

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 21, 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 asked that everyone make sure their phones were on mute or off and if anyone wished to speak on non-agenda items to fill out a Speaker Request Form. She then called the meeting to order and asked everyone to 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 asked to add for discussion and action the County Administrator position.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO ADD FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION, COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked the reason for discussion. Commissioner Morgan said it was the same since they had been through the process, need leadership, confidence for the staff and citizens, and need to make a decision and was why he brings it up at every single meeting. He said it was for discussion and action. Commissioner Hinson asked if he wanted to start the process. Commissioner Morgan said it was for discussion and action he was ready to move and there should be a permanent County Administrator for stability of the County, staff, etc.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN CLARIFIED IT WAS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

Chair Holt asked for approval of the Agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. IBTS Disaster Recovery Presentation

Bob Dennis, Institute for Building Technology and Safety, appeared before the Board and gave a brief presentation. He said they help provide counties with disaster recovery assistance that they may not have the staff for or the resources. He said they are a Non-profit organization established

to provide unbiased professional services, while enhancing the communities. He gave a menu of disaster services that are available.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for following up and said he saw this service at either a NACo or FAC conference.

CONSENT

Chair Holt asked for approval of the Consent Agenda.

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

- 2. Approval to Accept the FY 2018 3rd Quarter Report**
- 3. Approval of Audit Engagement Letter**
- 4. Ratification Memo**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Holt asked if there were any citizens that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Chair Holt passed out documentation concerning the name changing of Atlanta Street to Barack Obama Blvd. She said there were questions and comments as to whether citizens were notified regarding the name change and if there were costs to the citizens. She provided a letter from the County to the residents notifying them of the change; a letter from the Post Office and one from the Tax Collector showing there would be no charge to change their driver's license. She said E911 also followed the Post Office.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Havana Springs, LLC Special Exception Use (SEU-2018-01)

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Special Exception Use to allow alcoholic beverages to be served to guests and patrons at 200 Coca Cola Avenue, Havana, FL.

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. Ms. Jeglie gave a brief description of the item and said it was for a special exception use to allow alcoholic beverages to be served at the above location. She said the new owners, Jennifer and John Heal, have recently purchased White Dog Plantation and was previously known as the Nicholson Farmhouse and they plan to continue providing lodging in the cottages and having events in the Shady Rest Event Center. She added that they would like to eventually open the restaurant, first for Sunday setting and then eventually open it on a daily basis. She added that they met all the setbacks for an alcoholic beverage license, have addressed the special exception findings, have had a Citizen Bill of Rights meeting, approximately 18 attended and the comments were supportive, and the Planning Commission recommended approval 10-0. She read the options aloud.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing.

Garvin Bowden, Esquire, Gardner, Bist Firm, appeared before the Board, introduced himself and said he was present in case anyone had any questions and there were none.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

6. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-04 to Amend the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board consideration of the transmittal of amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of the item. She said there were two options to transmit which amends the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan to the Department of Economic Opportunity and the second was to transmit an amended version of it which would amend the Recreation and Open Space Element to the Department of Economic Opportunity. She said the third option was to not approve and the fourth was Board direction.

Chair Holt announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how the transmittal of this amendment would be successful or would there be anything to prevent the approval of the transmittal when sent to DEO and would it restrict approval of the master planned community and planned unit to come in the future and would it restrict the approval of DEO without it. Ms. Jeglie said it should not restrict the County's ability to adopt those land use categories.

Commissioner Morgan asked why they were adding two new land use categories. She said for several years the intent has been that the County adopt zoning and if adopted, when they go to the zoning map it would allow a little more flexibility. Commissioner Morgan asked what they would be listed as and Ms. Jeglie said one was the Master Plan Category and the other...he asked if it was for planned communities and she said yes.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

7. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-009 to Amend the Infrastructure Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of the transmittal of amendments to the Infrastructure Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Jeglie said this Element had not been updated in many years and the recommendation of the consultant was to delete the previous Element and adopt a new policy.

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

Chair Holt asked if this would affect the interchange exits and was told it would not affect them.

Commissioner Morgan said there was no recommendation from the Administrator's office and asked if she would recommend this and she said yes.

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

8. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-010 to amend Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code, Definitions and Interpretations (LDR 2018-03)

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of amendment of Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code regarding the inclusion of new definitions to the document, and the amendment to current definitions to provide certainty and clarification as it applies to the interpretation of the Land Development Code.

Ms. Jeglie said this agenda item recommended amendments to definitions and mostly additions of new definitions and said they would probably see this section again as they go through the Land Development Code and do more revisions. She said the recommendation on this was 9-1 and changed to 10-0 and was after satisfying some of the questions and amendments to the Power Plant definition and some discussion on open space.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from audience and there was none.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the deletion of residential park definition and asked if it was replaced with different wording. Ms. Jeglie said when they went through the Recreation and Open Space Element, there were changes to the way parks were handled and this was taken out because it did not reflect the current terminology used and it should not stop or hinder anyone from having a park.

Chair Holt said this would help their Tourist Development Council because of agri-tourism eco-tourism and there was now a category for it.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Approval of Actuary Services for 2018 Required Optional Post Employee Benefit

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was to renew the agreement with Stanley, Hunt, Dupree & Rhine to provide Actuarial Services for the preparation of the required 2018 OPEB report.

Mr. Weiss said they have the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 but it actually ends September 30, 2018 and it does make a caveat that says money was an estimate and may be subject to change.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Weiss suggested if the Board was inclined to approve, to approve the contract as a fixed price for services listed in respect to the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018 and any additional amounts would have to be approved in writing.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if, in the motion, read it into the motion to be specific to approve for \$5750 without any adjustment and Chair Holt said yes, make the motion specific to \$5750 and the end of the fiscal year would be September 30, 2018.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE STANLEY, HUNT, DEPREE & RHINE TO PERFORM ACTUARIAL SERVICES FOR THE FIXED AMOUNT OF \$5750.00 ENDING FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Approval of Extension of Contracts for J.B. Coxwell Contracting and D&J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an extension of agreements with J.B. Coxwell and D & J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services for one year.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

11. Approval of the Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Consulting Services for Gadsden County

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the professional services agreement for Engineering Consulting Services and authorization for the Chair to execute the contracts.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

12. Approval of Purchasing New Chassis for Brush Truck

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for the purchase of a new chassis for the County-owned brush truck located at Chattahoochee Volunteer Fire Department and was budgeted in this fiscal year and would be coming from the Fire budget and not from the General Fund.

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

13. Approval to Accept the State funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant #19-BG-XX-02-30-01-XXX and Federal funded Emergency Management Performance Grant #19-FG-02-30-01-XXX

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to accept the State Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant and the Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant and authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

14. Approval to Award RFQ No. 18-12 to Provide Profession At-Risk Construction Management Services for the Budgeting and Construction Phase on the Proposed Gadsden County Courthouse

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said she wanted to amend this and said she was always encouraging staff to shop locally and was not sure the will of the Board but she recommended they choose Option 1. She said there were two local companies and she strongly recommended the Board chose one of them.

Mr. Weiss said they had nothing in the Procurement Policy that required or in the Bid documents that allowed them to consider giving local preference and was true that anything that came before the Board for consideration did require Board approval, but they still had to base their decision on their Procurement Policy as well as the bid documents when deciding.

Commissioner Morgan said before he saw who was selected, he looked at the evaluation forms and could not understand how the committee decided and understand why there may be heartache with the ranking and suggested revamping the committee and bring this back before the Board.

Mrs. Jackson said it was the goal of Staff was for the Board to move forward and it would hold up the Courthouse renovations. She said there were four companies, Allstate Construction, Inc., which was recommended by the Committee, Cook Brothers, Inc., Ram Construction and CSI Contracting. It was pointed out that RPCC, Inc. was also one of the companies.

Chair Holt said it was probably better to do this the old-fashioned way-copy the apps and the scoring committee score them and they can look at everything.

Commissioner Morgan said his issue was the ranking committee that was put together.

Mrs. Jackson said Staff was working with the attorney to create a policy that would address how the ranking committee would be comprised in the future.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney what the legal ramification would be of not going with the one chosen.

Mr. Weiss said the issue was, as Chair Holt had pointed out, the evaluation committee was set up to look at all proposals and give their scores. He said the Board makes the selection but in order to make a selection that was not in accordance with what the evaluation committee had made, there needed some basis for it. If they select someone else, they need a basis to do so and local preference was not in the policy.

Commissioner Morgan said he was saying to the Administrator to comprise a qualified committee to look at the rankings or provide the Board with the information for them to look at it and make a decision at the upcoming special meeting that was scheduled the next week.

Chair Holt said she had no problem in moving forward with this but had a concern with them

bringing up a situation with the Board in the meeting. They should be ready to go, but they do not have the applications before them and was having to go on the recommendation of the committee.

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

Commissioner Taylor said she was not trying to go with anyone tonight, put this back out for bid and they would not have the legalities of making precedence.

Mr. Weiss said they have the discretion to reject the bids and put back out for bid if that was the will of the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he had no problem doing that but felt they should go with a local person and he disclosed that he talked with one of persons who name was listed, Finley Cook of Cook Brothers, Inc.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the County administrator how many times they had asked for an extension and she said one extension and they have until June 30, 2019. He asked if there was any legal ramification if they went with another company other than who had been recommended.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they re-bid, change the committee and follow the Procurement process they adopted, it could not be challenged because they would have a process in place.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood when local companies apply and glad to see that, but he was concerned with the make-up of the committee and why he made the motion to not approve.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO HONOR THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE, OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

15. Approval to Award Bid No. 18-13 for HVAC Services to Air Mechanical & Service Corporation

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval to award Bid No. 18-13 to Air Mechanical and Service Corp to provide HVAC services for the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the term of the contract and Mrs. Jackson said it was for a one year term from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was only one vender that responded and Mrs. Jackson said yes. He asked if the County had done business with this vendor in the past and Mrs. Jackson said no. He asked if this could this be rebid or of there was a concern that there was only one bid. She said it could be rebid but was of no concern because of the demand the County had lately. She said there was a need for a company that could respond immediately and had the needed inventory.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt it was fair to reach out to others.

Mrs. Jackson said staff was open to rebidding this particular item and they have a list of vendors that are used for smaller projects.

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

16. Approval to Opt-in to Class Action Lawsuit for PILT Act Recovery Funds

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to opt-in to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act (PILT) class action lawsuit and for authorization for the Chair to execute all related documents.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Attorney if he saw a reason for them to not do this and Mr. Weiss said with any class action lawsuit, the benefit was there was no out-of-pocket expense for the County. He said the downside was they had no control over what happened. He said there would either be a settlement or a trial as to the underpayments.

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

17. Approval of SimplexGrinnell Service Agreement Renewal

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to continue the service agreement with SimplexGrinnell for the annual Fire Alarm Detection at the Gadsden County Jail.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for clarification if this was the end of the second five year term and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

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

18. Ratification of Inv. 1049763; Elections System & Software, LLC for the Purchase of Elections Equipment & Software

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the ratification of Invoice number 1049763; Elections System & Software, LLC for the purchase of Elections Equipment & Software purchased by the Supervisor of Elections, which was required by state law.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked where the funds were coming from and Mrs. Jackson said there were sufficient funds budgeted and asked Jeff Price to speak on this matter.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Jeff Price appeared before Board to address their question and said there were funds available in

her budget, she knew this was coming and she put off some other expenses to ensure the availability of the funds.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

19. Agreement for Video Recording Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of the service agreement with Southerland Enterprises, Inc., the current provider and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

20. Task Order for Professional Engineering Services with Dewberry for the Pat Thomas RV Park Expansion

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the task order to Dewberry to provide professional services for the design of the Pat Thomas RV Park project.

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

21. Discussion on New Agricultural Extension Building Financing

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for discussion regarding project financing for the new Agricultural Extension Building. She asked for direction if they still want to pursue and said bids have come in over the \$1 Million that was received from the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the \$2 Million was for design and construction or just the design. Mrs. Jackson said it was for everything.

Commissioner Morgan said he did a little research on this item and discovered that the USDA, in their offer, required a dedicated funding source for the repayment of this Note and the terms of the Agreement in the opinion of the former County Administrator were not favorable, the interests rates at the time and due to the fact they had to have a dedicated source of funding and was why he did not accept the agreement and Commissioner Morgan stated he thought it was a good decision at that point. He further stated as important of a project this was when they first acquired the funds through the Legislature and the grant, the economy was in a different state and they had the opportunity to complete the project at a lower amount of money, closer to \$1.3 Million and were now looking at \$2 Million. He said he felt the appropriate course of action due to the current financial conditions they were in; he would not recommend going into debt \$700,000 at this point and time to complete the project. He said this would require them to make some very wise decisions on how they were spending the revenue that was coming in, they could not keep spending in the fashion they were if they wanted to complete this project. He said there was an extension on the dollars that were presented to them through the Legislature and he had been advised they could still have another extension is they pursued that. He felt they needed to think through this before committing to \$700,000 in debt.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Morgan alluded to this this was for discussion and

direction to staff. Commissioner Viegbesie asked about staff exploring other sources of funding to see if they could locate a financing entity that would charge a much lower fee that they could work with and was glad to know they could get another extension on the project.

Shep Eubanks, County Extension, appeared before Board and said he was told under no uncertain terms June 30, 2019 was the drop-dead date and there would be no more extensions. This had been rolled over three times and was told there would be no more extensions. Commissioner Morgan asked who he had spoken to and he responded Craig Christ who handles all the building construction grants with Florida Department of Agriculture. He added that he was told they had given the County more extensions than they normally do anybody.

Commissioner Hinson said he was biased because he did his internship with the Extension Service when he was in college. He said he had received a lot of phone called and he hated to slow down the process. He said Dr. Grant said a few years ago they almost lost this opportunity to do this and felt this was a good thing for the County and thought the community would love this and the farmers would benefit. He then made a motion to approve and then said they could not make a motion today and last when the last day was.

Shep Eubanks reappeared before Board and said the money from the Department of Agriculture would expire in June. He said he thought the bids that had gone out expire in the next week or two.

Commissioner Hinson asked how long the process would take.

Joel Sampson appeared before the Board and said they have nine months in the project for completion. He clarified they had 60 days on the bids, they run out but does not mean that the number goes away but the contractor was not held to that number anymore. He said they could raise the figure if they rebid. He said the figure he gave them a year ago hit pretty much nail on head at almost \$2 Million.

Commissioner Hinson asked if could go on next Agenda because this was for discussion only.

Commissioner Viegbesie said from his understanding they were given a grant of \$1 Million from the Florida Department of Agriculture as well as a grant of \$200,000 from the US Department of Agriculture to build the Farmers Market and have already spent \$50,000 and looking at \$770,000. He said even if it was at 2.7% and they finance that for 15-20 years and amortize the payment, whatever the payment was annually could be written into the operational part of their budget and was his recommendation to staff to find a lending institution to amortize the payment for the longest time possible the annual payment could be worked into the budget and would be fiscally manageable and be the only way that they could go to get project done and to not let the money slip through their fingers.

Commissioner Morgan said again, this was a very important project and he had been asking the progress of it for two years and he wanted to see it come to life and was something the citizens deserved and should be prioritized; but they had to have a dedicated funding source within their budget to pay for this and hopefully sooner than later, but the way they were spending money on so many things is why County's budget was in the shape it was in with all these different payments and no revenue to support. He said this was intended to give Staff direction on what to do and he

wanted to be able to do that but he wanted to see in the recommendation where the dollars were coming from to dedicate toward this project, was it cutting summer youth program, eliminate a position; what where they doing to support this payment.

Joel Sampson reappeared before Board and wanted to clarify that it was \$2 Million for construction but the design not in that amount; the design was approximately \$122,000.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt they needed to make a motion to have this agendaed and give Staff direction on two things: 1) look for a lending institution that could get the County below the 2.75% if possible, and 2) find a source that they could obligate to pay the loan back. Commissioner Viegbesie said he would second that.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO AGENDA THIS ITEM AND GIVE STAFF DIRECTION TO LOOK AT A LENDING INSTITUTION THAT COULD GIVE THEM A RATE BELOW 2.75% AND FIND A SOURCE THAT THEY COULD OBLIGATE TO PAY BACK THE LOAN.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out the 2.75 interest rate they were throwing out was in 2016 and did not want them to think that number was accurate and they needed to do some homework.

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

22. Approval of Off System Bridge Project Agreement #50032-Salem Road over Swamp Creek and Resolution 2018-008

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Off System Bridge Project Agreement for bridge #500032 over Swamp Creek.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID HE WOULD SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this bridge was able to put on the FDOT replacement and this bridge was in very bad shape. He said CRTPA put it on FDOT for 5 years and would be in 2022 and the Attapulcus Creek bridge next to it and is the one that construction started on Monday and they are going to totally replace that bridge. He said upon his re-election, he hoped, the other bridge he would push on FDOT was on Attapulcus Highway next to BASF. He reminded them if they had bridges or roads that need to be replaced, right now he was currently he is the County's representative on the CRTPA Board but the good news was, upon re-election he was currently the Vice-Chair and would be the Chair next year of CRTPA.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the bridge on Iron Bridge Road and knew there was a lot of traffic coming through it now and asked how it was holding up.

Justin Ford, Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board and said every year the State commissions a company to evaluate bridges in the County and they give a report back to the County and said Iron Bridge did not ring a bell as one in poor condition but would check on it as far as deficiencies and would get them an answer.

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

ITEM.

23. Health Insurance Renewal 2018-2019

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Health insurance.

Commissioner Hinson said he was serious and not sure if they had a union and asked if it was properly advertised and if there was a union if they were properly informed because they just received this today and it was not properly advertised.

Mrs. Jackson said this was provided last week on line and at the time it was due the insurance committee had not met but they needed to meet the timetable in order to get insurance started during open enrollment.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the information stated.

Mrs. Jackson said they were going up on rates and she strongly opposed and she was very adamant with the company that they would like better rates and their advocate also advocated for them to try to get better rates and these were the best they were able to get. She said she instructed staff to go out for next year and look for a different provider with better rates for next year.

Lonyell Black, HR, appeared before Board and said as Mrs. Jackson indicated, they did reach out to have this looked out to other agencies for better rates and what they were provided was there was no-one comparable to what CHP offered. She said to insure that staff had insurance coverage; they brought it to the Board. She said CHP provided them with a renewal with renewal rate of 5.9%, which was what was before them and the insurance committee chose to accept that rate. She said last year the renewal rate was much higher at 7.4%. She said the insurance committee agreed to keep the same split-out as last year.

Commissioner Hinson asked who was on the insurance committee and Ms. Black said the committee was compiled of a representative from every constitutional office because every constitutional office was under their group.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the annual increase of \$138,000 if that amount was after the shared costs and to be absorbed by Board and Ms. Black explained that amount was the total increase for the Board and all Constitutionals and the total annual amount that the Board would incur was \$68,000. Commissioner Taylor then asked if the funding source had been identified and Ms. Black said it had been budgeted already.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his health insurance was thru his primary employer and asked if there was a reason why the County did not have CHP, Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Metlife so the employee could choose their provider and might force CHP to drop their rates to have more competitive rates.

Ms. Black said the County was considered a large group with 51+ employees but there had to be 70% of the workforce enrolled in the insurance to be a part of the group and even though they were considered a large group, they were actually a small group. She then said in order to have another provider come in, they had to have almost every employee enrolled and 70% of the group

had to be enrolled in CHP to keep CHP.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many employees were currently with the provider. Ms. Black said right now inclusive of all the constitutionals and the Board employees, they had 156 single, 39 employee and spouse, 37 employee and dependent and 37 under family coverage and totaled approximately 270. He asked if they could join with the School Board and other entities to try to find ways to bring down the costs. Ms. Black said that question was addressed last year during the renewal process. She said it was presented to the County Attorney and there was a legal issue that they were not allowed to join with the School Board.

Mr. Weiss said he had not looked at that in some time but remembered looking into it and under the statute that regulates insurance, they could not be grouped with another entity and was prohibited by statute.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when this conversation came up last time, the reason why this body cannot go into a group with other entities that was tantamount into forming a cartel and would make them the only buyer of the service and was not fair to the provider.

Commissioner Hinson said they were all in Florida Retirement System and was under the State and if that was the case, it could be the argument that they all work for the State.

Chair Holt said when Mr. Weiss brings it back, whatever the State Statute said was what they would have to follow.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could send a letter to someone that the County's position was they were all under the FRS and therefore was all under the State, it was something to think about.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

24. Updates

Mrs. Jackson said she had a couple of items:

She requested a Proclamation for Quincy Kiwanis Club to be presented at a future meeting.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR THE QUINCY KIWANIS AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST,

Mrs. Jackson said the County was able to get FRDAP grants because they attend those meetings and use them on the FRDAP grants and was grateful for the work they do.

2) She said they previously planned the Budget meeting for August 30th at 5:00 but several were unable to attend and asked if August 27th or the 29th would be a good date. No-one was available

on the 27th and the meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th @ 6:00.

3) She said September 3rd at 6:00 would be the first public budget hearing.

September 13th will be the BOCC/Planning Commission workshop @ 5:00.

September 17th at 6:00 is the second public budget hearing.

Mrs. Jackson said the bid award would be on the next agenda for the Ag center. She asked if the Board wanted her to move forward with putting that on the Agenda since the item did not move tonight as far as the funding source.

Chair Holt said yes and Mrs. Jackson explained that the quotes came in higher than the funding they had. Chair Holt said they could change some things in the project and there were some things they did not have to have. Commissioner Hinson there might be more competition, if they re-bid and have them by the first of October, they should be fine. Mrs. Jackson said her only concern was after speaking with other contractors, they believed the bids might come in even higher. Chair Holt said to place it in the agenda and would give them time to contact the contractors. Commissioner Taylor said she did not see how they could move forward if there was nothing on paper and no funding source and to put on the agenda was a moot point when don't have funds.

Mr. Weiss said if bids had been submitted, at some point and time the County needed to act on it before the bids expire, they could not act on it after the fact.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the bids were high and there was no funding to cover it, could the Administrator then send a letter to those that submitted a bid stating that based on the bids that came in there was no funding source to move forward or did it have to be entertained in a Board meeting. Mr. Weiss said if they solicited an invitation, they needed to take action on it at some point and the action could be to reject and re-bid.

Mrs. Jackson said it was brought up tonight about shopping locally, she asked if it were the will of the Board to bring back a policy that showed a local preference, not that they automatically give anything to local vendors but maybe a 2-5 points like other Counties do in their scoring. Chair Holt said to do research and let the Board look at it. Commissioner Taylor said once they put that it, it would make others to not want to apply. Commissioner Morgan said he would not recommend they do that. Chair Holt said she recommended for them to do research.

She told the Board they received a letter from FAC President that they would like Commissioner Viegbesie to be on the Leadership team as a policy leader of the Finance Tax and Administration Policy committee.

CLERK OF COURT

25. Updates

COUNTY ATTORNEY

26. Updates

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

Chair Holt said she had a meeting in her district last week regarding a private road and she had the attorney write an opinion because they were having a hard time because people were wanting them to pave their roads and she has told them and the attorney wrote an opinion that they could not do that with public dollars and she wanted to say that in the meeting. She said there was a process they have to go through and she hoped they understood that they were not helping because they did not want to, it was because of what the law said. Mr. Weiss said they could blame him but they could not use public funds to improve private property.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew there was a petition for a private road in District 2 and would like to have a copy of that opinion so he could make it available to ones in his district.

Commissioner Taylor said this Board adopted procedures for adopting roads and if they wanted, they could look at what was put in place.

Commissioner Morgan said one could tell it was political season when they talk about roads and there were certain requirements they needed to have in place with very good reasons for the requirements they have. He said there was enough of an issue managing the current roads in the County, not just from an expense standpoint but from logistically everything else. He said it would be great if everyone's private road could be paved but they did not want to accept every private road into the County and absorb the costs of maintaining those because they would have to drastically raise taxes and was already talking about not being able to handle the budget they currently had, there were shortfalls in place.

Commissioner Taylor said she had been there for 10 years and have not campaigned and in all 10 of those years have asked for private roads to be adopted from day 1 and to say this was a political sway one way or the other, this was consistent with what she has asked for from day 1.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said there could be some tweaking, it comes down to costs and a lot of folks have fixed income and was difficult for them to pay for that costs.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

27. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make a motion to bring up roads in the September meeting to they could have a discussion.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was an Ordinance in place for roads and they may need to look at revising it.

Commissioner Morgan said if this was something the Board wanted to look at fine but they were in the middle of budget season and have important issues to deal will first after the budget season was over and Chair Holt agreed.

Commissioner Hinson said they could bring it back in November.

Commissioner Hinson said every year this was near and dear to his heart and asked if they were prepared for the hurricane season. He wanted to make sure culverts were clear and said there was always an issue in Hampton Heights, near the elementary school had issues along with Richbay community and Dupont Road.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator, a few years ago the County accepted a Beautification Grant and they received and installed some County Gateway signs and Wildflower signs. He said he had received several inquiries about the status, have there been any changes. Mrs. Jackson said there had been no changes made, she had been working with the County Engineer on that project and would get him something. He asked if they were all still in place throughout the County and she said yes. Then she asked if he meant the actual signs and he said yes. She said some of the signs were torn apart and they were going after the same funding again. He asked if they were still there, she said some were and some were messed up and Public Works was taking them down as they speak and they had a slogan on them that was no longer adopted by the County.

Commissioner Hinson said he left one thing out, he said they need to look at the Budget booklet and go through it a couple of days before the meeting. He said he asked why there was a shortfall and had not gotten an answer yet and felt they would find it quite interesting to see what was in there. Chair Holt said for her to give them all a new copy of the budget.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

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

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE GADSDEN COUNTY HEALTHY START COALITION FOR THE “PROUD DAD” CONFERENCE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said she mentioned to Mrs. Jackson earlier when they were talking about sewer and water, in looking at the Chattahoochee exit, it was in the County and when looking at the exits, it was easier for the County to get grants for infrastructure than the municipalities, and Highway 90 East and West outside of the city limits need water, sewer and electric.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they could help with infrastructure in Midway/I-10 and how they could help Midway. Chair Holt said she met with FDOT approximately 2 weeks ago regarding the beautification of that intersection and they told her that they were against cutting down those trees.

She then thanked Administration, Staff and Road and Bridge for help on the Barack Obama Blvd dedication.

Receipt and File

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 21, 2018 – Regular Meeting

- 28.** July 13, 2018 Letter from FDOH
July 30, 2018 Letter from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
August 1, 2018 Email from the Florida Department of Transportation
July 31, 2018 Letter from Mediacom
July 21, 2018 Letter from Mediacom
Waste Pro Summer Newsletter

UPCOMING MEETING

MOTION TO ADJOURN

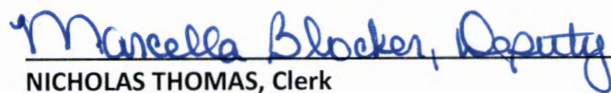
THERE BEING NOT FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:37 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:


BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk