

**AT A PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD INAND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 6, 2018 AT 4:30 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

Mrs. Jackson said they would start with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Agenda Discussion

Mrs. Jackson said there were several items on the Consent Agenda and listed the Minutes along with the Ratification Memo and there were no questions.

Item #3-Public Hearing-Approval to Recognize \$200,000 from Discretionary Sales Surtax to the Capital Project Fund

Jeff Price gave a brief update of the Discretionary tax and explained the item. He said the Board approved amending the Ordinance regarding the Discretionary Sales Surtax and Parks. He said the Budget Amendments on the Agenda would move the approved funds into the proper fund so they could meet the Grant requirement and was done by Accounting standards and had a Flow Chart to better explain. He said the Discretionary tax would come in, part would go to Public Works averaging about \$76,000 per month and part goes to the Fire Fund; they will divert money to Parks and Grants Fund (\$200,000) and would take approximately three months. He said when they receive the money from DEP; it would go back to Public Works. He said after the work was done, Public Works will bill the Park fund and the money would be paid back. Mrs. Jackson explained the Grant would reimburse after the work was done.

Commissioner Viegbesie arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

4. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request-SWAT Association 2018 Basic Sniper Course

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She said no-one was present from the Sheriff's Office to discuss this but they were requesting money for a Basic Sniper course.

Mrs. Jackson said the amount decreased from \$2,401.70 to \$2,182.65 and was seeking funding to pay for training, boarding and per diem costs to a Deputy Investigator to attend the Florida SWAT Association Basic Sniper Course in Orlando.

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

Mr. Young introduced the above the item. He said it was originally budgeted at \$704,028 and the

bids came in under budget and the new agreement amount was \$379,885.

6. 2017 Striping Project Phase II-Change Order

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a Change Order and noted that the fiscal impact was \$38,446.40. She said originally the road did not require turn arrows and one road, Joe Adams, required there be turn arrows. She said the amount was coming from Commissioner Taylor's paving fund.

7. Approval to Extend the Current Lease Agreement with USDA for the FSA Service Office

Mr. Price explained the above item and said originally this was approved to extend the lease until January 2019. He said they did not sign the eighteen month lease and changed the date to reflect twelve months and this was to correct that. Chair Holt asked the rationale for making it twelve months instead of eighteen. Shep Eubanks appeared before the Board and said they were hoping the new Ag building would be built and the contract would be updated after completion. He said they received notice that USDA did not sign the eighteen month contract but changed the dates to reflect the lease ending June 2018 and this was to correct that. Mrs. Jackson said they were not currently in the building and hoped to go into the new building.

Chair Taylor asked that they go back to the Sheriff's item.

2. Department Updates

Mrs. Jackson provided everyone with a Bi-Weekly Update and said she planned to go over it. She said she wanted to yield to Beth Kirkland and they were going to start at the workshops that the first one of the month would be the Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) and the second workshop would be for the Chamber to give updates.

3. Gadsden County Development Council Update

Beth Kirkland, GCDC, appeared before the Board and gave their Mission Statement of the GCDC, which was "Sound Policy, Prepared Product and Effective Marketing". She said under the Policy element, the Development Council attended the Comp Plan Open House that the Consultant held the past Friday. She said some of the feedback provided with regard to having a time certain for companies that were looking to locate in the County as far as going through the permitting process. She said with regard to the Citizens' Bill of Rights to better clarify that because there were several engineering firms that came and provided comment found it to be confusing and not easy to follow. She said they would be doing some Economic Impact analysis relating to a draft Alcohol Ordinance to support restaurants that serve food and meet the State Standards with regard to non-smoking, etc., to be allowed as part of the exemptions in the Alcohol policy. She said there were several restaurants that tried to locate and find that they were either near an active Church or in some cases near a piece of property that was owned by a house of Worship that had yet to be developed and was a deterrent and they did not move forward. She said they had three local companies that would like to apply for the local grant program that was approved a few years ago and would be the first to make the application and go through the process.

Product Development

She said they have keys for a physical presence for the GCDC that the County has donated. She said they have donated the building at the intersection of Madison and King Street and they were in the process of moving in and hoped to be there in time for their April Board meeting.

Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

She said they had a grant proposal in to the State since last September on Infrastructure at the Greensboro/Gretna Interchange related to the proposed Intermodal Logistics Center within the Freight Logistics Zone. She said they met with DEO and they have asked for additional information in November, more in February and they sat down the day before and went over all the information. She said they were looking at the USEDA as an avenue for building out the infrastructure.

She said they had another Grant to be turned in soon to the State under talent for Florida Job Growth Grant Fund which was approximately \$275,000 of funding to stand out the diesel mechanic training program at Gadsden Technical Institute and details were being finalized of the equipment that needed to be purchased to outfit to teach.

She said they had also met with FDOT District 3 and they have identified \$400,000 in mitigation funding that could be applied for to do Interchange/highway beautification projects. She said Commissioner Viegbesie had met with all of them to help broker the first conversation and they have had follow-up meetings and were ready to write the sample letter and have it brought before the Board for consideration as an Agenda Item.

Marketing

She said they were working with Ulysses Jenkins and his team and they were working with GTI and the National Association of Counties for TDC, Economic Development, General County three or four second videos. She said someone would be in the community the next couple of weeks that would be talking to businesses about participating from an advertisement standpoint and would be in the County in April to do the videos. She said **850 Magazine** would be doing a profile of Gadsden County and would appear in their fall issue.

Expansion solutions Magazine

She said the County will appear in a two page spread in the March/April Transportation issue and it was an advertorial where they would write their own article but they sponsor it on the Freight Logistics Zone and how important it was and would be an advertisement about the transportation assets. She said in the May/June issue they would do some things related to freight and rail and in a later issue would be work force development and talent.

Mrs. Jackson said she did not speak much about businesses that were coming and she knew they were working on some. She asked her to speak about the confidentiality law since this was on Facebook Live. Ms. Kirkland said Florida had a statute and she believed it was F.S. 288.075 that said companies could seek confidentiality within the State of Florida during the time they were evaluating their options, whether it was here or another State and during that time, they were bound as practitioners to refer to those projects according to the code name that was applied or assigned to them. She also said at some point during that process if the company chose to introduce themselves in a public setting from that point on it was publically known. She said currently they were working with someone that was in the distribution and transportation sector and working with someone using the energy sector.

Chair Holt asked with regard to the marketing items, they were looking at doing the marketing of the companies that were hopefully coming; have they shown any interest or concerns about being

in the County as opposed to in a city because of the Citizens Bill of Rights. Ms. Kirkland said going back to what she said on the policy side, the way their policy was currently written, there was no time certain and companies a fine amount of time that they could make a decision and either expand in that location or locate there, build a building, get up to speed because at some time certain they have to deliver product to market or they could not recoup the investment made in a community.

Chair Holt said that was the hold-up and why the Comp plan was so important and was very important that they be told what needed improvement. She said some of the problems could be cut out at the County level.

Chair Holt asked what made the County sellable and Ms. Kirkland said the transportation assets were huge and the available land. She said there was still available space at Gadsden 10/90. She also said the Freight Logistics line was continuing to see opportunities that would make it very viable. Chair Holt said this was the difference in the Chamber and an Economic Development Group-with the Chamber you were a member (and they were not a member, just give them money) and with an Economic Development Group, they come in and state what business they want where, help get land ready, help pull property owners and buyers together and was the difference and had never had that before.

Mrs. Jackson gave some updates:

Building Inspection Department

Total of 154 permits have been issued since January totaling \$40,853.48 and the permitted structures value was \$4,109,043.00.

She said the Supervisor of Elections building was slated to be painted and were currently pressure washing and scraping.

She said quotes for the Greenshade/Dogtown Fire Station were received and a Notice to Proceed would be issued this week.

Code Enforcement

She said the new Code Enforcement Office started in February and he has closed 40% of the active cases and 100% of inherited code enforcement cases were closed. She said however, two have been reopened for new offenses.

Emergency Management

She advised that CRMC had a new CEO, Alan Keesee, FACHE and he would be meeting with staff on March 21, 2018.

She said the Resolution has been filed to acknowledge Greenshade Fire Station as a Gadsden County functioning body.

Human Resources

She said the 2018 Summer Youth Employment Program advertisement would post March 29th thru April 27 and applications would be made available to the local high schools, the three libraries and on the County website.

Library Services

She said the library was partnering with Mu Mu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. on a Youth Symposium on March 24th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

She informed them the library would be conducting their five year plan on April 21st and a formal letter would be forthcoming.

She also said Library Week would be held the week of April 9th thru April 13th.

Management Services

The US Census will be done differently this year and they have requested information about new housing permits and they were complying.

She said there was an update at the dais on the Election Cybersecurity.

Public Information

She said the website design was underway and were expecting the website to go live in few months.

Public Works

She said the Cooks Landing striping project would be completed this week.

The Chattahoochee Landfill was scheduled for close-out by DOE and was the last landfill.

Speed limit for Dogtown Road has been reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph.

Mowing season has started and they have increased from 4 mowing crews to 5 and have new mowers with the exception of one and are faster and cut lower.

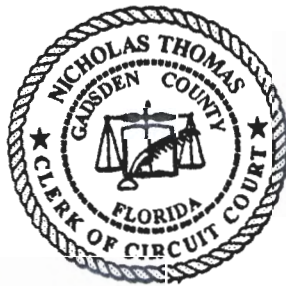
To cut costs, staff was looking into purchasing a paint machine for smaller road jobs.

4. Follow-up Items

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THEM, THE WORKSHOP WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:36 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA


BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk