

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 5, 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 1 –phoned in late**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, District 5**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO THE AGENDA. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1.   Resolution Honoring Mr. LaJarus Davis**

Mrs. Jackson announced the resolutions honoring the honorees. Commissioner Taylor led in the resolution handouts of barbers in the community. She read a portion of the Resolution aloud and it was presented to Mr. LaJarus Davis. He spoke a few words, posed for pictures with the Commissioners and gave his sincere thanks.

**2.   Resolution Honoring Mr. Willie B. Canidate (Gadsden County BOCC)**

Commissioner Taylor introduced Mr. Willie Canidate and asked that he come forward. She read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to him. He posed for pictures with the Commissioners and had a few words to say.

**3.   Resolution Honoring Mr. Garret Dowdell (Gadsden County BOCC)**

Commissioner Taylor then introduced Mr. Garrett Dowdell and asked that he come forward. She read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to him. He posed for pictures with the Commissioners and had a few words to say.

**4.   Resolution Honoring Mrs. Amanda Lightfoot (Gadsden County BOCC)**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Ms. Amanda Lightfoot to come forward and he said he wanted to honor small businesses that improved the quality of life for individuals in the County. He read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to Ms. Lightfoot and they posed for pictures.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Chair Holt announced that Commissioner Hinson called and he was out sick.

5. **Ratification Memo**
6. **Approval of Minutes July 13, 2017 – Budget Workshop**
  - a. **August 17, 2017 – Special Meeting**
  - b. **September 7, 2017 – Budget Hearing**
  - c. **May 1, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

Chair Holt said she there were Minutes attached and she did not pull them for discussion but said they were from 2017 and that they needed to be presented in a timely manner and not from last year for approval.

7. **Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)**  
**(Dee Jackson , Interim County Administrator/Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)**
8. **Approval and Signatures for Rehabilitation Contract and Special Assessment Lien**  
**(Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)**
9. **Approval of the FY 2018 Quarter Report**  
**(Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Jeffery A. Price , Senior Management & Budget Analyst)**
10. **Public Officials Bond Reviews (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator)**

**Items Pulled for Discussion**

There were none.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** N/A

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

11. **Public Hearing (Quasi – Judicial) – Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) High- Speed Test Track Special Exception Use (SE – 2017-02) (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Clyde Collins, Building and Planning Director/Jill Jeglie, AICP, Senior Planner II)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and it was announced this was a Quasi-Judicial hearing and would require a super majority vote.

Board deliberation was continued from the May 1, 2018 Board meeting to allow the applicant and adjoining property owners and their representative (s) an opportunity to reach an agreement. The public hearing on this agenda items has been closed.

Chair Holt said it was only for discussion among the Board. Mr. Weiss said they needed a super majority vote of those present.

Commissioner Morgan disclosed additional conversations he had had since the last meeting regarding this issue. He said he received a call from Chief Brown, FHP, and had received a call from President Jim Murdaugh from TCC and had not had a chance to return that call and they had not had a discussion regarding this and had received a letter from Mr. Hoppes regarding his point of view regarding this issue.

Commissioner Taylor said she had received a lot of calls and could not recall the names, but she had spoken with former County Commissioner Eugene Lamb and a few others that represented the Florida Highway Patrol.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had not spoken with anyone and would base his decision on the facts as presented. He said he did receive an email from Chief Brown asking for a phone call and he responded that in order to avoid any form of violation of the ex parte statute limitation; he would not be inclined to have a conversation with him.

Chair Holt said she was told of an email but did not receive it; however she did speak with Mr. Brown and with President Murdaugh. She also said it did not matter if they had spoken with anyone or not outside of the meeting, they could only base their vote on the facts that were presented at the last meeting and they would not be accepting any more comments, evidence or statements from anyone outside of the Board and nothing could be considered outside of the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said it was his position that the two parties could come to a complete agreement regarding this and he maintained his position that he did not think this was the best spot for this particular track. He said he would support the effort when the right spot was found.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had hoped when this item was continued, the parties would work to become good neighbors for the good of the County and be able to work out some of their differences. He said he would stay with the decision he originally leaned toward the first time. He said this particular project was good for Gadsden County and the land owners were also good for Gadsden County but as an economist, he had to do his own analysis to see which was for the greater good of the County. He said he was surprised to see there were no compromises derived between the parties with the continuance of this item.

Commissioner Taylor commented that she was able to recall one of the conversations that were shared with her with the Board directing them to come up with a compromise. She said the land owners wanted to make sure the track would not operate during certain hours based on the development of the land. She said if five houses or more were there, her understanding was the Academy was willing to scale back. She said she was in favor of seeing the track developed, but was concerned about the residents or residents that may be there some time in the future. She said they needed to see what needed to be put in place in order to create a buffer, respect the landowners that were adjacent to the track and move on with this development.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of the project moving forward. She said she respected the fact that the possible development was rezoned as Rural Residential in 2005 but had not been developed as of yet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he hoped the parties would be able to work together and understand that they would be neighbors.

*Commissioner Hinson called via phone at 6:39pm*

Commissioner Hinson said he saw pros and cons and was ready to vote. He disclosed he had spoken with someone from the Florida Highway Patrol last Friday, the Sheriff and former Commissioner Eugene Lamb.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Mr. Weiss said if they were going to deny this, they had to disclose a reason. Commissioner Morgan said he did not think that was the best location for the track and that it was not compatible.

Commissioner Taylor questioned the word buffer and asked where it would be.

Mr. Weiss recalled there was a list of proposed minimum conditions if Board approved this.

Chair Holt asked that they take a minute and look over the spreadsheet.

Commissioner Taylor said they were looking at two different documents that represented different positions and she explained the difference. Mr. Weiss explained the difference in the documents.

Commissioner Viegbesie said on looking at the spreadsheet he saw elements of compromise. He said the motion should include the implementation of the agreed upon items on the spreadsheet. He asked if that was something they could do today.

Mr. Weiss said that was something that they could do this evening and they would just have to make their decision.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed in theory with the track coming, she just wanted to protect the landowner that had a right to being respected in that area. She said she was in favor of joining the two lists together so there were some agreed upon items in there as well as some stated positions and that way everyone would be clear on what would happen going forward. She asked once approval was given to go forward, how would they monitor the agreements were being made and kept. She said there needed to be some type of measure added to ensure that what they set forth would be adopted and part of the development of both projects. Mr. Weiss said it would be approved as part of the Development Order with conditions that they imposed.

Chair Holt asked if the conditions needed to be read into the record and he said he if the intention was to adopt all the conditions that were agreed upon as of the last meeting (indicated in the second column of the spreadsheet).

Chair Holt stated (from the spreadsheet). Item 1 was in agreement; Item 2 was in agreement; Item 3 could work with the use of sirens; Item 4 needed lighting for cars in order to do training; Item 5 Restroom-light needed to be added; Item 7 Middle column would be Monday and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Closed Saturday and Sunday, Need two evenings for training in the dark in the summer, late until after 9:00 p.m.; and Item 8-FHP has no plans for expansion and cannot give up use of the property. She added also under Option 1 Conditions a – f.

Commissioner Morgan said there were 6 of the 8 items that both parties had not agreed to at this point and if he understood what they were doing, they were trying to move forward with the understanding that both parties were going to agree but they had not and they could not speak for the parties.

Chair Holt said they could approve this item with any evidence they had from the previous meeting and this was things stated in that meeting. She asked that they look at Option 1 a-f to see if there was anything there they would consider.

Commissioner Taylor commented on the differences on the spreadsheet versus the agenda item. She said “b” talked about the hours of operation and was different from the spreadsheet. She mentioned the spreadsheet did not indicate “a.m. or p.m.” on the hours of operation and one said lighting and the other said no lighting.

Chair Holt said that was why she mentioned for them to look it over and state their points.

Mr. Weiss said with the conditions listed on their Agenda, “b” and “c” they were inconsistent with what they were looking at, but the rest were conditions that should be consistent. The Commission took a minute to review.

Chair Holt asked if there were any questions on a – f as compared to the spreadsheet. Commissioner Taylor said she was ready to move. Commissioner Viegbesie said there were two areas where there were some slight discrepancies and like Commissioner Taylor, he was ready to vote this up or down. Commissioner Hinson said he had no comments.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITONS:**

**A) FHP SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A TYPE A VEGETATIVE BUFFER ALONG AND ADJACENT TO THE BRP PROPERTY FROM THE NORTHERNMOST LIMIT OF CONSTRUCTION (LOC) TO THE SOUTHERNMOST LOC (REQUIRED BY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE ADJACENT TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT; B) FHP SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A VEGETATIVE HEDGE ALONG THE TOP OF THE BERM TO BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE EASTERN PERIMETER OF THE TRACK; 3) WITH REGARDS TO SIRENS BEING USED, STAFF WAS NOT CLEAR ON AS TO HOW THIS NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT ASSUMING SIRENS ARE TO BE USED DURING THE HOURS OF OPERATION THAT WAS AGREED UPON; B) NO EMERGENCY LIGHTS SHOULD BE USED AT THE PARK-LIGHTING HAS TO BE USED AND SHOULD ONLY BE USED DURING THE HOURS OF OPERATION; 5) TRACK SHALL HAVE NO EXTERNAL LIGHTING-HAS TO AGREE ABOUT RESTROOM AND LIGHTING NEEDS TO BE IN THAT AREA; DAYS OF OPERATION-THINK THEY AGREED TO DAYS OF OPERATION WITH ONE EXTRA HOUR AND THEY AGREED TO CLOSE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAYS; SHE KNEW HIM**

**AND HE WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD AND THEY NEED TO PUT IN WRITING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXPANSION; AGREE TO THE GOPHER TORTOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN; NO CLEARING; SIGNATURE BY THE APPROPRIATE PERSON/ENTITY AS WELL; ON THE PLANS, INCLUDE THE CROSS-SECTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE 'A' AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

She asked that they look at “d”. She stated no clearing, but it should be “no clearing beyond the ‘limits of’ because they could not build the track otherwise.

**CHAIR TAYLOR AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE “BEYOND THE LIMITS OF” AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH THE LISTED CONDITIONS. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

For clarification, Chair Holt asked Commissioner Taylor about the times of operation and Mr. Weiss asked that she restate the times of operation.

**CHAIR TAYLOR MADE A MOTION THE HOURS OF OPERATION WILL BE “MONDAY – TUESDAY 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.; WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY 8:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M.; FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.; SATURDAY AND SUNDAY CLOSED-NO EXCEPTIONS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

**12. Public Hearing: (Quasi-Judicial) – Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) High-speed Test Track Conceptual & Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2017-03)**

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was a Quasi-Judicial hearing for approval of an application for a Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan.

Ms. Jeglie was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Beryl Wood. She then commented this agenda item sought Board approval of an application for a Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan to expand the existing Tallahassee Community College (TCC) Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) campus by adding a high speed test track for the Florida Highway Patrol, (FHP) training (SE-2017-03). She said this application was contingent on the approval of a Special Exception Use (SEU) that would be presented to the Board prior to this application. The Public Hearing was opened and this item was continued from the May 1, 2018 Board Meeting to allow the applicant and adjoining property owners and their representative an opportunity to reach an agreement. She then read aloud the findings.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

She said the site plan addressed utility services and no extension was required at this time. She said at the point the report was addressed, there was no lighting allowed and believed the conditions would allow lighting for a restroom facility and no clearing allowed beyond the limits of construction.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing that was Quasi-Judicial and asked if the applicant wished to make a presentation. Chief Mark Brown with Florida Highway Patrol appeared before

the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He asked that the one option regarding lighting be changed to include the restroom lighting and explained the restroom would be necessary to build the track. Chair Holt asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak in favor of the item and there was no-one.

She asked if there was anyone that wished to speak that opposed the item and Doug Hall, Esquire, representing the landowners stood.

Doug Hall said they had heard from the property owners and he wanted the record to reflect that they continued to oppose this project and they did try to work it out. He felt they went backwards because the conditions imposed were less strict than the ones originally agreed to at the last meeting. He said the adjacent owners concerns were that their property would not be able to be developed.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with the addition of flood lights at the restroom was the only thing he had to question, but was not different than what was approved with the earlier item. There were no other comments.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH THE CONDITIONS AND THE ADDITION OF THE FLOOD LIGHT FOR THE RESTROOM BE ALLOWED AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if the flood lights would be directional.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO REFLECT FLOOD LIGHTS BE FOR THE RESTROOM AS OPPOSED TO FLOOD LIGHTS AND CHAIR HOLT AMENDED HER SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**13. South Adams Street Sidewalk Design Bid Award (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was the South Adams Street sidewalk bid award. She said due to inconsistencies in the scoring, Staff was requesting that these bids be rejected and rebid.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Mr. Weiss said if the will of the Board was to reject all bids that needed to be the motion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS ON THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Morgan asked what they were looking at for a timeline. Mrs. Jackson said this would go back out for bids and should be back before the Board by the second meeting in July.

**CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND ASKED FOR A SECOND, SHE THEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT BIDS REGARDING THIS ITEM.**

**14. Havana Middle School Sidewalk Extension Design Bid Award (Dee Jackson, County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and Chair Holt said this was the same thing and asked the will of the Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT BIDS.**

**15. County Road 269 (Little Sycamore Road) Bid Award (Dee Jackson, County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was the same thing.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS REGARDING THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT ALL BIDS.**

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure everything they were doing was in compliance and Chair Holt explained there was an inconsistency in the scoring and Commissioner Hinson said that was a question for the attorney. Mr. Weiss said they were entitled under their procurement policy to reject all bids if that was in the best interest of the County and the will of the Board.

**16. CR 65B (Old Federal Road) SCOP – Bid Award (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson said this item was for County Road 65B (Old Federal Road) and was the same thing.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MOVED TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT BIDS REGARDING THIS ITEM.**

**17. Discussion Regarding the Diversification of Deposited and Invested County Funds (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson said this agenda was for Board discussion regarding the diversification of deposited and invested County funds and at the request of the Board Chair, this item was brought for discussion of previous Board direction of County funds, and the diversification of banking locations of all County liquid assets.

Chair Holt said about a year they requested that the funds be diversified and all funds were being held in Capital City Bank and they requested that funds be placed also in Centennial Bank to diversify funds in the County. She said the Clerk was not present and in another County, they just had this issue with investing surplus funds, not funds needed for day-to-day operation. She said those funds were requested to be invested by Seminole County and their Clerk refused their requests to diversify the funds and Seminole County took the Clerk to Court and the County won. She said the County did have the right to diversify where they banked and how they banked and invested funds. She explained that was why this item was on the agenda and did they want to



allow other local banks an opportunity with surplus funds.

Commissioner Morgan said he would be interested in the Clerk's opinion regarding this matter 1) since he was the Chief Financial Officer of the County and 2) would like to hear discussion of the increased costs to the County because of the diversification.

Chair Holt said she was going to ask him and if he would like to send a response or come to the meeting, that would work.

Commissioner Morgan said as they moved forward, they should get his input regarding this matter.

Commissioner Taylor said she brought this item up some time ago. She said they all agreed they needed to keep at least two banking institutions in the County otherwise, they lose one and because of the banking requirements that needed to be met in order for them to put their investments into, if they lost one, then that made them totally dependent on whichever one was left along with the charges they wished to levy and whatever banking costs they wished to ask for, they would have to give into it because of the qualifications the bank had to have in order to get their proceeds. She said diversification was a safe gap measure for them to make sure that the two qualified entities stay open. She said she was in favor of it, but had to concur with Commissioner Morgan that they needed to make sure of what costs might be there so it could be minimized. She also stated she felt this was an issue that was better discussed around budgeting time because they would know then what revenues and resources they had. She said she was interested, but wanted to make sure it was done in such a manner that the County prospered.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had no comments.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had no comments.

Chair Holt stated she felt they were headed in the right direction for discussion on the item and asked that the Manager to contact the Clerk for his opinion regarding this. She said she noticed in a couple of instances that she researched, the bank had to be competitive with the interest rates and they were able to do that and that was how they were able to get other banks to come into the realm of investments. She said it would also put the Board in a position to make decisions when it came to investments because if they had just the Clerk doing it, then there was just one person's opinion. If there was more than one, it would at least give two or more opinions. She asked if it was the will of the Board for the Manager to send the Clerk a memo requesting his input.

Commissioner Taylor said if they were going to do this, and she was hoped they would, she wanted it clear on what her position was. She said she was not in favor of taking all proceeds out of one bank and putting into another, she was in favor of looking at the two entities and seeing where they would get the best value from each. She said for example, if the Money Market was higher in one than the other, they were best to invest in the Money Market.

Chair Holt said she thought that was good because if they were going to do that, the bank was going to invest the money so they could look at what the investments were.

Mrs. Jackson asked if they would like her to inquire about the stocks and other “stuff” as well.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Morgan if he wanted an opinion or if there were certain things he wanted. He said there were a lot of things to consider and since the Clerk’s office dealt with this on a daily basis, they better understood the cost of doing business around the issue, daily reporting issues, other requirements and there was a lot to it and felt they needed to consult with the Clerk as was mentioned before and felt, more importantly, listen to what he had to say. He said he felt the Clerk should comment on everything they were considering.

Commissioner Taylor asked about reaching out to the two institutions as well to see what the assets were from the bank, which was more competitive, and look at the options and compare them as well. Chair Holt said they could schedule a workshop as well.

**18. Re-appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority Appointment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this agenda item was for approval from the Board to re-appoint Clifford Hill as the Gadsden County representative to the Quincy –Gadsden Airport Authority.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLIFFORD HILL AS THE GADSDEN COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**19. Discussion on Status of the Countywide Communication System (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this agenda item was for Board discussion on the status of the countywide communication system. She continued and said at the October 17, 2017 BOCC meeting, the Board approved the purchase of a Motorola Capacity Max DMR Tier 3 System from Motorola Solutions, Inc. The system was purchased through an Interlocal contract for cooperative purchasing with the Houston- Galveston Area Council. The system cost was \$1,295,000.00. She further stated that County staff and the Mobile Communications team have worked to accomplish the following goals within the project timeline:

- All equipment has been staged at the Mobile Communications headquarters, to ensure operability.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

- The fleet mapping process of assigning subscriber channels has been completed.
- Approved FCC licenses for all frequencies have been granted.
- Equipment shelters have been acquired, to properly and safely house the newly purchased equipment on the grounds of all tower locations.
- All sole sourced tower companies have approved the County’s collocation applications, and have conducted a structural analysis.
- Lease rates have been negotiated with the tower companies, and contracts are slated to come before the Board.
- The dispatch area of the Woodham Building has received architectural renderings, for the new dispatch center, and construction is currently underway.

**Mrs. Debbie Giles, Mobile Communications, Motorola representative,** appeared before the

Board. She said they were asking for a New Charge change order to extend the (she was interrupted by Mrs. Jackson). Mrs. Jackson asked her to give an update that led to the next Agenda item. She said basically all the equipment has been staged and was ready to go, but due to an issue with the Jail tower from the structural analysis, the new equipment could not be placed on the tower and they were looking into some options, using a Talquin Electric tower or building a new one. She added based on that, they were at a standstill.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Ed Willeby, Project Manager**, appeared before the Board. He said based on the structural analysis, it was determined that the tower could not support the additional load for the new communications system. He said as such, they began to work with the various entities in the County to find an alternative to using the existing Jail tower and that was where the Talquin situation came up. He said they had tried to work to use the Talquin tower to resolve this issue but the most important thing to know was the jail tower was where the core of their communication system would need to be and without that tower, the other sites could not be built out.

Commissioner Morgan asked when the results were first learned of the structural analysis and was told March. He asked why they were just learning of this.

Mrs. Jackson said they tried to find options to save the County money prior to bringing it before the Board and all options have been exhausted and this was the last resort.

Mr. Willeby said to further address their concerns, the engineer and himself spent a great deal of time looking around the County to find a substitute tower that would not require the communications system be totally redesigned. Commissioner Morgan asked what options they had other than building a new tower. Mr. Willeby said technically, none. Commissioner Morgan then asked non-technically, what were the options. He responded that was the only option. Commissioner Morgan then asked what the cost would be. Mr. Willeby said that was outside his scope, he had not looked into towers.

Mrs. Jackson said it was the recommendation of Staff that \$400,000 be included in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget for the purchase of a new tower at the site of the Gadsden County Inmate Facility. She said the average timeframe to build the tower suited for this would be approximately five to eight months and would cost around \$200,000 - \$375,000. She said it was requested that the Board discuss and provide direction regarding this.

Chair Holt asked if the previous company included the tower or were they going to use this tower as well.

Mr. Collins appeared before the Board and said they were going to use the tower at the jail. He further stated they had not done a structural analysis on it until March but now were unable to.

Chair Holt asked if they were using the equipment on the Talquin tower, would the County have to pay for that tower.

Mrs. Jackson said there was in informal conversation and was told the cost would be \$5,000 a

month and that was not feasible.

Chair Holt asked if the County built the tower, then they could lease space off the tower and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely.

Mr. Collins said that was the whole idea of the tower, to build it that would only load 40-50% and could add to it and recoup their money.

Chair Holt asked if there were any other communications systems like AT&T, etc. that could be used and Mr. Collins said they had asked and no-one had said so far that the County could use their tower. Mr. Collins explained the center hub of this had so much equipment, no-one wanted them.

Chair Holt asked about housing the equipment at the Sheriff's Department, if it was sufficient. Mr. Collins said they were moving the Dispatch Center to the first floor and that would be sufficient.

Chair Holt asked the costs of the Dispatch Center and Mr. Collins said they were getting prices. He said they were trying to do a lot in-house. He said to build it without any consoles would be approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000. He said they then got prices on furniture and it was upwards to approximately \$90,000 with the consoles. He said they were required to now have the type that would rise up and down so the dispatchers could stand or sit.

Chair Holt said so to date, they were looking at \$1.3 Million with Motorola; \$400,000 for a tower; \$60,000-\$90,000 for a total of \$1.2 Million plus \$550,000. She said that would be a lot of cutting somewhere in the budget season.

Commissioner Taylor asked how much revenue could be generated by leasing out the tower. Mr. Collins said he did not know what the revenue would be; first they had to find someone that wanted to get on it. He said they would have that tower and the existing tower because he did not intent to take the old tower down. He said it was structurally sound, it just would not hold all of the equipment.

Commissioner Taylor said this was a one-time investment of \$550,000 and Mr. Collins said yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt the tower was needed and they could not put monetary value on the lives that needed to be saved by the communications system.

Chair Holt asked what timeframe they were looking at. She said she knew they were already looking at an increase of 89% with Medicaid and would be \$980,000.

Mr. Collins said if they started right now with permitting processes, they would have started the budgeting process before they received permit to build the tower.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt it would be wise if they could get all the notes from the meetings with Motorola last year and do a workshop again. He said if he recalled correctly, they said they would put up all the towers themselves and \$400,000 was a lot of funds and they could put in a community center with those funds.

Chair Holt said they did not have any notes from that meeting and if the Commissioner wanted to see them, they needed to be provided to him.

Mrs. Giles said he might be referring to when another vendor had come in they had given several different options and one was to build new towers or either but the County's existing towers and lease them.

Commissioner Morgan said two things that came to mind; 1) how important it was to have the right person placed to manage the project moving forward and that was a question for the Interim County Administrator.; and 2) he did not think they needed to rehash what they have gone through at this point to get to where they were now. He said the have made the investment to move forward. He said he had an issue with how they prioritize how they were going to manage it in the year ahead. He added this needed to be done for 30 years.

Chair Holt said this item was to be discussed during the budgeting season and there was no fiscal impact as of today, but there would be in the budget.

**20. Approval of Timeline Change Order for the Countywide Communication System (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a timeline change order for the Countywide Communication System and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

Mr. Willeby reappeared before the Board and said the timeline change order was directly related to the tower but they intended to move forward with the project and one of the most critical points was the 911 Center and they were going to get the consoles installed in the new center. He said they would be wired into the existing system because what was there now was on their last leg.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**County Attorney**

**21. Updates**

Mr. Weiss had no comments but was available for questions.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to approval of the agreement for the Florida Highway Patrol moving forward, did he have a clean document so it could be reviewed. Mr. Weiss said he would get with the Planning Department and make sure that the Development Order was provided to everyone.

**County Administrator**

**22. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson thanked the Commissioners for making Public Works Week and EMS Week a success and said the staff was appreciative of the efforts that were put forth.

She said the groundbreaking for the Pat Thomas Park Extension will be June 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

She said the Mowing Schedule had been emailed to the Commissioners.

She said there was interest in the hospital from an ophthalmologist to lease space and asked the will of the Board on how to proceed. Chair Holt said she thought they would have to look at what section was not under contract with CRMC and the condition it was in. Mrs. Jackson said they were interested in leasing a portion of the space with Dr. Hart and be able to use the space on Fridays.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this should be presented to the Hospital Advisory Board and let them also have the conversation regarding this matter.

Commissioner Morgan said he also agreed with that comment.

Mrs. Jackson said the Preliminary Budget Workshop has been scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.; the CBOR Workshop has been scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

She said an update was placed before them from Joel Sampson regarding the Ag Center and was still on schedule with the Courthouse with the timeline that was presented a few months ago. She said it would be going out to bid next week for a Construction Manager for that project. She said she also had plans for the Courthouse if they wished to see them at a later time.

She also said the Public Works Department created a card for the Board.

She said the Gadsden County Fire Services received much needed fire equipment from South Walton Fire District. She said the equipment received was SCBA air packs and multiple extra air bottles.

### Clerk of Courts

#### **23. Updates (Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of the Court)**

#### **Discussion Items by Commissioners**

#### **24. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for having patience in his absence. He asked for a Resolution for the Pastor at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A RESOLUTION FOR PASTOR AT NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

He said he had several people call from the School District concerning mentally and physically disabled students, he was not sure if there was an issue and asked that the Administrator look into that matter. He said some Senior Citizens were having issues with a housing situation. He said they were told by a previous employee that they were next in line and now find that they were not

in line at all. Chair Holt asked if he wanted to give the Administrator a call and he said yes.

He said the Mega Reunion was a success for Havana and would like a Resolution for the Committee that was in charge of it because he felt it brought in a lot of business for the County.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she had a request for a Proclamation for Ollie Mae Sheffield.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR OLLIE MAE SHEFFIELD AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

Commissioner Taylor thanked for the movement that has taken place with regard to Stevens School.

**Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D. , Vice – Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for a Resolution for Pat Smith (Pat's Homeless Pantry).

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBSIE FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MRS. PAT SMITH, PAT'S PANTRY, AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

He then read into the record a scripture – he asked that they all, as workers of the citizens, know who they serve.

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, Chairperson, District 4**

Chair Holt commented she felt they were doing great in honoring their citizens and asked that they consider that they do just so many Resolutions in a night, no more than four or five a night. She also said she felt they were getting better with Public Hearings and was a good thing.

**Receipt and File**

**25. Letter from Northwest Florida Water Management District**

**Upcoming Meetings**

**26. June 19, 2017 – Regular Meeting**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**


THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk