

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 7, 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**  
                  **Clayton Knowles, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m. and explained under the emergency situation, they were handling the meeting under a different approach.

He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hall asked to pull Item 12 from the Agenda.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED TO PULL ITEM 7 FOR DISCUSSION AND MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**Board approved 5-0**

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval to Renew the Standard Contract between the State of Florida, Department of Revenue and the Gadsden County BOCC**
- 3. Approval of the Services Contract with Deer Oaks EAP**

4. **Approval of Mandatory Direct Deposit of Salary Wages**
5. **Approval of a Letter Authorizing Tallahassee Big Bend Crime Stoppers, Inc. to Act as Gadsden County's Agent for the Purpose of Applying for and Recovering Monies from the Crime Stopper's Trust Fund**
6. **Approval of Proposal for a Web Based Human Resource Platform**
7. **Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partners**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

8.
  - a. **November 5, 2019-Special Workshop**
  - b. **October 15, 2019-Special Meeting**
  - c. **December 17, 2019-Regular Meeting**
  - d. **August 29, 2019-Budget Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

7. **Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partners**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem but with the current environment and was sure they were very successful in gaining grant dollars, but what would make him have less heartburn was if they could pay a percentage of the amount they could bring to the County and not spend that type of money right now.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not know how this was under the Consent Agenda when it concerns spending money and impacted the budget. She said she concurred with Commissioner Morgan and wanted to be more studious and learn more about the company.

Commissioner Holt asked for clarification from the Interim County Administrator.

He said he advertised twice for a Grant writer and received no applications and he thought this might be good alternative to a grant writer.

Commissioner Holt said they were in desperate need of a grant writer. Monies are out there they are not going to get because of not having a grant writer.

Commissioner Taylor said in what the Manager said, he was unsuccessful in finding a potential employee to do this, how was he successful in finding this group. Also why was this under the Consent Agenda when there was a fiscal impact to the budget.

Chair Viegbesie said with regards to Congressional Partners, it was a group he met in Washington, DC during a legislative conference, they had booth and he talked with them. They

are like an outsourced grant writer for Federal and State grants. He brought this before the commission two years ago and they are willing to make a presentation.

Commissioner Morgan said it might be a better fit if they considered a percentage rather than a contract that laid out funds upfront and also to bring this back and have a presentation.

Commissioner Holt asked where the group was located and Chair Viegbesie said in Washington, DC. She asked amount of money and it is \$4,000 per month. She said they were not getting funding because they were not applying.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for a 6-month trial period.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a consensus somewhere to bring this back for a presentation and she was in agreement with that. She said maybe the base was not adequate; someone mentioned adding on a percentage of what was awarded should be a part of the salary and she would go back out with that. She continued and said when you have this type of firm that writes for several Counties, they may not give their 100%. She said she was in favor to give him a chance to add onto the salary.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to add they needed to be careful before moving forward with that recommendation, they needed to consider the fact that the Interim County Administrator just accepted a position at Escambia County and they need to be careful before listening to his recommendations.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a different skill there for federal grants versus local and state funding but think from what he was hearing from Commissioner Taylor about a percentage or if it is an amount on a six month agreement that any funds not gotten short of that are (inaudible) might be a way to talk with that company and entertain that. He said at this point, what he thought he was hearing from Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Hinson, was to table this and bring back for further discussion at a later date.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND BRING BACK AT A LATER DATE AND COMMISSIONER TAYOR MADE THE SECOND.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>NO RESPONSE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION PASSED 4-0**

Mr. Hall asked for clarity; they were looking at bringing this back at another time but were they also looking at the grant writer position and looking at a certain salary plus a percentage of what was brought to the table?

Commissioner Taylor said that was what she meant but she was not sure of the will of the Board.

Clerk Thomas appeared before the Board and cautioned them that every grant did not provide for administrative money in the grants and money may come from the County coffers.

Commissioner Morgan said they could table this and bring these issues back.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. EMS Protocol Application Agreement (Acid Remap LLC)**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a subscription agreement between Acid Remap LLC and Gadsden County EMS for a paramedic protocol mobile application service.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:32 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>NO RESPONSE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>HAD STEPPED AWAY</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 AND MOTION PASSED.**

**10. Ratification of Payment to SynergyPACT for FEMA Public Assistance Consultation Services**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said was to ratify payment to SynergyPact for FEMA Public Assistance Consultation Services for managing Hurricane Michael documentation to endure proper reimbursement with FEMA. Also, Staff is requesting approval of a Professional Services Contract and ratification of the contract and for the ratification of payments to SynergyPACT starting in mid-February until completion.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>HAD STEPPED AWAY</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**THE MOTION PASSED 4-0**

**11. Approval to Confirm Appointment of Public Works Director**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for confirmation of the appointment of Lisa Robinson as the new Public Works Director.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>STEPPED AWAY</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**THE MOTION PASSED 4-0**

**12. SHIP Program Discussion**

ITEM PULLED

**14. Discussion of the FY20 Summer Youth Program**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion. He said at the December 17, 2019 Board meeting, the Summer Youth Program was approved for \$50,000 for 45 youth. He further explained COVID-19 has impacted a lot of services and programs in the County and the Summer Youth program was one of them.

Chair Viegbesie explained this was a discussion item and was glad the Clerk was present for questions and to give an understanding as to what they were able to do as a Board. He said should they decide to not provide the program this year, would it be possible to carry the line item over to the next year with the current pandemic and add that amount to the next fiscal year to increase the number of potential students for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Thomas appeared before the Board and stated that would have to be addressed during the budget process and they could carry it forward into the next budget.

Chair Viegbesie said that would be his suggestion so they would not lose and with the circumstances of COVID-19 that they would not be able to use that amount of money this year, if they carried it forward to next year, it would give them the chance to actually get a lot more (students) the following year. He stated this was not for a vote but was his contribution to the discussion.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:40 p.m.*

Hinson said that was a great idea but maybe they could move with the times, the kids could work, kids could do a lot of computer stuff, make phone calls, etc.

Chair Viegbesie explained this was not an action item, it was a discussion item only.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion and the number one thing to keep in mind about the program, he wanted to see them put that money back in the Fund Balance and

address things like unmet needs with Code Enforcement and address specific needs with Roads and Bridges and infrastructure issues.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were trying to move funding and Chair Viegbesie explained everything to her.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought they could do something similar to what the IRS was doing and look at 2018 grades. She felt taking the money and putting it towards bridges and whatever was doing an undue justice to the children and she preferred they wait and give themselves more time and bring this item back.

Chair Viegbesie said he would be in support of suspending this program this year entirely and play by ear until May and if the State of Emergency has lifted by the President and the Governor and then eventually by the County at a reasonable time, they could see how this pandemic goes.

Commissioner Holt stated she did not have a problem with it staying where it was and looking at the last grades, her concern was if they were put back on any site and any contamination at those sites would be a problem as far as the virus goes whether the President said we could go back to work or not. She continued to talk but was inaudible.

Commissioner Hinson said grades will be available, staff was still working.

Chair Viegbesie asked that this be placed on the Agenda for the first meeting in May.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

##### **15. Updates**

Mr. Thomas stated he had no report but was available for questions.

Commissioner Taylor said there were “bumps in the road” with regards to the contract with CRMC and the County. She asked how we paid them going forward with regards to the date of the signed agreement for the next 10 years and if they would be paid back and if all necessities were taken care of with regards to the components of the contract. Mr. Thomas said it was all agreed on; they will be paid on collections through the month of February. Beginning the month of March the new contract will go into effect and they will be paying the Board the \$200,000, 1/12<sup>th</sup> per month, and in return, they are giving them 1/12<sup>th</sup> of \$200,000 from the Indigent Tax. He said everything was understood from all parties.

Commissioner Holt said she could hear some of what the Clerk was saying and asked if he could send them an email regarding that.

The Clerk agreed he would send an email regarding that matter.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **16. Updates**

Mr. Hall said he received information regarding funding allocations from Senator Lawson’s office with funding allocations contained in the fiscal year 2020/2021 General Appropriation Acts of

Funding Initiatives for Gadsden County. He asked for them to look at it and he met with Teresa Fredericks but because of the virus and the situation, there was a chance the numbers may change.

Chair Viegbesie said he had in hand a Letter of Resignation tendered by the Interim County Administrator and read the letter into the record. He said he would then entertain a motion to accept or reject to take action on the letter he just read.

Commissioner Morgan said they have previously approved the agenda and did not know if they could vote on this since was not on the Agenda; maybe they should address this at a later date.

Mr. Knowles said they could amend the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were amending the Agenda for this item only and Chair Viegbesie stated yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked if he had this at the start of the meeting, why did he wait and Chair Viegbesie said he forgot about the letter at the time.

**CHAIR VEIGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION WAS APPROVED 5-0**

Commissioner Taylor said she had a few words to say to the Interim Administrator. She said she did not intend for him to leave; her intent was to get his attention. He said she did get his attention. She said she respected his work; he was a great guy and apologized to him. She said that was why she was quitting, why she was getting from up there, but he was good one and wanted to publicly tell him that. She said she did ask that they speak with someone from the Health Department with regard to the virus in the County. She said she knew what had been reported and what had been rumored. She wanted to ask about Stevens School but with what just heard, figured he said "to heck" with Stevens School. She said the deal with the hospital, now that it was underway, that needed to get done. She publicly apologized to him, felt he would have done a great job for the County and hated to see him go.

Chair Viegbesie said whatever action they need to take with regards to a replacement will have to be agendaed for the next meeting for an action item.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Mr. Hall for his service and commended him on his efforts to improve the County.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**17. Updates**

Mr. Knowles said he had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he had couple of comments.

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said there was a surge of COVID-19 in our area and a possibility of not enough beds to meet the need. He stated it was brought to his attention they could use the hospital in Gadsden County to issue beds to prep (inaudible) to save lives and thought that was good conversation and was not sure how they felt about it.

Chair Viegbesie interjected and said at 1:00 this afternoon there was a conference call with Senator Montford and hospitals were part of conference calls. He said they provided a plan in case there was an outbreak and how the affected citizens would be taken care of. Hospitals was one they talked about along with schools and was being seriously worked on by the medical community at the moment.

Commissioner Hinson said they also need to have discussions with great people like Mr. Hall. He said the problem he had was, they were the largest agency in Gadsden County, the largest City and had City managers making more than the County Manager and they need to look at that. He said they need to see how they could attract better leaders.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan thanked the IT staff on offering them a new way to move forward as they need to.

He also thanked Mr. Hall for his help the last few months and congratulated him on his new job.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

She said to Mr. Hall she was going to put in a motion for him to be permanent Manager and he blew that away and she was disappointed and thanked him for what he has done.

She said there were still problems in the Building Inspection Office, not doing things on time; having to wait for hours to get a CO. She said she received a letter from one person that said they did not want them back on her property again. She said they were also showing up for audits unannounced and staff going to lunch at the same time.

Chair Viegbesie said they could schedule this for a discussion.



Commissioner Hinson said he experienced the same thing last Thursday. He spoke with a lady approximately for 1 ½ hours and she stated she was waiting for someone from the Building Department to return from lunch, was unsure if it was the same case or not. He also experienced in the Lake Yvette area, someone said someone just walked in their house unannounced and said he had the authority to do so. He also spoke with another lady trying to build homes for teachers and was getting roadblocks.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

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

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to be bearer of good news. He has received a check in the amount of \$2,2 Million with regard to the bridges that needed to be repaired and can now start taking care of them.

He said he had a press release from the Gadsden County Branch of NAACP and they are opposing the Governor moving any inmates to Florida State Hospital and read it for the record.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention she had received calls from one of the local companies, there was a walk-out at that company because they heard there were 2 reported positive cases there and she advised them to call Dr. Cooksey and the Health Department and talk with her. She said people need to know they could call 875-7200 option 1 and someone was there to answer the phone 24 hours a day.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney what they should do with regard to NAACP and regards to the safety. Mr. Knowles said they need to ascertain validity of the information first.

Commissioner Holt said her concern was not about that; the public needed to know where to call.

Chair Viegbesie said they would come up with a way to get the word out to the public.

Chair Viegbesie commended the effort of Staff for being innovative for the way of having their meeting during this pandemic.

Commissioner Hinson said also wanted to add if they could, get literature published about testing and if it could be mailed to every household.

Chair Viegbesie said that number changes every day and by the time they mail something, they would be “way late” and would not be effective. He suggested the Administrator could compile the updates and email them to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson said he mainly wanted to send out the CDC guidelines that were in place along with available testing sites and where they were located.

Commissioner Holt said in the past Talquin Electric has sent things out when they sent out utility bills.

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Commissioner Hinson said Talquin did not serve him, he was with the City of Havana and this needed to be taken seriously.

**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 7:44 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**