

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 2, 2019 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, County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked everyone to mute or turn off their phones. **Pastor Gerrard Lindsey of Mt. Zion AME Church, Havana, FL** gave the Invocation and Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Items 1, 14 and 16. Mr. Weiss said he thought they would be bringing Item 20 back at the next meeting. Mrs. Jackson said she wanted to respect the wishes of Commissioner Hinson and if this would not adversely affect the event, she would pull it. Commissioner Hinson said it would not. Chair Viegbesie said Items 1, 14, 16 and 20 would be pulled.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out and returned at 6:05 p.m.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- ~~1. Proclamation Honoring the Students that Participated in the Talquin Electric Youth Tour~~
Item Pulled

CONSENT

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

2. Scotland Road LAP Project Agreement
3. Strong Road Sidewalk LAP Agreement
4. Iron Bridge Road LAP Agreement
5. Approval of Resolution 2019-009 Urging the United States Congress to Pass Tax Relief for Individuals and Employers Suffering from Hurricane Michael

6. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ryan Tucker, Purvis, Gray and Company

Mark Payne, James Moore, CPA, 2477 Tim Gamble Place, Tallahassee,

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. Public Hearing-Approval of the Receipt of Hurricane IRMA Reimbursement

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the receipt of the Hurricane Irma reimbursement and recognition of the funds as revenue. She said a total of \$103,452.16 will be deposited in the Transportation Fund of the Fund Balance Account.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was anyone that had any comments and there were none.

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

8. Public Hearing-Budget Amendment for DSNAP Program

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of a budget amendment for the DSNAP Program. Due to limited staffing and resources at the Sheriff's Department, the Sheriff allowed other Law Enforcement Agencies Countywide to work during the DSNAP Program event to provide Law Enforcement and Traffic Control services during the event. She explained the State of Florida agreed to reimburse the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department for all expenses incurred during this event and the expenses were unbudgeted. The Sheriff's Office received \$79,410.07 from the State of Florida for the Law Enforcement and Traffic Control Services.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any comments from the citizens and there were none.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was a one-time refund and Mrs. Jackson responded yes.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Confirmation of the Public Works Director

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board confirmation of the employment of Fredrigas McNealy as the new Public Works Director.

Chair Viegbesie said Mr. McNealy was a fine young man, on the day he volunteered to work with Public Works, Mr. McNealy was his supervisor and he had confidence from what he observed on

that day.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if he met all the minimum obligations and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

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

10. Confirmation of Assistant County Administrator

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for confirmation of the employment of Wesley Hall as the new Assistant County Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said the narrative was not on the website currently but imagined a copy was available outside so it could be viewed and Mrs. Jackson said that was correct.

Mr. Hall appeared before the board and said he was excited to be here. He said he would love to bring his experiences and skills to the County.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. Bell Road (SCRAP)-Bid Award

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said to was for approval to award the bid of the Bell Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction in the amount of \$899,354.00.

Mr. Weiss said the low bid actually exceeded the amount in the construction budget and approval should be contingent upon Peavy & Sons accepting the amendment since low bid amount exceeded the construction budget amount. FDOT said it was OK to award the low bid but needed to make sure it was clear they were not awarding the contract at the bid amount.

Justin Ford, Dewberry, said DOT requires before negotiating with the contractor, they enter into the agreement and this was not the first time it had been done this way.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH THE AMENDMENT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt asked about the tabulation of each bidder. Mr. Ford explained three bids were received and Peavy was the low bidder by approximately \$70,000. He added it was an open bid and thought all three contractors were present when the bids were opened.

12. Bell Road (SCRAP)-CEI Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry/Preble-Rish for the Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services of the Bell Road SCRAP Paving Project.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE

BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Hinson asked when they would be working on Glade Road. Mr. Ford said that one was not one that was in the work program to be done now; it would be evaluated and put in the hopper.

13. Approval to Award RFP 19-02 for County Auditing Services

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid for County Auditing Services to Purvis, Gray and Company. She said two proposals were received: Purvis, Gray and Company and James Moore, CPA. The audit committee reviewed the proposals to determine if both proposals met the technical qualifications. The committee ranked Purvis, Gray and Company number one with a total cumulative score of 867 out of a possible 900 and James Moore was second with a total score of 767. The committee unanimously recommended that the Board award the contract to Purvis, Gray and Company for a three year period. It was her recommendation to reject the recommendation of the audit committee to not approve this item. She explained that common practice was that the auditing firm was switched every 5 years. She also said Staff was concerned that although the County pays for the audit, Purvis, Gray and Company refuses to show all information and the audits seemed to be biased based on the office as County staff have found discrepancies that were not identified in the audit. When Purvis, Gray and Company was notified, no investigation or changes were made. This was also confirmed by two other departments. She said it seemed with the length of service they have, that departments that have had issues before, they searched more than those that had no issues. Therefore some will always have a clean audit and the same departments always have a bad audit.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem in taking the advice of the committee and their recommendations. To the Administrator's comments, there have been issues with other auditing firms as far as the ability to effectively communicate and work with the Constitutionals Officers and has not seemed to be an issue since they have had Purvis, Gray and Company. He said he had never had any problem getting any information regarding the audits or any other issues. He said it would be his motion to approve option 1.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he could hold on his motion as there were two speakers that had comments.

Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray and Company appeared before the Board. He said this was the first time seeing this, heard there was a discrepancy in the audit and they met with the County Administrator on a couple of occasions and no discrepancies were brought to their attention in relation to the audit. He said they have been the County Auditor the past eight years and have had a partner rotation.

Mrs. Jackson asked if it was not true that she told him that there was "a pot of money" that was not a part of the audit and no investigation was done. She said she and Jeff Price talked to him about a pot of money that was not in the audit and nothing was said. The Sheriff also said they mentioned discrepancies that were not investigated and also County staff requested information from other audits and he refused, even though the County paid for the audit, was told it was the responsibility of the departments to provide information that they would need to create the general budget.

Mr. Tucker said the question to them was could they provide a General Ledger details and transactional information from a Constitutional Officer to the Board and their response was they needed to ask for their permission as required by professional standards as a courtesy to them. They felt those type of requests should go straight from County staff to the Constitutional Officers and not involve the auditors. He said he did not recall a separate part of money being brought to their attention and could assure her there was no separate part of money that was not being included in the financial statements of the audit. Furthermore, they have not issued their September 30, 2018 report yet and any findings were still being finalized at this point. He said there was no report for her to say that they have not reported on anything.

Mark Payne, James Moore, CPA appeared before the Board. He said he read the recommendation from the Constitutional Officers and appreciated it. He said when you look at the scoring, the biggest discrepancy on the scoring, he read the committee determined that both proposals met the technical qualifications and at the end of the day they would get a report from a CPA firm and they all follow the same standards. He said he was in Dr. Viegbesie's Economics class 32-33 years ago. The economics of the whole situation was if you compare their price to Moore's price over a three year period, Moore was \$86,500 cheaper than Purvis, Gray and Company. He said that was a lot of money that could go to further staff increases in salaries, help the community and the County.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SHE WAS ON THE COMMITTEE AND HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Taylor said she was on the committee and there were discrepancies and they had to call the attorney in. She said there were specifics in the specs they had required of the auditor and when she originally sat down, wanted to see change. When the Audit Committee met, they asked questions and got the answers. She said being a part of that committee, she stood with that committee.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION.

She also said it was most embarrassing that this type of information was put out at this particular point of the juncture about the company they have used for years when they probably should have given some information while they were either looking at the company or at some point and time and just like the gentleman from Purvis, this was the first time she heard about this.

Commissioner Hinson said he had reservations initially and when he called them, they were able to give him information and the only he problem had, the County gave them an increase when the County decreased his Summer Youth program but they had been fair to him.

Commissioner Holt asked to speak to Mr. Tucker. She said over the years they have not had a full audit. He explained the Financial Statement Audit as opposed to the Operational Audit. She said when it comes to funding, they have no idea what goes on in other departments. She said she had no problem with rebidding any contract. Mr. Tucker said if the County wanted them to provide any information, let them know and they would do the best they could. He added they did feel they needed to get the Constitutionals permission as it was their records before just turning over any audit documentation and thought it should be a conversation to come from the County. He added he thought the scope of what she was talking about was outside of what they were doing as

part of the professional auditing standards, Florida Statutes and so forth of what they were required to do. Commissioner Holt said this may be a conversation the Board needs to have.

Commissioner Taylor called the question.

Commissioner Holt asked the length of the contract.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was a second to the call of the question and Commissioner Morgan said yes. The Board voted 5-0.

Commissioner Holt said he did not answer her question and Chair Viegbesie asked that he respond to her question.

Ryan Tucker said three years is the usual length of the contract.

Commissioner Holt wanted to continue the conversation and Chair Viegbesie said the question has been called and it was out of the hands of the Commissioners' conversation.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT	NO
COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

THE VOTE PASSED 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSING.

Commissioner Holt said she had a question for the auditing firm because they have been selected and the reason she called the question earlier was the County did not say if they wanted them to go in a new direction, they just agreed for them to continue what they were doing.

Chair Viegbesie said point well taken and asked the Administrator to take that point into action and have a follow-up conversation with the audit firm.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt that conversation should be around the Board, she did not want to paint this firm into a corner with what has been posed as opposition from the Administrator with her not approving them and it be biased.

Chair Viegbesie asked that the Administrator work on scheduling a workshop.

14. ~~Consideration of Partnering with SynergyNDS to Repair Hurricane Damaged County Buildings through the Florida League of Cities~~

Item Pulled

15. Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout-Bid Award

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout to North Florida Asphalt in the amount of \$176,500.00.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:50 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this money was funded by the paving money appropriated for that district and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

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

16. Approval of the County Social Media Policy Number 19-01

Item Pulled

17. FAMU Student Assistance for the Stevens School Expansion Project

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the stipend and duties of students from Florida A&M University surrounding the Stevens School Expansion Project.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:53 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan asked where the \$1,000 would come from and Mrs. Jackson said from the Stevens School insurance proceeds.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not in agreement with this because the committee has already met and this was another method of making this drag out. The committee has already met and came up with a design as to what they wanted to do and the students have come up with something totally different. She said having the students do a portion of it, yes, but at this juncture this was not, they needed to see some movement there. She said she did receive an email or text (from the Administrator) indicating she was going to meet with the citizens to tell them they now had students that would come tell them what to do, that all the meetings they held would be null and void because the students would now take lead of it. She added that the people had wasted their time coming out. She said that overtaking what the citizens had done was unfair and all those meetings that the people participated in was unfair to take that responsibility out of their hands and drag this out even longer. There was to be movement on that building five – seven months ago and nothing has happened. She said now they were putting in another element that would cause even more of a drag-out and she had a problem with it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Citizen Advisory Committee was aware of this and Commissioner Taylor said no, this was another... Mrs. Jackson said she wanted to answer without sounding biased. She said there was an existing structure; the community voted on what they wanted in that structure and staff was proceeding with that. She said there is a large piece of property that exists with nothing on it and the FAMU students will come and help design that under the direction of the committee. She said that was why she wanted to call a meeting with the committee and she wanted Commissioner Taylor to preside, as she has previously. She said this was not her decision. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any reason why they could not have the Advisory Committee made aware of this, let them write the Board a letter of support or non-support and get their feed-back. He asked if there was anything “on fire” that they had to vote on it tonight or if it could wait until the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Taylor had a good point and she mentioned that to the members when they called her. She said they had discussed getting the building up to hurricane

standards in case they needed to use it for a shelter. She also said the Sheriff said if the building could be brought up to hurricane standards to be used, even if only used for the disabled during the hurricane. She told them that Commissioner Taylor had heartburn about everyone not buying in and told the ones there for them to call the other members and notify them so they would know.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not hear any discrepancies or disagreement on the purpose the facility should be developed. He heard from Commissioner Morgan the item should be pulled and brought back after the Advisory Committee has agreed to work in the direction that the school students want to go and bring the item back to the Commission.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS MATTER AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said he had requested \$5,000 instead of the \$1,000. Chair Viegbesie said that was noted so when it was brought back, that could be discussed.

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

18. Discussion of the Summer Youth Program

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion on increasing the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance. She said currently it would yield 44 jobs based on the numbers. She said Staff surveyed local counties, Leon, Liberty, Calhoun, Gulf, Wakulla and Jackson, asking if they had such programs and out of the six, only one had such a program and was Leon County. She said the estimated cash General Fund balance was \$2.8 Million as of today and the demand of the funds were high due to the recent hurricane. She said Staff also learned of termite damage and other health concerns for the Ed Butler Building. It should be noted that revenue is expected to decrease considering declining property values due to Hurricane Michael and the recent tornado. She also said in Leon County their funding for the Student program does not come from the County budget.

Chair Viegbesie said this item was very near to him and added if they recalled he insisted that \$50,000 remain in the budget because the program was going to be entirely taken out of the budget. He said his take on this was, in Leon County the Summer Youth program, private agencies that hire youth are the ones that pay them and was not taxpayers' money used. He suggested they solicit private agencies and would have a lot more able to be hired. He said maybe GCDC and Chamber to start soliciting private companies to hire the youth.

Commissioner Hinson said they must invest in the youth. He added with reducing funding from \$132,250 to \$50,000, there is crime in the communities and they do not want to employ the kids.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Janice Maxwell, 715 Harden Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. She said she was an educator and the success of the community is the youth.

Chair Viegbesie said this was agendaed for discussion only so there was no need for it to be tabled.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Ms. Maxwell for coming. He asked for this to go on the Agenda for the next meeting so they could vote on it.

Commissioner Holt thanked Mrs. Maxwell for her comments. She said there said there were citizens that would say different; that they do not pay their taxes to the County for that purpose. She asked how much the School system contributes to the Summer Youth program and the local municipalities also. She also said she was sure this would be the last year she voted for this program unless it was conducted by an entity like CareerSource. She further stated they were at \$2.8 Million and it was recommended they be at \$3.5 in the Reserves and did not want them to go too much further down on that number. She said it was not the Youth program, just how they managed the money.

Commissioner Hinson said they just put on the floor to pay some students from Tallahassee to come here and do some work. He said now they want to pay students in Gadsden County to do work in Gadsden County and now say they need to go to the School Board and other resources and something was wrong with that statement.

Chair Viegbesie said for the record that the money that was to be used for the FAMU students was coming from the fire insurance fund, not the General Fund that was already in serious stress.

Leslie Steele, City Manager from Midway, appeared before the Board and said she stood in support of her Commissioner's desire to keep this program and asked that they do reach out to the municipalities and ask how they could play a role with the businesses. She also asked they take the extra money from Purvis Gray and apply to this program.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:20 p.m.

Jim McShane, CareerSource, appeared before the Board. He stated they would like to help and work with the County next year in putting something together. He said they were stretched because they were also in the middle of doing work with Leon County and doing their Summer Program. He said they could bring additional resources to the table. He said they would like to sit down in August and put some perimeters in place. He said they had discussed with Ms. Black on how they could make this work smoothly from beginning to end.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:22 p.m.

He said the program can grow and he agreed with both Commissioners on getting GCDC and the Chamber involved.

Mrs. Maxwell appeared before the Board again. She said if the applications were out, everyone should know about them; there should be a set time they were sent to the schools.

Chair Viegbesie asked that she schedule an appointment with Mrs. Jackson and HR.

19. Discussion of the Emergency Housing Program

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was presented for discussion of a possible re-establishment of the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance. She reiterated that the Cash General Fund Balance was \$2.8 Million as of today and the demands for these funds were high due to the recent hurricane.

Commissioner Hinson said this was another item he brought up as well. He felt this was something they should look at as there were a lot of serious needs in the County.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THIS PUT ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

Commissioner Holt said there was \$100,000 in the fund for Housing.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:33 p.m.

She said they needed to spend that money wisely. She felt people should put some in to get some out and said there was a lady that called her and said the County spent \$68,000 on her house and said they should see how a wall was painted. She said there had to be a way to look at the situation and wanted constraints on the money.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:36 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked for research to be brought back regarding the Senior Citizens that live in this County.

20. Black Biz Crawl and Expo
Item Pulled

CLERK OF COURT

21. Updates
Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

22. Updates
Mrs. Jackson said Gadsden County Day at the Capitol was a huge success. The Black Caucus was impressed and was considering adopting Gadsden County and putting some funding behind it. She added that they will be touring the County to look at the damage later in the week.

She informed them that applications for the Summer Youth Program will be accepted from April 1st to April 26th.

Mrs. Jackson asked for direction regarding Task Orders. She said it was her understanding if it was under the threshold of \$25,000, the Board wished for the Administrator to execute all the Task Orders versus bringing them all before the Board. She said they were confused about it between them and the Clerk's Office and the Attorney as to what the Board's direction was and asked for clarity.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that particular item with regard to the threshold that would not have to come to the Board for approval of the expenditure if that was in a meeting they had and thought it was specific and took care of that. He said he was not sure how that was coming back for question in regards to their Procurement Policy.

Mr. Thomas said he heard what was said and there was a statute that says all contracts, agreements, etc, were to be signed by the Board, regardless of your amount. He said the problem becomes with the County Administrator signing the documents. They should be presented to the Board, signed by Chair, that's the Clerk's interpretation. He added they believed the Board ought to know about these things, even if the item was presented on the Consent Agenda for ratification.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought that particular concern of the County Administrator has just been addressed with the comment the Clerk just made, put it on the Consent Agenda. He said also, if he understood the Clerk correctly, he was saying if the expenditure was to be for an item that was not contractual; it did not have to come before the Board. Mr. Thomas agreed. The Clerk said the Board ought to see the Task Orders, Change Orders, Contracts, and Agreements and them be made a part of the record.

Mrs. Jackson said publically, she did not agree or disagree with that, she just wanted to follow the will of the Board. The Task Order that was in question the Board had accepted the bid of an Architect. She said they were currently trying to get the Communications Systems up and going at the Sheriff's Office and this Task Order was presented by the Architect who designed that room and will need to bring that back at the next meeting according to the Clerk's Office. She said she would prefer to move forward with the Capital Projects if it was not \$25,000. She added that according to the County Attorney, if this Board approved her authority on that, then she could move forward with it in the future. She said it was just for Continuing Services Agreements they have already approved, not for everybody.

Mr. Weiss said they have certain Continuing Contracts that they have approved as a Board and under those Continuing Contracts; there have to be separate Task Orders to be approved. He added that they approved certain contractors so they do not have to go out to bid everything pursuant to their Procurement Policy. He added they did have to have a Task Order that was approved. What the Clerk was referring to, there is a statute that says under the Administrator's authority, they could negotiate different contracts but they were subject to Board approval. Their Procurement Policy says was somewhat inconsistent in that it says under \$25,000, could be approved by the Administrator without coming back to the Board. He said their policy did not expressly state that the Administrator was authorized to execute contracts, task orders and did not think the Continuing Contracts specifically state that either; he thought they stated they would be approved by the County, but it was a matter of interpretation. He said his advice to the Administrator was if it was the will of the Board and if the Board wanted everything to come so they could see it again as a Consent item that was fine. If it was the will of the Board they do not want things that were under \$25,000 to come to them, even in the form of a Consent Order, they could make that expressly clear in the Continuing Contracts and in the Procurement Policy. He said he did not know if that would change the Clerk's interpretation of the Statute, but it would be something they could do to make it clear in their contracts and policy that that was the will of the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a conflict between the local government policy and the State policy,

the State policy actually supersedes. He said for them to do what was right by the law and will operate in that way. He told the Administrator if they need to bring that back to iron out the Procurement policy to make sure they were not in conflict with the State Statutes and hoped the Clerk of the Court, the County Administrator and the Attorney read from the same sheet music with regard to the interpretation so they were not verging in different directions. He suggested they meet and see how it could be resolved.

Commissioner Holt said “previous practice” and was all she had to say.

Commissioner Taylor said it sounded like change orders to her and the Board needed to consider them. She added that \$25,000 was a lot of money to give free rein over, when she hears someone say they need to look at the contracts or what was being done, it makes her pull back. She said earlier, some months ago, they voted on something that they did not vet thoroughly and because of that “we had to hold our nose and let this thing go on by”. She said in her opinion, the threshold should be at \$5,000 and \$25,000 was too much money given what has happened in the past. She added they were telling the students there was no money for summer employment but they were giving free rein to the County Administrator to spend \$25,000 at will and it concerned her. She said she thought they needed to look at that threshold and Commissioner Hinson said he would second that. She also felt when a bid needed to be changed after approval; it needed to come back to them for further approval. She said she heard what the Clerk was saying when he said for them to look at it and she wanted to look at it.

Chair Viegbesie said if they recalled, when he was elected, the limit on the expenditures of the County Administrator was \$25,000 and they voted to make it \$5,000. Then some of them voted and raised it back to \$25,000. Now, where have they gotten the epiphany to cut it back?

Commissioner Holt said the difference was when it was \$25,000, they were building libraries, fire stations, etc. and it saved them from running back and forth. She said they could not do it according to who the Administrator was that was not how to do policy; they do policy according to what their needs were. She said they really need a grant writer.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the one that made the motion to reduce the amount when Robert Presnell was the Administrator because the funding was low and think when they knew it was his last month in office; he made the motion made to increase \$25,000. He said at that time they had about \$7 Million in the bank and now they are down to \$2.8 Million and they need to look carefully at every penny now.

Mrs. Jackson said the Clerk provides oversight over the dollars that she spends and they make sure nothing is spent except what has been budgeted; having the threshold at \$25,000 actually saves money because the business that they are doing, a lot of it comes to that threshold that has been budgeted and the reason it saves money was because they were able to get quotes under that amount versus bidding where everyone increases the amount. She pointed out during her tenure they have actually saved money in a whole lot of areas, whether personnel, whatever and have also increased revenue.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

23. Updates

Mr. Weiss said at the end of the special meeting there were questions at the end of the meeting regarding advice or opinions he had given and he wanted to clarify to the extent if there was any misunderstanding or miscommunication, he apologized. He said to start with the premise of what the policy said and recognized that and thought it was understood what the policy said. He added his only point in responding to the question the Administrator asked was at the time the Board decided vote to pay all employees overtime compensation, unless they were to take the position that there was some intentional misleading, they could not treat the Administrator different from other exempt employees. He said that was the question that was asked and was how he responded. If the Administrator wanted to voluntarily give back the money that was fine but if not, this Board should not be in a position where it was treating the Administrator differently from other exempt employees and trying to have that money paid back involuntarily and was his point and sorry if there was a misunderstanding.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the contract with CRMC. When was the contract up for renewal and when will the Board have updates on revisions that were being made to it before it runs out and renewal is necessary. He said to the attorney his law firm was the one that represented the County and Mrs. Jackson was the one that was the Chief Executive Officer for the County. She said she has requested a three month extension on that to go past June and was waiting on them to agree to it. Mr. Weiss said Mr. Glazer has been working actively on this and has sent a red-line draft lease to them for their input. He added that with respect to the dates, they recognized everything would take some time in terms of back and forth and wanted to make sure there was a sufficient amount of time for everyone to have input. He said they believed that at the end of June in terms of the automatic renewal but they were trying to get an extension on that date for three months to make sure there was a sufficient amount of time and they had communicated that at this point and was waiting on a response from Capital Regional.

Commissioner Holt said she sent some emails out requesting information on this item because she felt they should do a proposal and a counter-proposal. She said if they were not allowed that opportunity even by their own attorney and he may propose something to CRMC that they have not looked over. She said there was one member of the GHI Board that wanted to look at a copy of the contract. She felt this required more work than the last contract. She asked Mr. Weiss to let Mr. Glazer know the need to get on this.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Weiss to impress on his law firm the sense of urgency with regards to this so it would not be delayed and the contract be automatically rolled over.

He assured them they understood, appreciated and agreed and they have been pressing ahead and do appreciate the urgency. He added in speaking with the Administrator on how to process this, they felt they had enough information based on the joint workshop and from staff to go forward.

Commissioner Holt said this was a time factor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

24. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked Justin Ford to come forward. He asked the status of Brickyard Road. Mr. Ford said that was a DOT project and they understood that project was scheduled to move forward to the construction phase in August of this year.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Ford about the Beautification project at I-10. He was not familiar with the project. Chair Viegbesie asked her to email that concern to the Administrator and then her to him and he would check on that at the next CRTPA meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said had a lot of concerns from citizens, there was a major road development off of Martin Luther King and Ms. Steele spoke up and said it was a gas line from Jacksonville to Texas.

Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board regarding the FDOT beautification project and said it was not through CRTPA, it was through Economic Development. She said Freightliner had come to them and asked what they could do to improve the intersection and get more visibility for businesses. DOT had some mitigation money and offered that to Gadsden County and it was the responsibility of Gadsden County to design it and there needed to be a maintenance agreement for that.

Commissioner Hinson said he brought up a couple of years ago, when coming from the Quincy exit toward Midway/Tallahassee it doesn't show Midway and asked who was responsible for that. Mrs. Jackson said Mr. McNealy could take care of that, he was also working on Gretna.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan requested to have an item agendaed at the next meeting regarding the County Administrator's position for discussion and action and asked for a second. Commissioner Taylor made the second. Chair Viegbesie said it will put on there.

Facebook Live

He asked if they were currently on Facebook and did not recall that being brought before the Board to discuss and requested that be brought back on the agenda also.

He said he asked about the repaving on Little Sycamore Road, he saw some emails and appreciated the updates and wanted to make sure citizens were aware it had been addressed and would be taken care of.

Mr. Ford re-appeared and said he assumed they were talking about the crack that developed in the widened portion and said they were not inspecting the job but obviously there was a flaw in the construction. He said the project was not near complete and still quite a bit of work left to do on the job and thought there was confusion because sod was laid and common practice is they install the sod before the final lift of asphalt. They are going to have to tear out that section.

Mrs. Jackson asked for clarification regarding the County Administrator, was it to remove the Administrator. Chair Viegbesie asked what would the options of the actions to be taken be in the discussion. Commissioner Morgan said it was a general agenda item to have an open discussion to make a decision if necessary on moving forward with the County Administrator's position.

Mr. Weiss said by statute removal requires notice and felt it right for it to be agendaed and the

Administrator had a right to request a hearing.

Commissioner Morgan said if that was the decision they make and the action they take based on discussion that was great.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to see the Grant writer position agendaed to get some money in here.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:19 p.m.

She also wanted some discussion on SCRAP and SCOP money.

She also would like to schedule a meeting after this legislative session to see how better they could work it.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:20 p.m.

Capital Regional Issue

She said it was very important to discuss that ahead of time.

She said the distance between Quincy and the high schools were too far to travel during hurricanes. She said they need to work with the School Board. There is a box they can check if they do not want to retrofit to hurricane standards when building a new school that it does not have to be built to hurricane standards. She said they need to discuss that with them. She said she wanted the two Boards to sit down together.

She said she had discussed before about going to Columbus, MS and they need to get a bus.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked about the Gulf Pipeline, was that the same outfit that tried to come before? Someone reached out to her and she had discussion with a particular business about eminent domain about the pipes. She said she was told that they would not be trying to take land but now was getting letters from property owners where land was trying to be taken.

She said Hurricane season was coming back. The County failed previously to get Red Cross to certify some of buildings to be shelters. She said hurricane season was almost here and they still had no input from Red Cross as to who could be identified to open a shelter.

She wanted to talk about the Change Orders and it not to go by and was concerned. She said she wanted to protect her (Administrator) and the County moving forward with regard to the change orders and not having any oversight when spending \$25,000 at a pop. She said someone mentioned they needed to have a workshop regarding the Procurement Policy and having a little more control because \$25,000 could be spent over and over on the same project if there was not language to stop it. She wanted to make sure there was language in place to make sure the Board has control of expenditures.

She said she heard earlier about purchasing schools, not hiring students because it was the

school's responsibility, but purchasing schools for economic development and she differed on that. She said when students learned, that was economic development because they were given wealth and knowledge they would need in order to go into the workforce and make dollars.

She also heard it said tonight they should have people meet halfway regarding housing but if they look at who is getting the help, seniors on fixed income, disabled and handicapped, they have limited income. She said the next year all the money was still sitting there and no-one has been helped because there were not many people that could meet the match and after a while SHIP will want that money back because they were not spending it. She said that the piece of property that they increased the value of becomes paying revenue to the County.

She asked the Administrator to find out about the Gulf Pipe Line and peoples' property being taken; want to target Red Cross about facilities; and want to bring back the \$25,000 threshold to have agendaed for discussion as to whether they want to continue moving forward with the \$25,000 threshold that the County Administrator has to spend without the blessing of the Board. She said the Clerk said some contracts have gone forward and the Board has not seen them and she wanted to see what has gone forward without their blessing.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the opportunity to break bread with the Appropriations Chair and Al Lawson's name came up. He said they need to do what was right and he made motion to put (lobbying) on the next agenda to do what was right. His team has the relationship and the County needs all the help that can be got in Gadsden County. He said they need to look at that process again and wanted to discuss and vote on it at the next meeting. Chair Viegbesie said he and the Administrator will consider that because of the ramifications that will go into another fiscal constraint. He said with the lobbying firm they currently have, the monies to retain them not only came from the County but the municipalities as well. He said they talk about monies to spend and there was no money in the coffers. He said they could agenda it for consideration.

Commissioner Taylor said she concurred with Commissioner Hinson it be agendaed.

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

Chair Viegbesie said there was a good job done at Gadsden County Day at the Capitol. All he heard was the raving of Gadsden County during that day.

Receipt and File

25.

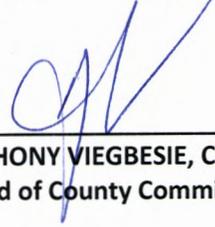
UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 2, 2019-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:39 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk