

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 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 - appeared remotely**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, District 5, - arrived late**  
                  **Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **Clayton Knowles, County Attorney**  
                  **Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

At 6:02 P.M. with a quorum present, Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, asked for everyone to bow their heads in prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Grant asked to add to the Consent Agenda, Item 8a, Approval of a Letter of Support for Opportunity Florida;  
8b, Approval of Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan.  
8c, Approval of a Letter of Support for M4MM Sow the Land Co-Op, Inc.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>ABSENT</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**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>ABSENT</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**

1. **Ratification Memo  
(Clerk of Court)**
2. **Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)**
3. **Approval of Minutes  
July 2, 2020-Emergency Meeting  
(Clerk of Court)**
4. **Gadsden County Wildflower Program Implementation  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
5. **Approval of the Gadsden County Designated Receiving System and Behavioral Health  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
6. **Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Roof Bid Award  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
7. **Approval of Federally-Funded Sub-award and Grant Agreement Z2313 with the Florida  
Division of Emergency Management Agency  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
8. **Gadsden County Mosquito Control Agreement  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)**
- 8a. **Approval of a Letter of Support for Opportunity Florida  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
- 8b. **Approval of Title VI NON-Discrimination Policy Plan  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
- 8c. **Approval of a Letter of Support for M4MM Sow the Land Co-Op, Inc.  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

**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.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
August 4, 2020, Regular Meeting

A Dan Hunter  
Read into record

*6:07 Commissioner Taylor arrived*

B Jim Roberts  
Read into record

C Benjamin Bass  
Chair Viegbesie stated he had read this comment at the last meeting and it was already on record.

D Leilani Osmin  
Read into record

E Charles Osmin  
Read into record

F. Samuel Bass  
Read into record

Chair Viegbesie, after reading the Citizens to be Heard comments, stated this was an item with urgency and was presented for vote at the previous meetings. He said he was in the minority of the vote that did not pass and suggested the majority voters give input on how to handle the item with regard to bringing it back as an agenda item as soon as possible.

Commissioner Holt said she had worked on both sides of the issue. She stated she took offense to the letters because the Commissioners were not delaying, the employees who were going to do the fix were gone. The County needed to either rebid it or get someone who would do it. She further stated the BOCC made sure there were extra fire stations, trucks, equipment and they also had cell phones, as they said and the \$2 million in change orders were already put out. She stated she was one of the people who put the training in place for the Firemen, EMS and cross training. She said the Board was trying to get it taken care of.

Commissioner Taylor apologized for leaving abruptly last Friday. She stated it was not professional in serving the County, and would do better moving forward. Her understanding of the Motorola system in place was the new board was up, new equipment installed and everything was in place. \$444,000 was needed to put three fences up around some towers and she did not understand how that was stopping the use of the system. She further stated this was a campaign for the Volunteer Firefighters. Commissioner Taylor asked the Manager to get Motorola back in to give more clarity on what was being asked for from the \$444,000. She said \$1.5 million was spent and the Board was very motivated on finishing. She said fiscal responsibility was also a job of the BOCC and she did not think spending \$444,000 on three fences was being responsible. She needed to know why the system was not up and operating. She stated a fence should not stop the system from working. She would like to see an update and an agenda item at the next meeting. Commissioner Taylor stated she had spent 12 years trying to help the County and the Board was told what was needed for the \$444,000 and it

sounded ridiculous. She said she knew a professional who had built towers and told her to erect an entire tower was less than \$45,000 from the ground up.

Commissioner Morgan stated the towers were an important project. He said the BOCC knew how much it was going to cost and had not exceeded the entire scope at this point. He further stated the answers heard so far could be defined by looking at the definition of "Red Herring". Commissioner Morgan stated Ms. Giles, the vendor, was on the line and would be happy to explain what the County lacked in completing the project.

Chair Viegbesie said he would rather bring the item back to the agenda as an action item. He said he would not recognize anyone for comment because the item was not agendaed, he had read comments because of the pressing need. He further stated the Board would take an explanation of the \$444,000 when it was on the agenda and all concerns would be addressed.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to bring in other vendors when it was agendaed who could also take care of the project.

Chair Viegbesie asked the legal opinion from the Attorney with regards to an item that was bid-worthy that had already had a provider and now bringing in other potential service providers to a discussion if that item had not been repeated.

Attorney Knowles included the Procurement Policy in an email and in packets that were before the Board. He stated the Board should follow the Procurement Policy pretty much to the letter. He further stated he would be comfortable if things were sped up a little, but the Board should look at either an RFP or RFQ from other vendors to make sure there were enough and should do that in all Procurements. Since it was over \$25,000, it could be either a Competitive Sealed Bid or just proposals. Provisions for a Sole Source Bid were highlighted based on questions he had on other issues. He stated again, the Board should stick hard and fast to the Procurement Policy.

Chair Viegbesie said the next meeting, which was August 18, which was election day and not all Commissioners may be able to make the meeting. Chair Viegbesie stated he was on the Canvassing Board and would not be able to attend the meeting. He further stated other Commissioners were running for office and he was not sure whether all Commissioners would be involved in their individual campaign and may not be able to make it to the Commission Meeting that day. He asked for the Board to consider what they were going to do with the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and stated it may need to be canceled and that would give more time to RFP/RFQ for the Communication Towers and other service providers could be brought to the discussion along with Motorola.

Commissioner Taylor agreed to no August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and said she would like to reschedule if possible. She asked if there could be a Special Workshop to hear the items. She suggested the day after or day before the Tuesday scheduled meeting to keep the County business moving.

Commissioner Holt thought the Public Hearings had to be on a set date at 6 p.m., but other parts of the meeting could be moved. She said it could be a Thursday.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL TO MOVE THE MEETING TO MONDAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TUESDAY MEETING OR THE WEDNESDAY AFTER, PREFERABLY MONDAY.  
MOTION DIED WITH NO SECOND.**

Chair Viegbesie asked for the Attorney's opinion before he gave a second.

Attorney Knowles said he thought the Board needed to schedule the meeting like Friday Emergency Meetings, replacing the regular Commission Meeting and cancel Tuesday.

Chair Viegbesie said there would be a public hearing with action.

Attorney Knowles suggested the Board advertise like any Emergency Meeting as long as proper notice was given to the public pursuant to Florida Statutes.

Chair Viegbesie stated he understood a Public Hearing did not have to be scheduled for a Tuesday of the Regular Meeting.

Attorney Knowles asked if there would be a Public Hearing separate and apart from the actual action items or if it would be one meeting.

Commissioner Holt said do not schedule the Public Meeting for that day.

Attorney Knowles said put it as an action item at a Regular Meeting. Just reschedule a separate Emergency Meeting, cancel one and schedule a second.

Commissioner Morgan stated Public Hearings are only the first meeting of the month so it should not be a problem with the Board.

Dr. Grant said August 20<sup>th</sup> was a Budget Workshop.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.**

Commissioner Hinson asked for the meeting to be Wednesday instead. Chair Viegbesie told him the motion and second were for Monday and asked to vote and if it failed there could be a motion for Wednesday and he would be glad to second that.

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

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

**MOTION PASSED 3-2 COMMISSIONERS HINSON AND HOLT OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if the item would be the Communication System agendaed for that meeting and Chair Viegbesie answered yes.

Dr. Grant stated there was a conflict on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, with the Attorney and Chairman.

Chair Viegbesie stated on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Emergency Meeting was at 1 p.m. The Canvassing Board was meeting to count early votes at 1 p.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Attorney was required to be present in case of challenges during vote counts. Chair Viegbesie suggested the Board moved the meeting to 10 a.m. on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Taylor stated she would appreciate advance notice when changing the time of a meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lonyell Butler, Human Resource Manager)**

Dr. Grant gave an overview of the above item and stated Ms. Quigley was on the line if any question were had for her.

Commissioner Taylor said the County could not hold anyone in this position past two years. She stated because of the history that the County had in regards to getting someone that would stay, hiring for this position should be done in a different way, but she was hopeful it worked this time. During her time on the BOCC, she saw 5-6 different Growth Management Directors. She stated there was nothing to do but confirm. She further stated she did not know what the issue was about keeping someone in that department.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOVED TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIR VIEGBESIE, WITH A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER HOLT.**

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Quigley if she had any experience working in Rural Counties.

Ms. Quigley answered No, mostly medium Urban some Rural.

Commissioner Holt told Ms. Quigley Gadsden County was different. She further stated there were extremely poor communities here that were spread out and Gadsden County was looking for improvements in those areas. She welcomed Ms. Quigley and told her everyone wanted to improve Gadsden County and the Comprehensive Plan needed revamping since it had not been not re-done in almost 20 years.

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

<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**

Chair Viegbesie welcomed Ms. Quigley to Gadsden County. He stated he prayed her presence would change the way things were done in the Growth Management Department. He further stated the County needed changes, and he hoped her experience would help move the County in the right direction and he was looking forward to a productive working relationship with Ms. Quigley.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant why Planning and Zoning and Building Inspection were together. She said Planning should be looking at the map to see how the County could improve, and Building Inspection should be looking at individual homes and building projects.

Dr. Grant stated he understood they were separate, just in the same office area.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure, from the way they were operating right now, Commissioner Holt stated she knew they were not separate. She wanted Ms. Quigley to be aware of that and those things need to be separate.

Chair Viegbesie stated with Commissioner Holt's concern, find a way to physically separate them in their locations, and asked Dr. Grant to look at that.

Commissioner Taylor told Ms. Quigley the County had come to a halt in growth and development and a lot of developers looked elsewhere before coming to Gadsden County because of some of the difficulties and the process that was put in front of them with regards to projects getting up and underway. She further stated there had to be better structure and organization so developers wanted to come and felt supported once they were here. She believed that someone should have a vast amount of experience that could oversee the entire division. She stated separating out caused two different visions and that would cause conflict. Growth Management and Building Inspectors should be one vision. There should be one objective and one goal. She further stated when you set up two departments with two different heads, they go in different directions. She stated the Board was looking at reorganization and hopefully that would be underway during the budgeting period.

Chair Viegbesie stated the Board members were policy makers and elected officials. He stated to Dr. Grant, he had heard the BOCC concerns and it was Dr. Grant's place to develop an organizational structure that would enhance the effective implementation of the policies without Commissioners getting their fingers and noses into the running of the Government. He said the Commission made policies and the Administrator executed the policies made. He further stated there was a separation of power in the U.S. Constitution, National, State and Local. He further told Dr. Grant to do what he needed to do to make the County Government work well to service the citizens.

**CLERK OF COURT**

**10. Updates**

Clerk Thomas said he wanted to follow up on one issue from the last meeting and that was about SHIP Housing Funds. He stated SHIP Housing Funds were available to be used County wide, including municipalities. He said there was about \$500,000 in regular SHIP Housing funds and \$2.5 Million in the two Hurricane related funds. He wanted to emphasize those funds were available to be used and maybe consider roof repairs, as he saw a lot of blue tarps as he traveled the County.

Chair Viegbesie said he spoke with the SHIP Director, Sonya Burns, and she said they had spent \$500,000 of that on broken houses. Chair Viegbesie asked the Manager to tell the SHIP department to spend that money and blue tarps need to come off and damaged houses needed to be repaired.

Commissioner Holt asked the Clerk when he was looking at that if he saw anything that said the Cities could apply for their own funding. She encouraged Managers and Boards to apply. That would give the programs more money. She further stated it was not co-mingled, they apply and get their own funding, then the BOCC would apply and get their funding, it was two separate governments and more work could get done.

Clerk Thomas said the Hurricane money was for Gadsden County, SHIP was a State program created in the early 90's. He stated there was an ordinance and it may need to be reviewed. He further stated he thought the funds were available to be spent County wide.

Commissioner Holt said she knew that and she was talking about the ability to apply as a separate Government and stated they had done that in the past when applying for State and Federal funding for housing. Clerk Thomas said he did not research that.

Commissioner Holt said she hoped the County would help the municipalities apply if they needed help. She further stated with some of the programs, they would not let you do one thing unless you got the house back up to a certain standard.

Commissioner Taylor stated her opinion with regards to the City utilizing some of the funding was she thought they should have access. She did not think the BOCC should get involved too much in the SHIP organization. She got her information from the Clerk and he said money was available. She did not see the funding agencies sending more money over when there was money available for both Cities and Counties. She further stated the goal was to reinvest money into the houses so they become tax based, which would benefit the County as a whole. Commissioner Taylor stated she did not want to say "go get yours, we got ours" she wanted to utilize the funds and make sure the people who had access were ones that qualified, (Special Needs and Senior Citizens) get the money spent and the houses rebuilt. She said if there were still blue tarps on houses this money needed to be utilized no matter where the houses were.

Commissioner Holt agreed the money should be spent, but she was saying sometimes you can match one program against another to get more funding.

Clerk Thomas wanted to clarify, what he was talking about was people within municipalities, county wide can apply through the County's program and that was understood by Commissioners.



Commissioner Taylor said there needed to be a way to get people to know this money was there. (PSA) She stated the Clerk had said this money was available for some time now and she was looking at a way to get it out of his coffers. She had talked with a Housing Inspector and the concern was finding enough contractors to do the work. She further stated the County needed to do more than what had been done so far.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Dr. Henry Grant**

**11. Updates**

Dr. Grant proposed to the BOCC possible dates for the County Administrator interviews which HR, and himself came to the conclusion that it should be Zoom rather than in person. The dates suggested were August 26 and August 27 or September 2 and September 3, starting at 1 pm.

Chair Viegbesie said his full-time job started Aug 24. He needed to look at his teaching schedule to determine which date and time would work best for him. He asked Dr. Grant to email him the dates and he would find a time and day that fit for everyone.

Commissioner Taylor said concerning the time of day, past history showed it would be best to schedule around 3 pm. She further stated if each applicant was given thirty minutes, the BOCC would be able to get 6 interviews done between 3pm and 6pm.

Dr. Grant said the interview allowed 1 hour, but could be shortened if the Board wished to do so and have three one day and four the next day.

Commissioner Taylor did not see that one hour would be necessary. She said in the past, there were specific questions asked, the responses received, and then they could say in their own words why they applied for the position.

Commissioner Morgan said either days were good with him. He would like to wait for the first part of September, but either was fine. He asked to not start late in the afternoon (5pm-6pm) so it did not interfere with daily professions.

Commissioner Holt asked if after the initial Zoom meeting, the BOCC would see the applicants in person and Dr. Grant answered that would be up to the Board.

Commissioner Holt stated the BOCC did not want to hire someone over Zoom and stated any date was fine with her.

Ms. Butler stated there was an hour allotted for interviews and there were designated questions set. Time ran short when they were scheduled for 45 minutes and that was why each applicant was given one hour. She stated it would take more than 30 minutes for sure.

Commissioner Taylor said in the past, 1 hour was because it was the top 3-5 candidates. This was all applicants submitted and she thought there were 12 applicants.

Dr. Grant said there were 7. He further stated the BOCC requested to look at all the applications, but 7 were marked.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC did not say that would be the seven to be interviewed. She understood they were supposed to look and come up with a phone-in interview.

Dr. Grant said it was 7 that met the qualifications.

Commissioner Taylor asked why the BOCC would get all the applications to take a look at if the BOCC was not giving their opinion on who they wanted to interview. She knew 7 were marked as top candidates but all 12 applications were asked for so the BOCC could make their choice.

Dr. Grant said the applications were given to all Commissioners because they were asked for.

Commissioner Taylor stated it was so the Board could go through and make their own decisions on who the top 7 would be.

Dr. Grant said HR went through the applications and marked the 7 that met the minimum qualifications.

Commissioner Holt told Commissioner Taylor she had asked to see all of them.

Commissioner Taylor agreed because she wanted to make her own choice based on what she saw from the 12 applications. She further stated the BOCC would do the Human Resource's 7 instead of the Board 7.

Commissioner Morgan stated Dr. Grant and Ms. Butler had done what Board requested them to do, which was to present to the BOCC all of the candidates that met the minimum qualifications. He stated that was what the Board directed the staff to do, and that was what they had done.

Dr. Grant had no further updates.

Chair Viegbesie told Dr. Grant he saw there was something called a UV Sterilization Fan, for open meetings and it killed viruses, including COVID-19 if it was in the air. Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to investigate and look at the effectiveness of it.

Commissioner Holt stated the only way to see the effectiveness of that device was to have a way to detect the virus. She told Dr. Grant she wanted to walk through the hospital to see what the buildout would look like, along with a couple of architects that dealt with hospitals. She said for Building Inspection and Planning and Zoning, she wanted to see ideas from Ms. Quigley about the Comprehensive Plan and the same with Building Inspection. She said the County would have to look at Economic Development closely and that came from Planning and Zoning. She further stated the County needed a PR plan in place for "self-shelter" in case of a hurricane. She asked Dr. Grant to talk to broadband people quickly and asked the other Commissioners to give suggestions to Dr. Grant about a shelter. She closed by saying Bill Rutherford's firm did an initial architectural drawing for the hospital and she was not sure if someone did a second one or if it was needed during the buildout for what was done so far.

Chair Viegbesie stated those who had suggestions that had to do with disaster management during emergencies, the BOCC could not engage in that discussion without the involvement of Emergency Management with Ms. Whaley and Captain Wood who were needed to be a part of.

Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to take the ideas to be explored to the Emergency Management Department, they could work with the County as policy makers to incorporate their plan into how the County could effectively provide those services to the citizens. He further stated the Board should not by-pass, overlook or marginalize the relevance of Emergency Management Department decisions in regards to providing Emergency Services to the citizens during an emergency disaster. He asked Dr. Grant to take the ideas the BOCC had and bring Emergency Management into the conversation and the hospital walk-through and anything else the BOCC wanted to do in regards of Emergency Services.

Commissioner Hinson asked Dr. Grant if there was an update on the bridge between Midway and Quincy.

Dr. Grant said no, he had no update for the Commissioner. He thought Ms. Robinson was on-line but there was no response from her.

Commissioner Hinson said Ms. Robinson called him and said the bridge would be completed tomorrow at 12 pm. He also asked if there was an update about the EMS truck and when it would return back to Midway.

Dr. Grant said he did not have a date, but the Interlocal Agreement was not completed by Midway, and at this time EMS was overwhelmed because Florida State Hospital had closed their EMS Unit. He stated they had 6 trucks in service and 3 were down.

Commissioner Hinson said the instruction of the Board still needed to be followed. The Board wanted the EMS back in Midway. He stated the largest population was on the East side of Gadsden County (Havana, Midway and part of Quincy) and they only had one truck on the East side of the County and that was why the Board decided to move another EMS truck under a company that used it all. He stated the County just purchased 2 additional trucks. He also asked Dr. Grant what the number was of ridership not in Havana with Big Bend Transit.

Chair Viegbesie said that question needed statistical data and asked Dr. Grant to get that answer.

Commissioner Hinson asked for Big Bend Transit to come before the board and make a presentation one day.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the CARES Act Plan was submitted to the proper funding agency and Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked Dr. Grant to tell her what was in the plan that was sent and Dr. Grant said the Commission voted on different broad categories on what the money would be spent on. He did not have them in front of him but said he would get it to her.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it had been confirmed they received it and Dr. Grant answered no, but he would call and find out.

Commissioner Taylor said the Board was supposed to go through the list and discuss it.

Chair Viegbesie told her the Workshop/Special Meeting was at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Dr. Grant stated to Commissioner Taylor if she checked her email, she should have all that information including the plan that was sent.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY, Clayton Knowles**

**12. Updates**

Attorney Knowles stated his only update was the Procurement Policy and he sent a copy to everyone. He thought Commissioner Taylor had questions.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the Procurement Process and the CARES Act Money, she was asking would the County be able to forgo that process, could this Board look at voting on a procedure that could have the Manager identify someone to take over the responsibilities or provide services and not go through the full procurement process because of our projects being extremely time sensitive in regards to getting the CARES Act dollars spent between now and December 30. She wondered if there was a procedure or motion the Board could vote for that could eliminate the processes in place with regards to the bidding process.

Attorney Knowles explained he would not advise **any** substantial deviation from the procurement process except to speed it up. He further explained the Procurement Policies were in place to insure a fair and impartial process. If there was an emergency, there was a procedure for dealing with emergencies. He said a Sole Source Bid had provisions (5.10.1). His reason for not advising to go against the Procurement Plan was the County would get audited at the close of this.

Commissioner Taylor stated Broadband and Hospital were an emergency with hurricane season and the need to have a place to isolate COVID-19 positive citizens and to help families and businesses because they were in their current situation because of COVID. She asked the attorney again for a process the BOCC could go through to defend themselves.

Attorney Knowles said when doling out CARES Act money, there was no Procurement process. With regard to Broadband and the Hospital, in 5.11 of the Procurement Policy, there was Emergency purchases and it was listed how to do that. He stated he would not give legal advice to go outside the procurement process. Shortening was okay, but he would not advise, based on what he read, to award to any bidder without going through all procurement processes.

Commissioner Taylor stated there was an emergency portion that allowed movement forward if a project was deemed an emergency. She asked Mr. Knowles to look at the process closely and also resend the Procurement Policy to her.

Commissioner Holt said to look at general circulation papers for ways to put bids out in a shorter time. She stated the County was going to use the money and was not sending it back. For assistance to citizens, Commissioner Holt said if people or companies that had received money before, came back in for this funding, it would not leave any for small, poor people. She asked if it could be looked at if they were funded before because some people had not gotten anything.

Attorney Knowles said that would be a question for The Integrity Group at the meeting the following day. He thought there would may be a question citizens and small businesses answer when they apply. He stated there would be swearing and affirming under penalty of perjury that they did or did not receive other funding and asked if that was a pre-condition that was wanted on the portal, it could be looked into. He stated he would like a chance to look into that on a legal basis because there were rules and did not want to discriminate against people because of it. He further stated he would get back to the Commission the next day, at the workshop, with a better answer.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for voting to complete the project in Midway on Martin Luther King Blvd. He stated he hoped the Board could respect each other more and stay calm through this storm for the community.

#### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan reemphasized to the Board what the Attorney was saying. He stated he understood the urgency of getting projects done, but said there was a Procurement Policy in place, even in an emergency. The steps of the process had to be taken in case there would be an audit. He further stated the County needed an RFP for any of the services or products that would be invested in with the CARES Act money. He did not have a problem with speeding up the process, but not to deviate from the Procurement Policy in place. He said the County had put an RFP out in regards to a radio tower bid and the County was waiting on a bid to come in. He closed his comments saying with the CARES Act money, the BOCC must be certain they were listening to the advice of the Attorney and Integrity Group and asked the Board to let them lead the County through the process.

Chair Viegbesie asked it be put into record and promised he would file an ethics violation, if he thought there was any impropriety of any allocation of money in this County. He further stated there was a Procurement Policy and the BOCC would be governed by it to ensure equity in the allocation and expenditures of projects.

Commissioner Taylor stated no one had any intentions of doing anything that would undermine the processes in place, which was why her question was to the attorney. She was concerned with the deadline of December 30th to spend the money so the County citizens could benefit. She was asking how to get the dollars spent and get agencies in to get the job done. She stated she had the right to ask those questions without being made to feel like she was doing something illegal. She further stated she would not compromise the integrity of the Board or herself. She further stated the County needed shelter and broadband and she asked the attorney a question for legal direction on how to get that done.

#### **Commissioner Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney about 5.11.1 in the Procurement Policy under Emergency purchases, it said "when there exists a threat to public health". She stated the virus was a threat to public health. She was saying that, not to change the procedure, but to follow

the Policy. She did not want to wait for Emergency Management to bring things to the BOCC. She stated the Board should research before coming to the meetings and it was not up to Emergency Management to bring things to the Board. She further stated the Board was going to have some open meetings and they may need a larger arena for distancing measures to meet with people.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she thought Emergency Management and the Sheriff Department needed to be involved with regards to this project (CARES Act, FEMA and HUD money) at a better level than they were. She said the rules came out on Friday and the Board expected them to be implemented but the Board did not know the challenges of the Sheriff or municipalities because they were not at the table to talk with the Commissioners. She stated she had asked for a meeting and received a letter. She stated the Board needed to be consistent with curfew, and she wanted to hear from the Sheriff about it. She also wanted to hear from Emergency Management and ask them why the hospital needed to be built out and what were their intentions. She stated they should be present tomorrow, for the workshop, as well as Emergency Meetings. She agreed with Commissioner Hinson about being respectful. She said the COVID numbers were going up and there needed to be a different plan or figure out what needed to be done to get the numbers down in this County. Speaking about the \$3 million in SHIP, she stated the Board needed a plan of action with goals. Commissioner Taylor stated she needed to read agenda packets better. With regards to employees and testing for COVID, she understood those who have a sickness stay home, she asked if they were required to take a test.

Dr. Grant answered they were required to test and Commissioner Taylor asked if there was rapid testing. Dr. Grant answered yes, with rapid testing you had to go 5 days after you think you were exposed. The County was not doing that because you had to make an agreement with the organization and was \$160. per test.

Commissioner Taylor understood employees had to stay out a certain number of days because of exposure and had to wait on results and were paid for the days they were made to stay home. She asked how to best fit that so they were not out so long and know results sooner. She asked Dr. Grant if that should be looked at it in the budget.

Dr. Grant said the County could not tell an employee where to go get tested, just that FAMU would have 48-hour results and the Health Department was 7 days.

Commissioner Taylor said there should be something in the policy to show a timeline, so not much of the workforce was out. She asked if there was a policy that could be set by the Board to get the workforce back doing their jobs and getting results in their hand.

Attorney Knowles stated there were Federal rules on what the County could and could not do with employees.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney to follow up on requests she made and stated he should be mindful the Board worked as one and he worked for the Board not the individuals.

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

Chair Viegbesie stated the curfew times come from law enforcement. He said Col. Collins, Lt. Hightower and Major Wood were always a part of the Resolution development at Thursday discussions and suggested the times. He stated the County was working with the Gadsden County Health Council to improve the COVID-19 spread campaign. He further stated soon there would be PSA's and lawn signs all over the County with regards to the need to wear masks. He told Dr. Grant the law enforcement community requested a standard citation document to issue to violators of the Emergency Regulatory Mandates as a non- criminal citation. (civil citation)

Attorney Knowles said he was meeting with Col. Collins about a citation form for approval from the Commission.

Commissioner Holt said it would have to be a two-copy type document. She asked if law enforcement had books and if they could just write in "failing to wear a mask".

Attorney Knowles said law enforcement would like the BOCC to make the form since the BOCC made the mandate.

Commissioner Holt said she was just trying to speed it up to make it effective.

Commissioner Taylor said a lot needed to be done with law enforcement and they needed direction about what to do when people were not following the mandate.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**WITH NO OTHER COMMENTS TO BE HEARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**