

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 18, 2018 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 2
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order, asked everyone to turn off their cell phones or place on vibrate.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and asked Pastor Roosevelt Rogers, III from the Old Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church to give the Invocation. The Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

He asked that the Deputy Clerk call the roll and all were present.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

- 1. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership Housing Program**
- 2. Approval and Signatures for Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)**
- 3. Approval of the Resolution for the New Chairperson Facsimile Stamp**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. September 6, 2018 Budget Hearing**
 - b. November 20, 2018 BOCC Regular Meeting**

5. Ratification Memo

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Debris Pick-up and Management Update

Mrs. Jackson said this item was presented to the Board for an update of the debris management and removal. Mrs. Jackson said they had present Thompson Consulting Services, who was the debris monitoring contractor and D & J Enterprises, who was the debris removal contractor. She added that FDOT was providing debris management services on all State roads in Gadsden County and Metric Engineering is the debris monitoring contractor and DRC Emergency Services is the debris removal contractor. She said they anticipate debris pick-up through February 2019 and to date pick-up on private roads have not been authorized by FEMA.

Gary Brooks, Operations Manager, Thompson Consulting, appeared before the Board to give an update. He said they have hired 253 employees, of which 247 were local hires from the surrounding community. He said they have certified 359 trucks and certified three more today to haul off mulch. Each truck is averaging 8 miles from pick-up to delivery to the appraised DMS they have and they have 4 places; two on the west side and two on the east side. He said 76 minutes was the average trip time from pick-up to disposal and they were averaging five loads a day and the average load size is 45 cubic yards. He said they have been operating for 68 days and there has been 1,181,893 cubic yards of debris; have hauled out 135,443 cubic yards. He said 68,999 hazardous hanging limbs and 17,177 hazardous leaning trees have been removed in the County. Debris Monitoring Costs so far is \$2,562,216 and Debris Removal costs is \$23,979,143. He said they were 194% more efficient than their competitors. He said 66% of the debris has been picked up and 30% has been mulched and hauled away. He said they were still awaiting FEMA approval for Private Property Removal from private roads. He said they did anticipate debris operations ongoing until February 2019.

Commissioner Hinson asked about District 1, there still was a lot of debris around and asked if that was the last spot they intended to target. Mr. Brooks said they have had loads in that area and have made the first pass. He said they were allowing the public to get more debris out and was concentrating their efforts on the areas that have more debris and Havana had not been forgotten and trucks were still there.

Chip Starr, D & J, appeared before the Board. He explained the Debris Load Heat Map and the Tree Cut Heat Map. He said they had allocated as many resources in District 1 as had been allocated in other districts and divided the resources equally. He added that, unfortunately, a lot of the debris they were still seeing was along private roads and they were unable to collect from them at this time.

Commissioner Taylor said they were present at the meeting with the Governor and FEMA was

present and the question was asked to the Governor as well as FEMA whether or not private roads would be considered and they gave verbal approval to go ahead and pick up on private roads. She stated that could be held up in a Court of law and asked where they were with the verbal. Mr. Starr said they have asked Thompson to consult with the Governor's Office and was waiting for something from FDOT and somewhere in that pipeline there was a stalemate. He said D & J had to have to go off of other than the verbal is a Notice to Proceed from either FDOT or Gadsden County. Commissioner Taylor said she thought they did have FDOT approval in place. Mr. Brooks explained that the email he received stated that FDOT has done their approval but all County Roads must be completed before private roads were allowed. Mr. Brooks also stated even though they did have the verbal approval, it would be pertinent to wait until they had written approval.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the 72% average load call. Mr. Brooks explained when the debris comes in in the trucks, there are personnel at the disposal sites that will grade the trucks, for example, this truck is coming in at 20% fill, this one at 30% fill, 40% and means that much of the capacity taken up by the debris. He then asked about the concern he had forwarded to the Administrator concerning potential burning of the debris at the sites and asked if someone was there that could address that. Mrs. Jackson said it would not be, they had not been getting a very good response from the State people and have no control over what they are doing. DRC is the one doing it and Metric is monitoring and she had expressed they did not want any burning. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was happening and Mrs. Jackson said she was told it was; they have a fan that sounds like a 747 jet in the neighborhood and she was doing everything that she could to stop it. Mr. Brooks said DRC does have an Air Curtain Incinerator burning on Shady Rest Road. Commissioner Morgan asked if that could cause environmental issues for the County. Mr. Brooks stated it may with the smoke but with the air curtain there tended to be less smoke because it was air forced into the fire and burns at a hotter temperature. Commissioner Morgan stated he would like to have the attorney research that and find out if they could put an end to it if the majority of the Board saw fit to do so.

Chair Viegbesie said he received an email from a citizen on Shady Rest complaining about the noise. He said he also has received calls about debris at the bottom of Blakes Road and Granny Lane. He said some loads have been picked up but this particular debris is on the dead end of Blakes Road and would need to be a smaller debris truck that would be able to turn around and that would be a better fit.

Commissioner Holt thanked them for all the work they were doing and it was appreciated.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a lot of minority business owners that wanted to be part of this debris pick-up and asked the percentage of minority contractors that were hired.

Chip Starr said they were not prepared to answer that tonight. Commissioner Hinson asked for a meeting and said he has had numerous phone calls the past few weeks. Chair Viegbesie said the information could be sent directly to him.

Commissioner Holt said advertisements were placed in the papers, it was placed on Facebook, contractors were sent to talk to Emergency Management and to the Manager. They can get the data and email it to all Commissioners.

7. Legislative Advocacy and Public Relations Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it seeks Board action regarding the County's Legislative Advocacy & Public Relations Services. She said the current lobbying firm is Lawson & Associates at \$15,000 and their contract expired on September 30, 2018. She said Staff was seeking direction from the Board to either renew the current agreement for an additional one-year period or solicit for Legislative Advocacy & Public Relations Services. She said she met with the City Managers except for Havana and they came to an agreement about what they thought the Legislative Agenda should be. She said something else that was brought up was lobbying services and in addition to Lawson and Associates, it was brought up that the City Managers were willing to contribute \$5,000 each for the remainder of the dollars that have been budgeted to get Gunster, who was an additional lobbying firm. She said they would be using Lawson and Associates as well as Gunster. She added that this was for Board direction.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the two firms that were promoting the County and Mrs. Jackson explained the County only had one last year and had two the previous year. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was for a total of \$15,000 and she stated yes.

Chair Viegbesie explained last year they decided to not fund Chris Doolin and they took him out and only went with Lawson and Associates.

Mrs. Jackson said last year the money was budgeted for both firms but Mr. Doolin asked for an additional amount and he opted out of his contract. She said the same amount that was budgeted for last year was also budgeted for this year and Gunster is willing to work with the County for that amount.

Chair Viegbesie asked with bringing in the Gunster firm, one he knew very well and knew how aggressive and successful they are, this would not be an additional cost to the County so the \$15,000 that was budgeted for Lawson and Associates would be used to add Gunster to the team to help push the County's agenda.

Antonio Jefferson, City Manager for Gretna, appeared before the Board. He said the Managers have gotten together and the consensus around their group was that they need to have a stronger presence at the Capitol during Legislative Session and believe Gunster would be a great firm for the County to have. He said he had looked at their portfolio and they only have one other County they represent and they would not be fighting for their capacity to represent them at the Capitol.

Jack McLean, City Manager for the City of Quincy, appeared before the Board and had Mayor Angela Sapp present with him. He said they had a special meeting tonight to look at this issue and voted unanimously to go with Gunster as the firm, they have good presence, good connection with the incoming Governor, and they are chairing two of the transition teams. He felt they would do a lot for the Cities and Counties. He said it would not work if they go to the "Hill" with 15-20 items. He said the Managers met and narrowed down their list of priorities to funding appropriation issues to help with the storm throughout the whole Northwest Florida in terms of a windfall sales tax Statewide. He said they also wanted to advocate for a water-sewer project County-wide and all the cities would participate in that. He said it would help Midway because they needed a sewer system, Chattahoochee because they needed an automatic lift station to avoid spills, would help Quincy because they had the same problem, and would help Havana because they need to acquire a spray field. He said they have no comment as to whether or not the County kept two firms or one firm, but believed that Gunster should be a part of that team.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, HIS MOTION WOULD BE TO GO WITH THE FIRM THEY ARE RECOMMENDING, THE GUNSTER FIRM FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Mr. Weiss pointed out they might potentially have a procurement issue and asked the amount and was told \$25,000. Mr. Weiss stated there were two separate issues but they did not have to do a formal bid process for under \$25,000, but they were still supposed to get quotes and maybe that happened.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood the agenda item was to approve Lawson and Associates for \$15,000, which was what they had in the budget, and now they were adding Gunster to Lawson and Associates with the municipalities each contributing the \$5,000 to add them to work as a team. He asked if Lawson and Associates would be coming together with Gunster or would they be giving \$15,000 to Gunster and no longer have Lawson and Associates as the lobbying representative. Commissioner Morgan said that was the motion he was going for. Chair Viegbesie said just Gunster and Commissioner Morgan said that was correct.

Mrs. Jackson said for clarification, the amount the County would be putting up was \$20,000 and then be \$5,000 from each of the other Managers and what was budgeted for the County lobbying services was \$35,000 total. She said if the Board chose to go with this, it would be the \$20,000 plus the \$15,000 would be the \$35,000. She added that Gunster said that the minimum Gunster would accept would be \$20,000 plus the \$5,000 from the municipalities. She said their usual price was \$60,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if \$35,000 was budgeted and Mrs. Jackson said yes. Commissioner Holt then asked that each of the cities would put up \$5,000 each and Mrs. Jackson said on top of the \$20,000. Commissioner Holt asked if all six cities were doing that and she said yes, then she said five because Greensboro did not commit to that and would be a total of \$25,000.

Commissioner Holt asked the total amount they would be getting and Mrs. Jackson said it would be \$45,000. Commissioner Holt said the reason she was asking, the motion coming up and Mrs. Jackson said it was \$45,000 total. Commissioner Holt said they had \$35,000 set aside, have \$25,000 coming from the cities and would be altogether the \$35,000 if they choose to use the \$35,000 and altogether budgeted and set aside would be \$60,000; their \$25,000 and out \$35,000 if the County chose to do \$35,000. Commissioner Holt explained the reason they did not want to go through a long, drawn out process was the Governor explained in a meeting last week they had twenty-eight days to get on his budget and they did not have time to go through that process but they needed to make sure they get on his budget because his was the one that the Legislature was trying to meet and he's already told them to get on it. She said he told them they had 28 days to get what they were going to get from him because he would be gone. She said their Policy and Procedure had to match his schedule.

Chair Viegbesie asked with hearing the conversation whose contract would it be, a County contract because \$45,000 was coming from the County budget and if that was correct, they were restricted with their Procurement Policy.

Commissioner Holt said the five cities was just \$25,000 and they could not go over their amount

that they have to have. The County's \$20,000 and their \$25,000 was \$45,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked with who would Gunster be entering the contract with, the County and expecting the County to give them a check for \$45,000, which meant they were exceeding the \$25,000 threshold of their Procurement Policy or if each municipality would be writing their own \$5,000 check and we write just \$20,000, which would keep the County below their Procurement Policy Procedure.

Mr. Weiss said if they were going to stay within their Procurement Policy, they would have to be under the \$25,000 threshold, for which they would be responsible. He said the Motion on the floor and what was seconded, was \$15,000, which put them below the threshold and it would have to be a separate contract and would have to clear that with the firm because the County would be responsible for \$15,000 otherwise.

Commissioner Hinson withdrew his second and said he thought what was in their policy was anything under \$25,000 they had to call at least three different firms and they had to have time to make those calls. He said they could not vote on that tonight and they could probably have an emergency meeting next Monday to give them time to make the calls.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was part of their policy to be under \$25,000 and Mrs. Jackson said yes. She then asked if they could vote for it contingent upon because they needed to meet the Governor's deadline. She said he told them they had 28 days, 5 of which were already gone and holidays were coming up.

Commissioner Taylor said point of clarity, she said it was not the Governor's budget, he was advising, according to the statement he made, the County to put some of the needs that they had in this year's budget and thought that was an avenue to recoup some of the loss they had through Michael. She said he advised them to put together a legislative packet with all the cities involved to present to their Representatives for the legislative session. She said she did like this firm and based on the Chair, it was a good opportunity due to the fact this was a new Governor.

Commissioner Holt said one other thing mentioned in that meeting was the other counties that were disaster counties; there was a better chance to get with them and become a part of that proposal especially on the tax. She said not only would they run out of time with the six cities and the County, they needed to get with each of the counties. She said she and the Mayor of the City of Quincy talked about this the other day that they have to contact those counties and she also called the Association of Counties to see if she could obtain data. She said the Governor said once the information was put into one packet, they were more apt to get the votes from the legislature because they would try to cure the problems with Hurricane Michael and was why it was very time sensitive to get this in.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he withdrew his second was they were still in a state of emergency and thought they needed to be bold. He said he thought instead of \$15,000, they should go with \$24,500 with both and roll the dice. He said it was a \$50,000 investment and guaranteed they would get a lot more with that. He said next year if they did not see any results, they would know which way they needed to move. He said this was the only way he would approve this, both parties had to get \$24,500 for Lawson and Associates and Gunster.

Commissioner Holt said when he put his motion in, to state that they meet Friday to get this done.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Morgan's motion was on the floor first.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the agreement with Gunster, is there a set amount they are asking for because she was understanding there was a percentage from the County as well as a percentage from the cities.

Antonio Jefferson reappeared before the Board and said he thought Gunster's numbers were a little north of where the Board was and was not sure because they had not quite negotiated that portion of it. He said they thought that together their bundle package needed to be somewhere around \$60,000.

Commissioner Taylor asked the \$35,000 the County had in their coffers plus the \$25,000 that the cities would put together would equal to the \$60,000 they were looking for to pay for this and was for Gunster only.

Mr. Jefferson said they had not talked about any other service as a collective group other than Gunster because they understood the County previously had a relationship but felt collectively together getting to that number of \$60,000, however bundled, would be how they got there.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to look at the numbers, she asked Commissioner Hinson on his proposal of \$24,500 it would be \$49,000 and the \$25,000 that the cities would put in would be \$74,000. She said if they kept Lawson where they were at \$15,000 (using as an example), they would be at \$59,000 and only \$1,000 away from what he proposed to do.

Commissioner Hinson said if they went with that, they would have to come back in two weeks and make a vote because they would not have to advertise anything more than \$25,000. He said that was why he said they could wait until next week, advertise this and give Gunster \$35,000 and still give Lawson and Associates \$24,500.

Commissioner Holt asked in case of emergency, could any of this be waived? She said these well know firms were not going to piddle over \$60,000 and not going to wait on the County. She said they were supposed to have been ready in July and did not; then the hurricane hit and they did not have an opportunity then to get ready and they needed a way out of this so they could get some credibility on the hill by January. She said they had to have their package in their hands in the Governors' by mid-January. She said he was going to help with the new Governor so instead of them playing that they knew what they were doing, get a professional. She asked the Attorney if there was anything in place or was it illegal for them to waive any of this because if was time-sensitive.

Mr. Weiss there was an exception in their Procurement Policy for emergency purchases but could not tell them in the matter of law what constitutes an emergency. He said if someone challenged it, they would have a good argument that this would not constitute as an emergency, but was for the Board to decide. He said he also heard there was \$35,000 in the Budget for this purpose and would think anything in excess of \$35,000 would require a budget amendment.

Commissioner Holt said that was what she wanted him to look at; if they miss the deadline and do

not get their information in, financially it would hurt the County and the cities. She said she knew he said they could be sued, but they have been sued for less. She said she wanted to look at possibilities because this was very important.

Commissioner Taylor said they needed to move this, the cities and the Administrator have met, and she understood a preliminary legislative package has been put together, some of the groundwork has been done; the cities have gotten together and identified what they needed; now they need to get a lobbyist to help push this through and get ready to submit. She said if they wanted to go with several firms, see if they could educatedly come up with a figure where they do not exceed their Policy and Procedures and do give this body some funding that they could go out and move the packet. She said they needed to come up with a figure to get this off the table and push it through tonight.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they made two separate contracts, \$15,000 to Lawson and Associates and \$25,000 to Gunster to add to the cities, would they still have to adhere to their Procurement Policy if they kept the County's part under the \$25,000, would that be a separate expenditure that they would not have to adhere to the Procurement Policy for each of the individual expenditures.

Mr. Weiss said they had to adhere to the Procurement Policy but if there were two separate contracts, it was two separate purchases, they were not looking at those collectively.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think they would exceed \$35,000; they keep Lawson and Associates at \$15,000 and take \$25,000 and add to the cities' \$25,000 and would be \$50,000 for Gunster to work collaboratively with Lawson and Associates to push the agenda.

Commissioner Morgan said go with one firm, the Gunster firm, everyone go in the same direction and was within the budget. He said there was nothing wrong in moving forward with an amount they approved, not what the lobbying firm was telling them they wanted; they come up with a figure and if they did not like it, move on. He further stated they had been without a lobbying firm for three months; nothing was on fire other than to make a simple decision tonight based on what was before them. He said there was no value with going with two separate firms in his opinion. He felt it would make much more sense to take \$25,000 from the County, put it together with the other cities and would be \$50,000 offer.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO PUT \$25,000 TO HIRE THE GUNSTER FIRM THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES WERE WORKING WITH. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson said they could not do that because it was not advertised and Commissioner Morgan said it was \$25,000 or less and they could do that.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR AND HE MADE THE SECOND. HE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

**Commissioner Holt -Yes
Commissioner Hinson-No
Commissioner Morgan-Yes
Commissioner Taylor-Yes
Chair Viegbesie-Yes**

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE \$25,000 TO THE GUNSTER FIRM.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he voted no was he wanted to work with both parties and felt that Lawson and Associates was doing a yeoman's in working with the community.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE LAWSON AND ASSOCIATES \$25,000.
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

8. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County BOCC and authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

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

9. Old Federal Road Resurfacing Project Bid Award

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the design bid for Old Federal Road (CR 65B) Resurfacing project to Dewberry Engineers.

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

10. Tolar-White Road SCOP Project

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Florida Department of Transportation's Small County Outreach Program Agreement for the widening and resurfacing of Tolar-White Road (CR270).

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

11. Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Amended Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the amended Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding. It was amended pursuant to Section VIII., of the MOU to include additional requirements regarding the deceased date of individuals provided in the DAVID application.

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

12. Appointments/Reappointments to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint/reappoint two representatives from the Gadsden County BOCC to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors and identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AND DEE JACKSON AS THE COUNTY LIAISON AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Approval of the Lease Extension with Neighborhood Medical Center to lease the Havana Health Clinic

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the lease extension with Neighborhood Medical Center.

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

14. Approval of Appointments/Reappointments to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the appointment/reappointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. She said the City of Gretna has sent a nomination for Commissioner Evelyn Riley-Goldwire to serve as the Municipal Representative.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the current appointees, the issue was whether other municipalities were informed about the opening and had a chance to respond and felt it was appropriate to reach out to the municipalities and he had no issues with Commissioner Goldwire.

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

15. Authorization to Apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant #RFA112818HSET1 and for authorization for the Chair to sign all documents.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan said this called for a 50% match that was required and asked how much the grant was for. Mrs. Jackson said they had not received any information and thought someone from the Sheriff's office would be here to discuss this with the Board. Commissioner Morgan asked how they would know how much they were committing to with this.

Commissioner Hinson said that was a great question and felt the motion needed to be changed depending on the amount.

Commissioner Holt directed them to page 7 of the Agenda item and there was further discussion. She said normally they could use their facilities and they could use any employees as part of the match; could use facilities and labor as part of the match in these types of grants. She also said if this was not time sensitive, they could have them come in.

COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

Mrs. Jackson said she did not make a recommendation but said if that match is required and not matched in the form that Commissioner Holt was speaking of, the County would be liable for it. Commissioner Holt asked if they did it contingent upon the match, but they could always have them come in and they did need to know what the deadline was.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought this was time sensitive because he spoke with the Sheriff's Office when this item was brought to his attention and his understanding was it was time sensitive and did not pay attention to the matching funds part of this. He asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a serious issue in Gadsden County and asked what if they approved it contingent upon the match being less than \$50,000. Chair Viegbesie asked what if it was contingent upon the Sheriff's Office guaranteeing that the 50% be leveraged using assets...

Commissioner Holt pointed out on page 7 of 42 and it stated a Cash match was not required and was why she said labor and facilities.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt they should give this back to the County Administrator and let her look over it and give them a recommendation based on their research and that way they would have a detailed report.

Chair Viegbesie said from his point of view, there was no more research that could be done that what was stipulated in the Agenda packet and the grant was not due until February 5th.

Mr. Weiss said this item was left out of his book. He said it looked to him based on the language and the language in the Statute that it would be an in-kind match, but, that said, he would not mind having more time to look into this if it was not urgent.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE SECOND MEETING IN JANUARY AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:24.

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

There was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mrs. Jackson reminded the Commissioners of the Staff Christmas party this Friday at 7:00 at Creek Entertainment.

She reminded them the January 1st meeting would be cancelled.

She said as of December 1st, the Building permit office would be closed after 4:30 each day so they could close out financials for the day. She said it was open for any other business the visitors had.

She congratulated Chair Viegbesie for being appointed as Chair of CRPTA.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:26 p.m.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report and said he had a prior commitment and would be unable to attend the Christmas party.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said a constituent told him the Permit office was closed for the next two weeks. Mrs. Jackson asked that she be referred to her so she could clarify because that was not the case, they were only closed after 4:30 so they could do the daily reports for the Clerk's office. She stressed they would not be doing permits after 4:30 but any other business could be conducted.

He said there was still a lot of trash in areas and asked when they would start going back through the communities. Mrs. Jackson said there was more damage than they first anticipated with roads, they were now replacing signs, guardrails, etc. and the debris company was also assisting. He said the Gibson and Richbay community needed attention.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan asked for an update on Atwater Road as far as to when it would be open.

Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish, appeared before the Board. He said he missed Curtis Young today. He said they have one jointed pipe and one more joint to set and anticipated it would be pretty soon it would be back open, maybe by the end of the week.

Commissioner Morgan said the item regarding burning in the County at the debris site, he would like to move forward with more conversation regarding that because it could potentially be a concern.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said regarding the items they tabled, there were some Boards that would be need to be established if not already done so.

She said at one time they had an Adopt-A- Road program at one time and children were involved and asked then to look into that.

Commissioner Hinson said he mentioned it at the November 6th meeting regarding the Resource Officers. He said he spoke with the Sheriff and he said they had maximized what they could pay for and they need three more Resource officers at the schools before they could be certified by the State. He asked it be placed on the January 15th Agenda to discuss and vote on it.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PAY FOR RESOURCE OFFICERS AT THE SCHOOLS ON THE JANUARY 15TH AGENDA

Chair Viegbesie asked if that would have a budgetary impact on the County that was already stretched to the limit. He said for action of funding, he did not know how budgetary wise they would be able to assume that type of fiscal responsibility at this point.

Commissioner Hinson said for his conscience that would give the County Administrator the needed time to do research. He added if they could not pay for it, it was understandable but the kids should come first.

Commissioner Hinson asked that it be placed on the January 15th Agenda.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked about the grant for the Courthouse; she said she understood one of the extensions was about to expire in February and asked if they would be on time and asked if they would be able to get that done before the extension expired. Mrs. Jackson said they would not be done before the extension expires but Mr. Weiss and the contractor has been going back and forth as far as the contract was concerned and thought they had a resolution and they agreed to it. Mr. Weiss said he never heard anything back from the last time he responded and the last he saw it looked like they had transmitted the contract to the State for approval and the State had approved it. He said he was assuming they agreed to the changes he was requesting.

Commissioner Taylor thanked the Attorney and said it was incumbent upon him to find where they were with the contract. She asked him to reach out to make sure they were on time because it was a lot of money and was a project that needed to get underway. He said he did not perceive that as being his responsibility but was happy to help and was always happy to help in any way, shape or form. He said usually he reviews the contract but to implement the contract was under the County Administrator. Commissioner Taylor said to her the contractual agreement was still in the process and he was still involved. She said if he was unsure if they had agreed to the terms, and then apparently there were still some contractual things out there that the attorney was not fully aware of. He said he understood and would follow up on it. She said ok, she did not want to bog him down but wanted to make sure that this gets underway because a lot of projects have fallen short.

Commissioner Taylor asked about High Bridge Road. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said this was a DOT project and he would check on it. He said it would not come to the County as a SCRAP or SCOP project would. He said it was his understanding it was underway.

Commissioner Taylor then asked on the upcoming Agenda for updated information regarding the

Courthouse because of the February deadline.

She said someone said pines were being left on the ground after the trees were being collected and they were creating a health hazard when they stay and decompose and had an effect with the run-off. She said they need to talk to the debris company about their intentions on collecting and ask about the health issues.

Chair Viegbesie said regarding High Bridge Road was slotted by DOT for 2020, along with Point Milligen and Attapulugus Road. Mr. Ford reappeared before the Board and said he thought that was the construction component but the funding for the design just became available.

She said when they had the meeting with the Governor, FEMA said there were still 25+ families that were displaced. She said she understood they were placed somewhere outside of the County because of limited housing and no place to put them. She said this was an opportunity and wanted to see if she could “wake up something that they had put to bed and was hoping at least one of the three”, asked if they still have the \$100,000 that they could put back in Emergency repairs and help those families. She said there were no houses but there were tons of houses that could be rehabbed and that money would go a long way to help displaced families.

COMMISSIONER TAYKLOR MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THE \$100,000 EMERGENCY REPAIR MONEY ON THE AGENDA FOR RECONSIDERATION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Jail

She said when they have a situation at the jail that was very controversial and serious and legalities were there, how much was the County, being owner of the jail, exposed, how much were they liable for. Mr. Weiss said the County was responsible for the facility. Commissioner Taylor asked about the actions, Mr. Weiss asked operations and she said yes. He said anyone that was going to sue, would sue the County. He said they had some exposure for operations were the short answer without knowing details of what was going on. She asked if they would have an opportunity for a “shade” meeting and he said that was only if there was pending litigation. He said he was on complete dark.

Pat Thomas Park

She said tourists were trying to have a family gathering and heard it was still in disarray from the storm. She asked the Administrator how it looked and Mrs. Jackson said it was open for business and was almost open for business on the expansion as well.

Stevens School

She said they put bids out for the contracts and they have been rebid and closed earlier this week and will be bringing that back on the January 15th Agenda. Commissioner Taylor asked about the electrical work and Mrs. Jackson said it was moving along, they had done significant work and would have been done if they had a contract initially.

Administrator Contract

She asked where they were on her contract and Mrs. Jackson said she and the attorney had been working together and was told the Chair was usually part of the negotiations and there was no rush. Commissioner Morgan said there was a rush. The attorney said there was not enough time

to get it on this Agenda but will be on the next agenda.

Clerk

She said she has seen the emails between her and the Clerk and was so damaging and asked if they have established a way to repay back the overtime and asked if that was correct. Mrs. Jackson said Facebook Live was on and she could be very candid, the Clerk was not being cooperative with that. Commissioner Taylor asked if they had established a way for that to be paid back and Mrs. Jackson said "No, he does not talk except demands of email". Commissioner Taylor said maybe the attorney could be a liaison so that could get that underway.

Commissioner Holt said there were alternative vouchers in the State; if someone has a house that they wanted to rent out or a mobile home, let FEMA know.

Commissioner Hinson said piggybacking on what Commissioner Taylor said, what was disturbing to him was the word "complicit" the Clerk used and once you get the real, true meaning of the word, it was a strong word to use. He said with it in writing, it put them in a "back-pedal" move against the wall and not only was alleging one thing, it also was alleging they were in compliance with wrongdoing as well. He felt those were strong words he used in the letter and his name was put in there because he was a Board member and felt he was saying he was compliant with something that was wrong. He said he would love for him to come so they could discuss it because he was not complicit with any wrong doing.

Commissioner Morgan said he forgot to ask about permitting fees and asked if they were still being waived. Mrs. Jackson said permitting fees have been waived through January 15th and will be on the next agenda.

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie,, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said he was elected Chair as CRTPA and having Suzanne Lex here, who had been the liaison with CRTPA, if the Commissioners see any roads in dire need of attention, please bring to his attention and he will push them onto the work programs of CRTPA.

Receipt and File

- 20.** Letter from Florida Health
November 13, 2018 Letter from the Florida Department of Revenue
November 16, 2018 Letter from the Florida Department of Revenue
Letter from DEO

UPCOMING MEETINGS

19. January 15, 2019-6:00 p.m.-BOCC Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
December 18, 2018-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 P.M.



ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners