

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Deborah Mennis, Assistant County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Bill Proctor gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

There were none.

CONSENT

Commissioner Morgan made a motion for approval of the consent agenda and asked to pull Item 4 and Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 5.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Ratification Memo
2. Resolution in Support for the US 90 Sidewalk Project
3. Approval to Accept the FY 2020 1st Quarter Report
4. ~~Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and GCSBOCC~~
Pulled for Discussion
5. ~~Agreement with Logan Roofing for the Preventative Maintenance Program for the W.A. Woodham Building~~
6. RAM Construction Change Order for the W.A. Woodham Roof Replacement

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and GCBOCC

Commissioner Morgan asked about the 50/50 match for the project.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board to address the question. Mr. Meeks said the match money was budgeted in 2018 for \$200,000 and was already bid out.

Commissioner Holt asked how they were bid out.

Mr. Meeks stated they were advertised and Dewberry and Peavy & Son were awarded the low bid at previous meeting this fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

5. Agreement with Logan Roofing for the Preventative Maintenance Program for the W.A. Woodham Building

Commissioner Holt stated she understood this was a low-cost item and asked what it was bid out at.

Allan Meeks, Facility Manager, appeared before the Board to explained Logan Roofing put the roof on through Ram Construction. That was brought to the Board for approval and he stated this was an agreement for them to do a 6-month inspection for the warranty that needed to be maintained on the roof.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Albert Beddy, 7281 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board to speak about unregistered junk cars at 7185 Sycamore Road. He spoke on the junk cars on the property and had a Petroleum Hydrocarbon Assessment Oil and Grease Report he presented to the Commission. He stated it was affecting his property and he pays taxes for 10 acres and cannot use his property, raise his animals or use his well. Mr. Beddy was advised to contact the County Administrator's Office to arrange an appointment.

Sarah Battles, 18 Martin Street, hospital contract, deferred her time to Bishop Green.

Dr. Willie C. Green, Bishop, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board regarding the hospital contract. He acknowledged that the current contract looked better than the previous contract. He said some concerns the citizens of Gadsden County and the BOCC should have were, according to the referendum the citizens voted and approved, the ½ sales tax that was levied upon the citizens for 30 years, was designed to accomplish several things and

along were a primary care, preventative care, funding for healthcare programs to provide healthcare services to eligible indigents and more importantly, in-patient care. facility. He asked why the 4 beds at the hospital had not been upgraded to active status and why the 4 beds could not be turned into active, in-patient care beds. Bishop Green questioned the BOCC saying, after 10 years, why had there been no progress made to activate the 4 beds and turn them into in-care and then improve the facility to accommodate the remaining 10-16 potential beds. He stated the new proposed contract had language that did not obligate the Company to do anything with the 4 beds and there was no language to have them at least try to turn the facility into an in-care patient facility and that was what the citizens voted for. He further stated the County should live up to the promises made to the citizens to provide a hospital that could give patient in-care beds. He asked the Board to think long and hard before signing the contract. He further stated the current contract looked better than the one signed in 2010 and asked what it would cost to transition the beds into in-care beds and what problem(s) stand in the way.

Chairman Viegbesie assured him the BOCC would take the comments into consideration when going into contract negotiations.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for coming out to speak about the hospital. She said there were other healthcare providers.....

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order.

Chairman Viegbesie said there have been series of workshops going on, and there were still developments going on and a workshop again and the BOCC's thoughts and ideas need to be interjected during those meetings and workshops.

Bishop Green re-appeared before the Board and thank the BOCC for considering the idea. Looking at the two side by side, there was a big difference. He stated they were close and should be able to get something in terms of in-care beds, and that would make a big difference.

Angril Bozeman, POB 2403 Havana, FL, deferred to Bishop Green

Shara Williams, PO Box 97, Quincy, FL, yielded time to Bishop Green

Jo Ann Williams, 136 Atwater Rd. appeared before the Board regarding the Hospital. She hoped this would be brought back to the citizens. She stated rural residents did not all have the opportunity or the transportation to get back and forth to Tallahassee without undo stress. When the hospital was in operation it was good and she wants it to be made possible to have the Hospital brought back to the Gadsden County Citizens.

Shirley Moore, 885 Newberry Rd, yielded her time to Bishop Green.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. FDOT Grant Application Cycles

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated it was submitted to the Board for approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation under the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP); Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP); County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) and Small County Outreach Program-Bridge Repair (B-SCOP).

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

8. Approval of Contract for Legal Services

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the legal services contract with the Pittman Law Group.

Commissioner Hinson said he had briefly talked with some members of the Pittman Law Firm and wanted to disclose that. He stated they had not talked about the contract, had just spoken in general.

Commissioner Taylor said the group also provided community support after they were selected but had nothing to do with the contract.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Mr. Hall thanked everyone that was involved with the SHIP house on Attapulugus Highway that was turned over to the citizen. He stated there was a nice turn-out, it was heartwarming and made a difference.

Chairman Viegbesie said there was lot of rehab houses that were using State and Federal Grants to do. He further stated it did not matter which district the key presentation was in, he encouraged as many Commissioners that could to share in the joy with the citizens.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not know if the "ribbon cutting" would be something the County would start doing, she did not recall it happening in the past. She said she was happy for the family that received it and thought it should happen for each family and not be an isolated situation.

Mr. Hall stated it was not an isolated situation and he thought it was a great idea and plans on moving forward with marketing, and letting people know the things the County was doing to

make a difference in the community. He further stated the ribbon cutting would happen each and every time.

Commissioner Hinson apologized, he stated he was not sure when he received a phone call for the key presentation, but almost everyone in Midway and Havana knows when he receives a phone call, he would be there. He did not understand what it was until later.

Chairman Viegbesie stated there was no need for Mr. Hall to apologize, it was an initiative that was introduced by Mr. Hall as a way of getting the citizens to understand that their Government was actually doing things as opposed to doing things and nobody knowing what was going on. It was a last-minute thing and Chairman Viegbesie thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Hall stated he would make sure the notice gets out in advance from this point on.

Commissioner Hinson stated as long as houses keep getting done, he was fine with it.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Updates

Ms. Minnis stated there was nothing to report.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the BOCC approved a contract for the Interim Administrator.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the contract had been previously approved at an earlier meeting, she may have been absent at that meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said the Board approved the Interim Agreement for the Administrator and that Commissioner Hinson had asked the County Administrator position be brought back in February for the search for the County Administrator position.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would love to entertain it, but not tonight.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:42 pm.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for having a very productive meeting and the citizens that came out to express their concerns.

He further stated they needed to be careful in how they spoke and in giving direction to other Board Members, because everyone was human and they needed to make sure they did not raise their voices and dictate to people.

Commissioner Hinson said concerning Gibson Sawmill Road, he had a gentleman that had concerns that a lot of people were driving on Highway 27 and a lot of major accidents on the curve in the road. He said concerning the Hospital, it was very serious, even critical. He wanted to hear more input from the citizens.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for coming out on the hospital issue. She stated what was going to have to be done was look at other providers to see what was sufficient for a contract. She further stated the contract was better than what the County had before but not what the citizens voted for, they voted for a Community Hospital. She encouraged the citizens to put pressure on the Commissioners.

Chairman Viegbesie called for point of order and asked the citizens to keep comments and feedback and if they had anything to say in regards to the Commissioners comments, to raise their hand and he would recognize them when she was finished speaking.

Commissioner Holt continued and stated the citizens could call the Manager's office with questions and suggestions, because this item was going to come before the Board. There should be a line out the door for this meeting and input was strongly encouraged. She added that healthcare was too important and she was willing to "jump on the sword" for this one.

She told the Commissioners they did have a Legislative Agenda and Commissioner Taylor brought this up. She wanted to make sure the Commissioners were all on the same page. When she was asked what was the Agenda, she said it was the same thing the BOCC had last year because requests remained the same.

Commissioner Holt stated the key presentation was a good idea. She asked for an update on repairs on the two bridges that went down.

Lisa Robinson, Interim Public Works Director, appeared before the Board. She stated Juniper Creek was scheduled to be completed by May 2020, and Hutchinson Ferry plans have been completed and was put out for bid.

Commissioner Holt also said the County was in the running for HGTV, hopefully with other cities. HGTV wants to do overhauls of towns they think are economically distressed.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she was waiting for the Citizens Bill of Rights to come back on the Agenda.

Mr. Hall said he would get it on the agenda as soon as possible.

She further said some of the paving money was taken to fix Hutchinson Ferry Road and asked if another funding source has been found. Mr. Hall said, no, there had not been another funding source found.

She also said she would not be present on the 18th, and would be appearing by phone.

With regards to the hospital, she wants to see a full-service hospital here. The reason she was supporting what the BOCC had done was because it is impossible for a County of our size to support a full-service, operating hospital. Different doctors and specialists would have to go into hospital and set up shop and add revenue to keep doors open at the levels needed, and that

would be difficult. To get four beds, you need to get a kitchen, get specialists 24 hours a day, equipment, and other things the County could not afford. At the last meeting with CRMC, the Board said, if it could not be done now, then they would need to come up with a plan, showing the County where it would develop as the years come instead of saying it would never happen. She stated she supports a hospital but they needed to be realistic as to what the County could afford at this time.

Commissioner Holt said she had two calls on the private roads workshop and there were complaints still in the Building Inspection Department. She asked for these items to be researched.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC hired Mr. Lawson as lobbying firm and asked if they were on the ground and if they would come give a report to the Board before the sessions were over. She asked Mr. Hall to get a lobbying firm here.

Commissioner Hinson said someone came to him and had heard the agenda for the lobbyist changed overnight. He stated he was shocked. He further stated the BOCC needed to make sure to stay focused.

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

Chairman Viegbesie said with regard to the legislative Agenda, there were Appropriation forms that should be completed for items and the BOCC did not have anyone to complete the forms to track the process. The County needs a lobbyist that has time to complete the appropriation papers. The bills the BOCC had requested could then be followed. He further stated the only thing that concerned him was what was good for the County and the citizens.

Commissioner Holt said she did not want to put the lobbyist name out, other counties filled the forms out, and Gadsden is the only county out of 9 that did not. The deadline is over and she stated it was not the lobbyist's fault.

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 7:17 P.M.

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk