

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
AT 12:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2 - ABSENT**
 Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
 Eric Hinson, District 1 - ABSENT
 Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She asked that everyone bow their heads in a moment of silence and then asked everyone to stand and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Presentation by The Integrity Group, Inc.**
Fredricka Hamilton, Integrity Group, appeared before the Board to give update. She said as of today, the Gadsden County CARES Portal had 550 registered users, 67 submitted business applications, 73 submitted resident applications as well as the paper applications totaled 10; 6 resident applications and 4 small business applications. She said the CARES applications would be accepted until November 28, 2020 or until funds were exhausted. She stated the first quarterly report was due September 30, 2020. Additional, COVID-19 expenditures that have been reviewed and validated by her include:

Facilities	\$ 978.27
EMS	2,314.69
BOCC	<u>24,296.97</u>
TOTAL	\$27,589.93

She said additionally, the Small Business Assistance Program and Resident Assistance Program applications and flyers were available at the rear of the building. She said there were some citizens that applied on-line and were unable to provide their documents through the portal so they were bringing their documentation in.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the County or Integrity was to follow-up with the funding agency for the 75% balance that was due to the County. Ms. Hamilton said she and Dr. Grant have reached out to FDEM point of contact and Dr. Grant might want to expound on the answer.

Dr. Grant said he has been reaching out to the department at least once a week for a status and they are awaiting word from the Governor, but everything was ready to go as soon as they receive the go-ahead.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the portal and said she was a little dismayed with it. According to one business owner, it seems to be a cut and paste from another County because it was asking for documentation on the portal from a different county and there seems to be glitches.

She said she also spoke with someone from the Chamber of Commerce and he indicated that citizens were having difficulty qualifying. She asked if Ms. Hamilton was running into that. She said she asked for a list of items that citizens were having difficulty with.

Ms. Hamilton said to-date, she had not had anyone inform her of any issues.

Dr. Grant said they may be confused with the SHIP Program; he knew there was questions from landlords that they were having some problems.

Commissioner Taylor said to cut her out and let Ms. Hamilton meet with Rob Nixon.

Vice-Chair Holt asked as far as getting the information out, what kind of response have they been getting. Ms. Hamilton said most said they heard by word of mouth. Several of Commissioner Hinson's constituents said they heard it from him. Commissioner Holt asked if it was linked to the County website. Ms. Hamilton said if not, it would be great if it did.

Vice Chair Holt said there were several projects that would not work without the 75%, it was too much money. She said they needed to get information out that stated they had not received all of the funds so could not give out money UNTIL the rest was received. She said it needed to be marketed a little better and asked about radio time and if they had done anything with it and Dr. Grant said yes. Vice Chair Holt asked if Ms. Steele was on and she was. Vice Chair Holt asked if anything was going out on 96.1 and Ms. Steele said she sent the marketing plan to them. There were no marketing slots available for today and Commissioner Holt asked when they would run. Ms. Steele said they were getting everything together. She added that citizens could go to the County website and be able to apply. Ms. Hamilton said her number was 850-875-8664 and questions can be left on the portal.

Commissioner Taylor said to-date 550 had registered; Ms. Hamilton said there were 67 business applications; resident applications 73 and 10 paper applications. Commissioner Taylor asked if those were ready for funding and Ms. Hamilton said for processing.

Vice-Chair Holt said they set aside money in the CARES Act money for marketing and asked if was spent. He replied he did not know.

Vice Chair Holt said it was a first come, first serve basis and money could be gone soon.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

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

Commissioner Taylor read aloud the COVID-19 statement for Vice Chair Holt.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-047

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor said she had someone to call and said they read a comment about the way they had motioned restaurant hours at their last meeting and they said the Mom & Pop restaurants were not being considered in the motion. It was also said that it seemed Commissioner Taylor did not have any loyalty or sympathy towards the Mom and Pop businesses, particularly the Havana Hobbit. She did go speak with them the past week to clarify and wanted to clarify today with regards to that portion that talked about the hours for restaurants. She said she knew they talked about drive-thrus having extended hours and they said Waffle House could continue to serve food but could not serve in-house after 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Knowles read from the Resolution.

“drive-thrus are permitted until 11 :00 PM; lobby service allowed until 9:00 PM; carry-out and takeout shall be permitted until 11 :00 PM. Lobby service and in-person dining has to end at 9:00PM. And they have to maintain the ten (10) person restriction.”

He said nothing was specifically mentioned about Waffle House in the Resolution.

Commissioner Taylor asked they make the Resolution a little clearer because some of the Mom and Pops seem to feel since she mentioned a chain name when she was speaking and not to be exclusive to some of the named chains. She said she was trying to say to some of the restaurants that it was the law they close at 9:00 but could continue to provide carry-out up until 11:00 p.m. and did not have to be a national chain if this falls as part of their business. She asked the Vice-Chair to get staff to reach out to the restaurants and let them know they could continue to serve past 9:00 p.m. if they chose to do so, it just had to be carry-out.

Mr. Knowles said he could add more clarity to the Resolution. Commissioner Taylor said they did not want anyone to feel excluded.

Commissioner Morgan said one way to solve the problem was to end the curfew or change it to 12 midnight to 5 am.

He added he was ready to make a motion when the Board was ready.

Mr. Knowles went over the changes to the Resolution.

Mr. Knowles read aloud the paragraph concerning football games and said they would incorporate the documents that were provided by the high schools and Florida Athletic Association. He said also, the Chair, when they spoke yesterday, wanted the Emergency Management Director or his designee to coordinate with Dr. Grant to provide the Board with information regarding COVID-19 so if there is a spike or a lot of kids get sick, it would need to be reported to the Board each Friday. He added that was contingent on the Board approving in its current form.

Vice Chair Holt asked he read aloud the paragraph concerning football games.

“Football games and related activities including, but not specifically limited to: (1) practice; (2) walk-throughs; (3) film sessions; and (4) concessions at football games shall be permitted, provided such games and related activities adhere to COVID-19 mitigation procedures provided to the Board by the FHSAA, Gadsden County Schools, the Florida Department of Health and Robert F. Munroe Day School. These documents are attached hereto and incorporated as though fully set forth herein as Exhibit "A".

All football games and related activities must be completed in sufficient time and at a sufficient hour to permit all participants to adhere to the curfew requirements as set forth herein. This section shall only apply to games and football related activities which takes place while this Resolution is in effect and such permission shall terminate unless this section is specifically reauthorized by the Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as a blanket approval of other sports or other large gatherings. The Gadsden County Emergency Management Director (or his designee) shall coordinate with the County Administrator to provide the Board with information regarding COVID-19 infection rates within the County.”

Mr. Knowles said Munroe and Gadsden had similar guidelines but they were still somewhat different.

Master Sargent Roberts said masks on the sidelines, additional shields on their face; Vice Chair Holt asked about security and he said they have hired security for home and away games.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED WITH THE CHANGE OF ELIMINATING THE MANDATORY MASKS AND CHANGE IT TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND AND ELIMINATE THE CURFEW. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH ADDED CHANGES OF RESTAURANT LANGUAGE BEING CLEARER SO ALL RESTAURANTS WILL BE INCLUDED AND VICE CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Vice Chair Holt stated she was not in favor of the football item but was in favor of the mandatory masks.

VICE CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 4, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Vice Chair Holt asked that they address the Talquin Electric annual meeting. Dr. Grant explained it would be drive-thru in cars.

Commissioner Taylor acknowledged Mr. Ron Green, who was in attendance and had won the election to take her position.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:49 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA




BREND A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk