

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST 20, 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  
Wesley Hall , Assistant County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to silence their phones.

**Pastor Curtiss Cain, United Methodist Church, Havana, FL** gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator, asked to pull Item 7 from the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. June 4, 2019-EMS/Fire Workshop
  - b. June 18, 2019-Regular Meeting
2. Approval to Accept the FY 2019 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report
3. Approval of Engagement Letter

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4. **Public Hearing: Adoption of Resolution No.: 2019-022, a Resolution of the Board of County**

**Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida approving the interlocal agreement with the Florida Development Finance Corporation; authorizing the Florida Development Finance Corporation to exercise its powers as set forth in Chapter 288, Part x, Florida Statutes; and providing an effective date.**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated it was to adopt a resolution to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC) authorizing them to exercise its powers as set forth in Chapter 288, Part X, Florida Statutes, including the authority to issue bonds for the purpose of financing or refinancing capital projects within the County that promote development.

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience.

**Todd Mitchell, Division Manager for Waste Pro**, appeared before the Board and was in favor of this and asked the Board take this into consideration. He said this was an avenue for them to be able to get lower interest rate on their bonds and it would then allow them to build their infrastructure and purchase trucks at a lower interest rate. He asked that the Board take this into consideration and it would help them and any other industry that was in the Gadsden County area.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:03 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan asked that the County Attorney or the Assistant County Administrator explain this.

Mr. Weiss explained Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC) was developed by a legislative act and has certain powers under the act including allowing the FDFC to issue revenue bonds to finance capital projects that promote economic development in the State of Florida but they can only do so if they have entered into a Interlocal Agreement with the Local Interlocal Governmental Agency in which the project is located. He further FDFC would like to be able to issue bonds for projects within the County specifically the WastePro capital improvement project that was just referenced and in order to do so the County would have to authorize that. He said the County would not be issuing any bonds, just allowing the corporation to issue bonds within the County and there is an attorney present that was representing FDFC in case they had more specific questions.

The Attorney representing FDFC appeared before the Board and further explained everything to the Board members.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Attorney if there would be a negative impact to the County and Mr. Weiss stated no.

Commissioner Holt asked Waste Pro what they would use the funds for and Mr. Mitchell said for infrastructure and trucks.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 5. Adoption of Resolution No. 2019-023, authorizing the Chairperson to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying County property located at 306 Washington Street, Chattahoochee, FL, Parcel ID No. 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00212-1400 to the City of Chattahoochee for the public or community interest and welfare**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Resolution No, 2019-023 authorizing the Chairperson to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying property located at 306 Washington Street, Chattahoochee, FL, Parcel ID No. 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00213-1400 to the City of Chattahoochee for the public or community interest and welfare.

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

- 6. Approval to Extend the Lease Agreement with the Gadsden County School Board for Dental Equipment**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to lease dental equipment that was currently located at Havana Magnet School to the Gadsden County School Board.

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

- ~~7. Ratification of Agreement with iWorQ Systems, Inc.~~**

Item Pulled

- 8. Adoption of Resolution No. 2019-024, approving the agreement with the City of Quincy for the transfer of title to a 2005 Mack CV713 Granit Dump Truck to the City of Quincy as payment in full for utility service charges associated with the relocation of utilities at the Barack Obama Roundabout at Martin Luther King Boulevard and the installation of lighting on the entire length of Jefferson Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard; and authorizing the Chairperson to execute the Agreement and all documents necessary to transfer title to the Dump Truck**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Resolution No. 2019-024 approving the agreement with the City of Quincy for the transfer of title to a 2005 Mack CV713 Granite Dump Truck to the City of Quincy as payment in full for utility service charges associated with the relocation of utilities at the Barack Obama Roundabout at Martin Luther King Boulevard and the installation of lighting on the entire length of Jefferson Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard and for authorization for the Chair to execute the Agreement and all documents necessary to transfer title to the Dump Truck.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

- 9. Discussion and Action Regarding the County Attorney Contract**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action regarding the County Attorney contract.

Commissioner Taylor said this was brought before the Board some time back some time back and

at that time she was not in favor of addressing the contract because she felt the timing was not in the best interest. But after a few meetings passed, and after one in particular, she observed some actions from the Attorney and she stated those concerns and felt the Board was not being represented equally. She felt on certain items there was favoritism shown by the attorney, in particular that night, she felt the Attorney was very aggressive that night. She said she even cautioned that this was a Board discussion but he was adamant at that time on gaveling the meeting and have witnessed on several occasions where she felt his opinion may or may not be valid. He and I had several phone calls after some of those meetings because she wanted to let him know her feelings in hopes going forward the behavior would resolve itself and he assured her his best intentions were to do the will of the Board and administer his ruling or his opinion in a justified manner. She stated she has seen a difference on some occasions. She said she had a chance to research the contract agreement to see how long the contract was in place and opted to wait until budgeting time to look at it. She said it would not come up for renewal until January 2020 and felt it was too long to wait. She said there were also issues with him getting back with them in a timely manner on things. She asked for discussion.

Commissioner Morgan said he was going to look at it from a different point of view and could not disagree more. He thought they had had excellent representation from the firm and the advice that had been provided had been consistent, the value brought to the County has been excellent, and thought they were very fortunate for this firm who employs a good number of Gadsden County folks and Mr. Weiss specifically has done a really great job, prior to him Ms. Minnis did a great job and they are invested in the County and at this time based on the projects moving forward, and the fact that the County is post-storm Category 5 situation with so many issues hanging over the County's head and the fact that there is a search for a County Administrator going on he felt it was a terrible time for them to be considering a different law firm. He said he could build on what he said before when they made a mistake switching out the County Administrator at the wrong time, they were making a mistake now considering switching out when we disagree with the Attorney and he gives advice we do not like. He strongly recommended not making any changes to the County Attorney because it would impact how they moved forward with the Hospital because of the fact the representation they receive through the firm in that capacity as well and said he could not disagree more with what he heard in the prior remarks.

Commissioner Holt said any concerns she had with the attorney she mentioned to him and mentioned any concerns to the Board on any subjects. At the time of the contract renewal, she did bring up to the Board to bid the contract and it made sense to her because then they would not have to pay out any remaining part of the contract. She added they were already doing that for one position now and it did not make any sense to pay out the contract.

Mr. Weiss said he serves at the pleasure of the Board, there is a 30 day notice period and certainly would be a notice period to wind-down and transition period but there would be no amounts due beyond the work he actually did. He said he was sorry if anyone ever had the impression that he showed any type of favoritism to anyone on the Board, he did not think that he did, he felt his opinions were given without respect to who was asking the question, he believed he was consistent and equal and fair and was his job and role and served at the pleasure of the Board and have appreciated the opportunity to do any and hoped he could continue to represent the Board in the future.

Commissioner Holt said once he was done working throughout the contract or what they needed

done and that would be the end of their pay, she was concerned about one thing, the post-hurricane preparedness meeting with EMS and Fire. She said they have so many things on the table. She said they have to stand still long enough to go after the funding and make sure they were doing things correctly. She said she was not saying he was the best one, she was saying they needed to be stable long enough to go after the funding.

Commissioner Taylor said the money that the County is rightfully owed through FEMA is already designated for this County. Yes, the Attorney was a part of the process, but not a major part. She said she could see where they were going and understood from being around the dais the meaning to the madness. When they started the budget process for 2018/19, programs were cut but the attorney's contract was increased and they approved it. She added that the billing had an upsurge and they were charging more now. She said a comment was made about making an error in dismissing the previous Administrator; it was not an error that they did that; everything has a season and a reason for it and what they did needed to be done at the time. She said she had no dislike, no disrespect and did not mean any if it was being conveyed and was not where she was at. She just felt strongly at this time they needed a change for more reasons than she cared to state and they needed to look at this closely or it would cost them down the line. She wanted to go on record tonight saying that.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not think it was the message, it was the messenger. He said he believed in doing what was right. He said they had to go through the process.

Commissioner Holt asked what process, when this came up before she said to bid the contract and she was serious about it. She said she was worried about this process.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a point in time where he expressed his concerns with this and from his point of view, the attorney made his adjustments. He said they were still going through a learning process and they were in a contract with the law firm. He said if there was any reason they felt they needed to switch attorneys, the law firm had other attorneys they could put in place. He said the services with this firm ends in February and there were some litigations going on and there were other things going on and they need to consider as a Board, to wait until the contract expires and see what firms or attorneys they could get.

Commissioner Hinson said the attorney did not handle litigation, the insurance company did.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the ADA lawsuit that was just settled.

Mr. Weiss said with respect to litigation, it depended on if there was coverage under the County's insurance policy. For most of the things the County is sued for, there is coverage and when there is, the insurance company has the right to appoint counsel to represent the County and the right to settle claims. Typically, his firm did not handle anything that was covered under the insurance policy. They did handle things that were not covered under the policy and then represent the Board. He did want to respond to some issues that were mentioned. He stood behind statements that he did not show favoritism toward any one Commissioner and was sorry if anyone did have that impression. With respect to timeliness and the amount of attorney's fees, that is largely a function, if he did not receive something until the last minute or at all, he was unable to address it and was numerous times with contracts, Ordinances, Resolutions and things that were put on the Agenda and published and he saw them at the same time the Commissioners saw them. With

terms to the attorney fees, they get a certain number of hours under their retainer agreement where they bill at a significantly reduced rate and when they go over, they bill at a significantly reduced rate once the retainer hours were exhausted and they do everything they can to reduce their hours.

Commissioner Taylor said in summation: the County would not have to pay out a contract; there is no responsibility from him in regard to Hurricane Michael in them being able to get the dollars that the County was deemed; he does not litigate. She said the Chair had concerns about lawsuits and she said in February when the contract has matured, there will be lawsuits; the County could not stop that. The legal fees, one of the Commissioners said in comparison to other legal representation in the past, this firm's fees were less. She said if they continued with this firm the way their fees were increasing, they would be near the concerns they had previously with the old firm. She wanted to bring these concerns up but she heard the majority of the Board. She said she would be very supportive of it going out for bid and looking for another agency and would not put it on the floor. She asked they make sure to put the contract up for bid.

Commissioner Morgan said this came down to they were not getting answers they wanted to hear from certain positions around the dais or key positions with the County; they look at the person not the situation, they did not look at who was qualified to do what, they just want the next person in line to give an answer that they wanted to hear. He said they were a policy making Board. They should have people challenge them on things and who are expertise in certain areas; whether it be a County Administrator with experience, whether it be an Attorney with experience, whether it be a key person in a supervisory position with day-to-day operations. This is a policy making Board, just because they did not get the answers they wanted to hear did not mean they drop the hammer and go to the next guy and that was what this was about.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he supported this, he thought it was right. If they bid this out today, they have less than five months and the time is now to start bidding; because they need time to vet and time to search.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the search should begin now so in February if they decide to not continue with the law firm they currently had, they would have one to go, and Commissioner Hinson said yes.

Commissioner Holt said if the Board was sued, FAC always chose the attorney to represent the County and she was not voting to get rid of anyone at this time that stood between them and them recovering any money.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked to have this agendaed to go through the process correctly and have this bided. Chair Viegbesie asked they finish this item and bring that up under her comments.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THAT ON THE AGENDA AND  
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked them to consider how they, as a Board treat the contractual relationship they have not only with the County Attorney but with the Administrator and some of

the other positions because that determines who responds in the future and they have seen limited response based on how the County government managed existing relationships, whether it be with vendors, attorneys or Administrators or any other positions they contract with. He encouraged her. He said he had no problem with bidding this out at the end of the term and going through the process and if Ausley chose to respond at that time, that would be great, and if they chose not to, he understood, but to let this come to the full-term and at that point, address that as needed. The decisions made today determine who would respond to these situations in the future as far as establishing relationships with the County. He said there was no reason to further limit who would respond to doing business with them. He said this would affect them in the future.

Chair Viegbesie said that was his understanding of what Commissioner Hinson was saying.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Taylor to restate the motion.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID TO START THE BIDDING PROCESS, IN THE EVENT IT TAKES UP TO FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, SHE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT BUT WANTED TO START THE PROCESS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT WOULD RUN THE FULL TERM OF THE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AGREED. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO START THE BIDDING PROCESS.**

**10. Approval to allow the Gadsden County Health Department to utilize existing County building**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to commit the existing County building and site utilized by the Gadsden County Health Department for renovations and/or construction funding through the Florida Legislature.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:02 p.m.*

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**11. Approval of a Task Order for Green Shade Fire Department**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a task order for architectural services for the Green Shade Fire Station. He stated the facility would accommodate the Green Shade Volunteer Fire Station and a Gadsden County Emergency Management Services two-man crew.

Chair Viegbesie asked if funding was in the current fiscal year budget and Mr. Hall said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said she saw some Green Shade citizens here. She asked if the fire Station was coded for fire trucks now. Mr. Hall stated it was. Commissioner Taylor said she heard the way it was built it was not currently coded to have fire trucks in it by State regulations.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:03 p.m.*

She asked if there was a concern previously. Mr. Hall said the concern was the depth of the concrete in the slab and they had to cut a hole in the slab to measure and it needed to be 4 inches or above and it was actually 7 1/2 inches and it was strong enough and deep enough to support the

weight of a fire truck.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**12. Approval of a Task Order for Green Shade Fire Department**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for a task order for pre-construction services from Riley Palmer for the Green Shade Fire Station and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**13. Updates**

Mr. Thomas wanted to mention some emails he sent them last week. The first one was related to the EMS Ordinance that did not pass at the last meeting. He said since that Ordinance did not pass, Finance was forced to back money out of the fund and that will cause a shortfall and will need to be made up from the General Fund. As he reviewed the last version of their budget for fiscal year 2020, they once again was budgeting that surtax money and he encouraged them to not do that because they had not passed the Ordinance, they would therefore be passing an unbalanced budget because they could not put that money in the fund.

The second thing, for the record, he emailed them a Cash Balance report showing about \$19 Million with everything combined and an Investment Report showing where the monies were invested and the interest rates.

Commissioner Taylor said he mentioned the 1 cent Discretionary sales tax they did not approve. She apologized for missing the meeting and she had concerns with EMS with guns on their sides. She asked based on the meeting this afternoon, were they still planning on doing that and Chair Viegbesie said no. She asked this be scheduled. Mr. Weiss said it would be on the next agenda for September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to be very careful, there was a 4" rain in Quincy and Public Works guys were very important, if you could not get to the spot, there was no reason for EMS.

Commissioner Holt said on the EMS funding, it was mentioned today they were strapped for money. She asked about the 24 or 48 hour shifts and suggested to lure more people to come because a lot of them do not want to work those shifts, she asked about 12 hour shifts to see if that was an enticement. She said they were strapped for money and Road and Bridge was strapped for money.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**14. Updates**

Mr. Hall said he had no updates.



Commissioner Taylor asked about the grass cutting and asked that the Administrator look into it. Mr. Hall said they had a meeting earlier this week and they were working on it and also the flooding issues.

Commissioner Taylor asked why the CBOR was not on the Agenda. Mr. Weiss said there was not enough advertising time and explained an Ordinance had to be advertised 10 days prior to adoption.

Chair Viegbesie said with regard to mowing, maybe they could set aside money next year to hire subcontractors during the growing months so help with the grass cutting.

Commissioner Morgan said to remember also the wet weather prohibits cutting in some areas.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **15. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was happy to answer questions.

Commissioner Taylor asked about litigation with regard to the former administrator. Mr. Weiss said no lawsuit has been filed to his knowledge; there was a Notice of Claim filed and it was referred to the insurance company and was currently under investigation.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

#### **Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said they had a County Jail work program in 2016 and had 200+ people working in the program and that could possibly help with the grass cutting.

#### **Customer Service**

He said they need to be respectful. The morale was low and they need to train leaders. Mr. Hall said they were looking into having consultants come in.

He said he was receiving phone calls from people and churches for dirt.

He said they needed to be proactive on flooding and cleaning out the culverts.

He said they needed to pray about the Summer Youth Employment Program going into the next budget meeting; they took 125 jobs away last year and hoped they could bring them back.

He said he had received a lot of phone calls concerning roofing and they took away \$100,000 last budget for emergency housing and it was helping seniors and disabled people in the community and people were having issues with their roofs.

#### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Salvation Army Non-Profits- she said she had discussed this before.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 7:33 p.m.*

If you put non-profits under them, they said they would take them and they could generate money. They said they would handle the Summer Youth; CareerSource came before them and said they would handle them as they do in Leon County. She added if they put the money they had into CareerSource, they levy that against State and Federal money, they get funded. She further stated if this did not work, they could always go back to doing it the old way.

She said the phones were out at Road and Bridge and she spoke with the Assistant Administrator and they had received a lot of phone calls because people were unable to reach them. She said they needed to look at TDS, the phone provider, in case it happened again, they could bring in some phones.

She also mentioned that she has asked for a post-hurricane meeting and they need to have emergency packs at fire stations. She said they were trapped at the Emergency Management Center and Road and Bridge tried to get equipment that was located at the Road and Bridge department and they could not get there because of downed trees.

**Permitting Process**

She said she received a lot of phone calls regarding this. She did not think they should vote on this until they know how this would affect the citizens. She said the legal side of that is you could not get funding if the property was not in the person's name.

She mentioned again that the County had \$350,000 for Housing that they get for Emergency Housing and United Way also had money for housing. She said if people had not called, they needed to call the County Housing Department and they could send them to the United Way.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to look at Big Bend Consortium, they could not play politics. He said they gave Boys and Girls Club \$225,000 and they represent the Big Bend and a majority of the funding went to Tallahassee. Chair Viegbesie interjected and said last year the Board gave \$101,000 and that was a big difference and they should be accurate in giving figures. Commissioner Hinson said he said this was last year.

He thanked Commissioner Holt for bringing this up and reiterated they needed to have a strong workshop regarding permits. He said too many people were called about that. He said there were also a lot of phone calls about homeowners losing their insurance because of their roofs.

He said he was at Midway today and he was told EMS was no longer located there and said that never came to the Board. He asked what the issue was and why it was removed from Midway and without Board approval and where the money went to when the Board allocated \$300,000 a year for that.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor echoed the same sentiments on the summer youth jobs going through CareerSource. She said the last time they did that, CareerSource took most of the money from the

kids and did not think it was beneficial.

She said she has had so many phone calls from employees with issues and have directed them to the Interim Administrator and said they have “been kicked down the road and nothing is happening”.

She said she got a call from a woman that said she was taken to court and was trying to open up a business because of an over-flow area and it being made contaminated and when you’re putting monkey wrench put in when trying to open businesses trying to open doors and hire people and pay tax dollars so (the County) can provide services, she did not understand. She said there were departments that were slowing down businesses for whatever reasons; they need to look within their coffers at some of these processes that take people forever to turn dirt and when they do turn dirt, they get stop work orders; putting locks on ice machines; employees’ morale is low; our employees provide service and if they were not feeling positive about what they were doing , what kind of service were we providing to the community if they did not feel the support of their superiors.

She said they needed a change and needed to make things happen as soon as possible. She said what they were looking for in their next Administrator was someone to help boost morale, boost growth and development, someone that knows FEMA, that knows Gadsden County, that has resources, someone that has been around, been here and get this County back to where we were. She stated in her humble opinion, this County was in a state of emergency.

She said she wanted to put on the floor tonight to hire Robert Presnell back in order to bring stability and morale and get this County back on its feet to where it needed to go and in doing so, still go after those three or four names and bring them in and allow them to train alongside him. She said in regard to the County Administrator, “the can is being kicked down the road”. She asked when the three names from the applications for County Administrator would come before the Board. She said she would bring back Robert’s name at every meeting until she got three votes.

Chair Viegbesie said it was in the hands of HR and the Interim County Administrator.

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

Chair Viegbesie said his comments would be very unpopular and thought provoking.

“1. Mr. Attorney, do we have a policy and procedure in place regarding the Interim qualifications for any positions while a permanent search is being looked for and the Interim decides not to accept the permanent position. What happens interim, do they automatically go back to their original position, do we have a policy in place to address that?”

Mr. Weiss said he would need to look at the Personnel policy.

Chair Viegbesie said every Commissioner receives phone calls and have ears.

“2. After hearing as many complaints as I have heard from contractors I am strongly suggesting for an Independent Party to audit all County Contracts for the past five years; to ensure transparency and integrity in our county government.”

"3. There is no doubt that Integrity in government requires checks and balances. On that ground, there is a sincere need for ethics compliance in our County government. I truly hope that anyone in this government or community who observes an appearance of any form of unethical activities, behaviors or improprieties in our government will make it his/her responsibility to ensure the integrity of ethical behaviors by filing ethics complaints with the Florida Commission on Ethics. This is holding your elected officials and employees accountable.

The number to the Florida Commission on Ethics is 850 488 7864. Let the FCE, upon investigation let the Florida Dept. on Ethics exonerate or indict the alleged violator. No one should hesitate to file a complaint on me if they see anything I did that is unethical. .

As for me, I am making a promise to the people of Gadsden County that I will file a complaint if I observe any appearance or any indications of improprieties in our government; be it with Staff or fellow Commissioners. This is absolutely not a threat on anyone. Rather, it is an absolute promise. I do not throw stones and hide my hand. Thanks."

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said for United Way, they set up the committee so the money would not go to Tallahassee and the same with CareerSource, they monitor the money with that. Also with the work crews with cutting, at one time they hired a fourth crew to help with the cutting.

She encouraged citizens to look at YouTube at Gadsden Community Hospital and it would show what is in the hospital and should be there.

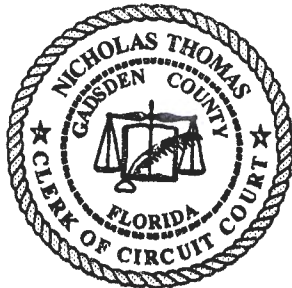
**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk