

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for moment of silence and led in Pledge of Allegiance to U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Morgan asked to add discussion of the County Administrator's position. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it had to be added to the Agenda for approval or should it be discussed during Commissioners comments. Chair Holt said it had to be approved

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION TO THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR DISCUSSION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Items 7, 11, 14 and Commissioner Morgan asked why they were being pulled and Mrs. Jackson said it was being done by a recommendation of the Attorney.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were facing a timeline and was told no.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Honoring Terrence and Natalie Roberts

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and asked Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Roberts to step forward.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to Mr. and Mrs. Roberts.

2. Proclamation Honoring Delshauna Jackson

Commissioner Taylor asked Delshauna Jackson to step forward, introduced Steve Scott, Audrey Lewis, and Dr. Jackson and then read the Proclamation aloud. It was then presented to Mrs. Jackson.

3. Proclamation Honoring Havana Magnet School

A Proclamation was then presented to Mrs. Jackson in honor of Havana Magnet School.

CLERK OF COURT

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

CONSENT

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

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. **May 2, 2017 Workshop**
- b. **May 18, 2017 Emergency Meeting**
- c. **August 29, 2017 Budget Meeting**
- d. **November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting**

5. Ratification Memo

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Joe Crozier, Environmental Planner, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, appeared before the Board. He told them they were hosting conference in Tallahassee on March 14-16 in Tallahassee at Doak Campbell Stadium and invited anyone who would like to attend.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could give brief synopsis of what they do for Gadsden County. He said they had a Revolving loan fund that was available for people that were in-between to give them an opportunity to create a small business. He added maybe they were denied a traditional loan and they were able to review them and give them another opportunity to get them started. Chair Holt further explained it was a pay-back loan and not a grant.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. PUBLIC HEARING: Approval to Transfer Insurance Proceeds for Stevens School from General Fund to Capital Project Fund

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said an insurance check in the amount of \$502,175 was received in June; \$35,200 had been expended on making the site safe by cleaning and clearing the area. She said a small building remained the cafeteria/auditorium. She said there was a remaining amount of \$466,975 that was placed into the General Funds and this hearing was to seek approval to move the remaining funds into the Capital Project Fund.

Commissioner Taylor said there had been a group of citizens the past four to six months that have met to discuss this project and they have put together a mission and a vision for the site.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this money was going to be in a restricted fund specifically for the rebuilding and reconstruction of the site or was it being moved into a capital project account that would become general for all capital projects. He added he would like to see it restricted to be used for what was received for. Commissioner Morgan asked with the amount of money they have, if there had been specific discussions for uses of the money. Commissioner Taylor said every Clyde Collins had been there and plans have been drawn.

Chair Holt said the Board approved in their Legislative Agenda to go to Senator Montford and Representative Alexander's office looking for matching money from the Legislature. She also brought up that she was speaking on behalf of TDC, they asked for a caveat. She said they were getting ready for a photo shoot for the Florida Association of Counties and there was very few places they could come up with that were African-American places and this was the only County in the State that was a predominately African-American County.

Chair Holt then asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak or if they wanted to waive in support.

Carolyn Ford appeared before the board and said they supported Commissioner Taylor.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval of the Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County
Item Pulled

8. Approval of Contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to Provide Security Services at the Edward J. Butler Building

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was brought before the Board in January and Board approved the item but asked that the contract come back for approval.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting and in doing so said 'aye'

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Chair Holt said the vote was 3-1 because Commissioner Taylor left and Commissioner Morgan said she had to vote and asked the attorney for point of order.

Mr. Weiss started to explain and Commissioner Taylor returned and voted yes making the count 4-

1.

9. Approval of Purchasing a New Fire Truck

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to purchase a new County-owned fire truck for the Havana Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked how they came to this decision. Mrs. Jackson said according to the Interim EMS Director, this was the oldest truck in fleet purchased in 1998 and had extensive miles on it.

Andre Walker appeared before Board. He said they did an inventory of all the trucks and that truck was the oldest and Havana runs over half of the calls in the County. He added that the truck was slowly becoming unreliable. Commissioner Morgan asked if they had looked at pre-owned truck and Mr. Walker said they did not, they felt a new truck would be more reliable than a used truck.

Mrs. Jackson said there was more money put in the budget for this but it will not all be used.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

10. 2016 Paving Project Phase III-Change Order #3

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was before the Board to approve Change Order #3 to CW Roberts Construction and this was a reduction of \$99,915.49.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was some money was going to districts that have projects in the Phase III that were not now being used.

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

Commissioner Taylor asked to make a statement before they moved further concerning the Stevens School item. She said Commissioner Viegbesie made mention of the funds being restricted and wanted to make sure it was part of the motion. Chair Holt said it was already approved. Chair Holt said they would have to go back to that item and they could discuss that at the end of the night. Commissioner Taylor said she just wanted to make sure the money was in place. Chair Holt said they could talk about this at the end of the night after the other items were discussed.

11. ~~CR-65B (Old Federal Road) Professional Services~~

Item Pulled

12. Bell Road (SCRAP) Professional Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Task Order with Dewberry-Preble Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Bell Road SCRAP

Paving Project located in District 1.

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

13. Cooks Landing Road (SCOP) Professional Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of a Task Order with Dewberry-Preble Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Cooks Landing Road Paving Project located in District 5.

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

14. Amendment to the Contract for the Resurfacing and Reconstruction of Howell Road

Item Pulled

15. FDOT Grant Application Cycles

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation under the SCOP, SCRAP and CIGP programs and said they would like to add Dogtown Road. Commissioner Viegbesie said there was some concern and he had a recommendation for addition of Dogtown Road. He said that road has seen a lot of activity and there were a lot of potholes and he recently drove it and counted 41 newly covered potholes and there were still a number of potholes there. Chair Holt asked if there were any comments and said she was going with the recommendation of Preble-Rish.

Commissioner Morgan said he had mentioned in the pre-meeting, they have enjoyed Preble Rish's ability of being able to identify roads with the most likelihood of receiving the funding.

Justin Ford, Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board. He said this list was not inclusive, it was a working list and he did not have to have the list tonight.

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

Lester Beach, Havana Fire Department, appeared before the Board to address striping on Joe Adams Road. He said one concern he had, when it was raining on Joe Adams Road, it was hard to differentiate whose lane you were in. Commissioner Taylor assured him there would be striping on that road before the end of April.

16. Approval of Resolution No. 2018-002 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (Technical Revision) for FY(s) 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of Resolution Number 2018-002 to amend the SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and for authorization for the Chair to sign documents.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION AND SAID THE PUBLIC NEEDED TO

UNDERSTAND WHY THIS WAS COMING BEFORE THE BOARD.

Mrs. Jackson said an audit was done recently and their recommendation was to amend the LHAP to reflect the SHIP program (State Housing Initiative Partnership) and make it retroactive for years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 to include moderate income.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there were no issues during that timeframe with applicants that may have not received funding with their application and no concerns from a liability standpoint with the County. Mr. Weiss said his understanding was that in order to insure there were no issues with and potentially having to return funds that they needed to make the technical amendment. Mrs. Jackson said from her Interim Administrator there were two persons during that timeframe from 2014-2017 that was a moderate income and was consistent with the funding source so there was nothing done wrong but the local standards not been updated or brought before the Board to be updated during that time period. She added that according to County standards, those persons did not qualify but according to the funding source, they were. She added if they did not change the LHAP, they would have to return \$44,400 to the funding source.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was as long as they made the technical revisions, this would be retroactive.

Commissioner Hinson asked if everything done was legal from 2014 until now.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Weiss said what he understood; their LHAP plan did not permit moderate income households to be eligible for the owner occupied rehab program. He said while under SHIP standards they would be, but under the County's LHAP they were not.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they went against their own plan and Mr. Weiss said yes, he believed they approved something that was not in their plan. Commissioner Hinson asked what where the repercussions did nothing happen after that point or they just slapped each other on the wrist and called it a day. Mr. Weiss said this was what they were doing to fix the issue. Commissioner Hinson said he knew a lot of senior citizens that died waiting to get this and they were able to do something for someone else that was not qualified to get it. He said it was sad that they were moving this along without repercussions; it was not fair to the seniors or citizens of Gadsden County that this happened. He added he was not sure what happened but they were giving someone something that did not fit the qualifications and probably made more money than everyone else. He continued and said a senior citizen that was receiving \$25.00 food stamps a month, probably saw a minimum of \$600.00 fixed income but they were told they had to wait for 12 years, and still waiting; but someone else making \$50-60,000 a year gets it. He added to him, someone should remove the Board if the Board decided to continue this foolishness. He said two people died waiting on assistance.

Chair Holt said in their plan they were approving for low income housing but the funding they were getting the money from said moderate to low so they were not following what they were saying. She added there were more people in the moderate area that would have qualified if they had

followed the Federal Government. She said they really kicked out more people in the moderate area than low income area. Commissioner Hinson said so it was ok to approve someone making \$50-60,000 year with one kid or maybe no kid eligible it was OK to give that person the money and not giving a person who was 80ish who worked in tobacco fields all their life and that person was supposed to wait for 12 years before they get housing? He said that was far-fetched. Chair Holt said the money came from the Federal Government and this was not what they approved. Chair Holt said what they did; their process helped more low income people so they were not following the Federal guidelines. She added that more low income people were helped because they did not include the moderate income. She said his point was being made because that was what they were doing; they were just not doing it by their criteria.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

17. Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint a Commissioner and an alternate to the County Canvassing Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the pre-meeting workshop he understood that the process was for whoever was Chair was automatically appointed but if the Chair was up for re-election and has no opposition then the Chair would be the one that governed the Canvassing Board.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS ALTERNATE TO THE CANVASSING BOARD AND IF THE CHAIR HAD OPPOSITION, HE WOULD BECOME CHAIR AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

18. Software License Agreement

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of renewal of the software license agreement with EMS Consultants.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11. Update on Various Board Requests

Mrs. Jackson said on Feb 9, 2018, she sent a memo out and asked that they let her know if they planned to attend the FAC and NACo conferences so they could begin to make travel arrangements and make sure it did not conflict with a BOCC meeting.

She said they were in the process of updating security in the building and asked the Commissioners if they preferred a fob or a number pad for the rear door and that door would be locked during all meetings and the only entrance will be from the front.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he has had personal concerns as to how anyone and everyone would be able to come in through the door with their backs turned and walk in behind the County Commissioners and he was amendable to securing the door like other commission buildings do so

only the County Commissioners and staff have access to the door and let everyone else enter through the front door. He said he was in support of this. Chair Holt said they had the number system before and the Commissioners used to lock themselves out but she was for whatever process was the easiest and most secure. Mrs. Jackson said either way they were already set up to use either a fob or the key. Commissioner Viegbesie said from what he heard the easiest and less complex way would be the method to use.

Mrs. Jackson said also to increase security, they were in the process of moving all staff to the second floor and all five offices will be empty and they will become Commissioners Offices where the commissioners will be able to meet with constituents if they wish. Commissioner Morgan said he understood what they were trying to accomplish but felt the main door (facing Highway 90) should be open during the day and asked that the idea be reconsidered. He said there are several times when someone has been to the Courthouse and then had to step over to conduct business in that building. He asked if there had been security issues in the past and she said yes. Commissioner Morgan expressed his displeasure in the front door being locked and logistically he did not think it was a good move and people having to walk around to the back to enter. Mrs. Jackson said she understood his concerns but the Courthouse staff fobs work there (Deputy Clerk shook her head no) and Commissioner Morgan said he was speaking about the general public. Commissioner Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, he had been there a number of times and had attempted to come in the front door and it was locked and has only been open during meetings for citizens to enter.

Mrs. Jackson requested a Proclamation for Four Star Freightliner for their grand opening on March 1st.

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

V/Holt 5-0

She reminded everyone there would be a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Feb 22nd at 2:00 for the Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department.

She said Staff was working on a strategic plan and in a couple of weeks each commissioner will receive a strategic plan survey and asked it be returned to them so they could compile the information.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan had comments regarding the Code Enforcement Department and the budget. He asked what the overall annual budget was for that Department. Mrs. Jackson said she was not exactly sure and Clyde Collins appeared before the Board.

Mr. Collins gave a budget amount of \$62,561 for the 2017-18 year and said it paid for a Code Enforcement Officer, the truck he uses, filing fees for the Clerk, etc. Commissioner Morgan asked him what his assessment of the Code Enforcement Department regarding how effective it was. Mrs. Jackson said they recently hired a new Code Enforcement Officer and in the future if she was still interim she would be asking for another position to be funded.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan asked her plans as Administrator to address that and move forward in the next 30 days. She said they would have to work within the compounds of what they have. She said they had a Code Enforcement Officer who worked diligently on the list that he has and there are people in the community who look for code enforcement violations. He said she had mentioned twice the need for another person and asked how long she recognized the need for another person and she said since she started working there but based on the current budget, no funds were there right now and she was an advocate on being conservative and not coming before the Board asking for more money. He asked if she was comfortable having raises for specific positions under her control that take priority over a code enforcement position. She responded she could not think of any raises for a specific person and he said her position alone took a significant raise and she said absolutely. He asked if that was a higher priority than Code Enforcement that affected the entire County. Chair Holt started to speak and Commissioner Morgan said he still had the floor. He said he respected her as Interim Administrator, but they have had several conversations about his feelings regarding that because of specifically code enforcement issues that they have and it needed to be addressed. He said they were spending money on other salaries when, in his opinion, look at reprioritizing that. He said they just spent \$24,000 for a "security officer" priority wise he hoped moving forward they look at taxpayers and look into prioritizing and address to meet the needs they need to do as a Board. He said Code Enforcement has been an issue for several months and they knew for six months they had a code enforcement officer leaving that position and this was an issue that they needed to respond to right away. He added he was just one seat of five and he was certain that was not how the whole Board felt, he was expressing the calls he receives from his seat about addressing Code Enforcement issues. He said to the entire Board that this was an issue they needed to respond to.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Mrs. Jackson how long she had been interim and she responded since October 31, 2017-almost 4 months. He then asked how long the Code Enforcement Officer knew he was going to retire. Mrs. Jackson said he was in the DROP for five years. Chair Holt said she thought the point of this conversation was that Commissioner Morgan was interested in getting Code Enforcement Officer an assistant in that Department. He said he was interested in getting the needs met across the County and code violations addressed. Chair Holt said Commissioner Viegbesie's point was this had "been going on for a minute" and Commissioner Morgan said for a long time. Chair Holt told Mrs. Jackson that they agreed on that part and asked her to look at those items and have it ready for the next meeting so they would not have to have this discussion. She asked her to at least look into it and give a report back.

Commissioner Taylor said her first inquiry sounded like something they needed to respond to-the FAC/NACo conference and asked if they could respond to her. Commissioner Taylor said she felt they should do that because it took the Board to cancel a meeting. Chair Holt said she would be here so they would have a quorum and will have the meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Update on Various Legal Issues

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

Commissioner Morgan asked about a specific email the Board received yesterday that had to do

with a specific consideration going before their Planning & Zoning Board-because received packet that was already public record-will it impact if it comes before them. He said he wanted clarification on record and asked because they received the packet (that he knew was already public record) but because that was forwarded to them asking that they respond, if that would impact that issue when and if it came before them. Chair Holt asked that he explain the email so there would not be any problems. Mr. Weiss said the email was from the Administrator and he commented on it. He said the attachments to the email was the Planning Commission packets from the prior meeting and site plan for the Hoover Treated Wood products project that was to be considered at the prior meeting and will be considered at the upcoming Planning and Zoning meeting and would subsequently come before them. He said he did not think it was a request to respond, it was just for their information. He also said because of Sunshine law violation, they could not respond to those types of emails and not to be discussed outside a public meeting. He said as far as quasi-judicial proceedings and how that worked, all is public record and is published on the website and any citizen could access those items to there is no reason they could not read them. He said in terms of disclosure, the issue with quasi-judicial proceedings, if they have any type of ex-parte communication, which was anything outside of a public hearing at which they consider the item before them, the best practice was they were not supposed to have any ex-parte communications because they are supposed to consider what was before them at the public hearing and give both sides an opportunity to present their position without having already made up your mind. He said if they have had phone calls, meetings or any type of communication with someone prior to the public hearing, there was a presumption they have been prejudiced by it. He added that all communication must be disclosed prior to the public hearing on record. He went on to explain it gives rise to a presumption that they have been prejudiced. He said it was rebuttable by facts by them being able to say "Here's the conversation that I had, here's what happened and here's why I'm making my decision based on what is in front of me and I'm giving everybody a fair opportunity. He said he did not think there was any reason why they could not see the item especially since it was available to the general public.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked the Interim County Administrator if he had ever encouraged her to hire someone and there was no response. Chair Holt said if she did not answer to not force it. He said it was yes or no, if he did, he did and with her being quiet, apparently her answer was yes. Chair Holt said for them to move on and he said personally he never did and he said that for a reason. He said there was a situation, he had questions from some employees and told them he could not encourage her or tell her who to hire and by saying that, they had issues. He said he told them the only time they could address something was dealing with policies and procedures and when they came to him they had issues. He said a week or two later he talked with the County Administrator, as he told them he would, and told her his job was not to encourage her or suggest to her who to hire and fire, but to look over policy and procedures. He said they had a lot of issues that he had to ask and bring up and what was told was there were several guys that did not get an interview and he wanted to make sure things were done decent and in order. He went on to say the problem they had was a lot of folks felt like they were left out of the conversation and he was speaking in general and the only reason he spoke with the County Administrator was a few days prior to that she told him everything was fine, they interviewed that Friday and on Monday she

said they interviewed one batch and would interview the other batch. He then said a few employees called him up three or four weeks later after the conversation and told him they just got interviewed. He said the issue was why was there a month gap between the interviewing process. Chair Holt said that could be discussed when they discuss policy and procedures in the workshop. He said he was one of the guys that did not get involved with the County Administrator business and daily operations and actually she could tell he's never even called her or contacted her and that was why he was surprised by the quietness. He said he thought they needed to go over the policy and procedure of hiring and firing so they would know that at the end of the day they were the ones being held responsible of what was going on. He further stated he thought the BOCC needed to know where they needed to go first before they started creating positions and hiring because that may not be a direction they wanted to go into.

He asked for a Proclamation for Mt. Zion AME Church for their 146th anniversary.

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

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said they come here and talk about the business of the County and how to best represent the citizens' concerns and so often they forget about major events of every day. He said certainly with the events of the past week that happened in the school in South Florida brings forth the importance of understanding and blessings they have and they want to keep those folks in their prayers.

He said he wanted to thank the Interim Administrator and Staff for meeting with Talquin Electric to discuss how they could better partner together regarding storms, etc.

He commended the Interim Administrator for initiatives she has taken since being on board. He said they need to decide who their next Administrator would be, if it was going to be her, so be it or if they were going to look for another. He said he had listened to and was opposed to the "Succession Plan" and said it has failed miserably and they needed to reattack that effort to solve the problem.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the one that nominated her and his intent was to go through the process and did not want to rush the situation. He said his intent was for three – six months and it had been 3 months.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked about the Milling from the Pat Thomas Highway paving and said she has had quite a few calls regarding that and was it available if they paid for hauling. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said this was a DOT project but he reached out to CW Roberts. He said he assumed it was for the County and they offered to deliver for \$200/load. He said he would ask for citizens and get back with them.

She said there was another issue in Midway and she was getting information from the community about that Council deciding to restrict some activities from a business owner as far as construction. She said she contacted the Interim Administrator to make sure they were not facing any liability with regards to civil rights and after talking with the Attorney, she found out because they have an

Interlocal Agreement with the City of Midway, they could fall under their restriction and not provide services because of the Agreement. She said she wanted to take it a step further when they have employees that were dealing directly with the business owner, it may have compromised the County with their dealings with the building official and she was concerned. She said they may want to look into it further. She said there was an employee involved that has made recommendations and they may need to look into.

High Bridge Road

She said she keeps hearing it is on the list. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said it was in DOT's hands and was on DOT's 5 year work plan. He said he thought it was scheduled to move this Fall and will confirm it. Mr. Jenkins pulled it up on the screen and Mr. Ford said the construction will be for the 2020 year and would start Fall 2019 and design was underway now.

Interim County Administrator

She said they said it was best that that person gain as much experience, insight, etc. so in the event they did hire someone else, they could share and help the person get acclimated to the position. She said she had not seen anyone else working hard trying to get it right. She said "what goes around comes back around. You have to be careful how you do people." She added that she has had numerous conversations with the Interim and respect her that she's trying hard to do a good job.

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Interim and Public Works for job well done on safety on placing reflectors on stop signs to highlight them.

Crappie Masters fishing tournament

He said it was a blast and an experience for him and this was the second year here. He said it generated an economic boost to the County to the tune of approximately \$600,000. He commended Clyde Collins and his staff for their hard work and dedication towards this event. He suggested events such as this should be recorded and uploaded to the website.

He said there was a discussion recommended by the CFO of Florida, Jimmy Patronis and he stated that there were some Counties that have monies that did not realize it and said to check out FLTreasureHunt.com. He suggested they see if there were any hidden treasures that might be there.

He asked for a Motion for Resolution from BOCC to Florida State Fire College in Ocala and said it was necessary for the Greenshade/Dogtown fire station to begin operation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA STATE FIRE COLLEGE IN OCALA FOR GREENSHADE/DOGTOWN FIRE STATION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said they will be using a timer at the next meeting and she wanted to make them aware of it. She said if they had any questions regarding any of the Agenda items they could meet with the Manager and they were having Workshops starting at 4:30 to make the meetings quicker. She said if it was to be a long item, the Manager could discuss it. She asked their opinion of three

minutes and one minute for rebuttal.

Commissioner Taylor said no Commissioner had any more power or authority than the other, the Chair was just “a glorified position that is used to make sure folks don’t speak over each other”. She said she did not agree with a 3 minute timer, that they could be mindful and stay within a reasonable timeline. Chair Holt said she was going to use the timer and if they thought they needed four minutes, they would go with that. She added they were trying to be fair and respectful of the community. She said the Community was requesting that they not do what they were doing.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was a limit and restriction on how long a Commissioner could speak on an item or issue. Chair Holt said it had been used on several situations, not just for citizens but for Commissioners as well. She said this may give them some structure, if it did not work they cannot do it.

She said Talquin Electric was requesting a Proclamation for their students of employees that have gone to the Legislative session with the State and were going to Washington, DC.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR THE STUDENTS.

Chair Holt said she felt the Workshop was a success and went good. She said the Staff had an opportunity to present their items and were able to go through them and got questions answered.

Policy and Procedure

She said Commissioner Hinson brought that up, particularly on hiring. She said there were two or three things: 1) They cannot tell the Manager who to hire and fire, along with other items and they needed at least two hours to discuss that, 2) There were problems with funding items even for the Crappie Tournament, the request for those proceeds were denied and the employee should not pay for items out of their pocket. She said this was items they needed to clean up because it causes hard feelings when employees have to do things that was for a County event and should not be permitted by this Board; 3) CRA-She said she had concerns about CRA in Quincy. She said she went before the Board and asked them about it because she would have spoken in favor of disbanding the CRA’s in the State of Florida at the Legislature last year but she was speaking before the Subcommittee in favor of gaming for the Gretna facility. She said she would like to see if there was anything they could look at as far as the operation of CRA’s, not that they would have any say-so but she wanted clarity. She added there was one bill currently before the subcommittees to not create any other CRA’s in the State and the large counties were totally against the CRA because there are County funds captured inside of a group and the County has no say-so over the funds. She said concerns from the citizens were there and they want to know where those dollars are being used and they could not see it; and 4) Emergency Housing Issue-She said they put dollars aside for emergency housing and she wanted to look at that item again because she was not in favor of her or any other commissioner choosing which house should be emergency housing and it was a mess. She said she was tired of people calling her to ask why the commissioner picked that person over them to get a house fixed. She said she did not mind taking the money and putting it in Housing and use the same stipulations they use for SHIP for low income housing. She said Commissioner Hinson brought up the housing issue and there was a complaint for low income and she suggested they promote better who qualified for it.

Receipt and File

- a. Letter from the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority
- b. Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report for ½ cent Sales Tax Prevention and Education Program
- c. Letter from the Florida Department of Transportation
- d. Resolution Honoring Mr. Shannon Faison

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 6, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

March 20, 2018-Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:21 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA




BRENDA HOLT, Chair

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk