

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 AT 1:00 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  
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 1:08 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

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

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| COMMISSIONER HINSON | NOT PRESENT |
| COMMISSIONER TAYLOR | YES         |
| COMMISSIONER MORGAN | YES         |
| COMMISSIONER HOLT   | YES         |
| CHAIR VIEGBESIE     | YES         |

MOTION PASSED 4-0

- 1. Approval of the FRDAP Grant Agreement for project A21124 at East Gadsden Recreational Facility at St. Hebron**
- 2. Approval of the FRDAP Grant Agreement for the Pat Thomas Park**

**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@gadscencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadscencountyfl.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.***

Karen Stansberry submitted an email and Chair Viegbesie read it aloud.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**3. Public Works Tractor Purchase**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to purchase two (2) Kubota tractors for Public Works. He added that the original buy-back plan was presented to the Board in June and included a lease of the Kubota tractors along with several other pieces of heavy equipment. The plan also included the trade of "outdated" equipment for new equipment. The said the trade value for the old equipment came to \$342,091.07 leaving a positive balance of revenue of \$43,908.93, which if the Board decided, would cover 90% of the cost for one tractor.

Commissioner Holt asked about the money that was made from the auction; did it go to Road and Bridge or go to General Fund?

**Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board to further explain. She said in trading the equipment back to CAT, they County should get a check for approximately \$370,000 and the first payment for the lease of the equipment should come up to about \$342,000 and that was the difference between the two numbers and that money should be going back into the revenue. She stated she asked the Budget Director and the Finance Director where the money went after the auction and has not gotten an answer.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed to know where the money was because the Road and Bridge money was restricted and they needed an answer now so they could make their decision.

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

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| COMMISSIONER HINSON | NOT PRESENT |
| COMMISSIONER TAYLOR | YES         |
| COMMISSIONER MORGAN | YES         |
| COMMISSIONER HOLT   | YES         |
| CHAIR VIEGBESIE     | YES         |

**MOTION PASSED 4-0.**

**5. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-048**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to make sure she had an opportunity to get answers to some questions she had.

Chair Viegbesie said the Administrator informed him that Integrity would pass out information on what was going on with the portal.

Commissioner Holt stated she preferred to have questions answered while they were still in session.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH CHANGING WORDING OF MASKS TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND AND REMOVE THE CURFEW. MOTION DIED FOR ACK OF SECOND.**

Mr. Knowles said there were two minor changes; the curfew would be ending at 10:00 p.m. and Secretary Halsey BeShears, DBPR, put out a tweet that they would be rescinding Executive Order 20-90 that put restrictions on bars and they could re-open at 50%.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 1:32 p.m.*

Mr. Knowles stated everything else would remain the same.

Commissioner Holt asked the reason for change of the curfew.

Mr. Knowles said they had been getting calls from citizens and with regard to football, it made it hard for people to attend the game and make it home by the 9:00 p.m. curfew.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 1:34 pm*

Chair Viegbesie said the curfew change was his suggestion and Law Enforcement went along with it.

Commissioner Taylor said when they change hours every time there was a situation, the community would stay confused, they needed to be consistent and not keep changing times based on situations with games that lasted only a few months.

Commissioner Morgan said the reason was because it has had such a negative impact on local businesses and they were feeling the effects of it. He added if they eliminated the curfew, they would eliminate the confusion that it caused. He added that unnecessary gatherings could be monitored.

Commissioner Taylor pointed out if the curfew was eliminated, law enforcement would have no authority when there were gatherings.

Commissioner Holt said she was more concerned with changing and changing back. She stated to change the curfew to 10:00 p.m. and cancel football.

**Stacey Hannigan, Gadsden County Health Department**, appeared remotely. When trying to narrow it down specifically to transmission-related to a football game, it would be harder.

Commissioner Holt said not requesting for everyone at the game, but was requesting information because if they were tested the day before the game, if there was an outbreak, schools would

close. They would send the children home and the County does not have an extended health-care facility and would need to know.

Chair Viegbesie asked for the attorney to arrange a meeting with him, the Chair and any schools that had a football game to pin-point and report the data.

Commissioner Taylor said this might put them in a legal bind. She said she would not demand the information, if RFM wanted to share, she was sure they would.

Ms. Hannigan said it was Dr. Cooksey's intent that by Thursday of each week, they send a report to the County Office.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said if the Board voted 2-2, would it would remain the same and Mr. Knowles stated no, there would be no Resolution.

Commissioner Holt said Chair Viegbesie wanted 10:00 and that was where they were stuck at. Chair Viegbesie said it was a suggestion he made and was trying to accommodate the players.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION THE RESOLUTION WAS TO STAY AS IT WAS AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b> | <b>NOT PRESENT</b> |
| <b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b> | <b>YES</b>         |
| <b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b> | <b>NO</b>          |
| <b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>   | <b>YES</b>         |
| <b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>     | <b>YES</b>         |

**MOTION PASSED 3-1**

**4. Approval of Response to Governor's Request for information Related to Local Governmental Actions Taken During the Public Health Emergency**

Dr. Grant introduced the item and there was confusion as the Deputy Clerk's Agenda did not list this item.

Commissioner Holt asked about documentation that was requested.

Mr. Knowles stated he would be including all the Resolutions from start to finish including today if approved along with a copy of the citation form. He also said by way of background, Governor DeSantis sent a request for information regarding regulations, rules and commands as related to COVI-19 along with the football guidance.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were simply responding to a request from the Governor's Office for information only and was told correct.

**THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b> | <b>NOT PRESENT</b> |
| <b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b> | <b>YES</b>         |
| <b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b> | <b>YES</b>         |
| <b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>   | <b>YES</b>         |
| <b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>     | <b>YES</b>         |

**MOTION PASSED 4-0**

**Fredericka Hamilton, The Integrity Group**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Taylor said it was difficult to complete applications on the telephone. She asked if they were putting the applications out at different venues where they could be picked up other than the County office. Commissioner Taylor stated they needed to look at having places in the different municipalities where the applications could be picked up. They discussed documentation that was required to be provided for applications. Ms. Hamilton explained the application. Commissioner Taylor stated she was trying to condense the application so people were not frustrated. She added it needed to be streamlined and they needed to look at the Chamber and Rob Nixon and come up with simpler application and make things run smoother; this needed to be streamlined.

Commissioner Holt said they had \$57,000 for marketing in the CARES Act plan; she talked with Dr. Grant and was told it was taken out. She added she did not know where it went because she specifically said for the Health Council to get out and help market this. They need to get the word out. They were going to need to have their identification and necessary documents.

Commissioner Taylor asked what happens to the guy that cuts the yard and would not be able to show he was no longer working; what happens to the person that babysits and was no longer babysitting; what happens to the "gig" workers and they were asking for the different forms with people that could not qualify because they would not have the necessary information.

Ms. Hamilton stated she has had people drop off their application and bring in supporting documentation at a later date.

*Chair Viegbesie left the meeting at 2:23 p.m.*

It was pointed out that Commissioner Morgan had also left the meeting and the quorum was lost.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT  
2:23 p.m.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**