

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 2, 2020 AT 10 A.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-absent
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-appeared remotely
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Leslie Steele, Public Information Officer

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Viegbesie asked for approval of the Agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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.

Perry Henry's email to the board is attached for public record.

The Board received an update on the number of cases in the Gadsden County School system for this week from Dr. Cooksey. Dr. Cooksey wrote that at this time there are 14 active school cases of COVID-19. Dr. Cooksey also stated that 50% of those cases are students, 71% of those cases are students that have selected to do virtual learning, and that they are monitoring 118 people who have come in contact with the virus. The quarantine dates for most of the Gadsden County football team and Coach's is scheduled for October 7th, 2020.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-057

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Mr. Knowles said after meeting yesterday (on October 1st, 2020) there were changes that were made as suggested. The county mask mandate is kept in place even though the Governor was not enforcing at this time, does not have any programs in place to enforce mask mandates with fines at this time, and the curfew has been modified to 11 pm - 5 am. Mr. Knowles also mentioned the subject of the postponed discussion with the Boy Scouts about camping at Wallwood is to be discussed with their representative regarding the COVID-19 procedures. Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Knowles could read the resolution so the public could have an understanding of what was being voted on.

Mr. Knowles said that going over the pertinent information for the interest of time the items that are being discussed are the limits for gatherings to remain at 10 people except for in restaurants and other businesses that are set forth in executive order 244 that is the Governor executive; those businesses are restaurants and in all places of worship. This would still require the mask mandate to be imposed (face coverings) in businesses that were not restaurants and places of worship. The county will not be collecting any fines or penalties.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Knowles for the recap on the updated Resolution and asked if the county has requirements in the Resolution that they could not legally enforce on the citizens. Mr. Knowles answered yes and his legal opinion since the county cannot enforce it on the citizens that it does not need to be in the Resolution. Commissioner Morgan also asked with public meetings allowed at churches and restaurants, why can't they allow an increase in the number of people at gatherings if the space allowed it, and allow the public back into the meeting if they could be spaced out. Commissioner Morgan made the remarks that he will not support a Resolution that could not be enforced and would like to see the curfew taken out.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to see the number of positive cases in the schools per week by getting numbers from Dr. Cooksey so the situation could be monitored. On the Resolution, she thinks that it is good to have the masks in there to be a reminder of public safety regarding the virus. Commissioner Holt asked why were the chairs back in Chambers? Dr. Grant answered because there was nowhere to put them and according to what the board had adopted last week that they can only allow a certain number of people to be in the room.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Commissioner Taylor had any comments.

Commissioner Taylor asked because of muffled communication via phone if the curfew had been moved to 11-5 and was it per the meeting yesterday because of the Governor's input. Mr. Knowles said the meeting was with Dr. Grant, Chair Viegbesie, and himself which was why they were bringing this before the board. Mr. Knowles stated that the Governor had nothing to do with curfew. Commissioner Taylor said she did not agree with the 11 pm because it was a little too late to suit her but she was ok with 5 am. Commissioner Taylor said that when they talked about increasing the number that can gather, she thought it was 10 or less, but will agree to less than 50. She still contended the reason the numbers were going down was because of the Resolution they had in place limiting the number of people that can gather and the curfew. She

agreed with the restaurants and said someone reached out to her about the Boy Scout camp so is there any reason it was not open when the other camps were open.

Chair Viegbesie asked Ms. Steele (PIO) to bring Mr. Bush into the meeting. Mr. Bush said they wanted to abide by the Resolution to limit the spread of COVID-19 and they sent in a proposal to have camp reinstated. The campgrounds have 4 separate camp sites; each site has its own facilities and sanitation equipment. The plan was written up by a Leon County physician who is a member of the Scout's health and safety committee. Mr. Bush stated that each camping group would have 7 youths and 3 adults which are not allowed to interact with other groups within the campgrounds.

Chair Viegbesie said the he had read the plan and it conforms with his interpretation to the adaptation.

Commissioner Morgan motioned to adopt Resolution 2020-057 with exception of mask mandate and curfew. The motion did not pass since there was no second.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with moving the curfew to 10:00 p.m. and the Boy Scouts meeting. Commissioner Holt motioned for the vote and Commissioner Taylor seconded. Then Commissioner Taylor asked if this included increasing the gatherings to 50 or less as opposed to 10 or less. Chair Viegbesie asked for all gatherings, and once the issue was made clear he answered yes. Then Commissioner Holt said that this would be a revision to motion.

Commissioner Holt said it did not matter to her but asked what Law Enforcement Officers wanted/recommended to do. Chair Viegbesie mentioned that it has not been discussed with Law Enforcement Officers. In order to discuss the issue Chair Viegbesie asked Ms. Steele (PIO) if anyone from the Sheriff's Office was present. Ms. Steele (PIO) said no-one from Sheriff's Office was in attendance via the Zoom meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said that a representative from Law Enforcement Agencies needed to be included in meetings and asked to please have them included for the next meeting. Then asked about the number that can gather since she has been receiving calls from citizens. Ms. Steele (PIO) said she had talked with Col. Collins and the Sheriff's Office was OK with the following changes: 10:00 p.m. curfew and 50 or less for gatherings.

Commissioner Holt amended her motion to no more than 50 or less for gatherings and Commissioner Taylor amended her second.

Commissioner Morgan asked to confirm for the public that this was including a mandate that they could not legally enforce. Chair Viegbesie answered yes.

Chair Viegbesie said that the same mandate and enforcement level was also what was adopted by Counties next to us. That fines will not be collected but there is a mandate to wear masks in Leon County.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE:

COMMISSIONER HINSON: NOT PRESENT

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

THE MOTION PASSED 3-1 FOR THE APPROVAL OF COVID-19 RESOLUTION 2020-057.

Commissioner Taylor asked Dr. Grant if they have reached out to the Administrator that the board voted to approve for a contract and start date. Commissioner Morgan asked point of order since this is not on the Agenda. Commissioner Taylor said they have always had the option to ask questions to the Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said he has received a number of calls regarding the number of items added to Friday's Agenda, so they will limit the Friday meeting to the Resolution. If they could, to hold questions for the regular meeting. Commissioner Taylor asked for Dr. Grant to email her a response.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the Integrity Group and they if could discuss that item at the regular meeting on Tuesday.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:49 A.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk