

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 4, 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 phones be placed on silent or mute. She called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Chair Holt asked for roll call for the attendance. Commissioner Viegbesie, Commissioner Hinson, Commissioner Morgan and Chair Holt were present and Commissioner Taylor was absent.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda and there were none.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Resolution Recognizing Mrs. Janice Maxwell

Chair Holt asked Commissioners to step forward and Mrs. Janice Maxwell appeared before the Board. Commissioner Hinson had a few words to say, read aloud the Resolution and they posed for pictures.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

2. Ratification Memo

**3. Approval of Minutes
August 7, 2018**

4. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gerald McSwain, 600 Sparkleberry Blvd., Quincy
Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL NAACP/DEC
Ed Allen, Item 8
Derrick Elias
Lori Bouie

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was seeking funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training, boarding, per diem, and equipment costs for two deputies to attend the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) Marine Enforcement Operations-Level 1. She said the course was scheduled for October 1-5, 2018 in Jacksonville, FL. The primary purpose of the training was to provide the deputies with knowledge, skills and abilities in law enforcement within a marine environment and boat operations and would increase their capabilities to provide public safety within the marine environment of Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked where the funding was coming from and Mrs. Jackson said LEEF.

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

6. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request-Florida SWAT Association 2018 Advanced Sniper Course

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for funding from the LEEF fund to pay for training, boarding and per diem for a Gadsden County Deputy to attend the Florida SWAT Association (FSA) Advanced Sniper Course occurring October 1-5, 2018 at the Lakeland Police Department Firearms Range.

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

7. Approval of Participation in the Application Process for the FFY 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to participate in the application process for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and to designate a coordinator responsible for preparation of the grant application.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

8. Adoption of Resolution No. 2018-009 requesting the Supervisor of Elections to place questions on the ballot for the November 6, 2018 general election regarding housing density in land use categories, voting requirements on certain land use approvals, and potential repeal of the Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights in order to obtain non-binding expressions of elector sentiment; providing for severability, modifications, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board consideration of Resolution 2018-009 asking the Supervisor of Elections to place questions on the ballot for the November 6, 2018 general election regarding housing density in land use categories, voting requirements on certain land use approvals, and potential repeal of the Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights in order to obtain non-binding expressions of elector sentiment.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to read and said there was a huge difference between chartered and non-chartered counties.

Mr. Weiss said Gadsden County was a Non-Chartered county and have to rely on any authority that was set forth in Constitution or Statutes in order to do anything. He said Non-chartered Counties could have all the authority to do anything as prescribed by general or special law. He further stated that Chartered Counties, in addition to the authority, have the authority that also was given to them by virtue of their charters.

Chair Holt asked if he was saying that the non-chartered Counties did not have those special exceptions or special areas because they were completely under State Statute because they had not provided anything to the Legislature saying that they wanted to be chartered. Mr. Weiss said that was correct.

Gerald McSwain, 600 Sparkleberry Blvd., Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He said he was sure they had talked to their constituents and his speaking tonight was to really hope that they would put this on the ballot and only the commissioners could do it. He asked them to vote and not leave here without it being placed on the ballot.

Mr. Weiss said this was not for referendum but for an expression of elector sentiment or straw poll. He explained the referendum would be a binding vote, something on the ballot that said an ordinance shall be amended as follows and there would be a legislative strike/add changing the ordinance. He said there was no statutory or constitutional authority for the citizens, electors of the County, to amend County ordinances by referendum but there was authority under Section 125.01(1)(y) to put propositions on the ballot at any election when it was agreed to by a majority vote of a total membership so as to obtain a non-binding expression of voter sentiment, also known as a straw vote. He further explained what was on tonight for consideration, this Resolution would be to direct the Supervisor of Elections to put the straw ballot questions on the November ballot.

Chair Holt said what he was saying was Gadsden County is non-chartered, if they were chartered and had something in their Charter that said they could do these things, the Charter would have to be approved by the Legislature, and then they could possibly do that. She said with them being

non-chartered, they did not have a charter that they could present to the Legislature with this information. She said she had spoken with other attorneys and they said the County could have a straw ballot and see what the sentiment of the citizens wanted them to do and was not binding; but would let everyone know what the citizens wanted them to do. She said the other thing was if the citizens did not agree with what the Board does, to vote them out.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the attorney and he had an extensive discussion on this item; he called the Florida Commission on Ethics and they gave their opinion that this was nothing ethical and had no authority to discuss; he called the Department of State Division of Elections and spoke with an attorney and he came to understand what the County Attorney was saying about putting an initiative of that nature on the ballot; he spoke with two municipal attorneys and they said the same thing, that neither the Board or the citizen has the statutory authority to put an initiative of that nature that would alter the County Ordinances on the ballot, but they could do a straw poll and they decided Chapter 125 and 163 Section 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes and was the same communication that the Attorney provided. He said the Attorney referred to the case of the Gadsden racetrack and was the reason why it was not going anywhere because neither the County nor the Citizens have the statutory authority to alter because of the Charter. He said he understood all they could possibly do was the straw poll, which was non-binding.

Ed Allen appeared before the Board. He stated he was opposed to the Resolution. He said he was sure they have seen on TV what has happened in South Florida with the environment, the scum on the lakes, rivers and creeks and some were caused by septic tanks. He said when there is a one acre lot with one septic tank per lot; the more septic tanks, the more cause for pollution on the environment. He said if they go into a wetlands area and put septic tanks there will be problems. He said the State has spent thousands of dollars trying to clean up Wakulla Springs and will have to spend more money and we are here putting in more septic tanks in the wetlands. In addition to that, under State Law, it was legal to put one item on the ballot and they have three items on the ballot. He said Chair Holt had said something about “voting them out” and she has refused to redistrict the County in close to ten years. He stated “If you don’t redistrict, you can’t vote anybody out.”

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He said he was representing the NAACP and DEC and was also a veteran, Chief Master Sargent of the U.S. Air Force. He said he commended his comrade McCain for his insight, his service and he valued that. He said he lived in the city but had land in St. John area. He said the Citizens have spoken, they have concerns and he thought the Commissioners have listened to them. He said after conversing with several people, he concurred with the Resolution as a non-binding Resolution. He asked that the Commissioners let the citizens have their say and if the citizens said they wanted to have this done, he felt they should get together and try to do it. He said his concern was whether or not the citizens vote for or against it, he felt they should have a committee set up to address the land use. He said there was no reason whatsoever that anybody should lose their land for any reason unless they could not pay their taxes. He further stated it was the County’s responsibility to bring jobs here and they have not done that. HE also stated there was one item on the Agenda-the Citizens Bill of Rights and those things come under the Bill of Rights. He said this should be a democratic society where the majority should rule, a 3-2 vote not a 4-1 vote and the citizens should have a right to express their wishes.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Avenue, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and said he was

in favor of the Resolution and believed in Government for the people, of the people and by the people and also believed if it comes a course in futility to have individuals go out and get the signatures to have a non-binding vote and also understood the letter of the law and the letter of the law, Section 125 Florida Statute said that it would be non-binding, but the Board has the opportunity and responsibility to change this and not go this route. He said someone was very crafty when they were able to get this passed and say the only way it could be changed was with a super-majority vote and also with the knowledge if taken to the people with a ballot, the best that could come out of it would be just an opinion, a straw poll. He said personally he found that a waste of time, felt they should just call their Commissioners and tell them their opinion as opposed to going this entire process. He said he imagined various people had various reasons for supporting or not supporting this. He said he heard someone mention environment and that was a new one on him that it would be an environmental issue.

Mr. Ed Allen wanted to speak and Chair Holt said they had heard all the comments from audience and said they were going to have Board discussion.

Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to approach this in a positive manner and have productive discussion. He asked if the attorney had seen the signatures and he responded that he had not seen all the signatures, he was aware of the petitions and has seen documentation from the Supervisor of Election to show a count of the petitions. Commissioner Morgan asked if there were a certain number of signatures required and Mr. Weiss said no, if the County Commission wanted to do it, they could do it. Mr. Weiss said the blank petition that was signed was on page 8 in the packet. Commissioner Morgan asked if the citizens were told that the initiative would “supersede and make Gadsden County Ordinance 2016-009 null and void”. Mr. Weiss said that was in the ballot summary language. Commissioner Morgan said in reality that was not what this would do. He said they were being told that what was being supported with the signature was not entirely accurate. Mr. Weiss said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan said that was the issue he had with this, not that they could not have a discussion and move forward but they were talking about an item that would impact the entire County and was something they wanted to make sure to protect the environment, preserves the rural character and nature of the County and protects the right of information, awareness and communication and was primarily what the Citizen Bill of Rights was for. He said he could not support this.

Chair Holt said she had no problem with the straw poll, they could take out the language Commissioner Morgan mentioned and let the citizens decide what they want.

Commissioner Hinson asked when the deadline was and Chair Holt said today. He said he thought they needed to spend a few seconds, talk with the attorney and make it clear that everybody would be ok with it. He said he also believed when he went to business meetings, Hoover and other companies came, they said the biggest complaints were the CBOR. They said it was hard to penetrate into it. He said he was truly the biggest environmental person on the Board and this was not an environmental issue. He said when the representative from 1000 Friends of Florida came, they said this was not what they were talking about and was totally opposite and Gadsden was the only county in Florida that was doing this. He said he believed if the citizens want it, they should vote to get rid of the citizen bill of rights so two people run the county not three, that was a dictatorship. He said he supported they talk about this, get it the right way so it could be parallel to what they have as well as what the community wanted.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the question they needed to address first was how and why they got here. He said this Ordinance a/k/a CBOR, was drawn and adopted by Board. He asked Chair Holt when it was originally done and she said 2010. He said the revision to remove some of the elements that impede the development and land use and management has been voted down by two commissioners consistently to review it and felt that was why the citizens decided to take the steps of making it a ballot initiative for the citizens to speak on. He said while they were on the straw poll decision, if the citizens want it and have collected all the needed signatures, this Board should go with it. He said the other concern he got from a citizen was some part of what these three questions addressed that did not include this citizen's concern. He asked if this straw poll would impact all land use or was there a specific category of land use that this would refer to.

Mr. Weiss said it was intended for all categories that allow residential development.

Commissioner Viegbesie said nowhere in the three items that includes lands that need to be preserved and conserved from use.

Chair Holt said there were provisions within the Land Development Code that allowed cul-de-sacs and that would reduce the amount that would be reduced. She said she was ready to vote. She said there were some things about the CBOR she likes and had not heard one commissioner in the Association of Counties or the 38 small counties that believes a super majority vote was necessary.

Commissioner Morgan said he politely disagreed with Chair Holt regarding the CBOR and said it had not impeded growth in Gadsden County and there had been no companies that had been through the process and chosen not to move forward with Gadsden County. He said they needed to make sure that the citizens and potential businesses understood that currently this was a part of the process that may require an extra step in planning but it also could be viewed as a way to ensure that a business would be a good corporate partner with the County. He added that the CBOR has never impeded growth in the County.

Lori Bouie, 4237 High Bridge Road, Quincy, FL (Planning Commissioner) appeared before the Board. She said the Planning and Zoning Commission did vote on the item in considering the CBOR and their vote was to keep the CBOR less the super majority vote. She said she has had businesses that have gone to Leon and Jackson County to tell her the reason they did not come of Gadsden County was because of the fearful things they would have to go through because of the super majority and said it did lead potential businesses to believe that this County was unorganized and did not have a standard set of procedures that they could follow and be assured that they are processing and progressing to have a business in this County. She further stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that they keep the CBOR, they want to hear from the citizens, and they represented the citizens as volunteers and want to hear their opinions but did not believe it needed to be a super majority vote on every issue regarding land and business development. She added that some of the issues that were brought up tonight led her to believe the super majority vote could be used selectively when it should be considered and when there was an issue that would affect a small group of people. She said they were concerned about the County and its rural development and not to be bombarded by some large company that would be a detriment to the rural environment. She concluded by stated the super majority vote was hindering their progress and asked them to vote tonight and as County Commissioners they could vote as to whether or not to have the super majority vote.

Chair Holt said they were going to move on this item.

Commissioner Viegbesie said on the Agenda was an item that the citizens requested and the request was not what they had on the Agenda but felt it was a first step. He said he would, in his personal vote, approve this as the Attorney has interpreted it due to the home rule restriction that they had in regards to putting a ballot initiative as introduced by the citizens on the ballot. He said he had no reason to oppose it because he believed in democracy. He said he was not born here and had a choice of which country to go to, but because he loved democracy he chose to come to America. If the citizens want this and the attorney says this was the method that should be put out for now, then he was going to vote for at least the straw ballot as currently presented within the legal ramifications of this body. He added that the citizens elected them and they are the ones that have spoken, collected all the petitions needed to put that item on the Agenda to be approved to go on the ballot but the Attorney told them there were some legal ramifications and this was the process and how far they could go right now.

Commissioner Hinson said someone said it did not hinder the growth in the County, the reason they did not have the solar farm was because of the CBOR because once they had everything together, they did not realize there had to be 4 out of five votes to make it happen and they lost out. Hoover purchased land first then found out they needed 4 out of 5 votes to make it happen and almost left the County as well. He said Sicamu purchased the property (former Printing House property) and they almost left as well to go to Madison County because of the CBOR. He said to be honest; it did impede growth and was a hindrance. He said you could not see it, but if you knew you had to have 4 out of 5 votes, it was hard to purchase 300 acres of land and hope there were 4 out of 5 people to vote. He said WalMart was not coming here because they knew they had to have 4 out of 5 votes and that was the issue he had with the CBOR.

Chair Holt said they were voting on the straw poll initiative that was in their packet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his only concern was and she referred to it in the Comp Plan and the Land Use Management Code for the County but the way this was presented did not address the concerns that the citizen sent to him with the specificity AG 1, 2, & 3 not included in it.

Chair Holt said that should not be a concern and would let the Attorney address that.

Mr. Weiss asked if the concern was that it could implicate conservation lands and silviculture, which allowed for 1 residential unit per 40 acres and if that was the concern-a) it was a straw ballot and was non-binding, this could be used to guide future changes. If they wanted to make it specific to agriculture/land use categories it would be a pretty easy change that could be made and was not changing the nature of the ballot question.

Chair Holt said she did not think they should do that because of AG 1, 2, and 3, had public lands and everything was out there and all that had to be looked at and if the straw ballot was non-binding, all they wanted to know was what the citizens wanted, they could express what they wanted and may vote to not even want it but would be given the opportunity to look at the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

9. Approval of Fuel Services Inter-local Agreement

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Fuel Services agreement with the local municipalities, constitutional officers and state agencies for the dispensing of fuel.

Chair Holt asked if Mrs. Jackson had discussed changing from .6¢ to .8¢ with them and Mrs. Jackson said yes and have gotten no pushback. Commissioner Morgan asked if she had individual conversations with each one and she said she personally had conversation with three of them but they were all sent a letter and did not get any negative response back and was significantly lower than what it was two years ago, it was .20¢ or something like that, .10 or .20¢ and was lower. She said the purpose for the increase was because next year, if not next year will be the following year, they will have to completely replace the whole fuel system, roof and all, and would give them a little extra money to put toward that so the Board will not have to put up a lot of money when comes for that.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.

10. Approval of Interlocal Agreements with Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the six municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for road maintenance and special project activities.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked how this has changed from prior agreements they had.

Mrs. Jackson said there was no fiscal impact, they were keeping the same fees that they usually do and was not out of anything, they pay for all the services they offer.

Chair Holt asked if everything had been taken care of as far as payments and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely, everybody was up to date.

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

11. Appointment/Reappointment to the Gadsden County Industrial Development Authority

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint or reappoint members to the Gadsden County Industrial Development Authority (GCIDA). She said when this agenda item was prepared they did not have current information and since then staff has been able to contact two of the Board members that will need to be appointed or reappointed. Larry Clayton responded that he was willing to continue to serve; the other two, Mr. Barry Haber lives in Leon County now and will need to be replaced and have not heard from Mr. Dawkins.

Chair Holt asked since this Board traditionally appointed members to this Board, this was an Industrial Board and thought they would be able to get some help as far as economic development; any communication with any companies and said this was a separate entity. Mr. Weiss said the Board does appoint members and was where they had some authority over the Board; they are an independent body and they have their own by-laws and there were a number of things they could not do but one thing they could do was appoint the members. She said they were looking as positive growth and they were an Industrial Board and they could use some help from them to do some filtering, whether it was marketing or whatever. They only meet once a year and was not helpful if they only meet once a year.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it would help to have industrial folks on the Board like Coastal Lumber and Hoover have partnered together and someone like that on the Board or someone like Talquin or Waste Pro that was not trying to slow down growth.

Mr. Weiss said one of the statutory requirements for appointing members was they had to be residents and electors of the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not sure they were ready to have this item before them, two of the three whose terms have expired that are not able to serve us and there are no other names presented to them.

Mrs. Jackson said the process they have been going by for the Boards were residents could go on-line and fill out an application for whatever Board they would like to participate in. She said that have put an ad in the paper this week, not just for this Board but for all Boards to re-energize the community to serve on the various Board but as of now, there was no-one that was interested.

Chair Holt said they needed to look at the process of the Board.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12. Updates

Mrs. Jackson said she had dates for upcoming meetings:

Wednesday, September 5 at 6:00 for a special budget meeting that includes outsourcing EMS;
Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 6:00 first budget public hearing;
Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 5:00 the Workshop on Planning;
Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 the second budget public hearing;
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:00 regular BOCC meeting.

She said the Permitting/Building Department will not close the Department but wanted to stop permitting activities at 4:30 starting October 1st because it was causing overtime in the department.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt said they need a second building inspector ASAP and Mrs. Jackson said it was not budgeted but is in the next fiscal year. Chair Holt said they had Clyde Collins that was in there. Mrs. Jackson said currently they have not filled the Building Official position. It was currently advertised and closes next week and will see where it goes.

Chair Holt asked about Planning and Zoning Director and Mrs. Jackson said that is being advertised and would close the next week as well and a Planner position. She said the Planner would start this fiscal year but the other position would not start until the next fiscal year.

Chair Holt asked about Housing. Mrs. Jackson said that was a different story and they were doing something different. She said they have someone that is in the SHIP program and did not want to use General Revenue funds for the Housing Department and there was a contractor on Staff and that was a significant savings for the County who is revamping the entire department. She added as far as SHIP dollars, they do have someone in that position but had to be creative in how they spend the money and get a full-time position on the General Revenue budget. Chair Holt asked about the contractor. Mrs. Jackson said currently they had secured someone who would be presented to the Board very soon. She said he had already gotten over 30 lenders for the first time homebuyers program as well as people who needed repairs done to their homes. She said he was also experienced and was developing a program so they could decrease their waiting list.

Commissioner Morgan asked for an update regarding the Ag Center. Mrs. Jackson said it was moving, she had brought up about the USDA loan and everything is moving forward. She said there will be a presentation tomorrow and everything is on schedule.

Commissioner Hinson said the Clerk stated last week that they had \$300,000-600,000 that they had yet to spend on the Housing grant. He said the fiscal year was almost over and asked if they would lose the funding. Mrs. Jackson said she looked at that video of some of the things the Clerk said and "all I will say was some of the things that he said those funds can't be used for what he said they could be used for and I will leave it at that". Commissioner Hinson asked if they would lose the funding and she said some of the funding exists and some do not and some can be used for one purpose and some cannot be used for purposes that were stated.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the same question about the Ag Center because he knew they lost out a couple of years ago and asked her to keep them updated so they would be on task. Also he felt they could look at 2-3 years down the line regarding the County Administrator and hoped they make a decision quick because they will be in for some major lawsuits in the future or they will not be able to get the top candidates. He said that once they remove the interim tag and that person came in, they have 6 months and to keep down lawsuits, it should be on an interim basis. He said they also did not have an Assistant County Administrator anymore and if someone came in as an Assistant County Administrator, when the County Administrator came in, they may want to bring in their own person and the Board has no control over who they hire. He said to protect the Board he felt that a lot of the directors should be on an interim basis so they would know at any given time they could be let go.

Chair Holt asked if there was something in their hiring process that gave them some type of

notification and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely, no-one in their policy that was exempt from having due process. She said they also had a labor attorney who also advises staff as to anything that could be done no-one could be let go just because they did not like them.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was grace period or probationary period where they could be let go. Mr. Weiss said he thought there was but was but was not sure of the length. Mrs. Jackson said it was a 6 months period. Mr. Weiss said he thought so.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Updates

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions and there was none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

15. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he was glad they did something for Mrs. Maxwell and asked them to mentor kids at school.

He then asked if they were prepared for the upcoming hurricane season.

Olivia Smith said there was information on their website regarding sandbags, she also had spoken with Tashonda Whaley and Major Wood regarding updates.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked where would citizens go to get sandbags because he has received calls today that citizens that were not able to get bags because they had not been released yet and also asked when they could get them and what the limit was.

Curtis Young, Public Works Director, appeared before Board and said the Post Plant pit opened at 3:00 p.m. today.

Commissioner Hinson said there were issues in his area around Hampton Heights and said it was embarrassing when going down the road and grass was as tall as you. He added it made the commissioners look bad. Mrs. Jackson said there were extra crews out and the rain has been a problem. She added that it would be before the Commission soon, but she was bringing a continuing services contract before them so they could reach out to them at any time when the crews need extra help. Commissioner Hinson said he had spoken with his constituents and some said it had been 6-8 months since anyone had been out there. Mrs. Jackson said there was a mowing schedule that she could send to the Commissioners and there was talk between Commissioner Hinson and Mrs. Jackson at the same time. Chair Holt interrupted and said they were going to stop the conversation and they were going to have civility. She told him he was not going to address anyone in that fashion.

Commissioner Hinson said folks were frustrated with culverts being stopped up. He asked about the work program and said they did have about 200 in the program and asked if they could use them and it would help offset the costs.

Chair Holt said they all were receiving calls and she refers them to Mr. Young at Public Works.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan asked to verify the dates for meetings and Mrs. Jackson did that.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Chair Holt asked if Commissioner Taylor called and Mrs. Jackson said no.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie made a motion for a Resolution.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION HONORING THE HAVANA NORTHSIDE CLASS OF 1968 ON THEIR 50TH YEAR CLASS REUNION AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt asked for a Resolution for Shanks High

UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT FOR A RESOLUTION FOR SHANKS HIGH MEGA CLASS REUNION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR ROBERT GREEN FOR A PROCLAMATION AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Receipt and File

- 16. Letter from Talquin Electric**
- Letter from Mediacom**
- Letter from DEO 8/15/18**
- Letter from DEO 8/17/18**
- Letter from FEMA 8/13/18**
- Letter from FEMA 8/14/18**
- Invoice from Ausley & McMullen**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 4, 2018 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:49 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk