


AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND  
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE  
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2  
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4  
Gene Morgan, District 3 - absent  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Eric Hinson, District 1- appeared remotely

Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

 At 1:05 p.m. Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order. He asked for heads to be bowed in prayer followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Chair Viegbesie entered into record that Commissioner Morgan would not be in attendance and he had sent a message that said there were unforeseen circumstances.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Consent

 COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.


THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Ratification of Resolution 2020-049 (Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sally)

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to [CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until 10 a.m. on Friday, September 18, 2020. This allows adequate time for comments to be made part of each meeting's official record and considered carefully by Commissioners and staff. Comments submitted after the

**deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record. The County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.**

 Chair Viegbesie said some letters he would not be able to read into record because they contained a number of links, but he would recognize the person who sent them.

- a. Brenda Rudd - Read into record
- b. Don Stewart – Read into record


*1:12 p.m. Commissioner Taylor stepped out*

- c. Perry Lynn Henry – Links and documents entered into record.
- d. Karen Stansberry – Links, data, references with 7 emails entered into record.

*1:17 p.m. Commissioner Taylor returned*

#### General Business

- 2. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Morris Young, Gadsden County Sheriff/Shawn Wood, Gadsden County E911 Coordinator)

 Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if this item was pulled at a different meeting.

Dr. Grant answered yes, and said it was a renewal of the on-going contract.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the attorney reviewed it.

Mr. Knowles said he had reviewed it and there was no problem with the contract. He said it was a Government contract and changes were not allowed.

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

3. Approval to Accept the State funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant Agreement #A0139 and Federally Funded Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement #G0183  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph. D., Interim County Administrator/Morris Young, Gadsden County Sheriff/Shawn Wood, Gadsden County EM Director/Tashonda Whaley, Gadsden County EM Assistant Director)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE WITH A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if the funds were accessible to the County, or were they restricted to Emergency Management.

Dr. Grant said they should be restricted to Emergency Management, but he was not sure because the award was for Gadsden County Emergency Management Performance Assistance.

Commissioner Taylor said Emergency Management was controlled by the Board and she was wondering if the Board had any say about how the funds were spent.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood it to be a Restricted fund, not a General fund.

Dr. Grant said it must be used for those purposes because part of it was Federally funded and part was State funded.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood it was restricted to that service only, but she wanted the ability to say how it was spent under that line item.

Commissioner Holt said the Board needed to call Emergency Management and meet about any funding.


Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to address the concern of Commissioner Taylor and the item could be tabled.

Commissioner Taylor said she just had a question and was not asking to table the item.

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

4. Approval of the SHIP CARES CRF Agreement Amendment  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Sonya Burns, Housing  
Program Coordinator)


 Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR  
VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

5. Approval of Property and Modular Acquisition for Havana EMS Relocation  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Keith Maddox, EMS Director)

 Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR  
VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

6. Bid No. 20-19 Results/Gadsden County Hospital Renovations  
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie asked what the bid for each provider was.

Dr. Grant said it was not a bid, it was a qualification.

Commissioner Hinson asked if one service offered more than others and stated the bidder who provided the best service should get the bid, in his opinion.

Commissioner Holt said the Facility Manager was somewhere in the building and could get those numbers to the Commissioners now.

Dr. Grant said they were qualification documents and there were no numbers.



Commissioner Holt said it was okay if it was just qualifications.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.**

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

**7. Bid No. 20-17 Results/Gadsden County Broadband Services**



**(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item. He said Figgers Wireless was the only vendor to submit a response to the RFP.

Commissioner Hinson said for five years he had been wanting wireless in the County. He said if the County advertised how they should have, and bidders did what they said they would do and met the qualifications, he wanted to get the County wireless. He stated this was a necessity, not a want.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.**

Chair Viegbesie said the Code of Federal Regulations Single Audit Act Procurement Policy was where his concern came in. He was concerned only one proposal was received. He asked Mr. Knowles if the County was in-line with Federal standards with one proposal received. Statutes 200.318-320 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR)

Mr. Knowles said having one bidder could be a problem. He said he read Statute 200.318. His other concern was only having \$1.4 Million. He said the question that needed to be asked was did the County have to have this. He stated when an audit happened, the County would have to present what they did and why. He did not think there needed to be a Project Manager, but he thought it may be beneficial to the County, pursuant to 2-CFR 200.332. He further stated the bid was more than what was budgeted and asked where the remaining money would come from. He further stated the County would get audited in the end. He stated the County needed to address what would be procured.

Chair Viegbesie said he was worried about a future audit. He said the Sheriff sent a letter to the Governor asking for the remaining CARES Act money. He was concerned the path the County was going, not having the other 75% of CARES money. He said Governor DeSantis was getting pressure to get the rest of the CARES Act money out. He stated he could not commit to a contract if the County did not have a sure funding source.

Commissioner Hinson said he would call this an extenuating circumstance and a unique situation. He further stated broadband was necessary and was a question on the 2020 Census. He said citizens paid a lot in taxes and could not get internet so they could do their work and school at home. He said the Board needed to trust the staff. He said they did everything by the Procurement Policy a month and a half ago. He said he wanted to disclose he had talked to someone from Figgers Communications and Motorola. He said Gadsden County needed service in the whole County. He stated teachers and kids had no internet access and he told them to be patient. He said this was a monumental decision to get 5G into Gadsden County and he was excited about it.

Chair Viegbesie said he was not in a position to provide broadband. He was worried about the legal portion. He said he wanted to make sure the Board was properly spending without violating the Procurement Policy with Federal money. He did believe the County needed broadband, but if it had to be rebid, it had to be done. Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney if the Procurement should be readvertised and was there a limited amount of times that the bid could be readvertised.

Mr. Knowles said there was no limit of times to readvertise, but he thought two was plenty. He thought the County should readvertise because it would be helpful and give the County cover in terms of an audit. He further stated there was a time constraint and his advice was advertising twice was fine. He said Figgers could have a cause of action against the County for trying to get more bidders if it went to bid more than twice. He suggested a shorter advertisement period this time.

Commissioner Holt said she had asked about the Project Manager because who was going to write the bid, since no one had experience writing up a bid for internet service. She did not want the citizens thinking the County was going to pay for them to have free internet service for a long period of time because the County could not afford it. If the Board said they would vote for this, it had to be contingent on the funds being received. She said she needed to know the balance of the General Fund or the Revenue.

Dr. Grant said the Reserve had \$3 Million and there was none in the General Fund. He said the Budget Manager was off and he could not say what the General Fund Balance was.

Commissioner Holt said the County would not pay for citizens to have free broadband and that must be negotiated.

Chair Viegbesie asked for Mr. Miller or Mr. Yates from Integrity to give more clarity to the Board.

Eric Miller from Integrity said he would agree with Attorney Knowles that one bidder would draw the attention of an auditor as well as the comments by Commissioner Hinson saying he had communication between the lone proposer. He further stated those two things may call for a review.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September, 18, 2020 Emergency Meeting

Commissioner Holt said there was no problem with the company. She said the County needed internet. She stated the Board should see what the school was providing. She said she did not think the County would get past the deadline and the Board needed to do something.

Commissioner Hinson said he was transparent in everything he did. He said people called Commissioners and talked all the time. He said he always asked the attorney what was going on. He asked if the service was advertised for the County Administrator and was it a minimum advertisement.

Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked who the County advertised through, Gadsden County Times, to which Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Board had ever provided a Sole Source project before.

Chair Viegbesie said yes, but the funding was not Federal funds that had to adhere to a Code of Federal Regulation Act Procurement, and it called for more than one submission and that was his worry.



Commissioner Hinson said during the Budget Hearing, \$4 Million was in the Reserve. He asked how the County did things illegal if there was no bid to get Integrity, just a suggestion. He said he was looking at the whole picture, including Integrity. He said to close the meeting and look at the whole package again. He wanted to extend the bid for Broadband.

Dr. Grant said there was \$3.3 Million in the General Fund.

Commissioner Hinson asked Attorney Knowles how Integrity was brought in. He said FEMA and CARES Act were two different things. He further stated on March 13, 2020 the Governor had put Florida in a State of Emergency and the Attorney came in March. He also said he did not know what day Integrity was brought in for the CARES Act. He said he wanted Integrity but wanted to know how they were brought in without a bid.

Mr. Knowles said he was not here when the original RFP was put out. He said there was a contract for Emergency Management services that he drafted and specifically put in the contract that Integrity would not be paid without a specific Task Order from the Board. When the Board came back with a task order from Integrity, the Board approved that Task Order for Integrity to do that work. He said the implication that he let something go through for Integrity and not for the bidder in question was incorrect. He further stated if there was something wrong with the task order, it was not his doing. His job was to present the to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said the Attorney was smart enough to know to say he was not sure if he drafted it, because it protected him. Commissioner Hinson said if the Attorney was not sure, how could what he was saying about Integrity be wrong.



Attorney Knowles said he was sure he drafted the contract and sure he reviewed the Task Order.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney to pull the documentation and see.

Attorney Knowles said he had a Gadsden County Task Order that was dated June 29, 2020, The Integrity Group Task Order 2020-01 Disaster Recovery Consulting Services COVID-19 and Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking for clarity. He further stated with one group the Board says they must have multi bids, but not others. He asked Chair Viegbesie to get all the documentation for the Commissioners because he wanted them for his personal documentation.

Commissioner Taylor said there was no Sole Source here, she said it did not apply here. She said the Board had one individual that applied. She further stated she believed procedure was followed, and what reason would the Board have going with one vendor and not multiple. She said the reason was limited time. She thought the County was covered and followed the rules. She said \$1.7 was budgeted and the Board came back and reduced the item when specs were out and bidders were bidding. She further stated she also remembered \$4.1 Million in the Reserve. She said she did not remember Integrity bidding. She said she needed to call the question, negotiate and move forward. She further stated this item did not benefit her.

Commissioner Holt asked to allow Integrity to respond.

Eric Miller from Integrity, appeared remotely before the Board. He said he forwarded to Attorney Knowles, the list of auditable features that an auditor would look at. He said it would exempt those provisions of 2-CFR 200.320. He further stated, regarding whether Integrity services were procured or not, they were. He said it was an Emergency Services Bid and the Bid award was number 19-19 on Feb 18, 2020, the Board approved the bid for an Emergency Management Contract and instructed them to contact Wesley Hall, who was Interim County Administrator, for orders to proceed.

Commissioner Holt said that alleviated one concern, the other one was the County was exempt from 200.332.

Attorney Knowles stated 332 applied but the County would potentially be exempt from 318 and 320.

He further stated 332 was one that did apply, 303, 330 and 332 did apply. He explained what they regarded.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem voting for it but the County was not paying for the citizen's broadband. She said it was not a free service. She said she wanted a meeting with the School Board because they were supplying hot spots. She said there needed to be testing to make sure the process worked. She further stated the item should come back to the Board.



Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September, 18, 2020 Emergency Meeting

Chair Viegbesie said he questioned if Reserve would be used to fund the item, it could not be presented as CARES ACT money. He asked the Attorney, had the County properly addressed the Federal requirement regarding the contract, cost and price.

Attorney Knowles said using Federal funds as a recipient, the sub-recipient being the contractor, the County had to make sure they were getting the best price. He thought the Board should carry the vote.

Commissioner Holt said since the Board had not received all of the CARES Act money, she asked Attorney how that should be addressed.

Attorney Knowles said they could do the contract based on... he said he thought the motion was to approve the \$1.675 Million. He asked for clarity on how to draft it moving forward. He would need to know how many were planned on procuring, and when, because it was not up to him.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a way out, if the County did not get the money.

Attorney Knowles said to make the contract with a termination clause that said if the County did not receive the funds, it could be terminated. He asked if the motion carried, was the County spending the remaining CARES Act money on this project. He said that was Commissioner Hinson's motion and he was asking for clarity.

Commissioner Holt said she could not vote for that because the County still had housing needs.

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarity. She stated these were Federal dollars that had already been earmarked. The only thing the Governor could do was decide when to give the dollars. She said they were not State funded dollars, they came from Washington and were Federally funded. She thought Commissioner Hinson's motion was the funding that came in but she was not in agreement to use all of that to fund broadband. She wanted them used sparingly throughout all of the different areas that required dollars that the Board could paste and give. She said she wanted a contractual agreement to be negotiated and have it brought back for final approval once all of the details were ironed out, including contingencies. She said she was ready to vote, but if the motion had to be amended and identify the funds to be used, she would amend her second so the Board could move forward.

Chair Viegbesie said with regards to his doubt of adhering to the Procurement Act, he knew broadband was a necessity, he was not convinced the Procurement was not being violated. He wanted it put into record that he was not convinced that the Board was not violating some aspect of the Federal Regulation Procurement Act and he would not vote for this particular item as it was presented in any way if it was using CARE Act money.

Commissioner Hinson said Integrity was approved in February for FEMA, but FEMA and CARES Act were two different agreements. He further stated he had not benefited from anyone and his personal attorney said he did nothing wrong.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 (RE-ADVERTISE BROADBAND RFP) WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER HOLT.**



Commissioner Taylor said what was paramount, was the people who needed these services. She asked the Commissioners to understand it was not just 7 days, it was more like 30. She further stated the Board was making it more difficult for the provider or the vendor to meet the deadline. She said this only made the children suffer. She said she doubted a vendor would apply giving the discussion today. She said the Board talked for 45 minutes on this item and now it would get tabled. She stated the Board had to make a tough decision. She further stated the legal requirements were met and it was a time sensitive issue, and these services were needed to get an education. She said the CFR was waived but the Board wanted to wait another week.

Commissioner Hinson asked if everything was waived and the bidding process did not have to be gone through.

Attorney Knowles said no, that was not what was being said.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Miller what was waived.

Mr. Miller, reading from the compliance requirements, said the following two CFR Policy Requirements applied to the Broadband item. Sub-Part F, Audit requirements and the following two CFR Policy Requirements were excluded from coverage under this assistance listing; Sub-Part B- General Provisions, Sub-Part C- Pre-Federal Work Requirements, Sub-Part D- Post Federal Award Requirements and Sub-Part E- Cost Principals. Fund Payments are only subject to the requirements in the uniform guidance and help provides those two sealed requirements 200.303 regarding internal controls, 2 CFR 200.330-200.332 regarding sub-recipient monitoring and management. Sub-Part F regarding auditor requirements. Those were the requirements listed by the Federal Government under the catalog of Domestic Financial Assistance applicable to this CARES Act Funding.

Commissioner Hinson asked if approved, was the Board moving in the wrong direction.

Mr. Miller said that was a legal question and he was not an Attorney, but as an Auditor, the County would have to point out exceptions from the normal

Commissioner Hinson asked Attorney Knowles if there was a problem.

Attorney Knowles said he agreed with Mr. Miller when he said any contact with a bidder outside of the Code of Silence was always a problem. He did not know when the conversations Commissioners had with bidders took place, but for future reference, when a bid was out, no one on the Commission should talk to any bidder in any form. He said there was nothing against any bidder, and he was here to protect the Commissioners because if it went south in a month or years, it was his license in jeopardy. His concern was that the

Commissioners abided by all of the provisions in the CFR, Florida Statutes, Guidance or anything.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to listen to the Attorney.

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM GOING TO RE-BID.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

Commissioner Taylor asked how soon before the item would come back to the Board.

Attorney Knowles said the first meeting in October, (two weeks) or a special date could be made.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted it back the last Friday of the month.

*Commissioner Hinson disconnected from the meeting at 3:00 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said she wanted the Administrator and Attorney to look at other items. She stated the Board could not address things if there was no money.

Dr. Grant wanted to clear up one thing. He said he was hearing that the remaining 75% of the funds were coming no matter what, but that was not the way it was set up. Right now, it was set up that the County would spend their money and ask for reimbursement, and if the money was not spent, it would not come to Gadsden County.

Chair Viegbesie said that was what the letter from the Sheriff to the Governor said.

8.  **Bid No. 20-18 Results/Gadsden County Radio Tower Civil Work**  
**(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie said with any agency his suggestion was the motion and agreement should say "no change order."

Commissioner Holt said she was puzzled. She had asked to see the bids and did not know why the Commissioners did not get them. She asked where the bids were. She stated the Board was looking at what a committee choose. She further stated directors of the departments where bids were being taken should not be on the Bid Committee. She asked who was on the Bid Committee and stated it should all be in the packet.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 3:05 p.m. and back in at 3:05 p.m.*



Mr. Meeks handed out the packet Commissioner Holt was asking for.

Chair Viegbesie asked him to make enough copies for the Deputy Clerk and each Commissioner. He questioned how Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Hinson would be able to see the information.

Commissioner Holt said this could have been put in the packet and the Commissioners should have had time to review it. She said Commissioners needed to know what they were voting for. She stated the Board had to have a process in place. She further stated there were no tabulations and asked what made one a couple hundred-thousand less than the other.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Motorola got the bid, and the County paid \$435,000 up front, would it cover all the services, and how did the other providers equipment compete for effective communication.

Commissioner Holt said that was why the Board needed data when things were on the agenda.

Commissioner Taylor asked if approved, would payment have to be paid in full to whomever was selected.

Dr. Grant answered all but Motorola and Motorola would finance for 7yr@ \$71,000 a year.

Commissioner Taylor asked if someone else was selected, could the County still get it financed if the Board choose to. She said the County had a Bonding Attorney who could look for the best interest rate. She thought the price was too high but was willing to move. She did not know why the lowest bidder was not chosen. She asked who was on the committee and were they qualified.

Dr. Grant answered yes.

Commissioner Holt asked, for the record, who was on the Bid Committee

Dr. Grant answered Mr. Meeks, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Patterson.

Commissioner Holt said the County needed to back out of the departments and when there was a Bid Committee, each department knew the conflicts, and if they had a preference it was easier for the bid to be altered a bit. She further stated it was not a good idea to have department heads on the committees.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the Board had kicked the can around enough and it was time to get communication for First Responders.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted Florida TelCon.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR NEW TECH WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.**

Commissioner Holt said she would not vote for that because she did not know what the tabulation sheets looked like.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to get this off the ground and moving. She said there was a big difference between the bids and she wanted more of an explanation on why the prices were so different.

Chair Viegbesie said he wanted staff to get specifications from all providers to each Commissioner to compare.

Commissioner Holt said it was okay to look at it again on Friday.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW HER MOTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

Chair Viegbesie asked Dr, Grant to work with staff to make sure the appropriate documents were at the beginning of every item so Commissioners could preview them before the meeting.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE ITEM WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.**

**THE BOARD VOTE 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO TABLE THE ITEM.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

9.  **Request Board Approval for Changes to the Application and Required Documentation for Support of Applicant Related to the Gadsden County Cares Resident Assistance Program**  
**(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**


Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Holt said she needed a break 5-minute break.  
*\*5-Minute break was taken\**

Dr. Gant called on Frederica Hamilton from Integrity. She came before the Board and deferred to Daryl Cox to speak on the requested agenda item.

There were audio problems with Mr. Cox.

***\*Chair Viegbesie said the Board would come back to this item, and went on to item 10\****

 ***\*Returned to the item above\****

Daryl Cox, from The Integrity Group, said there were minor changes. He said they were trying to make it easier to get money out. He said the goal was to protect the BOCC and stay in compliance. He stated the contract with Integrity was competitively bid through an RFP process and they were the highest scoring. He stated the contract was for services when they were needed. He was going to get with Dr. Grant to set up a workshop next week concerning CDBGDR HUD Funding because the application period was open and the due date was November 30. Concerning the Residential Assistance, the changes were: Criteria from past due to include overdue. Adjust the proof of number in household to Attest. Other COVID related costs with receipts. He said there was one grant per household. There needed to be reduced income to qualify. He said it was set up in the Residence Assistance Grants that the money would go to the utility or the mortgage. Mr. Cox stated it had been clarified that should not be done. The County should award the grant to the individual and notify the utility that the customer had applied for the grant. She said the citizens had to fill out a W-9 so they could be mailed a 1099 later. In regards to the overdue rent, some did not match who owned the home.

Commissioner Taylor wanted an affidavit in regards to people who could not prove their income.

Mr. Cox said there was attesting in the application and any false information given could be criminal. He said do not reduce the level of required documents for the County's protection in case of a Treasury Audit.

Commissioner Taylor said a Gig worker would not have those required documents. She asked how the County could help those people.

Mr. Cox said Integrity was trying to help by taking reviewers in Tallahassee and making them available in Gadsden. Under the current required documentation, there was an "other" box and other ways and Integrity was going to have people to help.

Commissioner Holt said on the application, in the documents to be provided, was if you had a business registered with the State of Florida. If a landlord filed property income on personal taxes, you would not have a Florida license. She asked if there was a substitute to put in that slot.

Mr. Cox said some things were being reworded. He stated a home based, sole proprietor statement or a Schedule C to show taxes were filed in their own name may work.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MOVED APPROVAL WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE**


**COMMISSIONER HINSON**

**ABSENT**




COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

**10. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-53 (Talquin Letter/Resolution Compliance)**

 **(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

 Attorney Knowles said he spoke with Col. Collins and he was ok with a gradual relaxation of the curfew. He said he had other questions and they were how the Board wanted to deal with 50% capacity for bars and night clubs and how they wanted to deal with football and masks. He further stated the Boy Scouts of America had a request to do camping on their own private property. He said it was proposed as 10 individuals on over 20 acres. Their Attorney, Mr. Bush, was on the line. Mr. Knowles said the Resolution did not need to be altered, but the Boy scouts wanted to make sure they were not running a foul on the Resolution, much like Talquin made sure.

Chair Viegbesie said Talquin sent a plan of action and he wanted one from Boy Scouts as well.

Attorney Knowles said the curfew relaxed to 10 pm was okay with the Chief.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not agree. She wanted the curfew to stay at 9 pm until the middle or end of October.

Commissioner Holt said to go to 10 pm and leave it for 2 weeks.

Commissioner Taylor said leave the curfew at 9 pm for 2 more weeks then go to 10 pm.

Chair Viegbesie he wanted to give the citizens freedom, however, giving the COVID cases in the schools and the County, he was hesitant to raise the curfew to 10 pm but the County needed activities to go on and as well as keep citizens safe. He asked to keep the curfew at 9 pm and hoped things would get better.

Commissioner Holt said leave curfew at 9 pm for two weeks. She said the issue with bars was you could not get people drinking to follow CDC guidelines. She said 50% capacity at bars would make a virus spread.

Mr. Knowles said the State said the County could do 50% but did not have too. Miami was not doing it at all and others said they were.

Commissioner Holt asked Chair Viegbesie for infection rate and death numbers.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Dr. Cooksey was on the line, and she was.

Dr. Cooksey appeared remotely and said she had provided a letter.  
The letter read;

**Update for Gadsden County Schools**

- **As of 09/17,**
- **18 students positive with COVID.**
- **3 attended school physically. All others attend school virtually.**
- **Students attend schools in Gadsden, Leon, Jackson.**
- **97 students living in Gadsden County are currently on Isolation/Quarantine.**
- **No cases associated with school sports teams**
- **Routine screenings are scheduled next week for football players**

**Gadsden DOH is providing free testing to symptomatic employees and students at this time. We have been scheduling appointments with individuals during interviews that meet the criteria for testing and sending tests to the State Health Lab in Jacksonville, FL for faster processing as school safety is a top priority.**

**Regards,  
Adrian Cooksey, DrPH, MPH- Health Officer  
Florida Department of Health- Gadsden**

Commissioner Holt asked how many infections were reported and how many screenings were being done.

Dr. Cooksey said there were 2672 infections and 44 deaths. She said there was less screening now compared to July because of demand. She stated testing was Monday- Friday, 9am-11am daily at the Health Department for school students, employees and their contacts. Tuesday at CRMC from 9am-1pm. There were private provides who have begun to do their own testing and there were CVS, Home Depot and other options that continued to operate daily.

Commissioner Holt asked if players were tested before the game.

Dr. Cooksey said they would be tested Tuesday with games on Friday.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were already tested once.

Dr. Cooksey said yes, before school started and are trying for another scheduled testing.

Commissioner Taylor asked if 9 am-11am, M-F was for just students and staff, or parents too.

Dr. Cooksey said yes, any players or their contacts.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was mandatory testing for staff.

Dr. Cooksey said no, it was just to make them aware of the options and they were also made aware of other positive tests.

Commissioner Taylor asked if staff would be required to report test results after testing.

Dr. Cooksey said if staff tested positive, the school would be aware. There was an automatic quarantine with a return date. She further stated any positive cases were reported to the school.

Chair Viegbesie asked what was the time lapse of exposure and a positive reading.

Dr. Cooksey said exposure to infection was a couple of days.

Commissioner Holt said she was concerned about bars and asked if that would get the County in trouble with the Governor.

Chair asked if the Board made the numbers for bars less than that of the Governor, would it exercise a preemptive authority over the BOCC.

Mr. Knowles said the Governor could always preempt in a State of Emergency. He said the County could not open more, but could open less.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW 50% CAPACITY IN BUSINESSES, HAVE MANDATORY MASK IN PLACE, A 9 P.M. CURFEW, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING MANDATED BY THE BARS WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.**

Commissioner Holt asked if all businesses were at 50%.

Mr. Knowles said gatherings was at 10 people. He said if bars were to re-open, and there was still a 10-person restriction, bars would not be able to have more than 10 people in any one particular area. He further stated no restrictions were placed on other businesses. The only businesses that had the 50% restriction were bars and restaurants.

**THE BOARD VOTE 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

PASSED 3-0 PASSED

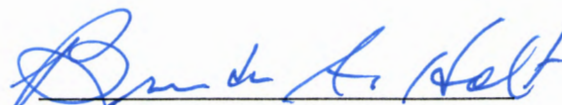
*\*Returned to item #9\**

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
ANTHONY O. VIRGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners



Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September, 18, 2020 Emergency Meeting

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk