes Equipment direction to clear it.

Commissioner Morgan said to let the Administrator do his job and run the day to day of the County.

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

12. Discussion and Direction of County Administrator's Position

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was presented for discussion and direction as to how to proceed regarding the County Administrator interviews held on July 18, 2017. He said the scoresheets were provided.

Commissioner Viegbesie said tis was going in direction he wanted it to go and as soon as possible they needed to reschedule interviews for the three candidates and hoped and hoped the packet turned into Human Resources could be given back to them to use to do more research.

Chair Holt said she was not crazy about the tally. She also suggested they do their research, that she had researched each one and called the Cities, the towns and everyone.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue with moving forward, his issue was he was not sure they were getting the best field of candidates and if limited to these three, these were the only ones they could choose from. Chair Taylor said these three made the deadline with regards to submitting an application for the job. Commissioner Morgan said he was unsure they were getting

the best field of candidates in the process and asked if these were the only three they were able to choose from. Chair Taylor said these were the three that made the deadline with regards to submitting an application for the job. Commissioner Morgan asked if they wanted to make a decision because they made the deadline or because they were the best candidates for the job. Chair Taylor said all of the above. Commissioner Viegbesie said when the firm came there were thirteen that applied, had seven that made the minimum requirements and of the seven, the firm asked the Commissioners if they wanted five or three candidates and the Board instructed them to narrow it to three candidates. Commissioner Morgan said he thought fewer applied because there was no definite exit date for the current County Administrator. He then suggested since there was a new Assistant County Administrator, they extend his contract, give a definite end date to his contract of September 30, 2018 or preferably the end of his drop period of April 2019 and that way there would be plenty of time to have the Assistant Administrator seasoned for his job, would not have two brand=new people at the top and would get new candidates.

Chair Taylor said a suggestion was made to bring all three candidates back; also suggested was to have one ranked of first choice or none at all and have them come back within the next two weeks; and the suggestion of extending the contract for another year to keep the seasoned veteran on board until the transition could be made.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to extend the contract he would be going back on his word and he refused to go back on his word and suggested to hold interviews as soon as possible.

Commissioner Morgan said he had indicated since day one, if the Administrator was willing to serve, he be to allowed to serve to the end of his drop period and he was not recanting on his word.

Chair Taylor said in all fairness, the Administrator has had a tough job and has endured through it all and maintained integrity and professionalism and she respected it and this was not an easy job. She said there was no way she could sit next to him and not demand that he be treated with the highest level of respect. She said they would put a process in place and try to follow it to the best of their ability to keep the deadline in front of them and if not, then would have to make an agreement with him. She said she was not willing to extend it for a year and did not think he wanted to stay around that long. She then asked Mr. Presnell to schedule the next round of interviews at the earliest possible time as asked. She asked for a motion.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator if he was willing to serve to the end of his drop period of April 2019 and Mr. Presnell said yes if the Board so desired.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT UNTIL APRIL 2019. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE INTERVIEW OF THE THREE CANDIDATES THAT WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE FIRM THAT DID THE SEARCH BE SCHEDULED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.

Mr. Presnell asked if they would like to have more time that was allowed before and Commissioner Viegbesie said yes, at least 45 minutes for each candidate and should not be right before a meeting; at least a two to three hour timeframe.

Commissioner Holt said it was OK with her if they could do them by Skype to accommodate the candidates.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to figure out a way, not sure if legal or not, how they could talk to them one on one to figure out who they were because some people did not interview well.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was, according to Chapter 7 of the EEOC 1964-1968 did not allow them to talk individually with candidates during interviews; what they discussed with one, they had to discuss with all and was what he taught. He said the Attorney and HR personnel were present and they would be the ones to tell them what they could and could not do during the interview process.

Mr. Glazer said he was not a Title 7 expert and did not know the requirements.

Commissioner Hinson said he liked the Attorney's answer but was not a good answer and they did not need to bring the attorney back to the meeting again. He added they talked about personnel and the best answer would be to "let me look into it before the meeting's over with so I can give it to you guys in the discussion here" because "what's the purpose of having an attorney if he can't give you the right, proper information because the Board wants to make sure we do it the right way. I can't stand to have a guy cross his legs, hands in his lap and we thinking we talking and he's not doing what he's supposed to do as an attorney, because I think he should be getting us the correct answer that we need. Or that's what David Weiss normally do, he normally say hold up for a second, go back and, I know y'all don't like him, but, I'm just saying, that's what he normally do. He go back and look at the information and have his little laptop there and then he come back and give you the right answer. I think that's what we need, the proper advice 'cause we may make a decision tonight that may be catastrophic because we don't have nobody giving us the right, proper information that we need".

Chair Taylor said the information would be researched and shared back and Mr. Glazer said yes. She said they were saying tonight that they do the same process they had done before. She said she was unsure if they should have a workshop or how they wanted to proceed in doing the interview.

She asked the Commissioners what they would like to do:

Commissioner Viegbesie-his suggestion was to do as they did before with more time;

Commissioner Hinson – wants one on one if legal

Commissioner Morgan-had no comment

Commissioner Holt-other than the point system, she had no problem

Chair Taylor said they would meet in two weeks and have the first place ranking only.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BRING THIS BACK IN TWO WEEKS TO MEET WITH THE CANDIDATES AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Update on Various Board Requests

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting

Mr. Presnell said the Bhaasket Corporation was looking to build a new campus separate from the project they spoke of tonight and they were trying to entice them to do so in Gadsden County.

He reminded them of the job fair this week.

Chair Taylor said for the record, Motorola contract is for \$1.5 Million; a colleague kept saying \$3 Million and was not correct.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Glazer said he had nothing to report

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Glazer for attending the meeting tonight.

Receipt and File

23. Mediacom

**Gadsden County Health Department Quarterly Report for ½ Cent Sale Tax Prevention
Letter from DEO
Death Resolutions**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 15, 2017-Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

August 17, 2017-Budget Workshop – 4:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:51 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMS, Clerk