

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 21, 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 – appeared remotely**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely**  
                  **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 6:15 p.m. He then asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and afterward, asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Grant said he would like to pull Item 7-Midway Station Location and the Integrity Group presentation and add Item 8a Procurement of Infection Control EMS Units.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a reason that they were pulling Item 7. Dr. Grant said they had not received the Interlocal Agreement from Midway, their attorney was making some changes. Commissioner Hinson asked to add it to the Emergency Meeting on Friday.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND  
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

- 1. ~~Integrity Group~~**  
Item pulled

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the COVID-19 statement.

**CONSENT**

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**

**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.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**2. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-84 Triple H, Salem Road, Havana, Communications Tower Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan with deviations (SP 2020-03)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a 250' tall, self-supporting communication tower requesting three deviations from setback requirements of Section 5800 Communication Towers of the Land Development Code.

Mr. Knowles said the attorney representing the applicant was not on-line and he was reached by phone. (There were technical difficulties earlier.)

**Jill Jeglie, Interim Growth Manager**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She then gave a brief synopsis of the item.

Commissioner Holt asked to hear from the attorney and the property owner.

**Robert Volpe, Esquire**, appeared remotely before the Board. He said they reached out to Mr. Donahoe, the neighbor that had concerns, and spoke with him at length and took the application back to Verizon. They looked at other locations where the tower could be placed. He said the towers are designed to federal, state and safety regulations.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud an email from Larry Ganus to Mike Dorian opposing the tower.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud an email from Mike Dorian to the Planning Commission opposing the tower.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud an email from Stacey Rasky in support of the tower.

Chair Viegbesie asked how the modification would change the effectiveness of the coverage range for the service. Mr. Volpe said it would not affect the coverage range, it would still have the same coverage range and the modifications were improved engineering for safety purposes.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had any other calls from people in neighborhood and was told no.

Commissioner Holt then asked Mr. Volpe the coverage range on the tower and he said a few square miles to the northwest and would improve performance about a 3-mile radius. She asked Ms. Jeglie if any would be used for the emergency towers. She said that was a question for Mr. Volpe.

Leslie Steele said Marion Laslie was appearing remotely and wished to speak and the attorney said because she sat on the Planning Board she could not.

Commissioner Taylor disclosed an attorney did reach out to her today.

Commissioner Hinson echoed everything Commissioner Taylor said; he spoke with some of the residents in the area and supported the Chairman.

Commissioner Holt said the attorney called her and said she never agrees with anyone, she just listened.

Mr. Volpe said he reached out to his client and they said EMS could use the tower at no charge if they chose to do so.

Commissioner Morgan said what he had heard so far, the concern with safety, better location, he heard there was no better suitable location without adding additional towers to provide the service for the folks where there were currently limited services available. Mr. Volpe said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan said anytime they could improve services, they needed to do so, but what concerned him was when the Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny and asked why.

Ms. Jeglie reappeared before the board to address the question. She said the major concerns were addressed with safety, the location and with the length of the tower and Commissioner Morgan said he was told there was no other suitable location.

Chair Viegbesie encouraged the Commission to add to the motion that Emergency Management has access to the tower.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to make sure that Mr. Donahoe was ok and there was a buffer in place between the tower and his place. Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Volpe heard the concerns. He said a vegetative buffer will be installed.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A BUFFER IN PLACE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL 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 PASSED 5-0**

**3. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2020-035 for FY 2020**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2020-035 and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and the Sr. Management and Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the Fiscal Year 2020 BOCC Budget.

The Clerk was present and said earlier it was mentioned there needed to be a number of budget amendments to correct some things with the budget and to bring forward a number of grants from the old year and account for some grants and revenue received since the current fiscal year and one of the main things addressed was the AG Center. He said it fixed a number of issues that were time-sensitive.

Chair Viegbesie said he had no public comments.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said she had not seen that many before and asked if it was an increase in the adjustments. He said a lot of the amendments were for grants that were brought forward like money for bridges and SHIP money. In the future, they should be more timely done.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was any reason for them not being brought forward. He said he was not giving an excuse.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers needed to be carried forward in the appropriate areas and they could not run short or move money at the last minute for the AG building.

Commissioner Hinson asked about budget amendment 200099 for Public Works and asked if they had budgeted that. Mr. Thomas said they voted to purchase some equipment outright during the fiscal year and they financed some equipment.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

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

**MOTION PASSED 4-1. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4. Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Gadsden County Budget**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and this was for approval of the millage rate for Truth in Millage notification and established the September budget adoption public hearing dates in order to provide this information to the Property Appraiser's office by August 4, 2020.

Commissioner Taylor asked how they set the millage rate before they set the budget.

Mr. Thomas said they have to set the initial tentative millage rate because the Property Appraiser needed that to send the Notice to Property Owners.

Dr. Grant said this has to be sent to the Property Appraiser by August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Holt said if they do not intend to raise it, it was fine but they had to know they could not do it later.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1, TENTATIVE COUNTY-WIDE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064 MILLS TO BE INCLUDED ON TRIM NOTIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SCHEDULE THE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AND ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. IN BOCC CHAMBERS FOR ADOPTION OF THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

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

**MOTION PASSED 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSING.**

**5. Cochran Road SCRAP-Professional Services**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Task Order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the survey and design of Cochran Road SCRAP resurfacing project.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked where it was located and Commissioner Morgan said in District 3.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

**6. 2020 County Paving Bid Award**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the 2020 County Paving Project to the low bidder and the low bidder was Peavy and Sons, Inc.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any reason why District 1 did not have streets or locations listed.

Dr. Grant listed the road names.

Commissioner Holt said the names were on the attachment.

Commissioner Hinson said if the citizens looked on-line, they could not see it. He asked if there was any road other than Lake Yvette or MLK in Midway being done.

Commissioner Holt said they took money from Commissioner Hinson's paving and this was spending it now.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL 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 PASSED 5-0**

**7. Midway Station Location**  
Pulled

**8. Motorola Solutions Change Order Number 5**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the Motorola Solutions change order number five for materials, labor and services associated with civil work required at Prime (Jail), Midway (American Tower) and Peavy (SBA) sites. He added this was to include site work, fence, grounding, slab for shelter (to be provided by County) and/or the generator (provided by County), electrical, telco, grubbing and rock, where required, ice bridge and crane.

Commissioner Holt said once they received the information, they were looking at how much the item would take if they bid out the part that the County was to do. She asked Dr. Grant if they looked at any options.

Dr. Grant said County staff was doing three of the towers because it was not that much work, but if they did the other three with the present County staff that they had to do it, it would be 2027 before they were done. She pointed out they did not have any bids on there and did not know what the contractor would charge to do it. He asked if they wanted to bid that out.

Commissioner Morgan reiterated the importance of completing the project they had been working on for 2 ½ years. He added the original costs was \$2.3 - \$2.4 Million and it was reduced because previous staffing that was on board was going to be able to do some of the work and they now did not have the staff to do that. He further stated that even with the most recent change orders, they were on track for the total amount of the initial contract value. He urged the Board to complete the project and said there was no other more important project that needed to be completed to provide safety for the entire responders and the citizens.

Commissioner Holt asked the Manager if there had been any problem contacting Motorola and he stated no.

**Mrs. Debbie Giles, Motorola**, appeared remotely before the Commission. She said she understood the need for wanting to put this out for bid, but these were three major sites, the County had purchased the shelter and generators and there were additional services that assistance was needed with and they have contractors that could complete the project and was waiting on stand-by. Once they received the go-ahead, it could be knocked out within a couple of months. She added it included all the work that needed to be done plus bringing in cranes and a project manager so the County Staff would not have to stay on-site.

Commissioner Taylor said the enclosures were easy to do. Dr. Grant said those systems were pretty much intact and there was not a lot of work to do. She said she respected the urgency of getting this done. She added the County had contractors in-house, like Cook's Construction, someone that was on a list that the County uses. She stated they could bring this back Friday and vote it up or down.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had been asking for a workshop on this so he could get a clear picture of what was going on.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

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

**MOTION FAILED 3-2**

**8a Procurement of infection Control EMS Units**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval for the procurement of four (4) Frazer Infection Control EMS Units under the CARES Act funding.

**Keith Maddox, Gadsden County Emergency Services Chief**, appeared remotely to explain the item. He explained the units have built-in UVC lighting systems to help decontaminate the units and would help with the antiquated fleet.

Commissioner Taylor said after going through the CARES Act list, it referenced purchasing 2 emergency vehicles, was this part that was already listed as a possible expenditure from the CARES Act? He said this was part of that, they were asking for 4 total, 2 that was listed in the original proposal and 2 additional from the CARES Act. Commissioner Taylor said that was over-reaching for her. She said EMS was given an extra \$1 Million in their 2020/21 budget for salaries.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding that the vendor that provides the equipment, this was a time-sensitive item. Dr. Grant said they have to place the order by Wednesday morning in order to receive them before the December 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Commissioner Holt said if she was not mistaken, in the CARES Act, it said they had to have a purchase invoice and not the money spent and asked they check on that. She asked Chief Maddox on the UVC lighting system, they did not have an individual system that could be retro-fit? Chief Maddox said he was not sure.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the motion, was it to approve the purchase of two and why not go ahead and purchase four with the CARES Act money? Commissioner Morgan said CARES Act would be appropriate to use for this.

Chair Viegbesie said the motion was to purchase 2 ambulances and 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 PASSED 5-0**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**9. Updates**

Mr. Thomas reminded them of Hurricane Michael money and said they still have quite a bit of housing money left. He said Hurricane Michael still has \$2.3 Million and another \$200,000 in the Disaster funding for a total of about \$2.5 Million and had \$550,000 in the regular SHIP Program. He reminded the Commissioners they had approximately \$3 Million in housing.

Commissioner Hinson said with the SHIP Program, they could not do housing within the city limits. But with the \$2.5 Million, could they work on housing within the city limits?

Mr. Thomas said he would have to answer that question first thing in morning.

Commissioner Hinson said there were too many homeless people out there and too many that needed assistance with housing and they needed to push the issue with housing. He also added he must give credit to the SHIP person; she was working hard and they needed to make sure they helped the seniors.

Mr. Thomas said earlier they mentioned the bond money from 2014/15, Commissioner Hinson had \$415,000 left, Commissioner Morgan dedicated his to the Juniper Creek Road, Commissioner Holt had \$117,000 and Commissioner Taylor has \$84,000.00. He added there has



been some interest earnings that was not included and would need to be sorted through but that money needs to be spent.

The Clerk elaborated on the millage. The Board has not raised it in several years and the Budget was not truly balanced.

Commissioner Taylor asked with what they did tonight with TRIM, were they locked in? Mr. Knowles said they could go down but they could not go up. Mr. Thomas responded that the roll-back rate was 8.7% and meant to bring in the exact same amount of tax they had the previous year (inaudible) and with the costs of the values going up, there would be a little more money. He said "technically, when you put your ad in the paper it will probably say a little bit of tax increase simply because the assessed values would have gone up". Commissioner Taylor said she voted against that because she felt they needed more time to look at the budget to see if they would be able to generate enough money to balance because, he was right, balancing a budget on Reserve was not a good fiscal practice and that was what they had been doing.

She then had questions about the CARES Act. She said they (Integrity) were asking for \$800,000 to do what he did; watch the flow of money, documentation, and whether or not his understanding of the CARES Act expenditures, or what was within statutes, could he monitor the money to see if they stay within guidelines so when it was time for reimbursement, they could get it, because she knew he monitored it with FEMA; because he told them with all the salaries they advanced would be difficult to have documentation to support, which meant they would not get those funds back; and they did not.

Mr. Thomas said the CARES Act was a whole, new ballgame for everyone. He advised that they had someone helping on the front-end. He added that before they cut checks on the back-end, they will ask questions and might need answers because if the Treasury Department determined that it was not legit, it might have to be paid back.

Commissioner Holt asked regarding the gas tax and sales tax, could they get a synopsis on what that money could be used for. Mr. Thomas said on the gas tax; it could be used for transportation, roads and bridges. Whenever they take the Public Works Department and have them do something else that was not dealing with transportation, they need to bill that department, whether it be Parks and Rec or whatever, to be fully reimbursed.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **10. Updates**

Dr. Grant said he had two things:

He will be bringing an agreement for more money for housing; and they have not even issued do's and don'ts yet, to have a webinar on the next day regarding that. He said this was the first payment of that money and the amount was \$240,000.

He said the Budget notebooks were ready if they wished to pick them up and the Budget workshop would be Thursday.

Commissioner Taylor asked on the Friday meeting regarding the curfew, they may want to look at going back to 9:00 p.m. and may want to go back to that.

**Animal Control**

She said there had to be some got to be some best practices out there. They needed to research and find them. She said when the cats become “cage smart”, they had to find other ways to get them.

She asked to see a schedule for the interviews for the County Administrator positions in the near future.

She asked to see an organizational chart. She said they had people with great talent in the Departments; a licensed contractor, etc.

She said they should really tap FAC, they needed to tap that source regarding the CARES Act. Leon County received \$51 Million for CARES Act, we only received \$8 Million.

She said they needed to figure out another way for the PIO to not interrupt meetings with the messages, currently it was more of an interruption than a help. They need to figure out a way that she can communicate with the Chair to not interrupt the meeting. She said the way it was currently being done was definitely interrupting the flow of the meeting and was not professional.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**11. Updates**

Mr. Knowles gave an update on the Green factor and read it out loud. He said the main three factors were: nature and gravity of the offense; the time that has passed since the offense conduct and/or completion of the sentence and the nature of the job held or sought.

He said they did have a case where TMH had sued them regarding some final remains, it has been resolved successfully. They will split the costs of that and no precedence set; will cost between \$500-600 and the Commission had already allocated \$1,000.

He said they will be reviewing some of the older policies and Ordinances to see what needs updating.

Chair Viegbesie said Ordinances review and updating needed to be taken very seriously and some from the 1970’s and 1980’s has changed drastically and asked that the Attorney and Administrator work on pulling all the Ordinances and then work on bringing them up to date.

Commissioner Taylor said her question was about the green clause and asked for information regarding that.

She said when the Clerk mentioned earlier about the excessive money in the Housing program, one thing the Coordinator had an issue with was heir property. She recommended or suggested to the Board, if that number has set precedence where it was high in volume where there was a large number of applicants that have that situation, they need to come up with a solution to get

those people to be single homeowners so work can be done. Mr. Knowles asked if this was with the SHIP program. Commissioner Taylor explained the problem was with that program, a person would not qualify when the property was considered "heir property", they had to be the sole owner of the property.

Mr. Knowles said probate and partition was, unfortunately, the only way and absent the County providing Legal Services of North Florida with a certain amount of funding and perhaps, outsource some of that, and having an expedited process through the County, did not know if it could be done in-house. He said there were ways they could assist citizens with it, they just could not do it here. Commissioner Taylor said they do fund Legal Services, or had in the past. She said she wanted to know what they could put in place because it was an issue and needed to be put into the proper format so they could help.

Chair Viegbesie said just before Covid struck, they were discussing organizing a workshop on that and maybe one of the things they could do to educate citizens.

Commissioner Holt said on the situation with probate, it was a long, expensive process. FAMU does a workshop on this or did at their center in St. Johns. She said her concerns were, it had been stated by health care officials when someone comes in contact with COVID, they should go into self-isolation. She added they may need to look into staff having sign-in sheets regarding the sanitary cleaning so they know things are done.

On the Housing issue, they still need more people in that Department, they have 3 now. Commissioner Holt said money was not going to move if they did not have staff to move it.

If they have people out because of the virus, they need to look at temporary workers because grass was still growing and things needed to be cleaned. They needed to look at quick-turn-around tests through CARES.

Chair Viegbesie said they need to have metrics for cleaning.

Commissioner Holt said regarding Housing, on some of the programs, they will allow, if people own the house and property, will sign off and that would be for modular housing.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not know how frequently they send or expose SHIP Department personnel to conferences and meetings so they know what others were doing to help expedite the projects they do and was something they needed to look into, professional development for the different departments, especially the Housing Departments.

Commissioner Holt told the Administrator to look into hiring some more people to help move the money.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said Dr. Sandra Thompson with FAMU was who to contact.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
July 21, 2020 – Disaster Recovery Workshop

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED  
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:48 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



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

ATTEST:

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