

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 17, 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 welcomed everyone and asked that phones be placed on silent. She then asked everyone to stand for a brief silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She welcomed the children from the Boys and Girls Clubs from Quincy and Havana that were present in the audience.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments or for approval of the Agenda.

Mrs. Jackson said the family of Mr. T. J. Davis could not be present and the item would be pulled and scheduled for a later date.

Commissioner Morgan asked that discussion of the County Administrator's position be added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Viegbesie interjected at this point and asked of the Attorney, that he understood the person or people that were on the losing end on the vote of an item were not able to bring it back on the Agenda and asked if that was correct. Mr. Weiss said if they wanted to move for reconsideration of an item or move to rescind an item that was true, they had to be in the majority. But for an item they were wanting to add to the Agenda, he did not think there was any reason they could not propose that in terms of discussion and added if there had not been action taken on the motion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO ADD DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION TO THE AGENDA AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON WITH A COMMENT.

Commissioner Hinson said his word was his bond but when he made the motion to appoint Mrs. Jackson as Interim County Administrator, it was a temporary situation and thought this was a process. He said this was during his re-election and he went against the grain and moved forward because the Commission said it was a process. He said they moved forward and sometimes in a leadership position, there had to be tough decisions made and he made one move in finding a County Administrator. He said they were now going through a process, but since they had gotten to that point, they were not trying to move forward and to him that was politics. He said he told Commissioner Morgan in November when he brought this up that he would entertain this after the Christmas holidays. He said he liked the Interim County Administrator but his word was his bond.

Commissioner Taylor asked that they separate the two items.

CHAIR HOLT SAID THE FIRST MOTION WAS TO REMOVE THE RESOLUTION FOR MR. T. J. DAVIS AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Chair Holt then said a Motion was not needed for that, Mrs. Jackson had stated they were removing it from the Agenda because Mr. Davis was not there.

Mr. Weiss said typically if they were amending the Agenda, they needed to have an approval and if doing it as an amendment or approval, they remove it and approve as amended. He added if they were taking up two separate motions...but they were right and there was no motion and he thought the consideration could be at the time of the approval of the Agenda.

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

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES

1. Resolution Honoring the Life of Mr. James E. Peacock

Chair Holt introduced the above item and asked everyone to step forward.

Commissioner Morgan read the Resolution aloud and it was presented to Mrs. Peacock.

2. Resolution Recognizing the Years of Service for Mr. T. J. Davis

Item pulled.

3. Proclamation Honoring Mrs. Mary Brock

Commissioner Hinson asked Mrs. Mary Brock to come forward and read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to her.

CLERK OF COURT

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

CONSENT

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

4. Ratification Memo

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Harold Bailey, PO Box 658, Chattahoochee, FL, appeared before the Board. He said he was before the Board as a result of the meeting this morning of the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation (Rec) Advisory Board. He said he had been asked to assist with marketing and they were in the process of forming a new baseball team in town, Gadsden County Cardinals. He said it was an adult baseball team that ranged from ages 16 years old and up. He said there was to have been a Showcase Classic this past weekend, but it was rained out. He said he was here on behalf of the Cardinals to let them know about it and it would take a little money to do it right. He said there were a franchise fee, uniform costs, baseball costs and insurance costs. He said the bottom line was \$1,900. He said all parts of the County were involved in this matter and they had plans of coming about other monies but needed some start-up money. He said they were excited about it and thought it would be something good for the County. He said he would like to see the Gadsden County Parks and Rec adopt the team and sponsor them.

Chair Holt explained any item that came before them had to come to the Administrator. She asked that he contact the Administrator and a meeting would be set up.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. PUBLIC HEARING (Legislative) Adoption of Ordinance 2018-004 for the Perkins Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendments (SSPA 2018-01)

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to adopt Ordinance 2018-004, a Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and transmittal of the amendment to the Florida Department Economic Opportunity.

Jill Jeglie, the Senior Planner, appeared before the Board and explained the item. She said it was a 6.7-acre parcel that was owned by David and Tamara Perkins and they were represented by Elva Peppers; was currently Ag II and they wanted to change it to commercial. She said there were no wetlands on the property, no level of service issues, and the roadway was currently at 12% of its daily capacity and only at 15.8% at peak hours. She said a Citizens' Bill of Rights meeting was held, was advertised and there was no-one in attendance other than Ms. Peppers and Mr. Perkins.

She said the Planning Commission recommendation was to approve (6-0) the ordinance adopting the FLUM amendment. She said Mr. Perkins was a Gadsden County resident and would like to move his business from Leon County to Gadsden County.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Scotland Road was paved approximately 10 years ago and thought this road was in the long-range CRTPA widening plan for 2020-2022. He did not think the capacity issue would be of any concern.

David Perkins appeared before the Board. He said he owned Perkins Electric, was an electrical contractor, wanted to build a shop on the parcel and it would be used only for storage.

Chair Holt asked again if there was anyone that wanted to speak regarding this item and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Jeglie if there was any significant discussion at the Planning Commission.

Mrs. Jeglie reappeared before the Board and said she could not remember who was present on the Board at that meeting. Commissioner Morgan said to the Chair it would be helpful in the future if they could have the discussion and who was present at the Planning Meeting.

Mrs. Jeglie said they could provide draft minutes if they were available. She said the item was discussed and supported, he asked if there were any concerns and she said no.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity Boundary Change

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity regarding the Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity boundary change and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents. She also said if this item did not pass it would make them ineligible for monies.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any other changes other than the boundary and she said no.

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

7. Write-Off of EMS Accounts-Bad Debt

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to write off the bad debts that totaled \$558,101.49 and the amount was to be turned over to a collection agency to try to collect the debt.

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

8. Approval of the County Email Policy Number 18-02

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the proposed County Email Policy Number 18-02, which would supersede County Policy Number 05-001 Internet Access and Electronic Mail Policy for County Employees. She said technology was much more advanced now and they were expanding on the policies.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the original copy was attached. He said he would like to have an original copy as well as the strike-thru and underlined version to see the changes better. Mrs. Jackson said previously it was the Email and Internet Policy and it had been expanded out where the Email Policy alone was seven pages and there was no way they could do a red-line version. He asked if they were getting rid of the entire old policy and she said yes.

Mrs. Jackson said when there was a separation of an employee from the County, the former employee would be locked out from the email account but the County still had the privilege to get into the account.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the Pre-Commission Workshop that question was brought up and his understanding and response was the retention policy was yet to be developed. Mr. Weiss said there will be a separate Retention Policy that had the various Retention Schedules that were required per Florida Statutes for Public Records and there were provisions in this Policy that also addressed Retention but without as much detail. He said one thing that needed to be completed in this Policy was in Section "K" for providing Back-up media and in talking with IT Staff they thought ten years was a reasonable amount of time for emails and attachments to be stored in the "cloud".

Commissioner Taylor said the question was asked earlier if whether or not the old policy had any emphasis coming forward and was told no. She said there was a lot of language from the old policy that was reflected in this new one so that statement was not correct. She said she was also concerned with the timing of this policy and felt they may be facing this issue with litigation and it concerned her. She felt there were statements in the policy that should be discussed before making this a Policy; one, in particular, was dealing with political activity. She said they did need Policy and Procedure in place regarding this but generating one at this time concerned her.

Mrs. Jackson said if any litigation happened it would be under the old policy. Chair Holt said this was addressed in the Workshop and said that no matter what they did in the County Email, it was public record. Commissioner Taylor said her concern was how they would enforce some of the "nevers" and how could it be enforced with their Government provided political positions, language, opinions, etc.

Chair Holt said they had to update the policies and had no choice.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood the concerns that his fellow commissioners had on the item, but this policy had been in existence since 2005.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt it was important that the Board realize it was only as effective as it was enforced.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

9. Approval of the County Internet Usage Policy Number 18-01

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposed County Internet Usage Policy Number 18-01 would supersede County Policy Number 05-001 Internet Access and Electronic mail Policy for County Employees.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Attorney if he had any concerns with this item and he said no, but on page 7 of 9 there was an inconsistency under "Examples of Acceptable Use of the County's Resources" and the last bullet point says "Incidental use of the internet (i.e. less than 10 minutes at a time) but on Page 8 of 9 he made a proposed change that said no longer than 10 minutes during a work day. He said that was an inconsistency that would be changed. He said also, as they knew, anything that pertained to County business was public record and did not matter if it was on a personal email, personal Facebook page, Twitter, etc. He said it was a good idea if something came on a personal page to forward that to their County email but if it was on Facebook that was a little harder. He reminded them it was public record and had to be retained somehow.

Chair Holt asked if they were doing something at their house on their internet and someone sent you something regarding the County on Facebook, should they forward it to the County's Facebook page?

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was a question he raised during the workshop and with the proliferation of and the extent of which Social Media and the degree to which it was emulating everyone's lives, his understanding was anything that had to do with the County that was posted on their own Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, etc. was public record. If for some reason there was a public record request, those items should be made available to whoever was requesting the public record.

Mr. Weiss said that was accurate but the question was how it was done. He said he knew if something was sent to their private account that dealt with County business, it should not be deleted from that site until it was retained but was unsure exactly how that would work.

Chair Holt said IT needed to get with them and show them how to do it.

Commissioner Hinson said he was told to send it to an email.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt this item was one they needed to take some time on.

Commissioner Hinson said for the record if they received something; send to their County email, he said they were told to do that in an Ethics course.

Commissioner Taylor said someone made a point to give the Attorney some direction and she agreed to a workshop.

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

10. FDOT Highway Beautification Program at I-10 Interchanges

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to sign a letter from the BOCC to the FDOT District 3 acknowledging that FDOT mitigation funds were available for Highway Beautification on FDOT Right-of-Way and including a determination as to how to partner with FDOT on deploying those funds at Gadsden County Interstate 10 interchanges.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he looked at this item, he was elated about it and it came from a discussion that started when Four Star Freightliner wanted trees cut. He said for budgetary reasons and for the sake of expediency, he was looking at Option 2 where the County would pay approximately 10% of the costs for it to be started by the end of 2018 as opposed to Option 1 when the process would take approximately 1-1 1/2 years from now.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the costs to the County.

Beth Kirkland, Executive Director of GCDC, appeared before the Board. She asked Staff to pull up the website, North Florida Corridor.com, a website that was procured by a State Marketing Grant by the four regional Economic Development Organizations across the I-10 corridor to brand as the North Florida Manufacturing and Logistics corridor. She said the Development Council had invested through the same grant process in the Expansion Solutions Magazine and there will be three different appearances throughout the next few months to hone in on the community and participation in the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone as a part of this manufacturing logistics corridor. She said they had an opportunity as a community to make this County stand out because there were 4 interstate interchanges within the borders of the County. FDOT recently advised there was \$243,584.70 currently available in the District 3 fund bank that was available to use in the Highway Beautification program.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there would be enhancements at each of the four interchanges and she said correct. He then said that basically the dollars would be spent on trees, etc. and she said for instance, it was services related to the purchase of plant material, fertilizer, and the costs of the labor associated with the installation of planting that the designs indicated. He said his questions were what the cost to the County was because in return, the County would have to maintain it. She said yes and she would look to the Public Works Department to help her better understand that. He said in order to make a decision he needed to know what the fiscal impact would be to the County and how would that be prioritized as far as to what should be done now in each of their districts as a primary role.

Mrs. Jackson said until the letter was sent to DOT, they would not know what the plans were, this was just to get started with the letter saying they were interested in the Beautification process.

Chair Holt said there was discussion at the 4:30 Workshop and her question was to see if they could negotiate any of that or a way to get together to see if the State would maintain it because of rural fiscal restraints.

Commissioner Taylor said both options talked about reasonable agreements and seemed with

both they were agreeing to do some type of maintenance. She said she would agree to any form of beautification.

Mrs. Jackson said there was a sample document attached and they could draft the letter however they chose to do.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was referring to the maintenance agreement between Leon County and FDOT. He said there would be maintenance costs and that was where they could go back to District 3 Secretary through CRTPA to explore what the estimated costs would be and what type of subsidy they might could get from FDOT since they were a rural, fiscally stressed County.

Chair Holt said there was data they could look at.

Mrs. Kirkland explained the difference in the options.

Commissioner Hinson said this was something he had brought to the Board the past 4-5 years, and every time he traveled to Plant City or Hillsborough County, they have beautiful palm trees. He said he also traveled to Washington County, they placed palm trees there as well and he was excited about it. He said he was waiting for them to make the County look like it deserved to look.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mrs. Kirkland for clearing up the items but the options they were talking about voting on was not what was before them; it was something completely different from what he saw on the Agenda. He said he wanted to beautify each one of the interchanges. He said his original question was they had to have a game plan on how to manage and maintain the areas. He said they did not need to advance any dollars when there was no reason to do so.

Chair Holt asked if there was a deadline on this and Ms. Kirkland said funds were available for all counties in District 3 and were on a first come, first serve basis, and there were 16 counties in District 3.

Chair Holt said if they applied for it, they did not have to accept it and Commissioner Morgan said that may have an impact in the future.

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred with Commissioner Morgan but at the same time, in reading the document, it was kind of clear and with that being said, he would like to see if they could get the ball running. He said they were not fiscally strapped, the County was in great financial condition and have gone from \$2.5 – \$3 Million in the Reserve up to approximately \$6 to \$7 Million and have been doing a great job with the General Fund and this was a great way to lure people into the County.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed and did not think there was anyone that did not want the funding.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND THERE WAS DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS AROUND THE BOARD.

Ms. Kirkland said it was the recommendation of FDOT that they handle one interchange at a time

because it was hard for them to manage on their side a JPA (Joint Participation Agreement) that would encompass four interchanges.

Commissioner Taylor said that was not what was said earlier, four interchanges was said. Ms. Kirkland said that was not her intention, they could prioritize.

Chair Holt asked if the interchange they decided to do did not require the \$243,584, could the balance be used on another interchange. Ms. Kirkland said she understood from the FDOT Staff that the letter could say that the County would like to do highway beautification with all four interchanges and understood the amount of funding available today.

Commissioner Viegbesie said personally, as the County representative on CRTPA, he had no problem requesting that Susan Estes come to give a clearer understanding of the process so they would know what they would incur after a year.

COMMISSIONER HINSON RESTATED HIS MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED THE MOTION BE AMENDED FROM "ONE" INTERCHANGE TO "THE" INTERCHANGE.

Ms. Kirkland said that once FDOT was engaged in the process, through the recommendation Commissioner Taylor made regarding the interchanges and the data was collected, it could come back before the Board for a decision to be made.

Chair Holt said she would rather have one beautiful one and not one that did not look like it had everything.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11. Update on Various Board Requests

Mrs. Jackson said the Parks and Rec Advisory Board met this morning and they have decided to meet monthly.

The groundbreaking for the East Gadsden Park and Multi-Purpose Complex in St. Hebron is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at 3:30 p.m.

The EMS workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 26th at 4:30 p.m.

The Travel Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th at 4:30. Mrs. Jackson asked since they tabled the Internet policy, could that be added to that workshop or did they wish to make it a separate workshop. Chair Holt asked if that was a meeting day and it was not. The Board agreed to add it to the Workshop.

Mrs. Jackson said there were quite a few policies to come before the Board and asked if they would to have three policies at a time, a workshop or do it the way they have been doing and bring

it before the Board at the meeting.

Chair Holt said she felt it could be brought before the Board and could then vote if they wanted to workshop the item.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said they had entered into a Contract with the Medical Examiner that was effective October 1st last year that provided for a potential 13% increase of rates on either June 1, 2018 or the completion of the new building. They have not started construction on the building yet and would probably be another year before the rates went into effect. He said they needed to think about what they wanted to do when that rate increase took effect. He said he spoke with the Leon County Attorney and he was going to take a look to see what their proposed rate increase was so there would be a comparison as to what it may be.

Chair Holt said she had previously requested a meeting/workshop with the Clerk to work out things such as purchasing or whatever and asked for an update. Mr. Weiss said he was not sure what attempts had been made as far as scheduling a workshop; he and the Administrator had made attempts and have not received a response from the requests. Mrs. Jackson said there had been no response from the Clerk on anything from any of their attempts. Chair Holt said it was important they to continue to reach out to the Clerk to resolve problems they may have and said other departments were asking the same questions and were having problems.

Commissioner Morgan said with regard to the increase with the Agreement with the Medical Examiner, would that be postponed or would it happen beginning June 1st. Mr. Weiss said it should be postponed but he will follow-up on that. He said the way the Contract read was the rate increase takes place either June 1st or when the building was completed, whichever happened last.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said every year he's asked the Board to add 10 additional jobs for handicapped students for the Summer Youth Employment Program and was told this year it would not happen. Mrs. Jackson asked if he meant 10 additional jobs or the 10 jobs already set aside. He said 10 jobs were already set aside. Mrs. Jackson said 10 jobs set aside for disabled students and then each Commissioner picked 5 students each and Commissioner Hinson said it was 10 last year. He said maybe they needed to encourage staff to do some customer service training. He said he was asking the Board to continue to make this happen so kids could work this summer.

Chair Holt said this was brought up before and asked about liability. Mr. Weiss said they could not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Chair Holt asked that he look into it and bring it back.

Commissioner Hinson then thanked the Chair, felt this had been a good meeting, and thanked

them for being prepared.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan commented regarding the Parks and Rec Board and thanked Mr. Bailey and said he was the first that agreed to serve on the Board. He said he would need direction pretty quickly and if they decided to support the ball team, there might be funds in Parks and Rec and it would need to be budgeted.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she appreciated the presentation from Mr. Bailey.

Chair Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Construction in Shiloh

She said she understood there was some road development going on that was causing issues with roadways and she had had some phone calls. She asked if anyone had received any calls. Mrs. Jackson said she had not received calls and asked Curtis Young if he had and he had not.

Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor asked that they let her know something the next day so she would have clarity on the issue.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting.

She said she was informed recently there were contracts being signed without Board approval. She asked if that was so. Mrs. Jackson said there were a couple of discrepancies that they would be brought before the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Taylor asked if no contracts had been signed prematurely. Mrs. Jackson referred that to the attorney.

Mr. Weiss said yes, his understanding was there were a couple of contracts that were signed without Board approval, apparently they were related to items that had come before Board and had been approved but there was some confusion as to whether the specific contracts, one related to the Parks and Rec Trail in St. Hebron. He said the issue came before them several times but the actual Grant Agreement never did come before them for approval and there was some confusion as to whether or not the Grant Agreement had been approved. He said the same thing happened with the Four Star Freightliner, the issues had been before the Board several times and was part of the extension of utilities in the right-of-way and one thing required was to transfer utilities from the County to Talquin. He said the issues had been before the Board but those documents had not.

Commissioner Taylor said the Chair should never sign contracts without authorization from the Board. She said this was an ideal situation for an emergency meeting to be called if something needed to be signed due to time constraints. She said anytime a contract was signed without authorization from the Board it was not a binding contract and there had to be some ethics there and felt advice should have been given to see if the Board could be convened.

Mr. Weiss said he agreed 100% with that and his advice was not soft on it and he never had

knowledge of it and agreed that the contracts should not have been signed without approval.

Chair Holt said in that situation, she wanted to clarify it for them. She said the paperwork on that was with the other paperwork and all paperwork was signed at one time. She said what they approved the paperwork for those items was in the same packet and was the reason it was signed. She said it was a misunderstanding.

Mrs. Jackson asked the Attorney to clarify this a little further because they both felt like both of the contracts had been before the Board and had been discussed in detail and everything around it had been approved and felt it was the Clerk's attempt to...

Chair Holt said everything was there together.

Mrs. Jackson asked the Attorney to speak on that again.

Mr. Weiss said as previously stated, the Agreements should not be executed without going before the Board. He said he understood the confusion because the items were before the Board in various times, in various manners and if that was what happened and it, for whatever reason, the actual Agreement that was signed was mixed up in some things. He said he could understand how that confusion could happen but did not condone...

Commissioner Taylor said once this Pandora's Box was opened, she said she heard when Mr. Weiss said that what was signed was not actually approved by the Board; it was a discussion but never a formal approval for those particular contracts to be signed and really never happened. She said she was not against moving items and was not trying to stall anything but wanted to see it done the right way and was concerned when she understood there were contracts being signed. She said if the Attorney was sought or not sought, and should have been especially when there were such gray areas and concerns as to whether or not this was actually a Board approved the item, then advice should have been sought from the Attorney. She said based on what she just heard, the contracts should have never been signed. She told Mrs. Jackson it concerned her and "Once you start this, then it does not stop because now you've opened up Pandora's Box and that concerns, now we're getting ourselves into some litigation issues. Now already we're having issues back and forth with the Clerk and here you have a contract that are being signed that had not gotten Board approval and gives them additional ammunition for push-back."

Mrs. Jackson said both items would be brought back to the Board in a blank form for Board approval and one was concerning the Recreational Trail Grant.

Commissioner Taylor said she was asking in the future that no contracts be signed by the Chair unless they were Board approved. She added that following Board's Policy and Procedures would always be put first and when questionable, seek legal advice.

She then asked if the Clerk was paying bills.

Mrs. Jackson said the Clerk since she had been Interim, has always paid the bills, a lot was delayed because he sends them back and forth, the bar changes constantly. She gave an example of one day they may send over a nameplate that needed to be purchased for one of Boards and could be

\$7.00 and next time it was sent over the following week there was a different procedure to get it paid and was that type of stuff all the time.

Commissioner Taylor said to the Attorney and the Administrator, the two entities needed to be in a better work relationship and was there anything that the Board could do or he could do or direction that they needed to have so there would be a better relationship.

Mrs. Jackson said there "seems to be a historical issue not just me as the Administrator with the Clerk and there are relationships that are toxic between the Clerk and some of the Constitutionals as well. It just depends on who it is as to whether they get pushed back on certain items. Hopefully, we can fix it. I've made several attempts to meet with him, have actually met with him before but just recently he stopped responding. The Attorney has reached out to him, we've asked him to bring his attorney in to speak with us if he felt more comfortable and he doesn't respond".

Commissioner Taylor said she may have made mention to the Attorney that they needed to do whatever they could to figure out how to make sure bills were paid and have some kind of ambiguity between them so they could communicate.

Mr. Weiss said that had been their intention in trying to set up a meeting to discuss a) to have some consistency and b) to know what the process was and wanted the Clerk's input on that. He said if there was a policy that said they need X, W & Z to submit, then they need that. He said they were trying to have a better working relationship so everything was understood by everyone. He said at the end of the day if they could not get a response or a meeting, they could draft their own policies but would certainly like to have the Clerk's input on it, but if they were unable to get it that may be the next step.

Commissioner Taylor said if she had done anything to offend the Clerk, she publically apologized and that was not her intention. She said she just wanted to have good government. She added if this continued, and she was only willing to wait one month, they need to develop a policy that they adopt and send over and that had to be implemented.

She said Commissioner Hinson talked about persons with disabilities or special needs and he mentioned 10 slots and in her opinion, the slot should not be limited because that was a form of discrimination. She said it should say at least a certain number be considered.

She then said Commissioners should be allowed to voice their opinions on Agenda Items and after voicing their opinions should not be made to feel so small, belittled, inadequate and said comments made were derogatory and negative and they all have rights to their own opinions. She said in one instance because she had problems with the Comp Plan, she was told "to read" and was a very derogatory statement made to another colleague and it cast a very dark shadow. She said they did not have to be belittled because their opinions were different.

Chair Holt said in response to some of her comments, the contracts were in a packet and signed and if they had not been in there they would not have been signed. She said she would never sign any documents without permission of the Board and did not think the Staff was aware of that. She said there was no reason to insinuate that anything was done incorrectly.

Chair Holt then said, as she has said in the past, they need to respect the time of citizens in the audience. They need to make their point, make their discussion, do their debating in a timely matter and there was time to respond. She added she was not trying to offend anyone, the packet is out for two weeks and there was time to review it, call the Manager with any questions and they owed it to the public to be prepared when they came to the meeting.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Commissioner Taylor for being courageous enough to publically apologize for anything she felt she had done to offend anyone, especially the Clerk. He said his understanding was that everyone on the Board was a Christian. He said, in spite of their differences in perception, as public servants; let them seek a unity of purpose which was for the good of the Citizens of Gadsden County.

He thanked Mr. Bailey for bringing the project to the Board and said that was why he advocated and initiated the creation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He further stated this was what was needed to get the citizens, both elderly and youth, engaged.

He said he was grateful to Staff for the Greenshade building that was now up.

He also mentioned the Groundbreaking for the East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multi-purpose Complex that was announced earlier and asked that everyone come to celebrate the growth and development that Gadsden County was having.

He thanked Public Works for their engagement in the expeditious striping of the roads in District 2 and said they were looking good and improved the safety of the roads.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said with regard to the Youth program, she wanted them to consider using some of the students as Ambassadors to welcome people to events around the County.

She said there will be a May Day festival downtown on May 12th being put on by the Tourist Development Council.

Receipt and File

- FY2018 1st Quarter Community Organization Reports (10/1/17 – 12/31/17)**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 17, 2018-Regular Meeting

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:43 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk