

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA HELD ON APRIL 16, 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
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie asked everyone to please mute their phones and called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. He asked Pastor Mark Moore, Calvary Baptist Church to come forward to give the Invocation. Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:03 p.m.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:04 p.m.

Mrs. Jackson said there were several amendments. She wanted to pull Item 1 as the youth was not able to attend and wanted to pull Item 15 and replace it with an item that was sent to the Commissioners last week regarding the EMS Data Collection Funding Assistance Grant Award.

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

Commissioner Holt asked why Item 15 was being pulled and Mrs. Jackson said it should have been scored by staff.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

~~**1. Proclamation Honoring T’Onj McGriff for being selected as an Alternate in the Talquin Electric Youth Tour**~~
Item Pulled

CONSENT

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

2. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Down Payment and Closing Cost

Assistance Program

- 3 Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County**
- 4. Ratification of Approval and Authorization of the Chairperson’s Execution of the Contract Amendment Request to DOS/DHR Grant No. SC731 Old Courthouse Renovation**
- 5. Ratification Memo**
 - a. March 19, 2019-Ratification Memo**
 - b. April 2, 2019**
 - c.**
- 6. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. August 14, 2018-Special Budget Meeting**
 - b. February 12, 2019-Senior Citizens Center Workshop**
 - c. February 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**
 - d. March 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL appeared before the Board and said the Mosquito truck came through Lake Yvette and killed all of a neighbor’s butterflies and bees. He said there were other ways of handling mosquitos beside chemical spraying and asked the County to look into alternative ways.

Gary Moore, 437 Lincoln Drive, Chattahoochee, FL appeared before the Board and said he had a question about the Mosquito Creek Bridge on Lincoln Drive in Chattahoochee. He said patchwork repairs were done approximately a year ago and was starting to wash away. He asked if the County had proper engineers to inspect it because it has taken some serious hits recently. He said also the work done had changed the flow of the creek and did not think that was environmentally right and wanted the bridge thoroughly inspected.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:12 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said the County Administrator heard his concerns and she will be working with the Public Works Director to look into this matter.

Stephanie Brown, 614 Reed Street, Chattahoochee, FL appeared before the Board and said during Hurricane Michael County Road 270A took a big hit and washed out the road at the bottom of the hill. She said the County repaired it and it was ok for a while but now there was a large dip and it was a heavily traveled area with trucks and cars. She said another problem road was Lincoln Drive and that was another major thoroughfare. Chair Viegbesie suggested the County Administrator along with the Public Works Director look at the roads.

Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Chattahoochee, FL appeared before the Board regarding Item 7 and a non-agenda item on Debris. Mrs. Chatham wanted to talk about storm debris and said District 3 was hit hard and was having to deal with forest fires, and have trees that were still

falling. She said people were still putting debris beside the road and asked what the County was going to do and if there would be more pick-up service?

Chair Viegbesie said at the CRTPA meeting, the Commissioners also expressed the same concerns and was told the State was going to begin some pick-up with debris and he asked if it would include State and County roads. He said he understood the State will come back with more pick-ups. He asked the County Administrator to give an update.

Mrs. Jackson said she could look into what the State could do but the debris company left about a month ago and had cleared the entire County before leaving.

Commissioner Holt said she was told by Congressman Lawson that neither the State nor FDOT have received FEMA money yet and was one of the hold-ups.

Samuel Stevens, 45 Imani Circle, Midway, FL Item 8

Danny Miller, 1600 Reynolds Road, Quincy, FL – CBOR-

Ben Albert, 814 Dodger Ball , Quincy

Dorothy Smith, 814 Dodger Ball Park Road,

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. Public Hearing-(Legislative) Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-018 for the Amendment of Chapters 1 and 7 of the Land Development Code, specifically regarding the 'Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights' (LDR 2018-01)

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Ordinance 2018-018 for the Amendment of Chapter 1 and Chapter 7 of the Land Development Code.

Danny Miller, 1600 Reynolds Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He said he was a real estate developer and this ordinance was one of the most oppressive and confusing Ordinances to try to comply with and was full of ambiguities. He said there has to be a meeting with the public with ones that would be impacted by the development and it specifically states that as a developer, they have to notify people within one mile of what was happening. He went through that process on a development and that was one of the most difficult jobs he had ever done. He said the whole thing needed to be scrapped and re-written. He said if they were going to require a meeting, it should be managed in a forum such as the Commission Room and should be governed by County Officials, not by developers. One of the recommendations was to abolish it and rewrite it and he was in favor of that. He said the way it was currently written discourages development. He added this was the only County in the State of Florida that has an Ordinance such as this. He said Paragraph D requires a super majority vote for all Comprehensive Plan amendments as well as major land development reviews, including variances, special conditions, major site plans, major subdivisions and to repeal the CBOR Ordinance. He asked why a super majority vote was needed and not a simple majority vote and that needs to be changed. He then read from the Agenda Request Item. He said he was experienced in developments and had done it for 45 years. He added that if this was not changed, he did not think they would find developers willing to come in.

Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL appeared before the Board. He said he would like this

put aside and get a group of citizens, developers and environmental people from the Homeowners' Associations together and look at the CBOR to see if it could be revised and make it more agreeable. He added he would like to have the opportunity and asked it to be tabled and appoint a group of citizens. He said he agreed with Mr. Miller that there were problems with this.

Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Chattahoochee, FL appeared before the Board again and said her pet peeve was the super majority and she was in favor of it and felt it was a good thing. She said she knew if something was good, they would be voting in favor of it. She agreed that it needed to be redone and she would be willing to sit on the Board.

Commissioner Holt said she did not speak in favor of CBOR and it was one of the worst laws they had ever passed and was why they never saw any growth in the County. She said when businesses decide they want to move their company, they do not call, they investigate things on the internet and when they see all the hoops they have to jump through but could step into Madison County or an adjoining counties that did not restrict a company before they come and was not the way good business was done. She added that Jackson County applied for grants for their intersections at I-10 to run sewer, water and electricity and changed their zoning to attract the business. She said there were other places in the State that has the CBOR but not a super majority vote. She added this was the only County in the Panhandle that has four exits off I-10 and hopefully FDOT was considering another one off Highway 65 because of the Hurricane. She added this hurt them more than it helped and they should vote to get rid of it.

Commissioner Morgan chose to look at this in a different manner; the CBOR was about communication, notification and process. He said this might require another step in the process and would never apologize in taking another 30 days to make sure that the citizens were notified and aware of anything that might be going on within the County. All growth in the County was not good growth; they want growth but for it to be growth that made sense and compliments the rural integrity of the County. He said citizens would want to know if they owned property in a rural area and a major development was going to take place next to their property that would affect the integrity of their property. He said other counties use the process and he had no issues with talking about ways to improve this. He said the super majority vote was important because it allows them to protect the integrity of the County. He said there were six municipalities in the County and none were alike, have different size communities and different voting bases there and was not evenly geographically spread out among the County and did not have an even tax base or voter base. He said he was not going to budge on the super majority vote and felt it was important for the taxpayers and citizens of the County.

Chair Viegbesie said he has been calling for a revision of the CBOR and the way it was now he felt was work in progress and did not see any reason why to approve the recommendation and the revision that was currently made. He added that he was not ashamed to say if left to him, it would not be in place, this was a work in progress and with the changes and revisions they have, he will support this hoping that they would begin to talk about it and dialogue would continue and the workshop will continue until it was made more pro-economic development.

Commissioner Holt said it was an intimidation to citizens that were trying to develop their own property because they have to pay fees and may have someone next to them that wants to build a house on one acre lots and they have to go through this whole process in order to do so. She said the other thing was, to require four votes to change the Ordinance itself, which requires four votes

to change the zoning. She said she did not believe it was illegal to require four votes to change the zoning, but thought it illegal to require four votes to change the CBOR. She added that it was very important that they do this.

Commissioner Taylor said this item was one where they have to look into it to see if it were a disadvantage or an advantage. Gadsden County has a lot of other things causing businesses to not come here. The exchanges have been there for years before the CBOR was inducted and to date, there were still no infrastructure. There were a lot of other factors that businesses look at when choosing their location. She said this CBOR has nothing to do with their property. She added that three commissioners flew themselves to Hawaii with their (taxpayers') money because there were three to vote on it and they better be careful. She said the only reason she supported it was because she was terrified of three people running this County; terrified of the integrity and whether or not they meant good to the County and the Citizens. She said she did not want to see a nuclear waste plant being put in this community because three said it could go there and nothing else could stop it. She said jobs were coming, just not at the rate they would like; there were a lot of factors businesses would look at before coming. She said she would like to workshop this again because she was the one that asked it be placed on the Agenda because so many people have been lied to about what it actually meant. She felt this needed to be workshopped so the citizens could be clear what this was all about.

Commissioner Holt said if she had a choice and it could not be removed altogether, she would vote for the changes because that would be an improvement for the citizens, especially when it came to jobs. She said in looking at the process, they could not look at the fact they have businesses. When looking at the businesses that came, Four Star Freightliner came inside the city limits of Midway because they refused to come because of the County requirements; Midway did not require all the laws the County did. She said they had to talk to Hoover several times to keep them here because they were frustrated with the process and was getting ready to pull out. She said this was about economics. She said if there was a choice, they should not table this but approve the changes because they were sensible. She said she felt they should pass these things that would help to look at these items.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think this item should be pulled or tabled because there was a meeting while he was out of the country and this item was scheduled for a public hearing and vote. It went to Planning and Zoning, now it was back and they want to pull it again and send it back to Planning and was not what they were elected to do. He suggested they vote it up or down and let the chips fall where they may.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with talking about it in the future but tonight he made a motion.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 2 TO NOT ADOPT.

Commissioner Holt said she made a motion while she still had the floor.

Commissioner Hinson said he believed teamwork makes dream work. He said they need four people to vote for this; he voted to abolish it last time and will go with the commissioners if they

want a workshop. He said they need to workshop this next Monday and believed in working together.

Commissioner Holt pointed out both she and Commissioner Morgan made a motion and neither was seconded.

COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID HER MOTION WAS FOR OPTION 1, APPROVE THE CHANGES AND COULD HAVE A WORKSHOP AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION FAILED BY A VOTE OF 3-2

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 2 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH AN AMENDMENT THAT THEY RESCHEDULE A WORKSHOP/MEETING IF COMMISSIONER MORGAN WAS WILLING TO AMEND.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with workshop, but a special meeting was an issue. He felt they should have a workshop so citizens could come and voice opinions and then have it agendaed for a meeting and do it step-by-step to make it better. Commissioner Taylor said she was willing to work with him.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID HER SECOND WAS TO NOT ADOPT BUT TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN WAS GOOD WITH THAT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO SCHEDULE THIS ITEM FOR A WORKSHOP.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they would vote that night and was told no, but it would be on the very next agenda. Chair Viegbesie said it would be on the May 7th Agenda.

Commissioner Taylor said this item has appeared on the Agenda twice in the last three months because they did not have a full Board and they were advised by the Attorney that since there was not a full Board, it was required to be rescheduled.

Mrs. Jackson asked if it could be on the next Agenda and Mr. Weiss said yes because of the extra week.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8. Consideration of Providing Notice to the County Administrator of Intent to Remove and Right to Request a Hearing, and to Schedule a Meeting or Hearing to consider Removal and Termination**
Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of providing notice to the County Administrator of the BOCC's intent to remove her from her position and her right to request a hearing and to schedule a meeting or hearing to consider removal and termination.

Commissioner Morgan said he requested this and the reason why was to go through the proper steps and provide her with an opportunity to request a hearing if they decide to terminate or remove her from this position and terminate her services with the County and move in a different direction.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood this item was for discussion and action and did not recall the Board determining the intent of the meeting and thought the Board had decided for her to vacate the position and now the Board was voting to give her a hearing after the decision was made and asked how the BOCC got here.

Commissioner Morgan said his personal opinion, he wanted the item scheduled to discuss the position and action taken at this meeting and part of the process was to offer her the opportunity to request a hearing if she so chose to do so according to §127.73(2) Fla. Stat. , but at the point where he asked for a vote on this item, it would be his intent to give her that opportunity if she should would like to do so. If not, it has been offered to her and they could move forward in whatever direction this Board as a whole chose to take.

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator if she was interested in a hearing if the Board chose to terminate her position and she said yes if she was terminated.

Chair Viegbesie said in looking at the package, what was the specific reason for attaching the Agreement for the previous County Administrator. Mr. Weiss said he would have to defer to Commissioner Morgan. Commissioner Morgan said it was for comparison purposes and to show the contracts very comparable in the two agreements. He said as far as the Statute attached to the item, if it were the will of the Board to consider Option 1, he wanted her to understand they intend to remove her from the position and her right to request a hearing. Chair Viegbesie said their vote now was for approval of the intent of the Board to remove the current County Administrator and following, whether or not she wanted hearing. Commissioner Morgan said she already indicated she wanted a hearing by the response she gave to Commissioner Holt. He said Option 1, if it passed, was to let her know their intent was to remove her from the position and that she had a right to request, which she has already indicated she would like to so; there is only one action item in Option 1.

Samuel Stevens, 45 Imani Circle, Midway, FL appeared before the Board. He said he had a problem. He said he heard words like “Rookie of the Year” and “Freshman Quarterback” directed to Mrs. Jackson at the last meeting and was the first meeting he had been to. He said he did not understand how they (Board) give them a County Administrator who collectively brings all the cities together, go to the Capitol to make a showing, like putting lipstick on a pig and not mean anything? He said they were trying to get legislation passed to the County. Midway was the fastest and more attractive city in the County. Mrs. Jackson spearheaded all of the meetings with the delegates for them to be where they were and they were waiting on money, They may be the only city to receive the money and now they were telling them today that they are going to fire her and everything was done in vain. He said they had to get out of their personal feelings, they look like Midway used to. He said “the last time I played cards, they took the joker out of the deck, there were two of them and the Ace of Spades was King”. He said it was 2019 and they needed to come together. He added they needed to move the County in a positive direction and if she was not here, they were separated and don’t need the County.

Chair Viegbesie made his comment and quoted a scripture from the Bible.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION CARRIED 3-2.

Chair Viegbesie said they voted to remove the current Administrator. He asked if it was effective immediately or something that had to be done another way.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt Dee Jackson is a very smart, intelligent woman and they have had conversations where her skills far outweigh a lot.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:32 p.m. and passed the gavel to Commissioner Taylor.

She said the only concern she ever had was her hands were tied and she could not do the things she had the skills to do and her confidence became compromised. She said she was a smart woman and thought in a few years no-one could unseat her from this job when she comes back, because she will be back.

Roosevelt Rogers asked why get rid of her.

There were other comments from the audience and Vice Chair Taylor stated when the Chair stepped out, she became the Chair and asked that Mr. Rogers be removed and said there was to be no more hostility, as that was not necessary. She said the question asked was a valid question, they were not looking to relieve her tonight, never had those intentions and thought it should be a transition if she was willing to work; should be done with respect and integrity.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:34 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan deferred to the attorney and said the next step was to schedule a hearing and proceed from there.

Mr. Weiss said that was accurate under the Statute it was clear the vote was a Notice of Intent and right to request a hearing and same has been requested and the hearing should take place presumably at the next meeting but that was up to the Board in terms of when that was scheduled and that would be the opportunity for the Board to actually vote on termination under the contract. Commissioner Taylor asked when that would be scheduled and Mr. Weiss said he assumed it would be the next meeting. He said under the Employment Agreement, there was a 30 day notice termination provision. He said if at the next meeting, if they want to consider the hearing at the next County Commission meeting that would be the opportunity to potentially

provide 30 days' notice.

Commissioner Holt said she did not think should be done in a regular meeting because the hearing may take a while, it should be at least two hours before the regular meeting because there may be issues they will need to look at.

Chair Viegbesie said if it was going to be in a regular meeting, that should be the only item on that agenda because there will be positions to be provided, some legal representations and comments that will be made and felt it was something that could last a while.

Commissioner Morgan said with that being said, he certainly agreed with the comments and had no problem with scheduling for May 7th, which was the first Tuesday in May for 4:00.

Commissioner Holt said if there were any items that was pressing that the citizens have and Board won't know about, things coming up, zoning change and DCA, they needed to allow them the opportunity so if they run over into 6:00, it may push theirs back. She said there were deadlines and they could do it on another day. She said it may be better to do on a Thursday and would have enough time and would not conflict with other items on the Agenda. Commissioner Morgan said he was fine with that.

Chair Viegbesie said that would be the day they will be returning from Mississippi from the Hurricane Disaster Relief Educational Training. He said they were due back on Tuesday with a Commission meeting that day. He said his intention was to get back right before the meeting and that would be rushing.

Commissioner Morgan asked how April 24th at 4:00 worked. Commissioner Taylor said she liked that, she did not want to see anything happen this week and asked they give it some time and come up with a meeting and do it the right way. She said she agreed that they did not need have it on a meeting day. Commissioner Taylor said she preferred a Wednesday or Thursday and Commissioner Morgan asked if Thursday, May 25th would be better. Mrs. Jackson said she would be at Shands that day.

Chair Viegbesie said to allow the Administrator to look at her calendar and check the availability and coordinate a hearing date with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem in doing that but to make sure they have something scheduled before May 30th.

9. Discussion and Action regarding the County Attorney Position

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action regarding the County Attorney position. She further stated it had been documented by staff that County processes were delayed due to a limited or last-minute attention given to matters referred for legal opinions. She further stated there were recent delays with federal and state grants due to the attorney changing standard Federal and State agreements; concerns with monthly invoices billing in excess hours and services rendered; and have been frequent absences and/or periods wherein he was not accessible and left no direction as to who should be providing legal services in his stead.

Chair Viegbesie said he requested this be agendaed and have discussed some of the concerns with the attorney himself. He said they should have an attorney who does not capitulate or pander to specific County Commissioners by wavering in his legal opinion when items came up; the statutes and laws have a ground. He said they should have an attorney that stood on the correctness of statutes and laws and not state he had no opinion and when the Commissioner spoke, the law was interpreted to suit that Commissioner. He said he had no problem with the level of intelligence or ability of the current attorney, but many Commissioners have expressed the lack of the good, solid sense of legal opinions on items that have been requested. He said he would like to have another attorney from the firm. He said for example, the Private Road Ordinance expired in 2014 and they have had discussions on private roads using an expired ordinance and there were other things of that nature. He added he was not of the opinion to cancel the contract but would like to see another attorney from the firm.

Mr. Weiss said he did not want to prolong this matter but wanted to address some of the representations made on record and he strongly disagreed. He said suggesting he has tailored his opinion to and play politics calls into question his integrity, his legal ability and he strongly disagreed that he ever engaged in that.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:49 p.m.

He added that his job was to advise the Board on what the law is and do it without compromising or pandering to anyone in particular. With respect to the statement he was the cause of any delays, frequently he was sent things at the last minute and was expected to immediately turn around and review them and send them back after review. He said frequently he was asked to drop things to focus on matters for the County. He said he does his absolute best to turn around everything and to pay attention to all working matters. He said he has a lot of things going on and a lot going on for the County. If anything, he neglects other clients and family in order to complete everything he was asked to do for the County. He said with respect to not being able to change or not voicing any concerns about standard State or Federal agreements, his job was to review these things and if he saw something that was not advantageous or advisable to the County, it was his job to advise of amendments.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:51 p.m.

He added that because it was a State or Federal agreement, did not mean the County had to enter into it or that they could not request changes. He said this was the first he heard of the invoices, he said he was given a lot of projects, a lot of items to review, a lot of things to consider, they have been having frequent meetings and as they knew, his contract has a certain number of hours under the retainer at a very discounted rate and if the number of hours he spends goes over the hours under the retainer, he would bill at a discounted rate. He said he had never heard anyone say anything about the amount of invoices and he assured them that he was as efficient as he possibly could be and was very mindful about the amount of time that he spent and would do everything he could to minimize legal fees. He said he took this job, his role and oath as an attorney seriously and it was not his role to be the sixth board member and try to shape policy.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Board decided to not keep him, could the firm find another attorney. He said he did not know, he would need to have a conversation with the partners and see if someone was willing to do it.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the comments and could see if there were frustrating issues they had with the attorney he could see where they would want to have those addressed. From a personal standpoint, it was natural to want to defend their integrity and he has always appreciated his stance and position he has taken with the Board. He said he has made it difficult sometimes when talking with him, he wants a yes or no answer and sometimes he cannot give same but at the end of the day it was a better answer than what he was looking for. He said Ausley McMullen has a depth of experience that the Board benefits from. He said the County was not their only client and he was not a full-time County Attorney. He said they knew it could be hard to follow the direction of the Board and it got confusing and could be frustrating when you have a Chair, Commissioners and Administrator looking at you wanting opinions and was not an easy thing to do. He added he felt Mr. Weiss had always responded to the Board very professionally and when he himself comes to meetings, he gets a lot of information thrown at him at the last minute that he had not had the opportunity to review or the day before and was hard to make decisions on and was frustrating. He said he felt that some of the frustration the Board may feel is a direct result of Mr. Weiss not receiving complete information on a timely bases, it may not be all the time and the claim that he was pandering to one group of commissioners, he had never seen that. From his chair, he wanted the opportunity to continue with Mr. Weiss.

Commissioner Holt said she was here when the previous attorney from Ausley was here and when the contract came up she said to bid it. She added that she had no problem with working with another attorney with that firm.

Commissioner Taylor said she had had the same concerns that the Chair had, but have gone to the attorney about her concerns. Whether or not she was convinced when he spoke with her was a different subject. Her opinion is the timing of this item she has issues with, why now, have an idea and what concerned her most was the reason behind it. She said she did have concerns but was not at a point where she wanted to remove him, but thought they could put in stipulations to occur in next 3-6 months. She also said she thought he has given the honest opinions to best of his ability. She said if anyone wanted to entertain a probationary period, which was where she is but not termination.

Chair Viegbesie said he was the one that put this on the Agenda and there was no ulterior motive. He said he had talked with the County Attorney over the phone, via emails about the concerns he had and felt it was time to have a discussion. He said there were citizens in the community that shared the same concern as him. He said he had no question of his legal knowledge but had questions with how he used it.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE CURRENT ATTORNEY SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH ANOTHER ATTORNEY FROM THE AUSLEY LAW FIRM UNTIL THE BOARD SEES OTHERWISE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

VOTE FAILED 3-2

Commissioner Taylor agreed there were concerns and felt a probationary period should be put in place. She also felt they needed to come back and have a workshop with him for them to present deliverables to him to given an opportunity to show where improvements could be made.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR A PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR CLARITYON THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to have the Board chime in as to what they would like to see. She said she heard his rationale and he had been fair and will lend to him. She also said she felt they needed to have a conversation with him, one on one.

Commissioner Morgan commented to the Board as a whole, it was so important for them to consider the level of experience they have in place and because they have such a new senior leadership team and some potential changes coming before them again, he recommended they maintain the same firm and attorney that was aware of what was going on and asked that they reconsider. He encouraged them to have conversations with Mr. Weiss and thought they would find him to be effective.

Commissioner Holt said before they have a probationary period, maybe they should have a meeting with him as a Board and have a discussion with him. Commissioner Taylor agreed they should come together as a Board and then give him direction, she felt he was a good attorney, just some areas that needed improvement and she hoped he stayed.

Commissioner Morgan said if he heard someone say they not wavering support for him but was going to put him on probation that was sending mixed messages. He said they should have that conversation in private and give him the opportunity to make the changes.

Commissioner Taylor said as was said earlier by the Chair, they each have a right to their own opinion and to voice it. She said the Probationary period was to say things that needed to be improved on and she knew he wanted to stay and would make the improvements.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR RESTATED HER MOTION FOR PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THEY NEEDED TO TALK WITH HIM FIRST. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 3 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY REVERT TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT ATTORNEY. COMMISSIONER MORGAN WITHDREW HIS MOTION.

Commissioner Holt made a motion to bring this item back at the first meeting next month after everyone had an opportunity to talk with the Attorney individually. She then said she could do that under her comments.

10. Lease of Four Type 1 Chevy 4500 HD Diesel Frazer Ambulances

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a lease agreement between Gadsden County and Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of four Type I Chevy 4500 HD Diesel Frazer

Ambulances in the amount of \$744,198.26 and for authorization for the Chair to sign all necessary documents. She also stated this was a budgeted item.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem leasing and asked about the math. Mrs. Jackson said this was a State contract rate. Commissioner Morgan asked about purchase versus leasing. Mrs. Jackson said they were saving a significantly and technically they would own this with a municipal lease. At the end of the five years however, they had plans to trade them in and do the “buy-back” program. Commissioner Morgan asked how the lease payments would be made. Mrs. Jackson said they were five annual payments of \$166,885.44 and was budgeted as a capital expenditure during the Fiscal Year 18-19 budget.

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

11. Gadsden County Emergency Services Budget Amendment

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for a budget amendment to acquire items needed for medical operations.

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

12. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Gadsden County Emergency Services as a Professional Fire/Rescue Department

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and recognition of Gadsden County Emergency Medical Services as a professional department that provides emergency medical services and fire/rescue services within Gadsden County, FL. She said she was proud to say for the first time in over 20 years they were in the black and had 100% staff. She added that the transition to Fire/Rescue served as a dual purpose. She said that currently they had 20 full-time dual certified paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians on staff.

Keith Maddox, EMS Director, appeared before the Board. He said they had identified the need in the County for volunteer fire departments that need support and other Counties had been a part of and had tried to take over the entire fire department for the whole County and was a fiscally constraining thing to do and did not think it was a good thing to do. He added as they had improved their fire code and building structures, the volumes have reduced in number but different types of hazards have arisen. He said they were proponents of supporting the Volunteer Departments in the community.

Commissioner Taylor said it sounded like an excellent idea and was a very good initiative. She said with additional training with the current EMT’s, what would that cost the County to bring those trainings and what guarantee was there to fulfill the requirements they would stay. Mr. Maddox asked if this was training for the medical personnel and he said they had looked at several models but they had 20 dual certified firefighters in place currently and the number was increasing. He said one thing he was going to bring up as another time, but this was a good one, there was a paramedic shortage throughout the Panhandle and nationally and with firefighters, if they assist in

educational training, they could look at developing a contractual agreement so they could retain their services for a given period of time.

Commissioner Holt said if they had dual training, he was right about a contract but how would the funding make it look differently if they were now going to the City of Quincy doing training there, would the City of Quincy not get funded at that level.

Mr. Maddox said it was easier to give a brief model idea. He said they were currently operating six ambulances and could handle the load most times with five with the understanding there are times they need to bring up a sixth truck and sometimes even a seventh. The model is to bring up the sixth truck to keep the cost under control. He said they operate the fifth truck and bring down the sixth truck and try to administratively operate it as needed through the Administration but that does not meet the needs at night and on weekends. He added that coupled with the need for improved fire service and to be able to support the volunteers with manpower and to be very dynamite, they were proposing and think would be a good model, is to run a First Response truck to back up medical crews, provide advanced medical care, make decisions, instead of them responding on that First Response truck, they use a type of mini-pumper, a smaller fire truck with a pump that could handle and carry foam, it would increase the water volume that could be delivered and can respond with a four man team; they can operate that with a Captain who is a Paramedic and a Paramedic/EMT and an EMT/firefighter. He said if that made sense that would give them the ability as a Paramedic. If an ambulance was needed, they could pull up and still have two men on an engine. He said they also needed to look at funding and how it was distributed for the good of the County.

Commissioner Holt said she was not in favor of looking at a rough draft at the hospital right now and the funding going anywhere until they look at that facility.

Commissioner Taylor said in full approval of this item and wanted to move for approval; but this money that was coming in every year would not necessarily need to be earmarked for them because they were trying a new initiative. Mr. Maddox said to meet the fire needs that would require equipment and that was the biggest impact in looking at the budget for apparatus and gear and after the initial investment, they would have the life span of the apparatus and equipment.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR (SHE PREVIOUSLY SAID SHE WANTED TO MOVE FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM IN HER COMMENTS) AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he had discussed this model with the various Chiefs of the volunteer fire departments within the County and what was their position.

Mr. Maddox said they have been open about that and explained that idea and the plan was to become a supplemental system to support them. No-one told him during that meeting or subsequent meetings and thought they clearly understood they want to help and that model was what they wanted to embrace and had no negativity.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator if this could be paid for without touching any of the

funding that may be reimbursed for the hospital and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely. Mrs. Jackson added that the City of Quincy currently gets \$680,000 (it is actually \$460,000), there was some discrepancy and she said whatever the amount was, they have calculated the cost and will not need it once the adjustments were made. She said also with EMS being a dual certified group as EMS/Fire that tax becomes one tax and all the costs have been calculated out. She said Fire and EMS will become one and same with the Resolution.

Commissioner Taylor said she could see this causing a terrible rift with the City of Quincy. She said being a former City Commissioner, they use that money to balance the budget and they count on that money. Now they were talking about taking that money out and she had concerns with doing it that way. She added that her motion was to approve utilizing the dollars that were earmarked and not bother the City of Quincy money right now. Mrs. Jackson said this proposal was not changing the model they currently have other than, the way it goes, City of Quincy responds to a fire and the volunteer chiefs were in charge with they respond to that fire, they come as added support. Mrs. Jackson said what they were saying was they already have 20 dual certified staff who can operate instead of calling on the City of Quincy, they could respond as the County. They had the manpower, the budget, and while she understood it might hurt the City of Quincy but it was her job to look out for County. Commissioner Taylor asked if the twenty trained firefighters will be ready whenever there is a fire, or what was on duty at that particular time. Mrs. Jackson said they would staff in accordance to what was needed. Commissioner Taylor pointed out they could not staff in accordance to what was needed because they have to look back at the budget. She said she had to be mindful before saying things like that. Commissioner Taylor said she was trying to get them to see it will have a ripple effect because City of Quincy responds but because of their responding it saves lives and structures and she did not want to see that go away and this was in her district. She said to get money from another entity to do this, was wrong, wrong, wrong.

Commissioner Holt said she was not for taking money from anywhere until they compare to see what would happen.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 8:43 p.m.

She said the negotiation on the hospital is coming up and if that is a 10-20 year negotiation, that means they may be dead and gone in 20 years but the people left here may want a hospital. She said they could not pull money out of the Endowment and say they were going to fund something before they finish negotiations in that process. She said she could not vote for this until she saw the two comparisons. Mr. Maddox said he agreed that they would want to see a future plan on how it would all come together, this would give them the ability to start the process to become an administrative department, which is turning the wheels to finish with the State Fire Marshal's office.

Commissioner Morgan said he had listened to the discussion and thought EMS was trying to come to them to ask for them to approve a way that would put them in a better position to offer quality services to the citizens.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE.
COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

13 Approval to Begin Negotiations to Acquire the WA Woodham Building from TCC

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. T1710 Between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and GCSBOCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEGOTIATION OF THE PURCHASE AND CHAIR VEIGBESIE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION.

Commissioner Hinson said the motion was to begin the negotiation of the purchase of the facility. Commissioner Holt said if the building was owned by TCC, if there was a FEMA filing for improvements to building, do we not have to own the building at time of the hurricane in order for the money to come to that entity. She said even if they did get the refund from FEMA, do you buy the building before you know what you were going to get. She said they needed to know the amount of money.

Mrs. Jackson said when they talk about reimbursement, they were not talking about FEMA, they were talking about the insurance policy they had and the County does insure the building as if it were their own. Commissioner Holt said what they had was possible FEMA reimbursements and if they were going to reimburse on the building, and there may be FEMA reimbursements on that building, would that not go to TCC if they owned it at the time of the hurricane. Mrs. Jackson said there had been a couple of FEMA specialists to work with them and they had no concerns about it but they were aware. Commissioner Holt asked for that documentation to go with this item.

Mrs. Jackson said she did not have that with her and they could table this item until another time. She said Staff had made a determination that there was sufficient funding for this and Commissioner Holt said if there was funding for this she was good.

Commissioner Morgan asked on a building the County was leasing it for \$1.00 per year that was in desperate need of repair and has huge upkeep costs on a monthly and annual basis, along with needing a new roof, why would they want to purchase an albatross such as that. He said TCC wants to get rid of the building for that very reason and it made no sense to purchase that building.

Mrs. Jackson said there had been discussions with the Chair and the Sheriff and the Sheriff was on board with this item. She said this was about beginning negotiations and finding out terms. She said the staff rationale was if they have insurance dollars to fix the building, they did not want TCC to change and say next year the County had to pay real rent on the building that they fixed.

Commissioner Morgan said they have a \$1.00 lease until 2049 and they could not do it.

Mrs. Jackson asked if they could get out of the lease.

Commissioner Holt said she did not think it was a good idea right now.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the motion was.

Mrs. Jackson said before vote carries, the Facilities Manager sent her an estimate that was given by RAM for them to completely fix everything, including the roof, and the total \$158,525.86 and is less than what the insurance is.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

14. Approval of the Amendment to Agreement No. T1710 required by the Department of Environmental Protection for the Extension of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multipurpose Complex at St. Hebron

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the GCOCC for the extension of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multi-Purpose Complex at St. Hebron.

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

15. ~~CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Bid Awards and Recommendations~~

Item replaced with

Emergency Medical Services Data Collection Funding Assistance Grant Award

Mrs. Jackson said Mr. Maddox has written a grant in the amount of \$35,360 for information technology and computer systems for Gadsden County Emergency Services as part of a cost reimbursement program grant awarded to the Department by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight (BEMO).

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

Commissioner Morgan asked the fiscal impact to the County and Mrs. Jackson stated there was no fiscal impact, but it was a reimbursement project. Commissioner Morgan asked where the dollars would come from and Mrs. Jackson said directly from EMS.

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

16. Approval of Architectural Services Task Order for the Dispatch Center at the Woodham Justice Center

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of architectural services task order for the dispatch center at the Woodham Justice Center. She said the proposed task order was to provide professional services for the design phase to create a new 911 Dispatch Center renovated into the north first floor of the Woodham Justice Complex.

Commissioner Holt said there was an architect on staff and asked if that meant they received all the low bids or if some were bid out. Mrs. Jackson said they do not bid them out; it was bid for this company to be selected. Mrs. Jackson said if it was over the threshold of \$25,000, it had to be bid but the Board decided last time that even though it was under the \$25,000, they still wanted to see all task orders and was why this item was on the Agenda.

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

17. Approval of the Utility Easement for Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Station

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said to was for approval of the Utility Easement for Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Station.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND AND SAID BEFORE CARRYING THE VOTE, HE HAD TWO SPEAKER FORMS.

The speakers stood in support of the item.

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

18. Discussion and Action on the Contract for State Lobbying Services with Lawson and Associates

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action to renew the contract for State Lobbying Services with the lobbying firm of Lawson & Associates.

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

Commissioner Morgan questioned why they needed another lobbying firm and Commissioner Taylor responded that everyone knew that one and Commissioner Morgan said that was not a good reason. Commissioner Holt asked where the money would come from.

Mrs. Jackson said staff did an analysis after Gadsden County Day and paying the Gunster firm, found there was \$15,000 that remained for the lobbying effort.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was ethical and that Lawson is his frat brother, can he lobby while being a Congressperson without violating ethics. Mr. Weiss said he could not lobby for the federal government and did not think there was any prohibition against lobbying at the State level when you were a Federal Representative but he would look into it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the services would begin now. Chair Viegbesie said session has two to three more weeks. Commissioner Morgan said it was past time to hire a new lobbying firm and did not see the need especially with the fiscal shape they were in. He said he did not see this a as proven investment of taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready to vote and the time limit was concerning. She added he was doing a lot of work on their requests to help.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the opportunity to have dinner other night with him and added it was not fair to put out Congressman Lawson's name; it should be Lawson and Associates.

Chair Viegbesie asked who would be the lobbying effort at the Capitol and said the other person that would be there was Al Lawson, Jr.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE

THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.

19. Ratification of Brock Electrical Services, LLC Invoices

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said they were advised by the County Attorney and the Clerk's Office to ratify the purchase to ensure payment to Brock Electrical Services, LLC.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if he had any issue with this item and he said no, this was brought up by the Clerk's Office and was then forwarded to him to ask what to do. He said if the Clerk's Office was asking for it to be ratified; it had to go to the Board to be ratified.

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

20. Update on Facebook Live

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She said they found a way Facebook could do a closed captioning but the only way they could do Facebook Live and meet ADA requirements was to have an additional staff person. She said another way to meet the ADA was Closed Captioning and that costs was \$67,875.00 for custom on-line and off-line automatic closed captioning assistance.

Commissioner Morgan said he asked for this to be put on the Agenda for discussion and asked if they were currently on Facebook Live and Mrs. Jackson said no. He asked if it came before the Board to stop Facebook Live and Mrs. Jackson said there was a discussion between Staff and the County Attorney. She said the County has already been sued. Commissioner Morgan asked if that came before the Board and she said she would leave that for the County Attorney. He said it was just a question and she said no. Commissioner Morgan said they should be the ones, in his opinion, making the decision whether or not they were going to have Facebook Live. He said he understood the new requirements or compliance issues regarding the ADA. He said there had to be other ways and did not want to take away their ability to effectively communicate with those without a disability just because they wanted to be compliant with ADA. He said there had to be another way to do that. He said if they could not provide closed caption for someone that needed it, perhaps there was a way they could make it available through written minutes they could review. He said why penalize everyone else if there was a way to remain in compliance and offer the service where everyone could see it.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Weiss if there was any reason why service was terminated. Mr. Weiss said first, he did not make decisions in terms in terms of whether Facebook Live was on or off. He said he advised the Administrator because a number of lawsuits have been filed recently by ADA clients, research was done on what could be done for closed caption, but this was not his decision. He said he advises of potential liability and the decision was made to avoid that potential liability to pull it. He said it was clear that closed caption was required and the County could be sued. Commissioner Morgan said his point for bringing this up, it never came back to the Board to discuss the options and make a decision. He said has the question been posed to ADA of any other solution work other than providing closed caption. He said they do want to be in compliance and not penalize others that are without disabilities.

Commissioner Holt asked if person walked in and recorded the meeting, they could put it on Facebook and it would not have the caption. Is there anything in ADA that required them to have the caption? He said he was not concerned about the individuals; he was concerned for the

County. She said that was a whole other option to consider if an individual recorded it.

Chair Viegbesie said from his understanding of the media outlets all that serve the public were required to meet ADA standards. He asked if any kind of cease and desist that came across for them to make the decision. Mrs. Jackson said they had been served with a lawsuit and the County settled. Mr. Weiss said he would bring up under his comments.

Chair Viegbesie asked the direction of the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said to have the Public Information Officer work with the attorney to keep the County in compliance and make a genuine effort.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for discussion and felt the Board had made their recommendation. He said before leaving this item there were individuals out there specifically looking for agencies in violation of ADA standards. He said there was investigative reporting of a group going across the entire country measuring handicap parking and if it did not meet the ADA standards, they would sue the County or City.

Chair Viegbesie told the Administrator to do what the suggestion of the Board was with exploration of ADA compliancy.

21. Black Biz and Crawl Expo

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She stated that Commissioner Hinson submitted an application on behalf of the BOCC to use the Courthouse grounds to sponsor a “Business Expo and Crawl” on May 11, 2019 AND ASKED THE Board to appoint him as the representative for that purpose.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if there were any issues and Mr. Weiss said no, it was pulled from the last meeting because he had concerns. He wanted to make sure it was inclusive of all types of businesses and made sure it was approved as a Board posted event and it has been revised. He also wanted to make sure everyone understood and the need to absolutely verify the County’s insurance would cover this event with the County’s carrier.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was the intent and the event itself was a very commendable event but was concerned of the lack of inclusiveness. He felt it would be more inclusive if “Black” was taken out and call it “Gadsden Biz and Crawl”.

Commissioner Hinson directed them to look at pages 6 through 8 of the Agenda item and pointed out it had been revised and he called the question. Mr. Weiss said obviously the County could not discriminate.

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

CLERK OF COURT

22. Updates

The Clerk was not present and there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

23. Updates

Mrs. Jackson announced they recently received a call from Columbia County and others and they inquired as to who did the annual report and wanted to pattern their next year report after Gadsden County's and she was proud of it.

Under the direction of Oliva, TDC has received a \$20,000 grant from Visit Florida to produce a Destination Market and video.

The Spring Bulk Item pick-up is under way and the schedule is posted on the website.

They have started back with dirt deliveries today.

The Summer Youth applications are being accepted and will close on April 26th.

The new website launched today and was a work in progress.

She thanked the Directors that were still present and thanked the Commissioners for giving her the opportunity to serve and felt strong about the family that has been built.

Chair Viegbesie asked how they, as a Board, obtain actual fiscal expenditures of the Constitutionals to enable the Board to prepare a more viable and sustainable fiscal budget. He said he did not think they had the correct project expenditures of the Constitutional Officers to enable them to make their projection of the future budget before the budget was passed. He said he was working with the Clerk to see how they could get the actual annual expenditures so they could include that in their budget projections for the next fiscal year.

He said to Staff, he suggested that the County Administrator and the Attorney work on an Ordinance that could be used to determine disposal of County property. He asked if there was an ordinance where they could use County property to develop low to moderate income housing as it relates to State Statutes as well as what prime properties the County could develop to enhance County services and what properties the County could sell.

Commissioner Morgan left at 9:35 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor asked with regard to the County Administrator, two things, as she said earlier, she felt she was excellent in her capacity and hoped they would retain her in some position and would like to see that and did not know where she was with that. She said she was hopeful and did not want to see her not have that she needed.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

24. Updates

Mr. Weiss said there was a pending lawsuit against the County alleging violations of the ADA Act with respect to the website and document accessibility.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 9:39.

He said more than 100 lawsuits related to that particular plaintiff and the law firm have been filed and he intended to have a private attorney-client meeting at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

25. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said at the last meeting he asked that the Summer Youth Employment be placed on the Agenda so they could vote on it and Mrs. Jackson said she did not recall that being requested and asked the Attorney if it could be put back on the Agenda.

Mr. Weiss said the Ordinance did not prohibit considering items that was up for vote before, such as the Citizens Bill of Rights. Commissioner Holt said it always had been if was on the winning side it could be brought back, if on the losing side, it could not. Mr. Weiss said if it was reconsidering an item, it was different.

Hinson said the question was not about this or that; it was that she responded that it was not true. That meant if it was not true, then he did not say it. He said he was sure every Board member and people that was present heard him and she sent an email that she had checked the video and it was not there. He talked with almost everybody there that day and they said they did recall that. He said regardless, she sent a text and said even if it was, it could not be placed on the agenda based on the Statute and that was not true. He said the same thing happened when he brought this to them in October. He asked that when he asked a question, for them to be straight up with him.

He thanked the Board for their texts and calls as his father-in-law passed away.

He also thanked the Board for approving the Biz Crawl for him.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to bring back that they to talk with the attorney and then they could end that issue so it does not come back.

She said they have discussed the automated phone service and was interested in getting rid of it and to make it more personal.

She said she met with the School Board, they are looking to get rid of St. Johns and Gretna Elementary and her discussion was to look at those facilities for economic engines. With Gretna, they have Highway 90 in front, the Railroad in back and it was good for shipping. She said they needed to know something by the 23rd. She said they were also looking at approximately \$500,000

for both schools and it has water, sewer, and electricity at both schools. She asked if the Board was interested in having a workshop with the School Board the next week.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood her reason why the Board should meet with any governmental entity to discuss collaborating efforts. He said there was an issue with school public safety where Commissioner Hinson requested additional resource officers. He said they have the resource officers they need and he met with the Superintendent, the Chair of the School Board and the Sheriff and they found there were other avenues that never came to light as to sources of funding to get the resource officers that were needed. He said it was a good thing for intergovernmental conversations to occur and he was in support of meeting and discussing that particular item.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie suggested to the Administrator that the Director of Public Works begin to attend CRTPA meetings to hear concerns and issues coming to the Transportation program and they better understand SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP, etc. so as to how they could submit applications in a timely manner. He also suggested if the funds were there, to send him to MPOAC workshop so he could get a better understanding of the project and sources of funding for transportation.

He also suggested seeing if they could organize public engagement sessions to get citizen input on road improvements.

He said the last thing, May 2nd is National Day of Prayer and they have been invited to pray for Gadsden County and America at the Courthouse at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Jackson said she left out that EMS and Public Works Week is May 19-25th and asked for a Proclamation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR THE PROCLAMATION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED FOR A RESOLUTION FOR SHILOH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE PASTOR’S 25TH (INAUDIBLE) AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Receipt and File

29. Documents

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 19. May 7, 2019-Regular Meeting**
- May 21, 2019-Regular Meeting**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 16, 2019 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:03 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk