

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 2,
2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1
Sherrie Taylor, District 5- *Arrived at 1:34 pm*

Absent: Gene Morgan, District 3

Staff Present: Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk
Jeronda Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:07 P.M. He asked everyone to bow their heads in silent prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Consent

1. **Approval to Submit Letter to Governor DeSantis Regarding the CARES Act (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant gave an overview of the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER TO BE
SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER
VIEGBESIE.
THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON- YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 3-0

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the 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 and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

No comments were had.

General Business

2. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-037 Update (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)

Chair Viegbesie recognized and gave the floor to the County Attorney, Mr. Knowles, to explain any updates, revisions or reviews to the Resolution.

Mr. Knowles stated the resolution had remained almost exactly the same. He said the mask mandate was still in place, curfew was still in place but would not go into effect until July 3, 2020. The official order for bars not being able to serve alcohol on the premise was included. He further stated Major Wood wanted to get into the enforcement mechanism in place. If the Board wanted any further changes, they could be made.

Chair Viegbesie said the Board would hear from Major Wood, but first Chair Viegbesie stated he wanted to personally and publicly issue an apology to Chief Smith, Police Chief for Havana Township, because the info given to him was incorrect. He apologizes for any inconvenience or anxiety caused to Chief Smith. He stated Chief Smith and himself confronted the person who gave the incorrect information. He further stated about the COVID awareness and use of masks, that he suggested to the County Administrator to look into campaign signs to put a photo of a mask and the order of the mask mandate, and post throughout the County and let citizens know it was mandatory to wear masks and also suggested to print flyers with the information to be posted at the door of a business. By the end of the day he would like the BOCC to say that was what they would do.

Major Wood stated 7 people had currently died of COVID-19 in Gadsden County and the numbers had jumped to 402. He stated yesterday was the second largest day of growth in the County. He took a lot of heat, but supports the Commissioners and their decisions. He stated the County was close to an epidemic. He wanted to make sure people understood social distancing over the 4th of July and wore their mask. If after the 4th, numbers went up, the County may have to look at the stores being more of a part of the process. He stated most people and stores in Gadsden County adhere to the mask mandate. He understood the concern of Constitutional Rights and there were people who had filed lawsuits, and if they won, it would be readdressed, but until then, the lawyers gave good advice on the constitutionality of wearing a mask. He further stated he was working with the school system trying to get school back up and running. Schools were in line with the Health Department. He stated he was online for questions.

Commissioner Holt said she had asked the manager at two different meetings to invite law enforcement in to talk through things. The Board wanted to know what problems law enforcement was having and listen to their concerns. Havana and Greensboro

could be having different problems. When laws were set, they needed to be reevaluated every so often.

Major Wood stated the Administrator put together a Zoom meeting this morning, and he thought there was something put together from that meeting.

Commissioner Holt understood and stated she wanted face to face time with people. She said an event was run out of Havana and it ended up on the South side of Quincy. When citizen called her, she called the law. She thought a meeting with law enforcement was overdue. It was not that staff could not do it, but the Commissioners were getting calls and needed to be able to give answers. She thought it would be best if it was a workshop. She wanted to make sure the County was saving as many lives as possible.

Chairman Viegbesie thanked Major Wood and Dr. Grant for scheduling a meeting with law enforcement. Maybe the next conversation would be a meeting involving the Police Chief and Commissioners so the BOCC could hear the conversation. He asked Dr. Grant to prepare a briefing of the conversation he had with the Chief and Law Enforcement and send it to the Commissioners so they would have an idea of what the conversation was, then they could all get together to discuss any new information.

Commissioner Holt stated law enforcement was doing a good job, but she would like a face to face meeting because neighborhoods needed to be talked to. She wanted to ask law enforcement questions.

Dr. Grant said he asked the Chiefs this morning what they needed and they said they did not want to punish citizens criminally, they wanted to enforce the mandate as a civil citation. He stated the Chiefs wanted to propose that when they come across people not following guidelines, special officers would bring care packages with literature explaining why the mandate was in place. In the care package would be masks, sanitizer, and gloves, especially for elders.

Commissioner Holt stated, concerning the literature, people would not read it if it was too much verbiage.

Dr. Grant stated it was a small flyer.

Commissioner Holt stated he needed a catch phrase and to not have more than 4-5 words per bullet. People know from watching the news, but the BOCC was asking them to do it and should put something behind it. She stated the officers were outnumbered, so they backed away. It was more intimidating with 100 people and not enough officers. She said she wanted to find out exactly what law enforcement needed.

Commissioner Hinson had no comment.

Chair Viegbesie stated the Gadsden County Health Council, along with the municipalities, was putting together Public Service Announcements that would be on the radio in Gadsden County about the need for mask wearing and the need to adhere to the CDC guidance. Chair Viegbesie suggested purchasing more masks. He stated People said they did not have a mask. Since the Commission was mandating that

people wear mask, he strongly suggested the purchase of masks for citizens, he also suggested they would be a cloth mask so it could be washed, bleached and worn again.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE MORE MASKS PURCHASED AND THE PURCHASE SHOULD BE THE SAME NUMBER OF MASKS AS LAST TIME, AND USE THE SAME NUMBER AS LAST TIME WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIR VIEGBESIE.
THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE- YES**

PASSED 3-0

Commissioner Holt asked if there was anything from the Governor's Office stating what they were going to do about evictions.

Mr. Knowles stated it was extended to August 1, 2020.

Commissioner Holt asked if landlords could not evict, how were they going to get their money, they were months behind already. She stated there was no money now and for some people and it was their income. She asked if there was something in the CARES Act for this. She asked for the County Attorney to bring new things to the meetings when there were updates. She needed to give answers to the public.

1:34 Taylor arrived.

Commissioner Hinson stated he talked with the Attorney about bars and nightclubs. He asked if the nightclubs could be open and not sell alcohol.

Mr. Knowles stated the Executive Order was Bars and Restaurants, Nightclubs, to his knowledge would remain closed. They were all licensed differently by the EPR. Bars or establishments that derive more than 50% of sales from alcohol were not pursuant to Secretary Beshears' Executive Order and were allowed to serve alcohol in unopened containers on the premises, but could not be consumed on the premises. Restaurants could still serve alcohol on premises to be consumed on premises.

Commissioner Hinson asked why there was a reduction in testing days to only Wednesdays.

Chair Viegbesie stated resources and access to testing kits was not abundant. The DOH could still do drive-thru testing for a limited time. Anyone could go to the Health Department and get tested anytime. If the County could get more tests, he trusted Dr. Cooksey would be willing to do the tests.

Commissioner Hinson said testing at the Health Department was Wednesdays 1-6 pm. Call Monday-Wednesday for an appointment from 9am-12pm @ 850-329-0685.

He stated the test was free at the FDOH. He asked what the Board could do to help and increase the resources.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not get a memo about a meeting but about a group called CARES Act.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the meeting was yesterday and the CARES Act letter had been approved already in this meeting and The Integrity Group was on the Agenda for this meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said at one time she used to get phone calls because not all Commissioners were in front of a computer. She would like a phone call to let her know about the meetings that were not consistent. She stated at the last meeting, Dr. Grant was between Phase 1 and Phase 2, since then, numbers had doubled. She asked if the County was staying where it was or pulling back in particular areas. She also asked was the County still at 50% attendance at businesses or was it regressing a little.

Chair Viegbesie stated he had a conversation with the County Administrator and the County was going to stay with Phase 1, which was putting a break on reopening the County due to the trajectory the numbers had. The plan stated the County would move to the higher level and reevaluate moving forward.

Commissioner Taylor asked if business capacity was still at 50%.

Mr. Knowles said yes, it was still in the same place, the only addition was about the bars. Everything else was proposed to remain the same. He further stated the Board could change any of that today if they chose to do so.

Commissioner Taylor thought the Board should look at bringing some of the restrictions back a little with death number at 7. If numbers continued going up, she said the BOCC should look at 50% attendance at businesses going down.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to know in Duvall, Broward, and Dade Counties, what were they doing now. He stated they were cutting back on a lot of things because of the incline in numbers.

Chair Viegbesie stated Dr. Grant would look into that.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would discuss it at the Tuesday regular meeting.

Mr. Grant stated the County reopening plan was set up in a way that it could be brought back if the situation changed. He further stated the County would open according to the numbers.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought it was clearly necessary to regress according to the numbers.

Dr. Grant said the Board just had to say to go back to Phase 1, no new plan was needed.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney to look at the preemptive impact of the Governor's authority over the County if it went back to less than 50%, which was what the Governor's executive order stated.

Mr. Knowles stated he would pull together answers for questions that were brought up and bring them to the Tuesday regular meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was not aware of the CARES Act Meeting either.

Commissioner Viegbesie stated it was a ZOOM Staff Meeting with Integrity to discuss the CARES Act.

Commissioner Taylor asked if something needed to be approved or was the meeting a discussion only.

Dr. Grant answered he was trying to figure out how and why to use the CARES Act.

Commissioner Taylor said someone called and asked her for ideas for her district in regards of spending portions of the CARES Act money on special projects. She asked if the information was answered and if it had gone to the governor or if it was waiting on approval.

Dr. Grant said everything was still open, if the Commissioners had projects they wanted to present, give them to staff as soon as possible.

Chair Viegbesie said there were items the County Administrator asked the Commissioners to give. His list was Small Business COVID Hardship Relief, Personal COVID-19 Furlough/Layoff Hardship Income Relief, and things of that nature. Yesterday those items were pulled and given to The Integrity Group. He stated if you needed something done, give it to the Administrator because time was running out.

Commissioner Holt asked to vote on the Resolution and then they could get back to Integrity.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-037
WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.
THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 4-0

- 3. Approval of Agreement with the Integrity Group to Provide Professional Emergency Management Contractual Services on a Continuing Services Basis (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Holt said The Integrity Group was at the meeting yesterday and gave an extensive interpretation to everyone about parts of the CARES Act, like how the money could be used, writing proposals. She said we needed someone to help with this, someone who had done this before. She stated there was a lot of paperwork that was time sensitive. She further stated there was 4-5 different programs that could be combined to get more bang for the buck, everything from CDBG, housing money, and economic development and she asked about equipment that was ordered the other day. If it related to the hurricane, how does the County get money back, these are things we would get help with from Integrity. December 31 would be the deadline and you could not go back. She further stated invoices and contracts had to be done by the deadline. Small business need help and the County needed to provide; all money not used would have to be sent back. Her suggestions were needing to know how much staff was needed to do this, what else was happening in the County with ideas that may fit this County. Good things were going on in other locations and she said the BOCC needed to find out.

Chair Viegbesie said he had seen this go across the desk of the Administrator; Small Business COVID-19 hardship relief, personal COVID-19 furlough/layoff hardship income relief, residential rent/mortgage assistance for individuals and businesses whose hardship came as a result of COVID-19, and more. As ideas come up send them to the County Administrator.

He stated in regards to Integrity, back in February or March, they were approved along with Wheeler. In this agenda item, it should not only be for the CARES Act, it should be a revisiting, because the contract was not processed to be recorded. He stated he wanted to retain them for the County's Professional Emergency Management Contractual Service Provider on the continuing services basis.

Commissioner Taylor asked what the fiscal impact The Integrity Group would have and how would they be paid for performing the services.

Dr. Grant answered from the CARES Act money to start with and there would be different sources of money.

Commissioner Taylor asked how much it was to perform the services.

Dr. Grant answered that would be found in Item 4, from this meeting, which was the Task Order for The Integrity Group.

Commissioner Taylor saw a list of fees but it was not clear to her.

Mr. Knowles stated he drafted the contract so that every time The Integrity Group wanted to do a new service, they must submit to the BOCC, a task order for approval, which would detail what it was, and that was item 4. For this particular one, we would be reimbursed or they would be paid out of the CARES Act. Nothing would come out of the County's pocket, if you approved the task orders at the rates in Item 4 on the Agenda. They would submit a bill log with the invoice that would explain what they had done and submit that for payment or reimbursement.

Commissioner Taylor asked in the future to not put task order on the Consent agenda. She stated it was illegal in itself. Anything that impacted the budget should go under General Business, not Consent.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT-YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 4-0

4. **Approval of Task Order No. 2020-01 with The Integrity Group to Provide Disaster Recovery Consulting Services in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Hurricane Michael (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this would come out of the CARES ACT money or the Disaster Recovery funds.

Mr. Knowles stated on the Agenda Item, there was a number of positions allocated and rate posted and the maximum possible hours with different goals set. All consulting costs related to the CARES Act Funding and HUD CDBG-DR would be eligible for 100% Federal Funding. FEMA reimbursements would be made via the standard 12.5% local match process, but the local match could be reduced or eliminated. He stated it would vary depending on what was done. The County may have to spend in order to get reimbursed.

Commissioner Taylor thought the County would get some proceeds up front. She thought it was 25% and asked if the County had to spend that 25% before getting the additional money.

Mr. Knowles stated he would get back to the BOCC on this answer Tuesday.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was somewhere that said someone could not exceed an amount for a particular item.

Mr. Knowles answered yes, the last page shows max number of hours. 160 hours at \$160.00 per hour: \$25,600.

Commissioner Holt stated \$88,000 was the max. The Integrity Group was the billing agent for this. They must help and make sure the County had everything together to turn into CARES to get the money back. Making sure the County would get a refund was their job too. She further stated that donations could be used as payback.

Dr. Grant said another thing The Integrity Group told him about match was if there were volunteers doing anything, the County could count the value of the volunteer hours, which were calculated at \$23 per hour, and use them towards the match.

Commissioner Taylor asked what kind of volunteer service would qualify.

Commissioner Holt answered handing out masks/donating masks, or anything related to the Virus. She further stated there may be some flexibility under FEMA. There were two different parts of money under COVID. You get the 25% up front and the other part we were going to have to show where work was done. The Integrity Group was willing to sit with the County and find things to write off.

Dr. Grant said the County would use volunteer hours towards any match needed.

Commissioner Holt stated any pictures or documentation, they would go back and get funding for them. She did not know about reimbursement of salaries. She stated there was a lot in the agreement and the BOCC needed someone to look at it. There were so many departments to pull money from, but it was going to take someone that could go in and knew how to do that. The County did not have the staff for that.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE. TAYLOR OPPOSED.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- NO
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 3-1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED

5. Approval of Emergency Mosquito Services-Gadsden County (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE EMERGENCY MOSQUITO SERVICES WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie asked what happens to the salary from this position that had just become vacant. He further stated the Director of Mosquito control position was no longer and asked if that money was what was being used for this expenditure that would exceed \$40,000 or Public Works 126.

Dr. Grant said it was coming from Budget 126.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES**

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES

PASSED 4-0

Commissioner Holt said she had a flyer for notice for projects. Projects needed to get in now because money was tight. She heard there was going to be a more difficult time to get anything and urged Commissioners to get projects in now.

Dr. Grant stated August 14, 2020 was the deadline.

Commissioner Hinson stated the County needed to be aggressive on culverts getting cleaned in our communities so water could run through them. He further stated he thought it may be the reason mosquito population was up.

Chair Viegbesie stated there were 0 ICU beds available, 0 hospital beds available, and 0 defibrillators available in Gadsden County. Be safe and wear your mask in public and in groups and maintain social distancing.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PHD., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk