

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 5, 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**  
                  **Henry G. Grant, 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 6:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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**

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

There were none.

**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.   Ratification Memo**
- 2.   Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Lien-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program**
- 3.   Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program Gadsden County Emergency Repair (ER) Program**
- 4.   Request to Install a Historic Quincy Wayfinder sign on the Gadsden County Courthouse Square**
- 5.   Approval to accept 90-day Extension for Current Fiscal Year Emergency Management Performance Grant FY19-G0047**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.**

**If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email [CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.**

Chair Viegbesie said there was an email from Marion Lasley about being no public access and read the email aloud for the record. He said as the number continued to increase this was not the time to relax protection criteria. He said he was ok with the relaxed curfew but masks and social distancing were critical and needed until something in the future with data showed improvement.

He read another one from Terry Paul, President of Havana MainStreet asking the Board to write a Letter of Support for approval of a Grant.

Commissioner Holt asked to bring back the Letter on the next Agenda for approval.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Approval of American Tower Corporation-Tower Site**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was submitted for approval of American Tower Corporation’s Tower site in Midway, Florida for Gadsden County’s radio equipment.

Commissioner Holt asked if it would have an emergency generator and was told yes.

Allan Meeks, Fleet and Facilities Manager, appeared before the Board and said it was for the County system that has been in the works since 2017.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could bring a plan back and maybe could apply for a grant.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL.**

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

**MOTION PASSED 4-0**

**7. Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office Request for Advance Funding to Implement the Delivery of Services for the Gadsden County Criminal Justice Diversionary Project**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said the Sheriff’s Office requested an advance of \$100,000 to implement delivery of services for the Gadsden County Criminal Justice

Diversionary Projection. He further explained it would be refunded to the County from the grant funds by the end of this fiscal year.

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

She asked if there was a line item for the \$100,000. Chair Viegbesie asked if she was requesting a friendly amendment and she said no, she wanted to know what line item the funds were coming from.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>NO RESPONSE</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**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**8 Updates**

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**9. Updates**

Dr. Grant had nothing to report other than he was glad to be here.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:15 p.m.*

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**10. Updates**

Mr. Knowles said he had nothing to report and was available for questions.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with a Commissioner from Calhoun County and was told they had several testing sites there and asked about additional testing sites for Gadsden County.

Chair Viegbesie said opening Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm at CRMC ER at 23086 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, regular operating hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays 1 pm to 4 pm, Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm, to make appointments call 850-329-0685 Monday – Friday 9 am to 12

pm to register in advance and will be walk-up or drive through. He said it will be exclusively saliva test and not through the nose and will be for everyone, insurance was not needed.

Commissioner Hinson said speaking of uninsured, he spoke with someone at Neighborhood Health and a few years ago, there were concerns because they had to stop serving uninsured because they stopped receiving funding from the ½ sales tax. He asked how they could readdress the indigent sales tax and maybe they could discuss this during their budget sessions. He added maybe if the Clerk was still present, how much money was in the Indigent Care Tax now and who was receiving funds.

Chair Viegbesie said the County Administrator was taking note of his question and maybe the Clerk and Administrator could respond in an email. Commissioner Hinson said also he has asked the last 3-4 weeks they have bi-weekly meetings, basically for this issue because if someone catches the corona virus and has no health insurance, it could be a problem. He then said not bi-weekly, maybe twice weekly.

Chair Viegbesie said before he allowed the County Attorney to respond, as long as they have the State of Emergency and Governor was continuously changing policies and procedures of operation, they are having meetings every Friday at 10:00 to get updates and they update their Resolution on a weekly basis. He asked the Attorney for his legal opinion on Commissioner Hinson's request.

Mr. Knowles said the point was well taken but did not think they were legally obligated to do that. They were meeting every Friday and on the first and third Tuesday of the Month, he would be happy to discuss anything with the Board members at any time and would refer to the Board on their will.

Chair Viegbesie said to also consider the more they meet, the higher the bill of the County Attorney would be as he was charging them on an hourly basis and they needed to consider the fiscal impact on the County's budget in the frequency of the meetings that they desire to have.

Commissioner Hinson said he had some questions from citizens. Was there any emergency funding like the City of Tallahassee had for the non-profits?

Chair Viegbesie said questions of this nature would require research, if he could send in questions early to allow the County Administrator and Clerk's Office a chance to review the fiscal condition and the budget, they would have answers to his questions.

Commissioner Hinson then asked with relation to affordable housing, how does someone go about getting down payment assistance with closing costs? He said a lot of people were having issues with that because they have to take a class and due to the corona virus, they do not have access and was losing that funding.

Chair Viegbesie asked him, for the sake of time, to please send in his questions ahead of time and could be addressed once have a chance to research. Commissioner Hinson said they need to have Directors at the meetings. Chair Viegbesie said even if they were at home, they need to have time to do research and then could provide answers to the questions during the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson congratulated all the graduating seniors. He then congratulated Dr. Grant and said of all the ones he has hired; he could sleep at night now because he knew he was a man of integrity, passion, commitment, and a man with strategies and was a thinker and reader.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was continuously getting calls regarding Building Inspection. At one time they had a Board that looked into contract and certifications and would like that brought back for them to consider and would like to reinstate that Board if it was not functioning and she did not think it was at this time. She stated on that Board sat the Building Inspector and contractors and that would be someone to look at some of these issues and could filter some of the concerns through. Also, the homeowners could have a place to speak their concerns. She asked that be brought back before the Board.

She stated they had a Board for Zoning and was done pretty much the same way, there was one for Tourist Development and also need to bring in and meet with the Industrial Board. They look at economic development and that Board has not met with Commissioners. She said each district has an appointee on that Board.

She said there were questions from citizens and they could be addressed on Friday. She said one lady tested positive and may have from work and has insurance. She asked where these people need to go when they test positive. Commissioner Holt said if they test positive, they need to quarantine, if they test negative, they do not have to. If they have a regular doctor, they go to that doctor, if not, they need to know where to go.

Chair Viegbesie asked her to send her concerns to the Administrator and let him send the concerns to Dr. Cooksey and take direction from her.

Commissioner Holt said what she was asking for was more of an update, even from other medical providers in the County. She said just general information.

She reminded everyone Dr. Cooksey was a State employee, she must report to the Department of Health, not to this Board. She said she would like the Health Council to be a part of this to see what they have found out and at the end of all of this, no matter what the results were, if they continued to increase testing, they would increase positives and at the end of all of this, what would happen to us economically.

Commissioner Hinson said he was on point of what Commissioner Holt said, he assumed she did not mean exactly what she said, he knew they want jobs and was hoping and was thinking they want to get as many people tested including himself.

Commissioner Holt clarified what she was saying was how to use the information once it was received.

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

Commissioner Taylor said she had questions and heard responses would come later in emails but, there have been positive numbers of tests in the County. She asked if they were taking off the ones that were now negative and was no longer positive compared to two weeks ago

She then asked about the status of Stevens School and said Ms. Inez Holt asked if she would see the school opened before she passed and asked for a timeline.

She said she has been asked about the opening of Pat Thomas Park and asked if some type of communication could be put out along with the boat ramp.

Mr. Knowles said they met on that today and the boat ramp will be opened tomorrow, the Pavilion will not be opened yet to be rented.

Chair Viegbesie said there will be a meeting on Thursday and as the Governor relaxes things it will be incorporated into the County Resolution every Friday.

Commissioner Taylor said the last thing she wanted to bring up regarding local police and Sheriff's department; she made a statement at the last Friday's meeting with regards to something she read on something on Facebook and it indicated there were two different versions of a Resolution being passed out and she was wrong.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 6:59 p.m.*

She added that however, going through the County and looking at some of the local policing areas within the municipalities, they were not following the mandate with wearing masks and they need to be reminded to wear the masks.

She said it was mentioned earlier about being frugal with meetings they were having and the being mindful of the cost of the attorney to be there and her suggestion on something they could look at, when having a regular meeting, like this one, then they should not have one that previous Friday, there was only a day's difference.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:00 p.m.*

She said her suggestion was when they have a regular meeting so close to when the Resolution needed to be adopted, it could it be done at the same time as the regular meeting to cut down on meetings.

Chair Viegbesie said his response was because the Governor's orders and instructions come in overnight and they do not want to prepare a Resolution that would stand in opposition to the Governor's orders based on the fact his authority was over the Board's.

She said she agreed with him, but instead of meeting on Friday and then on Tuesday, they may could save it to meet on Tuesday unless they had to respond immediately to the Governor. He added that the Resolution was something that had to be revised every seven days.

Mr. Knowles said Captain Collins contacted him regarding a line item to reimburse the Sheriff's office for costs due to testing sites security. He said his understanding was there was a line item in the budget for that for funds to reimburse the Sheriff for that but they would need to take affirmative action from the Board in order to authorize that and they could not to take that up tonight but it could be addressed Friday at the Emergency Meeting. Chair Viegbesie said they do need security and was something that needs to be considered.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the Stevens School issue, the Commission does not manage properties and that needed to be said and the County Commission did not manage facilities that were used for other purposes but they leased them.

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

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

**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 7:11 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**