

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 6, 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-arrived late
Eric Hinson, District 2-arrived late
Gene Morgan, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked that phones be muted.

Rev. Sandra Mayer, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Quincy, FL gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:01 p.m.

She then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. After the Pledge, she invited everyone to a special Blue Mass Service to be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church to honor and remember First Responders that would be held on September 8th at 10:00 a.m. with a lunch following in the Parish Hall.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lawson said there were a couple of amendments; he would like to pull Item 5 and Item 7 and bring both back at a later date. He said he would also like to request to change Item 24 to Item 13a and change Item 13 to Item 13b.

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

Commissioner Taylor said there were two items that were requested to be placed on the Agenda, the attorney's contract and the Citizen's Bill of Rights. Chair Viegbesie said because of the lengthy Agenda it had been requested they be placed on the next Agenda.

Mr. Weiss said Item 14 needed to precede Item 13 and Mr. Lawson said it was indicated to him it did not matter as long as Item 24 was handled first.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. **Presentation from 850 Magazine**
Jill Blackman, Program Manager for GCDC, was here on behalf of Beth Cicchetti, and

introduced McKenzie Burleigh, Vice President of Corporate Development of Rowland Publishing and they distribute the 850 Magazine.

Ms. Burleigh said 850 is quarterly publication and partners with counties to focus on economic development.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:08 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said she had looked at their magazine before and was looking at what they do not have and how they could be more successful, especially at the interchanges, US 90 and Highway 27 to be more attractive. Ms. Burleigh said the new business journal would be new business content and could make sure to come up with an editorial line-up that was cohesive on everything they wanted represented in Gadsden County. She also said the Editor could come and they could have a round-table brainstorming.

Chair Viegbesie asked if, in their services during the workshop Commissioner Holt just mentioned, would they worked with Counties and municipalities with regard to having them develop an economic development identity. She said that would be the goal for the County to identify a strategic plan of where they saw the County 10-20 years from now and what businesses they were trying to attract and assets they wanted to communicate and that would be what they would have as editorial content.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they have had time to sit with the Interim County Administrator so he would know what they were talking about and how this would fit into what he would do as the Chief Executive Officer of the County and if not suggested a meeting be scheduled and get him educated regarding this.

2. Chamber Update

David Gardner, Gadsden Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board. He informed the Board they had sold the old office and would be relocating to the Women's Club located on King Street.

He said rumors of West End Grill becoming a restaurant again was not happening, it would be a laundromat and also that Tractor Supply would not be coming to town. He said two major agricultural projects were looking at Gadsden County along with three major renewable energy projects and two already have contracts on property; Weavex Business Park is at full expansion and they are looking at expansion of another 100,000 square feet. He said they have been very involved in the rebuilding of Gadsden County after the hurricane and working with churches and non-profits and would continue and was looking at a permanent location to be able to help with supplies for so many of people that are still impacted and were working with United Way on the Hurricane recovery efforts and also on a program they have that focuses on people that are employed but still impoverished. He said they were exploring an employment boot camp with the schools.

He introduced the Chief Operating Officer with Trulieve, Kevin Darmody.

Mr. Darmody appeared before the Board. He said they have almost 60% of the market share here in the State. He said they have a 75 person call center in Clearwater and take over 3,000

calls a day; have over 2,000 employees; 70% of which are minorities. He said they have a difficult time with hiring because they have to pass a level 2 background check and even once hired, they have a problem with people showing up for work.

Chair Viegbesie asked how much Trulieve used the churches to reach out to the community because there was a stigma that goes with this product. Mr. Darmody said the head of the Shipping Department is a minister and he would talk with him tomorrow about this.

Commissioner Morgan said there were so many opportunities here in the County and thought they as a Board need to look at how they could lean in and impacts not so much the future but the present. He said the growth was expediential, the opportunities are limitless and he appreciated Mr. Darmody coming here and recommended the Board members to sit down and speak with him regarding the successes and the challenges from a day to day standpoint they have.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:51 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the rules and regulations were set by the government and said that sometimes some should be given a second chance once they have paid their debt to society. He said he has asked the same question. He said they were regulated by the Department of Health and thought maybe the level 2 background check may be from the legislative side or might be from the Department of Health side. He said they were for second chances and had done that in many cases. Mr. Gardner said they have also approached Senator Montford on that same question and he is looking into it as well.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had worked with CareerSource and Mr. Darmody said they were not very successful. She said she would hate to see them go to Tallahassee for training. She asked if they would be opening a dispensary center here. He said right now there were no plans, also they were limited by the State as to how many total in the region they could have.

CONSENT

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

3. Ratification Memo

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 26, 2019-Workshop
- b. March 12, 2019-Workshop
- c. March 14, 2019-Special Meeting
- d. April 2, 2019-Special Meeting
- e. May 21, 2019-Regular Meeting
- f. June 4, 2019-Regular Meeting

5. ~~Approval of County Auditing Services~~

Item pulled

6. Approval to Request to Receive Reimbursement from Florida Division of Emergency

Management (FDEM) for Hurricane IRMA

- ~~7. Public Officials Bond Reviews~~
Item Pulled
8. **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between the Gadsden County Sheriff Department Facility and the Social Security Administration**
9. **SBA Tower Site Amendment**
10. **Approval of Agreement with Demandstar Corporation**
11. **Approval of Participation in the Approval for the 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Monica Smart-Gainous, 4620 Hosford Hwy, Quincy, FL Survive & Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC) intro, services, trainings in Gadsden County appeared before the Board to speak about Human Trafficking and passed out information.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. **Public Hearing: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-010, An Ordinance of the BOCC of GC, FL amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include EMS services and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it would amend Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include EMS services and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes.

Chair Viegbesie asked if anyone from the audience wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn about supporting the expansion of the surtax dollars to supplement the EMS budget but hoped the Board did not intend to not write a check to expand EMS services; this should be used to bridge the gap. He said he has heard comments on how collections improved but did not want to budget on that continuation and then it not be there.

Chair Viegbesie said his comment was this was worthy of strong consideration of approval and if not approved the entire funding of EMS would come from the General Fund and by splitting this would be \$800,000 less to find from the budget to provide for EMS.

Commissioner Holt said it would be about \$700,000 and asked the length of time for the three-

way split. Mr. Lawson said they would designate a length of time. Mr. Weiss said if they wanted to put a time limitation on it they could and it could be amended at any point and time.

Commissioner Morgan said they could amend the Ordinance and there would be no reason to sunset it. He also said he understood the need for it but they were taking money away from Public Works and Fire by doing this and needed to be managed very closely.

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Morgan spoke on some of her concerns. She asked where they were taking the \$800,000 from, what particular item in their budget would be impacted and her other concerns was what EMS would do with the \$800,000 because EMS has come to the podium and suggested getting themselves involved on things she was not on board with; one being on the front line; two, taking fire services from other municipalities and she was concerned.

Mr. Lawson and Mr. Weiss addressed her questions.

Mr. Lawson said the funds would be used to help supplement the day to day operations of the EMS department, not to provide for the ones that wanted to create a new program. Secondly, when they do the three-way split it would take about \$400,000 from Public Works and about \$400,000 from Fire. He said Fire has a substantial balance and did not think it would impact them at all and felt Public Works would not suffer either. Mr. Weiss said the funds would be for EMS operations and capital expenditures and if they wanted, they could add language to the Ordinance restricting it, they could come up with appropriate language. Commissioner Taylor aid if they had to take money from the other departments, she wanted to hear from the other departments and it concerned her. She asked how they produced in years past. Mr. Lawson those were questions they could answer during the budget process and they could put additional restrictions if the Board wished but the intent of this was to have the funds available because over the years they have had to supplement the EMS budget every year. They were doing better with the billing but were not in the black yet.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there would be language included and wanted to go on record and ask if language would be included and Commissioner Morgan said he was seconding what was presented as Option 1 and did not think it would be an issue. He said they were talking about allowing one-third of the proceeds to be used for EMS. She said she wanted to make sure that the one-third was specifically for personnel and he said he did not think they needed to run their day-to-day operations. She said she wanted to go on record and heard where he was going, but wanted to go on record saying she supported this only if those dollars are designated for personnel and not for some of the things that were mentioned earlier.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he was going against this was it was too ambiguous and not clear and unequivocal and was the reason he could not support it tonight, especially when they moved EMS from Midway and put it somewhere else.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

Mr. Weiss said this did require a super majority vote.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to do more with EMS, they need more money but they have made a lot of decisions on happenstance in the last couple of years and it has cost them. The County Administrator needs to put stuff together and make sure it's clear and not ambiguous or equivocal and he would not mind doing it, but it was not clear right now. He said when disaster happens, it's Public Works, it's not the Sheriff and when you take funding from Public Works and when the bridges collapse, who is out there, you do not have the resources. He said there was no reason to have EMS if they could not get there; there were bridges now that were dilapidated.

Commissioner Morgan said did not know why this was ambiguous or not clear about this, they were simply adding this as an option to use for revenue if they needed to do that. He said to keep in mind they approved to expand this to support a bike trail and now they were saying no, they were not potentially going to support EMS.

Commissioner Holt	yes
Commissioner Hinson	no
Commissioner Taylor	no
Commissioner Morgan	yes
Chair Viegbesie	yes

Motion Failed 3-2

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to get rid of super majority.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like that and this did need to come back they did not want to not adequately fund EMS but wanted to make sure that those dollars went specifically for hiring and presenting a quality salary so they could recruit and keep staff and if it could come back with language, she was willing to support it.

GENERAL BUSINESS

13a. UF/IFAS Gadsden County Multipurpose Facility

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for a change order in the amount of \$47,092.94 for the Multi-purpose Agricultural facility and simply because of the delay in getting started, prices of materials have gone up and they were presenting a deductive change order with additional increases being paid out of funds they would receive for the facility and the increase would increase the contract by \$15,492.94.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the change order was for \$47,092.94 or \$15,492.94. Mr. Lawson said it was for \$47,092.94 and \$31,600 was a deducted change.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed a lot of change orders were coming in and asked the reason why.

Mr. Lawson said this contract was bid several years ago and the cost of materials have increased.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE.
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**13b Resolution No. 2019-021 authorizing and approving the \$707,000 Gadsden County, Fl Capital
~~13.~~ Improvement Bond Anticipation Note, Series 2019**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Resolution which would authorize and approve the \$707,000 Gadsden County Capital Improvement Bond Anticipation Note, Series 2019. He explained this item was required by USDA to have interim financing from a bank to substantially complete the project.

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

**14. Approval to Accept Construction Loan with BB&T Bank for Completing the Requirements for
USDA**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for approval to enter into the construction loan agreement to borrow the \$707,000 from BB&T to complete the requirements with the United States Department of Agriculture to build the AG center.

**UPON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

15. City of Quincy Dump Truck Request

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was concerning conveyance of a 2005 Mack CV713 Granite Dump Truck from Public Works Department to City of Quincy for relocation of power lines and poles for a roundabout project that amounted to \$47,637.62 and the City agreed to waive costs if the County conveyed the dump truck in exchange for the services rendered.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was some form of bartering.

Commissioner Morgan asked for help on this one. He asked if the City of Quincy met and their Board approved this to come before the County and asked what was being done. He said he knew the costs of the roundabout came out of Commissioner Holt's paving dollars and there was no mention of additional costs for lighting or anything else for them to pay for.

Mr. Lawson said he understood when the project was cost out there was no cost in the project for lights to be relocated and for additional lights from the roundabout to Jefferson Street. He stated this was prior to his coming back on board and this was negotiated between the previous County Administrator with the City Manager and the previous Public Works Director. Commissioner Morgan said this was never brought before this Board for approval until now. Mr. Lawson said that was his understanding in checking the Minutes it has not come before the

Board.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. MR. WEISS HAD A COMMENT.

Mr. Weiss said there was a statutory requirement that a Resolution be adopted if they intend to convey the dump truck to the City and if they wanted to move forward, there should be instructions for a Resolution consideration.

Commissioner Holt said they would amend the Motion.

Commissioner Morgan said what he was hearing was, a County Commissioner, a former County Administrator and former Public Works Director made deal for this without approaching the Board that will cost \$47,000 or in this case, a dump truck. He asked if he had any of that wrong. Chair Viegbesie said if that was directed to him, he did not think so. Commissioner Morgan asked if this particular dump truck was currently being used by Public Works. Mr. Lawson stated according to the current Public Works Director, it was. Commissioner Morgan said they were giving away a dump truck that they use to pay for a project they knew nothing about that was an additional cost of \$47,000 and why would that not be paid out of the paving dollars that was in her fund? Chair Viegbesie said yes if that question was to her.

Commissioner Holt said "May I speak now Mr. Chair? Commissioner Morgan, this is not an agreement between a commissioner. I had spoken with the previous manager when I found out about this. They were going to surplus the truck and when I spoke with her about it, she said they were going to surplus the truck and the City of Quincy wanted a truck; they agreed to move the power lines which are in their area for the surplus truck that they needed. On another issue I was speaking to Mr. McLean and he verified that so it's not like we made a deal, ok? The other thing is that when I checked to see if the truck was going to be surplus, they said yes. I checked with the Road and Bridge Director, I said 'ok, tell me about the truck' and he did. He said that the truck was gonna be surplus. I said ok and I didn't have any heartburn over it because I was thinking it was gonna be surplus. He said they had other back-up trucks, it's an '05 and I'm thinking yeah that's pretty old. So that's where that came about. It did not come that we just put our heads together. Now, the City of Quincy did say if they moved those lines there would be a charge and I'm thinking a used truck, you know, surplus anyway, that made sense. That's one part of the puzzle. The other part of the puzzle is there's companies' looking at purchasing that apartment complex down there. They are looking at beautification all down that side and I spoke with, I don't know if the project manager came before us or not, he did, ok, he's looking at beautification of that. Also putting programs in place to help those people to be able to get out of there and give classes and all that. So then he wanted to connect that with them, so they may have to move some other lines and stuff that he's looking at. So that's how that came about. It was not that someone decided to do something that would be out of the sight of this Board. Now that was my first hearing, you know, talking about this. Which it is still a really good deal if we're going to get a developer here to connect together. In fact doing an Interlocal Agreement, I think also with other municipalities make sense, we do them all the time, but I think this was a good move because a business person designed into the project also. But that was the way that came about. If there are any questions, I'll answer any."

Chair Viegbesie said Mr. McLean was present and Chair Holt spoke up and said she did not want to put him in a controversial situation, it was fine to do what they want to do but it should not be that they have him on the spot too.

Commissioner Morgan said again this was a dump truck they were currently using and Mr. Lawson said that was the information he had gotten. Commissioner Morgan said that and in addition to the fact that this had never been mentioned to them before, there was a right way to do things and not a right way and this was not the right way to do this. He said there was a budget session coming up and different items to consider and now they were giving trucks away or paying money out when they could not afford to meet the budget that they have before them. He said it did not smell right to him at all and was not the right way to do it. He added with that being said, if there was an opportunity to do this the correct way, they needed to do it the correct way and not move forward in a manner that was not right. He said there would be folks looking at this and asking a lot of questions as to how they got to this point.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Manager would bring up Mr. McNealy to ask him about the truck. Mr. Lawson said he was already told by Mr. McNealy they needed and were using the truck and did not see a reason to bring him up and put him in front of the Commission. Commissioner Holt said they (City) had completed the work and they now have two choices; they could either pay them or they could give them the truck. She said last fall or spring, they gave the City of Chattahoochee a building and Commissioner Morgan said it was done the right way. Commissioner Holt said she was not trying to debate with him, she was simply saying the previous manager may not have known the right procedure.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the City had provided their services that they were going to be trading the truck for, if so, maybe they should pull this item and handle this the proper way.

Commissioner Morgan suggested since they now knew the truck was needed in Public Works, that Commissioner Holt pay the balance from her paving funds.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they were getting new trucks and Mr. Lawson said it was work trucks and not dump trucks. Commissioner Hinson then said he had strong reservations, there were promises made six or seven months ago and they had to go back and pay everyone because of a certain promise that was made and "a promise was a promise".

Commissioner Taylor said Mr. Weiss mentioned a Resolution needed to be done. She wanted to make sure it was included in the motion that they do the Resolution and wanted to move the motion including the motion to amend Commissioner Holt's motion.

Chair Viegbesie asked if one came before the other or if both could be dealt with concurrently.

Mr. Weiss said he thought the Motion should be worded to direct Staff and County Attorney to move forward with the potential conveyance to bring a Resolution to the Board for consideration; he said he did not think they could approve a Resolution (beforehand).

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE CONVEYANCE OF THE VEHICLE TO THE CITY OF QUINCY ACCOMPANIED BY A RESOLUTION AND SECOND MADE BY

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

16. Approval of Health Insurance Rates

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item. Chair Viegbesie asked who made up the committee. Mr. Lawson said the Committee was made up of representatives from the Constitutionals, County Administrator, and the HR Director.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:11 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked about full time workers that could not afford insurance.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:12 p.m.

Mr. Lawson said the rates he saw were what the Board paid for employees.

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

17. Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to appoint a Commissioner and an alternate to the County Canvassing Board.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Holt said she had to decline because she would be campaigning for someone and she wanted to appoint Mr. Lawson. He said to keep in mind the campaign would be in 2020.

Chair Viegbesie said they have an Assistant County Administrator who could be the alternate and should be the one to be the alternate. Commissioner Taylor said they were looking to hire a new Administrator with all due respect to the Assistant County Administrator, they did not know if he would make the cut when the new one comes in because they do tend to want to formulate their own staff and the other thing is, she prayed that Commissioner Holt campaigned against her because she won last time.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THE MOTION IS FOR THE CURRENT CHAIR AND THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO BE THE ALTERNATE, COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

18. Fifth Amendment to the Hospital Lease

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for the approval of the fifth amendment to the Gadsden Hospital Lease.

Chair Viegbesie said this was to accommodate for the workshop scheduled for August 13th and Mr. Lawson said yes.

Commissioner Holt said she was at the workshop last week and did not think October 31st was enough time. She said it has been eleven years since the tax was started and had not seen where steps have been taken where a night could be spent in the building and the tax is still being paid; and at one point it was brought forth that they would start paying for some of the hospital runs because Medicaid/Medicare would pay to go from your home to the Emergency Room and would pay from Emergency Room to CRMC but Medicaid/Medicare would not pay for that because that was in-house. She said they are willing to give back \$600,000 but they want control of the building, and she felt they need more time than October. She said also during the hurricane, there were no vacancies in Tallahassee at both hospitals and what would happen next time there was a disaster.

Mr. Weiss said the extension had been approved by GHI and CRMC but it could be extended again.

Commissioner Holt said when they were in the meeting, some of GHI members were asking about the financials and what they looked like.

Commissioner Taylor said she was confused and asked who put this on the Agenda. Mr. Lawson said GHI approved the October extension.

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

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 8:28 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said this has been a controversial thing since he had been here.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 8:29 p.m.

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

19. CR269 (Little Sycamore Road) SCRAP Change Order #1

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Change Order number 1 for the Little Sycamore Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$13,366.00.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

20. CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) Change Order #2

Mr. Lawson introduced above item and said was for Board approval of a deductive Change Order number 2 for the Little Sycamore Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Sons Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$86,266.00.

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

21. Bell Road (SCRAP) Amended Contract with Peavy and Son

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the FDOT SCRAP amended agreement from GCOCC to Peavy and Sons for the widening and resurfacing of Bell Road.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

22. Approval of Resolution 2019-020 to Adopt Specified Fees for Building Permits Utilizing Private Provider Services

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2019-020 to adopt specialized fees for Building permits utilizing private provider services. He said his understanding was the Legislature passed laws where contractors could now use private providers to do their inspection work and the County has to set specific fees for that since Staff would not be actually doing the inspections.

Commissioner Holt said she could not support this until she saw what was going on with the fees. She also asked if this would be extra fees compared to what the citizens were paying before. She added that they needed to hear from the citizens on this matter.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was mandatory that municipalities must adopt this ordinance.

Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board. She said currently Gadsden County has a minimum \$100 application fee with residential and \$200 commercial to cover a processing and administrative cost that would be credited against the final cost of the permit. These fees reflect about a 90% reduction of what would be paid if paid for a full building permit because you were paying for someone else to pay for the review or paying someone else to do the inspections. This law has been in place since 2002 and was nothing new and was another option and particularly in the wake of the hurricane when there is a high demand and volume for inspections where you could go out and contract, and it has to be the fee owner of the property for these services. She said the County was reducing the fees significantly and basically for administrative purposes, their role was to insure that they get a complete application, the plans meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code, the applicant provides all required documentation, and it could be from one to eight or ten inspections and information and they have to make sure they meet the requirements of Florida Statutes 553. At the end when they have a Certificate of Occupancy, they go in as the Statutes states they are to inspect and if they find deficiencies, they are to tell them. It is a safeguard to insure the County is enforcing the Florida Building Code and if something was missed, life safety are the two parts of the Florida Building Code that are very important in making sure they are not missed.

Commissioner Holt said they need to sit down and the contractors and citizens need to be there so they have their input into this.

Commissioner Morgan asked how this could benefit the citizens and business owners in the day to day standpoint beyond the cost of lower fees. She said there was only one contractor utilizing private provider and that was their choice. She said they have not been charging re-inspection fees and don't want to penalize people; have been working hard to educate people and would like to do an outreach on an informal basis with contractors and have monthly meetings so they would know what to expect in terms of the changes. She said there was a lot of work going on previously with not a lot of staff and this was a significant change to a lot of the contractors and was just an option.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the private providers would be qualified or certified and Ms. Lex said according to the Division of Business of Business and Professional Regulation, they have the licenses for private providers listed and they check to make sure the licenses are in effect and meet the requirements.

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

Commissioner Holt said before doing this, citizens will be billed from an independent contractor and County and won't know this information and was only asking for an opportunity to have them come in along with contractors, open to the public, so they could hear what they were saying.

Chair Viegbesie asked that the Interim Administrator made a record of that.

Commissioner Hinson said he had calls as well and think there was a need for a workshop on this because everyone had a lot of questions.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

23. Approval of the Local Hurricane Housing Recovery Program Funding (LHHRPF)

Mr. Lawson introduced above item and said this was for approval for the Board to accept \$3,005,000 for Gadsden County from the Local Hurricane Housing Recovery Program and for authorization for the Chairman to sign all related documents.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Chair Viegbesie said when they talk about the State Housing Initiative Partnership, there are limitations stipulated as to how and what can be done to rehabilitate the house because he receives calls and second his question was, could they, with the home repair, deviate if they have a shingle roof and want to put on metal roof on, could they pay the difference, could that be done.

Mr. Lawson said he believed if they are approved under the County's LHAP program, which this program required, they have to rehabilitate initially what was there. In order for audit purposes, they have to show the auditors they used the money as designated under the

County's LHAP program. He confirmed that with Ms. Lex and she agreed. Chair Viegbesie asked about paying the difference if they chose to go with the metal roof. Ms. Lex reappeared before the Board. She said they do provide the option if an individual wanted to include an upgrade and they would price a replacement for the roof and would indicate in the contract what the County would pay and the homeowner would have to indicate they were willing to pay the difference if they wanted the upgrade. She said there were mechanisms to allow for the upgrade.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was part of the money that was coming from the Federal Government and Mr. Lawson responded no.

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

- 24. UF/IFAS Gadsden County Multipurpose Facility**
Moved to 13a

CLERK OF COURT

- 25. Updates**
The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- 26. Updates**
Mr. Lawson said he forwarded copies of the applications that were received for the County Administrator position to the Commissioners and six met the minimum qualifications that the Board set and asked whether the Board wanted to move forward with those six or if they wanted to give Staff additional directions on how to proceed with them.

Chair Viegbesie said he had read the applications and felt they had six potential applicants and suggested they allow Administrator and staff to eliminate one and bring five before the Board for interviews and then could drop to three. It was suggested to the Commissioners when they do get a County Administrator to let them do their work.

Commissioner Taylor said they were independent commissioners and all have their own opinion and she would not be dictated to by another Commissioner.

Chair Viegbesie said whether he was Chair or not, the comments he made he would make, the gavel does not make him make the comments he would make them no matter what and he wanted that on the record.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the information Mr. Lawson sent out and felt the issues he heard being discussed regarding the applicants, one thing he had reservations about unless he overlooked it was the lack of day to day operational experience as a County Administrator and it concerned him. He said his recommendation was they needed someone that has that, particularly where they were and recommended they rebid this and look at the qualifications again to see if they were appropriate for what and who they were trying to have

as a County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to interview the ones that made the cut and put them in different offices and visit with them.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan and felt they needed someone that was seasoned.

Commissioner Holt said some that had applied had experience, she googled them. She said she was ready to vote.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO INTERVIEW THE SIX CANDIDATES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Hinson said when he first got it and looked at the qualifications and was curious, why not narrow it down to three and go with the top three and move forth from that point and that would be the only way he would vote for it.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO THE TOP THREE CANDIDATES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2

COUNTY ATTORNEY

27. Updates

Mr. Weiss said he had no updates but was available for questions and there were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

28. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked Mr. Lawson and staff for beautifying the area and asked that they cut (grass) back to the poles.

He said he noticed when they leave District One, it took a long time before they come back and the Board voted for a work program and at one point had around 200 inmates that would help with the cleaning instead of going to jail and wondered why it took so long and how they could make it more effective.

Chair Viegbesie asked to make sure on the next Agenda to add the Attorney contract and the

Citizens Bill of Rights that was asked by Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he received information regarding traffic and signage issues on the Attapulcus Highway and said Chair Viegbesie may be aware of them since they were in his District. Chair Viegbesie said he had received a call regarding the speed limit.

He wanted to mention the status of Juniper Creek Road and was very aware of issues there and appreciated the proactivity of Public Works and how they have responded to that. Also Justin Ford had stayed for this and he had been in front of it and hoped he could come forward and give an overview of where they were with this matter and how they were moving forward on this.

Justin Ford, Dewberry appeared before the Board. He said they met with Public Works and the State was in the process of awarding \$300,000 for Roadway improvements associated with Storm Damage as a part of an appropriation package and they were proposing it be the opportunity to utilize the funding because it was the most impacted roadway in the County from the storm associated from the debris trucks. He said the Funding won't cover the repairs necessary on that road but Commissioner Morgan was willing to add additional funds from his remaining paving funds and that will get them to the point to put a band aid on the road. He said they have applied for funding from the State earlier this year and won't know the status until around October or November if the permanent funding but be available but this would put a band aid on the road to get it by and it was in terrible shape. He said it was basically an unpaved road currently.

Commissioner Morgan said the reason he mentioned this, it was a safety issue there and there is a lot of traffic there.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she was receiving calls regarding that road also.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said she was receiving calls regarding assault weapons and she asked him to provide them with open carry laws so they could respond when asked.

She said each Board member needed to select one person for the Census committee.

She said they also need a workshop on Disaster Recovery, what they have applied for and what they could still apply for.

She said it was legal to grow hemp in Florida and she and another Commissioner from Leon County along with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council would be having a workshop in Jackson County. She said it was not for consumption but more for construction use and supposedly it would be the new crop in Florida that would be producing quite a bit of money and some of the Commissioners in the group believe it could help them with their recovery. She said FAMU was doing research and she was asking if they would have it in Tallahassee and if so, it would be large enough to house everyone.

She said there was a call for a sign for Sawdust.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could use their paving funds for sidewalks and Justin Ford reappeared before the Board.

He said they have done a couple of projects and said they received proposals last week for Strong Road from engineers to design the first half of that sidewalk.

She asked if they heard what Mr. Darmody said when asked about CareerSource, he said he received absolutely nothing from them, nothing. She said she wanted to look at the funding they have been doing with CareerSource because every time they give their report it is a blanket report, it represents every County, and do not know individually what Gadsden County is getting.

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

Chair Viegbesie asked for a motion to present a Resolution for Jimmy Salter for the Sheriff's Office

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.
THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Chair Viegbesie had two items he presented to the Administrator that he asked they come do a presentation on at a meeting.

Receipt and File

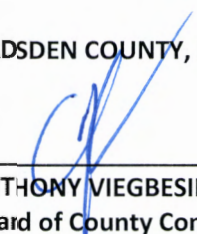
UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN


**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:44 P.M.**



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA


ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk