

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 1, 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
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Chair Viegbesie announced the meeting was being held virtually. He asked for moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to add Item 6a-Approval of Football and Related Activities; Commissioner Morgan asked if they could add Opening Meetings up to the Public for discussion. Dr. Grant asked to put that in General Business as Item 12a.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:04 p.m.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 4 for discussion.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - **June 11, 2020-Special Meeting**
 - **June 12, 2020-Emergency Meeting**
 - **June 19, 2020-Emergency Meeting**
 - **June 26, Emergency Meeting**
 - **July 10, 2020 Emergency Meeting**

3. **Approval of a Proclamation for Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week**
4. ~~**Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Bid Amount**~~
Pulled for Discussion
5. **Approval of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding**
6. **Ratification of Public Works Mosquito Control Contract**
- 6a. **Approval of Football and Related Activities for Gadsden County Schools**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

- 4 **Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Bid Amount**
Commissioner Holt asked to see bids concerning this and they were not attached (had been attached previously to the Agenda Item). Commissioner Holt stated she did not recall the bids and Chair Viegbesie said he did not request for the quotes to be attached to this item tonight.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:09 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked if this could go on the next Agenda with the quotes. Chair Viegbesie asked if she was pulling the item entirely and she responded she would like to look over the item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PULL ITEM 4 UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD MEETING. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Morgan said all they were doing was approving the contract, not approving the bid. She said that was why she wanted to see what the quotes were.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:10 p.m.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan said looking at the bids would not change the fact they had a contract before them to approve.

Commissioner Holt said when bring an item, you schedule the item and put in all the attachments and there was no evidence they saw the other quotes, that was the way to do checks and balances. Commissioner Morgan asked what the previous quote had to do with the contract with the vendor. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to see quotes.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR YES

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-1 TO TABLE THIS ITEM.

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 and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the public statement regarding COVID-19.

Robert Tucker, Jr.

My name is Robert Tucker, Jr. I live in district one. Please restore freedom to our county. Lift the state of emergency, lift the curfew, lift the restrictions on small businesses.

Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6a. Approval of Football and Related Activities for Gadsden County Schools

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of football and related activities for Gadsden County Schools.

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

Commissioner Holt said she was not in favor of this item because she was unsure of the safety of the students. She did not think they needed to add to the unsurety of the instability of their health. She said they still have not heard what other schools would do to remedy the safety and what precautions would be taken.

Commissioner Taylor had questions. She thought they would have someone from the Health Department to address questions. Dr. Grant said Dr. Cooksey was on Zoom and was ready to address the issue.

Dr. Cooksey said she had the opportunity to speak with RFM and Gadsden High. Both entities have developed plans that supported all the areas of concern and both elevated the levels of precautions and said what they would do concerning sanitation. They have clearly laid out procedures and plans; and the employee and spectator safety. They know there is no foolproof plan to prevent COVID, but the Health Department will continue to make sure the schools will

keep students as safe as possible and are keeping their best foot forward. She added they did look at football specifically but were looking at other sports as well.

Commissioner Taylor said when she was at a local grocery and parent approached her that was irate and Commissioner Taylor explained they were trying to make sure they had the safety and welfare of students in place. Commissioner Taylor said her vote tonight was for football only tonight with precautionary measures put in place.

Mr. Knowles said he spoke with Dr. Gaffey and they will sign what needed to be signed. The School Board was a different entity.

Commissioner Taylor said if they could secure some type of letter from the Superintendent indicating he would present it to the Board without compromising the liability of the County and she would leave that to the Attorney.

Chair Viegbesie pointed out the motion was to approve football **AND** related activities for Gadsden County. He said he did not know if “related activities” was related to football or other sporting activities. His interpretation was for football and activities related to football.

Commissioner Taylor asked to make sure the motion was clear.

Commissioner Holt said she was not sure what other activity they would have that had more contact than football and a “bunch of people piled on top of each other on the football field because they are going to have to tackle each other” and was why she was against it.

Chair Viegbesie said he had thought and thought about this. He added he had watched some games and was impressed at the way the coaches handled the players and the way they separated the players once they came off the field and made sure the face masks were back on. He said he hoped, if this item passed, the two entities that were requesting their approval would take it seriously.

Commissioner Holt said what type of recording would they be doing, what type of testing would there be and who would be paying for it. She also asked who the schools would be reporting to, them or the Health Department. If there is an outbreak, they need to know about.

Chair Viegbesie said since the Health Department was in communication with the schools and they were the one that gave the Board the update on the numbers, if they could keep a check on the numbers and if they see there is an increase in the infection rate, and the students were in danger, something could be inserted into the Resolution. He said on Thursdays when he, Dr. Grant and the attorney meet to discuss items for the Friday agenda, they could look at the numbers and determine how they would need to revise the Resolution before it comes before the Board for discussion.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the recommendation was from Emergency Management and Chair Viegbesie said it has not gone to them, they were not included in the conversation. Commissioner Hinson asked if they were still in a State of Emergency and Chair Viegbesie yes. Commissioner Hinson said with them being in a State of Emergency, the County Administrator not contact person; Emergency Management should be point of contact and was his reason for

asking the question. Commissioner Hinson said he was not as concerned for the kids; he was more concerned for the grandparents.

Chair Viegbesie said on Thursday, they will get Emergency Management involved.

Commissioner Holt said the incubation time they were looking at was 14 days, when there are teams in and out, they won't have 14 days between the Fridays. As Commissioner Hinson said, it may not show up in children, may show up in their parents and grandparents.

Commissioner Taylor asked for a security update from Col. Collins. He said with respect to the security of the football game, they were in the position they could not provide that security, they were down 8 positions, some due to COVID. Commissioner Taylor said they need to make sure other measures were put in place because they specifically mentioned the Sheriff's Dept. was put in place. She wanted to make sure they had security in place before the games take place.

Commissioner Morgan said all the information they have been discussing was included from the Friday afternoon and they had gotten approval from the Department of Health Director and felt all the assurances were there and with that being said, moved the question.

Commissioner Holt said she had a question about the question.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Taylor still had floor.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to hear from the schools to make sure security had been taken care of.

Kendall Weeks said (RFM) would 100% have security there. Master Sgt. Roberts said they would also have security. Col. Collins said they would not be available. Chair Viegbesie asked what security would be in place. Master Sgt. Roberts said they would look at another source and their first game was September 18th.

Commissioner Holt asked who would be testing the other team.

Master Sgt. Roberts said he would, along with two other teachers, be checking temperatures.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

7. Approval of the Proposal for Service with Vertiv Corporation for the Liebert UPS

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a sole-source proposal for service for the County-owned Liebert UPS located at the EOC at the WA Woodham building.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

8. Cooks Landing Road SCOP

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the task order provided by AE Engineering, Inc. for the CEI services for the Cooks Landing Road SCOP project in the amount of \$253,710.50.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

9. Approval of the Contract Extension with Dewberry Engineers, Inc of Engineering Services

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to extend the engineering services contract with Dewberry Engineering, Inc.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

10. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Local Municipalities and Gadsden County School Board

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Agreements with the municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for road maintenance activities.

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

Commissioner Holt asked if the rates were the same. Dr. Grant explained the rates changed but were the same for everyone.

Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director, appeared remotely to address questions of the Commissioners.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

11. Approval to Accept Resolution No. 2020-45 Extending of the Maturity Date of the \$707,000 Construction Loan with BB&T Bank for Completing the Requirements for USDA

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to accept Resolution No. 2020-045 Extending the maturity date of the \$707,000 Construction Loan with BB&T Bank for completing the requirements for USDA to February 19, 2021.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with the extension but asked if there was no fiscal impact because there would be additional fees for the extension and asked if that would affect the banking.

JoLinda Herring, Bryant Miller Olive, P.A., bond counsel, said there was no fiscal impact, they will be extending the loan at the same rate currently paying but will pay additional interests between August 20th, date that it was expected to mature to the date it is actually paid off. Commissioner Taylor said there would be an impact and asked if she had the amount it would cost and Dr. Grant said he had the number.

Dr. Grant said it was \$675 if paid in 30 days and if paid in 180 days will be \$4,055.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

12. Gadsden County Property Insurance

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented for the Board to review the new asset survey values given from Florida Municipal Insurance Trust. He added it was recommended that the County have 90% coverage with a blanket policy and no deductibles.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 7:12 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said they were underinsured currently and needed to increase the amount.

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

Commissioner Taylor returned at 7:13 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification they were approving the 90% blanket coverage and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had factored that out to make sure the \$284,929.00 was worth it, was there enough accidents and incidents that it was causing the County that much more money. Dr. Grant said they were approving at 90% and no deductibles. She asked if they were filing that many claims a year that \$25,000 was a necessity to offset the costs. Dr. Grant explained that question was asked and found that the County was underinsured and this would save money.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

12a Discussion of opening meetings to Public

Chair Viegbesie said this was added by Commissioner Morgan and was for discussion only.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought they were at the proper time to discuss having their commission meetings where they could be open to the public with precautions, proper social distancing, etc. and asked if the attorney could speak on this.

Mr. Knowles said he had not seen anything that had changed. He said they could re-open the Chamber if it were the Commissioners' will. He did not think there was anything from the Governor that had said they could not and would check on quorum requirements.

Commissioner Morgan said it sounded like legally it was where they could do it and felt was important for them to consider re-establishing the meetings where they were open with proper precautions put in place. He said he could not think of any reason why they could not do this in

a safe manner to provide the public with the maximum opportunity to come and see their local government at work. He hoped they could start researching this and start meeting again in person.

Chair Viegbesie said he had mentioned this to the County Administrator as well.

Chair Viegbesie said to Dr. Grant, if he and the County Attorney could look at the Governor's orders and there was no legal limitation to what they could do and how it could be done maintaining the social distancing, if they could discuss that and bring it before the Board. Dr. Grant asked if he wanted that at the next meeting or the next regular meeting. Chair Viegbesie said they could put that together at the next meeting Agenda if there was enough room on the Agenda for same.

Commissioner Holt said it seemed contradictory to not go back to regular meetings when they told students they could play football.

Commissioner Hinson said the last time he checked, before they give the County Administrator direction, three board members must suggest to him, not one person, that he move forward. He said Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Holt and he said no, so how could they give him direction to do something that the Board was not in favor of.

Chair Viegbesie said this was not presented as an action item, simply for discussion.

Commissioner Holt said the Manager could decide to bring an item if he wanted. They were really contradicting themselves because they are allowing football on Friday nights. She said she would like to see it and would like to debate it and get it over with. She said they could have people come in one at a time and present their item, have discussion and still have social distancing and there are several ways they could do it if that was what they wanted to do.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not trying to look ridiculous. She said Commissioner Holt was "comparing apples to oranges", the Board set a precedence when they said they would go back prior to Phase 1; the football field has not set a precedence. She ended by saying they needed to be consistent so they could get this thing under control.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to mess with the community, was thinking before making a decision, they need to make sure they contact Emergency Management first.

Commissioner Morgan said he has listened to the discussion, why is it ok for the public to gather at Walmart, schools, etc. but they could not come together to see local government at work.

Commissioner Holt said they were having zoning issues and public hearing issues and need to address those issues for businesses to move forward.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Dr. Grant said September 10th would be the first Public Hearing at 6:00, and a meeting was scheduled with each commissioner on Thursday and needed to get times from the Commissioners as to when they want to meet.

Commissioner Taylor thought they would have another workshop and was told no, they asked for an individual session.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed to meet with the Administrator and then have a workshop and dialogue prior to the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Taylor asked if everyone received the email from the Clerk between the Finance Director and Budget Director of the \$1.8 Million shortfall and was no-one concerned where funds were coming from?

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the concerns and reason for the individual meeting to talk the issues through so they could see where they were individually and collectively. He added he was in agreement with the other Commissioners that they could not transfer the \$1.8 Million from the General Fund balance, would be unwise to do.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed and will continue to say they needed to hire a Budget Director.

Commissioner Taylor asked to set a date for a workshop.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the Board was asking was they should individually meet and if they wanted to add a workshop at 12:00 on the 10th before public hearing it would give them 2 hours. Commissioner Taylor said no, she wanted to workshop on a totally different date.

Commissioner Holt said do it on Tuesday, September 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said for each Commissioner to still meet with the Administrator and everyone agreed.

Commissioner Taylor asked for the actual date when the CARES Act portal will open for people to start submitting their applications. Dr. Grant responded on September 2nd.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:48 p.m.

She asked how they were getting the word out and Dr. Grant said they had put an advertisement in the paper.

Ms. Steele said they will get the site set up tomorrow, have ads going out, will be in the paper, will be radio ads and phone calls.

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Commissioner Hinson said personally, in his opinion, they dropped the ball to the citizens in the County.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said the dates kept changing and it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If people registered last week, they would have the upper hand. Only a few may know that information and was one of the most embarrassing situations he had ever seen before. He added he would not post anything given by the Board now because he was not sure if it will be the true because it cannot be found on the website.

Commissioner Holt said he ran into same problem she ran into. They need to have Integrity Group at the meeting on Friday. She also asked why it was not on the website.

She said they do not have broadband in communities and the libraries are closed. She said to get with Integrity and get the information from them.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not want to get into the Manager's job but they need to come up with one solution to get the word out. She said they were waiting for the additional funds to come in and her understanding, the last time they made approval on it, they had only received a quarter of the funding they were to receive. She asked if the additional funds had arrived yet and Dr. Grant said no. She asked if that was being explained to the citizens or were they moving forward the distribution based on what they had or where they waiting until all the funds were in and then it would be distributed. Dr. Grant said based on what they have. Commissioner Taylor asked if that meant they would start distributing the money immediately based on what had been received and Dr. Grant said yes, that was all they had to work with. She asked what the Board's direction was on that. Chair Viegbesie said he thought that was discussed the last time it was said and he raised the fact that currently they did not have the 75% of the \$7.9 Million. He said there was a plea going out to the Governor's Office for him to release the 75%. He said other fiscally stressed counties were in the same predicament. Commissioner Taylor said she believed they said they would notify those that were submitting applications that the distribution would occur once all the money had been received by the County. She added that was what was said and maybe the Deputy Clerk could check on that.

She said the statue that was taken down, it was mentioned that it be donated to the Eastern Cemetery and asked if they could look at that and make a decision on where it will go on an Agendaed item. Dr. Grant said the cemetery was out because it belonged to the City. Commissioner Taylor said they could ask the City about it going there.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:04 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie and he, the Administrator, City Mayor and City Manager have met with regards to that possibility and felt there was a possibility that would not materialize. They were still working on it.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the City would send an official letter stating it could not go there.

She asked about the bike trail in Havana and what was approved. She asked Chair Viegbesie, as the CRTPA representative, if they could look at another trail. Chair Viegbesie said trails were being constructed and one was coming into Havana and one he pushing to come through Quincy but that money for the Florida (inaudible) Trail, the money was gone for good. Commissioner Taylor asked the possibility of another. Chair Viegbesie said the one from Tallahassee to Havana and around Havana is an option; the one he is pushing is from Tallahassee through Quincy down to Chattahoochee; but did not know the project year. She asked the Administrator to get a write-up so they would know what was going through Havana.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:05 p.m.

She said she spoke with the Property Appraiser and they were looking to erect a shield between them and the customers. When the proposal was put in for \$9,000, he was not taking into consideration the Tax Collector's side and was now looking at a request for \$19,000. She thought there was some funding in the CARES Act money that they put aside an amount under the Administrator and he could look within his coffers to see if they could satisfy that. She thought he was trying to get the same contractor that did some renovations some time back to put a glass structure up so both sides would match.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that was something the County could look at working with Facilities to get workers to build to not incur an additional fiscal expense. Commissioner Taylor said to talk with the Property Appraiser because whomever the contractor was that started, they want to match both sides and was told could do it to the tune of \$19,000.

She asked if they could re-visit the clause in the Emergency Resolution with giving the Chair authority to speak for the Board since the Board was meeting on Fridays. She wanted the Board to vote on that at this or the next meeting as it needed to be removed.

Chair Viegbesie asked if it was an Ordinance with regards to the item on the emergency empowerment of whomever the Chair was. Mr. Knowles said not an Ordinance, they added a clause to the Resolution. He thought the best way to do it was when they revisit it on Friday and make a motion to remove it at that time with other changes that may be made.

Commissioner Taylor asked about Emergency Management; that should have been looked at and they should have been a part of their meetings.

She asked about the bid for Motorola and Broadband and was informed the bid closes on Thursday.

Commissioner Taylor said when they submitted the bids, the specs were written on \$1.7 Million allocation and they have since reduced that to \$1 Million. She guaranteed they would have to go back and look at that item because that was not enough money in the line item to cover what they were asking for per their specs. She added she did not do change orders so it would be interesting.

She asked what happened with interviews for the County Administrator; how did the ball get dropped on advertising? Dr. Grant said he failed to follow through to make sure it was advertised.

Chair Viegbesie said the Administrator has staff for years that has made sure that agendas were properly in place, meetings properly advertised so he was not one; he was taking the responsibility but someone who's that duty was in their job description that dropped the ball. That person should be one that should be actually dealing with the responsibility of this sign of incompetence. He said he was very, very disappointed. If the job description is now put under someone that is not doing it and can't do it, they need to re-route the job description so situations like this will not happen again.

Commissioner Taylor said she had a problem with the date set, felt it was too far; they need something done now. She said there were too many issues and concerns coming up and they need someone in the leadership position that can reduce the issues. She was concerned and hoped they could look at a date sooner. She said she was told the reason it was pushed back that far was because it must be advertised in local papers. She thought it just had to be advertised, did it have to go through local newspaper? Was there something in the Statutes that required them to go through local newspapers?

Mr. Knowles said he had not looked specifically at that, his concern was if it had not been advertised, being an issue of such great importance to the County, the citizens would not be able to know when the interviews were taking place and the reasoning behind that was everyone does not have a computer, do not go to City Hall, were not on-line and the thought was to give as much notice as possible for something so important. He felt that was a prudent path forward.

Commissioner Taylor said stability was needed, the longer they wait, more situations they will have like such. She said they just asked for a workshop on the 8th and the Chair asked that the advertisement be put out so that meeting was publicized. If they could have a workshop put out on the 1st being publicized by 8th, why couldn't they do likewise with the interviews; why wait until the 16th and 17th? There is a state of emergency and wanted to see if the dates could be moved up.

Chair Viegbesie said before the days were announced, he asked if they had contacted the candidates to see if those dates worked and was told yes. To change that would look "wishy-washy" and he did not want to look that way.

Tele-commuting

She said she looked at a write-up that was sent regarding having employees working from home. according to write-up, approval has to be approved between the BOCC and the employee. If that is the case, the procedure in place now was not constitutional where the interim Administrator is making decisions. She asked to be corrected if she was wrong. Mr. Knowles said that was not the correct interpretation. Commissioner Taylor asked that he elaborate. Mr. Knowles read the statement aloud. There was discussion between Mr. Knowles and Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Taylor said it was clear on what it said. She said she was trying to help a 12-year employee that wanted to help her third-grade child that was taking virtual that submitted a proposal to work from home that worked in a department that gets little to no traffic and was denied. There was further conversation regarding this matter. Commissioner Taylor said she made a request last week to work with these people, instead the request was pushed aside and this person received the brunt of it.

Personal Service

The young man that meets the public at the Security desk had a situation today that she felt needed to be looked at closer. She said it was important how they treat the public and do their due diligence to make sure customer service is top at all times. They (public) pays the salary through tax dollars. She said a lot was going on and they need a manager.

Commissioner Hinson said this was the first time ever going live doing interviews, they had never had live workshops, only board meetings and was not sure how it became an issue. In his opinion, if they put it in the Democrat, it was up to the Board to make decisions, it is legal to put in the Democrat tomorrow and could interview on Monday, Tuesday and they would meet the law. He said he was not trying to do underhanded stuff as staff, was trying to follow the law and get accurate information out to the community. As a Board, they only needed two other votes, they could put it in the table and still have a meeting next Monday.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said even in FAC training, the County Administrator is the one that has the power to put things on the Agenda for discussion. He said BOCC got rid of HR preliminary interviews, they asked for all applicants and their information and had to deal with it.

Public Works

Commissioner Hinson said they used to work 4-day work weeks and now are working 5-day work weeks. He felt they were doing more when they had 10-hour work days because they had to get the big tractors and drive to Chattahoochee and then drive to Concord and by the time they get there, they spend their time driving. He felt they needed to go back to 4-day work weeks again. Grass in Salem was almost as tall as a 6-foot man. It was something to consider, they tried it and it did not work.

Chair Viegbesie said not for a response, it was a suggestion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they needed a potential shade meeting on two active cases; dates given was September 25th and 28th and had not gotten a time yet.

He said if they looked at the Policy and Procedure for the tele-commuting and eligibility requirements for program, it stated "A request by an employee to participate in the program must be evaluated and approved by the employee's Department Director and the County Administrator, to ensure the request meets the eligibility criteria and that the work to be performed is suitable for telecommuting." He wanted to clear that up and was not given the chance to before.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they could schedule a shade meeting prior to or following a regular meeting if possible, he was not available on the dates given out.

Football

He said the also approved Football and how would the games impact the current curfew? Mr. Knowles said the plan was to get together tomorrow, update the Resolution and incorporate some things from FHSA, compile that into the Resolution and they would redo it on Friday. As to the curfew, since they did not bring the Resolution as an action item today, they will address it at the meeting on Friday and address it in the new Resolution.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled in their discussion last Friday, this came up and his take from the conversation was, the school should look at starting the game earlier so they could dismiss before 9:00 p.m. and Commissioner Holt mentioned it would be hard because they would want to celebrate and parents will want to chit-chat. Commissioner Morgan said that being the case, they need to have a clear conversation with Munroe and Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt said their security will need to get them out and on the road on time to make curfew.

Mr. Knowles asked about the shade meeting and getting it scheduled with opposing counsel. Commissioner Holt asked if there was a problem with having the shade meeting on the 15th. Mr. Knowles said the opposing lawyer was not available on then. He said he would get different dates and get back with the Commissioners.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said if possible, could they have the meetings after 3:30 or 4:00, he was no longer able to make 10:00 a.m. meetings. Chair Viegbesie said by 5:00, the County shuts down and they have to have the Resolution in effect before the end of the work day on the seventh day. Commissioner Hinson said he would try to make it work around 12:00 and Chair Viegbesie said they would take 12:00 into consideration.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had nothing to report.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she was worried; they had never been without an Assistant Manager and Manager at same time and she was concerned about it. She added she would make a motion every meeting until they get help. They were in a desperate situation and they did not have stability.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADEA MOTION TO HIRE ED DIXON AS THE MANAGER AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said it was not that he did not respect the name Commissioner Holt gave, he believed in going through the process first.

Commissioner Holt said that great; Dr. Grant was dealing with what he was given and has taken that task on. Commissioner Holt said another gentleman that does not want anyone from the County back on his property ever again. She said that was just some of the things that were coming up.

CARES Act

She said they have to decide on what they can do with the \$1.9 Million. They have the hospital, broadband, businesses, and the individual grants, do they chip it up into pieces or wait until the rest of the money comes in. They need to have Integrity tell tomorrow when they will get the rest of the money. Citizens need to have their questions answered.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood Gadsden has already purchased PSA radio ads and they were running.

Ms. Steele said they currently have two PSA's running.

Commissioner Hinson said if not have posed that question, they would not know because if you look at the website, it still did not show anything and was embarrassing. He added that some people has shut down their businesses because of this.

Commissioner Holt said thank you and guaranteed that she had no friends that was trying to get money.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie said to please let it be known, there are 3 branches of government; the five Commissioners are the policy-making body; staff was under the leadership of the right now Interim Administrator that is the Executive Branch of the County Government; as policy-makers, if they, as policy makers, do not tell the Executive Branch what to do, how to do, who to do for, then maybe the government would run a little smoother than it is. If they give their point of view rather than calling the office telling staff what to do, that could be very frustrating and marginalization of staff's relevance to what they were hired to do. He added if they really wanted to have harmony in their government, they need to know their role and stay in their lane.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 1, 2020-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Chair