


DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO AUDIO FOR THIS MEETING

**Board of County Commissioners
Gadsden County, Florida
Special Meeting
May 21, 2019
5:30 p.m.**


Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 2 (appeared by phone until arrived in person)
Gene Morgan, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Dee Jackson, County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION

 Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Employment Agreement for the Interim County Administrator

 Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator said this meeting was to approve the employment agreement of Arthur Lawson, Sr. for Interim County Administrator.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 5:31 p.m.

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

Chair Viegbesie said the contract called for no longer than six months and they needed to advertise the position immediately.

Commissioner Holt said she totally agreed and felt he was a good candidate. She asked if the duties needed to be specified and include searching for a permanent replacement.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Taylor said he has filled this position in the past, but what concerned her was the amount of money they were spending because they still had to pay the former County Administrator for her severance package. She did not think that amount of money was a wise amount, not that the amount was comparable with what others were making but was concerned with the amount. She also wanted to make sure it capped at six months because that did not happen in the past.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out the Agreed stated it would not exceed six months and the previous Interim was making more money. He added the amount of money came about because that was what he was making before he retired from the County.

Chair Viegbesie asked who negotiated the contract.

Mr. Weiss said it was sent to him for review by the HR Director. He added he was told this was the amount he wanted and he would be happy to negotiate the contract.

Commissioner Morgan called the question.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 5:43 p.m. (appeared earlier by phone)


Commissioner Holt said even though they called the question, she still had comments. She did not think they had not given Mr. Hall enough time in this position. She said there were a lot of things going on in the County and things he would need to have help with.

Chair Viegbesie said he realized this was pricey, but Mr. Lawson had the knowledge.

Commissioner Taylor said with respect to Mr. Hall, HR was responsible for finding a replacement. She added that what was amazing to her was she passes by the building and have seen a lot of things continuing without someone sitting in the chair and the County was functioning. She said she has a problem paying that kind of money and felt it was too much. She was told it was what he was making prior to leaving the County and was based on his experience. She said they needed to be fiscal stewards.

Commissioner Holt moved for approval and was reminded there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Hinson said to have the power of negotiation was great, felt he was worth more than \$3924 but they were still paying the former Administrator and would like to see if they could renegotiate.

 **Lonyell Butler, HR Director**, appeared before the Board. Chair Viegbesie asked if she thought the contract could be renegotiated or if she felt that was the final figure.

She said in speaking with him that was the number he gave. She did not get any indication he would move from that.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the previous Interim if her salary higher or lower and Ms. Black said it was higher. He asked if she had benefits and was told yes; he asked if he would and was told no.

Commissioner Hinson said it would save money to keep staff and not pay the extra and they should make sure to do what was right for the County.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR WITH A SECOND AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:55 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk