

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 3, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to pull Item 7 from General Business on the Agenda because legal counsel for the Grantor wanted to make changes.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was present and stated he had no report tonight.

Commissioner Holt asked the Clerk if Christmas decorations were considered for the good of the Public. Mr. Thomas explained they had a standing policy in the past to budget to give \$1,000 to the City of Quincy at Christmas. She said she had done some traveling and noticed in two of the cities she visited there were quite a few people there taking pictures of Christmas decorations and that helped to boost the income. Mr. Thomas said the Board had a practice of giving a nominal amount of money if they declared a public purpose. Commissioner Holt said if they did not want to give a nominal amount of money, they could purchase Christmas decorations for the Courthouse while they were on sale and other cities and counties were doing that. Mr. Thomas pointed out in the past, they had budgeted money for the City of Quincy and they would...Commissioner Holt said she understood that, but they had no reason to decorate the trees at the Courthouse or do other things, they were only doing the streets. She said she would like to encourage tourism during the holidays and they needed something the tourists would come see and would like, if possible, the Manager to get with him and purchase decorations now while they were on sale. Mr. Presnell asked if she was looking at decorating the Courthouse in particular and Commissioner Holt said any facility they County had, she wanted to make sure tourism was invited in the County. Mr. Thomas pointed out anything over \$500 required approval by the Board under the Ordinance declaring a public purpose. Commissioner Holt said they could bring

it back.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad Commissioner Holt brought this up and one of the things he thought of when he saw the window decorated, he was looking at the possibility, during the Budget Workshop, to discuss with the Attorney the possibility of some minimal amount of money in the budget to decorate the Courthouse and grounds to make it more Christmassy for the holidays. Mr. Thomas clarified the intent of the Ordinance was to cover minimal ceremonial type expenses for swearing in of commissioners, etc. and cautioned them against “stretching it beyond the original intent” and said he did not know if the Attorney had an opinion regarding this.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not mean to sound like Scrooge, but felt they did not need to do it.

Mr. Weiss agreed with the Clerk in that they did have the general public purpose and they did not need to stretch things too far because once they did so, it was hard to rein back in.

Commissioner Holt said anything could be stretched too far and she was not asking for that, simply asking them to look into this while Christmas items were on sale. Commissioner Viegbesie added it would be a non-recurring expense. Commissioner Morgan asked how the front window in this building was done. Mr. Presnell said staff brought in things they had and a small purchase was made for lights. Commissioner Morgan stated when they had to say no to certain basic services, they did not need to take taxpayer dollars to buy Christmas ornaments.

Chair Taylor said she did like the concept of decorating the area and wanted to give the Manager time to look into this and bring it back to the Board.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **1. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

###### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt thanked the Housing Department on the grant that was received today.

She added there was funding for firemen training available with the State and they need to go after that. Mr. Presnell said there was a workshop planned before the next meeting for fire services to cover a number of issues.

###### **Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to go back to an item he suggested at a previous meeting with regards to exploration and creation of a special fire service district because at the last meeting his understanding was they were expressing fire service for the entire County and asked that they explore the special fire services assessment to fund the movement towards establishing full fire services in unincorporated areas and suggested the Administrator look into the possibility of using an assessment funding for unincorporated areas.

He then asked for an update regarding the National Incident Management System Certification which would increase the County’s chances of receiving funds for services needed.

He also asked for an update regarding the mural image.

Additionally he asked for an update regarding the Teen Court program, said he had asked specific questions and needed a response so he could answer questions when asked by the citizens.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for the Workshop held earlier today and hoped everyone will have an awesome New Year.

**Concord Light** He asked Mr. Presnell how things were looking for the traffic light. Mr. Presnell asked Curtis Young, Public Works Director, to come forward to give an update and due to the rain it would not be this week but should have done by next Friday.

Commissioner Hinson said he would also like to hold more conversations regarding Midway with the community that had only one way in and out because it was a dangerous area.

He asked what was going on in front of Hampton Heights and when the sidewalk would be put in. Mr. Young re-appeared and said the contractors had shut down for Christmas break.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items tonight.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor thanked the Commissioners for following the Agenda.

She asked if they were ready to meet with the other cities and if so she would like to get dates arranged. Commissioner Viegbesie said the sooner the better.

Mr. Presnell said they had communication with the School Board in regard to arranging a joint meeting.

She congratulated BOCC for winning the Christmas decorations contest.

She disclosed she had a conversation with a gentleman that had a grant and he has been held up because of a stipulation made on his approval to move forward through the Planning and Zoning and asked the Attorney to get with the Administrator to help this move forward.

Commissioner Holt asked if they did not need to know what the problem was and Mr. Presnell said it would come before Board.

**Shiloh Park** She said the parks were not maintained regularly and the road was washed away along the side.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOSRD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. BOCC/Gretna Workshop Minutes May 12, 2016
- b. BOCC Special Meeting Minutes-November 1, 2016
- c. BOCC Regular Meeting Minutes-November 22, 2016

**3. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**4. Public Officials Bond Review**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-001, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL, amending the Tourist Development Plan, providing for repeal, severability, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors, and providing for an effective date**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of an Ordinance to amend the Gadsden County Tourist Development Plan. He said the only changes to the document was P&Z decided it would be beneficial to make smaller venues eligible for funding and 25 or less could qualify for up to \$2,000 if they generated 25 or less motel rooms, 25-50 could be eligible for up to \$2,500 and significant impact 51-75 would be \$3,500 and over 75 room nights could be eligible for the full \$5,000.

Mr. Weiss said there were a couple of goals and objectives deemed to have had been met by the TDC and they wanted them removed due to them being met and it made the plan a little shorter than it previously was.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Chair would ask for public input.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and no-one did.

Commissioner Morgan said noticed on the impact rankings there were five different categories and asked who came up with that and what it meant.

Mr. Weiss said the words did not mean anything more than what the numbers were and Sonya Burns came up with the wording and TDC approved this.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue with that, his issue was they were talking about \$8,000

for something that would provide a marginal impact and he was curious about the feedback received from local bed tax collectors and their opinions.

Commissioner Holt said they were not getting much input from the community and the hotels have cards that patrons fill out.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they were collecting information and Commissioner Holt said TDC personnel were contacting the local hotels asking them questions. Commissioner Morgan asked if a survey had been done and Commissioner Holt said no. Commissioner Morgan said these were questions they need to expect and have the information and thought they needed to look into this.

Chair Taylor felt Commissioner Morgan's questions were valid and asked how they had come up with the amount and agreed they needed to be answered.

Chair Taylor said she did not see why this should be held up and in hearing some of the explanations there did not seem to be anything in place but Commissioner Holt agreed there needed to be something done in order to collect the data.

Chair Taylor said she would like to see what had been collected thus far.

Mr. Presnell said there were three bed tax collectors on the TDC.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Training Cost-Department of Homeland Security Basic SWAT Training Course in Barnwell, SC**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to pay for training costs for an Investigator to attend the Department of Homeland Security Basic SWAT Training Course scheduled for February 27, 2017 through March 5, 2017.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. ~~Approval and acceptance of the Perpetual Drainage Easement from Ingram's Marina, LLC for the construction and maintenance of a drainage system from Cook's Landing Road to Lake Talquin, and instruction for the Clerk to record the Easement with a copy of the minutes showing approval and acceptance~~**

Pulled

**8. Board Direction on County Auditing Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction regarding the County's auditing services.

Commissioner Holt said for them to bid the contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the contract was bidded, if not why and why was it just coming before the Board. Mr. Presnell said it was part of the contract with the current auditing firm that they could choose to exercise or not and they were putting the option before the Board.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Chair Taylor commented the reason she didn't second the motion, the firm had done great job but did not see what the cost would be and Mr. Presnell commented it was listed in the Fiscal Impact that the company agreed to keep the cost the same.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BID THE CONTRACT AND THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR AT \$130,000 AND THEN BID THE CONTRACT AND CHAIR TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked the motivation behind the motion and Commissioner Viegbesie said the contract had expired and they needed someone to do the audit.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to address the "elephant in room" because they had an engineering firm and Waste Pro that their contracts had expired and said it was management and they were looking at the Administrator for letting contracts expire and it was not fair to citizens.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was his question and concern also was procrastination and it needed to be addressed so they did not find themselves in a bind and was why he pushed for a succession plan. He added that he did not want to go without an auditing firm.

Mr. Presnell said the auditors would finish handling 2016 and to answer the questions about procrastination, a former employee handled the contracts and there were some issues, that contract was not handled in a timely fashion before the new person started handling the contracts and they now have a way to track them.

Commissioner Hinson said the firm had done an outstanding job along with Waste Pro but he wanted to go through the process.

Commissioner Holt said she had nothing against the company, but before contracts end, they should be brought before the Board.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE-YES  
COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES  
CHAIR TAYLOR-YES**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT-NO**  
**COMMISSIONER MORGAN-YES**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**9. Appointment of an Alternate Representative to the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for appointment to the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA).

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO APPOINT CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT.**

**10. Approval of a Proclamation in Honor of Health for Hearts United Leadership Unit**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Proclamation in honor of Health for Hearts United Leadership Unit.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND APPOINT CHAIR TAYLOR TO PRESENT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature to satisfy the Special Assessment Lien that was agreed upon by the Homeowner and Community Development State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Down Payment and Closing Cost Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien State Housing Initiative Partnership Down Payment and Closing Cost Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts that were agreed upon by the homeowner, contractor and Community Development Administration's SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program or Emergency Repair Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**13. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the special meeting regarding the proposals for legal services that would be held January 5, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. and said three firms had applied.

Chair Taylor asked if they would have common questions to ask the firms and Mr. Presnell said yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they had asked questions regarding hospital experience and asked why only hospital, why not transportation and infrastructure, etc.

Mr. Weiss said he would advise that they not get too deep in conversation.

Mr. Presnell said they each would have a packet and would have time to review before hand and they used the form from last year that Mr. Lawson had developed and felt transportation was very important.

Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned areas that needed to be looked at regarding ranking.

Mr. Presnell said they used the form that was used at the last evaluation.

Commissioner Holt said one of the areas she wanted to look at was transportation and road paving and they dealt more with that every day than they did medical issues.

Chair Taylor said there should have been a number of things they looked at and asked if anyone had heartburn to put this back out for bid and asked everyone for their opinion from each on how they wanted to proceed.

Commissioner Holt said a workshop was already scheduled and she had no problem in holding a workshop and meeting with them.

Commissioner Hinson concurred and said he was willing to do whatever the Board decided.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he concurred with the other fellow Commissioners and the workshop was scheduled.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with the discussion around the room and felt the workshop was a good idea and added that it was his opinion that the importance of someone that had a specialized attorney with healthcare background was critically important along with the land use experience. He felt the current firm had a team of attorneys that specialized in different areas.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said they would move forward with the workshop regarding items the Board discussed tonight.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson asked if the “aggravations” the Board members mentioned could be brought to the Board so all could see, i.e., conflicts, grievances, professional liability insurance, potential conflicts.

Mr. Presnell said it was advertised as a special meeting so a decision could be made if they wished to do so and asked if they now wanted a workshop.



Commissioner Hinson suggested to keep it as it was and if they wanted to vote they could and if not, they could wait.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they also had the option to table the decision if they chose to do so at the special meeting.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **14. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss congratulated the Chair and the Board on moving through the Agenda.

Chair Taylor said Commissioner Holt had asked him to research an item and get back with the Board and Commissioner Holt said he had emailed it to her but her point was they received the agenda two weeks ahead of time and there was time to research things and get with the Board.

Mr. Weiss said he understood people deserved advance notice and assured them as soon as he was made aware of an issue, he would immediately make the Administrator aware and not wait until the day of. He said there was also some things that they may not know until the day of or the day before like what happened at the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Mr. Presnell could everything breakdown regarding the attorneys and make everything the same so it would be easier to look at and pointed out it was not a bid but an RFP.

Commissioner Holt pointed out if they include more in retainer than County needs, they did not need a retainer for nothing and the retainer needed to be for the services the County needed.

#### **Receipt and File**

##### **15. Mediacom Letter**

##### **16. FDOH Letter-EMS Grant-December 7, 2016**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

##### **18. January 5, 2017-Special Meeting – 4:00 p.m. January 17, 2017-Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
January 3, 2017 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
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SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:

  
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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 17, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone, asked everyone to stand for a moment of Prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he had one amendment as Item 6a, approval of a Proclamation that was to be presented tonight to Mrs. Rosa Lee McGriff.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADD ITEM 6A TO THE AGENDA UNDER CONSENT.**

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Mrs. Rosa Lee McGriff**

Mr. Presnell said they had a very special Proclamation to present tonight to Mrs. Rosa Lee McGriff, who turned 100 on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Hinson had a few words to say before the Proclamation was presented.

Chair Taylor asked the Commissioners to join her in front and then read aloud the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. McGriff.

**2. GCDC Update**

Mr. Presnell said the GCDC was present to give an update.

**Jim McShane, Chairman of GCDC**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief update.

**Beth Kirkland, GCDC**, appeared before the Board to speak about their current activity, the Freight Logistics Zone along the Apalachicola Northern Railroad and connected in

Chattahoochee to the CSX mainline. She added that the purpose of this effort was to identify a zone and supporting infrastructure that would serve as a strategic interest in the Region and the State. She mentioned the specific focus in this grant was to position site 001 as an inland port or Intermodal Logistics Center. She said a number of calls had been received for Small Business Technical Assistance and listed several projects they were working with.

**Save the Date** She mentioned a new business in the area, Four Star Freightliner, would be holding a ground breaking on January 24, 2017 1:00 p.m. at site location on Brickyard Road.

**Antonio Jefferson, Chair Elect**, appeared before the board to expand on the community development. He said they were seeing more requests from people with small shops that need to do things such as paving parking lots, etc.

Chair Taylor asked if they wanted to ask questions if GCDC or if they preferred to wait to hear from the Chamber. Commissioner Holt said she had questions for GCDC. She asked about beautification and said when she was traveling west of the County around Sneads and Marianna and she saw where trees were going in with solar lights. Ms. Kirkland said she had read about those projects through the Florida Redevelopment Association. Mr. McShane said he had noticed it seemed to be a trend with solar or LED lights that would save electricity and beautify the space.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was more of a commendation than question and he was convinced that GCDC going in the right direction and was glad to know they were going to other communities to see what they had done and commended the approach they were taking.

### **3. Chamber Update**

**Rob Nixon, Small Business Program Consultant**, appeared before the Board on behalf of David Gardner, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

He gave a quick overview of the Small Business Services program and said they were serving any citizen of the County with a business or business idea with the emphasis on entrepreneurship and did not have to be Chamber members. He said they served through:

Training  
Counseling  
Technical Assistance  
Networking  
Information Clearinghouse

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Mr. Nixon for a job well-done and the effort the Chamber was making to include the business community as participating stakeholders in the economic growth in the County.

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Nixon had said the Small Business was funded at the Chamber at \$40,000 and he said no, the first year he thought it was funded at \$40,000 but the subsequent years it was funded at \$80,000. He said approximately 80% went into services for training and counseling but was not money that went into the hands of small business. Commissioner Holt said she felt it would be more economical for the County to hire him instead of leaving him with the Chamber so he could be full-time and go after things.

Commissioner Hinson said he would call Mr. Nixon a lot when he would receive calls from citizens and appreciated his leadership.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how events that he provides were brought to the attention of citizens so they know what they were doing and what was going on. Mr. Nixon said they continue to use local periodicals, flyers, etc. and Commissioner Viegbesie asked about churches and Mr. Nixon said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew Commissioner Holt brought up the Small Business Development Center and felt they needed to entertain how to be aggressive.

Chair Taylor said she had listened to both presentations and having just come off the campaign trail, she has heard what people need, mostly jobs, and she said currently they were looking at two arms putting together economic development. She said Commissioner Holt mentioned something she would like to see move forward and that was having an economic business development program within the County government that could be more focused. She added what could be a stronger avenue than having such in the department.

Commissioner Hinson said they had talked at the retreat last year about Broadband and no-one mentioned tonight and it was poor in some areas.

#### **CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was present and said he forwarded an email from the Finance Director where she questioned an invoice regarding a SHIP housing contract for \$19,000 of a \$44,000 contract. He added the contractor had been paid the \$19,000 but a number of questions were raised. He added that the BOCC approved this at a November meeting and the name approved on the list did not appear to match the name on the Agenda Request and the payment request from the Contractor. He informed the Board the person used their middle and maiden name and the person involved was a County Administrative staffer and by itself was not an issue but there were other issues. He said the person had been on the list since 2005, and did the person qualify based on current information and there was a question about a signature where another county staffer acknowledged signing paperwork to expedite payment instead of the individual. He said when these types of things happen, he had a fiduciary responsibility to report it, it has been reported to the auditors, and it was reported to Florida Housing Finance Corporation, who was over the SHIP program. He made a recommendation that they ask the County Attorney to review all of the policies to ensure there was no favoritism or preferential treatment and cautioned them it could cause the County to lose grant money.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for bringing this matter up and was one of the questions he was going to ask regarding that item and echoed what he said about any procedure that was undertaking for procurement that would provide any perception of impropriety and felt before it was placed on the Agenda for approval, the Chief Executive Officer should review along with the Attorney to ensure there was no sign of no impropriety. He added when he looked at the signatures, they were very different and wanted to make sure no chance of the County losing grant money. He asked the Attorney to make sure everything they did was done properly.

Commissioner Holt asked for a response from the Manager regarding this matter. Mr. Presnell said he became aware of this and there was a difference in the name because the maiden name was different from the married name and he did not make a connection earlier when it was approved by the Board. He said the Finance Director had concerns and he emailed her back and once he became aware of it, he had the SHIP Department bring him everything going back to the original application. He said there has been several changes made, the biggest one was any approval for SHIP housing even if it did not include a County employee, would come through the County Administrator's office to verify all documentation.

Commissioner Hinson said he had not had a chance to review the email and asked if this was a new home. Mr. Thomas clarified it was a rehab on their home and the BOCC approved a \$44,000 rehab on the individual's home. Commissioner Hinson asked questions regarding the application and agenda packet had the middle and maiden name not the current married name on the application. Commissioner Hinson said he had a lady in his district whose house needed some work done, he help to start the process and the County did a super job expediting it and during the week she was to receive it, she passed away and was why this was more touching to him. He then said, according to what was said, they had staff falsifying or putting another name other than the name everyone was familiar with threw him off a little bit. He thanked Mr. Thomas for bringing this matter up and doing his job. He asked what the ramification was now of what had happened.

Chair Taylor said his point of concern was very valid and recommended that the Administration get with him and answer the questions.

Commissioner Hinson said he was "sick and tired" of Administration getting with every issue and added with Waste Pro they were given a contract for free, just went five years with Waste Pro and he still had not gotten the light straight in Concord yet. He added he was not against the County Administrator but somebody had to step up and start doing their job. He said he was not mad or being belligerent but was being belligerent for the people. He thanked Mr. Thomas for his thorough investigation into this matter.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **4. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

###### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said to Commissioner Hinson she understood where he was coming from and said they needed to do better together and she was including the Clerks' Office, Finance Director as well as people on this side of the street. She said if they saw her shaking her head, it was because if it got close to calling anyone's name in a public meeting, that was when the lawsuits would start flying.

She then asked if they had received anything regarding the Christmas lights and she was concerned with the beautification for County.

###### **Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said regarding earlier comments there was a meeting that he had talked about with the Gadsden County Historical Preservation project. He said this was a

program that went with tourism where they collected history of the County. He added he was glad to see the presentation today to the 100 year old lady and there were things that she knew that no-one else knew that she might take with her. He said there needed to be a way of recording those things and what people might know of what Gadsden County was. He said the past week he was invited to the Township of Havana and they have embarked on the same project for Havana and was the Havana History and Heritage Center. He suggested the County work with them to start a real effort to collect the history of the County so that ones that were younger, not born here or were passing through would know something of the County.

He commended the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office for their recognition from the Mission for its exemplary Re-entry program.

He then said he had received two letters with regard to FDOT upcoming projects; one on State Road 10-(US 90) from West of Flying J to the Leon County line and said the FDOT was in the process of designing projects that included restructuring the travel lanes from west Flying J entrance to the east Pilot entrance with concrete pavement; and the other project was County Road 65A, Juniper Creek Road with the replacement of Juniper Creek Bridge. He said if the citizens wished to have input, the project manager's name was Nicole Arrant and the contact number was 850-415-9017 or 888-638-0250 ext. 1513.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board and said they were an awesome Board and he only gets stressed out about kids and seniors.

He then mentioned Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and said he promoted everybody.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had only one item and that was to present Commissioner Holt information regarding a citizen that approached him about some issues regarding road paving in her district.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor asked the Board's approval and said she would like to start sending resolutions to funerals on behalf of the County Commission and that she had seen it done by other boards and thought it would be good to extend their sympathy. She said they could not be everywhere but they could send Resolutions.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad she mentioned this because the procedure was changed and thought this would be a wonderful idea and he supported it.

Commissioner Hinson said he had another person he would like to recognize and would like to do a Proclamation for Mother Ida P. Simmons, who would also be 100 years old.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE.**

Chair Taylor said she understood from the Attorney they needed to make a motion and vote on

her proposal, but Commissioner Hinson's motion carried.

Chair Taylor said she wanted to make sure everything was correct with Commissioner Hinson's motion. The Deputy Clerk pointed out there was a Motion and second but no vote.

**SHE THEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE WITH REGARD TO THE RESOLUTION FOR MOTHER IDA SIMMONS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE THAT A RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE FUNERAL HOME OF ANY CITIZEN IN THE COUNTY THAT NEWS OF THEIR PASSING COMES BEFORE THE BOARD WITHOUT HAVING TO COME TO THE MEETING FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked how the Board would be notified of the Resolutions going out. Chair Taylor said they could put something on the following Agenda to let the Commissioners know who received one. Commissioner Morgan said he could foresee people thanking them for the Resolution OR asking why their family did not receive one. Chair Taylor said she felt they had a fail-proof method in place and had communicated with the Sheriff's Department and the School Board. She added they had been very thorough in making sure Resolutions went out.

Commissioner Holt said she failed to mention Congressman Lawson's office will have a few hours here at the Library in Quincy on Thursday afternoon.

The Deputy Clerk pointed out there had not been a vote on Commissioner Viegbesie's motion.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Taylor asked if the meeting with the municipalities had been set up yet. Mr. Presnell said some were set up, she asked about the meeting with the School Board and he said not yet. He said the Superintendent's Office relayed back to his Staff that he wanted to put it on the School Board Agenda and have them approve it first.

Chair Taylor asked the timeline for the sidewalks that were to go on Strong Road and asked Mr. Presnell to look into it and see when it was to happen.

She then said there were times when they wanted to host events in their communities, Town Hall meetings, and in doing so; they may want to have refreshments, etc. and had to be Board approved. She wanted to put it out before the Commissioners that if they could set a minimum, just as they did with the Resolution tonight, maybe \$300.00 that they could use to host a meeting and be able to provide some refreshments for the gathering. She said she was not asking for a vote tonight, just for them to think about it.

#### **CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**



- a. May 26, 2016-Budget Workshop
- b. November 15, 2016-Regular Meeting

**6. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**7. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-022, an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, creating the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing and correction of scrivener's errors, and providing for an effective date; and adoption of Bylaws for the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of an Ordinance to create the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the adoption of the Bylaws for the Board.

Chair Taylor asked for a refresher as to why it was tabled. Mr. Presnell said Commissioner Hinson did not have the information in his packet when it was on the Agenda at an earlier meeting. He added that each Commissioner would select a committee member and the majority of the Commissioners would select an additional member and the Parks and Recreation Director would serve on the Board.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said he had been gathering folks in his Community to try to fix this problem because if they were talking about a County-wide situation, a lot of folks would be left out. He said for example, there were three Commissioners from Quincy who wanted something at one place and Havana/Midway would be left out or Chattahoochee could be left out. He said that group would not know where to put a Community Center at or a fitness center or park in the area.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson continued and said he thought they should get with different groups in the area to decide where they should go and he was meeting with different people to get them to donate land.

Chair Taylor said his point was well taken and announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone in the audience that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he heard and understood Commissioner Hinson's concern but the creation of this Authority was like any advisory board that the Board had. The membership would be appointed by Commissioners and they were an advisory body. He added that his

intent was to create a Park and Recreation Improvement Authority, which would be an advisory body and would not make decisions and would help this Board to explore funding sources for the recreation activities as well as and parks and recreation. He added his only concern with the way this Ordinance was written, he suggested each member of the Board recommend a person to have a vested interest and involvement in sports and recreation and did not see it in the By-laws and suggested it be included.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-022 AND ATTACHED BY-LAWS WITH ADDITION OF CRITERIA AND FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR CHAIR TO SIGN. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was not against what Commissioner Viegbesie said, it was a great idea, just needed to be condensed. He said three years ago he tried to put a Community Center in Havana and said he was told by Commissioner Viegbesie it was "time to be conservative" and then six to eight months later he brought a plan to put something in St. Hebron. He added he had promised the folks in St. Hebron he would put something there anyway. He decided to approve it and take one for the team. Then he helped him get the fire station there and took one for the team. Once he got what he wanted, he took his ball and bat and said let's do an advisory board. He added District One did not have many parks and recs and had the largest district in the County, more people in the County than anybody, almost double the size of some districts in the County. He said between Concord and Richbay, there was a nice lake and was a nice place to enhance the lake, could purchase land to enhance. He said there was a difference between Planning and Zoning and Parks and Recreation because Planning and Zoning sets policies for the whole County but Parks, how would they know where a need was if they had not been there before. He said when the placed the Brenda Holt fire station, that was the Board making a decision to put a fire station there and you can see the building but you could not see the restrictions with Planning and Zoning. He added they were talking about "apples and cucumbers" right now.

Commissioner Holt said he would have say-so from his district.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with all due respect to Commissioner Hinson, when an accusatory statement was made, he hoped there were facts to back it and if there was a record anywhere in the County record of meetings where he said that this particular community center that he was looking for he opposed because he wanted to be conservative, he did not recollect making any type of statement opposing any community center and saying they needed to be conservative. He said when comments as such was made on record, he was not going to let it go without responding to it because he did not want anyone to use him as a reason why something was not going on anywhere. He added he had worked with Commissioner Hinson to get money for the Senior Citizen Center in Havana and went on record to say "I cannot recall and know you do have a mind sharper than mine, so I cannot recall but if you do, I don't know where it came from, but this Commissioner did not oppose a community center coming to District 1 because I said we needed to be conservative".

Commissioner Morgan said he knew there were different points of view about how to set up the advisory board and why not approve the Ordinance for a period of time, say one year and move forward.

Chair Taylor asked for a motion.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if they could make the changes in the Ordinance without tabling and bringing it back before the Board and Mr. Weiss said they could add a sunset provision and was actually a sunset provision in the by-laws for four years and could be changed.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-022 AND ATTACHED BY-LAWS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR WITH ADDITION OF CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP BEING THAT A CITIZEN IN THE DISTRICT TO BE CHOSEN BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF INDIVIDUAL HOW HAS DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Viegbesie just explained why Commissioner Hinson said this would not work. (During the motion stated by Commissioner Viegbesie, he mentioned an individual's name that was his choice to serve on the Board.) Commissioner Hinson stated that Courtney no longer lived in the County. He added that he could show him on record where he said that he refused to put a community center in Havana. He added that he had spent the past two weeks reviewing minutes from the past two years and he could not recall verbatim exactly what was said by Commissioner Viegbesie, but he said it.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **Howell Road Widening and Resurfacing-Professional Services**

- 8.** Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry/Preble-Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Howell Road Widening and Resurfacing Project.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Approval to Extend the Current Lease Agreement with USDA for the FSA Service Office**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to extend the current lease agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture through June 30, 2018.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval to Extend the Current Lease Agreements with Jones Community Health Center to Lease the Chattahoochee Health Clinic and Dental Equipment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to extend the current lease agreement with Oretha Jones, b/d/a/ Jones Community Health Center to lease the Chattahoochee Health Clinic located at 680 Maple Street, Chattahoochee, FL and the dental

equipment as well.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOVED FOR APPROVAL BUT WANTED TO BRING TO BOARD'S ATTENTION THERE WERE SOME ISSUES BUT NOTHING THAT COULD NOT BE TAKEN CARE OF AND REMEDIED AND WOULD KEEP AN EYE ON IT, SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of Resolution 2017-001 to Amend Specified Fees Established for Planning Processes Collected by the Planning Division**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Resolution 2017-001 to amend specific fees established for the Planning Division to reflect streamlined processes in the Land Development Code (LDR) and to promote economic development.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked if they were increasing the fees and Mr. Presnell said no, there were several code changes the Board approved recently, there were some reductions and were no increases.

Commissioner Morgan asked how this was initiated and Mr. Presnell said Jill Jeglie, Interim Planning and Community Development Director, brought this to his attention because there was a citizen to come in for a conceptual review and was a fee associated with it. He said the conceptual review was now an administrative function and not near as much staff time involved.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval to the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of the State Housing Initiative Partnership Annual Report.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien SHIP Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of and signatures to satisfy the Special Assessment Lien(s) that were agreed upon by the Homeowner and Community Development Stated Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Rehabilitative Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Review and Approval of the Amended 2017 Legislative Priorities**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item for approval of the amended 2017 Legislative Priorities and said the Board had approved the document at an earlier meeting and there were minor changes made to the list and emailed to them earlier today the attached Memorandum regarding the Gadsden County Re-entry Program received from the Sheriff's Department. He

said he had a conversation with the Sheriff last week and he had asked that the request be included in the document and if they chose to do so, it should be included in the motion tonight to instruct staff to include his request of \$250,000 for a Jail Faith Behind Bars Re-entry program. Chair Taylor asked who would administer the money. Mr. Presnell said the Clerk might be able to answer that question; he had never dealt with a law enforcement type appropriation. Chair Taylor said the Sheriff had a separate budget.

Mr. Thomas said most grants would go through the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell if grants to Sheriff's Office would be administered by the Sheriff's Department and he said no, most were handled through the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they were fortunate to have the lobbyists here and they could tell them how this would impact the Legislative Agenda that had already been prepared.

**Chris Doolin appeared along with Al Lawson, III, lobbyists for County** appeared before the Board and said he thought if there was a concern regarding the money going directly to the Sheriff or the County, they should have the conversation as to how they would request and support that item. He added that with any item that was a request to the Legislature, under the House rules, there had to have a separate appropriation budget request bill, a new process.

Chair Taylor asked the Board what they wished to do regarding the item.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION ONE TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND AND ASKED WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO WITH THE MEMORANDUM.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt there was no need for the Memorandum because they were about to add \$250,000 to their Legislative Agenda.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Selection of Legal Services for Gadsden County BOCC**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was presented to the Board for selection of a firm to provide legal services for the County.

Chair Taylor said this item took some time at the last meeting for discussion and said that it was very specific that they selected legal services and they could either put a motion out or hear from each Commissioner.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if any Commissioner wanted to put out a motion and then they could have a discussion.

Chair Taylor said at the last meeting she did not have an opportunity to say anything and there was a very good exchange around the dais. She added, in her fumble opinion, they would do well with either counsel. She said both displayed when they did their presentation their professionalism, each was capable having both served as County Attorney before. She said

there was the saying “if not broke then why fix it”. She added she had concerns with the current attorney, but not to the degree of trying to remove him, which was the fact they did not seem to get things out in a timely manner and it concerned her. She also said she knew history of both and made inquiries as to the previous attorney and the huge bill they saw from invoices and there was a lot of litigation that raised the budget then tried to sue the Federal Government and that cost a huge amount to the budget. She further stated she wanted to see the County progress and added there were things she felt that needed to be improved on. She also stated that whatever happened tonight she could live with it. She said she was not of the mindset things would fall from the sky. Chair Taylor said Commissioner Hinson had said at the earlier meeting he was concerned about the Attorney being engulfed in so many other entities, CSX, School Board, Capital City Bank, etc. and that could be a connection they could value and she saw it as a plus not negative. She added that Mr. Williams was professional, respectable and very protective but she was not of the mindset of moving backwards but moving forward.

Commissioner Hinson said he had never been on the board with Mr. Williams but he had never had a problem with the current firm but was concerned with potential conflicts with the other group and asked if a situation came up with the School Board, Talquin CSX, etc., how would it be handled?

Commissioner Viegbesie said since they were having the conversation, he made a quote from Malcolm X. He said he had looked at the packets, been on the Commission for two years and they had gone through this before with both law firms coming before them.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONTRACT FROM THE WILLIAMS LAW FIRM AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED IF MOTION COULD BE CARRIED VIA ROLL CALL AND CHAIR TAYLOR SAID YES.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE – YES**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON – NO**

**CHAIR TAYLOR – NO**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT – YES**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN - NO**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR THE AUSLEY LAW FIRM AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he did not like a Commissioner having reservations and felt they both were great attorneys and Chair Taylor said he had some of the same reservations she had which was how could they get the representation when there was a conflict. She added in the past there was a conflict with Capital City Bank and the law firm paid the conflict attorney and they were not going to do anything to hurt their future employment with the County.

Commissioner Holt said the conflict issue was a big issue with her and thought it would be for most people. She said it had nothing to do with whether they did a good job or not but the possibility of a conflict. She added she felt they needed to look at it again but the majority rules.

Commissioner Viegbesie said before she carried the vote and he knew it would be in favor of the motion, but wanted to say upon the interview and conversation with the two firms, one thing

that impacted his decision was the potential for conflict of interest because when there were multiple clients are were in the same jurisdiction you serve, there was the potential for conflict of interest. He further stated when the question was asked during that workshop if the retainer for the attorney representing the other group exceeded the contracted amount with the current law firm, his response, if he recalled, was then the payment of the other law firm's service would be on the Board.

Chair Taylor said that was a valid complaint and a way they could take care of it, if the Ausley contract was approved tonight, there must be language in the contract that would protect the Board when there was a conflict of interest that if in the event the revenues were exhausted, there were measures that the law firm must take on themselves to protect the County's interest. She added it must be negotiated out and must be placed into the contract so they were not without legal fees to continue their legal services in the event a conflict did come. She said there was also the issue that she believed that what Ausley proposed was higher and they could enter into negotiations when the contract was approved. Mr. Presnell said with either attorney they chose, that would be the next step.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious because at the budget workshop, he noticed almost every department went up and said a couple years ago the contract was at \$130,000 and asked what the deal was now and how much overage they had this year. Mr. Presnell said they did go up from what they were three years ago but had not had any budget problems where they had to move money.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board controlled how much the attorney would make.

Commissioner Holt said they could vote but did not see the need of going through a special adjustment, it should come in the contract at the time, if it met the criteria it did not have to be re-negotiated and they could vote.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. VIEGBESIE ASKED IF ROLL CALL COULD BE USED AND CHAIR TAYLOR SAID YES. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED THAT THE MOTION BE RESTATED. CHAIR TAYLOR SAID MOTION AND SECOND TO APPROVE AUSLEY LAW FIRM FOR ONE YEAR AND ALLOW ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE TERMS OF CONTRACT.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE – NO**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON – YES**

**CHAIR TAYLOR – YES**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT – NO**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN – YES**

**CHAIR TAYLOR SAID THE VOTE WAS 3-2. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **16. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said they needed a legal opinion, there was a meeting tomorrow with consultants that will appear with a proposal with the Re-entry Program for the Sheriff and wanted to meet with the local leaders and asked if that would be a problem. Mr. Weiss said they could meet individually but not together. Commissioner Holt asked if they were voting on the issue and Mr. Weiss said technically, if it was not an issue they were voting on and they were not going to

discuss it amongst themselves, but he did not like them meeting together collectively because there was always the opportunity to talk about something and there be the appearance of potential impropriety and that was his opinion. He added that technically they could all sit around together at lunch and not talk about anything that was related to anything that would ever come before them and there was no violation of the Sunshine law. Commissioner Holt said there was no law that said they could not be there, just do not talk and it, and do not discuss the issue. Chair Taylor asked who planned on attending, Commissioner Viegbesie said he would be teaching, Chair Taylor said she would not be attending, Commissioner Morgan said he planned on attending but not if it would hamper any potential progress. He said he did understand the need for them to be there but was not going against the advice of the attorney. Mr. Weiss said his suggestion was if everybody wanted to be able to attend for informational purposes, sit and listen, withhold any questions until after and ask your questions on a one-to-one individually when not collectively in the same room. Chair Taylor said that would not happen and as Commissioner Morgan said, she wanted to go but was not going to jeopardize things. Commissioner Morgan said the way to compromise, agree to go and let them know they were there because they were interested but do not ask any questions because they did not want to violate the Sunshine law.

Mr. Presnell reminded Commissioner Hinson they needed a Planning Commission appointment to replace his Commissioner and Commissioner Hinson said he would get it to him first thing tomorrow.

Mr. Presnell said the Clerk put this out again and was the third time and was obviously bothering him and if it bothered the Clerk, it bothered him. He added that he called himself looking into it and helped in getting the original forms and applications, but if the Board likes, he said he had been doing this 33 years and never had a finger pointed at him and if they would like the Attorney to look into the whole SHIP application. Chair Taylor said they were stirring water and concerned her when he said he had reached out to the different agencies and they could very well cut off their funding. She added they made an error, it was an in-house mechanism put in control to ensure it did not happen again and now we move on and there was nothing we could do about it. She added "You wanted to stop remodeling the house when everything was torn down and on the ground and ceiling and everything was exposed, I thought that was opening us up to litigation because you wanted to stop at the wrong time". Commissioner Hinson said it stopped the process and Chair Taylor said yes. She added she did not want to get bogged down in it, move on, it got done.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Mr. Presnell if they had any arrangement in place for garbage pick-up and disposal if the community decided to pick-up trash along the road. He added that yesterday the citizens of St. Hebron picked up trash all along St. Hebron Road and there were bags of trash piled up. Mr. Presnell said yes, if it was a community clean-up, let him of the Public Works Director know and would cooperate.

Commissioner Viegbesie then asked about Dr. Hart's services in Gadsden County and asked how they were with the timeline of her starting the diabetes services using the approved contract. Mr. Presnell said she could start the past Saturday.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUINSENTIAL QUINCY MONTICELLO DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL**



**CHURCH THAT WAS HOSTING THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN QUINCY AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

Commissioner Holt said when they were discussing the housing issue, "You are totally correct and taking care of it in-house because, and you see me when we are discussing things like that I'm shaking my head because I've been in some situations where the stenographer came in, the opposing attorneys came in, all these legal meetings and whatever you say, the first thing they are going to do is pull that tape and if you imply anything you should not imply, we are going to be in trouble. I think, personal opinion, the Clerk should have taken care of that with the Manager and they should have dealt with the attorney; there was no reason to bring that to this meeting, none whatsoever. Not only do we have to be careful and be careful about being sued, the Clerk should also do the same thing because still no matter whom they sue, they sue us or him or them, it's still the taxpayers' money, it's not our money. But there are certain things you don't take care of in front of a camera and that was one that should have not been taken care of at that point".

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt continued "But that's why you see me sometimes, Commissioner Hinson, when I'm doing like this (shaking head), it's because we've had those attorneys come in here and say 'You're being sued, here's your paperwork' and they beat you half to death in the Courtroom and you think you've stole something by the time they get through. But that's why if it can be taken care of, the Clerk needs to work with the Manager and ah, come to his office and that's how it should be done, it should be taken care of there. If he needs to come to an open meeting, then we should bring it to an open meeting and the Clerk needs to have his Attorney and we need to have ours and they need to have some say-so in the (inaudible). But, thank you very much."

Chair Taylor said an update regarding the Health Initiative Mr. Presnell was on and would like it to be agendaed in March and keep it in front of them.

She asked for an update on the Senior Citizens and saw there was a meeting today. Mr. Presnell said he had the Health Coaching at the same time and was unable to go.

She said with regards to the Attorney's contract going forward, she was serious with things being turned around a little quicker.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Big Bend Transit and said there had been suggestions in the community to see if they could get the bus moving earlier; it currently leaves at 8:00 a.m. and would like to see if it could leave earlier and have an additional stop at the 10/90 Park. Commissioner Holt asked if he meant the in county route or outside and Commissioner Hinson said both.

Commissioner Hinson said he was at a lady's house in Midway and there was bears there and thanked Mr. Presnell for taking care of it. He said there was also a problem with Waste Pro not coming onto privately maintained roads to pick up trash and some older ladies had issues in Havana and Concord said they did not mind paying for the trash but were having a problem getting the trash can to the top of the road.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**17. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss thanked the Board for allowing him to continue representing them.

**Receipt and File**

**18. Emergency Management Quarterly Report**

**19. Letter from FDOT**

**20. Letter from FDOT**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

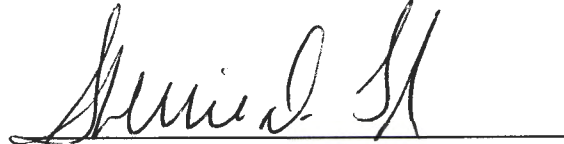
**21. January 3, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
January 17, 2017-Regular Meeting

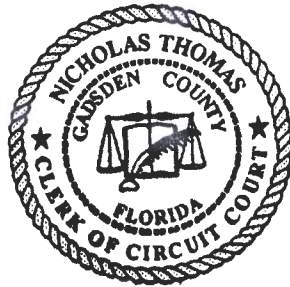
**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED IT  
ADJOURNED AT 9:43 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 7, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3-absent  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.*

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he had no amendments to the Agenda tonight.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

There were no awards or presentations tonight.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**1. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she attended the Marijuana workshop held in Orlando and said the County would have to handle everything dealing with permitting inside the County because the State would only approve the license; how far apart or together they were located, where they could be. She added there would be no jurisdiction over the cities. She also said Emergency Management would need to know what types of chemicals were used in the facility in case of fire. She said some Counties have a moratorium so they could get this included in their Comp Plan on how they would administer if someone asked for a permit to put in a dispensary or a grower. She said if they did not, it could go into a commercial district. She also said the businesses must be upward vertical permitted and meant that the grower, dispenser, everything was licensed by that

individual or company.

Mr. Presnell said the area had been assigned to a certain grower and the County was lucky to have that grower here and had a distributor, which was a subsidiary and said from what was said to him was not interested in a store being in the rural area and had to be close to the population center and doctors, etc. He added under current law no-one was probably interested distributing this unless it was expanded.

Chair Taylor said very good points were being brought up and they may need an Ordinance or something written up as part of Policies and Procedures and suggested to have the Attorney vet this matter and FAC may be resource that could be used. She added they needed to be pro-active instead of reactive.

Mr. Weiss said a lot of counties or municipalities were imposing moratoriums. He added it was expected to be addressed by Legislature in this session and mostly was going to be location regulation. He said they may want to consider imposing a moratorium and see what comes from this session and then develop regulation.

Chair Taylor suggested having this matter agendaed.

Commissioner Holt said Alachua County already has a limit use policy in place. She added as long as no moratorium in place, it had to be treated like any other business coming in. She further stated she thought it would be more noise control, traffic, parking, zoning, the Emergency Management pieces and set-backs.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said some things Commissioner Holt addressed was what he had because he stood up and asked a number of questions for clarity. He added the event was put together by FAC and they were very involved. He stated we were a major participant in the industry. He suggested they organize a Public Information session to educate the citizens on what this was all about and would help the citizens to understand the do's and don'ts by enlightening them so they were not confused and did not get themselves in trouble. He also said they needed to provide knowledge on who the product was helping. He added they needed to look into how to generate revenues to help defray costs so they would not come directly from taxpayers. He added they could contact FL Dept. of Health, Office of Compassionate Use director, Christian Backs, and they were willing to come and provide answers.

Commissioner Holt said there were a couple more things she needed to bring up. She said this was a predominately minority county and she tried to get some farmers to go with her to the Senate Sub-committees to testify to say they were growers and had been farmers for years but were not nursery owners. She added in order to get part of that approval for minority farmers during that time there were twenty-eight in the County, but no-one came to testify and they filed suit afterward. She said they were told in the Workshop if there were any participants in the suit, they still had the opportunity to file for a license for that industry. She also said if a person took Demerol, they would probably take more than what would be included in some of the medicines they would give and said USDA would not be inspecting anything because on the Federal level it was illegal. Another concern she said that was asked about was money laundering and if it was not approved by the Federal government where would the money be kept that was not a federally approved bank and some opened their own bank to do that.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for coming to his District twice; once for the Four Star Freightliner groundbreaking and the other was for the activation of the Concord traffic light. He also asked at any time anyone comes into his District to please let him know so he could be available to meet with them. He explained there was an incident last year that a developer came to his district and he was unaware they were developing anything.

He said he was in Chair Taylor's District at the Pat Thomas Park and it was a beautiful place and felt they needed a better sign on the side of the road directing the public to the park. He said he had received a call regarding where someone could run and walk and was able to resolve it.

He thanked the Board again for the sidewalk that was parallel from Havana Heights up from Havana Senior Citizens and it beautified the whole area.

He said he had two complaints and asked how the Public Works work orders here handled in the District and said he had received a lot of phone calls regarding work orders that were turned in, called in or through emails and for some reason was not being handled and some areas have been eight or nine months. He said there were a lot of complaints in District One with roads not being cleared and trees still around. Mr. Presnell said he would get a print-out and check on it and anytime he gets an individual to please pass it on to him and it would be addressed immediately. He added with the work order system there, they may be out for a couple of weeks, but not months, that was unacceptable. Commissioner Viegbesie asked to speak on that matter and said he had the same issue with a work order being dropped and Ethaline (sp) Cunningham called in a work order to trim limbs that were extending onto the road numerous times and he said he jokingly mentioned it to a Supervisor and it was taken care of.

Commissioner Hinson said they discussed this at the last meeting and with Waste Pro, there were a lot of folks that live on private roads and would like to use their services but Waste Pro will not service private roads. Mr. Presnell said he spoke to Ralph Mills and had sent an email to all the Commissioners afterward and said private roads could be looked at. He added that they evaluate then regarding the truck and if it is a two-rut lane there may be problems going down it. He further stated there was no problem with the truck going down the private road, they ask that people sign a release because the road belonged to them and they wanted to be released from anything that might happen to the road. Commissioner Hinson asked for a number that citizens could call. Mr. Presnell said citizens could call the County administrator's Office at 875-8650, the main office number and they could submit their name or they could call Waste Pro direct to request a road be added to the route.

Commissioner Viegbesie commented that when there are holidays Waste Pro does not pick up trash and if the bill is not paid, they will not pick-up trash. He asked if they give a refund or credit for holidays when the trash was not picked up and was out for two weeks before it was picked up.

Commissioner Hinson asked about pick-up for large and bulky items and asked why it was once a year and not twice. Mr. Presnell said costs mainly and the amount put out by the side of the road was not as much as when the program was first started. He said if the Commissioners felt there was a need for twice a year, it could be addressed. Commissioner Hinson said the reason he asked, Christmas just passed and income tax checks were coming in and there may be a lot of stuff

on the ground a little longer than expected. Commissioner Hinson also said he had a cousin in Hampton Heights that the City of Havana had a right-of-way to her land, but behind her house, the City had to give the County permission to clear it. He said a lot of people have been throwing trash back there along with large items and every time he visits, she brings the matter up. .

Commissioner Holt said she hated to see items along the side of road and individual property owners need to take trash to the dump because it looked bad and asked why the City of Havana would not clean his cousin's easement. Commissioner Hinson said he did not know what the issue was there and it was in Hampton Heights behind her house and the City owned the gas easement. Mr. Presnell said he could not remember if the City owned the easement or the homeowners but he would get with Curtis Young and look into the matter.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said there were too many different questions that had come up regarding Waste Pro and suggested they have someone come address the concerns before the Board soon.

She said regarding the issue with work orders at Public Works, Mr. Young needed to come address those concerns to ensure no-one had to wait several months on anything.

She said the Crappie tournament was excellent and well attended.

She said with GCDC/Chamber of Commerce, she did mention looking at economic development in-house and putting a new look on trying to move forward with economic development efforts and they could address this at budget time.

She said they discussed Emergency Management and the grant writer and Commissioner Hinson had great information and wanted to make sure if the Department was moved, there would be funding and if it could be placed in a building that had more sophisticated technology and be more beneficial she would like to look into it.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

- 2. Ratification to Pay County Bills**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. June 16, 2016 BOCC/City of Midway Joint Workshop**
  - b. December 6, 2016-Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-002, an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, prohibiting well stimulation for oil and gas exploration or production; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this Public Hearing was before them for consideration of adoption of an ordinance prohibiting well stimulation for oil and gas exploration or production, such as hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, etc.

Mr. Weiss said was the was fairly self-explanatory and would prohibit any type of well stimulation for oil and gas and if adopted would ban any type of fracking throughout the County including the .municipalities

**Leigh Brooks, 37 West Brent Street, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board and said she supported the Board passing this Ordinance and it would help protect the waters in the County and State.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought this had been addressed previously.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO ADOPT THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE AND TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) County Wide Program Sub-grant**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and for authorization for the Chair to sign the contract.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Mr. Kenny Russell**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Adopt-A-Road agreement with Mr. Kenny Russell on McCall Bridge Road.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Approval to Dispose of Surplus Property and Equipment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was previously before the Board and was for approval to dispose of surplus property and equipment that were obsolete, damaged and had no useful value and in particular it involved computers at the Health Department. He added that the IT Department had inspected the computers and found that the hard drives had been removed



prior to them being surplused and sent to the Department of Health.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he asked that this be pulled from the previous meeting and said his questions was about the hard drives being cleaned. Mr. Presnell explained the Department of Health removed the hard drives and had them ground up because of personal information on them because they contained medical and personal information on them. Commissioner Hinson asked what was remaining of the computers.

**Kimbrew Jackson, IT Operations Manager** appeared before the Board and said the computers that were set for disposal were older computers and would not have the processing power to handle Windows 10 and hard drives and licensing would have to be purchased and would place a burden on someone rather than help them. Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to figure this out because they were talking about health, education and everything else and he talked to a few non-profit people throughout the County concerning this and asked if there was no way someone could use the computers. Mr. Jackson explained someone would be looking at roughly \$300-\$400 per computer cost burden on refurbishing the computers and a new one could be purchased for the same costs. Commissioner Hinson asked what kind of computer it was and Mr. Jackson explained they were older computers. Commissioner Hinson then asked the names of the computers. Mr. Jackson said some were Dell, some were HP...

Chair Taylor said when they were sold there would be revenue and revenue may could be used to purchase new ones if he wanted to designate that. Commissioner Hinson asked how many computers there were and Mr. Jackson said they were shrink-wrapped in pallets and not entirely sure how many. Commissioner Hinson said he really wanted to help the community out and too many churches needed computers. Mr. Presnell said his understanding was it was now just a monitor and shell with the guts taken out and Mr. Jackson agreed. Chair Taylor asked if they would be sold and Mr. Jackson said they would be auctioned. Chair Taylor asked what would happen with the revenue and Mr. Presnell said it would go into General Funds. Commissioner Hinson asked when the auction would be and Mr. Presnell said if this was approved tonight it would be set up. Commissioner Hinson asked to be notified when the auction would be. He said he knew they were doing the right thing but he felt great about it and when he was with the School Board they were trying to get rid of a bunch of computers and there were a lot of people in the community, churches, non-profits, etc., that needed them and this was a way to help them out. He then asked when did they "gut the hard drives out" and Mr. Presnell explained the County did not do that, the State Department of Health did it. He asked when that way and Mr. Presnell explained before the County was notified they were available for surplus. He clarified when they bought equipment, even with State revenues, they become the property of the County in the Health Department and they pulled the hard drives because of HIPPA regulations and ground them up. They then notified us because they had equipment to dispose of. Commissioner Hinson asked where the computers were located now and Mr. Presnell said the Health Department.

Commissioner Viegbesie said it was his understanding there was really no computers because the hard drive was out and that was what operated the computer and Mr. Jackson agreed. Commissioner Viegbesie continued and said the hard drives were taken out because they possibly contained peoples' health information that they did not want out for the public and with the hard

drive out all there was was just the casing and it was now a paperweight. He also said with what he was hearing, it would be better to buy a new one with a hard drive with a warranty and would have more hardware that was up to date and Mr. Jackson agreed.

Commissioner Holt said to Commissioner Hinson when the County did surplus they would have total control and may be ideal when they surplus computers to look at them then on giving to non-profits and churches.

Mr. Presnell asked Mr. Jackson with the County computers, could the hard drives be cleaned enough so they would be safe enough to be given to a non-profit organization? Mr. Jackson said they ran into the issue of licensing, there were only a certain number of licenses for the operating system. He said if a private individual wanted to purchase a license, they could do so but with them being a County entity, they had an agreement with Microsoft that if they installed the licenses on more computers that they had, at the end of the year they had to settle up with Microsoft and pay for the licenses. He added the non-profits had the ability to purchase licenses at a cheaper costs and the computers were from the early 2000's and technology moves in leaps and bounds and something made then would not handle Windows 7, 8 or 10.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND SECOND TO DISPOSE AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**9. Approval of Architectural Firm for Design of the Courthouse Renovation**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for Staff to negotiate with the top ranked Architectural firm for the design of the Courthouse Renovation and added CRA Architects was the top-ranked firm.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND CHAIR TAYLOR MADE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson said he saw only two people on the committee that monitored the bid. Mr. Presnell brought Clyde Collins up to explain the bid process.

**Clyde Collins, Building Official**, appeared before the Board to address the questions raised. He said there were four people on committee, himself, Joe Munroe the Courthouse historian, Roosevelt Morris Deputy Building Inspector & Joel Sampson, a local architect. Mr. Presnell explained Joel Sampson withdrew himself from the process to help oversee and because this was a historical grant there were certain criteria that had to be met. Mr. Collins said Mr. Sampson felt he would be better suited to help get everything set-up for the Courthouse

**10. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien SHIP Program**

Mr. Presnell went to introduce the above item.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIOENR HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien SHIP Down Payment and**

**Closing Cost Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIOENR HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Bettstown Road-Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

**COMMISSIOENR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Chair Taylor asked where Bettstown was located off of 60B off of the Attapulcus Highway and located in District 4.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed again there were only had two people with the County present on the bidding process. Mr. Presnell said when bids were opened, usually Shelia with the Purchasing Department and Jeff Price are there and if it was a big bid he would sit in sometimes and It was just opening the envelopes and reading out the numbers.

Commissioner Holt said if that was a concern for the Commissioner, did he have a suggestion? Commissioner Hinson said personally he felt there should be three or more and an odd number and was curious why the Public Works Director was not at the bid opening. Mr. Presnell said he's always invited and was there at times, depending on his schedule.

Commissioner Holt suggested someone from that department be present at bid openings and to make sure there was an odd number.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval of Legal Services Agreement for Gadsden County BOCC**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said the contract was "tweaked" a little.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much Mr. Glazer was paid last year and Mr. Presnell said he could get the total amount for him and said he only billed if they had hospital issues. Commissioner Hinson asked if was more work with transportation than the hospital and Mr. Presnell Responded that was why Mr. Glazer was not on the bill every month.

Commissioner Holt asked what the stipulations were on the dollar amount would be now and Mr. Presnell said \$7750 per month was the retainer amount and that applied to the first 50 hours and Mr. Glazer would be separate. Commissioner Holt asked if there was a conflict and the County had to hire another attorney, she wanted to see something in the Contract saying the law firm would represent the County.

Mr. Weiss said with respect to conflicts, he read Section 6 and explained the School Board was the only one other one they were general counsel to and if a conflict arose with anyone else, they would not represent the other side and if the conflict was enough to exhaust the retainer, the

County would be paying same amount of money, if to them or the conflict attorney. He added this came up once and it was a small matter and was handled and did not foresee this as being a problem.

Commissioner Holt asked if a conflict arose and the retainer was gone, what would they pay. Mr. Weiss said for him it was \$185 an hour and for an associate it was \$145 an hour and he tried to utilize associates when able.

Commissioner Holt asked if Deborah Minnis was general counsel for the School Board and if a dispute arose who would represent who? Mr. Weiss said there were rules established by The Florida Bar to cover that matter.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was the same concern he raised in the interview process and knew it had never happened and that the Chair used the term earlier "what if" and they have voted for this law firm but they needed to have in the contract the aspect of the possibility of it happening no matter how slim.

Chair Taylor said both commissioners were correct and if a conflict occurs, the possibility of the retainer could be exhausted. She added they needed to have it spelled out in the contract that said if there were conflicts between this body and the other body that they were General Counsel for; they had the right of refusal of taking on new counsel and have the responsibility of Mr. Weiss doing his due diligence he was hired to do.

Mr. Weiss said if there were a serious litigation matter that came up, he could continue representing the County because the day to day stuff would not stop and the retainer would be exhausted. He added if a matter arose, it would still be approved by the Administrator and the Board and they would have the opportunity to establish what firm to use.

Commissioner Viegbesie said given what had been discussed he was inclined to pull this item until that language with regard to the conflict of interest was included

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL LANGUAGE WAS INCLUDED AND BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT WITH A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Holt said she was happy they did this and that was why she voted against the law firm.

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to make sure the Board was completely comfortable with the language and asked for clarification so when he addresses this, it was addressed appropriately. Chair Taylor said she threw out the Right of First Refusal and said if there was a conflict, she asked that the Board be given first right to say they wanted the firm or if they wanted a different firm.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was the right path and if they married that with the concern of Commissioner Holt and would rather they had their General Counsel working with them in case of litigation than them hiring another law firm.

Mr. Weiss said there were rules with The Florida Bar regulating conflicts.

Commissioner Holt said she watched the Supreme Court every day they were in session and Judges, lawyers and County Commissioners go to jail every day.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE ON TABLING THIS ITEM AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE IT.**

**14. Approval and Acceptance of the Warranty Deed from TK Enterprises of N. Florida, Inc., and the dedication of the road and right-of-way on the property described in the deed for the construction and maintenance of a paved public roadway and infrastructure for utilities from Brickyard Road, and instruction for the Clerk to record the deed with a copy of the minutes showing approval and acceptance**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and acceptance of the Warranty Deed from TK Enterprises of N. Florida, Inc. and the dedication of the road and right-of-way on the property described for the construction and maintenance of a paved public road and infrastructure for utilities from Brickyard Road.

Commissioner Hinson said the County was awarded a grant for \$375,585 from the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity Rural Infrastructure Fund to fund the construction of the paved public road and utility infrastructure. He also said the project included a \$2.5 million capital investment and the retention of 18 employees and addition of 10 jobs at an average wage of \$50,000 and this would help the tax roll.

Chair Taylor said she hoped they would give individuals with a background a chance and they had paid their debt to society.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought that was what "Ban the Box" was about.

Mr. Weiss said they could not tell private corporations who they could hire but might could be certain things they could do in contracting with private entities to help the situation if their procurement policy allowed them to do so.

Commissioner Taylor said each bidder was given a packet and based in information submitted by the bidder they get points. She said if there was one item that said if they were willing to waive the box, you could get 2-3 points, they can do that on the bid spec as a point incentive, and it would not hold their feet to fire other than to get their points higher.

Commissioner Holt thanked the owner of the business for coming and said they had worked on him for a few years to come and she also thanked the GCDC because they wrote the grant for the access road and utility hook-up and wanted them to hire local people. She also added that Representative Alexander had legislation coming forth to address how to give incentives on hiring people that had served time.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIOENR HINSON TO APPROVE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval and exception of Joinder of Written Consent to First Amendment to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of Carmen Maria**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and authorization for the Chair to execute a Joinder of Written Consent to the First Amendment to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of Carmen Maria.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if mobile homes would be allowed and Mr. Weiss said they could not discriminate against housing types based solely on housing, but there were still code compliances and private covenants and restrictions. Mr. Weiss also said it was his understanding there were no developed lots in this subdivision. Mr. Presnell added if there were one site-built home in the subdivision, this would not have come before the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was even though they authorized mobile homes, the subdivision had restrictive ordinances that they may not be able to bring.

Mr. Weiss added there were separate layers of regulations and also homeowner associations who could regulate to allow mobile homes or not.

Commissioner Holt said it was good to clarify this because of past history.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **16. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said while in the meeting a bad storm came through and trees were down, there were power outages, and a fire in Gretna.

Mr. Presnell asked for approval of a Proclamation for a Powertalk 21 Mothers Against Drunk Driving for National Day for Parents to begin ongoing conversation with kids about alcohol.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A PROCLAMATION OR RESOLUTION FOR UPCOMING EVENT HONORING THE AKA'S AND WOULD SEND INFORMATION TO THE ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THEIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said they did not need to bring Resolutions before the Board for approval for bereavements and was the only one that did not need to come before the Board.

Mr. Presnell said regarding the earlier conversation on Waste Pro, their number was 850-561-0800.

Mr. Presnell said the joint meeting with the School Board was set for March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.at the

School Board meeting room.

Mr. Presnell reminded Commissioner Hinson to get with him regarding his Planning Commission appointment.

He told Commissioner Viegbesie that during the grants presentation there was a thing regarding the oral history project and they were able this week to make a request to the State Historical Board about some assistance from them.

He informed them the joint meeting with the Town of Greensboro would be going to their Board on the 13<sup>th</sup> to approve the joint meeting.

He said on February 20<sup>th</sup> in the Commission Meeting Room would be the Delegation meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked the reason for the meeting because the list had already been submitted.

He said the Public Safety Coordinating Council would be February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

He said with the Crappie Tournament mentioned earlier they had 51 teams to enter.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator for an update on the succession plan timeline as well as the Phase III of the County Road projects in the districts and where they were on the timeline with what was in place now. He said the person at the Florida Managers Association asked for meeting dates and would be very soon.

Mr. Presnell said Curtis Young was present now and asked him to come forward regarding the Phase III paving project and they could ask him about the work orders.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director** appeared before the Board. He said he talked with the Contractor last week and they were supposed to start tomorrow on Phase III but due to the weather tonight, would not be happening. Commissioner Viegbesie asked about the issue with Deerfield Circle and the problem with the reflector bleeding through the roads that made it look like cracks were in it and if there was anything in the contract that would require a process to reduce the possibility of the appearance of cracks. Mr. Young said he needed to ride out and take a look for himself.

**Justin Ford, engineer with Dewberry/Preble Rish**, appeared before the Board to address the reflective/cracking questions and said there was nothing in the plans that addressed reflective cracking and crack relief was a fairly expensive process and was a another layer of asphalt that had to be laid down to prevent the majority of the reflective cracking to come through.

Curtis Young reappeared before the Board. Commissioner Hinson thanked Public Works for repairing the roads and putting the sidewalk in front of Havana Heights and then had complaints regarding work orders and some were pending for years. He said he put in a work order regarding a tree that was leaning on Gibson Road. Mr. Young said he was unsure what individual Commissioner Hinson was talking about but he went there personally the same day to take care of it. Commissioner Hinson asked when that was and Mr. Young said the said day they discussed it.

Mr. Young said the tree may be leaning towards the road but they could not go onto private property, they could only maintain the right-of-way. Commissioner Hinson said he would take pictures to show, but the tree was leaning downward and was leaning and now a second tree was leaning and said if the tree fell, someone would be dead. Mr. Young explained again they could not go onto private property. Commissioner Hinson said the tree was out of the ground and the tree was leaning over the road. Commissioner Hinson then said there were a lot of other complaints and people throughout his district said they had put in work orders and asked Mr. Young to check the work orders for District One. Mr. Young said there were quite a few orders for there where people were requesting ditch dirt but with them building up the roads it was hard for them to deliver the dirt because they only had eight dump trucks. Commissioner Hinson pointed out they had not built a road in almost eight months. Mr. Young said the way they give the dirt away, when they were working in the area digging ditches, they would give it to someone in the area. Commissioner Hinson said it had been a while since they had done roadwork and the people trusted them. He added if he told someone something, he did it. Commissioner Hinson said someone called him six months ago and when he went to them himself, sent an email or whatever, you expected within 2-3 weeks, something to be done. He added he was unsure of what level of respect was going on for a Commissioner but when he is continually asked and he sees that it still was not done and it should not take 2-3 years to get dirt to someone's house. He said he had been trying to "cover up but since we gonna try to be funny about things, when you go down these dirt roads here and go to the ditches in the areas and they are not being cleared out and those folks looking at that kinda stuff, to be honest now, it's a dissatisfaction to our constituents more so than anything else. To be honest Mr. Presnell, we need to, cause I'm not gonna let nobody dog me out, my constituents dog me out. I tell people I can't talk to nobody else in the room but you. So I'm going through again and in two weeks from now, I'm coming back again, every Board meeting we gonna continue to go through because people gonna know personally that I'm fighting for them and in my job, it's not a joke, it's not a game. My job is to take care of the people in my district because I don't see no laughing matter with you deal with my constituents. My constituents know that I gonna fight for them. When a man who 86-87 years old comes to me and I give him my work, I expect him to understand that and I expect if you tell me Mr. Presnell you gonna do it, I expect you to do it. I don't need you coming back two years later telling me that well, this, that and the other. We pay you \$150,000 to get the job done and so that's how I look at it. Two weeks later, I'm gonna take pictures myself and gonna bring it to you." Mr. Presnell said if he would forward these particular complaints to him...the conversation started to get heated and Chair Taylor called for order. She said this would be resolved, it had been said they would visit the site and as long as they were within the law, it would be done.

Commissioner Viegbesie wanted it entered into record there was a hearing tomorrow in the Knox building Room 212 to discuss a proposed bill CCS1 relating to economic programs specifically a proposal to eliminate Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida, which was aspects of GCDC venue for some projects.

Commissioner Holt said it was very important to take time to attend.

She also said that Congressman Lawson would be at the Library on Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

**17. Update on Various Legal Issues**



Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
February 7, 2017-Regular Meeting

Receipt and File

18.      a. Resolutions from the BOCC for County Residents Funerals  
          b. SBSC QtrRpt December 2016  
          c. Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report  
          d. Resolution 2017-02-A Resolution of the Town of Greensboro, Florida Adopting the Local Mitigation Strategy

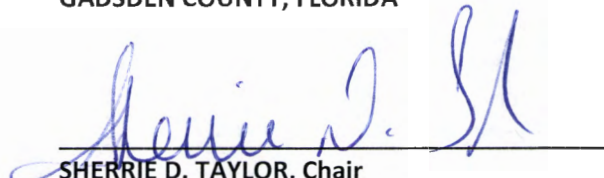
UPCOMING MEETINGS

19.    February 21, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:26 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD INAND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to please stand for a moment of prayer and to continue standing for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was done by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

Chair Taylor then explained Commissioner Hinson was running a few minutes late and they would wait to present the Proclamation when he arrived.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said there were two amendments; he would like to pull the second presentation and it would be re-agendaed until the next meeting; and he would like to add Item 6A-Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation in Honor of Mrs. Ida Simmons**

Chair Taylor asked the commissioners to join her in the front for the presentation of the Proclamation Honoring Mrs. Ida Simmons. Commissioner Hinson read the Proclamation aloud and it was presented to Mrs. Simmons.

**2. ~~Update TCC Gadsden Center~~**

Pulled

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was not present and the Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**3. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she would like to wait to make any comments until a little later.

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Rick Soskis was sitting in the audience and said she had spoken with him several times and one was concerning school properties and she informed him they would be meeting with the School Board soon and might be a good time to address concerns, but if there were any schools that would not be used by the School Board, the Commission might could work with them and possibly look at business incubators in the facilities in some of the communities. She added the communities did not want empty facilities in their community to prevent vandalism, etc.

Commissioner Hinson said he would like for the board to look at Havana Elementary School again and would be a good place for commerce to come in and would be great for a Community Center or a business incubator and could be a place for Emergency Management to move to and asked if they could approach the School Board and ask that it be donated to the County and it also had 20 acres of land that went with it.

Commissioner Holt also said businesses were looking for facilities, the schools already had the water, sewer, multi-use restrooms and businesses and subsidiaries could be housed in there.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie announced an upcoming event on March 18<sup>th</sup> in the Scottown Community at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ at 207 Charlie Harris Loop would be celebrating their Parade and Jubilee Celebration.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting*

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he normally attends that Church every year and the Pastor and his parents and grandparents fellowship together at Neals Temple Holiness Church also.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan informed the Board that in Chattahoochee on the last Friday in every month they close off a side street and has vendors, music and different types of food and events and invited everyone to come and enjoy. He said it started at 6:00 and it was called Final Friday and was sponsored by Chattahoochee Main Street.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said they had the Legislative Delegation meeting yesterday and the County Administrator received a compliment from the State Senator and he was pleased with how well the packet was put together and Chair Taylor thanked him and his staff for doing a wonderful job.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**4. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. January 3, 2017-Regular Meeting
- b. January 17, 2017-Regular Meeting
- c. December 20, 2016-Regular Meeting

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Rick Soskis, 270 Small Pond Road, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and said the Commissioners mentioned that had been going on for two or three years and sometimes it is timing and things happen in due time. He said the schools needed to be consolidated to give teachers money and be able to get better teachers for the students and this may be a good time to use the facilities and take a load off the School Board.

Chair Taylor said she felt it would be good for them to meet prior to their meeting with the School Board so they would have some common points that the Board could make and give them an opportunity to bet out some ideas on how they could move together in a collaborative manner.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signature of the Chairperson for the grant.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6a Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signature for the Special Assessment Lien that was agreed upon by the Homeowner, Contractors and Community Development Administration for the purchase of their new home.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. FDOT Grant Application Cycles**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation under the three assistance programs; Small County Outreach Program (SCOP); Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP); and County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP). He asked the Board to choose five roads out of the attached list for their approval.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in looking over the attached list, County Road 65 was not listed and would like to see that road added because of the traffic and use of it and was divided into Districts 2 and 4 and would like that road included in what they were prioritizing. He added he was willing to withdraw Friday Road from the list and replace it with County Road 65 for widening and resurfacing.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and said he believed that had been approved already and asked for time to review the FDOT Work Program to check the status of the road. Mr. Weiss suggested they move forward and select roads while Mr. Ford checked on the email.

Mr. Presnell said Fairbanks Ferry Road was the road recommended in District 1 for widening and resurfacing; Potter Woodberry Road was recommended in District 2; Juniper Creek Road was recommended in District 3; Hardaway Highway was recommended for District 4 and Spooner Road was recommended for District 5.

Mr. Ford re-appeared before the Board and said he was having a hard time finding the email and the applications were not due until the end of March and if the Board wished to bring this item back, there was time and it could be done at the next meeting. He added if they wished, they could approve it contingent upon that and if not it could come back before them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said what staff had recommended made a lot of sense.

Mr. Presnell said he was 99% sure road had been approved but they could will verify and asked that they make it part of the motion that it be contingent upon that.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 RECOMMENDED BY STAFF CONTINGENT THAT COUNTY ROAD 65 IS SLATED ALREADY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if High Bridge was scheduled and was told it was.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**8. 2016 Paving Project Phase III-Change Order #1**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for a change order #1 to CW Roberts Construction for Phase Three Paving Project. He said there was a change in District 4 removing St. John School Road and Eddie Baker Road.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR SAID NOTING AGAINST ANYONE BUT SHE DOES NOT APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS. CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**9. Bettstown Road-FDOT Agreement Amendment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to accept the FDOT Agreement Amendment to reduce contract funds from \$1,117,837.00 to \$1,001,486.00. He said

CW Roberts was awarded the job as low bidder for Bettstown Road and was \$195,201.55 less than the original allocated funds for construction. After FDOT's review of the bid, they decided to amend the agreement to reflect the change.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what happened to the savings and was told it would go back to FDOT And they would determine how to distribute it.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR THE ADOPTION OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval of the Contract for Professional Construction Engineering Inspection Services Relating to the Local Agency Program-McDonald Street Sidewalk**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award bid number 429860-1 of the attached contract for construction, engineering and inspection services for the approved LAP project for McDonald Avenue Sidewalk with Southeastern Consulting Engineering and asked that for clarification, in the motion they award it to Southeastern Consulting Engineering and to authorize staff to negotiate the contract.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN ATTACHED AGREEMENT FOR CEI SERVICES CONTRACT TO SOUTHEASTERN CONSULTING ENGINEERING AND ALLOW STAFF TO NEGOTIATE THE CONTRACT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked how many current LAP programs were active now and if there was a reason for it to be an issue as far as exposure and Mr. Presnell said no other than strain on staff but these two were being done for FDOT.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of the Contract for Professional Construction Engineering Inspection Services Relating to the Local Agency Program-South Atlanta Street Sidewalk**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award bid number 429860-1 of the attached contract for construction, engineering and inspection services for the approved LAP project on South Atlanta Avenue sidewalk to Southeastern Consulting Engineering.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL FOR BID TO BE AWARDED TO SOUTHEASTERN CONSULTING ENGINEERING AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval to Renew the Standard Maintenance Contract with Conditioned Air & Power Liebert Services to Service and Maintain the Battery Module (NBATIMOD) in the 911 Dispatch Office at the Gadsden County Sheriff Department**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to renew the Standard Maintenance Contract with VERTIV/Liebert Services to service and maintain the Battery Module (NBATIMOD) in the 911 Dispatch Office at the Gadsden County Sheriff Department.

Mr. Weiss said a couple of minor revisions were made and the contract was revised and asked the Commissioners when they make the motion to approve, for them to include it was for the revised agreement.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF OF THE REVISED AGREEMENT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**13. Approval to Purchase a 5 Year Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement for Chillers 1 and 2 and Purchase an Extended Warranty for Chiller 2 at the CRMC-Gadsden Campus**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to purchase a five year preventative maintenance service agreement for chillers 1 and 2 and an extended warranty for chiller 2 located at the Capital Regional Medical Center-Gadsden Campus and for authorization for the Chair to sign and execute the Agreements.

**Clyde Collins, Building Official**, appeared before the Board to address questions.

Commissioner Holt asked how old chillers were and Mr. Collins explained one was brand new and the other was about 5 years old.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked questions concerning the amounts and terms of the maintenance agreement and Mr. Collins said for Chiller 1 it was a preventative maintenance agreement and to get the 4 years on chiller 2, they had to go with Carrier to do the preventive maintenance so they added chiller 1 so they both could be taken care of.

Commissioner Holt asked the original costs and Mr. Collins said \$86,000 for the chiller and approximately \$100,000 total installed for the last chiller.

Commissioner Morgan asked the average life expectancy and Mr. Collins said about 15 years.

Chair Taylor asked if the warranty covered everything and Mr. Collins said on chiller 2 yes, lightning and everything, but not chiller 1 because it was over five years old.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of Legal Services Agreement for the Gadsden County BOCC**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the legal services agreement for the County and changes the Commissioners wanted to make had been made.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in area of conflict of interest, he saw type in red and had questions.

Mr. Weiss said two parties could not be represented that were adverse to each other without a waiver being signed and tried to make the agreement as favorable as possible under the rules regulating The Florida Bar and there were certain things that could not be done.

Commissioner Morgan asked what other option they would have that would be more favorable to the County and Commissioner Holt asked if he was talking to anyone specifically.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt the conflict of interest concern came up because of other entities the law firm represents and there was potential for conflicts and he was why he brought this to their attention and putting it on record to inform the citizens.

Commissioner Morgan said it was valid points that he brought up and it would be a concern with any potential firm they hired moving forward but could be an issue with any firm and combined with that, to date, had never been an issue.

Commissioner Holt said the two items brought up by Commissioner Viegbesie were valid points, if the other entity did not give a waiver, then the attorney would represent who? She said the other thing what would be more frightening would be with Capital City Bank, not saying it would happen but the County was banking with that bank and if there was a controversy and no waiver given, we would have no attorney. She said she did not vote for this in the beginning and she was not voting for it now.

Commissioner Hinson said in looking at Number 4 in the Terms of Agreement (and read it aloud) and said if they felt they were not represented well, the Agreement could be terminated.

Commissioner Holt said what would bother her was thirty days later she would be looking across the courtroom at the County's attorney defending someone else against them.

Mr. Weiss said he could not legally or ethically represent another client in a matter that was adverse to the County where he had some sort of knowledge that would benefit him and could be disbarred and lose his license for doing such and assured them he never would.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION1 AND SECOND BY CHAIR TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.**

**15. Approval to Terminate the Current Lease Agreements with Jones Community Health Center for the Lease of the Chattahoochee Health Clinic and Dental Equipment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to terminate the current lease agreement with Oretha Jones, d/b/a Jones Community Health Center for the lease of the Chattahoochee Health Clinic

Commissioner Morgan said this was recently approved by the Board but there were issues that have not been addressed from the prior agreement and have become a problem.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if memory served him right, they recently renewed the contract and did not see 1) specifically why it was being terminated and 2) was there an alternative user for the location; 3) would this create a void in services to the citizens in area.

Mr. Presnell said at this time there was no agreement to replace them but there were some interested parties and should not seriously impact the level of service because the operation



had not been open that much or seeing patients.

Commissioner Holt asked for documentation on why they were terminating the contract and Commissioner Morgan said they had provided documentation and have reached out and there had been no response.

Mr. Weiss said the agreement provided for termination without cause and they were entitled to terminate the agreement.

Commissioner Hinson said since it was a contract and not an employee, what was the reason to terminate. Mr. Presnell said there had been issues with paying of the utility bill and in part of the building was the Senior Citizens and was in a position of the City wanted the County to cover the utility bill and if power was cut, it would damage the MRI machine.

Chair Taylor said if they were not doing what they were supposed to do, then obviously the County did not need to support them, however she did not like the content of the letter they were asking her to sign and felt it lacked professionalism.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE GIVING THE ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORITY TO SIGN TERMINATION LETTER AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**16. Approval of Resolution 2017-002, a Resolution of the BOCC Certifying it's Support for Access to BP Oil Spill Funds by Rural Inland Counties in NW Florida**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-002 Certifying the Board's Support for Access to BP Oil Spill Funds by Rural Inland Counties in Northwest Florida.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**17. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded Commissioner Hinson again he needed to get his Planning appointment replacement from him.

He then said Commissioner Hinson was interested in the computers at Health Department that was up for surplus that could not be used and annually they replace computers at the libraries and they did not have HIPPA issues and would be some computers available for whatever the Board would like to do with them.

Commissioner Hinson asked how often the libraries sterilize the keyboards and felt it should be done every night.

Mr. Presnell said they had received smoke detectors and they were available.

He then said he was not sure if they were familiar with House Bill 17 and they were trying to pre-empt their authority and it needed to be watched.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **18. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said there were questions asked at the last meeting about medical marijuana and how the County could regulate and felt the Commissioners were well aware of the Compassionate Care act and right now there was a decent amount of uncertainty regarding what local government could and could not do in terms of regulation. He said he knew Department of Health was currently adopting rules and potential for bills in the legislature and looked around to see what other counties were doing and what they could potentially do. He said most have either addressed or were in the process of addressing different types of regulations and a lot, due to the uncertainty, have imposed moratoria with a timeframe around six to nine months for most counties.

Commissioner Hinson felt it would be great to have a workshop so they would know what they were approaching.

Commissioner Taylor said the next meeting was scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> and felt it would be good to talk about House Bill 17 and items for the School Board meeting at that time and maybe they could meet at 4:00 before the regular meeting or another date sooner.

Commissioner Holt felt it was a good idea and the lobbyists needed to be there to bring details.

Chair Taylor said it sounded like they needed to have a meeting for just a workshop.

Taylor asked if could meet 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and Commissioner Viegbesie said he was not be available because he would be in class until 3:15 and could make a 4:00 workshop.

Chair Taylor said for them to schedule a workshop at 4:00 p.m. on March 7<sup>th</sup> for the workshop.

#### **Receipt and File**

- 19.**
  - a. Letter from NACO**
  - b. Resolutions 1-28-2017**
  - c. Resolutions 2-3-2017**
  - d. Resolutions 2-10-2017**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**March 2, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:55 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 7, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. (Chair Taylor was present earlier for the Workshop but had not stepped back in at the start of the Board Meeting), asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent roll call was done by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he had two amendments and would like to add Item 16a-2016 Paving Project Phase III-Change Order #2 and Item 16b-Approval of Resolution 2017-006, a Resolution of the Gadsden County BOCC Urging Members of the Florida Legislature to Oppose HB 17 and SB 1158 Which Pre-empt Home Rule Power to Take Certain Actions in the Best Interest of the Residents of the County Unless Expressly Authorized by the Legislature.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. GCDC Update**

Mr. Presnell said there was one Presentation and was an update by Mr. Jim McShane, Chair of the GCDC.

**Jim McShane, Chairman of GCDC**, appeared before the Board to give an update. He gave an updated list of the Board of Directors and who was on the Workforce & Education committee and on the Business and Industry committee.

Chair Taylor appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

**Beth Kirkland** appeared before the Board and said some of the recent activity was an amendment to Midway DRI to allow Four Star Freightliner and Anderson Columbia to move forward; positioning Four Star Freightliner, Commissioner Viegbesie and Dr. Sylvia Jackson to speak before the House and Senate about economic development and it garnered Statewide media for Gadsden County success with economic development bills. She further stated they had completed their deliverables for FL Makes/CareerSource Florida Manufacturers Business

Intelligence grant to GCDC. She said they had a \$10,000 from Enterprise Florida to help with marketing. She also mentioned they had been contacted by a consultant working with the Tallahassee International airport in preparing their application for the foreign trade zone; had been contacted by the Florida Chamber Foundation and they will be conducting a listening tour in each of the counties and it will be at the IFAS Center on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. McShane reappeared before the Commission and said they would like to improve communications with the Board and suggested making rounds with the investors and said he planned on meeting with each municipality. He said the Project Development Committee would be collaboration between the investors, i.e. County, Municipalities, Talquin, TCC and GTI and CareerSource and would be working on recommending policy, reviewing analysis of strengths and weaknesses and utilizing a sector strategy that would focus on potential opportunities. He also mentioned other things the committee would be working on as far as sites and talent. He then mentioned how they were focusing on the business retention and expansion. He also said the reputation of the county had been enhanced by the welcoming business environment and word was getting around that this was a county to take a look at in locating. He asked that a workshop be set up with the Commissioners before April 30<sup>th</sup> to have a roundtable discussion to see what they felt success was, what they should be doing or what might be missing and wanted full participation.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was any data on economic development dollar wise and Mr. McShane responded when they appeared before the Board a month and ½ ago showed approximately \$556,000 that was brought to the county and some required County match. Commissioner Holt said Senator Montford requested a list of things they felt were needed areas that they felt did not have accomplishment in so he could request funding for them that those areas.

Commissioner Hinson said it would be great to have a general phone number that could be called and he also had noticed they had her listed as chief consultant and thought she was the executive director. Mr. McShane clarified she was the executive director but she was the consultant under contract to do that. Commissioner Hinson then mentioned the BOCC was scheduled to meet with the School Board and felt they should meet with them as well.

Ms. Kirkland said she had spoken with Superintendent Roger Milton and he asked if they could be available the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in April to meet.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they do anything in his district to please inform him so he would be aware of what was going on.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any trainings going on at TCC now and Mr. McShane said yes.

Chair Taylor said she saw CareerSource all over activities with regard to the GCDC and in particular with business retention component and asked if they were being compensated and Mr. McShane said no, they had federal money that paid for them to do that. She said he mentioned earlier about the \$500,000 and a huge portion of that came from grants written in-house with the BOCC. Mr. McShane explained the County had to take the lead on some of the grants and they could not apply for them, the County had to do so. She added she felt the

GCDC had strong points and also felt it was an arm that could be used for economic development but thought they were going in different directions, especially given the fact they were funding two different entities, the Chamber and GCDC and they needed to have a central point that brought them together.

Commissioner Holt said they had not had this activity in the County since she had been here and they needed GCDC because the GCDC had pull within the towns and with CareerSource and the School Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended their efforts on the job they were doing.

#### **CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was not present and the Deputy Clerk informed the Board there was nothing to report.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **2. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

###### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she went to Atmore and they sent a bus to look at the facilities; they give students from the tribe money when they graduate from high school; give money to the school system, and they had a senior citizens villa.

**Senate Bill 6** She urged citizens to call and support this bill and that it looked good for the Senate but may be rough for the House and it would give money to economic development.

She said there was a need to look at what they could do for Gadsden County at the Gretna facility that could help them.

###### **Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he wanted to give a report or update on his trip to the legislative conference to Washington DC. He said as a member of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Steering Committee, they discussed two Resolutions which would be fully developed before the next Congressional year began in October and one was a proposal to better support healthy and adequate eating habits; the other was a proposed emergency resolution preserving the Rural Development Program.

###### **Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said they had talked about broadband and had an issue the previous night because it was slow.

He thanked the National Hook-up of Black Women and said he was selected as Person of the Year.

He also mentioned he was elected as Second Vice-President of the National Association of Black County Officials.

He then asked about Brickyard Road and Mr. Presnell said it was going to bid very soon.

He said on Highway 12, the Concord Road Bridge had a lot of cracks in it and Mr. Presnell said they would look into it.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan congratulated the West Gadsden Panthers on their State Basketball championship.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said the community would come together at West Gadsden on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Championship.

Commissioner Hinson asked about mosquito spraying and said they were taking over. Mr. Presnell said people should call 875-8672 and could request spraying and there would be two trucks through the Spring to help with the spraying.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

3. **Ratification to Pay County Bills**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **February 7, 2017-Regular Meeting**
5. **Approval of the Performance Evaluation Form for the County Administrator**
6. **Approval of the Performance Evaluation Form for the County Attorney**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**7. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Consideration of an amendment to Condition #1 of Approval of Gussie's Garden Inn Assisted Living Preliminary Site Plan (MSP 2017-01)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an Amendment to Condition Number 1 of Approval of the Gussie's Garden Inn Assisted Living Preliminary Site Plan. He said they had applied for a CDBG to extend the sewer and hook it up and it was requested in the amendment that the Development Order be issued to complete the development and allow it to operate under a 'temporary certificate of occupancy' for a period up to twenty-four (24) months from the Board's approval. He further stated if the site was not connected to central water and sewer, at the end of the 24 month period, the temporary certificate of occupancy would be rescinded and all operations discontinued on the site unless extended by the BOCC.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and

there was no-one.

Commissioner Holt said this was in her district and she was in favor of the project and he had done a lot of work on the facility.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why 24 months and Mr. Presnell said one year was not enough time.

Chair Taylor said her only concern was what if things happened within the 24 months he had no control over and the time expired. Mr. Presnell said this was the only option he could find to bridge the gap and get the business up and running.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this would affect other applicants applying with the CDBG grant and Mr. Presnell said no this was an economic development GDBC grant.

Commissioner Morgan said he would like to hear insight from the Attorney regarding some of the things that had been mentioned and he certainly wanted to support the project.

Mr. Weiss said the reason 24 months was determined was because the Comprehensive Plan policy said it had to connect within 2 years and they were consistent with the comp plan by approving this amendment. Commissioner Morgan agreed he wanted to find a way to make this move forward and would support it but felt they were rolling the dice to come extent and felt more important than ever to be kept abreast of the progress on a regular basis and if there was an issue, wanted to know sooner than later to figure out a way to minimize any discomfort.

Commissioner Holt said it was not unusual, they did this with the hotels on Lake Talquin Road.

Chair Taylor asked again if there was any input from the audience and there was none.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Public Hearing-Consideration of transmittal of the Capital Improvements Element to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (LSPA 2017-01)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented for the Board to consider transmittal of text amendments to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Comprehensive Plan to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. He stated the amendments were to replace Policy 8.2.2 and remove Table 8.3, the Five Year Capital Improvements Schedule (CIS) from the CIE so that it could be adopted by ordinance on an annual basis.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan said he had questions for Jill Jeglie.

**Jill Jeglie, Interim Planning and Community Development Director**, appeared before the Board.



Commissioner Morgan asked what concerns had been expressed and she said it reflected changes to the Statutes.

Commissioner Hinson asked the difference between 8.2 and 8.2.2 and Ms. Jeglie explained the difference.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. Approval to Confirm Appointment of the Assistant County Administrator**

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for approval to confirm appointment of Lee Bradford Johnson as the new Assistant County Administrator.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Viegbesie pointed out this was only procedural and there was really no need for the motion.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT.**

Mr. Johnson appeared before the Board and said he was honored for the opportunity.

**10. Approval of Resolution 2017-004 to Rename South Atlanta Street**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to rename South Atlanta Street to Barack Obama Boulevard.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said in looking through the item he saw Commissioner Holt requested this to be done and asked about the feedback from the citizens in the area. Commissioner Holt said she spoke with citizens on South Atlanta Street, people on the City Commission and individuals in the City of Quincy and citizens in the Friendship area was excited and asked if they needed to come. Commissioner Morgan asked if there would be anyone to say they were not aware of this and Commissioner Holt said she was sure there would be someone because it was hard to get 100% of anything. Commissioner Morgan said he wished there had been a petition or something in the record.

Mr. Weiss said he noticed in the Resolution "Barack" was spelled wrong.

Chair Taylor asked if the county policy and procedure was followed in renaming the street and Mr. Weiss said he was not aware of any county policy or procedure that governed this.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**11. Approval to Award Bid #17-04 for Security Guard Services for the William A. "Bill" McGill Library**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award bid #17-04 for the William A. "Bill" McGill Library to Barkley Security Services.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. EMS Consultants Annual Support Agreement**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the EMS Consultants Annual Agreement 2017.

Commissioner Hinson asked since it was under \$5,000 why was it coming before the Board and Mr. Presnell explained it was a contract and the Board approved all contracts.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE POLICY.**

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval and Signature on the Spring 2017 E911 Rural County Grant Application for E911 System Annual Support**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signature for the Spring 2017 E011 Rural County Grant Application for the E911 System Annual Support.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval for Gadsden County Probation Division to Conduct Court Ordered Anger Management Classes**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained it had been farmed out in the past to other vendors and staff of the Gadsden County Probation would not start teaching the class. He explained there would be some overtime and the probationer would be responsible for paying a \$50 fee for the class and would cover the costs.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had read this item and saw what was stated under the Fiscal Impact and asked if they would be requesting more money in the upcoming budget year because of the changes and Mr. Presnell said not because of these changes. He explained he met with the Probation Manager; the citizens would be paying a \$50 fee and would cover the overtime incurred by probation staff.

Hinson asked about overtime with the fiscal impact.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Temeka Chaney, Division Manager Gadsden County Probation**, appeared before the Board and said numbers were based on the number of people that were ordered to the program last year and were projected numbers but could be greater than last year depending on who was ordered to attend the class. She said there were 33 people last year. Commissioner Hinson said he was asking about the overtime and Chair Taylor said the persons attending the class would be paying a fee that would cover the overtime incurred.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Request Approval for Bid Award for Jail Plumbing Maintenance**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item said it was for Board approval of the bid award and to authorize the Chair to sign the service contract for jail plumbing maintenance to Keith McNeill Plumbing. He said there had been plumbing issues for a while and people chose to not to want to work there and had only received two bids.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked why only two people were part of the bid process and felt personally they should re-bid this out and needed more than two people looking over this and would like to see five people at every bid process and did not feel comfortable with this and had brought this up at a previous meeting. Mr. Presnell said they had made those changes to the bid process after the last meeting. Mr. Collins explained this was opened prior to the changes taking place.

Chair Taylor agreed and said it was puzzling not have an odd number there to make a decision.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Approval to the Proposal of Consolidating the Building Inspection Department and the Planning & Community Development Department**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposed consolidation of the Building Inspection Department and the Planning & Community Development Department to form the Building & Planning Department.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16a 2016 Paving Project Phase III-Change Order #2**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said for Board approval of Change Order #2 to CW Roberts Construction to include the addition of \$34,224.00 to pave Bowling Green Road and Ebro Avenue to this paving package as per the request of Commissioner Viegbesie.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**16b Approval of Resolution 2017-006, a Resolution of the Gadsden County BOCC Urging Members of the Florida Legislature to Oppose HB 17 and SB 1158 Which Pre-empt Home Rule Power to Take Certain Actions in the Best Interest of the Residents of the County Unless Expressly Authorized by the Legislature**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of Resolution 2017-006.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Holt said the reason she brought this forward to oppose House Bill 17 and Senate Bill 1158 which pre-empt Home Rule Power to take certain actions in the best interest of the residents of the County unless expressly authorized by the Legislature.

Commissioner Hinson asked that the bills be explained so the constituents would understand that it was about.

Mr. Weiss said it was a very broad pre-emption bill and basically said that a local government could not adopt or impose new regulations on businesses, professions and occupations unless it was expressly authorized by general law.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**17. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded the Commissioner of the joint meeting Thursday at the IFAS center at 6:00 p.m. with the School Board.

He said on April 10<sup>th</sup> they were funding a fire class and have fifteen people signed up for the firefighter class to become certified as a Firefighter I and was enough interest a second class may be starting very soon. Commissioner Morgan asked if the County was paying the fee and Mr. Presnell said yes. He asked if there was any recourse for anyone that did not complete the course and Mr. Presnell said they could do what the Board wanted to.

He said there would be a Program at West Gadsden High School for the State Champions

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
March 7, 2017-Regular Meeting

Thursday from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator for an update on the succession plan and where they were now and did not want to see things in quagmire. Mr. Presnell said it was on the next agenda and he had someone coming from Escambia County.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**18. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

**Receipt and File**

**19. Resolutions for the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**March 9, 2017-Joint Workshop-BIOCC/Gadsden County School Board - 6:00 p.m.**

**March 14, 2017-Joint Workshop-BOCC/Town of Greensboro- 6:00 p.m.**

**March 21, 2017-Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.**

**March 28, 2017-Joint Workshop – 6:30 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
March 7, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 21, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to U. S. Flag.

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at this juncture of the meeting.*

A silent Roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Recognition of The West Gadsden Panthers**

Mr. Presnell said there were four items tonight under Awards and Presentations.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO MOVE ITEM 4-SUMMER UPDATE PROGRAM TO NUMBER ONE AND RECOGNITION OF THE WEST GADSDEN PANTHERS TO ITEM TWO AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CHANGE.**

Mr. Presnell said this was to recognize The West Gadsden Panthers and to congratulate them on winning the State Championship Basketball playoffs.

Chair Taylor said the Head Coach, Andrew Moten, was not present due to surgery he had postponed until after the championship and she would like to have Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Holt present the plaques to the students since it was their districts. She said "Tonight it is not East Gadsden, it is not West Gadsden. It is Gadsden County being highlighted by a positive light due to what young men have done for this County." She asked everyone to stand and give the students a round of applause on their accomplishment. She then asked the Commissioners to come forward.

Commissioner Morgan said they wanted to recognize not only the young players but their coaches

and the school and everyone who participated in winning the State Championship and encouraged all of the returning students to do this again next year.

Commissioner Holt told the students they were so proud of them and their accomplishments.

Each student and the Assistant Coaches were presented with a plaque to honor this momentous occasion.

**Russell Harrison, Treasurer WGHSCB**, spoke and said they were trying to get funds together to get the boys' championship rings and letterman jackets.

**2. Update on County Administrator Position**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was an update on their County Administrator search as part of the transition plan.

**Mr. Jack Brown, Florida County Managers Association and Escambia County Administrator** appeared before the Board. He said several months ago Vice Long appeared before them and discussed the Florida Association of County Managers role and said they were interested in helping counties conduct searches for professional County Administrators. He added they needed to ponder and make sure they were in total agreement that they wanted to do a search or if they wanted to hold onto what they had. He added one of the things they needed to know from the Board as they moved forward was to talk to each commissioner and do a survey and find out exactly what they were looking for in a County Administrator and they would provide recommendations to some things that were critical. He said his understanding was there was still some debate as to moving forward or not and wanted to know if it was the Board's intent to move forward and the timeline the Board was looking at.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was "very amazed" that that statement was made and they had a succession plan and a timeline established and said he was asking questions that had been long established and felt it was very late at this point for him to be asking the Commission as to what their decision was. He explained a timeline had been set and a succession plan and they hired consultants to organize for the County Commission and they were paid to do the search. He said "the particular you just made is very, very untimely because you are asking questions that were asked before Mr. Long came and did a succession planning conversation with this body and gave a timeline for which we hired a consultant to help establish this succession plan with a timeline". He added he expected a timeline as to when the process would be completed, not a conversation of what they were thinking about doing. Mr. Brown explained there was a timeline in their packet and they would need to advertise for 30-45 days. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the advertisement had been done and Mr. Brown said no. Commissioner Viegbesie said they were in serious trouble if that has not been done and said the understanding of the Board was September was the last day and the new fiscal year would start October 1<sup>st</sup>. He further stated if they continued in this way, the County would end up with no County Administrator on the last day. He also stated he thought Mr. Brown was bringing to them "what numbers you have that have applied for the position because the position had been advertised a long time ago was the understanding of this Board. Mr. Brown said the letter that was provided to the Board and one of the things was the Board's Human Resource person was to do the advertisement. Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Viegbesie said it had been advertised in October. Mr. Brown said the applications had not been turned over to them. Mr. Presnell explained to the Board Mr. Brown



was not privy to the discussion and the Board was on the timeline that was set and six months out from October the process was to begin; the advertisement and then the vetting. Mr. Brown asked if the position had been advertised and Mr. Presnell explained it was advertised last year but was not done by the Association. Mr. Brown explained they County HR person would do the actual advertisement and they would work with them. He said to Commissioner Viegbesie he understood they had developed the job description and Commissioner Viegbesie said the job description had been described, the requirements had been discussed and established as well as the Assistant County Administrator, who was working diligently with the HR Director before he left on retirement, was going to put together the advertisement. Commissioner Viegbesie further stated his understanding was it had been contracted to FACM and a search had been conducted and the process was going on and was why he requested the update to know the status of the search. Mr. Brown explained they were on timeline for that search to be concluded in September. Mr. Brown further explained as the applications come in, they want to make sure what the absolute things that were most important to Gadsden County and would be talking to each commissioner to see what skill sets they were looking for to make sure they find a good fit for the position. Commissioner Viegbesie said since this process had started, the County had developed a mission statement that stated what they were looking for and they had developed a job description, a position description that listed what they looked for in someone to be the County Administrator. He also said he thought all of that information had been provided to FACM. Mr. Brown explained they were on time for the agreed upon timeline that was provided and it was customary they sit with Board members or talk with them on the telephone to find the most important things they were looking for in a County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Brown if he had been provided the documents that Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned and he said he had not, he only was provided the Agreement Letter between FACM and the Board. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell where the applications were of the ones that had applied and he said they were in the Personnel Department and Commissioner Holt asked that he be provided copies of that as well. Mr. Brown recommended on the ones that had applied was the HR Department to contact each applicant and see if they were still interested in the position. Commissioner Holt said the Board had not done their job in notifying the applicants in a timely manner and letting them know if the job was or was not going to be filled and when. She then suggested to the Chair that he be provided with the documents and this item be re-agendaed. Chair Taylor asked if the documents Commissioner Holt had mentioned was documents that were to be shared with him per the contract and he stated yes. He explained the HR Department is to do the advertisement and they would take the applications, review them and rank them. Chair Taylor asked Mr. Presnell if there was a closing date for the advertisement for the position and Mr. Presnell said it was advertised late last summer. Chair Taylor said she was trying to get a rational reason as to why the documents, as per the contract, had not been forwarded to Mr. Brown. She said she respected his office and wanted to know why they had not been forwarded. Mr. Presnell said he was following the succession plan as the Board set it out. Chair Taylor said it looked like there was a little miscommunication between him and the Administrator and she understood him wanting to get his feel of the Board. Mr. Brown asked how many applicants there were and Mr. Presnell said seven or eight. He then asked if the Board felt that was a good pool to choose from. Chair Taylor suggested the documents be forwarded to him to review and him to get back in touch with the Board and let them know if he felt it was a “good pool”.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Brown for appearing before the Board and wanted to reset the

tone of the conversation because he felt it was important for the citizens to understand they were on track of where they needed to be. He said if they recalled, the Assistant Administrator position was open and it took a little longer than they anticipated to get it filled and he did an excellent job in filling it and they were very fortunate to have an experienced Administrator in place and there “was no house on fire” having to rush through this and not make a good decision. He also said the past fall the majority of the Board was up for re-election and they decided to wait until the new Board was in place and had no idea it would be the same Board and it was the right thing to do. He also said he felt they were exactly where they needed to be and they needed to move forward in a very decisive direction and was fortunate to have contracted with FACM and they should accept his suggestions and leadership and let him guide them through the process.

Commissioner Holt said she would like him to have the list to look at but was not for delaying this matter but wanted to make decisions and keep moving. She added she did not feel good about the applicants applying and the County not responding to them.

Commissioner Viegbesie apologized for his expression of frustration when he started his presentation and now understood he was not privileged to the information of the applicants.

Chair Taylor said she concurred with him receiving the necessary information tomorrow and expressed this was a time-sensitive issue.

### **3. Waste Pro Update**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above referenced item and said the Representatives of Waste Pro was present to give an update..

**Todd Mitchell, Division Manager and Efford Major, Operations Manager** appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a large population of elderly citizens in his district and they had a hard time getting the containers to the roads for pick-up. He also mentioned bear episodes.

Mr. Mitchell said private roads were the issue and they could not be responsible for the possible damage that could happen to the road and also had an issue of being able to turn the trucks around on private property. He did add if the customer was willing to sign off that Waste Pro was not responsible for damage and they had a way of turning the truck around to get in and out.

They explained they did not mind helping and the customer could provide them with a doctor’s excuse and they would be willing to work with them and help out to the best of their ability. They said they also had bear-proof containers available for the customers that had bear issues, but they weighed considerably more than the regular containers they normally used.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad to see them here and had observed on his road, when the customers place the containers out for pick-up, after the trash has been dumped, they leave the containers in the roadway and it caused a hazard to drivers.

Chair Taylor said she first was introduced to Waste Pro when she was a City Commissioner and Ralph Mills came in and asked for their business and her only request was for them to give young men and women a chance who had issues with their background and she heard reports that he

had done that and that was a positive. The negative was as they travelled down the road and debris blew from the trucks she asked if they would be responsible to pick up debris and he agreed and that was the only thing that had not been a continuous agreement. She added someone had actually videoed that happening. Mr. Majors said he works with the Pat Thomas Second Chance Release program to give guys an opportunity; he also was working with a new program at TCC and if he is hiring at that time will give the guys an opportunity and also would be assisting with the Job Fair at East Gadsden to work with some of the students to give them some direction with a trade. He then responded to the trash collection part they would try to improve on that. Mr. Mitchell said one thing they had done was put go cameras on the trucks so they can view the trucks on the way they are driven. He said they also require the trash to be bagged because once the trash was in the bag it was very difficult for the whole bag to blow out unlike a small piece of paper.

**4. Summer Program Updates**

**Dr. Monica Hayes, Lead Instructor/Coordinator Intensive English Program, FAMU**, appeared before the Board and said she was delighted to appear before the Board and represented the Florida A & M University Division of Continuing Education and said they were having four camps during the summer, two for middle school students and two for high school students. She spoke on two programs, Summer Fundamentals Time that focused on math, science, reading, critical thinking, Spanish conversation & cultural activities; and an Intensive English Program that focused on speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension skills that would be held on the FAMU campus from June 5<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup> and would be \$125.00/week.

**Efford Major** appeared on behalf of Waste Pro and said they would like to sponsor five kids for the program.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was not present and Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker said there was nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**5. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt thanked Waste Pro for their update and suggested they put on their Facebook page for customers to make sure to bag their trash to have less of a chance for trash getting out.

She reported she attended the GCDC meeting the other day and construction had started at Four Star Freightliner and had starting cleaning the lot off to build and they would be training at GTI.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned old road signs and said there were some so old they could barely be read from a distance and he had mentioned some to the County Administrator and they had been expeditiously replaced and they needed to look and replace all the old signs as soon as possible in case of emergencies to make places easier to find.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MS. LINZY MAE FIGGERS ASKNOWLEDGING HER SERVICES FOR THE SHAW QUARTER COMMUNITY AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he would be short because his Mom told him he spoke too long and he was trying to stay focused a little better. He said March was Women's' Month and recognized Chair Taylor and Commissioner Holt and said they had done an outstanding job on the Board.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan told Commissioner Hinson to "always listen to your Mother". He mentioned to the Administrator that Commissioner Viegbesie had an excellent point regarding the road signs and also there were some that had gone missing and thought they should proactively go out and look and replace the ones that need to be.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said there was so much going on in Washington, D.C. and she was hearing a lot about program cuts and if they went through it would have an impact on this County and may need to look at things here to prepare themselves. She also said she would like to look at a moratorium on hiring and did not want to impact quality and did not want that to be an issue.

She mentioned the summer youth jobs and said she had already been approached by students and parents concerning that.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked when they would start using their monitors and Mr. Presnell said the transition was going on and they had selected a vendor to handle this. He also said they would be adding another television to help the audience see better on the other side.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to look at the homestead property tax being raised and how it may impact the County. Commissioner Morgan commented according to the Property Appraiser it could impact the County \$850,000.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**6. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**7. Approval of Minutes**

- a. June 16, 2016-Joint Workshop-BOCC/Midway City Council
- b. July 7, 2016-Succession Planning Retreat
- c. February 21, 2017-Regular Meeting

**8. Approval of a New Road Name**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. Adoption of the Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy 5 Year Update**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-009 Official Resolution of the Gadsden County Commissioner adopting the Five Year Update to the Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a huge document and felt they needed to workshop this matter. He added he had attended Emergency Training himself and may have some input and wanted to know their strategy and what training they had received. He also added this could potentially bring in millions of dollars to the County. Mr. Presnell said they needed to see if this was time sensitive.

**Major Shawn Wood, Emergency Management Director**, appeared before the Board and said the money Commissioner Hinson was talking about was HMGP money and was a different pot of money. He also added that LMS money does bring in millions of dollars and LMS was a committee that the Administrator sits on and all Administrators in the cities along with Road and Bridge and other entities and the County and cities come together and pick the most important projects, rank them and when monies become available through Disaster Relief, they go toward the projects, such as Crawfish Island in Chattahoochee and the culverts in Havana.

**Tashonda Whaley, Emergency Management Coordinator** appeared before the Board and said the deadline for this is May 11<sup>th</sup> and everything had to be signed and turned in by that date. She further explained this was something they had to update every five years.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the suggestion made by Commissioner Hinson was very vital and most citizens did not understand the working of Emergency Management.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Holt said one reason they needed to look at it, they have to decide every so often as to if they still wanted to have it and how to handle it.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Taylor commented that all of the Commissioners needed to go through the Emergency Management training.

**10. Discussion of a New County-Wide Communication System**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for discussion of a new County-wide Communication System. He added that the current system that the County operated off of was over 30 years old, antiquated and not in compliance and there were serious issues with it. He added they had been working on this for over 1 ½ years and they were here for a brief presentation.

Chair Taylor said this was for discussion only and maybe should have been put under the

Presentations.

**Bob Bush, Motorola Solutions Sales Manager**, and **Debbie Giles** and **Lamar Thomas** from First Communications appeared before the Board. Mr. Bush said the current system was a three transmitter location site analog conventional system.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He further stated there was one located at the jail, installed in the 80's and had repairs recently done to it; The Sheriff Mutual Aid, EMS, Quincy Police Department, County Road and Bridge and Corrections all had individual transmitters at that location and the other two sites were at the Chattahoochee Tower and Midway Tower and were receive only to try to improve coverage in the County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a copy of the PowerPoint and they did not have one.

Mr. Bush continued on regarding the current system and added with the analog system people could listen in with scanners. He said one of the things the FCC did in 2012 was narrow-banding and the impact the County had in becoming compliant with it cut the coverage on the system to approximately half of what it was before.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the County Administrator if there were other public communication providers they had vetted and compared to Motorola and asked how they came up with Motorola as the provider and Mr. Presnell said it was competitive. He said Motorola was the current supplier and had tested to correct dead spots. He said it was a lot to put on them but staff needed to get a feel and they needed to do something to correct the dead areas, replace equipment and this was the best solution. He explained to the Commissioners the system they were proposing for the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this was the time to look at other public communication providers and Mr. Presnell said they needed to get new equipment. He asked if they Board wanted them to explore other manufacturers.

Commissioner Morgan said Commissioner Viegbesie had asked very good questions and he fought hard to get to this point tonight and was not aware until four to six months ago of current issues and very serious gaps in coverage and they were coming up on budget workshops very quickly and could not think of a more important item that they needed to consider. His concern was this had not been properly notified to the Board of how serious this was and because of gaps, the deputies, EMS and different departments were at risk. He also said he was interested in the solution the equipment would offer and would entertain leasing this equipment as opposed to coming forward with the type of money it would take to do this.

Commissioner Holt thanked Commissioner Morgan for bringing this item forward. She said this would fall under Mr. Presnell's department and he said the majority of radio use was the EMS, Fire, and Public Works and did fall under the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said this particular contract was for equipment purchase and other counties already had this equipment and they might could piggy-back off them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was no doubt an upgrade was needed, however he did not believe Motorola was the only provider and it was imperative they explore other brands to determine which was best.

Commissioner Morgan said the main purpose he put this on for discussion was to make a path forward and they needed to set a timeline on how to handle this issue and asked who they were charging to get this done.

Chair Taylor said two things were said 1) a need to do this and 2) a local company. She said she had talked with officers and they had acknowledged they were having issues with their communication devices and she would like to keep it local and it was obvious they did their due diligence and knew what they needed versus what they had. She said she was in agreeance of going with Motorola because they were local.

**11 McDonald Avenue Sidewalk-Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the bid of the McDonald Avenue sidewalk project to Sandco, the low bidder in the amount of \$290,108.00.

Mr. Weiss said if it was the will of Board to vote for option one, they needed to add at the end of option one that it was conditioned on the approval of the change order to reduce the contract price in the amount of \$71,100.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION ONE CONTINGENT ON THE FDOT APPROVING THE CONTRACT LESS \$71,100.00 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked about the bid tabulation forms.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and said this was brought to them August last year and was waiting to get the inspection firm hired to bring this back before them and they saw bid results at that time and was why they were not included. He said he would be happy to email them to the Board.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12 McDonald Avenue Sidewalk-Change Order #1**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for the Change Order mentioned above.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**13 2017 Striping Project-Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the 2017

Striping Project to Akca, Inc., the low bidder in the amount of \$157,913.00.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14 Approval of Resolution 2017-007 supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-007 in support of seeking construction funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program for a new sidewalk along Atlanta Street from MLK Boulevard to Ben Bostick Road.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15 Approval of Resolution 2017-008 supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-008 in support of seeking construction funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program for a new sidewalk along 11<sup>TH</sup> Street and Iron Bridge Road.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16 Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Gadsden County BOCC to utilize the AlertFlorida Statewide Notification System**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a Memorandum of Agreement between Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Gadsden County BOCC to utilize the AlertFlorida statewide notification system. He added the FDEM was funding and providing the notification system at no cost for a two year period.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**17 Adoption of the Gadsden County 2017 Updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Resolution 2017-010 and the Promulgation letter.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-007 in support of seeking construction funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program for a new sidewalk along Atlanta Street from MLK Boulevard to Ben Bostick Road.



**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBWESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18 Agreement with the Management Experts, LLC to Develop a Multi-/year Strategic Plan in Coordination with the Emergency Management Stakeholder Advisory Committee and to Conduct a Workshop in Conjunction with the 2017 Annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was an agreement with The Management Experts, LLC to develop a Multi-Year Strategic Plan in coordination with the Emergency Management Stakeholder Advisory Committee to conduct a workshop in conjunction with the Annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise.

Commissioner Holt asked if this was a bid item and Mr. Presnell responded yes. He said there was a clarification letter from the Sheriff's Office; advertisements were published in all three local newspapers.

**Tashonda Whaley** appeared before the Board to address questions and said there was only one bidder. She added there was someone else that showed interest but only asked that it be placed on the website for minority businesses and sent her an RFQ but never heard anything from them.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they tried to work with The Florida Association of Counties so they could relay the information out and she said no. Commissioner Hinson then stated he felt they should re-bid this item. Ms. Whaley said this contractor had done multiple projects for them in the past and worked with the other local counties in Region 1 and Region 2.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a serious situation and when they talk about local, it was almost a joke and when someone reinvests back into the community that was when it was local and felt they should at least give FAC a chance. He then asked from her experience, did she feel she reached out to everyone and she said she put the RFQ out.

Commissioner Holt thanked Ms. Whaley for the proposal and said they needed to do a better job marketing the County.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**19 Approval to Dispose of Surplus Property and Equipment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to dispose of surplus property and equipment that was obsolete, damages and had no useful value.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Approval of the 2017 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the 2017 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE**

**BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if DEP was connected to the Health Department and Mr. Presnell explained they had Environmental Services with the Health Department that dealt with septic tanks, fuel tanks in the County and DEP was the State agency.

**21. Approval of the Contract with Joel Sampson Architects, Inc. for the Design of the New County Extension Building/Agricultural Center**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said It was for approval of the contract with Joel Sampson Architects, Inc. for the design of the new County Extension Building/Agricultural Center.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THIS ITEM. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if a bid was done and Mr. Presnell said an RFP was done.

**Clyde Collins, Building Official**, appeared before the Board and said an RFP was sent out last summer, contracts were sent to USDA, and was now trying to get the contract with Joel Sampson approved so he could start designing plans.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the contract amount was and then stated he saw where it was \$122,200 and asked if that was the same amount as last time when it was bid out and Mr. Collins said yes. Commissioner Hinson asked if an architect was picked without a bid being done and Mr. Collins said an RFP was done for their qualifications to be shown and was picked based on that. Mr. Presnell explained professional services could not be bid on and Commissioner Hinson asked if other people competed and Mr. Collins said yes. Mr. Presnell said that was presented early summer and the bid was awarded and should have been attached again and would have been helpful.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was leaning toward instead of “killing trees”, put the date and firms that bidded in the item when it was first brought so they could refer back and save paper.

Commissioner Holt asked if she could speak with the architect regarding the design of the Farmer’s market.

**Joel Sampson, Architect**, appeared before the Board. She asked where the restrooms were located and he said there were two designs. She said she would like to see the door to the restrooms facing outside so the customers would not have to go into the building and she asked about seating for the Farmers Market and he said it was open space.

Commissioner Hinson said with the School Board, before they would get a contract, they had to show what they could present first and go with the best plan and who came up with the best plan was who they went with and here they had no input in this process and it was unfair.

Chair Taylor said Commissioner Holt helped to put this together and they had bid this and it was back for approval and they needed to move.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON**

**MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR ASKED IF A 3-D PRESENTATION COULD BE BROUGHT BACK.**

Commissioner Holt said she did not have input into design and the restrooms were not where she suggested. Commissioner Holt said USDA looked at this particular design and they agreed with the restrooms facing outside.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Sampson about the Stevens School project and deadline and he said it was June 30<sup>th</sup> and advertising would be in the next few weeks.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**22. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell told Commissioner Hinson they were doing a large item pick-up and it had been placed in the newspapers. Commissioner Morgan said he read they could not do pick-ups in rural areas that were on state highways and Mr. Presnell said technically they were not supposed to pick-up on state roads.

He reminded them the GCDC round table meeting was set for April 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the IFAS Center.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell the total costs regarding Motorola and he said it was \$2.1 Million for everything. He said he would bring back more options, only wanted the Board to be aware of what was going on.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed that Georgia was trying to get rid of Meals on Wheels and asked how they could be proactive and this was serious because the Federal Government was trying to cut it down. Commissioner Morgan said that was not entirely correct, he heard that initially but thought it was misreported.

Chair Taylor asked about the Emergency Management Workshop and wanted it agendaed as well as the CEMP.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if in the organizational structure anyone that was specifically in charge of looking at the homelessness within the County and Mr. Presnell said no. He said they fell under the umbrella with Leon County.

Chair Taylor asked that they look at a date for the Emergency Management workshop and Commissioner Morgan said it was critically important to have adequate background information and the different options prior to the workshop. Commissioner Viegbesie wanted to get across to the Emergency Management team, when they ask for updates on programs, the persons running the program feel they are being attacked personally and asked they get them to understand they were not coming before Board to be criticized personally.

Chair Taylor asked if they would like to have a workshop before the next meeting from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Presnell said they needed time to present a nice presentation. Chair Taylor said

maybe they could do it the last meeting in April or the first meeting in May. Commissioner Hinson said they would be in Tallahassee April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> and was unsure what the Board would want to do. Mr. Presnell said they had already decided that one meeting in July would be cancelled.

Commissioner Holt said the Florida Association of Counties usually does workshops for them and consult them and they can give updates and insight on what they could do before they meet with anyone. Chair Taylor said she had no problem with whatever resources the Administrator reached out to.

Chair Taylor asked the Attorney if they needed to officially opt out of the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting because the majority of the Commissioners would be attending the meeting in Tallahassee. Commissioner Morgan asked if it went into the evening and Commissioner Viegbesie said the Ethics Workshop would go until 6:00 p.m. and the Board Meeting was scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. Chair Taylor said she planned on attending that workshop and suggested they made a motion to opt out that particular meeting and meet the third Tuesday of the month.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON THAT DUE TO OBLIGATIONS WITH THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, THEY SKIP THE FIRST MEETING IN APRIL AND HAVE THE MEETING ON THE THIRD TUESDAY AND INSTRUCT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

Chair Taylor said she wanted to explore the moratorium on hiring because she did not want to compromise the quality of service but they needed to tighten their belt.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

#### **23. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had no comments and was available for questions.

#### **Receipt and File**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**March 28, 2017-Joint Workshop-BOCC/City of Chattahoochee 6:30 p.m.**

**April 4, 2017-BOCC Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**April 18, 2017-BOCC Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:18 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 18, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.; asked everyone to stand for a moment of Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

*Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Viegbesie arrived at this juncture of the meeting.*

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell asked that they remove Item 4 from the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Recognition of Reginald James**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said Mr. Reginald James was there for a presentation. Chair Taylor had comments along with Commissioner Hinson, Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Morgan. Chair Taylor then read the plaque aloud and presented it to Mr. James. Mr. James then had a few words to say.

**2. TCC Gadsden Center Update**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

**Kimberly Moore, Vice President of Workforce Development**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief presentation regarding the Gadsden Campus.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Ms. Moore said they were also offering GED and ESOL classes.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture.*

Ms. Moore explained they had bi-lingual teachers and said some of the classes offered were at

capacity.

Commissioner Holt asked about the ESOL certification. She also explained the “Ask the Expert” kiosk that was offered at the Gadsden Campus and be able to talk with someone regarding whatever the question or problem might be.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked her for the presentation and said he was proud to be a part of this. He said GCDC and BOCC needed to take advantage of their source to provide the skillset.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they had encouraged their students to speak with the high school students and they did have someone.

**3. Presentation of Gadsden County Audit**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was the presentation of the Gadsden County Audit.

**Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray & Associates**, appeared before the Board and presented the County’s Audit to the Board. He gave an overall view of the audit and said the County’s audit, along with the Constitutional Officers had been completed and overall the process went smoothly. He mentioned one area of concern with the Sheriff’s Department and a response had been issued and one follow-up matter with a prior audit with the SHIP program and the bid process and that had been resolved. He said General Fund brought in just under \$18.5 Million in Revenues and \$18.2 Million in Expenses and there were other financing sources where the General Fund had to transfer out just over \$1 Million, which resulted in a loss of \$900,000 to the General Fund. He informed the Commissioners while their General Fund balance was \$6.1 Million, their unrestricted dollars were about \$4.6 Million and felt that was an adequate reserve. He reminded them in the past they have had to subsidize EMS funds, most recently close to \$1 Million and cautioned them to keep an eye on that going forward.

Mr. Tucker thanked the Clerk and the Finance Staff and each of the Constitutional Officers for their cooperation and overall thought it went very well. He then said he would be happy to entertain questions.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for a job very well done, but he heard him say they were financially ok but needed to be very aware of the rate they dipped into the fund reserves and be more fiscally conservative to not put the County into fiscal stress. Mr. Tucker said if they continued to have a situation such as this past year, they would find themselves in a deteriorating financial condition. Commissioner Viegbesie asked that he reiterate that “so that we know where we are and what we are dealing with so we don’t think that this money that replenishes this reserve comes from a tree planted in the back of the Butler Building.”

Commissioner Holt thanked the Administration and Staff for what they had done and added they had to provide services, when you had more people taxes were raised and they could not say you do not spend the money and wanted people knew that. She added once a building or library was built, it became an asset, just not a fluid asset.

Commissioner Hinson said they had been cutting property taxes every year. He added they were in great fiscal condition, the BOCC ‘was really doing a super job at looking out for the best interest

of the people and at the same time reducing taxes and providing half-way decent services”.

Chair Taylor said being conservative was imperative and they could not continue “going to the well, it will run dry” but they could not compromise the quality of services because they were a service oriented business. She thanked Mr. Thomas, the Chief Auditor, and the Finance Department at the Clerk’s Office for doing a wonderful job and said she was aware his office had to prepare the books so the audit would go as smooth as it did with information in place so the auditors could get the necessary information to conduct the audit. She said the EMS was a situation they would be discussing

**4. ~~Contractual Professional Services Between Gadsden County & Correctional Management & Communications Group Housing Inmates for US Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections~~**

Item pulled

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas mentioned the Dori Slosberg Act the Commissioners enacted approximately one year ago that instituted a \$5.00 fine on civil infractions to be used for Driver Education training at the schools and informed the Commissioners \$10,327.00 that had been collected and placed in its own fund. He brought this to their attention so they could decide when they wanted to notify schools and decide on the distribution process. He said he was going to mention the EMS issue because there was a negative cash situation, approximately \$91,000 and payroll was the next week. He reminded them they budgeted \$281,000 and that had not been enough in the past and would not be enough for this year and will more than likely need to transfer an additional \$500,000-600,000 into that fund.

Commissioner Holt said she would like the Administrator to look into the Medicaid issue with the Hospital. He said they would do a detailed presentation during the budget workshops.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**5. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said with regard to the hospital, she said she was at the Emergency Room the other day and on the wall where staff was separated from the patients and customers; there were complaints about that because it was not that way at other Emergency Rooms and was very impersonal.

**½ Cent Indigent Care Tax**

She wanted them to review that and said at one point there was a doctor at the Health Department that could see people there and wanted it brought back to look at the information.

**Creek Entertainment Gretna**

She said they were going into Conference and the Chairman of the Conference Committee for the Senate had spoken positively on that item to get the bill to Congress to hash it out and then hopefully going to the floor and try to move it on and get it to the Governor’s Office for a signature. She added they were looking at approximately 800 jobs starting. She said this would be a major economic boost for the County.



**Homestead Exemption Tax**

She said as Commissioner Hinson had mentioned with the Homestead Tax Exemption, a lot of the Counties and Cities were saying that was something that would hurt the budget. She mentioned services could not be provided without the money and quite a bit for paving, etc. comes from the State of Florida. She said this was also one of the main concerns with the County Association, League of Cities and she had spoken with Lobbyist Chris Doolin and Senator Montford and they were concerned with the same thing.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said some of the items he was going to comment on, Commissioner Holt did, especially with regard to the Homestead Exemption.

**Stuff the Boot**

He suggested they, as a Board, consider a fund-raising method to help finance their fire departments. He said it was done in Leon County and the firefighters were the ones to do it but suggested the Commissioners along with the volunteer firefighters do it and it was called "Stuff the Boot". He said they take boots and go into strategic areas across the County and collect money from drivers and money be divided among fire departments to offset some of their operational costs.

**Sunshine Law**

He then said they needed to let members of their Advisory boards and Committees know they were subjected to abide by the Sunshine Law as well as the elected officials and mentioned staff committees may be subjected to Sunshine laws and gave examples. He asked the Administrator that that be explored. Mr. Presnell said they have been working with Ken Moneyham (sp) with FAC for over a year and a video has been developed specific to this and will be available and they will be sending it out to everyone they have appointed to boards. Commissioner Viegbesie asked what if the County got the video and has the committees at one of their meetings watch the video.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson asked how they could save the bumblebees and said 90% of a certain type was not in existence now and also how could they save the butterflies. He said at the last Board meeting he mentioned they needed to spray everywhere for the mosquitos and his daughter educated him and said that was killing the bees.

He spoke of global warming, mental health issues, homelessness and the Gadsden County Senior Citizens appointment. He said he had not appointed anyone from his district to the Gadsden County Senior Citizens. Mr. Presnell explained the Commissioners did not have specific appointments there. Mr. Presnell explained they were having issues some time back and he had asked the Commissioners for names to be submitted and they now have twelve members on the Board. He said he "gave his word" a couple of months ago and asked if that was something "that you guys made up that..." Mr. Presnell explained that the Commissioners fund them annually but they have their own By-laws and their own Executive Director and the BOCC was strictly a funding agency. He said at one time the BOCC had to step in and take over and the Board was heavily involved until around 2007 or 2008. Commissioner Hinson said last year he had asked for names to appoint and Mr. Presnell explained he was working with them trying to help straighten out some problems and the response from their Chair was to have the BOCC submit names and they

would expand their Board.

Commissioner Hinson then spoke about Deacon Madry and asked for prayers for him.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said on their previous meeting held on March 21<sup>st</sup> they had a detailed presentation regarding their existing county-wide radio communications system with law enforcement and they were informed there were dead spots around the County and a lot of the law enforcement had to carry multiple radios with them in order to communicate. He said he was concerned about their safety and could not think of a more important matter and it was a risk. He reminded them of the approaching budget season and reiterated the need to have an action plan in place to move forward if the Board chose to do so.

Mr. Presnell said the instructions he got from the Board was to explore other competitive prices and they were 99% through doing that and it would come back before them in the near future for options from Board and agreed it was a critical matter.

Commissioner Holt said she preferred a workshop on this item because of it being a big ticket item.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor spoke about the homestead tax and said they needed to know how much that would impact them and they needed to know the projected amount during budget season.

**Medicaid Costs**

She said they were never able to nail it down and they need to know where it could go.

**Debt Service Savings**

She asked that the Administrator take look at where they could save money because she said they needed to be mindful of their expenditures and did not want to use reserves to balance their budget.

Commissioner Hinson suggested the need to have a workshop on how the County could be affected by what may come from Washington and Tallahassee.

Mr. Presnell said they were already working on a workshop with the Lobbyists.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**6. Approval of Minutes**

- a. June 16, 2016 Workshop
- b. March 21, 2017-Regular Meeting

**7. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

(Brought up after General Business)

**Eugene Kovacs, 501 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Havana, FL**-Stormwater issue. Mr. Kovacs appeared before the Board and informed them of Stormwater coming through his property and flooding his home.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said he had been working with the Town of Havana for fourteen years trying to correct the problem and had lived in the house for fifteen years. He said in 2006 the Town did a Stormwater management plan and have not been implementing it and had been working the past two years trying to determine when 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue was going to have work done on it because he was hoping some work would be done to alleviate some of the problem and two years ago he contacted the County about 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue being resurfaced and they directed him to the Town and when he talked with the Town he was directed to the County and he has been back and forth.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said he had emailed pictures to the Administrator's Assistant and has met with Justin Ford and said he could testify it was a very difficult problem. He said he has tried to be proactive and has been told by Howard McKinnon and Mr. Ford there was no money in the project for Stormwater, just a resurfacing project. He added that on March 22<sup>nd</sup> he noticed 19 concrete pipes, backhoes and giant machinery ready to work by the Auto Zone and found out there was Stormwater work being done, just being done everywhere except where the issue is where the water is going into his home. He said after talking with the City several times he had consulted a law firm and said a more drastic situation was with the failure of the Stormwater system, if his home was flooded, they would take his case on contingency. He added that 20-25% of the water was coming from a County road and they recommended if he did get flooding and they do take the case, suit be filed against both the Town and the County. At that point he realized he had never been before the Commission, only the Town and was hoping there could be a review of communication and did not want them blindsided.

Chair Taylor explained they could not discuss this matter because it was not properly advertised and asked him to get with Mr. Presnell.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8. Telogia Creek Road-FDOT Contract Amendment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said there were three items that pertained to this road project. He said the first item was for Board approval of the FDOT contract amendment through the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP). He said they applied for and received a grant; the Board approved the agreement with FDOT; they bid the project and it came in over the grant award; Staff and the engineer and DOT negotiated together to try to address the overrun, DOT agreed to give half of the costs and the job was reduced by half the amount it was over and this was a contract amendment to that agreement.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this item was leading to the subsequent item eventually leading

to the approval of a change order and Mr. Presnell said yes, there was a change order to reduce the amount.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.**

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Weiss pointed out this particular item was to increase the funding from FDOT.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board to explain the process and said it would not affect the integrity of the project

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Telogia Creek Road-Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this item was for Board approval to award the bid of the Telogia Creek Road to Roberts and Roberts, Inc., the low bidder in the amount of \$704,226.20 and approving the motion needed to be contingent on approval of the next item for the change order reducing the amount to \$64,815.00 to make the price \$639,411.20.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE THIS ITEM CONTINGENT ON THE CHANGE ORDER (NEXT ITEM) BEING APPROVED AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Telogia Creel Road-Change Order #1**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above referenced item and said it was the Change Order mentioned in the item above.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked where the road was located and Mr. Presnell said it was in District 3, southeast of Greensboro.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**11. CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) SCRAP Agreement**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the FDOT SCRAP agreement for the widening and resurfacing of CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) and for authorization for the Chair to sign documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Application to Renew Sublease for Florida State Hospital Property**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2017-011 and the completed application for the Use of State Owned Uplands. He added if approved, the application would be submitted to Florida Department of Children and Family Services, who would

then submit it to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for approval. He added this was for the building they leased from the State to house the ambulance service at Florida State Hospital.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Donnell Dawkins; Parcel ID No.: 2223N6W0000003430100/Code Enforcement**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for board direction regarding the release of a code enforcement lien on property formerly owned by Donnell Dawkins located at 4158 Bonnie Hill Road, Chattahoochee, FL in consideration for \$750.00.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of Addendum for Actuarial Services for OPEB (Optional Post-Employment Benefits) a GASB Requirement**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to renew an agreement with Stanley, Hunt, Dupree and Rhine to provide actuarial services that were required to be performed every two years to comply with GASB 45 and for authorization for the Chair to execute the Addendum.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his only concern with the item presented, what was the horizon of the advertisement; how well exposed was the advertisement to have no response. He said maybe the media the County was using was so restricted and so local that the exposure was not there for others to see. Mr. Presnell said on this particular item he could not answer but knew in the past they had mailed out up to 30 invitations to bid and on a recent one, they bid three times on a building repair because no-one was interested. He asked Jeff Price to come forward to address the Board's questions.

**Jeff Price, Senior Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board and said regarding actuarial auditing firms send bids to them, send to local papers and place on website. He said regarding this item, they tried to send invitations to professional organizations to ones that did this type of work and it was published in local papers and placed on the website.

Commissioner Holt said there were other companies in Tallahassee that did actuarial services and asked if they advertised in Tallahassee and Mr. Price said they sent out invitations to bid and it was advertised in local papers. Commissioner Holt said she would like to see the list and asked that it be emailed to her.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program or Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program "ER"**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts that were agreed upon by the homeowner, contractor and Community Development Administration's SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program for

the rehabilitation of their home.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS BEFORE THE VOTE.**

Commissioner Hinson asked when someone could come to speak on how the application process worked and Mr. Presnell said they would workshop it. Commissioner Holt said if the workshop was televised, it would reach a lot of people.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Approval of Resolution 2017-005, Approving the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan FY(s) 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2017-005 adopting the SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 and for authorization for the Chair to sign the certification documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**17. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signatures to satisfy the Special Assessment Lien(s) that were agreed upon by the Homeowner and Community Development State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Rehabilitation Program and Community Development Block Grant (GDBC) Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Mental Health Transportation Plan**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a Transportation Plan with the Big Bend Community Based Care (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Managing Entity) for people who fall under the Baker Act/Marchman Act to be transported to the nearest facility that could meet their needs.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. BEFORE THE VOTE CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked if this was what they traditionally did and Mr. Presnell explained it was a little different and was required by the Legislature. He explained it was related to the people they transported by EMS that had mental health issues. Chair Taylor asked if there was a fiscal impact and Mr. Presnell said not to them.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Holt said regarding the transportation when someone was Baker Acted a lot of times they needed assistance and Mr. Presnell said there now was a policy in Gadsden County that if they were involved, a deputy had to be there due to the incident that happened in Havana a few years ago.

**19. Ratification of Ring Power Invoices**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board ratification of Ring Power invoice #02WE290264 for \$4,599.67 and invoice #02WE2897732 for \$2,490.21. He said they were for the Gabber truck.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious; they had a shop where people could fix stuff, why have someone else fix what they could fix. Mr. Presnell said there were certain things they could fix but this was not one of them and there was not enough to justify what they would have to pay that person. Commissioner Hinson said they had put a lot of money into Ring Power and Mr. Presnell said they would continue to. Commissioner Hinson asked for a list of what was spent with Ring Power the past 5 years.

Commissioner Viegbesie piggybacked on comments and concerns of Commissioner Hinson; if they continue to spend money regularly, he said they had an Engineering Department and a Service Department and maybe they should send someone to get special training to get knowledge on how to work on this type of equipment so they could have an in-house expert to take care of this to save money.

Commissioner Morgan asked which Ring Power they were dealing with and Mr. Presnell said the one in Midway. Commissioner Morgan pointed out they were doing business with a local company in Midway.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Possible Provision of Economic Development Incentives for the Development of an Indoor Amateur Sports Complex**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the possible provision of economic development incentives for the development of an Indoor Amateur Sports Complex on property located near Highway 90 and Interstate 10 in Midway.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the project was not only asking for tax incentives but for monetary support as well. Mr. Presnell said it no, it was only tax incentives. Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Presnell his opinion and he said he recommended they enter into it and there was no down side to it and would allow them to get more information from them. Chair Taylor said he was asking the Board to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with little to no information about the project and Mr. Presnell said this was to get the information. Chair Taylor said "I think you got the cart before the horse on this particular one and then we're gonna commit. I see where it says County Commitment to consider. I appreciate that language in there; it does give us a door out. I don't see where there's anything wrong with what I did hear about the project, but how to you ask for a Memorandum of Understanding when we don't understand what they are doing. So, I'm just curious of how, I know what you're saying...they want this in order for them to come with

more.” Mr. Presnell said “They don’t want to show their cards unless they think you’re serious.” Chair Taylor said she did not want to be serious unless they showed their cards.

Commissioner Holt said usually they were not going to and most companies did not unless they knew that they were serious.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the MOU was a non-binding document and Mr. Weiss said yes.

Commissioner Morgan said this was the natural next step of process and was a very common thing they were doing, particularly on a potential project of this size. He said he knew they “were open for business for projects that make sense for Gadsden County and I think with the waiver, the two parties become a little bit closer in getting information and that type thing and that’s simply all it is. I don’t think there is anything that, and I think the attorney just confirmed it, there is nothing that binds us to do anything, it just simply takes us to that next step to see if it’s a serious consideration that we might want to make.”

Commissioner Hinson thanked Chair Taylor for her tough questions.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said one concern he had was anything that came around them, all taxes would go to them but they could talk about that as the process went along. Chair Taylor said her concerns were they were approving something blind and did not know what they would offer.

Commissioner Holt said they were not agreeing to anything; they were agreeing to the option to negotiate, to go ahead to talk.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. BEFORE THE VOTE, COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE PRESENT REPRESENTING THE GROUP THAT MIGHT SHARE INFORMATION.**

**Beth Kirkland, GCDC Executive Director**, appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of the company and the project. She first thanked them for their consideration of the project and she said they started working with the company two years ago and looked at a number of properties in the County to find a potential location. She added that during the two years, the Board passed their Economic Development Grant program and there was now a tool in which they could have a conversation.

**Warren Emo, Emo Design Build and Jeff Shivers** appeared before the Board and said the offer referred to regarding the incentives regarding the economic development, they were looking from May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> to finish their feasibility study to provide exactly what they County was looking for. He said it was not necessarily “hiding the ball” and they were looking to make sure the County had interest of this type of project. He said they were not looking for any money from their budget but was looking for participation in the revenue and was time specific with a joint venture participation that was on a sliding scale.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOU. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**



**21. Update on Stevens School**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was to give an update on the Stevens School property. He reminded the Commissioners that on Sunday morning, March 26<sup>th</sup>, the school caught fire and burnt to the ground. Staff promptly arranged for security to be provided until fencing could be installed and perimeter fencing had now been installed around the school. They have worked with the Fire Marshal and the insurance carrier while they were doing their investigation. He said they had released the site and they were waiting on it in writing. He said he sent an email out regarding the bricks and the Board would put a lot of thought into this working with the community to come up with a plan.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said Staff was seeking from the Board how they wanted them to proceed; he said they would store the bricks in an undamaged building, the cafeteria and they were 90% sure the State would let them use some of the grant funds to fix up the undamaged building. He added the people in Tallahassee understood the significance of the site and they were going to proceed with a \$200,000 proposal to do something with the remaining building. He felt they would let them use \$50,000 to clean the area up. Chair Taylor said she had not heard why it caught fire and asked if it was public information and Mr. Presnell said not yet.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said she asked to bring this item because she was being asked questions by the public and was unable to answer and said there was a great interest to rebuild. She said there were other entities within the building and understood there were valuable artifacts in building, the food bank was there and maybe they could workshop it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with the burning of the building, he had learned the school was an important part of the history of the County and did not want them to rush into doing anything and the respect the school held and would like to see them workshop this matter along with town hall meetings and have the community's input regarding the historical site. He said they needed to figure out how to pay homage to the area by using some of the bricks and salvaged items to build something there that would forever give people knowledge of what was there, maybe a monument with an eternal flame. He asked if there was temporary space they could house the food pantry until it could be relocated to a better spot. He added they should not rush to do anything at that location without input of the citizens.

Commissioner Holt said she would be happy with workshops on this matter and people wanted to help with restoration of the building. She added they wanted to form committees regarding this. She added to see if USDA would consider letting them use some of money to redo the cafeteria area.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Presnell about a rumor he heard that there was no water at one of the older hydrants and Mr. Presnell said he did not know, that was the City. He did say the City had said that was not true but did know tankers came from Gretna and the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Hinson asked how the fire could happen and the Commission was not informed

about it. He said it was embarrassing when he was asked about it and it was embarrassing he did not know anything about it. Mr. Presnell said emails were sent out.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan said the most immediate need was the food pantry and a place to store the food and one option might be the cold weather shelter. Chair Taylor asked if that needed to be agendaed or could they approve for the Administrator to go ahead with that item. Mr. Presnell said as long as a contract was not done because he was over the buildings. Mr. Weiss said he preferred anyone using county buildings have a lease agreement.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said there was no problem with the Commodity building being used, but they needed to have a contract on it. She felt they needed to have a lease in place and as long as one was in place to protect the County and them as well. She asked if they could tentatively state tonight as long as an agreement was in place and the Attorney approved...Mr. Presnell spoke up and asked if they were giving pre-approval to the lease and her signing it and Chair Taylor said she had no problem in signing it as long as the Board approved it. Mr. Weiss said for them to be specific to the particular need and have it be for a short period of time.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE A LEASE FOR ONE MONTH UNTIL A FORMAL LEASE WAS PUT INTO PLACE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**\*\*\*AT THIS TIME CHAIR TAYLOR RECOGNIZED EUGENE KOVACS. PLEASE SEE ABOBE UNDER CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD\*\***

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **22. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said Representative Al Lawson would be using the Commissioner Meeting Room to hold a Town Hall Meeting the following evening starting at 6:00 p.m.

He reminded the Commissioners that Friday night was the Relay for Life event at the Track and they would be selling fish dinners.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what happened to the revenue received from disposal of surplus from the hospital and Mr. Presnell said the hospital revenue would go to the general fund and anything Public Works disposed of had to go into the transportation fund because it was a restricted fund.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **23. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report. Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Thomas for staying for the meeting.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
April 18, 2017-Regular Meeting

Receipt and File

24.           a. Resolutions for the Week of March 13, 2017  
              b. 2017 PowerTalk Proclamation  
              c. Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Report

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 2, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:05 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 2, 2017  
AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS  
WERE HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3-absent  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. Chair Taylor did point out for the record this was optional and no-one was obligated to stand or involve themselves in this.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD  
VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Ms. Lizzie Mae Figgers**

Mr. Presnell said this item was a Proclamation that was to be presented to Mrs. Figgers and was very happy Commissioner Viegbesie had asked the Board to do this. Chair Taylor asked the Commissioners to join her in the front, Commissioner Viegbesie read the Proclamation aloud and it was then presented to Mrs. Figgers.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was present and said he had nothing report tonight.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**3. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said they found out earlier today that gaming was off the table, hopefully they will reconsider it, if not they were still in the Supreme Court.. She urged citizens to call their representatives and encourage them to reconsider.

She also said unless it goes back on, Midway sewers will not be funded.

She said she received a great compliment on the library from out-of-towners.

She mentioned a story on Sixty Minutes regarding “Tri-State Gold” and how three counties in Mississippi came together and hired an economic development person. She said she planned on going there and touring to see what they had accomplished.

She said she spoke with Mr. James and they were not having their annual event, but she said the Commission along with the Tourist Development Council, needed to look at having an annual event.

She said she was in Bainbridge yesterday and there were 4 teenagers from Gadsden County in Court on drug charges. The Judge sentenced them to 10 years and said he would let them serve probation but if they failed, they would be sent to prison. She said everyone that appeared there, if they were a minority, they received no less than 10 years and another man growing 3-4 plants and had methamphetamines on him was sentenced to 6 years’ probation.

Commissioner Hinson said a Pastor asked him Sunday for a break-down on the ½ cent sales tax. Mr. Presnell said he had planned a presentation on that at a later date.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie wanted to commend the County Administrator and the Director of Roads and Bridges for making sure the roads and bridges were done in District 2 expeditiously.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION TO NORA JAMES AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for being a blessing to the community and said he had received lots of thanks for the sidewalk in Hampton Heights.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION TO BE PRESENTED TO ROGER LEWIS AND BRUCE JAMES AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

He then said his mother, who was previously diagnosed with breast Cancer, had recently completed chemotherapy and radiation.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Not present

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said Commissioner Morgan did inform the Administrator he would not be present at the meeting tonight.

She said she wanted to commend Mr. Presnell and his staff for their part in Relay for Life.

**Jail Re-entry**

She said she was at a workshop this morning regarding the Jail re-entry program. She said they

came up with ideas on how to help them find a place to stay and getting case workers there. She said housing was an issue in Gadsden County but there was a surplus of abandoned houses in the County that they now own and maybe they could look at the prisoners rehabbing the houses.

#### **Evictions**

She said it was costing people too much money to have people evicted. She said while she did not want to see anyone on the street, it was costing landowners \$300-500 to get their property back and then having to spend thousands to get their property back and was why people were getting out of the business of renting houses.

#### **Emergency Management**

She said with Emergency Management, for the first time in a while she could appreciate the fact that they were all on one accord with Emergency Management and needed to be under the Board and they needed more direct contact with it. She said she was not leaving the resources out because they knew it; she said she was concerned with the organization and how information was funneled to the Board.

#### **Senior Citizens**

She said this board refused to dismantle and she asked the Attorney to look into this matter. She said it was an illegal board operating because people were sitting in key positions that should not be on that board and they needed to look at how they could separate. She said she recognized the Board was limited because of by-laws that were put into place but they were in a County building and received County funds and there should be something the County could do.

She said Commissioner Holt said something profound regarding water, electric and sewer. She said there were four interchanges from I-10 that come into the County and vacant land around each but no infrastructure there.

#### **CONSENT**

Mr. Presnell said the Consent Agenda was before them.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

Chair Taylor asked if there was anything in particular he wanted to discuss. Commissioner Hinson said there were a few things with the Minutes that he had a question mark on. He said it was dealing with some issues that were discussed during the Budget workshop. He said he agreed with some of the things regarding the Health Care Coordinator but there was a word he didn't recall using and could not approve.

- 3. Approval of a Proclamation for "Child Welfare Professionals Recognition Day"**
- 4. Ratification to Pay County Bills**
  - a. April 5, 2017**
  - b. April 18, 2017**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. September 8, 2016-Budget Hearing
- b. August 2, 2016-Budget Workshop

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Approval to Accept the FY 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board acceptance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter report for fiscal year 2017.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Consideration of transmittal of a support letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails to add the Chattahoochee-to-Bristol (C2B) Trail to the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan and Opportunity/Priority Trail Maps**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it sought approval of a letter of support to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails to add the Chattahoochee-to-Bristol Trail and the supporting Florida National Scenic Trail linkage through Calhoun and Jackson County to the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan and Opportunity/Priority Trail Maps.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the pros were for Gadsden County. Mr. Presnell said it was such a unique geological area along the river, had steep topography and endangered plants and things that were unique to Florida.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor had a question regarding the topography and Mr. Presnell explained there were steep, heavy ravines that were a very unique feature and at the bottom the temperature was so much different that it grew unique plants that were endangered. Chair Taylor asked about tourism and Mr. Presnell said people were coming now, it was just unorganized right now.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

**8. Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Conduct the Sixth Annual Rural County Summit**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to conduct the Sixth Annual Rural County Summit to be held June 13-15, 2017.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER**

**VIEGBESIE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD COMMENTS.**

Chair Taylor said the Board should be on the agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it was good for the Board because if an emergency happened, the Governor would call the Chair. Chair Taylor said she did not get an invitation. Mr. Presnell said he received an email earlier today. Mr. Presnell said the Attorney counsels him about having everyone together in a room and Major Woods asked him if there was a problem or to clarify if the Chair should receive it. She said this was set for June 13-15<sup>th</sup> and was ample time to notice the event.

Commissioner Holt said there was nothing saying they could not all attend an event together; they just could not discuss anything that might come before them to vote on.

Chair Taylor said she would like for the Board to be invited, recognized and represented. She said for protection purposes, she would like for the meeting to be advertised and the fact that they would be there.

Major Shawn Wood appeared before the Board and said on that Thursday afternoon the Governor would be present.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Training for Criminal Investigators**

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for approval to pay training costs for a criminal investigator and members of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau to attend the listed trainings that were sponsored by training facilities.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECONDE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked if there was money that needed to be paid. Mr. Presnell said it would come from training funds that were designated for that purpose from traffic tickets.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Discussion of confirmation of an appointment by Commissioner Hinson to the Planning Commission for District 1**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board confirmation of Commissioner Hinson's appointment to the Planning Commission for District 1.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked who the appointment was and Mr. Presnell explained it was Antwon McNeil and replaced David Tranchard.



**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**11. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said for Roger Lewis' and Mr. James' cook-out, he and his wife provided a lot of the game.

**Relay for Life**

He said it was good to see everybody there.

He asked the Board to pass a Resolution to be presented at the next meeting for Public Works Week.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Brickyard Road**

He informed the Board this just went out for bid and the road that was going into Four Star Freightliner delayed it a bit.

He said there will be a Workshop before the next meeting regarding CDBG and SHIP starting at 4:00 p.m.

He said there will be a Workshop on May 25<sup>th</sup> and he will have a break-down of the ½ Cent sales tax. Commissioner Viegbesie said he may be out of town for that workshop but would check his schedule.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had requested a list of County Roads that had old signs that were unreadable and there was one not far from Ball Farm Road and some had been replaced already and asked when others would be replaced. Mr. Presnell explained they were actively working on it, the signs had to be ordered and it was being worked on.

Chair Taylor asked the status of High Bridge Road and asked where they were on the list. He said Old Federal Road was ahead of High Bridge but he would check on it.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**12. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

Chair Taylor asked about the Senior Citizens Board and if he could see how that could be resolved.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any individuals willing to donate dilapidated houses, could he look into that matter. He said if they were going to consider accepting property, they needed to be in condition where it was not dangerous.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to recognize yesterday was International Workers' Day.

Commissioner Hinson asked for an update regarding the Summer Youth Employment. Mr. Presnell said it closed out Friday and they would soon be interviewing and placing them. Commissioner Hinson suggested the County do their interviews and then the Commissioners could make their selection.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A PLAQUE HONORING DAVID TRANCHARD AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Receipt and File**

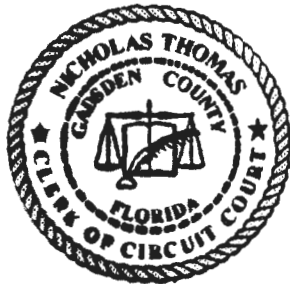
13. a. Resolution for Sterling Watson

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

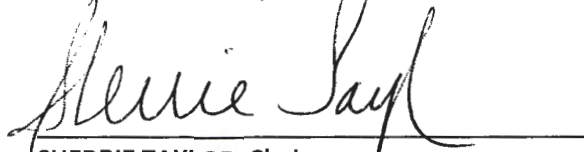
May 16, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

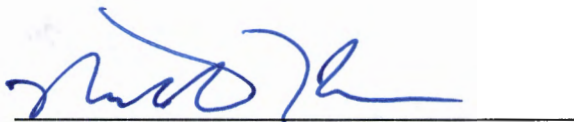
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:23 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair

ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 16, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M., THE  
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. A silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to add Item 1a-Legislative Update and asked to remove Item 2-Armada Ammunition Update. Commissioner Holt asked to add the Mural to the agenda for a vote and Chair Taylor said they could not add anything to the Agenda for a vote especially if it had a monetary amount attached to it. Commissioner Holt disagreed and said there may not be a vote and might not be money involved and she would like to discuss it. Chair Taylor said she could bring this up under her comments for discussion but there would be no vote. Commissioner Holt said she would like for there to be a vote but it did not have to be for the money. Chair Taylor said she would not be able to add it to the Agenda tonight and they were going to move the Agenda and 1a was added.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. (NO-ONE SAID AYE AND NO-ONE SAID NAY.) COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THE AGENDA WAS NOT APPROVED AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID HE DID NOT HEAR A SECOND FOR THE APPROVAL. CHAIR TAYLOR POINTED OUT THAT COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND AND HE AGREED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Public Works Week**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a Proclamation honoring Public Works Week and they had some of the employees present to accept it.

Chair Taylor asked the Public Works Department to come forward to accept the Proclamation. She and Vice Chair Hinson read the Proclamation aloud.

Chair Taylor said this Department was one of the departments where you could see government at work.

**2. Armada Ammunition Update**

Item pulled

**1a Legislative Update**

**Chris Doolin, Lobbyist**, appeared before the Board to give a legislative update. He said it was a very difficult session and asked the Administrator to have the Department Heads review the hand-out as there were several things that would affect them. He added they anticipated a substantial amount of the budget to be vetoed. He added that the County had three major funding requests and two were not funded and the Gadsden County Re-Entry Program was funded at \$200,000 of the \$250,000 requested. He said the County relied heavily on State Grant Programs and Revenue Sharing and gave a list of programs and said most were funded at the current level. He added that Counties were eligible for up to \$100,000 from the Firefighter Assistance Grant. He said no parks were funded but in the Cultural Community they did well and no water projects were funded for Gadsden County. He added the salary increases for the State of Florida would benefit the community and there were changes to the Retirement. He added in November, 2018, there will be a Constitutional Amendment to increase homestead exemption by an additional \$25,000 and the Legislature will put on the ballot Statewide a proposal to increase the homestead exemption and will be for houses of \$100,000 - \$125,000 value and they were successful in getting the fiscally strained Counties offset and it will not affect the revenues, residents would get the exemption and the Legislature has agreed to pay the costs that would have impacted the communities.

He said they needed to continue working with the municipalities to get things ranked suggested they get the NGOs, Historical Society and whoever has the capacity to promote their program along with the cities and they coordinate an overall program where they set up a booth for the day in Tallahassee and have an Agenda set up. He also informed them the Legislature will start meeting in January.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for wonderful job done on behalf of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to think about this carefully and would rather get something instead of nothing.

Commissioner Morgan thanked them for their efforts and added they needed need to keep in mind who the audience would be when they have Gadsden County Day and need to understand current environment & need to show how the County was changing and progressing and working with regional neighbors and needed to positively brand them.

Commissioner Holt said they definitely needed to look at how to do things now.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they were discussing issues with food stamps and asked how that would impact the community. Sarah Bleakley said she was not certain of what passed but would get back with the Commissioners regarding that.

Chair Taylor said she thought this was little premature because government had the last say-so.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

The Clerk was not present and Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker said there was nothing to report.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **3. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

##### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she brought up earlier the mural that was being put on the wall and there was an error and asked the building inspector to come forward to explain. She said the building was measured but did not go to the top of the building, added that the Historical Society said the part from top of mural to top of building had to be painted and this was time sensitive.

**Roosevelt Morris, Building Inspector**, appeared before the Board and said he met with the artist, he has pressure washed the building and a lot of loose paint came off. He did not realize what he was not to paint would be affected and suggested the entire building to be painted but was not in his scope of services that were approved. He said he bid on an area of 18 x 65 foot and there is an additional 5-6 foot above that would need to be addressed to give the best design. They came up with a plan for him to paint the entire wall and that was why they were here tonight.

Commissioner Holt said the Historical Society said that wall needed to be painted. Mr. Morris went ahead and got bids and the majority were ranging around \$4,800-\$4,900 additional to what was awarded.

Commissioner Holt said they had \$25,000 set aside for the job, he bid on the area that was sent to him and could add at a cheaper price to have him do the whole wall. She said he was already here from Canada and working on wall and he was willing to do it. She said the windows were a concern for later as there were pieces missing.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Board approved up to \$25,000 and asked with changes would they still be within budget and he was told yes. He said the contract was approved and this would be a change order and was told yes.

Chair Taylor said this was an item that needed to be agendaed and would like to have something formally from the Historical Society. She also said she understood it was time sensitive but this needed to be placed on the Agenda.

Commissioner Holt said she not received an email and asked what it said and he read aloud from the Code of Ordinances 2-45 **Order of business** subsections (b) and (j) that concerned this matter.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the question he asked earlier was if the issue was a change order and did not think a change order would be precedence because they had moved to change orders without placing them on an agenda before for other projects and felt as long as it was within the approved amount did not think they had to wait two weeks for the next meeting to have this matter approved and saw nothing wrong with it legally.

Chair Taylor said there had been change orders in the past but they had been agendaed. She

said nothing could be added without it being properly advertised

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with an emergency meeting on Friday. Chair Taylor said she would not agree to an emergency meeting for a mural and it did not impact anyone's like. Mr. Weiss said they could call an emergency meeting and explained how to advertise for it.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING FOR THE MURAL AND DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a copy of the contract and Mr. Presnell said the contract was for \$18,500 starting at the bottom of the windows the entire length and instead of the County paying to put it back red above the point for about the same price the painter could incorporate the mural as was shown on the screen they were viewing. Mr. Presnell added the artist had to know the next morning. Commissioner Hinson asked what was in contract and when was his last day. Mr. Presnell said he had to be done and had to leave by June 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hinson asked what the contract said and Mr. Presnell said the contract gave him square dimensions with the content. Mr. Presnell said the artist said he could paint the mural he was contracted for but felt it would not be as good a product.

Chair Taylor reminded her colleagues there were laws when it came to spending taxpayers' money and said they needed to follow the process they had in place. She added she did like how it looked but they had procedures in place and if it involved a fiscal impact, per their rules, it should be placed on the Agenda and they waited over a year and they could wait a little longer. Commissioner Holt said the contract was in place and the County needed to do what they were supposed to do.

Commissioner Holt said the Attorney told them this could be resolved with an emergency meeting and it could be posted in the City Hall. She reminded the Commissioners they had budgeted \$25,000 and he was charging \$23,500 and was saving \$\$2,000 of what was set aside.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Attorney mentioned an emergency meeting and this was not a project that could be placed on a computer screen and stretched to fill the screen up.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had a soft spot for Dr. Furlow and had met Dr. Lefall. He said to save peace, asked if they could approve this in two weeks and was trying to throw options out. He said if it was going to be approved in two weeks, why not just approve it so the project could be finished and wished the artist was present.

Chair Taylor pointed out the law stated if there was a fiscal impact, it had to be agendaed and suggested they follow their laws. She said they could not approve anything unless it was agendaed and asked that they not start tonight. She added they had not approved anything that had a fiscal impact unless it was on the agenda since she had been on the Board.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Attorney if this was a policy the Commission put in place and was told yes. He asked if there had been a situation where they had approved a Change Order

without it being on the agenda or approved it and the agenda was put out the following week.

Mr. Weiss stated said he could not recall when a change order that had a fiscal impact was added to the agenda.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was something in his district he wanted to change, it would go on the Agenda first. He then asked about the motion on the floor, if it worked in the rams of an emergency and added he was looking at the General Revenue, would this affect the change order put in place. Mr. Weiss said that was a better question for the Administrator. Mr. Presnell said there were two ways to look at it-the Board originally approved \$25,000 and that amount was budgeted and it was General Revenue dollars and everything affects it. Commissioner Holt said they affect the General Revenue when they put roads on the Agenda and then change roads.

Chair Taylor said to put things in perspective, with roads, that item was on the Agenda and properly advertised and tonight this was not on the Agenda and had not been advertised. She asked that they not set precedence tonight. Commissioner Hinson said he hated to see it prolonged and hated to approve without seeing what was previously approved. He asked if they did have an Emergency Meeting, what they would then do from that point.

Chair Taylor said if they changed the Contract, they were giving him more days and added she agreed with Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Viegbesie but wanted to do what was right.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was motion on the floor and he called the question.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED THE QUESTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AN EMERGENCY MEETING. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Mr. Presnell said it needed to be as soon as possible and asked if they could do the Emergency Meeting Thursday morning.

Chair Taylor said to set the meeting for Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Holt said the Supreme Court should rule on Gretna hopefully Thursday.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked Staff for the wonderful things they were doing and was glad to announce there was no longer a County-owned unpaved road in District 2.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked Staff and Chair for their leadership.

He also thanked Staff for a great workshop that was held at 4:00 earlier.

He said he had an opportunity to take students from East and West Gadsden to visit FAMU School of Environment and it gave them an opportunity to see different things regarding the environment and the kids were very intrigued.

He asked what the water quality was in Gadsden County and if there was a difference between the East and West of the County.

Mr. Presnell informed him there was a difference and he was talking about drinking water and in Gadsden County there was ground water and the main differences were the quality was good and said the extreme east and west had pockets and was not as good as the center part of the county.

Commissioner Hinson asked that the Commissioners be provided with a Water Quality Report from all municipalities that was available.

He reminded the Commissioners Graduation was this week.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor asked for a Resolution for Ms. Jeannette Wynn.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**Summer Jobs**

She asked if they were at the point of hiring and if selections had been made. Mr. Presnell said they had selected about half and notices should go out at first of the week.

**Eviction Costs**

Chair Taylor said she had mentioned something regarding this and Mr. Presnell said it was on the Agenda tonight.

She talked about the motion that was approved regarding the mural. She wanted to make sure they steered clear and did not set precedence.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. August 11, 2016 Local Healthcare Providers Workshop
- b. March 7, 2017 – Regular Meeting
- c. March 9, 2017 Joint Workshop
- d. April 18, 2017-Regular Meeting
- e. May 2, 2017 – Regular Meeting

**5. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**



**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said two weeks ago Chair Taylor asked the attorney to look at the by-laws for Gadsden Senior Services and did not see it agendaed and asked about the follow-up.

He said there was a conversation some time ago regarding mental health and knew Apalachee provided services and asked if it was coordinated with other health care services and if an officer had to transport to Tallahassee, it took away from patrolling here.

**Economic Development Council**

He said he had a conversation with Rob Nixon on Wednesday and he mentioned one thing that was handcuffing him. He said there were seven small businesses in the incubator and could not get micro-loans from lenders in the County. With other Counties and municipalities, the banks they were dealing with, they, on behalf of that County, had gone to banks and asked if they could provide micro-loan and would be guaranteed because they had someone over the program providing a business plan on behalf of the businesses and would make sure the loan would be paid back. He asked if they could ask Mr. Thomas to see if he could approach the banks to get help from County's banking institution.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING-Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of the FLZ plan to promote the planning and funding of infrastructure improvements.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan asked if only one public hearing was required of this and was told yes.

**Beth Kirkland, CECD, Executive Director of the GCDC**, appeared before the Board and had with her Marita Pennington, a planner with Pennington Consulting. Ms. Kirkland said the purpose of this was to provide a freight logistics zone to facilitate freight activities and services within the region.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR ADOPTION AND APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan Asked what the blue piece on the screen was and Ms. Kirkland said it was the land owners.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not have a major problem with this but thought they should have a workshop regarding this so they would have a clearer understanding of this item. Chair Taylor agreed.

Commissioner Holt had questions for Ms. Kirkland. She asked who the property owners were and was told Clara Farm, Inc. and Gamboa, Inc. She asked what the property would be used for and was told it would be a inter-mobile logistics center. Holt said this was same they were doing in Mississippi and this was getting the site ready and was part of the process.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 FOR APPROVAL.  
COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED AND THEN CONCURRED AND MADE THE VOTE 5-0. CHAIR  
TAYLOR AGREED THERE NEEDED TO BE A WORKSHOP.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. CR 269**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry-Preble Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Little Sycamore Road Paving Project.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE  
BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM**

**8. Howell Road**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Task Order 2017-002 with DPB & Associates, LLC. for the construction engineer and inspection services of the Howell Road Widening and Resurfacing Project.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE  
BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County BOCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE,  
THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval of Task Order 2017-001**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Task Order 2017-001 with DPB & Associates for construction administration and inspection services for Phase III of the Gadsden County Road Improvements Projects in County Districts 1, 2, and 4 and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

Chair Taylor asked if there was money left over in the Districts and Mr. Presnell said yes and she asked how they could close out with money left and he said this was Phase III and they were would be doing Phase IV.

**CHAIR TAYKLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of Book Check and Detection**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for authorization of the annual service agreement for Book Check and Detection Devices to be provided by Bibliotheca/3M Library Systems for the William A. "Bill" McGill Library.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked for it to be explained.

**Tabitha Washington, Director of Library Services**, appeared before the Board to explain the use of this. She said it detected the books that were checked in or out

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Discussion on the Half Cent Tax for Indigent Care**

**Mr. Presnell**

"Madam Chair and members of the Board, this next item I was asked to bring back for your discussion. It's presented to the Board to provide a background information regarding the Half Cent Sales Tax for Indigent Care. Attached on there we give you a little history of the last five years of how that half cent has been disbursed."

**Chair Taylor**

"OK, we do have someone that wishes to speak on this item. If you want to go on with just a little discussion about this particular item so you're gonna have to help me to recall the reason for it being brought back was...and who was the Commissioner that wanted it brought back, do you recall?"

**Commissioner Taylor**

"I wanted to see if..."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Well, I brought it up, I asked the Board to, Mr. Presnell to give us the information so we could see it. I had a Pastor that came to me that Sunday before the Board (inaudible) so I said I would like to know myself so I'm glad..."

**Mr. Presnell**

"And briefly, I'll just, I'm sorry..."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"As a matter of fact, I am glad that this has been brought back for discussion because being the newest member of this body and particular initiative was approved before I actually relocated to Gadsden County from Leon County, I think this would give me a whole lot of opportunity to gain

a whole lot of knowledge about this project. So, Madam Chair, if fellow Commissioners, if you can indulge me with me a little bit, I have series of questions that I will need to ask with regards to this conversation so at least for my own educational growth on this item. I would like to ask these questions. One of those questions is what was the original intent of the half cent sales tax? In other words, what I'm asking is what did the political action committee that pushed to get these initiatives through and put it on the ballot and get it pushed through to get it approved by the citizens. What were these voters voting for? What was the language on the initiative itself? What was the purpose of the..."

**Chair Taylor**

"Indigent Care"

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"OK, so that is indigent care is, that was the purpose?"

**Chair Taylor**

"That's the purpose."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"So then, my other question is, when this money was to be generated, the revenue, with all of the half cent sales tax generated revenue go for indigent care or is there a split in the generated revenue and if there is a split, how was the split meant to be divided, between programs or was it all strictly for indigent care or is there some for prescription drug and some for this, what was the split on the original intent of this half-cent sales tax revenue."

**Chair Taylor**

"You're right, but the formula for the split I never knew. I'm going to lend to him (pointing to Mr. Presnell.) But you're right, prescription, hospital, indigent care, you're right."

**Mr. Presnell**

"Madam Chair, the agreement that was done with the Board at that time was to, they borrowed money to renovate the hospital and it requires that the payment on that be paid with the proceeds first of the half-cent to make that payment. Then the Board, to provide indigent health care, contracted with Capital Regional, who put into the facility out there and they get approximately 60% of the remaining proceeds and the other proceeds go to the Health Department and there is a PAMS, a drug program that is run with some of the funds as well. At one time there was some funds that had built up, whatever reason, really kind of before that time, it was about \$350,000 and something and those were given to the Health Council and that is where you see the We Care Network. Indigent people could contact them and they would be referred to someone, those monies ran out two years ago and they were one-time funds that had accumulated. So currently we service the debt on renovating the building and buying the equipment, Capital Regional gets approximately 60% and the 40% is spent on various programs."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"The other, I mean I really do appreciate the Board, Madam Chair, can indulge with me because I am learning a whole lot more than I ever knew in regards to this with these questions. The other question I have here is what where the County's health ranking numbers before the

approval of this half-cent sales tax for indigent care? “

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“Was the County healthier then than now or was now than then?”

**Mr. Presnell**

“Dr. Cooksey is in the audience, she might can answer that better than me. We can research it and get that for you but I don’t have that tonight.”

**Chair Taylor**

“OK, I think the expression on Dr. Cooksey’s face and I concur, she can tell you as far back as when she came into the folds that she can certainly give you definition. But as he just said a moment ago, he will get you that information. But we’ve always been somewhere between 63 – 67 as far as I recall.”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“I appreciate that Madam and Mr. Administrator. Ah, I think I’m going to yield to the rest of the Commissioners and ah, let them, maybe some of their questions and conversation that are answered or address some of the other questions that I have here.”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Yes, thank you. When that item was discussed and debated in this room long before and I’m the only one left that was on here, it was for a hospital. That was the debate, that was the direction of the people that came to the microphone. Now in between that time and the time it was written up it said for indigent care, ok, and it was included in, and you can go back and pull some of the tapes, I think a couple of pastors taped it. But it said for a hospital.”

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Holt**

“The attorney I want to say at that time said that you can do it for indigent care to leverage that money, indigent care tax. That’s why you will see people saying we were supposed to get a hospital, because that’s where they came to the microphone and testified and they spoke in different meetings and workshops throughout the County ‘cause that what they wanted. In the Health Council, the meeting, that’s what they discussed and I think Ms. Battles is back there, she was on that group. They said that’s what they wanted them a hospital. So under the indigent care tax, it didn’t say to build a hospital but that’s what the citizens requested, that’s what they wanted, that’s what they campaigned for. So, that’s the problem that somehow between them and the Board and the writing of that law and then the issuing of that money was not done what they asked to do.”

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

“If I may interject Madam Chair, so, Commissioner Holt, am I to insinuate from that conversation that there was actually some element of false advertisement of the project or the initiative to the citizens as to what they voted for and what intent of the initial service?”

**Commissioner Holt**

"To use a legal term 'Pretty much'".

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"I'm just, I mean, I'm not a very smart person in this, I'm just asking questions."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Uh-huh, what I'm saying is this, the attorney said, and we discussed it, that that was the best way to levy the tax at that time. Now, should we have put the description on there what we wanted to money for, because of the evidence of people coming up here testifying saying that's what they wanted, they had caught rides to Tallahassee, they wanted to be able to, especially for minor things, like one man said, 'I hurt my ankle, I've got to go all the way to Tallahassee' and they wanted to be able for observation especially, stay in the County. So, even at parades and different events, people were advertise we want to open our hospital, they chant, we had t-shirts, they, we had everything, hand-outs, and so, that's why, ah, everyone saying that they thought the indigent tax was gonna go towards the hospital, not towards an Emergency Room. When people are saying that they are really telling the truth. They are not joking at all. As I said, and I don't know if Ms. Battles wanna come up and say the same thing because she's one of the people that led to help open the Health Council."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"So what I'm hearing is, the half-cent sales tax when it was approved, the citizens were made to understand that at some point in that facility that we have here on Blue Star Highway, eventually they were going to have some number of beds..."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Right."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"...for them to stay when they need medical care. So, the questions now when I follow that is, when are we going to use this money to do what we promised the citizens that the money would be used for, which means, when are we intending to change how this revenue generated is used so that we now have overnight beds at that location."

**Commissioner Holt**

"May I Madam Chair?"

**Chair Taylor**

"Sure."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Ah, the and could Ms. Battles come up?"

**Chair Taylor**

"Sure."

**Commissioner Holt**

"And I would like to say while she's coming, that when, this was a totally separate commission

that passed the referendum. It passed in July, August somewhere that summer, that fall, maybe September. Then the Commissioner changed in November. So the whole intent of it changed, OK, but what also happened was when the other contracted company that was going to renovate the hospital and open the hospital said 'These are the number of beds we can do' and in fact Ajax out there was the one that was going to do the work. They still had it in their plan, to this date they had it in their plan. But, when the other contracted company came in and took over the contract, they did say at one time 12 beds. So that was a start but the 12 beds never came after they renovated the Emergency Room. So there are still no beds out there, but they said they would provide 12 beds, that's what Capital Regional said. So, if you don't mind Madam Chairman, Ms. Battles is going to speak."

**Arrie Battle**

"My name is Arrie Battle and I did chair at the (inaudible) at the half-cent sales tax. What Commissioner Holt is saying was what happened out in the community, but we also told the citizens that if they voted for the half-cent sales tax, when they went to the hospital for minor stuff with our without insurance, they could be seen, which is not the case anymore. But that's what the citizens were told. I thing we won the election with 99% to get it passed."

**Commissioner Holt**

"It was put on the ballot. It was overwhelmingly voted for, then it changed later. The Board changed it, but let me say this also. Indigent Care money can be used exactly like she's saying because we researched that, that if you were, it's a supplement, you come into the Emergency room, you didn't get the bed but they could supplement and TMH and Capital Regional does this now. They do indigent care for people that don't have money to come to the hospital."

**Arrie Battle**

"Well, at first Commissioner, it was \$268,000 (turning to the audience) right Dr. Cooksey? Was it \$268,000 when Dr. Hercules came aboard? And Dr. Hercules, so we do workshops in the community every two weeks and we recruit all month and for everybody we sent to the Health Department got medical attention. But all of a sudden, it was a one-time deal for the \$268,000 because there was interest on top of the half-cent sales tax. But now we don't have any place to send citizens who got high cholesterol, diabetes off the chain, no-body except Dr. Hart and Dr. D. J. Johnson who won't charge them anything. And that's the problem"

**Commissioner Holt**

"What she's talking about, what we did was they kept, the organizations kept coming back. Now the committee that she chaired came before this Board consistently after that happened and they still kept asking for the same thing that the Board had promised. What happened is this, and I tell people this all the time, the Board change your promise doesn't change, your word doesn't change, even though the Board changed because you are government. In Florida, if I'm not mistaken Mr. Attorney, an oral agreement is notwithstanding in the State of Florida."

**Attorney Weiss**

"That is..."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Yeah, if you have witnesses, but we were televised I'm sure. Like Attorney Theriaque usually beats the devil out of us every time he challenged us on zoning because he usually used the

cameras to do it. But what I'm saying is, so that when it came back, they could not get the beds, they could not get the Indigent Care at the Emergency Room. Then they said 'Maybe we could get a doctor or someone over at the Health Department to see the patients that didn't have any money. So we took part of that half-cent sales tax and moved it over there, but the problem was, when that money ran out, the Board didn't come back and put it back in there. So that cut all those patients off again. So that's why you will see them with all these conditions sitting at the house because they don't have any money, or they don't have enough money, or they do not have insurance.'

**Arrie Battle**

"They have to make a choice."

**Commissioner Holt**

"They have to make a choice, you have to eat or you know, that's it."

**Commissioner Viegbesie**

"So, my other, my other question, thank y'all Commissioners for allowing, for giving me this enlightenment and ah, Commissioner Holt and Ms. Battle, I owe you both debt of gratitude for this enlightenment, this education that you have provided me and I hope with others. But it's very enlightening to me. So, ah, what happens to the split in the contract that this Board entered with Capital Regional with regards to the split, the sixty something percent that goes to the Hospital? Does that impact what goes to providing this indigent care for those who are not insured that were being seen but now no longer have money to run that aspect of it? Now they can no longer be seen, would that be one of the reasons why because some of that sixty percent or sixty-five percent or whatever you just said it, is the split that goes to Capital Regional and they are not providing that kind of access to health care to the indigents, those who don't have insurance.

**Mr. Presnell**

"You want me to respond? Ah, in response to that, that 60% as well as the other 40% that goes to some other organizations increases incremental each year because the half-cent raises more money. So there's been increases on both sides of the fence but to direct that specifically to when they were, when they got that money was during the We Care stuff, they can refer these people and get them treated. No money was ever directed in the original agreement or since then to fund that. It never has been. That money was just setting aside in an account and the Board voted to fund that program at that time and it ran out. There's never been any of the half-cent directed to them."

**Arrie Battle**

"May I say something Ms. Chair?"

**Chair Taylor**

"Yes, and then we're going to wrap this up."

**Arrie Battle**

"Even though there was never, ever any mention in the original plan Mr. Presnell, the citizens are putting the half-cent sales tax in place and it's only fair that they citizens get something out of the deal because we have 500 miles of Gadsden County. There are citizens who are literally



going without their insurance and the Health Council thanks you for the PAMS Program because we send people there all the time to get their medicine, but they still have to have \$25.00. But to go to the Emergency Room and not have any insurance or no money, try to change your dress attire and you try it and see what happens.”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Madam Chairman?

**Chair Taylor**

“OK, we’re going to go around once, I do have a citizen that still needs to be heard and then we are going to wrap this one. We’re going to go around one and then we are going to wrap this one up. If you don’t mind Commissioners, let’s lend to our citizen, ah, Pastor Morris, would you care to speak now Sir?”

**Pastor Morris**

“Absolutely (inaudible) Good Evening again Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the half-cent sales tax. Just like our Chair spoke to earlier, I believe that anytime we’re giving out any money anywhere, there ought to be some form of accountability and what’s been lacking, either by way of perception or by way of actuality is no accountability for the half-cent sales tax. In terms of deliverables, so my Commissioner, Dr. V, I’m glad he asked two of the questions that I was going to ask. I want to go a bit further and ask because what we’ve been provided on the screen is the general category but what is actually involved and engaged in that, what’s behind these figures, what is the income and expenses behind it. We know the income is \$1.6 Million, but, ah, when we break this down, where does this money actually go. And that ties back in to Dr. V. Dr. V was asking what was the original intent so I would like to see the language of the original intent and I would like to see how this has changed or morphed in the years since it has been passed. Only because, unlike Dr. V, I’m not totally in the dark about this. I just go on the internet and google other counties that charge a half-cent sales tax, so (inaudible) and Polk County has one in place and they have gone from the 60’s and they are consistently ranked in the mid 30’s now, but they had a plan and we don’t have a similar infrastructure for a plan. So, therefore when we came last year asking to set up a position, that position no matter who filled the position, would have been an ombudsman to at least oversee on behalf of the County all of the health activities that was going on and we still need that. Polk County has a (inaudible), they set up an infrastructure where there is actually a department within the County Commission. So they report to the County Administrator down there. They have (inaudible) in all of their resources, they have all the hospitals, they have the Health Department, they have Mother Care, they have the Health Council and everybody else engaged, but their department, their department gets to decide where the flow of money goes and how it can best suit the citizens of Polk County and I don’t thing Polk County any better than us and I believe that we just need some kind of oversight over this whole process of collecting the half-cent sales tax and then making sure the percentage the percentage that we do get goes to us. The final questions I would like to ask is what about is it in stone that Capital Health gets 60%? Was that a part of the legislation because that’s what folk were actually voting on. Or did somebody else decide that or either here at the Commission or, you know, the meeting before the meeting. So I would like to see that legislation as well. Who put into position the 60/40 split. Because it’s not working for the citizens because we’re still 66<sup>th</sup>, wow, we moved up to 66 this year, no longer 67. Wow, we’re 66<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much.”

**Commissioner Holt**

"Ah, yes, this item, I would like to see it workshopped. Ah, this is one that (clears throat) excuse me, this item needs to be workshopped every so often to be very honest with you. Ah, and I would like to see the documentation that Pastor Morris asked for in the workshop but I would also like to see a couple of other things. He did ask for a copy of the referendum, that's very important. Whether, no matter how it comes out, we all get to look at it and review it every so often. Our contract with Capital Regional on the funds, you are right, I have written on the funds at 60%, I would like to see that again and it's a breakdown within these areas. Also taking of the debt. We need to see some paperwork on that, how long is it going to take, need to see an agreement on how we are paying it back and that type of thing. Need a contract, to review the contract with Capital Regional they have on the hospital itself. I really, really, really believe that we need to narrow that back down because of the front of the hospital is not used. The back part is not used. The only part that is used is where the Emergency Room is. One reason why we looked at it at the time was of the other spaces because they said they were going to put in beds. Since we don't have the twelve beds and it was never done, ah, and as I said before, ah, I really believe that a man or woman's word is what it should be. If you're not going to do it, then don't say it. Ah, and so, we need that front part. Dr. Hart was not here last Saturday simply because they were saying that the part in the back was not adequate. It really isn't. Ah, in the front on the right hand side of the facility is where you need to see your patients. You need to see them where you have them that you get shown in the best light. As I said, we are government. We are professional people and we want someone that's coming to volunteer her time, volunteer, not getting paid, a couple of Saturdays to see people on a walk-in basis. We need to at least present ourself in that facility in the best light and that contract needs to be brought back. We need to have a workshop and it may take a couple of hours because this is not something that is going to go by quickly. Ah, do I need to put that in a motion or wait?"

**Chair Holt**

"Just hold on for a second and let's hear from him (pointing at Commissioner Hinson) then we will come back."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Sure, thank you."

**Chair Taylor**

"Yes sir?"

**Commissioner Hinson**

"So, ah, I ain't realized that when I looked at the numbers are quite the different in here, because I remember someone saying if we don't give anything towards Health Care services and I didn't realize that we give the Health Department \$383,000 plus the \$125,000. I didn't know that either. That's, that's something that threw me off right there. That's almost \$500,000 toward the Health Department. Ah, ah, I'm just looking, I'm just looking at numbers, it's interesting. Ah, too, when I was listening to y'all talking here, it's kind of hard to believe that that would happen because in actuality, people go to jail for that. I'm just being real. Lawyers go to jail for it and commissioners go to jail for it, if that's true. It's almost impossible for ah, anybody to tamper with it so I just can't believe it. Because nobody ain't go to jail. Tallahassee you go to jail. You put down that ah, half-cent sales tax for the school system, y'all heard me

didn't you? The school system in Tallahassee, cause you know he (point in audience) and I had an argument about that the other day. I said, I said it's almost impossible because whatever you put it down for, that what you've got to use it for. So I just can't believe it, it's farfetched to me. Because it can't be true. Because everybody is still here. So I don't believe it. I think we got to be doing something right because nobody is in jail. You cannot, in Leon County if it's for the building of the schools, you can't use it for curriculum, the building, it's supposed to be for the building of the school, not for the curriculum or staff or anything else. So, I don't believe it personally because again, this happened 6 years ago and not one person went to jail for it. I mean, it's not all about what the Commission said, it's all about is anybody been incarcerated yet? That's what it boils down to, because you cannot change what you say you are going to do. Last time I checked now, maybe I may be wrong, maybe Leon County can, the School Board can say 'Yeah, y'all voted for it but now we gonna put all the money from the School Board and put it into, instead of put it in buildings like we said, we gonna put it in salaries. That's farfetched. So, and I wasn't sitting here when that happened so that's why I can't say this and say that. But what I do know that people go to jail if they change, I don't care if you're on the Commission or not. You cannot change what a Statute say or what that say, that's State of Florida, so, you know, that's, let you know I think we must be doing something right, the system must not be wrong because something got to be right because nobody not in jail. Oh, second thing. Now Polk County, that where my family, because I got about 14-15 aunts and uncles live in Polk County, or more. That's my Grandma, she was 90 years old and we did the Proclamation for her last year and she passed away the end of last year too, the beginning of last year."

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Polk County, almost a million people live in Polk County if I'm not mistaken. That sounds crazy ain't it. We have orange groves about 25 years ago, you didn't have that many people live there, now it's almost a million people, close to a million. That sound farfetched ain't it. So that's the whole difference between Gadsden County and Polk County because we talking about three times the size of Tallahassee. That's hard to believe. Almost farfetched to believe that Polk County grown that quick. And I would like to see the referendum too as well, ah, because then I can know what's going on as, ah, all my family members and friends and people that I know utilize the service and I think everybody in here got a love for people so I don't think our intention was to want to hurt someone, so I would like to see that information and that's why I brought it up because it's near and dear to my heart too as well. And also all the other proposals, I'd like to see the proposals that was made for the referendum and proposals that were made from the Board of County Commission when they decided to change it and then we'll look at that. Then at the end of the day if nobody in jail in 2-3 weeks, 2-3 months after that, then you know everything just find. Not, whether or not what we gonna do, whether or not someone going down the road. That's it, I mean I'm talking about, we talking about the attorney, because the only one can go to jail is the attorney and County Administrator."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Ah, commissioners go to jail every day."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"Oh, Commissioners go to jail too?"

**Commissioner Holt**

"Yes sir."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"So, ah, this can't be true because nobody ain't in jail."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Well, you got to report it and file suit."

**Chair Taylor**

"Excuse me just a second, just a second..."

**Commissioner Holt**

"I'm sorry..."

**Chair Taylor**

"Thank you..."

**Commissioner Hinson**

"That, that hard to believe, so that's why, I think on the right page but I think we got some things that people just need to straighten out a little bit. I don't think nothing is illegal, it can't be because, based on, based on this information. I think, I'm hoping that the Board, the past Board too, that looked out for the best interest of the people and everything else because I just can't see that happening. But something we need to look at though, we know who we are giving money to. We need to know what they are doing with the money we give to them. That's a whole another, that's a whole, I think that, because there is no reason for ah, ah, Havana Neighborhood Health, whatever, can't provide services. I know they said that We care Network was giving funding to them a little bit, that's where they stopped, and ah, in other areas because the money we using here, we can set up shops all over the County and really help a lot of people out because Quincy got the Quincy Health Department, actually they got about two or three in Quincy and, you know, you can use some areas, I know Havana got one over in Havana, then, I'm not sure if Midway got anything. No, Midway don't have anything. But I know Chattahoochee had some stuff over there. So, if we can do it, if it's legal like you said, maybe we can look at how this money can be disbursed so everybody can help the citizens out in Gadsden County. Because, if it's the correct thing to do."

**Chair Taylor**

"Thank you. Commissioner Morgan?"

**Commissioner Morgan**

"Thank you Madam Chair. I think to Dr. D's original question, my recommendation would be for him to go sit down and speak with the Clerk to gain a little bit of a history as to the referendum with the half-cent indigent care tax and also to print out the actual referendum that was on the ballot and there's been a couple of folks that have alluded to that. But it reads in a very complicated manner and I think there were different ways that that referendum was promoted within the County to our citizens and I think it could be very confusing. It actually passed at 59% approval and ah, and ah, I think it's also important to remember we have an expert on Staff with our attorney firm that I think would be very helpful in speaking with and that is Mike Glazer,

who's very close to some of these discussions also as far as presently the model that we've got. Ah, I think that it's also important to remember that there is a, not that one is right and one is wrong, but when we were going through this indigent care tax situation and referendum, there were strong feelings that we should have a full-fledged hospital here in Gadsden County. There were also feelings that we could not afford to have a full-fledged hospital here in Gadsden County based on historical performance or lack thereof. We had several bankruptcies simply because they were just simply not enough of a market to support that and on top of that, during the last 7, 8, 9 years in particular, the health care landscape has dramatically changed not just across the country with insurance coverage and things of that nature, but it's also changed drastically for smaller, rural counties. And to your point Commissioner Hinson, we are not a Polk County, we don't have a tax base or the population of Polk County. We are similar to our neighbors at Calhoun County and what has happened over there recently and so many others. So I think it's important just to decide what type of model we want to have, what type of model do we have now; is it working, how can we improve on that. We all want to see the best services for our citizens here in the County. I don't think anybody does not want to do that and if the answer is making changes, then we obviously ought to have a workshop and talk about how to do that. But I think we need to let people lead us and guide us in those discussions as we move forward. Also understanding during that time that we really have been quite successful here over the past few years in the services that are being provided to our citizens here locally and I think that is important. And yes, we can always improve. Thank you Madam Chair."

**Chair Taylor**

"Thank you. The year that item was on the ballot was the first year I ran as County Commissioner. That's the first year. The second time. The first time it failed. Second time, the year that it got the majority of the vote was the year that I also won as County Commissioner. I went to the Public Library. I've told this story before. They took me down there about a week after I won and the idea was for them to discuss with me some major transitions or transactions that were going on with the County. One week after I won. One of the things they talked to me about was the half-cent sales tax. Now I'm a reasonably intelligent woman, resourceful, knowledgeable somewhat. When I sat there that afternoon and what they told me floored me because I too thought that I was voting on opening the hospital. That was what I thought I was voting on. But when they told me that I was voting on an indigent tax to help people who don't have insurance or means to pay for healthcare, I was floored because I listened to what the people were campaigning as opposed to reading. I listened and so did 59% of the people. So when I came and took my seat again, like Commissioner Holt said, the language was already written on a ballot so that language was done during her term with a Board other than what is sitting here now, because all of us are relatively new when it came to that particular item. When I found out what it was about and like she said, people were looking for a hospital but that was not what they voted on. But that was what they were told so there was the difference in what people were told versus what was written down as a referendum. That's where the difference came. But, when you look at these items that are presented to you tonight, you still see a large percentage of the dollars going toward indigent care. In these items that are listed here, with the exception of the debt service, everything else is going toward people who cannot afford to pay full or normal price of people who are on sliding scale. It's still there. I agree it should be workshopped so that we could make it better. Now this is gonna probably floor you Sir, I'm talking to you Pastor Morris, it's going to floor you what I'm about to say now, but I agree with you Sir. I agree with you in that we should not be at the level we are at today given

the fact that we put so many initiatives in place. It is insane to expect change if you let everything remain the same. So obviously something more needs to be done. I agree with you on having a workshop. I am not a healthcare professional. I think Capital Regional can improve upon their services. If they are turning people away, then we need to know more about it. I've never heard them turning people away. I've heard them recommending them get services elsewhere after they made their observation of them, but not turning people away before they've made the observation. But if that's what they are doing, then that is a practice we need to address because they are supposed to see everyone that goes into those doors. You go down by line, I mean these numbers come from our Chief Auditor's Office; they come from the Clerk's Office, \$81,000 for this, \$582,000 for that. Those are monies that are set aside for indigent care. The Health Department does not charge a regular fee when they come down there and they got a nice portion of these dollars for indigent care. So the money is there. So all I can say at this point Ladies and Gentlemen is that there has been some good discussion, some great discussions. A lot of good points made around this Board but we need to move. What I would like to do and if it's the consensus of this Board, is to schedule a workshop. I can ask you Mr. Administrator to get with the Commissioners and find a good date and I agree with you Sir, that Mr. Glazer should come and speak because he is an authority on this subject. He is our attorney. Yes Commissioner Holt?"

**Commissioner Holt**

"Yes, I was just going to remind you so that I could finish that up. The indigent, I just want to clarify right quick..."

**Chair Taylor**

"Commissioner we are going to move through it real quick."

**Commissioner Holt**

"This is my last point right quick. The indigent care tax was a vehicle to get the hospital. That was taxes that we could use so it wasn't that you did it to get the tax, you did it to get the hospital using the indigent tax. It's like when you apply for a CDBG, you're not applying for the CDBG, you're applying for the funds, you just have to go to that group, that organization to get it. That's what the indigent tax was for. But I just wanted to give some clarity there. But if we're going to workshop, we're good."

**Chair Taylor**

"We will workshop this, but we should have been, we should have had clarity on that referendum and said these dollars would be used to both fund indigent care and open the hospital. As basic as that. But is not what was said. Your intent and your thoughts may not have been interpreted by others. Your intent was to use these dollars as a vehicle to open the hospital but that was not what came through with on the referendum. So now, what we are going to do, what we're going to do at this point, because I think this thing was for discussion only, so we will schedule a workshop. I look to you Sir. Let's move on to the next item."

**13. Approval to Accept the Grant Amendment from the FDEP**

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for Board approval to accept the grant agreement amendment to revise the work plan for renovations completed at Scottown Park and fir authorization for the Chair to sign.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval and Execution of Lease with North Florida Education**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of a lease with North Florida Educational Development Corporation (NFEDC) for the use of the south building located at 349 Cone Street, Quincy, FL 32351 for use in promoting community interest and welfare through the provision of a food pantry to the citizens of Gadsden County and for adoption of a resolution approving the lease and setting forth its terms.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked if insurance was in place and Mr. Presnell said yes.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Discussion of Cost for Landlord Eviction**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said that Chair Taylor had requested this item for Board discussion of the cost for Landlord Evictions.

Chair Taylor said she was told this was set by the Legislature and Mr. Presnell said it was and explained the fees.

Chair Taylor asked how much went to the State and how much stayed in the County and Mr. Weiss said he thought it all went to the State and was then distributed to the Counties. Chair Taylor said people were getting out of the rental business and there was already limited housing in the County.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**16. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell gave a quick update on the Stevens School and said they had to make amendments to the \$50,000 grant and they were hoping to work in other things besides the roof and may be able to work in door, window improvements, painting and pressure washing and State approved it but the timeframe was very tight and the work has to be done by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

FSU Medical Students will be by Library on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Hinson asked if they were here for research or what their purpose was and Mr. Presnell said this would be his first time attending.

Mr. Presnell informed the Commissioners they received the \$30,000 Oral History appropriation.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him and Beth Kirkland for their expeditious installation of the solar controlled caution light he requested that was placed on Point Milligen Road that connected Highway 12

Commissioner Hinson said they might look at this as well and said May was Mental Health Month and asked if they could do a Resolution and felt this was a serious situation.

Mr. Presnell said there would be an upcoming workshop regarding mental health.

Commissioner Holt wanted to see something on CRA funding.

Asked if Presnell had chance to check on the security window at the hospital and Mr. Presnell said the County Architect designed the building and it was a security measure that the hospital employees liked because there is trouble there at times and fights do break out. Commissioner Holt said they might like it but the citizens do not and since they are the taxpayers, felt they should have the say so. She said she would like that brought back as an agendaed item.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the BP oil spill and asked if Gadsden County was a part of it and if there were any connections to the lawsuit? Mr. Presnell said there had to be losses and did not file a claim because it had to affect tourism and it did not.

Chair Taylor asked about the communication workshop with the Sheriff Department and Mr. Presnell said it would be June 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **17. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the BP oil spill and where was Gadsden County connected? He said he was told Gadsden County could be a part because of Chattahoochee and was curious about it and if they could be a part how could they could they get in because there was billions of dollars there.

Mr. Weiss said he was almost positive it was too late for claims and they had to show an impact. Chair Taylor said to let "them" tell him and asked that he research it and then he would be able to report to them.

Commissioner Hinson believed there was a loophole.

#### **Receipt and File**

- 19.
  - a. Resolutions
  - b. Florida Department of Health
  - c. Gadsden County Division of Emergency Management Quarterly report

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**May 25, 2017-4:00 p.m.-Budget Workshop.**



Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
May 16, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:51 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA ON JUNE 6, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M., THE  
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She asked that everyone please mute their phones or place them on vibrate.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said there were no amendments to the Agenda this evening.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD  
VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring Mr. Bruce James**

Commissioner Taylor said there were three very special people being recognized tonight and asked that Mr. Bruce James, Ms. Nora James and Mr. Roger Lewis come forward. Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Resolution for Mr. Bruce James and then presented it to him.

**2. Resolution Honoring Ms. Nora James**

Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Resolution honoring Ms. James and then presented it to her.

**3. Resolution Honoring Mr. Roger Lewis**

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Resolution honoring Mr. Lewis and it was then presented to him.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**4. Presentation of New Countywide Communication System**

Mr. Presnell said the next presentation was by Williams Communication.

**Bonnie Hirst, Vice President of Government Relations, Williams Communications, Inc.** appeared before the Board and gave their presentation pertaining to a radio communication system for the

County.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Board wanted to wait for a workshop or listen to the presentation now. Chair Taylor said it looked like it was orchestrated to come back and they could let Williams Communication make their presentation.

Ms. Hirst said they were present for the Board's Budget Workshop and they were very conscious of making sure that what they brought forward fit within the fiscal constraints and offer optional revenue sharing opportunities for the County. She then delivered their presentation.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **5. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

###### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for their support for the mural.

She requested a Proclamation for Lemonade Day and said this was the first year there were two students from Gadsden County that would be involved.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR LEMONADE DAY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

She said she was bringing back the matter of hiring a Grants Coordinator and said they would need help with upcoming grants.

She asked they work with the Architectural School at FAMU with regard to the upcoming grant for Stevens School.

She asked to have placed on the Agenda the Policies and Procedures for the board.

###### **Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked that the Board consider purchasing a drone. He said during the bike race event, he watched an officer record the event with a drone and felt it would be a good instrument to use to events post to the website that takes place in the County along with departments to use, such as Code Enforcement, to not have to climb to the top of high buildings.

He asked for an update on the documentary project for Gadsden County Historical Preservation.

He also commented on the political strategy of the approach dealing with the Legislature and suggested they consider having workshops provided by an expert on political strategies so they would know how to go to the Legislature and push the agenda and be more successful than they have been thus far.

He also said there was a need to organize a workshop to develop a full blown economic development strategic plan that they would follow to know what they needed to do and how to go about doing it to be successful.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he would like to invite Provost Felicia Moore-Davis from TCC and the Gadsden County Humane Society to come do a presentation.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention for Economic Development the industrial training certification that was discussed earlier must be a county-wide effort.

Commissioner Hinson said he forgot to mention Mayor Ella Barber, former Mayor of Midway, passed away.

Commissioner Taylor said as the Chair, she would like to acknowledge the other Commissioners around the Board.

She asked the Administrator if the County still had a grants Coordinator and he said she was a grants writer.

She said someone asked the question about learning how to work within the legislature in Tallahassee and asked if they paid a lobbyist to go after the right bills and get them passed and felt that person would be a good lead-in or FAC. She said if they needed a workshop, they would do so but did not want to have so many workshops they were frustrated by items they did not pick them up.

Commissioner Holt said the process was not the problem they had, the process was what they gave the Legislature.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT ARENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**6. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**7. Approval of Minutes**

- a. August 16, 2016-Budget Workshop
- b. August 23, 2016-Budget Workshop

**c. September 19, 2016-Final Budget Hearing**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Ben Bass, Chattahoochee and Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Departments**-wished to speak on an agendaed item.

**Bob Bush, Motorola Solutions**, wished to speak on an agendaed item.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-004, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, adopting revised Bylaws of the Tourist Development Council; providing for repeal, severability, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Presnell introduced to above item and deferred to the County Attorney to explain the item.

Mr. Weiss explained the Ordinance and said this was a public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance that would revise the By-laws for the Tourist Development Council. He explained some of the changes were to remove certain provisions which were included in the TDC statute and in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to avoid duplication and the TDC recommended meeting every other month and to allow staff to reschedule meetings upon determining there would not be a quorum present in to der to address lack of attendance. They also recommended a revised procedure for removal of members for lack of attendance and to allow the election of the Chairperson from any of its members rather than limiting the position to a bed tax collector.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and she would allow the Commissioners to talk if they had any comments.

Commissioner Morgan said he had looked over the item and was familiar with the previous bylaws and did not see a strikethrough and underlined version that would make it easier to see the changes. He said he felt it important to have a bed tax collector to chair this committee and was important to have someone chair the committee that understood the process. Mr. Weiss apologized for not having a strikethrough and underlined version.

Chair Taylor asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Holt said she currently sat on the TDC Board and one reason for changing who could chair the committee; they needed a Chair that could be there and did not see where it made a difference if the Chair was a bed tax collector or not, their concerns were the same.

Commissioner Viegbesie said regarding the comments Chair Holt just made, asked if the TDC had a Vice-Chair who could handle meeting in absence of the Chair. He said the lack of a strikethrough and underlined version was also a concern of his.

Commissioner Hinson concurred with the other Commissioners and felt they should have a strike

and add version first so citizens could see the changes.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM.**

**9. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-005, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, adopting an Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors, and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and Mr. Weiss explained the purpose of it. He said the Ordinance would help protect local surface and ground water quality.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing.

Commissioner Morgan said he saw this was mandated by State Statutes and asked what would happen if this Ordinance was not adopted and Mr. Weiss said they would be in violation of State Statutes.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the same concerns as Commissioner Morgan mentioned and asked if there was a deadline this had to be adopted by and Mr. Weiss said it was July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Holt said her first thought was about fertilizers and bombings.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**10. Approval of Resolution 2017-007 Granting the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority area of operation authority to operate its Single Family Mortgage Loan and Mortgage Credit Certificate Programs within Gadsden County**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-007 granting Escambia County Housing Finance Authority to operate its Single Family Mortgage Loan Program.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

**Randy Wilkerson, Director of Housing, Escambia County Housing Finance Authority**, appeared before the Board and addressed questions that Commissioner Hinson had and explained the program.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval to Lease or Purchase a New County-Wide Communication System**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to lease or purchase a new County-wide Communicating system and authorize the Chair to sign documents. He said this was being revised and would come back before the Board at a later date.

Mr. Weiss said this was not competitively bid and there was an exception in the current option that would allow them to piggy-back off other governmental contracts as long as they were awarded pursuant to provisions that were similar to their procurement policy and would need to come back for ultimate approval.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Attorney for his comments and said they needed the upgrades for effective communication but was concerned if Williams was being allowed to adjust their costs he thought it would be equitable if the other provider be afforded the same and was leaning on tabling this item.

Commissioner Morgan said he could not think of a single reason they needed to table such an important decision. He said since he found out last year there was a serious issue with dead zones and it could have a disastrous outcome and was a critical issue.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had two more questions: 1) Did they look at possibility of generating any revenue from other users on the towers and Mr. Presnell said no and he recommended to the Board to not do that because they would get cash upfront but would be leasing the tower over a long period of time; and 2) How would the School Board, Sheriff's Office, etc. that wanted to participate in the purchase affect the overall costs to the County. Mr. Presnell said the ones under the auspice of the Board were included in the price.

**Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communication** appeared before the Board and gave the interest rates for the different proposals.

**Bob Bush, Motorola**, appeared before the board and gave their interests rates.

**Ben Bass, Chattahoochee and Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Departments** appeared before the Board and explained his point.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator about purchasing or leasing the equipment and which would be more cost-saving for the County.

Chair Taylor said she heard the request to table and also heard to move forward and she was not in favor of purchasing because of things changing continuously.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO DELAY THE VOTE UNTIL A WORKSHOP WAS HELD AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND AND HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson wanted to see all options on the floor.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was leaning on part of both of service providers and wanted to be able to compare apples with apples and oranges with oranges.

Chair Taylor asked if they had heard of the term "hoodwinked" or "bamboozled" and asked them if

they had ever heard of contracts coming before the Board before being bid or going through the process.

Commissioner Morgan said he had concerns and wanted them to understand he did not think the Administrator was putting anything before them that needed to be before them and they should be selecting a vendor tonight. He encouraged them to select a vendor tonight and piggy-back on an existing contract.

**CHAIR CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**Commissioner Viegbesie-Yes  
Commissioner Hinson-Yes  
Chair Taylor-No  
Commissioner Holt-Yes  
Commissioner Morgan-No**

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO TABLE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval to Renew the Standard Contract between the State of Florida, Department of Revenue and the Gadsden County BOCC**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to accept the renewal of the standard contract between the Department of Revenue and the GCBOCC.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval to Award Bid 17-01 to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co., Inc.**

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for Board approval to award Bid 17-01 for the supply of asphalt coated culvert pipe to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co., Inc. and for Chair to sign.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval to Award Bid 17-02 for Repairing Structural Damage to the Gadsden County EMS Building**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said to was to award the bid 17-02 for repairing the structural damage at the EMS building.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM,**

**15. Approval to Award RFP 17-07 (Rebid) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Qualified Environmental Consultant**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to seek Board approval of DPB & Associates as the Qualified Environmental Consultant for the Community Development Block Grant (GDBG) Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE**



**BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Approval to Award Bid 17-09 for the Roof Replacement of the W.S. Stevens School Cafeteria**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to approve the bid award for the roof replacement at the W. S. Stevens School to the lowest bidder, Exterior Specialties, Inc.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**17. Approval to Award Bid 17-11 for the Carpet Replacement and Installation in the County Probation Office**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award Bid 17-11 for the carpet replacement and installation in the County Probation Office to the lowest bidder, Carpet Studio, Inc.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Approval to Award Bid 17-12 for the Construction of a Pole Barn**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Bid 17-12 for the construction of a pole barn for the protection of animal services equipment and to allow the Chair to sign documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**19. Temporary Road Closure Pursuant to Completion of a Resurfacing/Railroad Crossing Reconstruction Project-SR267**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for temporary road closure on SR267 for approximately 7 days in accordance for construction plans for Florida Department of Transportation resurfacing/railroad crossing reconstruction project and authorization for the Chair to sign documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Public Officials Bond Reviews**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board review of the sufficiency of Bonds of County Officers.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**21. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell asked the Board for approval of a Proclamation for elder abuse.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

He reminded the Board the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to the holiday.

He stated the Jackson Bluff dam in Leon County that forms Lake Talquin, the City of Tallahassee had been operating it and now withdrawing because of the new solar farm and it is reverting back to the State and they are looking for an operator.

Mr. Presnell said there was a health care provider that was interested in using the County facility in Chattahoochee and currently operate two others and have a good track record and would be bringing this to the Board at a later date.

He reminded them of the Economic Development workshop on June 20<sup>th</sup> before the next regular meeting.

He advised Commissioner Viegbesie the funds for the documentary project would become available on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

He also informed the Commissioners the County Managers Association had five applicants and they asked board direction on how to proceed on the interviews. Commissioner Viegbesie thought they had already designed questions to ask and asked that they reduce it to three applicants and rank them. Commissioner Morgan asked if they needed to talk about the timeframe.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for update on damaged, missing and hard to read road signs. Mr. Presnell said Public Works has been working on it and would get update at staff meeting

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were two potholes on Ames Barineau Road.

Commissioner Holt said she failed to mention the Legislature was having a special session meeting set aside money for development of infrastructure and an Economic development meeting in Marianna on Friday with 4 counties meeting

Commissioner Hinson said he looked at the mowing schedule and they were not in Havana until September and the grass grew different in Havana and they have soft grass and need added attention and really need everything mowed before July.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**22. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said at the last meeting he was asked to report on how they could accept property with dilapidated buildings on it. He said they could accept properties but there were lots of issues,

environmental issues, liens on property, etc. and County Administrator's recommendation was to try to get rid of property they currently had before taking on more.

He said the Supreme Court opinion on Gretna Casino vs. DBPR was the 1<sup>st</sup> DCA correctly upheld in denying license for slots. Gretna Racing has filed a Motion for Re-hearing and they were waiting to see the results.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he attended his training and learned the Attorney acted as the Parliamentarian and Mr. Weiss said that was correct and was in their Ordinances.

**Receipt and File**

**23. Resolutions**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**June 20, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 6, 2017 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:56 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 20, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to pull Item 1 and Item 13 Renew Sublease for EMS Station located at Florida State Hospital as there was no contract yet.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1- Resolution Honoring Ms. Jeanette Wynn**

Pulled

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and wanted to update them regarding two cash related issues:

He said EMS was now a negative \$362,000 with a \$90,000 payroll this week and needed to be fixed by the end of the fiscal year and they would need to transfer from General Fund to the EMS fund to take of it. He added on a positive note, three years ago when they extended the contract with CRMC, part of the negotiations was they got the dividends and interests back from the Trust and he reported that the fund has \$666,000 in it and that money could be used eventually for build-out or major repairs at the hospital and they have used approximately \$90,000 to replace the chillers.

Chair Taylor asked questions regarding EMS debt. She said he mentioned that EMS was \$362,000 in debt and Mr. Thomas said yes and he said by end of fiscal year it would double. He explained they originally budgeted \$281,000 to transfer from General Funds and that was done in the first few months of the fiscal year to cover the shortfalls and they were currently looking at an additional deficient. He added there was still money coming in but wanted to inform them of the upcoming debt. He said they have always had to subsidize that fund. Chair Taylor asked the amount that was being generated per month on an average for that department. Mr. Thomas said

he did not have those figures but could get them and email that to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked the Manager if there were more in transports from here to Tallahassee and if it was money lacking in the transports and he said transports were increasing slightly but there was a lack of reimbursements. Commissioner Holt asked to see a break-down to see where they may be able to concentrate on where they could work on. Mr. Presnell said over last few months, they had targeted on reducing costs, but there was not much they could do on the revenue side.

Commissioner Hinson said in looking at the numbers, they will double or triple in next few months and he thought they may need to do an independent audit so they may be able to stop the bleeding now. He felt the Board should consider doing an independent audit to review the day-to-day operations.

Chair Taylor said it was obvious they needed to budget more.

Commissioner Hinson said another thing was they needed to improve the census report, there were more people moving into the County.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to go back to the budget workshop previously held, because of the negative trends that they were hearing even before the report from the Clerk, it was not so much a budgeting issue but they needed to look at the overall model of what they had in place and need to consider a different approach that they have not tried in the past. He said there were other ways to provide service and it could minimize the negative impact for the taxpayers and could potentially provide better service.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **2. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

#### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked if GCDC could come up.

***\*\*There was an Economic Development Workshop before regular meeting and did not have time for Commissioners to ask questions of GCDC during the workshop.\*\****

**Jim McShane, Chairperson, GCDC**, appeared before the Board.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt asked him to explain some of the things he mentioned in the economic development workshop that they provide for the County.

Mr. McShane said they provided expertise in working with the Administrator in getting a grant from DEO last year, \$387,575 to start with and has grown by approximately \$77,000. Mr. McShane said they worked with the County in bringing Four Star Freightliner here and still working with additional work on the road to it and trying to obtain additional grants to help pay for it.

**Beth Kirkland** appeared before the Board to address questions the Commissioners had. She said the grant for the road had been awarded and was before them this evening.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Antonio Jefferson appeared before the Board and said he and Beth were working on a grant, working with Dewberry/Preble-Rish and Melvin Engineering to need to work through the process and need from the County to get the property properly zoned and was concerned about a potential cut to the budget. Commissioner Holt asked the timeframe and how would the Citizens Bill of Rights affect the zoning change. Mr. Jefferson said it has not impacted but a lot of site consultants and companies will look at the Land Development Code and ask if the site was a place they could build their business and if they look that Code and see that the Board required a super Majority vote that was a strike against them and they do not need to put up more barriers. If they look and see they could get a simple majority in Jackson as opposed to super majority in Gadsden, they will locate there. Mr. Jefferson said the needed to unleash the power and hoped in the coming year the GCDC could work with the Commission and said nothing was wrong with “coopertition”-cooperation and competition.

Mr. Jefferson said they were in the final phase of negotiating options with the FLZ site and hoped to take that model to the other sites in the County and replicate the same thing and that was the key to success of Golden Triangle in Columbus, MS. Commissioner Holt said if they have the option and have the zoning change, they were looking at what businesses would see on the computer and what they wanted for that location. Commissioner Holt asked if they do business retention and if a business is closing she wanted to know what they could do to retain the business. Mr. McShane said when they know a business is closing they have a group that goes in to see how they could retrain the workers and help them apply for a job.

Richard Williams reappeared before the Board. He said if there is a business here, they need to understand the issue and try to keep the business here.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for their leadership role and liked that they brought Enterprise Florida and Opportunity Florida here and like with Armada Ammunition, he wanted to make sure to have a “feel-good” conversation. He said he was also cautious that they do not change policy that would be good to the community and wanted jobs here but did not want to tap into the wetland area to get jobs because that’s when hurricanes and bad weather start. He said he was all for growth and with CBOR, felt only three votes were needed but they need to think of the person’s property. He thanked them for working with the schools and thanked the Board for making tough decisions.

Commissioner Taylor asked while he had floor, if he had any concerns. He said he would come back.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for Motions for Resolutions. He said Waste Pro Management has applied to DEP for a permit for an exploratory well at Springhill Landfill in Campbellton, FL and would allow them to pump into the ground “garbage juice” and would have a negative effect on the aquifer and citizens in the western part of Gadsden County. He asked that this Board pass a Resolution opposing approval of such permit.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR THE RESOLUTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Holt said wanted to have research attached. Commissioner Hinson said he did not have information in front of him and knew the Board did away with fracking and wanted to make sure he had all the information before he voted. Commissioner Viegbesie said this “juice” would be drilled approximately 3,450-3,700 feet below the aquifer. Commissioner Morgan said he had not read anything about it and asked Mr. Presnell if he had spoken to Waste Pro regarding this and Mr. Presnell said was Waste Management not Waste Pro for the record and DEP had placed a hold on the matter and no-one had asked the Board and they were not involved in the process at all.

Mr. Weiss asked for clarity, the motion made was to prepare a Resolution for consideration and bring back. Commissioner Hinson asked if he was familiar with this and he said he was not.

Chair Taylor asked Commissioner Viegbesie if he would amend the Motion to have resolution prepared and it brought before the Board as an agendaed item and for discussion. Commissioner Viegbesie said time was of the essence.

Mr. Weiss said he heard they wanted to have a Resolution to come back before the Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RESOLUTION AFTER THE ATTORNEY RESEARCHES IT AND BRINGS SUPPORTING INFORMATION, SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CARTER BROWN, HISTORIAN WHO WAS WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE AME CHURCH, AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson informed the Board that Howard Randolph, a former City Commissioner passed away this week and Ella Barber and said they needed to do something special for them. He also mentioned that Caroline Francis’ son passed away today.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR NICK BERT, RESOLUTION FOR HOWARD RANDOLPH, ELLA BARBER AND CAROLINE FRANCIS’ SON THAT PASSED AWAY AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

He then mentioned it was the rainy season and asked if they could make sure to go through District 1 and cut the grass and said he believed the tractors would not be there until September.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention at the TDC meeting day earlier, they discussed the fact that this Board wanted to have a Chairman that was a bed tax provider and the TDC board wanted to allow everyone the opportunity to be Chair.



Commissioner Hinson asked if he could get names of everyone on Board because he thought there were two Commissioners on the Board. Chair Taylor asked Mr. Presnell to compile a list of names and dates and provide that information to the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he felt the Economic Development workshop was very informative.

He said he discovered this week while researching the Public Hearing they were considering regarding amending the Ordinances regarding the Flood Zone areas, etc., discovered on ISO ratings and how some of the ratings had recently changed because of the shortage of certified volunteer firefighters and was causing changes in the rating and wondered if there was a to address the issue. He also encouraged the Commissioners to check if that would impact their district. Mr. Presnell said a class was currently going on and there were thirteen participants.

Commissioner Morgan added he was appreciative of the firefighters that there were.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor asked if any of them received a call from the Governor because she thought it was a prank call. He said he was concerned because of rain and gave her his cell number. She said if he called, why they haven't heard from Emergency Management.

**Discussion on Stevens School**

Chair Taylor said neighbors were beginning to get restless with the debris being there and deteriorate their property values along with people trying to steal things they could make money on and some had even told police Chair Taylor gave them permission and she did not.

Commissioner Hinson talked to Ms. Kruize (lady that had the Black History Museum at the school) and thought she could move her stuff into the building on the side. Chair Taylor said currently the clean-up was more important. Mr. Presnell said they received the check last Friday and there would be an ad in the paper this Thursday for bid to contractors to clean up the site.

Chair Taylor asked if there was a conclusion to the fire report and Mr. Presnell said no, the Fire Marshal was still investigating. She asked if they could Agenda this item and have someone give a report.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since they had been here since 4:00 p.m., maybe this could be agendaed.

**Clyde Collins, Building Official**, appeared before the Board and said he was in touch with the Fire Marshal and they think the fire started in the wood-working shop in the basement but was unsure of what caused it.

Chair Taylor said she wanted to know what they could do regarding Economic Development, because someone said there was movement, but it was slow. She said they talked about branding, regionals, deliverables, etc., she said there was so much they talked about. She said the best tool was when you see people working. She felt both did a yeoman's job but someone from the two entities needed to figure out how to bridge together. She said no-one had deliverables. She said to GCDC and Chamber a way to stimulate was with business retention.

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Morgan/V Hinson had questions

Commissioner Hinson pointed out that the Board Minutes from two workshops had errors in them and asked that corrections be made.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. March 14, 2017-Workshop
- b. March 28, 2017-Workshop

**4. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**John Coffman, owner and CEO of Armada Ammunition, 2230 Greensboro Highway, Quincy, FL,** Funding for GCDC, appeared before the Board and said the past year he had been fighting for money for Armada for business retention, they spent \$1.6 Million moving here, development, training, research and development, working with CareerSource and said a lot of funding was promised by GCDC and never saw dime of it and said he was opposed to any additional funding to GCDC. He said they had been trying to work with law enforcement agencies the past six months and had an agenda presented to GCDC in December and not one of the items has been approached, not one brought to their attention as to what was going on and as a player in the community and someone who was promised multiple things from GCDC, he opposed any additional funding to them and request they be audited and find out where the money was going to because when they were promised \$700,000 through the grant funding program, which was one initiative why they came up here, and then not receive it, he said he could not stand by and let other companies get baited into this.

**Antonio Jefferson, GCDC,** said he had been a part of GCDC since its creation and to his knowledge, every promises ever made by the organization has been delivered upon and with Armada Ammunition, assured them as one of their fellow public servants, everything told to Mr. Coffman was delivered upon and they stand ready for any audit that may be directed as to how GCDC invests/reinvest not only the County's funds but money that comes from City that he manages as well as other partners. He said he was concerned, as an organization, that they have people concerned. He added he did not believe GCDC has misled anyone. He said every City Manager and the County Administrator serves on the Board and has since the entire time and if there has been any "hanky-panky" he was sure, outside of himself, he was sure the other colleagues would have stopped it in its tracks. He further stated if someone says GCDC was not to be funded, he challenged them to prove it.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was a procedure in place to handle "I said, you said". Chair

Taylor said when they have an item not agendaed, they generally have the Administrator be the arbitrator between the two but does not think it would matter. She had heard about issues and concerns and said what needs to happen is go to him and this could not be formally discussed tonight.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said this was not agendaed and she could direct him (Mr. Coffman) to meet with the Administrator, it was not an agendaed item and they could not discuss it tonight.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-006 for the Amendment of Chapter 42 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, Floods, to adopt Flood Hazard Maps, To Designate a Floodplain Administrator, To Adopt Procedures and Criteria for Development in Flood Hazard Areas; Amending the Florida Building Code, Residential, With Respect to Elevation Requirements Related to the Flood Plain, and for other Purposes; providing for Applicability, repeal, severability, Inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and deferred to Mr. Weiss to explain.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Weiss explained this was a technical amendment to Chapter 42 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances and a technical amendment to the local Florida Building Code, Residential with respect to elevation requirements related to the flood plain. He added the State asked it be updated because they were not in compliance and asked it be consistent with the State.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Mr. Presnell said this was regarding changes in the Florida Building Code and their Ordinance would be in line with the new Regulations and this would adopt the changes.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they had been approached by State for not being in compliance and Mr. Weiss said that was what he understood and deferred to the Building Official.

**Clyde Collins, Building Official**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Morgan asked if they were out of compliance and Mr. Collins said yes.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Peck Betts Road-Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above motion and said this was for Board approval to award the bid of

Peck Betts Road SCOP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction in the amount of \$777,661.00.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Brickyard Road-Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the bid of the Brickyard Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction in the amount of \$721,979.60.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Adoption of Resolution No. 2017-18, Bridge No 500087 along Interstate 10 that Connects Jackson County and Gadsden County over the Apalachicola River to be designated as the “Rep. J. Troy Peacock Bridge”**

Mr. Presnell said this item was for approval of Resolution 2017-018, Bridge Number 500087 along Interstate 10 that connects Jackson County and Gadsden County over the Apalachicola River to be designated at the “Rep. J. Troy Peacock Bridge” and to authorize the Chair to Sign necessary paperwork.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Re-Appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval from the Board to re-appoint Mr. Ashley May as the Gadsden County representative to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Re-Appointment to the Career Source Capital Region Board**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was a request for re-appointment to the Big Bend Jobs and Education Council d/b/a CareerSource Capital Region for Mrs. Pam Gay to be reappointed.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked what the qualifications were to sit on the Board and Mr. Presnell said he was not sure, that CareerSource was present earlier.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for re-appointment to the Department of Children and Families partnership with local communities known as the Circuit 2

Alliance Community Action Team and currently Commissioner Hinson served in that capacity.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval to Award Bid 17-15 for Video Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award Bid 17-15 for Video Services to the lowest bidder, Southerland Enterprises, Inc., the current provider and for authorization for the Chair to sign documents.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITH COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad this contract had been re-awarded and suggested they inform him of County events that need to be taped outside of meetings and would like to see him at events to record and upload them to the website. Chair Taylor agreed and commented she was sure there would be added costs for extras and may need to come back before the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed to go to \$850 instead of \$750 and Chair Taylor said that could not happen because it was a bid item. He added he felt before they voted on this, they should go back and negotiate the price. Mr. Weiss pointed out if they changed the scope of services, it needed to go back out for bids.

Mr. Southerland appeared before the board. He said if they look at the details of the proposal, it said twenty-four meetings and he would be available for additional events. He also mentioned he would like to have more than a one year contract.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED THE QUESTION. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED THAT THE MOTION BE REPEATED. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. ~~Renew Sublease for EMS Station located at the Florida State Hospital~~**

Pulled

**14. Approval of Public Works Mosquito Control Budget FY 2017-2018**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Public Works Mosquito Control Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was fighting hard for this and asked that chemicals be explained and that they were not killing the bumblebees. He asked for some type of release be emailed to him saying they approved another position and truck. Mr. Presnell said they would do a Public Service Announcement.

**15. Approval of the Purchase of a New Diesel Engine for the Public Works Water Truck**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the Public Works Department to purchase a new Running Complete Diesel Engine for the 2000 Sterling Water Truck.

Chair Taylor asked if this was already budgeted and Mr. Presnell said yes.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the three bids received and noted the difference in the prices. He said the low bidder was from Indiana and Mr. Presnell said the local vendor, Caterpillar, was higher.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION ONE AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked how much a new truck would cost and Mr. Presnell responded probably around \$100,000-\$120,000, that the Engine and transmission were the two biggest components.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Approval of Amended Contract #21831 for the William M. Inman Agricultural Center Funding**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of contract amendment number 21831 extending the initial contract for an additional twelve months and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**17. Approval to Award Bid 17-08 for Professional Grant Administration Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained this was for approval to award Bid 17-08 for a Grant to extend sewer, gas and water lines to Gussie's Gardens.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were four responses submitted but when he looked at the Evaluation Form, there were only two.

**Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator**, appeared before the Board and stated there were two that came to a tie after the committee graded them out. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it would have been appropriate if they had listed all four and two were a tie and could not bring the tied ones to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said to keep down confusion, he knew of DPB and Associates and would be fair to everyone that everything come to the Board and felt it was hard to vote on this item.

Chair Taylor asked if Mr. Jenkins could come forward and if he could shed more light. Mr. Jenkins said grading criteria was spelled out and they did grade all proposals.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Approval of RFQ 2017-014 for Consulting Firm to provide ongoing Professional Planning Consulting Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of RFQ 2017-014 and for authorization for the County Administrator to negotiate a contract the “The Planning Collaborative” to provide professional planning consulting services for long term and current planning projects including the update and revision of the documents that comprise the County’s land development regulations.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended the County Administrator for satisfying one of his concerns with regards to advertising this and said it was one of the most extensive bids advertised.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked when this came up with merging departments, people called him asking if a Planning position was open and he was approached by three or four people thinking so. He said this was the same Board that would not pay for a health care coordinator and now they want to hire planning services. Chair Taylor said they saved \$100,000 with the reorganization and was now trying to bid for services.

Commissioner Holt said she had been waiting for six years to look at the Land Development Codes and her concern was they needed someone to go after and clean up the Comprehensive Plan and they need someone that could do it. She added they must take out the antiquated parts and put in where it should be. She said a Planning and Zoning Director was needed but they also needed to clean up the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Presnell said this would be a one-time expense.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator what the total savings was from the reorganization and Mr. Presnell said it was roughly \$100,000 with salary and benefits and added if this was approved, he would go to the vendor and will be brought back with everything laid out. Mr. Presnell stated he had advertised this position twice for a Planning Director before the reorganization decision was made. Commissioner Morgan said anytime they could have the same quality of services provided with fewer costs for benefits and other, it would free up dollars for services they could provide.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**19. Project Breaker-DEO Grant Award Amendment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute an amendment to grant agreement #D0097 from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the cost of the road and utilities to the Four Star Freightliner site.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Project Breaker Entrance Road-Construction Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the construction phase services for Project Breaker Entrance Road project to BKW, Inc. in the amount

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 20, 2017 – Regular Meeting

of \$408,141.30.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE  
BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said he had no updates for the Board.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had no updates for the Board.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

23. July 4, 2017-Regular Meeting –CANCELLED  
July 13, 2017-3:00 p.m.-Budget Workshop  
July 18, 2017-6:00 p.m.-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 P.M.



ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners



**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 18, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M., THE  
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order, asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he had one amendment to the Agenda and would like to pull Item 10 and Chair Taylor asked to pull Item 1 as she did not see Mrs. Wynn present.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD voted 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. ~~Proclamation Honoring Mrs. Jeanette Wynn~~**

Pulled

**2. Proclamation Honoring Mr. Nick Bert**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was to honor Mr. Nick Bert and present him with a Proclamation. He then asked Mr. Bert to come forward with his family. Chair Taylor read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to him.

**3. Mental Health Services in Gadsden-Apalachee Center, Inc.**

**Dr. Jay Reeve, President and CEO of Apalachee Center**, appeared before the Board and explained the services Apalachee Center offer to the citizens.

*Chair Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Chair Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**4. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said regarding the census issue, it was a double-edged sword and they needed to make sure they received an accurate census and did not want to get kicked off SCOP and SCRAP paving if the population jumped way up and did not want to lose anything.

Policies and Procedures-want addressed

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was a concern he had and believed the cap was approximately 60,000 and did not think the population was close to that.

She mentioned they needed to look at the map and the Comprehensive Plan and said she talked with a couple of companies today and some said the County was prime for them because of the location of Highway 90, 27 and I-10.

She also said she had requests from some citizens that when moving agenda items, they moved them fast and they did not understand what they were talking about and asked they take time to explain the items.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were three items he wanted to bring up:

- 1) Waste Pro-citizens have expressed concern regarding their bill; in the past it was \$11.00 per cycle for recycling fee and some do not have a recycling bin and are still being charged. He said with the new bill, the amount was the same but no longer had the recycling fee broken down and needed to be addressed.
- 2) FAC-During the conference he ran into a group that addressed the accuracy of the census for Gadsden County and believed that Gadsden County has more than 47,000 people. He said this group was working to make the census more accurate and asked that they come do a workshop.
- 3) He said they had a treasure along Point Milligen Road in a man-made lake where world class skiers come to compete. He found out it was owned by Keith Albritton.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO RECOGNIZE KEITH ALBRITTON AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

He said they needed to make sure the audience knew that the county maintained roads have green street signs and the blue signs meant they were privately maintained roads.

He said they have a great board and thanked everyone.

He thanked Dr. Reeve for his presentation and thanked the Board for the Proclamation to Nick Bert this evening.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR PASTOR JOHN BATTLE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had to leave the previous workshop early and wanted to see if Board would entertain an additional item in the budget, a "Pay and Pave Program" for unpaved roads in county and asked if there was any more workshops scheduled and Mr. Presnell said there was one more. Commissioner Morgan said he would like to make sure it was agendaed for discussion and the reason he brought it up was due to the current low costs of asphalt.

Commissioner Viegbesie said all County maintained roads in his district were paved.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said she wanted to piggyback off Commissioner Morgan said with regards to the dirt roads and looking at additions to the budget. She said they talked about housing and a lot of people were released from the penitentiary and had no place to stay. She said the County had abandoned buildings and houses and had mentioned this at a previous meeting that they needed to set aside dollars to rehab some of the houses, maybe five and sell two or three, it would keep the money going, give people a place to stay and will allow abandoned buildings to improve the neighborhoods. She said she wanted to see how they could capitalize on this and meet the need to provide shelter.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**a. May 16, 2017-Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Presnell said there were Speaker Request Forms but it was on an agendaed item.

Marion Jones, 92 Granny Lane, Charlie Harris Speed bump

Shelia Harris, 667 Charlie Harris Loop, Quincy, FL Speed bump on Charlie Harris Loop

Willie Scott, Speed Bumps

Willie Mae Robinson, 531 Charlie Harris Loop, Quincy, Charlie Harris Loop

Jeanette and Paul Johnson 41 Charlie Harris Loop

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of the Installation of Speed Humps on Charlie Harris Loop pursuant to the Gadsden County BOCC Neighborhood Traffic Calming Management Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of speed bumps on Charlie Harris Loop pursuant to the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' Neighborhood Traffic Calming Management Program.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and had Speaker Request forms but some did not wish to speak but was there in support of this item.

Commissioner Holt said she was in full support of this item and would like to see the speed bump put down and stay for three years.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he was hearing she suggested it be put down for three years and then taken out and she stated no, she wanted it to stay at least three years.

Commissioner Morgan said if a majority of the landowners wanted this and it adhered to their current policy they had in place for traffic management devices, his concern was if they were enhancing the area with traffic management devices, if the year goes by and they were approached by a majority of landowners no longer wanted it there, from a legal standpoint, what happens.

Mr. Weiss said the policy that was adopted was a minimum of one year.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem and said some of the petitions submitted had different dates and asked if the majority of the property owners were in favor of this and Mr. Presnell said another Petition was done because it was found that some of the petitioners were renting. They verified that all that signed were landowners.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. Approval of Resolution 2017-020 and Temporary Construction Easement for FDOT to improve Gadsden County Road 159 at Attapulugus Creek Bridge**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to approve a temporary construction easement and for Resolution 2017-020 for Florida Department of Transportation to improve Gadsden County Road 159 at Attapulugus Creek Bridge and for the Chair to sign the paperwork. He added the bridge job was being done by FDOT.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature by the Chair for the renewal of the attached Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Approval of Resolution 2017-022 for the Big Bend Community Development Corporation's (BBCDC) application to the Department of Economic Opportunity for their Gadsden County**

**Based programs to participate in the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2017-022 for the Big Bend Community Development Corporation's application to the Department of Economic Opportunity for their Gadsden County based program to participate in the Community Contribution Tax Credit program.

**Tom Lewis, CFO, Big Bend Community Development Corporation, 421 West Georgia Street, Tallahassee, FL,** appeared before the Board for a brief presentation.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Presnell if he had an opportunity to look into this and he yes and was very excited about the program and said it would be very beneficial to the County.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding donations received, be it cash or specific items, if a local lumber company made a donation, if it would be used in Gadsden County and Mr. Lewis said yes.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt said this was presented to the Apalachee Regional Council and it was a very good program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Request from Liberty Community Health Care, Inc. to Lease the Chattahoochee Health Clinic and Dental Equipment.**

Item Pulled

**11. Small Cities Community Development Block Grant**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to accept the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant and authorize the Chair to sign all documents.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked who would receive the administrative fees for this and Mr. Presnell said they would do this in-house-some would go to private vendors and some stay local.

Commissioner Hinson asked who was eligible and Mr. Presnell said it would go by age, disability; was income based and restricted to the unincorporated areas of the County.

Commissioner Holt felt this would be good to have Housing come in and explain some time when cameras were up just before a County Commission meeting.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval of Management Agreement for EMS Station located at Florida State Hospital**

Mr. Presnell introduced the next item and said it was for Board approval to continue to sublease a building located on the Florida State Hospital property in Chattahoochee for the purpose of an EMS station for the staff and to house an ambulance via an interim management plan.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROV THIS ITEM.**

**13. Ratify Approval of Vendor Payment over \$5,000**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for ratification and approval for additional security to the Woodham Building. He explained the total cost was over \$5,000, the Finance Department has paid it and this was to ratify the payment.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it was \$5,000 and Mr. Presnell said this was a serious upgrade and high tech. Commissioner Hinson asked why it was not approved first before the work was done. Mr. Presnell said Sonitrol and Davis Safe and Lock were used and by doing so saved \$700 on the project. Mr. Presnell said the Clerk's Office deemed the items related even though two different vendors were used. Commissioner Hinson said this should not have been paid without being approved by the Board. Mr. Presnell said the Clerk's office prepared this item, not him, this was their item. Commissioner Hinson said they do a check and balance but they needed to abide by policy and not go against policy. Chair Taylor said anytime they do something over and above the policy, the Board was not responsible, but the Clerk has done something she thinks was justified; both bills were under \$5,000 and he decided to add the two together. She added that both vendors were under the threshold and he paid them because they qualified but now saying the two were on the same door and combined. Commissioner Holt said back to Policy and Procedures, the BOCC determined the amount to pay, not the Clerk or anyone else and the Clerk should have paid the bill. Mr. Presnell pointed out they did. She said she checked this with the Association along with other things before, and BOCC determines policy, and if the under was under \$5,000 there was no reason to vote, even if it was related.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was the main entrance and Mr. Presnell said it was all over the building. Commissioner Morgan asked if the City of Quincy participated in sharing the expenses and Mr. Presnell said no. Commissioner Morgan asked for a break-down of the agreement and said he felt if they were sharing the building, they should share in expenses.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**14. Acceptance of Brownsfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant for \$300,000 Hazardous Substances \$150,000 and Petroleum \$150,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection Agency to support the County's Efforts to assess/remediate properties throughout the County which are contaminated or may have the presence of contamination.**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for acceptance of the Brownsfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant for \$300,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection Agency to support the County's efforts in accessing contaminated properties.

Commissioner Hinson asked him to explain what Brownfield was about. Mr. Presnell said it was

for old industrial or commercial sites from when the County had manufacturing or chemical storage sites and there might have been contamination.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Chair Taylor asked if there was a map of the Brownsfield areas that showed where they were located and Mr. Presnell said yes and he would get a copy.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearing to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Gadsden County Budget**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the millage rate for the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notification and established the September budget adoption public hearing dates in order to provide the information to the Property Appraiser's office by August 4, 2017. Mr. Presnell said the Property Appraiser does a certified tax roll and BOCC was required to hold two public hearings and set a millage rate so the Tax collector can send out the notifications to taxpayers in the County. Chair Taylor asked the current tax rate and Mr. Presnell said it was 8.9064.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Adoption of Resolution 2017-021 Opposing the Issuance of a Permit by the Department of Environmental Protection for the Purpose of Digging an Exploratory Well and Subsequent Deep Injection Well for the Disposal of Landfill Wastewater or Leachate at the Springhill Landfill Site in Jackson County**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was brought back at the request of the Board and was for consideration of adoption of a resolution opposing the issuance of a permit by the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of digging an exploratory well and subsequent deep injection well for the disposal of landfill wastewater or leachate at the Springhill Landfill Site in Jackson County.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Taylor asked that he elaborate a little more. Mr. Presnell said the adoption of the Resolution would put the Board on record opposing the idea of Waste Management drilling wells at their site to dispose of leachate. Commissioner Morgan said they were not currently doing this but applying for a permit.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**17. Voting Credentials-2017 National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was to designate a County Delegate and

alternate to participate in the NACO annual election of officers and policy adoptions at the MACO Annual Conference.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor asked Mr. Presnell to clarify and he said they need to specifically have a delegate and alternate and Chair Taylor said they needed names.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was going to nominate the Vice Chair and the most senior Commissioner as the alternate but understood that Commissioner Holt may not be able to attend.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS THE DELEGATE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO BE THE ALTERNATE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Discussion of Gadsden County BOCC Rules of Procedure**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for discussion of the BOCC Rules of Procedure as outlined in Ordinance 2002-004.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested this be workshopped and suggested they do this after every election cycle. Chair Taylor and Commissioner Holt agreed.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**19. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said the Lobbying Services contract was coming up and he would be bringing the item to them at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was a specific setting for the mowers when mowing the roads and said the height was set so high and in no time, it was bushy. Mr. Presnell said no, the bat-wing mowers were set to cut at a 4" level and normally if using a mower or zero-turn that was set at a 2" height.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the agenda for the next meeting when it was made public and Mr. Presnell said that would be on Friday. He said he had had calls about the communication system and if it was scheduled to be placed on the Agenda as an action item. Mr. Presnell said if the attorney had finished reviewing everything, he had already placed it on the Agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said there were three separate supervisors in different areas and asked how often they drive through the community because last year he was in Hampton Heights and there were bushes cut and placed in the ditch and a year later they still there were in the ditch and said it was embarrassing for him to drive through there and if he ever disciplined people that was supposed to do their job. Mr. Presnell said all the time. Commissioner Hinson said that was ridiculous and said he saw this last year and now the buses were hitting trees. Mr. Presnell asked if this was in Hampton Heights and if it was cut bushes in the ditch or growing limbs and Commissioner Hinson said it was a "forest coming outside in the road, that's how bad it was" and



could see the cut trees that have been there for a year or two or longer in the ditch. He added he had received four or five phone calls the past week regarding the same issue.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was not sure how often the Departmental Directors drive the County to see what was going on and to know what needed to be done was being done.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **20. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

#### **Receipt and File**

**21. Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce-SBSC Quarterly Report**

**22. Resolutions/Proclamations**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**23. August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.  
August 15, 2017-Regular Meeting- 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
July 18, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 1, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
Michael Glazer, Assistant County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order, asked everyone to silence their phones and said if there was something anyone wished to speak on to fill out a Speaker Request Form and give to the Deputy Clerk. She then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said there was one amendment and wanted to add Item 2A, an introduction to a proposal that was being worked on.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Healthy Weight Community Challenge**

Mr. Presnell introduced Brittany Perkins.

**Brittany Perkins, Senior Health Educator, Florida Department of Health**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of the Healthy Weight Community Champion and then presented a Certificate to the County.

**2. Strengthening Families Grant Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

**Agatha Muse-Salters, Consultant for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department**, appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of Restoring Families Grant Award. She said they received a Grant of \$200,000 from the Department of Juvenile Justice and it would be overseen by Major Barkley and she would be the Program Manager. She added they would be hiring four Non-Clinical Counselors and four Life Coaches and would be targeting youth in schools between the ages of five to seventeen and their goal was to divert them and stop being a statistic.

Commissioner Holt asked they step forward for a photo.

Commissioner Morgan asked how much of the \$200,000 would be for service vs. salaries. Major

Barkley appeared and said \$165,000 would go for a consultant and nine positions and the remainder would be used for services.

Ms. Salters reappeared before the Board to further explain the breakdown of the money received and said the counselors would spend 3 hours a week per child tutoring and the life coaches would work with counselors and find resources to provide for children.

**2a.** Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

**Rob Nixon, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce**, appeared before the Board and introduced Ken Sra, of Bhaasket Corporation, an international corporation, who appeared before the Board. Mr. Sra said this was an international investment corporation based in Florida and has roots in India. He said his vision was to bring skills training, manufacturing skills training and other curriculum into Gadsden County and hoped to be operational within next 30 to 60 days and hoped to bring 50 jobs to the County.

Mr. Nixon reappeared before the Board and said they would be able to work with the Gadsden County School Board to ensure they were able to equip the citizens with skills in the area of manufacturing and advanced technology. He said the group would invest over \$1 Million over time at the Havana Elementary site.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Nixon a few months ago and was trying to figure out a way to use the school.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad to have him and was good to see the school building be productive and needed to have manufacturing be a part here.

Commissioner Morgan welcomed them to Gadsden County and asked how they heard about Gadsden County. Mr. Sra said Rob Nixon had been a friend for a while and reached out to him and convinced him to come.

**Shannon O’Keefe, Vice-President** of Bhaasket spoke to the Board as well.

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker said there was nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**5. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Glaser, Assistant County Attorney about Sarasota County receiving a reversal on a decision regarding Indigent Care and asked how that could affect us.

Mr. Glaser said the decision was limited because it was based on a very specific provision that existed in Sarasota County and so far had been limited to Sarasota County. She asked that Mr. Weiss check into this matter.

She announced there were three young people that attended the National Junior Olympics, one young lady come in 82<sup>nd</sup> out of 3,000; a ten year old came in 14<sup>th</sup> in the Country in Shotput; and one more to run in the long-jump, jumps almost 14 feet and would jump on Friday.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the County Administrator, Curtis Young and Public Works for a job well done. He said he had given a list of roads in District 2 with old road signs and all have been replaced.

He also said he attended one workshop at the NACo convention, CGI Communications, and said they worked with Counties to work with Counties preview a series of meetings for their official website and would cost Counties nothing. He gave information to the County Administrator and asked he have them come do a presentation.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said Bishop Elliot Sheppard, Pastor in Midway, asked for a Resolution for their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR MOTION FOR RESOLUTION FOR BISHOP ELLIOT SHEPPARD AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

Commissioner Hinson also shared he had an opportunity to attend the Early Childhood Development Summit in Charlotte, NC.

***Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.***

***Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.***

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan had asked for a copy of the sublease agreement with the City of Quincy at the Woodham Center and Mr. Presnell provided his a copy of it. He asked that the Board approve placing that item on an upcoming agenda to discuss and review the data.

He said he knew a budget workshop was coming up and wanted to make sure the “Pay and Pave Program” he mentioned for unpaved roads would be on for discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention the Apalachee Regional Planning Council meeting and said they were talking about another trip to Mississippi and she felt elected officials should make the trip, ones that sit on Boards that could make decisions. She added that the utility company built four substations to accommodate one business that runs 24/7 non-stop and the bill runs \$1.9 Million per week.

Commissioner Hinson said this Thursday from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. CareerSource will have a job fair, twenty companies would be there and would be at the IFAS Center on Pat Thomas Parkway.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said the Sheriff's Department was bringing the Jail to another level and getting the \$200,000 grant was great and there were significant issues in the County with parents in and out of the penal system.

Chair Taylor then acknowledged Jeanette Wynn and said this had been on previous agendas and she had been unable to attend but was present tonight and she asked Ms. Wynn to step forward and the Commissioners had a few words to say and then presented a plaque to her.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Commissioner Viegbesie reappeared at this juncture.*

### **CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

### **7. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. June 6, 2017-Regular Meeting**

### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communications, 5046 Tennessee Capital Blvd., Tallahassee, FL - Radio System, Agenda Item 5**

**Angela Grant Sapp, 821 Second Street, Quincy, FL – Stevens School**

**Bob Busch, Motorola, 167 Seville Chase Drive, Winter Springs, FL – Radio System**

**Ashley May, 1341 Woodward Road, Quincy, -Havana Fire Department – Radio System**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **5. Approval to Lease or Purchase a New County-Wide Communication System**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval to lease or purchase a new County-Wide Communications System and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents. He further explained this was not a proposal because it was a piggybacked purchase.

Chair Taylor said there were two proposals from each entity that was interested that offered a lease and that offered a lease.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he saw a tremendous difference between the purchase and lease amount and with regards to the purchase, have they factored in the estimated annual maintenance costs if the equipment was purchased outright. Mr. Presnell said there would not be any for some time, the equipment was warranted. Commissioner Viegbesie asked the lifespan of

the equipment and Mr. Presnell said over ten years.

Commissioner Morgan said to answer Commissioner Viegbesie's question, one lender put the option of buying or leasing, the costs would be identical whether it be a lease or purchase and the other vendor also offered a purchase and lease; one being a municipal lease and one a fair market value lease and the fair market lease was required to include the service costs and he encouraged them to set it up in the form of a lease. He reminded them of the critical issue with the current equipment and felt it was overlooked at the last meeting when they had both vendors in the room.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an issue and asked if they were doing the right thing with not bidding this out and Mr. Glazer said because this being a piggyback situation they did have that option and their purchasing policy authorized them to piggyback this. Commissioner Hinson said in the past, they always got the funding first and why not go in the direction of getting a bond and it not come from general revenue. Mr. Presnell said they looked at all options and had looked at grants for approximately two years and got the price of the system down to approximately \$1.3 Million. Commissioner Hinson said he knew the Board did not like to take a lot of money from General Revenue. Mr. Presnell said they looked at all options and going through the lease purchase, it would spread it over ten years and there would be a minimal payment. Commissioner Hinson asked what bonding company they looked at and Mr. Presnell said they did not look at bonding companies, they looked at financing options and what the vendors had was most attractive. Commissioner Hinson said normally they would secure the money first before proceeding.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the fact was that this was something that had to be done, was an absolute necessity, but his question was regarding the lease purchase or purchase alternative, he was looking at the costs differences and needed answers and wanted to look where it was the more cost efficient with regards to their options.

Commissioner Holt asked the lifetime of the equipment and Mr. Presnell said they hoped to get twenty years of service out of them and added there were different levels of maintenance and recommended having a maintenance contract. Commissioner Holt asked how many towers would be needed and Mr. Presnell said five and there were currently three and would be adding two. Commissioner Holt said she had a few people that were interested in having the towers placed on their property and wanted to know if, in the blind spots if radio communication could be used. Mr. Presnell said new towers would not be erected, they had found locations and would use space on towers already erected. She also asked for a side by side comparison of the purchasing agreement for the two companies. She also said the Florida League of Cities might be an option to consider for financing.

Commissioner Morgan said the way he saw it, they had \$145,000 annual payment with one vender and \$152,500 payment with the other vendor. Commissioner Holt said with a spread and side by side comparison they would have what services were provided and they were looking at costs, not what each vendor would provide.

Commissioner Hinson said he had brought up at the last meeting about comparison and had not received it yet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in looking at the packet he did his best to compare but there was

technical “mumbo-jumbo” that did not make sense, saw the breakdowns of the two companies and tried to match but did not make sense to him with the technical terms. He said it looked like both firms were providing services that they were looking for and trusted the County Administrator and staff had done their due diligence and they needed to look at what was most cost efficient and service effective. He added they had “kicked the can down the road long enough”.

**Bob Busch, Motorola, 167 Seville Chase Drive, Winter Springs, FL** – County-Wide Communication System-appeared before the Board and presented their item. He said they expected the life cycle to last as long or longer as the current system had and software was a big part of the system and something they do is every two years they do a software release and would be updated regularly. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the equipment he provided would be Motorola equipment and he responded yes.

Commissioner Morgan said he mentioned the software upgrades as time progressed and asked if they were selected as the vendor if that could be added in their agreement in writing at no additional charge and he said yes.

**Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communications, 5046 Tennessee Capital Blvd., Tallahassee, FL** appeared before the Board. She commended the Board for opening up the process and giving additional vendors an opportunity to come in. She said since they had come to the table the prices have dropped and were proud to offer their proposal that offered the lowest price if it was out-right purchased or a ten-year finance with the lowest interest rate and the same price to lease as if they were to finance it with a ten year purchase. She said they would not require the County to maintain it, they would assume that liability. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they would be purchasing the equipment from manufactures or if they had their own in-house manufacturers that would be maintaining the upgrade. Ms. Hirst said Williams Communications was an authorized reseller for a number of different manufacturers and all technicians were certified to maintain, install and engineer the systems. She added the County would contract with them and they contract with the manufacturers they represent and they were responsible for ensuring the system worked and was properly maintained. She also said they would meet the five tower requirement but did not identify the other two towers beyond the three that the County owned and said the County may want to construct the other towers somewhere at Williams’s costs; they would subcontract with a tower provider that would provide that infrastructure and they would lease the space back.

Commissioner Morgan said she mentioned a leasing option and said there was no difference in price regarding maintenance fee and wanted to make sure he understood her correctly and she responded they would not require the County to enter into a maintenance agreement under any of the terms. She said under the warranty period there was no cost but beyond the warranty the County would have a decision to make in terms of whether or not they wanted to enter into a maintenance agreement.

**Ashley May, Havana Volunteer Fire Department, 1341 Woodward Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and said he was there on behalf of the Havana Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. May thanked the Board for allowing him to speak and for willing to spend the money to upgrade their radio system and said it was in bad need. He said he was in favor of Motorola and had been involved with volunteer fire departments throughout South Georgia and North Florida for 20



years, used a lot of different equipment and said if they had ever put on a fire suit and go into a house, you could not see your hand in front of your face, have a air mask on, your only lifeline was the radio strapped on the outside of it, it's getting hot and wet from the water and they wanted the best and Motorola was the "Cadillac" and hoped they consider what they were getting.

Chair Taylor said so many great points had been raised but she knew whichever system they chose, they would get best of the best, both companies could produce and provide the quality the County needed and would be a matter of determining which one. She added she was willing to work with that the Board wanted, even if meant having a workshop where they could have the comparison before them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said listening to both vendors and doing some computation, the difference was \$6,777.08 more and that one would guarantee maintenance on the equipment for the entire ten years whereas the other provider that was lower would only provide maintenance to cover warranty term of three years.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 2 TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED IN SPREADSHEET FOR THE MOTOROLA CAPACITY MAX DMR TIER 3 SYSTEM FROM MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AT THE ESTABLISHED PRICES PURSUANT TO THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL, SPREAD OVER A TERM OF 10 YEARS, WITH AN ANNUAL PAYMENT OF 4152,589.28, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS UPON APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WITH A GURANTEED STATEMENT OF MAINTENANCE FOR 10 YEARS AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A CAVEAT.**

Commissioner Morgan felt it was important to mention that maintenance was not included by either vendor, there was a warranty period of three years and he supported his motion if he took the last part of his motion off and Commissioner Viegbesie accepted the amendment. Chair Taylor asked that he amend his motion to include the agreement of upgrade of the software as needed for the term of finance and Commissioner Morgan made the second to the amendment. Commissioner Hinson had questions.

Commissioner Hinson thought they were going to hear from both companies and wanted to make sure they did the right thing and added he had specifically asked the County Administrator to bring him side by side information and he had refused and he had a problem with it. Mr. Presnell said they had asked for a side-by-side comparison and this was what was provided to him by both companies. Chair Taylor said Commissioner Holt, Commissioner Hinson and herself look for side-by-side and noted he could only give what was provided but should have been expressed to both vendors what was requested from the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was not an item they needed to "kick the can any further", he had read through the Agenda item and that was where his questions had come from and he understood they were about to spend \$3 Million. He said both had good services and good equipment and said his question was, was the life of a volunteer firefighter worth less than \$3 Million and did not believe they should kick the can any further today.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to put definitive measures first, such as he asked they put a Community Center in the area and Commissioner Viegbesie had said he wanted to be

conservative and said sometimes when looking at other things, they were looking at apples and oranges. He said his family lived in District 2, he played football in District 2 and Commissioner Viegbesie refused to put the Community Center there. Commissioner Hinson said no-one on the Board was talking about not doing this, everyone agreed with it. He said he was one of the most straight-shooters ever found and could not play politics with people. He added he had a cousin that died in a fire and knew the importance of this and why he put EMS in Midway because it was needed. He said you could not play with people and focus on emotion. He said the problem was he gave direction to the Administrator to bring something back to the Board and he refused to do so. He further stated Mr. Presnell expressed that he wanted Motorola from the get-go and was not fair to Williams Communication and they needed to do what was right for the people that were paying taxes. He said he if wanted to help Commissioner Hinson's district or District 2 out, it would be great to build a Community Center, something the Board agreed with. He said it had nothing to do with the fire department, it had to do with him not getting information he requested.

Commissioner Morgan said he was taking little different stance and was not backing off of the importance of getting this situation solved and Commissioner Viegbesie was right and they needed to move on this issue. He said they had gone through the process the past 1 ½ years gathering all necessary information. He added he felt with what information that was provided was very complete and easy to follow and to understand, the Administrator did a great job in making sure they had all information needed and they received binders with information. He said the best decision was not to postpone this any longer and needed to make a decision to get this problem solved and needed to address this situation and this meeting was the time to do it.

Commissioner Holt said a comparison would have been easier to follow with a flow sheet side-by-side to be easy to see. She said they were both correct in the need to do this and would like to know if they paid for this for 10 years, she would like to have seen maintenance agreements and what it would cost and what was done with other counties. She said she was concerned with Williams was in the middle with having different companies they were working with and was not manufacturing the equipment. She said to Commissioner Hinson if they did not receive the information needed, they needed to look at that but did think they needed to move and do something.

Chair Taylor said there was a Motion and Second on the floor and asked for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie voted yes;  
Commissioner Hinson voted no;  
Commissioner Holt voted yes;  
Commissioner Morgan voted yes;  
Chair Taylor voted no.

The item passed with a 3-2 vote.

**6. Approve New Sublease for EMS Location on Florida State Hospital Property**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the State of Florida Department of Children and Families Sublease Agreement for sublease of a portion of Florida State Hospital property to house the ambulance that the County uses in Chattahoochee.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Approval of Task Order 2017-012 with DPB & Associates, Consulting Engineers for Completion of a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Task Order 2017-012 with DPB & Associates for completion of a Project Development and Environmental Study and for authorization for the Chair to execute all related documents.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED THIS BE BETTER EXPLAINED.**

Mr. Presnell said this was a task order for the Florida Greenways and Trails grant that was previously approved. He said they were asked for a PD&E study of the site to finish the processing.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Interlocal Agreement with the Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District for Dispensing and Filling of Fuel**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District for dispensing and billing of fuel.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Gadsden County Lobbying Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for direction of Gadsden County's current and future needs as it related to State Lobbying Services.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why there was not a Legislative Day during the 2017 Legislative session.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt said when she spoke to some of the other Counties, they said the reason they did not have a Legislative Day was because of it being a tight session.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt they needed to hold off on this until they figured out the direction they wished to go. Chair Taylor said there was a motion and second on the floor. Commissioner Morgan had questions.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted clarification-the Motion and second on the floor was to approve the agreement. He asked if Commissioner Hinson had hesitation and he said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to put everything on the floor first and discuss this during budgeting time before they approved this and he had hiccups about this agreement.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn either way, felt Commissioner Holt explained the situation very well, they had gotten good services out of them and in response to Commissioner Viegbesie's questions, Commissioner Holt explained very well.

Chair Taylor said she had to agree and even with the Motorola contract, when approving an item just prior to the budget and have not identified the funding source, it puts them into a quagmire.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he heard Commissioner Hinson's concern with the budget but thought they did need the lobbying firm to begin to do the grunt work during the off-session season to put County's items in place. He said when the budget time came; he would personally call for discussion regarding the lobbying services.

Commissioner Holt said if they let Mrs. Wynn get away they would be losing lot and needed her lobbying for the County.

Commissioner Morgan said the current agreement expired on September 30<sup>th</sup> and with the budget workshops coming up, why not bring up after that.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**10. Grant Agreement Execution for Utilizing Oral Accounts to Find Gadsden County's Minority Groups' History**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to request the execution of a grant award agreement between the State of Florida, Department of State, Florida Division of Historical Resources and the Gadsden County BOCC for \$30,000 and the deliverables must be completed by June 30, 2018.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval to Award Bid No. 17-20 for the Clean-up and Debris Removal at the Old Stevens School**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid 2017-20 for the clean-up and debris removal at the old Stevens School to the lowest bid, Barnes Equipment Company and for authorization for the Chair to sign and execute the contract.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this junction of the meeting.*

**Angela Grant Sapp**, appeared as herself and City Commissioner representing City District 2. She implored them to clean the area and use it to represent the culture and diversity of District 2.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION ONE WITH AN EXPEDITED CLEAN-UP**

**AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIOENR HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked the difference in the bids and clean-up and what would be done and Mr. Presnell said it was for clean-up of the site, debris to be hauled off and they would save the brick until the Board decided what they wanted to do at the area. He added that the next meeting there would be a full report along with the fire report.

Commissioner Holt asked the difference between the bids and the low bid was \$35,200 and the high bid was \$133,931.25.

Chair Taylor said the building was historic and whatever done needed to represent the community and the area and added that she lived in the district as well. She then asked the timespan and Mr. Presnell said it should be completed thirty days from commencement and he should get started this week.

Commissioner Holt said they needed to make sure it was graded and leveled. Mr. Presnell said there would be a hole there and would require yards and yards of material and Public Works could do that work.

Chair Taylor said for the record, after clean-up was done, the County would then come in with their resources to fill the holes and level the ground. Mr. Presnell said that was what was in his mind to use dirt from the County pit and would be no charge for materials.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to make sure this was done the right way; maybe they should instead do an RFP. Chair Taylor said to give Barnes Equipment direction to clear it.

Commissioner Morgan said to let the Administrator do his job and run the day to day of the County.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Discussion and Direction of County Administrator's Position**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was presented for discussion and direction as to how to proceed regarding the County Administrator interviews held on July 18, 2017. He said the scoresheets were provided.

Commissioner Viegbesie said tis was going in direction he wanted it to go and as soon as possible they needed to reschedule interviews for the three candidates and hoped and hoped the packet turned into Human Resources could be given back to them to use to do more research.

Chair Holt said she was not crazy about the tally. She also suggested they do their research, that she had researched each one and called the Cities, the towns and everyone.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue with moving forward, his issue was he was not sure they were getting the best field of candidates and if limited to these three, these were the only ones they could choose from. Chair Taylor said these three made the deadline with regards to submitting an application for the job. Commissioner Morgan said he was unsure they were getting

the best field of candidates in the process and asked if these were the only three they were able to choose from. Chair Taylor said these were the three that made the deadline with regards to submitting an application for the job. Commissioner Morgan asked if they wanted to make a decision because they made the deadline or because they were the best candidates for the job. Chair Taylor said all of the above. Commissioner Viegbesie said when the firm came there were thirteen that applied, had seven that made the minimum requirements and of the seven, the firm asked the Commissioners if they wanted five or three candidates and the Board instructed them to narrow it to three candidates. Commissioner Morgan said he thought fewer applied because there was no definite exit date for the current County Administrator. He then suggested since there was a new Assistant County Administrator, they extend his contract, give a definite end date to his contract of September 30, 2018 or preferably the end of his drop period of April 2019 and that way there would be plenty of time to have the Assistant Administrator seasoned for his job, would not have two brand-new people at the top and would get new candidates.

Chair Taylor said a suggestion was made to bring all three candidates back; also suggested was to have one ranked of first choice or none at all and have them come back within the next two weeks; and the suggestion of extending the contract for another year to keep the seasoned veteran on board until the transition could be made.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to extend the contract he would be going back on his word and he refused to go back on his word and suggested to hold interviews as soon as possible.

Commissioner Morgan said he had indicated since day one, if the Administrator was willing to serve, he be to allowed to serve to the end of his drop period and he was not recanting on his word.

Chair Taylor said in all fairness, the Administrator has had a tough job and has endured through it all and maintained integrity and professionalism and she respected it and this was not an easy job. She said there was no way she could sit next to him and not demand that he be treated with the highest level of respect. She said they would put a process in place and try to follow it to the best of their ability to keep the deadline in front of them and if not, then would have to make an agreement with him. She said she was not willing to extend it for a year and did not think he wanted to stay around that long. She then asked Mr. Presnell to schedule the next round of interviews at the earliest possible time as asked. She asked for a motion.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator if he was willing to serve to the end of his drop period of April 2019 and Mr. Presnell said yes if the Board so desired.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT UNTIL APRIL 2019. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE INTERVIEW OF THE THREE CANDIDATES THAT WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE FIRM THAT DID THE SEARCH BE SCHEDULED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.**

Mr. Presnell asked if they would like to have more time that was allowed before and Commissioner Viegbesie said yes, at least 45 minutes for each candidate and should not be right before a meeting; at least a two to three hour timeframe.

Commissioner Holt said it was OK with her if they could do them by Skype to accommodate the candidates.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to figure out a way, not sure if legal or not, how they could talk to them one on one to figure out who they were because some people did not interview well.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was, according to Chapter 7 of the EEOC 1964-1968 did not allow them to talk individually with candidates during interviews; what they discussed with one, they had to discuss with all and was what he taught. He said the Attorney and HR personnel were present and they would be the ones to tell them what they could and could not do during the interview process.

Mr. Glazer said he was not a Title 7 expert and did not know the requirements.

Commissioner Hinson said he liked the Attorney's answer but was not a good answer and they did not need to bring the attorney back to the meeting again. He added they talked about personnel and the best answer would be to "let me look into it before the meeting's over with so I can give it to you guys in the discussion here" because "what's the purpose of having an attorney if he can't give you the right, proper information because the Board wants to make sure we do it the right way. I can't stand to have a guy cross his legs, hands in his lap and we thinking we talking and he's not doing what he's supposed to do as an attorney, because I think he should be getting us the correct answer that we need. Or that's what David Weiss normally do, he normally say hold up for a second, go back and, I know y'all don't like him, but, I'm just saying, that's what he normally do. He go back and look at the information and have his little laptop there and then he come back and give you the right answer. I think that's what we need, the proper advice 'cause we may make a decision tonight that may be catastrophic because we don't have nobody giving us the right, proper information that we need".

Chair Taylor said the information would be researched and shared back and Mr. Glazer said yes. She said they were saying tonight that they do the same process they had done before. She said she was unsure if they should have a workshop or how they wanted to proceed in doing the interview.

She asked the Commissioners what they would like to do:

Commissioner Viegbesie-his suggestion was to do as they did before with more time;

Commissioner Hinson – wants one on one if legal

Commissioner Morgan-had no comment

Commissioner Holt-other than the point system, she had no problem

Chair Taylor said they would meet in two weeks and have the first place ranking only.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BRING THIS BACK IN TWO WEEKS TO MEET WITH THE CANDIDATES AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **21. Update on Various Board Requests**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting

Mr. Presnell said the Bhaasket Corporation was looking to build a new campus separate from the project they spoke of tonight and they were trying to entice them to do so in Gadsden County.

He reminded them of the job fair this week.

Chair Taylor said for the record, Motorola contract is for \$1.5 Million; a colleague kept saying \$3 Million and was not correct.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**22. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Glazer said he had nothing to report

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Glazer for attending the meeting tonight.

**Receipt and File**

**23. Mediacom**

**Gadsden County Health Department Quarterly Report for ½ Cent Sale Tax Prevention  
Letter from DEO  
Death Resolutions**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**August 15, 2017-Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.**

**August 17, 2017-Budget Workshop – 4:00 p.m.**

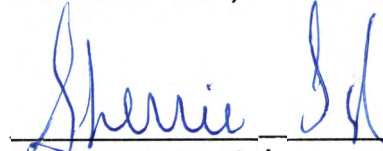


Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:51 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 15, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She then asked everyone to make sure phone was on vibrate and if they wished to speak to fill out a Speaker Request form and give it to the Deputy Clerk..

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to remove Item 10 and 11 from the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD APPROVED THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring Mr. Keith Albritton**

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and Chair Taylor asked him to come forward.

Commissioner Viegbesie read the Resolution aloud and presented it to him. Mr. Albritton thanked the Board.

**CLERK OF COURT**

The Clerk was not present and there was nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**2. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney to research what they were to do about per diem for mileage for travel.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie announced he had been accepted to ACC program for this year and

offered a scholarship so the County would not have to pay her way for registration.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he was able to attend the School Board meeting last Thursday and they talked about building a new school. He said he thought it would be great if the County and GCDC be part of that discussion and said he felt when building a school it needed to be where growth and economic development could occur at the same time.

He also said he had received an email today from Williams Communication where they had requested information and had not received the requested information from the Board and the County and wanted to make sure they received what they needed and not be placed in a "legal situation". Mr. Weiss said he had not seen the email and could assure them they had responded, a bid protest and a Public Requests request was filed and staff was working diligently to respond to the Public Records request and they had responded immediately and were gathering documents and would respond in a timely manner. Mr. Weiss also asked if the email went only to the Commissioners for them to please forward to Mr. Presnell and himself so they were aware of any issues. Commissioner Hinson said he thought the email was sent twice, Mr. Presnell sent it first then at 5:03 today another was sent to explain the situation and he was curious about it.

Commissioner Holt said she co-chaired on the Rural Commission on Rural Caucus for the Association of Counties and said if any Commissioner or citizen had any input on what they felt the County needed, she needed to get things ready for the Legislative Session.

Commissioner Hinson said he also attended the Freight Logistics Zone meeting today that was in Liberty County and was very interesting and would improve things between Gulf, Franklin, Liberty & Gadsden Counties. Mr. Presnell said local folks would get some of the jobs. Commissioner Hinson also said the job fair was held in Gadsden County and almost 200 people attended.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said she had seen no movement on clean-up at the Stevens School. Mr. Presnell said the contract was finalized Friday and should start the next day or so. Chair Taylor said some of the citizens in the area would like to form a committee to determine what would happen after clean-up. Mr. Presnell said that item was on the agenda to be discussed this evening.

Chair Taylor then said for point of clarity with regards to the County Administrators that applied for the position, she understood that some of the three were no longer interested now. Mr. Presnell said Ms. Black could come forward and update Board.

**Lonyell Black, Human Resources**, appeared before the Board. Ms. Black said at the previous meeting they were given direction to set up additional interviews for the three applicants. When they were contacted, Mr. Collins declined because he had accepted another position elsewhere. The other two accepted at the time but Mr. Arrington contacted them yesterday and was no longer interested and declined and that left one applicant. Chair Taylor said they

may want to go back and see if they want to re-advertise or move forward but at this point it took away options. Commissioner Holt said she would like to see where they stood legally regarding the process. Mr. Weiss said he would look into it and felt there was no obligation to hire if only one person was standing. Commissioner Holt said her question was that that they had to hire, they would decide that but how they stood legally for the process of having one candidate. She said the other thing was she would like to have the information and would like to know if people decided not to come, she would like to do a follow-up on that because they should do that when they have businesses that change their minds about coming and that type of thing and she would like to have contact information on the individuals that decided not to come. Commissioner Hinson felt a survey would be good too and would give the reason as to reason why.

Chair Taylor said that was not a problem and that could be done; one already indicated he chose a different job and the other just chose not to so she had no problems with that but felt they needed to come back with better directions on what to do and that would give the attorney an opportunity to do the research as well as give Staff a chance to survey the candidates as to the reason, if any, as to the withdrawals from the position.

Chair Taylor said she wanted to take a look to see if they needed a second budget workshop because there were still quite a few items to be discussed. Mr. Presnell said they could see how things progressed Thursday at that workshop.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned that he read an article regarding EMS and the shortfall and asked where that came from. Mr. Presnell said it was nothing that “snuck up” on them; he and Mr. Price had been discussing it because the shortfall had been increasing each year. He said they had taken measures; one being the new contract amendment with the Hospital, there would be \$175,000 additional revenue cost-saving measure paying off the ambulances but it continued to grow. He said it was the same money, they pay on the front end and on the back end and had split the difference-it was a \$300,00-\$400,000 loss they budgeted as a loss and there was no special fund for EMS, it came from General Revenue. Commissioner Hinson said the increases were \$175,000 for the hospital. Mr. Presnell said it was new revenue, they started charging for trips. Commissioner Hinson asked how it got to \$600,000. Mr. Presnell said the reimbursement rates; that 70% of the hauls were uninsured; they did receive some Medicaid and Medicare from the Federal Government that would reduce that but did not see any improvement on the horizon and this was something they would need to discuss and deal with. Mr. Presnell added the hole was widening faster than the few dollars they could save and the \$175,000 thought would help fix the deficit but when the hole was widening by hundreds of thousands, the \$175,000 was not noticeable. Commissioner Hinson said this was why he asked the Board when they were talking that they should look into it before they were doing the budget and asked last year about having an audit of EMA so they would know exactly what was going on. He said he asked the auditor what the issue was with that and the auditor brought something to him at the beginning of the year saying there was \$675,000 based on increase for overtime.

Chair Taylor said overtime was discussed in one of their regular meetings and was one of the ways to get quality service because their base salary was around \$8.00/hour and overtime would give them around \$12.00 and was almost impossible for them to not get overtime because of the 24 hour shifts they worked.

Commissioner Holt said they should look at a base salary increase compared to overtime as a way out also.

Commissioner Morgan said regarding this issue if they looked at trends, not just here but other rural counties, these costs were sky-rocketing and if they maintained the existing model that they currently had in place, it would not fix the problem; it needed to be approached in a different manner, as other counties had done successfully.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**a. June 20, 2017-Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Zach Annett, LEPC Coordinator, Apalachee Regional Planning Council**, appeared before Board. He said they were one of ten regional planning councils located throughout the State and their core function was to provide technical assistance to the nine counties, of which Gadsden was one. He said they dealt with hazardous materials and have Federal programs that guide them but one of the main goals was to provide their citizens with information on what materials in their county and how to react if there were a major spill and use their funding to assist or facilitate with hazardous removal material related exercises and to provide training to local EMS, police and fire departments on hazardous material response.

Commissioner Holt said she served on the Planning Council and they contacted her about doing a presentation. She said they supported all the economic development projects that were inside the area

Commissioner Hinson had comments regarding the EMS situation that was discussed earlier. He said "Ending September 30, 2015 was as follows: a) EMS-\$655,000 overtime, not how much they made in addition to \$655,201. This is due to the shift of EMS employees being 24 hour shifts and is built into the budget annually. Staff worked 2 24-hour shifts in a week which resulted in 8 hours of overtime each week for each staff person. In addition there has been some staffing shortages in that department and some unfilled positions which resulted in additional overtime."

Commissioner Viegbesie said having heard what Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt said, felt they needed to look at "creative financing" in regard to the overtime to retain the quality EMS workers. Chair Taylor said this was a budget issue and they needed to move the Agenda. Commissioner Hinson said this was in the newspapers and they had to address when people put something out there and it needed to be clear that it was not a County Commissioner decision; it was \$655,000 that the Staff made the decision of additional overtime. Mr. Presnell said that was the total amount and was not new overtime; they could look back in

past budgets the figure was still there. He said it was Federal law, in 1992 the County paid a hefty fine for trying to get around the overtime; it did not have to be paid for law enforcement but did have to be paid for EMS. He said the only way around it, and they were doing more of it now, was to have part-time employees and they worked one shift each week-24 hours and was the only way to get around it. He continued by saying the overtime was nothing they wanted to do but with EMS it was unavoidable as long as they were on 24 hour shifts.

Chair Taylor asked that they move the Agenda.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-004, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, adopting revised Bylaws of the Tourist Development Council; providing for repeal, severability, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Ordinance 2017-004 adopting revised by-laws of the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council (TDC).

Mr. Weiss said the revisions were not substantial in regards to substance. He said TDC started this process by requesting a couple of changes and the substantive changes were noted and was a recommendation to meet every other month rather than every month because of issues with all council members to be present on a monthly basis and allowing Staff to determine if there would not be a quorum present in order to address the lack of attendance issue. He said the other was a slightly revised procedure for removal of members for lack of attendance and was also intended to address lack of attendance and failure to get a quorum and to allow the election of a Chairperson from any of its members rather than limiting that to a bed-tax collector, which the current By-laws required.

Commissioner Morgan asked the term was for one year and asked if it had always been a one-year term. Mr. Weiss asked for the Officers or the Board Members. Commissioner Morgan said the Board members. Mr. Weiss said it was one year for officers, they were elected annually. He said statutes governed them and they really needed the By-laws for procedures. Commissioner Morgan said it sounded like the reason for the revision was the inability to get a quorum to meetings and if it would make more sense to look at the root cause of that before starting to change the By-laws. He said he did think they needed to adhere to the policy they had in the past where the Chair was a bed-tax collector and the reason he felt that way was because of the purpose of the tax and it helped to ensure there was always a bed-tax collector at the meetings that presided in case there were any questions centered around that. He reiterated he did not feel they were at the point they needed to look at updating the By-laws until they knew why there were problems with attendance.

Commissioner Holt said she served on that Board and members looked at the concerns he mentioned and they suggested starting to meet every two months because everyone had jobs and businesses and was hard to come every month and the other was on the Chair position, members said they wanted everyone to be able to serve as Chair and it not be limited to a bed-tax collector.

Chair Taylor said she was always leery when they change things and she knew there was a lot of money there and a lot of things that could be done through that Board for Economic Development. She then announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wish to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Holt said this was the second time this item had been before them and was nothing new.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM, COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID COMMISSIONER HOLT ADDRESSED MOST OF HIS CONCERNS AND MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor asked if they could get information on the terms that were being served because there were Stat6e Statutes they needed to be mindful of in making the revisions.

Commissioner Hinson said the TDC was one of the most important boards in the County and he was concerned with them wanting to meet every 2 months.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR, COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Commissioner Holt asked for direction and Chair Taylor said the By-laws stayed the same until they could come back and look at it as a group. She also said the TDC needed to see who wanted to continue to serve and who did not.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5. Approval to Apply for the State Funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant #18-BG-XX and the Federal Funded Emergency Management Performance Grant 18-FG-02-30-01-XX**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the Board to accept the State Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant and Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant and for authorization for the Chair to execute all documents.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.**

**Tashanda Whaley** appeared before Board and Chair Taylor asked why apply instead of accept. Ms. Whaley said when she first started that was the way it was but now should be to accept because it was a reoccurring non-competitive grant.

Commissioner Holt asked about the grant and Ms. Whaley said it was for Emergency Preparedness for the functioning of Emergency Management and there was a Federal portion and a State portion.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his concern was the approval of the item should be contingent on

the correction from “apply” to “accept” of the document. Mr. Presnell said the contract attached was correct and wanted the verbal motion to match the acceptance of the grant. .

Mr. Weiss concurred that the motion needed to be to accept the grant and to authorize the Chair to sign the documents. Chair Taylor asked that the motion be restated.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE TO ACCEPT THE STATE FUNDED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE GRANT #18-BG-XX AND FEDERAL FUNDED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT #18-FG-02-30-01-XX AND TO APPROVE THE CHAIR TO SIGN AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Taylor then said she would see the Emergency Management tents all over with vehicles under it and it was under the Board and the Board should be made aware and given an opportunity to participate.

**6. Approval to Accept the FY 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to accept the third Quarter Report for FY 2017.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.**

**7. Discussion of Future Memorial Ideas, Site and Facility Usage of the William S. Stevens School**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to provide an update of recent activities at the W. S. Stevens School and to discuss future memorial ideas as well as the future site and facility usage. He said the first grant was to put a new roof on the remaining structure and a second grant, if approved tonight, was to do further renovations to the remaining building that would include new air conditioning, doors but the main reason for this item was to get Board direction to clean up and received an update from Staff that the Contractor had been there with the City to identify all gas, electric and water lines before putting his equipment there. He asked how they wanted to proceed, form committee, for them to meet or what the Board wanted to do with the site after clean-up.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the additional \$50,000 for the building ventilation system was the same as Item 17. Mr. Presnell said there were two separate grants-the first had been spent.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if of the \$50,000, that they had spent \$28,273.30 and they had \$21,726.70 left and Mr. Presnell explained that ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Presnell explained this item was for discussion; the old grant had ended and was closed out. He further explained the new grant had been awarded and had to be used for air condition, ventilation and doors.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not think this Board itself should determine what to do with the site and leaned in the direction of forming a committee that would involve people from the



community, citizens in the City and some from the religious community that would come up with ideas and options as to what they would like done with the site and the Board could then decide from the options the Committee came up with.

Commissioner Holt said groups were already meeting regarding this matter.

Commissioner Hinson felt Chair Taylor needed to be the one to take charge because this was in her district.

Chair Taylor said she agreed on forming a committee and Commissioner Holt said a committee was a good fit.

**8. Approval of Change Order #2 for McDonald Avenue Sidewalk Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Change Order number 2 to decrease funding for the McDonald sidewalk.

**CHAIR TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said they were doing change orders and there were a slew of different projects and had questions regarding that. Mr. Presnell sometimes costs go up for unforeseen reasons but this project, low bidder was awarded the project and as they were doing the work, found that the quantities were substantially less than what they had bid and were able to decrease the contract by approximately \$30,000.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Approval and Award of RFO 17-17 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Lead-Base Paint Inspections, Risk Assessment and Clearance Testing Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and award of RFP 17-17 to Associated Consulting Professional, LLC for Lead-base Paint Inspector services and for authorization for the Chair to execute the contract.

Mr. Weiss said the contractor was provided a copy of the proposed contract and it went into the agenda packet before minor revisions requested by the contractor was made.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator of the two bids submitted, he saw a tremendous difference and had questions regarding same. Mr. Presnell said the only way they could increase their amount was if houses were added and they did not anticipate that at this time.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH MINOR CHANGES TO WAIVE WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, HAVE DOCUMENTATION TO SHOW PROOF OF AND REDUCE INSURANCE COVERAGE FROM \$1 MILLION TO \$500,000. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**10. Approval and Award of RFQ 17-21 Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant for QEC Services to Cardno TBE**

Pulled

**11. Approval of Contract between Gadsden County BOCC and DPB Associated LLC for Environmental Services**

Pulled

**12. Approval of Health Insurance Rates**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it provided the Board with proposed health insurance information as it related to the County's current health care coverage and was for Board approval to accept the Insurance Committee's recommendation of remaining with the current healthcare plan (Capital Selection) under Capital Health Plan and share the premium increase between employee and the employer at the current percentage contribution.

Commissioner Hinson felt a workshop was needed regarding this matter and Mr. Presnell explained they were facing a deadline; they received this information in mid-July and there were two meetings with the Constitutional Officers

**Lonyell Black, Human Resources**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Holt asked when this was received. Ms. Black explained every year they ask for the renewal rates and was told because they also handle the State of Florida's contract as well, their focus was getting their renewals out and they then get to us. She said inquiries were made several times as to when the County would receive their rated because of the need to present it to the insurance committee and to the Board for approval before the Open Enrollment. She added because the information was received late, she had to change the Open Enrollment dates.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the County ever considered going with cafeteria-style coverage AND Mr. Presnell said there were a number of employees where spouse worked with State and they go with SES but they were not compensated.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval of Life Insurance**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this provided the Board with proposed life insurance information as it related to the County's current basic life and AD&D coverage and was for Board approval to accept the Insurance Committee's recommendation of remaining with the current life insurance company, Minnesota Life and to accept the premium increase.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Extension of Memorandum of Understanding regarding the possible provision of economic development incentives for the development of an Indoor Amateur Sports Complex**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for a 90 day extension to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the possible provision of economic development incentives for the development of an Indoor Amateur Sports Complex.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the hold-up was regarding this item. Mr. Presnell said they ran into problems with zoning; the property was annexed into the City of Midway.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval of Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement for Design of the Havana Middle School Sidewalk Extension Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Local Agency Program Agreement for acceptance of State of Florida funding for the Design of the Havana Middle School Sidewalk Extension Project and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Approval of Change Order #1 for Bettstown Road Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Change Order #1 to increase funding for the widening and resurfacing of Bettstown Road.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the difference of \$10,813.50 would still be covered by the grant and Mr. Presnell said yes.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS BEFORE VOTE TAKEN.**

Commissioner Hinson asked how they could not see the wing wall and Mr. Presnell said the bid was based on the engineer's design.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**17. Grant Agreement Execution for Renovations to the Historic Stevens High School**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a grant award agreement between the State of Florida, Department of State, Florida Division of Historical Resources and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners in the amount of \$50,000 in which all deliverables must be completed by June 30, 2018.

Chair Taylor asked when the renovation was done, would the building be open for rental or lease from anybody or if it went back to who had it before the fire. Mr. Presnell said that would be for the Board to decide and the previous lease on the building had expired.

Commissioner Hinson said he had talked to Mrs. Kruize and she had a lot of artifacts and there was history there and even though a lot was burned in the building, he felt she deserved to have the building to use for a museum and people could archive things there.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the use of the facility was not what this item was concerning right

now by the seconded the position of Commissioner Hinson.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT AND FOR THE CHAIR TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked if it included air conditioning AND Mr. Presnell said yes, there would be 3 5-ton units there.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**18. Approval to Execute Documents for FFY 2015 Economic Development Block Grant**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to sign and execute all related documents pertaining to the FY 2015 Economic Development Community Development block Grant award.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**19. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said going back to things that were in the press, he read where a deal had been made with Midway and BOCC for animal control and that was not true. He explained a contract was sent to them for their approval to come back to the Board, they made some changes to it and it was told to the press the County had accepted it and that was not true.

**Building Code**

Mr. Presnell said he was very proud of this, they had continued over the last few years to increase the ISO ratings and they were above the State and National average and average of all other counties and positively affected the insurance rates in the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie commented on the length of grass being cut and said he was hearing a lot of comments that it was not being cut low enough. Mr. Presnell said the mowers were set as low as possible for those mowers. Commissioner Hinson said it was interesting

Hinson said interesting because he brought this up at the last meeting and was curious because someone made the comment with all the roads being paved, there would be no work for Public Works. He said with that being said, why is there less dirt roads but more people on the work program, how could they increase the efficiency and they should never worry about the roads getting cut. Mr. Presnell said their option was they could buy additional tractors and mowers and rotate the guys on Friday to cut grass. Chair Taylor asked why not budget to lease equipment for three-four months during the busy time instead of purchasing it. Mr. Presnell said if the equipment was not used on a regular basis, they would have problems with it.

Commissioner Holt asked if money was only available for sidewalks outside the city and did the City have to apply for the grants? Mr. Presnell said FDOT makes those determinations like they did with the Atlanta Street sidewalk.

Commissioner Holt said she asked because she had a request from Gretna going out Hardaway Road going into the County. Mr. Presnell said they would look into it.

**Stevens School**

Commissioner Holt said she would like to see the habitants that were there back in there,

**Candidates for Manager**

Commissioner Holt said with regard to the candidates for the Manager position, if the Board decides to re-advertise for the position, she asked for five last time and said if they decide to go with who was left, that would be a decision for the Board. She made an official Public Records Request for documents on the last advertisement for County Manager, all scoring sheets, evaluations, all documents.

**EMS Overtime**

She said earlier she would bring this up under her comments and they would only do overtime if went over the 40 hours and there were options:

- If did 24 x 24, they did no more than others did;

**TDC instruction**

She asked what else they wanted because TDC needed to know so they could move on with projects they had. She also mentioned if they had bed-tax collectors that did not want to be Chair, what then?

Commissioner Hinson said when talking about EMS-they need someone who can defend the Board if something was going on and felt they needed look at other options and felt they needed to hire a Public Relations person.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the second candidate interview cancelled and Chair Taylor said they were looking to reach out again.

Commissioner Morgan said he was posing this to the Chair, Administrator and the Attorney that they were not adhering to the agenda and needed to be addressed and needed to work on how if they question an item, it be done in a manner that does not assume another person's position and that they were in bad spot already in getting vendors to respond to RFP's.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**20. Update on Various Legal Issues**

**Receipt and File**

- 23. Death Resolutions**  
**Canter Brown Proclamation**  
**New Bethel AME Proclamation**  
**United Way**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

September 5, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 P.M.



ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. She asked that everyone please mute their phones and then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said there were no amendments.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and said he had a couple of informational items for the Board. He said the Cash report showed \$14.6 Million in all funds combined. He said the cash in the Library fund might make it without having to add cash before the end of the fiscal year. He said they have talked about EMS and they would need to amend the budget around \$860,000 or more; with the General Fund, Payables were done on Friday and at the end of Payables, they saw that all the cash in the Operating Account was out-a negative \$85,000 and will need to draw down some money from one of the investment accounts around \$1 to \$1-1/2 Million to finish the end of the fiscal year. He said the money drawn down and used to get to the end of the fiscal year was money that was spent and gone. He said into October to the end of November, they would draw down money to help get through the first few weeks of the fiscal year and basically would get restored when the Ad Valorem taxes would come in. He said the Finance Director looked at this and saw a trend where the Fund Balances were dropping. He then mentioned the Transportation fund and said it had \$588,000 and that figure was pretty low. He said there was a trend where the fund balance was declining and they wanted to point this out to the Board.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Clerk for coming and bringing them up to speed and asked if he was talking about a cash issue or a cash flow issue or both. Mr. Thomas said it could be both- the cash actually declining and cash flow in terms of getting into a new fiscal year and having to draw from Fund balance to operate. Commissioner Morgan said to put this in perspective, they

needed to look at this historically, he heard what was said about trends and asked if this was something they saw each year or if it was unique. Mr. Thomas said each year they have to draw October 1<sup>st</sup> to operate until the end of November every year. He added that having to draw cash before then was a little different. Commissioner Morgan asked about the Library Fund and Mr. Thomas explained there had been a fund balance in that fund and at the end of this year there will not be and meant in next year's budget, unless more State Revenue was received, it meant they would be transferring more money from the General Fund to subsidize library, just like they were transferring more money from the General Fund to subsidize EMS. Commissioner Morgan asked if there had been expenditure this year within the Library system that had gotten them to this point and Mr. Thomas said they had an expended budget and was not saying on the expenditure side of the budget that they had over-expended anything, they had revenues and expenditures based on projection but cash was based on the actual dollars that come in that they actual have. He said going forward there was no more fund balance that they had to maintain the same level of spending if State Aid did not go up, that meant they would subsidize more from the General Fund. Commissioner Morgan asked where the negative \$85,000 came in and Mr. Thomas said there was general fund monies in different places and meant it was a cash management issue but was significant to point out that generally they did not have to bring in money until the beginning of the new fiscal year but now having to bring in to help finish out the current year and was the difference. Commissioner Morgan asked if he was implying there was a revenue issue or expenditure issue or no issue and he was just pointing out...Mr. Thomas said he was pointing out that the fund balance was dropping.

Commissioner Hinson asked the difference in gas tax and the transportation fund balance. Mr. Thomas said the gas tax is the revenue that went into the Transportation fund and when they talk about the fund balance it was the money that was left in the fund that was the savings, the extra money that was built up in the fund that had not been spent. Commissioner Hinson said he thought they had \$800,000 last week in the Transportation Fund and now was hearing that they had \$500,000. Mr. Thomas explained said there would be payroll in five days, that there would be more revenue to come in but would also have expenditures. Commissioner Hinson said with EMS, the auditors issue was not that the citizens were using them for rides; the additional \$600,000 was because of overtime. Mr. Thomas said he did not address the operational issues, he left that up to the Administrator. Commissioner Hinson asked how much they had at this time last year in the transportation fund and Mr. Thomas thought they ended up with \$800-900,000 at the end of year and said he would check the numbers.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was hearing that they were not in a state of doom and gloom but right now they were doing what every household did, just funding to the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Thomas said that money applies to the new fiscal year and why it was important to have fund balance reserves. He added that what was used to draw down to get to the end of the fiscal year would be gone and said long term would catch up to them. He further stated If the unrestricted fund balance went down he would not be surprised if they did not see concern from the auditors. Mr. Thomas said based on the Finance Director's email, they were probably going to have to take \$1.5 Million to get to the end of the fiscal year and that would put them below \$5 Million in actual cash, and asked what they were appropriating in their budget. Mr. Presnell said they were anticipating with the tentative budget as of now, the balance should be \$5.5 Million. Mr. Thomas said they were potentially looking at the unrestricted fund balance being below \$4 Million because when the auditors look at what they appropriate, they will say it cannot be spent twice. He added that ultimately it will be a spending or tax issue that they will have to face; it may-may be a while



or may not. Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Clerk for his advice and said they needed to slow down the rate of spending.

Mr. Presnell said their budget for the upcoming year they adopted, the only line they spent any more was EMS and they have taken steps to correct that issue. He said with every line item the Board's budget had, they were in line or less than where they should be other than EMS. He said he was at a loss of the \$1.5 Million figure and had Mr. Price make contact with Mrs. McLendon to try to clarify it because even with the \$600,000 with EMS, the \$500,000 that was taken in on the insurance settlement should off-set it. Mr. Thomas said that was not included in his figures because they had not decided how they were going to spend it. Mr. Presnell said that answered part of his questions.

Commissioner Holt said normally the Budget Department says "let's have a workshop before budget time comes" and any new information should have been hashed out at a workshop, they should not be surprised at a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said what he took from this, first he appreciated the Clerk coming to them and he was trying to recognize that presently they were financially healthy, but the concerns were when there were multiple years or trends when they were taking money from fund balance to balance the budget, that was when they might want to start looking at it and being aware of the spending and felt that was what the Clerk was trying to do. He felt that everyone has done a very good job and historically through the years, the Clerk has come before them to let them know where there were issues or the Finance Department sends emails when they were concerned and felt the Administrator and Mr. Price had done an excellent job of keeping them informed and did not think there was a shortfall of information, thought they were being proactive. He added that he felt they had done a good job and he would be uncomfortable if the fund balance dropped below \$3.5 Million and had always relied on what the auditors said that they needed a healthy fund balance for a budget their size of \$5-\$7 Million dollars and thought they needed to adhere to that.

Commissioner Hinson said this was why he was asking at the last meeting about workshops on everything because when talking about money they had to plan and they needed to have in front of them how much they were spending and how much they were getting back. He felt they were looking good as Board and they needed to be more proactive and should have started this in April or March and have each department come in and tell them what was going on. He said this was his first time hearing about the library. He said they could not plan unless they know and could not spend unless there was a plan.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers were evidence-based and data driven, nothing else, and if there were any trends going on they needed to know before they got there, that was what the budget department does and it was very important to have meetings.

Chair Taylor said at the beginning of the presentation, he indicated there were several things. Mr. Thomas said while he was away he heard they planned on having a workshop regarding travel and he forwarded a copy of their travel policy and link to the GSA. He said prior to 2005-2006, their travel policy virtually mirrored Florida Statutes 112.061 and a couple of commissioners complained they would go out of town and there was not enough money and one of the reasons for changing the policy was to tie reimbursements to the Federal GSA and required a different rate for every

city in the state. He added that a lot of times when the travel voucher comes over, there are almost always errors. His recommendation was when they have a workshop, they go back to aligning with the Florida Statutes because it was clear and addresses more thoroughly all the issues that come up.

Chair Taylor hoped he or someone from the Finance Department would be a part of the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not sure what they were talking about and the only question he could think of assuming the problem here was workshops, not with the Commissioners but staff needed a workshop on where they were going and what the costs were because apparently that was the issue.

Chair Taylor concurred with some of the comments and felt this conversation should have been held earlier.

Mr. Thomas said this was no attempt to change the budget, it was just informational and if they had had the information earlier, they may have budgeted differently. He also said the only information he would have had in March or April would have been on EMS and he had already given them that information.

Chair Taylor said everything was projected and did not want to get bogged down in this tonight and said his name was put on the Agenda as a regular part so they could get regular information.

Mr. Thomas said that was one difference between revenue and expenditure projections and the difference in actual cash.

Mr. Presnell said he felt it was very important to mention that County and their Finance Staff meet every Wednesday afternoon.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **1. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

#### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said normally she stayed quiet but there were a few things she was going to bring up and might sound negative but she was serious about them. The first was she would like people to call to get their input on what they think makes County better but they could stop calling to tell her to keep the Manager and threatening her would not do any good, so stop calling her.

The second item was Emergency Management. She said they needed an update like yesterday and they should have been there today because of the Hurricane was an emergency and Emergency Management was under the County Commission and people needed to know to get water and supplies. Chair Taylor said they were having an emergency meeting Thursday before the budget hearing to declare an emergency for the County. Commissioner Holt said there was a high population of people that this might be their only income for the month and getting the information out was critical.

Commissioner Hinson felt they needed to have a regular Board meeting Friday and present it again

so it could be recorded. Mr. Presnell said it could be recorded Thursday.

Commissioner Holt wanted a reminder out there that last time there was a storm people had already spent their money.

She then said there were three roads outside of Gretna and Mr. Presnell said he had been working with the County Attorney and they ran into some difficulties-two of the roads were in the City and two were in the County. He said it was on the Agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Weiss said they had discussed various issues and he was looking into them to see if they could be addressed appropriately once within the city limits. Commissioner Holt said there were questions because of what had been done with a previous commissioner using County money. Commissioner Holt said she would like it to be the first meeting of the next month to give the attorney more time to research this.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt said asked for an agenda item for the removal of the Confederate Statute and Mr. Presnell said it would be on the next agenda and she asked it to be moved to the first meeting in October. She said she asked for this because there had been a lot of calls and said she asked for this in 2006 and at that time the Board was not interested in looking at the item. She said she did an interview with a Jacksonville paper and she said at that time if they were not going to remove the Confederate monument on the north side of the Courthouse, to put one for the slaves on the south side and to be fair. She said they needed to look at the removal of that and there were already a lot of citizens signing a petition to remove it.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt said she had projects she wanted to bring to the Board but was skeptical of doing so because in the past their policies and procedures had been if a Commissioner brought something forward, they were in charge of that project. She said the mural was her project, she did all the research and background, she did all of it and when it came time to present the mural, the artist was not on the agenda, people that were on the committee was not on there, the families were not on there and the project was taken from her and was something she was not going to put up with. She said people were not given credit for anything they did or approved of and said they could not do this and asked it be rectified. She added that she wanted the program done right.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to Commissioner Holt, he personally had an issue with the way the mural was handled and asked the Administrator to prepare a brochure that had all of what he heard her say but have not seen the product yet so they could have that to pass on as a souvenir so people would know what the mural represented to the history of the County. He said he felt staff was working on this without her knowledge and thought it should be finished in final product to send out.

Commissioner Holt said she saw the prototype and it was very general and she wanted it redone. She said when the Commissioners had something in their district they were in charge and she was not in charge of this and was not sure why, that it took her three years to get the project and it was snatched away.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt what happened, he normally created something and would then invite the Administrator to come and they would call everyone else to show up. He said the community planned as a group and then invited the Administrator to show up. He felt what would be appropriate when done, have a small event at the Art Center with food to have better fellowship.

Commissioner Holt said if this was OK with the Board she wanted to get started and plan the project and do it and not be interrupted.

Chair Taylor said it started out by saying if it happened in a person's district, they should be in charge. She said the mural was in her district, they do not live in a totalitarian government but lived in a democracy and one person did not get approval to finance the mural, it took three or better. She said there was legwork done and recognition was given by her to Commissioner Holt for the work done. She said they argued earlier about setting bad precedence and now they want to redo the mural because the spotlight not given the way she wanted it to. She further said the family members that should have been recognized, she felt should be and a brochure needed to be put together and given to the community but to come back and do another mural presentation shows no collegiance around the board and was petty and immature. She said she did not mind to formulate additional information, but no to another presentation, it was a waste of county time-they were trying to get jobs, get roads paved and get ready for emergencies. She said doing a brochure was fine but all the other, she would not vote to approve.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO HAVE ANOTHER PRESENTATION OF THE MURAL. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR ANOTHER PRESENTATION AND CHAIR TAYLOR SAID THAT MOTION HAD BEEN MADE PUT ON THE FLOOR AND DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND AND WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN THE MOTION.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION THAT SHE WORK WITH MR. JENKINS TO GET INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS OUT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND BUT TOOK THE PRIVILEGE TO SHARE WITH CITIZENS WHAT HE HAD REGARDING THE BROCHURE.**

Chair Taylor said she was inclined to agree, however Commissioner Holt did not have the authority to delegate a particular employee to work on a project, that direction should come from the Administrator.

Commissioner Hinson said if he was Chair, that day was appropriate, it was located in Chair Taylor's district, she gave everyone credit, she gave Commissioner Holt credit, and felt it would be great not to have just a program but to have social gathering at Art Center especially since they gave them \$15-\$20,000 dollars last year.

Commissioner Morgan asked if final approval would come back before the Board and was told yes.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO WORK WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DEVELOP THE BROCHURE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD**

**VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**Tourist Development Council**

Commissioner Holt said their By-laws had been before them twice and have not been approved and they want to rotate the Chairman. She said she told them they could rotate everyone but her because she did not want that. She said they were having problems with some of the business people not being able to be there and the Board needs to be able to move forward.

Chair Taylor said they needed to find out which ones were not able to participate because lately there have been issues with having a quorum and asked they be furnished with names so they could appoint people who were willing to participate.

Commissioner Holt said they could not afford to kick the bed tax collectors off, there were not that many in the County.

She also said the Budget Department and Finance Department needed to sit with them 2-3 times a year so they could plan further looking at the map on how they wanted to develop the County and what they needed to do to get economic development there.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was going to piggyback on some comments Commissioner Holt made regarding Emergency Management and said one of the ways they could notify citizens with regards to some of the of issues was to put emergency preparedness notifications on the County’s website as well as the County’s Facebook page. He said he just received some information that was emailed to him from the Florida Association of Counties with regard to Hurricane Irma and emergency management.

He suggested they have an Economic Development retreat where they would come up with a 3-4 year economic development plan before they even begin to think about the money that they would to put in it and the plan would be what they would use as the determination of the deliverables that they had met. He added they needed to decide as a Board what they wanted kind of businesses they wanted to attract and then GTI and TCC could develop a course curriculum.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said if he was not mistaken, they had an Economic Development retreat in January where they put objectives out and he was for that 100%.

**Emergency Management**

He felt they should cancel the meeting today to talk about Emergency Management because people needed to know what to do, where to go and they needed to have an aggressive, bold move. He suggested they talk to Talquin Electric to see if they could drive around to be proactive to see if there were any trees causing a problem and go ahead and cut the limbs down to not have any issue.

He said there was bad weather last Thursday in Havana and there were some folks complaining they could not get in their drive-way in Hampton Heights because of the water, the culverts had not been cleaned and pulled. He said he went before the meeting today and there was a lot of debris in the ditches and there was also a problem on Lanier Road. He said they needed to be

proactive, there was a major flood coming up and they needed to get this done because Public Works was off on Friday and they needed to get every community cleared from Havana to Chattahoochee. He added they needed to be aggressive to avert the problem.

He said he thought someone asked this question some time ago, someone brought up about giving a report on what was going on in each district. Commissioner Morgan said he gets a Code Enforcement report each week. Commissioner Hinson asked for a Public Works report each week so when he gets a phone call, he can inform the caller of what was going on in the different areas.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Viegbesie made a comment about economic development and she thought it was an outstanding idea but did thing if they were going to consider that, they must go see what new projects looked like, if not, they would not know what to tell the economic development group that to do and it needed to be knowledge based.

Commissioner Hinson added he knew there was a meeting on Thursday but they needed to have a meeting on Tuesday as well. Chair Taylor suggested they wait until Thursday to see what happened then.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan had no comments.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator to have a representative from the School Board present at the emergency meeting and from the sister cities along with Talquin Electric. She added they were responsible as Emergency Management fell under the Board. She also felt with the severity they would not turn down the invitation and people needed to know.

Commissioner Morgan reminded everyone a year ago they had the storm Hermine and remembered how well Emergency Management responded to the needs of the County as well as the Administrator and Staff and felt if they would let that happen his time if there were an event, lead and let them know they had confidence in their ability.

Chair Taylor said she agreed but the magnitude was far different from Hermine in what was coming now and her understanding was the devastation could be so devastating and the size of this thing could cover Texas.

Chair Taylor said she had done something that she regretted doing and wanted to correct this publically and putting the County Commissioner comments up front was not smart and asked during her duration as Chair, to please move it back down where it previously was.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**2. Ratification Memo**

3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **July 18, 2017-Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval of Signature for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program or Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program**
5. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Down Payment and Closing Cost Program**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Beth Kirkland

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Approval and Award of RFQ 17-21 Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant for QUC Services to Cardno TBE**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and award of RFQ 17-21 to Cardno for QEC services.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if he had reviewed everything and he had.

Mr. Presnell said they had only received two bids because this was specialty work.

Commissioner Holt asked the Manager who was the owner of the company and someone in the audience said they were a corporate company and Mr. Presnell said there was an office in Tallahassee

**Beth Norman, Cardno**, appeared before the Board and said she and Roger Register had worked with the County for many years.

Commissioner Holt asked what the Company did and Ms. Norman said specifically they were an engineering firm but they also did transportation, water resources, brownfield and for this grant they did site assessment for brownfield properties, phase 1 and phase 2 and site redevelopment. Commissioner Holt said they wanted to get as many locals working as possible. She added they would like to do a clean-up grant at the middle school to get asbestos and lead-based paint out, demolish the building and recycle the brick and copper and to do so that would take a clean-up grant and added that would have to be done strategically during the summer. Commissioner Holt asked once they were at second phase, what notification would they use to let people know, maybe CareerSource? Ms. Norman explained the subcontractors have already submitted their bid and they were local subcontractors.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator if this would conflict with other engineering contracts with Preble Rish or DPB and Mr. Presnell said no.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Approval of Contract between Gadsden County BOCC and DPB Associates for Environmental Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval of the contract between the Gadsden County BOCC and DPB & Associates as the qualified Environmental Consultant for the CDBG Grant Program.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Sheriff's Deputies Training Request for Florida SWAT Association Counter Ambush Course**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was seeking funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training, boarding, and per diem for two Sheriff's Deputy Investigators to attend the Florida SWAT Association County Ambush Course on September 14 and 15, 2017 at Escambia County Sheriff's Office Gun Range.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Medical Examiner's Office**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the contract and rate changes for the Medical Examiner's Office and said each County was required to have morgue services.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked about Florida Statutes but there was nothing attached.

Mr. Weiss pointed out that was the last two pages of the Agenda item.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he knew this was required by statutes and asked what happened if they refused to approve it and said basically they were paying for their new office and the contract would increase by 13% next year. He asked if they could contract these services in a different manner or if they were required to use this service.

Mr. Weiss said they had an obligation to pay and in terms of what they had an obligation to pay and was an issue they discussed and he wanted to make sure it was something that was acceptable because of it being such a substantial increase. He said there was a letter sent with the contract that addressed the reason for the increase and was unsure what would happen if this was not approved. Commissioner Morgan recommended that someone speak to them before next year and asked what would keep them from increasing next year.



Chair Taylor asked if this was approved tonight if it gave them approval for additional increases or if they were only approving the 2% increase tonight. Mr. Weiss said there was a schedule and this was a one year contract that included extensions.

Chair Taylor asked if they could put in the motion that their motion was to approve this year only and they would address further increases in their next budget. Mr. Weiss pointed out this was for one year but with automatic extensions unless they exercised non-renewal.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for selection of the Value Adjustment Board members.

Mr. Presnell said the current citizen was unable to serve this year and Commissioner Holt said she was not serving this year as well. Chair Taylor asked Commissioner Morgan if he was willing to serve and he said yes.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT GAY STEFFEN AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**11. Project Azalea Incentive Request**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this item described Project Azalea and recommended the County participate in the state Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund (QTI) program by passage of a Resolution for a 15% local community match.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Presnell explained there were State funds available to help the company locate and required a local match. He further explained the Town of Havana voted in their last meeting to \$10,000 of the \$40,000 required match and asked the Board, if this deal closes and company moves here, they are asking for \$30,000 match to get the State money.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was in the Town of Havana and Mr. Presnell said it was near to Coastal Lumber Company. Commissioner Viegbesie said it was located at (County Road) 159A and would be using Coastal Lumber raw materials for their product.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Havana had approved \$10,000 and Mr. Presnell said yes. He then asked regarding the \$30,000 from the County if it would be spread over 5 years and Mr. Presnell

said yes, it was a little along as the project progressed. Chair Taylor asked if a funding source had been designated and Mr. Presnell said not yet, it was new territory and assumed they would want to utilize their Economic Development funds and the first year impact was minimal.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious with this, was this part of the formula they had and Mr. Presnell said no. Commissioner Hinson then asked if they made up something because he knew Havana put up 5% and was curious because they did not want to open a gate saying, even though he was for the jobs, they needed to make sure they did what was right and because they had the funding now, and have folks that worked in logging and the majority of the employees do not live in Havana, or with Freightliner Four Star and not against economic development but do it the right way. He said they were saying one thing but the jobs were not coming. He said they were for economic development but the reality was people were not getting jobs around here. He said before he was on the Board, there was Waste Pro and they would not employ anyone from Midway and they are hiring people now. He then said the Board had to set a precedence that it was OK to come here but make an effort to hire locally.

Commissioner Holt said back to what she said, when go look at places they tell you how to do this, they do not have a process in place to give them incentive to hire local people and there was no incentive to make them hire locally.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason brought up Four Star, they said they were going to bring 100 new jobs, then 70, now they were bringing their own employees over and wo;; only hiring five – ten new jobs. He said they needed to tell the truth when they come.

Commissioner Holt said they have to do their due diligence and when mention a company's name, their reputation was at stake. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure locals got the jobs.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt they should vote on whether or not to approve the funding and not identify the funding source because it may be that they...

Commissioner Taylor said he was right, they could not identify the finding source tonight and Commissioner Morgan added they did not want to limit themselves to a specific funding source.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **12. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said there was a Conference call set with the Governor at 7:30 regarding emergency management but they missed it. Chair Taylor asked why she was not informed and Mr. Presnell said she was copied on the email. He said he was asked about donation items for the victims in Texas and they want cash not clothes or tangible items and to go through a reputable organization such as the Red Cross.

Commissioner Holt felt they needed help now and would be more apt to use Red Cross unless there was another one. Mr. Presnell said Salvation Army came up as well.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were asking for personal donations. Chair Taylor said no, she was talking about the Government helping and Commissioner Morgan said no.

Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Morgan agree to individually help. Commissioner Viegbesie and Chair Taylor were in to see if they could find a funding source within the Government to help. Mr. Weiss said they could not use County funds.

Mr. Presnell asked if as the Board's County Administrator, if he needed to purchase food or water as an emergency for here, Mr. Weiss responded they could use County funds for County residents.

Commissioner Hinson said if something happened in another county, other counties would send something there, such as cars, buses, etc. and would still be sending something to another County.

Mr. Weiss said he did not like the idea of sending money to another state and agreed with Commissioner Hinson of assisting with emergencies in certain ways and he could look at other perimeters on how they could help.

Commissioner Holt said since they were televised, they could give a number to accept donations- 850-875-8650. Chair Taylor asked him to take the initiative with other Constitutional Officers for donations.

Mr. Weiss said [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org) was a good site to donate.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this weekend at Church he was confronted by a citizen by what transpired on county property; someone pull a gun at the Public Works building and asked the County Administrator look into it and nip it in the bud. Mr. Presnell said it had been handled already and no weapon was involved.

Commissioner Holt asked for a flowchart of county contracts with dates and asked it be sent to them so they could follow.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **13. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss wanted to let everyone know regarding the Gretna Racing, the Supreme Court denied the Motion for Rehearing this afternoon and did not know if Gretna Racing attempted to pursue any other avenue legally.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this included the Petition they were collecting to put it back on something and Mr. Weiss knew nothing of that and said there was no petition related to litigation.

Chair Taylor said she did not like the racing and gambling in Florida.

Chair Taylor asked if “the thing” between Williams and Motorola had been resolved. Mr. Weiss said there had been no bid protest filed but had been a Public Records request filed there will be an item on the next agenda. He said he still needed documents from the Commissioners to respond to the Public Records request..

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said Midway had an outstanding week-end that was sponsored by the citizens and they pinned the Chief

Commissioner Holt said regarding the public records request for Motorola, her phone was frozen and broken and she could not get anything off it. Commissioner Morgan and Mr. Weiss said she should be able to contact the carrier and they could get the information and/or go online and get the information.

**Receipt and File**

**14. Death Resolutions**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

15. September 7, 2017-6:00 p.m.-1<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing  
September 18, 2017-6:00 p.m.-2<sup>nd</sup> Public Budget Hearing  
September 19, 2017-5:00 p.m.-Census Workshop  
September 19, 2017-6:00 p.m.-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
BRENDA A. HOLT, Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4-absent  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture*

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said he would like to add as Item 12a-Emergency Management Response to Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Morgan asked what this item would entail and Chair Taylor said it was an update about what happened and maybe some future discussions about the Department. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any reason they could wait and also felt it appropriate to have all parties involved present for the meeting and it should be properly advertised.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said his opposition was this was an action item and he supported Commissioner Morgan on his point of view.

Chair Taylor said she did not mind the item for discussion and primarily was the reason for this tonight and did not mind amending the item so it would not be an action item.

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order, he said they had already voted and the motion failed with a 2-2 vote.

Chair Taylor said they were amending what was voted on and Commissioner Morgan said they voted and it failed 2-2. Chair Taylor said what they were doing, they voted and it failed to move forward with an item for discussion and Commissioner Morgan interjected and said they voted and it failed as an item to add to the Agenda.

Mr. Weiss said the way the rules were set up, the Chair makes the decision on these issues and if

Commissioner Morgan wanted to appeal her decision, he had the right to do so. Commissioner Morgan stated he had no interest in doing that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they had a Policy and Procedure manual and somewhere in to, it states that where there was a tie and the Chair wished to modify the item and bring it back, that could happen.

Commissioner Hinson said this was his first time seeing this item and thought they were talking about discussing this and he was in favor of that.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD THIS AS AN ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED**

Commissioner Morgan said he had another agenda item he would like to add; there was a Public Records Request brought before the Board and said he would like an update from the Attorney as far as who had responded and that the potential issues where for not responding in a timely fashion. Chair Taylor asked if that could be discussed during the Attorney comments and Commissioner Morgan agreed.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Presentation from Big Bend Transit, Inc.**

Mr. Presnell said there were two presentations this evening and the first was a presentation by the General Manager of Big Bend Transit and he did not see Mr. Shawn Mitchell present and asked they move forward with Jim McShane of CareerSource Capital Region.

**2. CareerSource Capital Region Update**

**Jim McShane, CareerSource**, appeared before the Board with an update for CareerSource.

Mr. McShane said their job was to connect employers with qualified skilled talent and Floridians with employment career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity. He went on to give an update of CareerSource.

Mr. McShane said when he came he noticed a lot of Church vans and buses that sit during the week and wondered if they could partner with them to make use of them during the week to get people to school. Commissioner Viegbesie asked how much CareerSource had used the Church community as an outreach and if you wanted to reach the people of this County, you went to the Churches.

Commissioner Morgan asked who he partnered with to reach the young people in the County to make them more employable and Mr. McShane said they were trying to get into the school system to get them before they graduated.

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 3. Ratification Memo**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. July 18, 2017-Regular Meeting**
- 5. Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report**
- 6. Letter of Agreement Authorizing Tallahassee Big Bend Crime Stoppers, Inc. to Act as Gadsden County's Agent for the Purpose of Applying for and Receiving Monies from the Crime Stopper's Trust Fund**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Bob Busch, Motorola, 167 Seville Chase Drive, Winter Haven, FL, Agenda It6em 9**

**George Hackney, 1020 Dogwood Drive, Quincy, FL – County Administrator's Position**

**Bonnie Hirst, 5046 Tennessee Capital Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32303 – Agenda Items 8 & 9**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7 Board Direction of the County Attorney Position**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction on how the Commissioners wished to proceed with the County Administrator position and pointed out his contract would be ending October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious and shocked when he saw this on the agenda because none of the Board member asked for it to be placed there and was not sure why it was on there.

Chair Taylor asked Mr. Presnell of there was an explanation and Mr. Presnell explained his contract would end on October 30<sup>th</sup>; Staff was instructed to do a search, they interviewed three candidates, two of which dropped out and left one candidate and there had been no action on that. Commissioner Hinson said that again, he was unsure why this item was on the agenda and why there was a rush for it and one Commissioner was not present. He also stated she had asked for information and he was waiting before he made his decision to get the

information from her.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the information was sent out and he printed it out along with other material he had in his possession so he could intelligently discuss this item.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to be allowed to indulge in this item. He had a few words he said:

"Commissioners, please allow me to indulge on this item for a moment, especially after all I have personally experienced from this particular item. Ever since the very first day that the Board of County Commissioners started to discuss the issue of succession plan, the experience I have gotten on this item by telephone calls and summoned to private meetings have been amazing. I have been threatened and an attempt has been made to discontinue my existence as a County Commissioner during my reelection. In these phone calls and meetings, I have been told that if I do not do exactly what I am being asked to do, my political career will be definitely over in Gadsden County. This experience Ladies and Gentlemen, remind me of what Prophet Samuel, in his contribution to the theological history of Israelites' wrote in 1 Samuel 17:45 how David told the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel'. These interferences also remind me of what Apostle Paul, in his letter to some early Christians in Galatians wrote in Galatians 1:10 when Paul wrote, 'Obviously, I am not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not a servant of Christ'. Now I would like to go on record as apologetically declaring that Apostle Paul's statement to the Galatian is my personal testimony as a public servant, serving people not politics or pleasing man. Please remember what happened to Daniel when he was thrown in the lions' den because he refused to (inaudible) to man. I am not sure if some of us here would get what I am saying today. I am saying this in preference of this conversation. So, please, I would like those who are members of street committees and those who are in the street listening here via this telecom, to understand, listen, I am not here to please Man, I am going to do what my God tells me to do for Gadsden County. I think I have had enough of these phone calls and threats and summoned to meetings. I thought I should read it into record and let everybody hear where my position is. I'm here to serve, not to please man and I will continue this conversation and I have a whole lot more to say when this conversation continues. Thank you Board for allowing me to indulge in this."

Commissioner Morgan said sometimes God provides low-hanging fruit and there were some pretty easy decisions that could be made, pretty simple decisions that could be made.

Chair Taylor said based on what she was hearing from one commissioner, and has heard same comments from Commissioner Holt, are offended by phone calls and harassments and all else and one Commissioner curious as to why item even here because the Board had not directed to do so and knew Commissioner Morgan's position. She then said as Chair she spoke to the Administrator about this item and she concurred with Commissioner Hinson as to why it was placed here at this time because the Board had not directed it to be here and he explained that some type of direction was needed to be given so he and staff would know what to do since his contract was expiring and ample notice needed to be given.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many years she had been a County Commissioner and she said since 2004. Commissioner Hinson said every four years a Commissioner has to run and if they don't win, they knew what the options were. He said he's tried to be as professional as he



possibly could and five years ago he was approached, if not mistaken, by Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Lamb and Commissioner Holt and they were for bringing Mr. Presnell in and Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Croley were against it. They gave him two years; that time ran out last year and they then gave him an additional year. He said it was not about him and they should not be discussing it; it was about the succession plan and how the process worked and even if they decided, he said he was not sure who was second in command, that was who they usually went with but BOCC made that decision, not the street committee and not staff.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had a number of questions and asked if Mr. Presnell would allow him to get clarification from the Human Resource Officer and Mr. Presnell said she was not present and he then asked Mr. Presnell the questions.

- 1) What is the minimum education and experience qualification required for applying for the County Administrator's position as advertised using the Succession Plan and what this Board as a whole 5-0 vote during the retreat said the minimum qualifications for this position should be. Mr. Presnell said a Bachelor's degree with a Master's preferred. Commissioner Viegbesie read the minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Social Science or a related field and required a minimum of five years of advisory experience in Municipal or County Government; 3 years of which should be in a high level Public Administration position or a Master's degree in Public Administration or related field is preferred.
- 2) Was he restricted from applying for the position? Mr. Presnell responded he did not apply for the position because he was currently in the position. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was a restriction from allowing the current Administrator from applying for the position and Mr. Presnell said he was not aware of any restrictions. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he applied for the position and Mr. Presnell said no.
- 3) In his professional opinion, BOCC established minimum qualifications required for the position, why didn't he apply? Mr. Presnell said when a person was in the position you would not apply for the same position. Commissioner Viegbesie said that was not true because he teaches Personnel and added if there were a specific restriction prohibiting the person in the position from applying for it, they could apply for that position.
- 4) Commissioner Viegbesie asked if Mr. Presnell met the minimum requirements as advertised for the position. Mr. Presnell said no. Commissioner Viegbesie said now this was a County Commissioner talking to the Administrator, not Anthony Viegbesie talking to Robert Presnell. Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not apply for the position and there were two items on the Agenda that they went through a process that made them avoid litigation-Motorola and Williams. They were rescinding an action they had already taken and now they had a position where there was still someone who had not withdrawn their application who met the qualification and what if they decided to go with the one they had. He asked what that would do to them with regards to litigation. He said the refusal to come, in the exit survey they had, one stated they did not come because if he was applying and the position was re-advertised and he read one of the person's exit experiences, he would not apply to the County because he murdered this Body and the process. He said they turned in the application; six to nine months later they had not heard anything and would not have heard anything until Mr. Brown came to do the search and was asked where they were

regarding the search and he said he had not seen any applications and then they started to rush the process. He said he had no problem with extending the contract and no problem with keeping Mr. Presnell but had a problem spending taxpayers' money to pay for litigation and that was coming from what he saw. He then asked the attorney's opinion.

Mr. Weiss said in an employment context there was no property right to have a position by default; the Board had not taken action to extend him an offer or extend the position so no property right where he could sue the County, anyone could sue the County at any time but in terms of a cause of action, he did not get the position by default because being the last man standing. He suggested if they were not going to make a selection from the candidate pool that they currently had, they should rebid to position or cancel the solicitation and not leave it sitting out there forever

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE TO BE BROUGHT BACK FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he would like an opportunity to have a full discussion before tabling.

**CHAIR TAYLOR SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND SECOND ON THE FLOOR AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Chair Taylor asked if they could let the Administrator know something and re-advertise the position and let him know he had six-eight months and get it re-advertised and get a better selection in. She said tabling this did not show government moving forward.

Commissioner Morgan said there were a couple of things to remember: the BOCC hired the Administrator and the Attorney and as a Board they needed to be proactive and effective in both the appointments and found it surprising to hear discussion why now they needed to talk about a contract that expires this in five weeks. He said his opinion was they should have already discussed this and this position that basically handled the day to day operation of the County Government and impacted all the taxpayers and their job should be to create and maintain an environment that not only effectively provide services but to also maintain the ability to attract top talent for future County Administrators and the way they were going about this process limited who they attracted to apply and was not right. He said he read all the applications and in his opinion none met the qualifications. He asked them to remember when they issued the RFP there were a limited number of responses; they had someone sitting in the County Administrator position with 33 years' experience and it was a slap in the face to not let him ride his time out. He added they needed to think through the most logical path and the most logical path was to act right now and let this man complete his drop. He further said they needed to renew his agreement for eighteen months; go through the process of hiring someone with a start date to work with the Administrator until the end of his contract. He said the logical path was to act right now because if they let him complete his DROP, he would no longer be available to be the County Administrator and would open up the opportunity for qualified applicants who were at the top of their field to apply, so they needed to do the right

thing and renew his agreement for eighteen months; re-advertise in six months and go through the process of hiring someone with a start date of January 1, 2019 to work with the existing Administrator from them until the end of his DROP period of April 30, 2019. He said it was not an easy decision but a simple decision. He further said with politics aside, do the right thing and said he could not stress how important it was for them to go ahead and make a decision and lead.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when this Agenda package was put together, knowing what they know and knowing the conversations they have had, this item would take a while because it was a very sensitive issue. He commended Commissioner Morgan for his consistency; he had not waived one time with his position on this item. He said when they had the retreat and brought in the expert, he said the same thing then he was saying today and he really admired him for the consistency. He then said they had a very dysfunctional system of hiring, they had embedded in the culture of using "friendship, kinship and bedship" that they did not want to go to using the real process.

**George Hackney, 1020 Dogwood Drive, Quincy, FL**-appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of extending Mr. Presnell's contract. Mr. Hackney said he was representing Trulieve, the Medical Marijuana plant and this week, they had over 120 employees in Gadsden County and 78% live in the County and the only reason the facility was in Quincy and Gadsden County was this staff. He said no-one could duplicate what this County had done and was no interest in putting it in Leon County-they would still be in the permit stage. He said they had spent a lot of money in this County; had a pretty hefty payroll; Talquin Electric loved them-if you drove by their facility at night, it was seen from a long way away; all the electricians were from Gadsden County, Jones Air Conditioning from Havana put in all the air conditioning; bought vans from Havana Ford, Barkley Security handles round the clock security; have two people on every staff 24 hours seven days a week and extra during the hurricane. He said they had a good man doing a good job and ask they extend his contract.

**Bobby Jones, 450 Circle Drive, Quincy, FL**-appeared before the Board and said he and Robert came to the County about same time; he started six months before Robert came in and when he started he was given a hard hat, earplugs, gloves and bush axe, and that was how they cleared the ditches and roads, then got a new tractor and they would cut trees and limbs, gave him an old van and a chipper, it was nothing like today. He said he was loyal to Mr. Presnell because he was loyal to him.

Chair Taylor said they needed to give direction on this item and was going to ask each Commissioner their thoughts.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to table the item.

Commissioner Morgan said to move forward and extend his contract for 18 months and begin the process of re-advertising for a new administrator to work with Mr. Presnell.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Weiss if they had to give him 30 day notice. Mr. Weiss said no, his contract would expire on October 30, 2017. Commissioner Hinson said today was not about the County Administrator and before they made the vote he wanted to make a

statement, if not for Commissioner Holt, the Administrator would not be here. He said they were fair to Mr. Presnell and was not going to call names but someone who spoke earlier helped persuade him and he was going to wait to make his decision.

Commissioner Morgan asked if he could make a motion and Chair Taylor said she not had the chance to speak.

Chair Taylor agreed his contract should be extended but did not agree with the 18 months; she had received phone calls as well but was not threatened. Chair Taylor said she championed Robert Presnell from the beginning but could not go with extending his contract until the end of his DROP. She said she appreciated what Mr. Jones and Mr. Hackney had to say. She added she did think they needed to extend his contract; get another pool of applicants and search from within.

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification on what Chair Taylor spoke of; he heard she wanted someone to grow the County. They heard from a man that employed 120 people because of Mr. Presnell and was confused as to why they wanted to replace someone that had done that.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO RENEW HIS CONTRACT FOR 18 MONTHS AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2; CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. CHAIR TAYLOR SAID A DECISION WOULD BE MADE TONIGHT.**

Chair Taylor said they were at an impasse and she could agree if they took the concept of tabling this and put a time for it to come back, it would be the same as extending his contract. She suggested tabling this matter, get through this fiscal year and then bring it back.

Mr. Weiss said he thought if the Board did not take action to extend the contract for some period of time even on a month to month basis, when the contract expires, it expires and that would happen October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Taylor said they must decide if they wished to extend the contract to go month to month or if they wanted to go to a certain period of time. She then said she wanted to go along with a motion to put this to rest until a certain period of time that they could come back and address it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said either group could make a motion because no-one had losing hand and the winning hand was the one that could bring this back and make a motion.

Commissioner Morgan said for point of order, a 2-2 vote was not neutral, it failed.

Chair Taylor said for them to motion to bring this back, give the Administrator a timeline to do so and extend to him a month to month contract until a new Administrator had been identified or the Board gave him different directions.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Holt was not present and felt they should have a meeting, instead of talking about this item for another hour, and felt they were playing towards the people instead of playing toward what was right or wrong. He said he felt it would be fair to wait until Commissioner Holt was present and then discuss the direction they wanted to go in.

Chair Taylor said there had been times in the past there were only four members around the dais and it didn't stop them then and all they needed to do was extend his contract or give him a month to month until they were able to come back when there was a full board to make decisions.

Commissioner Viegbesie insisted on his position. He said there were two meeting in October and the contract not up until the end of October. He pointed out it could be agendaed before the end of his contract and asked they be able to table the matter because he was not going with what was comfortable, he was going with what made sense and was not changing his position with regards to tabling this item. He said from his humble opinion, they were at an impasse and had no impasse resolution process in place for them to go beyond this point. He also pointed out they could not meet past 11:00 p.m.

Chair Taylor said they could extend the meeting with a vote and had been done in the past. She said they were a public service organization and morale was important and she wanted to bring closure but would not happen tonight. She then said to Mr. Weiss as the Parliamentarian, with them being at an impasse, they would be bringing this matter back.

**8. Rescind August 1, 2017 approval to purchase equipment for a New County-Wide Communication System from Mobile Communications, Inc. and cancel any and all solicitations seeking proposals for a New County-Wife Radio Communications System**

Mr. Presnell said he would defer to the attorney regarding this item.

Mr. Weiss explained this was a rescission of the Board's August 1<sup>st</sup> approval of purchase of the County-Wide communication system from Mobile Communications and would cancel any and all solicitations seeking proposals for a new County-Wide Communication system. He said staff had explored other financing options and found there were better options that would allow the County to save some money on the purchase. He said in addition there was a bid protest filed by Williams Communications and there were some issues raised in the Bid Protest related to what they alleged were a solicitation. Mr. Weiss said the County never issued a solicitation, only sought an alternative purchase option under their procurement policy. He said a letter was sent out to potential bidders and that was what Williams Communication considered that a solicitation. He said for that reason and because they felt they had found better financing options for the purchase of the equipment, whether from Motorola or Williams, they were asking the Commission to rescind that award and cancel whatever solicitation may be allegedly out there.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this reason was why he expressed concern; County staff supposedly did due diligence in vetting this process of the purchase of the system giving them information using what they had with the two firms that submitted bids for this item. Now they were going to rescind something they voted for because the one that did not get the contract was asking for public records and why they needed to be very careful on how they

handled items.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was legal and if it could come back and bite the County for doing this.

Mr. Weiss said no action had been taken on the Board's direction after the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, they still had the ability to rescind that action, cancel whatever solicitation Williams Communication alleged was out there and there still was no solicitation under the County's procurement policy and this was the quickest, easiest and cheapest way to address the issues raised and come back on the next item and give staff direction.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure they were doing the right thing and asked if they rescinded something, they had 2 companies come in, give their position and now they were rescinding that and starting all over again.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if a lawsuit had been filed and Mr. Weiss said not that he was aware of.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not see where the County or Staff did anything wrong, the Board made a decision to have Staff move forward on how they wanted them to proceed.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan continued and said Staff went through the process and found a way to save County money and said by rescinding this they found a way to save additional dollars.

Mr. Weiss said valid points were made but if they did not rescind and instructed Staff to move forward with the August 1<sup>st</sup> decision.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were any complaints filed and Mr. Weiss said there was a bid protest filed under their Procurement Policy and said their allegation was a solicitation was issued. Mr. Weiss explained that did not happen and the County did not go through a bid process at the direction of the Board; there were questions whether they could solicit bids and the Administrator found out in order to hire a consultant to develop specifications for a bid would cost approximately \$100,000 and the County not have funds to hire a consultant for that amount and there were other options under their Procurement Policy where they did not have to go through a competitive bid process if they could make a cooperative or piggy-back purchase on another government's existing contract.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said where he was coming from, they wanted Board and Staff to give all emails, phone records, etc. to know what going on and to him was one step away from a lawsuit. He added when they contacted him, he forwarded everything to the attorney and the

County Administrator and wanted to make sure there was a smooth transition.

Chair Taylor said this was pretty simple and she was going to move the Agenda along.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney in his professional experience when any entity made a public records request, that was a preamble to possible litigation and now they were going to rescind that and the next item was a recommendation from Staff to award this to Motorola. He said to go back and vote for what they already voted on, what would prevent Williams Communication from going through with the Public Records request when they already have problems.

Mr. Weiss said the reason for rescission and cancellation is to clean up two things: 1) There was a Scriveners error in the Motion previously. The August 1<sup>st</sup> motion was to approve the purchase of the Motorola equipment from Mobile Communications, Inc. and the contract that the County was going to use for the purchase was actually with Motorola Solutions, Inc. and that was the Scriveners error pointed out in the bid protest. He agreed that was a problem that needed to be corrected. He added with respect to the cancellation of the solicitation, he did not think there was a solicitation ever issued but was another issue they were raising and felt this would clean it up so there was no question whether a solicitation was currently out there and this would put them in a position where it would take whatever arguments were being raised and would put them to bed. He said then the Board could take appropriate action with Item 9. He added that with public records requests, that happened all the time for a variety of reasons and was separate and apart and an obligation they had as a County and was not going away with whatever action was taken by the Board this evening.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1. COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE WAS GOING FOR THE DIRECTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF MR. WEISS ON WHAT HE SAID WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR TAYLOR THEN SAID WILLIAMS COMMUNICATION WANTED TO SPEAK.**

**Bonnie Hirst, Williams Communication**, appeared before the Board. She said Florida Statute 287, which was the Government Procurement Guide and set the laws and the rules that Government followed and local government implemented policies that stayed within the intent of the law. She said Florida law recognized that a fair and open competitive process was a basic (inaudible) for public procurement using the public's money to make a purchase. She said these laws were in place to reduce the appearance or perception of favoritism and instilled public trust in Government. She said they believed the County did elect to go with a competitive solicitation with the letter they received from the County. She said the letter laid out specific criteria that had to be met and gave a date and time certain that the proposal had to be sent to County Administrator's office. She said they responded in good faith to a solicitation from the County and offered the lowest price proposal and when the attempt to award was made in early August based on Staff recommendation to award to a vendor with the highest price proposal costing \$50,000 - \$85,000 more for essentially the same product; used an out of state contract, from Texas not Florida, they filed an objection, not a lawsuit but a formal protest. She said there was a letter from the County Administrator's office and no formal notice in writing to the public to all vendors to cancel the letter and this did not follow the normal process.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned.*

She said their attorney filed the bid protest separately to gather the information needed and some documents have been received. She said Williams was still their partner and neighbor and wanted to follow the County's policy and go through the process and be addressed. She said they stood ready and willing to assist the County as their only responsive bidder offering the lowest price at the lowest interest rate or encourage the County to re-issue a new solicitation and go through a fair, open, competitive process.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Ms. Hirst about the public records request received from their Legal Department was actually a discovery process with regards what to do next and she said she was not aware what their General Counsel intended to do next.

Commissioner Hinson apologized to her and said he was listening to her but also went to Online Sunshine 2017 Florida Statutes to follow what she said. He asked if she had the letter she referenced and she did not have it with her and said it came from Staff and they should have the letter. Mr. Presnell said they were instructed to look at other alternatives but to do a bid, as had been suggested, they would have to have specifications and radio business was very technical and they had no-one on staff who could write those types of specifications and they asked around. He said they asked around and normally would hire consultant, they would spec out a system and it would be bid but the County did not have the money budgeted nor did he think was a good idea from a monetary standpoint. He said they did try to engage Williams to get a feel for what they had to offer as instructed by the Board and that was what caused this entire scenario.

Commissioner Morgan said a letter was sent from Brad Johnson, Assistant County Manager, to Williams Communication, Mr. Presnell said correct. Commissioner Morgan said in the letter there were specifics because they wanted to have information comparable to what they had already received and Mr. Presnell said correct. Commissioner Morgan said there was nothing wrong with doing that, it was not a formal bid process and Mr. Presnell said according to the Attorney they were good.

Chair Taylor said as a point of clarity, it was not board direction to seek a second solicitation that night, it was Commissioner Holt who wanted that and the two of them went back and forth with going with Motorola and leaving it alone. Chair Taylor said she won and the Administrator chose to get a second opinion as opposed to using what was in place with a sole source provider.

Commissioner Morgan said for them to remember any vendor that might not have went out on this particular opportunity they feel the same need to say they did not like this and the other most important thing to remember, the County still had antiquated communications system and this problem was not solved.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**



**9. Purchase or Lease of New County-Wide Radio Communication System**

Mr. Weiss said this item was related to the last item and they needed to make a decision on how they wanted to move forward since they rescinded the August 1<sup>st</sup> action and cancelled any solicitation that may or may not have been out there. Mr. Weiss said the Board needed to now make a decision and explained the different options.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 2-DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he hated to find the County in this position because renewing the communications was very important and asked which was more expensive-the life of a first responder or thousands of dollars. He added if they approved option 2 or 3 they would still be in the same predicament. He said he was leaning on option 1 to direct Staff to issue a solicitation for the hiring of a Consultant to develop specifications for a solicitation of the lease and keep praying and keep fingers crossed that the first responders do not lose their lives in attempt to save someone else's life.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said this would be a process that would slow them down for well over another year, cost the County probably \$100,000 to do this and then choose a vendor. He asked the Attorney by the rescension of the previous item and with one of these 4 options moving forward, if they were putting the County in a legal quagmire. Mr. Weiss said he did not and the County had a good bit of discretion in terms of purchasing options and Commissioner Morgan said they did nothing wrong to get a good solution for the Volunteer Fire Departments and Law Enforcement, one of which was completely and fully endorsed by the Sheriff's Office.

Chair Taylor asked if there was any way the two companies could work together and they said no.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**10. Extension of 2017 Tax Roll Pursuant to Sections 197.323 and 193.122 F.S.**

**Dale Summerford, Tax Collector**, appeared before the Board to ask them to approve the extension of the 2017 tax roll prior to the completion of the VAB proceedings and added that many Counties take advantage of this process.

**UPON MOTION MY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

**11. Approval of the Extension Service Contract with Dear Oaks EAP, LLC to Provide Employee Assistance Program Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute the extension

services contract with Deer Oaks EAP to provide employees assistance program services for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018 and for approval for the Chair to execute the contract.

**UPON MOTION BY TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval of the Fall 2017 E911 Rural County Grant Application for the E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signature of the Fall 2017 E911 Rural County Grant Application for the E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12a. Emergency Management Response to Hurricane Irma**

Mr. Presnell said this item was added for discussion.

**CHAIR TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval of the Annual Contract between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the Operations of the Gadsden County Health Department**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was the annual contract between Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Gadsden County Health Department for the Contract Year 2017-2018.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of the Interlocal Agreements with the Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for Road Maintenance and Special Projects**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Interlocal Agreements with the six municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for road maintenance and special project activities.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were working close with Midway and Mr. Presnell said they had not requested any work.

Commissioner Morgan asked if all the municipalities were currently enrolled and Mr. Presnell said he would refer to the Public Works Director.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board and said they were not

currently under contract with Midway; they were sent a contract last year and never responded.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval of the Annual Certified Budget with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for Mosquito Control**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said the Public Works Department must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for matching funds for Mosquito Control and the Annual Certified Budget was attached.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval between the Board and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to provide Quincy Shuttle service in and around the City of Quincy. He said he was directed to get with the City of Quincy and they have included \$18,500 in their current budget.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said the fact that they asked, they received half the costs. He asked that they approve and stipulate in Option 1 that their payment was made upon receipt from the payment of the City of Quincy.

Chair Taylor asked that whoever made the motion if they would amend it and Commissioner Hinson said he would.

Mr. Weiss suggested a motion to approve Option 1 with a revision to the Contract where paragraph 5 stated at the end "and receipt of reimbursement payment from the City of Quincy".

**COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE THE REIMBURSEMENT BY THE CITY OF QUINCY AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**17. Agreement between Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide for the Continuation of Gadsden Express Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated it was for approval between the BOCC and Big Bend Transit to provide Gadsden Express Service in and around the County.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked that Mr. Presnell explain costs of the contract. Mr. Presnell said the contract was for \$7,740 per month and came to \$92,880 per year and said that the City of Tallahassee was paying half the costs making it \$46,440.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Gadsden County Connector Bud Service**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval between the BOCC and the Gadsden Connector for service in and around the County.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had some heartache with this one because they had to understand that the grant dollars were gone and this was now coming out of the County taxpayers' pocket. He said they were stopping in every single municipality to provide a service to their citizens and asked how much money was the municipalities participating in the programs and Mr. Presnell said none. Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to approach the municipalities to ask for support.

Commissioner Hinson said personally this was near and dear to his heart.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**19. Approval to Renew the Lease Agreement with Neighborhood Medical Center to Lease the Havana Health Department**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to renew the lease Agreement with Neighborhood Medical Center to lease the Havana Clinic located at 604 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Discussion of the Sublease with the Quincy Police Department for Space at the W.A. Woodham Justice Center**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to discuss the sublease with the Quincy Police Department for space at the W. A. Woodham Justice Center.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to make this a fair and equitable agreement for the taxpayers and asked Mr. Presnell to bread down the original intent of the Agreement. Mr. Presnell said there was a need for the City to vacate their original space due to some mold issues and on July 2011, the County executed an Agreement with the City for them to relocate at the Woodham Justice Center and were required to pay 25% of the utility bill, they utilize approximately 25% of the square footage in the building; they were required to do some maintenance like mowing the grass and cleaning of the first floor where they were located. He

added instead of them paying the utility bill, they credit the County 25% off of the monthly bill received from the City.

Commissioner Morgan said there were a couple of things to consider: 1) They initially moved in in 2011 and was supposed to be temporary. Commissioner Morgan said in the last 6 years there had been several maintenance issues. He reminded the Board they had approved to put new door locks on and the total amount was over \$7000. Commissioner Morgan said the County had maintained the building and the City had not participated in any of the costs. Commissioner Morgan said this was another example of how they needed to put together a better deal for the taxpayers.

Chair Taylor asked if he thought the contract should be renegotiated and Commissioner - Morgan said if the majority of the Board felt it was the thing to do.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to bring this contract back for further discussion.

**21. Approval and Execution of the State Aid Grant Agreement**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of the State Aid Grant Agreement for the Library.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**22. 2017-2018 EMS County Award of Grant Funds**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to apply for the 2017-2018 EMS County Award of Grant Funds from the Florida Department of Health and for approval for the Chair to execute all documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**23. Commission Appointment/Reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee**

Mr. Presnell said this was for Board approval to appoint or reappoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Fund for the Gadsden County Jail.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**24. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said there was nothing in writing, but there was an indication that the Local Legislative Delegation wanted to be here on October 9<sup>th</sup> and when they received something formal, it would be sent out.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**25. Update on Various Legal Issues**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**26. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was going to be a public hearing for the Quincy Loop North Design.

*Commissioner Morgan returned.*

He said this would be held at the Florida National Armory on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30.

He said there would also to be a retreat, the CRTPA Annual Retreat on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. and they did need a Gadsden County representative as he would not be able to attend because he would be in class. He asked for a replacement representative.

He then requested that the BOCC look seriously into a retreat to discuss the comprehensive and land use plan as well as a road construction and economic development plan.

Chair Taylor asked if Mr. Presnell could attend the CRTPA retreat in Commissioner Viegbesie’s place and Commissioner Viegbesie stated they needed a delegate there, he would not be able to conduct business and he agreed.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Holt was not present at this meeting because she was in the hospital and she also said she had told Staff.

He thanked the Board for securing funding for 125 jobs for the summer youth employment and thanked for paving Brickyard Road in Midway.

He said they needed to be more proactive with Emergency Management and could not play politics with this. He said they needed someone quarterly to make sure the roads and ditches were cleaned and clear and the right-of-ways were cleared so the water could run through along with the culverts being pulled.

He said in the Gibson community there were no lights on the side of the road and they need to make sure set money aside for lights for that community.

He also said Glade Road hadn’t been pulled in forever and the road was in terrible shape.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan had questions and comments for the attorney about public information requests and said he would save that until next week.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator about campsites and asked if there were people there affected by the storm and had to stay there because there was nowhere else for them to go, asked that they use discretion and waive fees if displaced by Irma.

**Receipt and File**

27. Letter from the Division of Emergency Management  
Letter from M & J Construction Company  
Letter from FDOT  
Letter from Governor Rick Scott

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

28. October 3, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.  
October 17, 2017-Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:37 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 3, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Sheriff Morris Young asked also for a silent prayer for Las Vegas and the Chair said she would go one more and included Puerto Rico, Texas and Gadsden County and asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell said there were no amendments to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD  
VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

Chair Taylor asked for "personal preference" and said as Chair she wanted to respect each colleague in their capacity and said she was simply the facilitator and sometimes in allowing or supporting such, they get off subject. She said she vowed to never to stifle anyone because she came under such scrutiny when she was not the Chair and did not want to pass that on but in allowing ones to have their moment, they tend to get off-subject and tend to discuss things that were not agendaed and it took them into areas they should not be in. She said they only should discuss agendaed items that were published. She added with that being said, going forward she would caution as they moved away from the item at hand and they could make the meetings effective and productive.

Commissioner Morgan asked if it was time to recognize the elected officials that were present this evening. Chair Taylor recognized Dale Summerford, Tax Collector; Reginald Cunningham, Property Appraiser and Sheriff Morris Young.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.*

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**



**1. Long Term Debt Analysis**

Mr. Presnell said Ryan Tucker was present.

**Mr. Ryan Tucker, Purvis, Gray and Associates**, appeared before the Board to give the Board a long term debt analysis.

Commissioner Holt apologized for missing the prior meeting as she was in the hospital. She suggested they workshop the bonds to figure out what to pay off early to go after a plan.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Tucker for coming to talk with them and agreed to the workshop at the appropriate time. He added he thought the reason he was asked to come was because he mentioned a “pay and pave” type program to get roads taken care of. He questioned where the Counties were ranked and said it was something to keep an eye on as they were fourth from the worst position to be in. He added with the historical debt, they did not want to assume additional debt unless there was an absolute need to do so as that could weaken the financial state.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for coming and thought if there were a way they could refinance the maturity for the 2030 bonds so they could pay off a little earlier and they could save money and do what Commissioner Morgan mentioned and it would help reduce the irate they were going into debt and reduce the interest payment .

Chair Taylor said she saw some good information however some was 2-3 years old; she concurred with the Board with regards to a Workshop; she added that the numbers they would use for the Workshop needed to be more accurate. She said moth Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Morgan had hopes of paving dirt roads but the method of paying for it was one that they were unable to agree on.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to see research on if other counties were paying down their debt, how they were doing it and did not necessarily need to be Counties this size but to bring the data to the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said he was in awe because he understood there were some inaccurate numbers and they were to get the correct numbers.

Mr. Tucker said the Schedule of Future Maturity did lay out anything that had to be paid on the bonds.

Chair Taylor said it would be good if they could do this prior to a budget meeting.

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

## **2. Ratification Memo**

### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **Fountain May, 835 Attapulugus Hwy, Quincy, FL 32351-Dysfunctional Board**

Mr. Fount May appeared before the Board. He said he came two weeks ago in support of Mr. Presnell. He said he thought he was “beating a dead horse because I think y’all have already made up your mind you want to get rid of him.” He said he thought the County needed stability and Mr. Presnell brought that to the table and while he may not have the degree they were looking for but he had experience. He said that was not why he was really at the meeting; he was present to express his embarrassment as a Citizen of Gadsden County at the dysfunction, bickering, back-biting that went on for 2 hours and 15 minutes where nothing was accomplished. He said he loved the County like they did and wanted to see it move forward. He added if he were an outsider looking in and wanted to relocate a business here or if were a qualified applicant, because obviously they did not think Mr. Presnell was, and had submitted an application and came to a meeting, he would have a tough time making a decision to come to Gadsden County. He said this County needed stability and the Board was not bringing it to the table. He asked if he had permission to ask one of the Commissioners a question and the Chair said questions were to be directed to the Board. Mr. May said he would like to ask “Dr. V” one question. He said he supported him, he came by his office and they talked, he donated to him and supported him. He said they had a conversation right before the meeting two weeks ago and “Dr. V” said he felt Mr. May was threatening him and he same to meeting and stated he felt threatened. Mr. May asked in what way he threatened him. Chair Taylor said that could not be asked. Mr. May said he had one more and then asked if they understood how a democracy worked. Chair Taylor interrupted and Mr. May said the Sheriff was present and they could ask him to escort him out. Chair Taylor said he would be respectful to him and he would be respectful to the Commissioner and to please direct his questions to the Board. Mr. May commended Chair Taylor for being level handed at a very difficult meeting two weeks ago and he wanted to express his embarrassment at the Board.

##### **Dale Summerford, Gadsden County Tax Collector-County Administrator’s Position**

Mr. Dale Summerford appeared before the Board and said he was here to voice his concern regarding the County Administrator’s position. He said as serving as one of the five Constitutional Officers in the County, he knew in his heart it was something he had to do in the best interest of the people he had had the honor of serving for the last 29 years. He said while attending the last meeting for an unrelated reason and listening to the discussion regarding his contract and his position in general, it became apparent in a short period of time, this County government could soon come to standstill and was something the people of this County did not deserve. He added that they all knew that the Board’s recent effort to find new Administrator rendered unsuccessful results and two out of the three finalists withdrew from the process. He said the Board needed to put everything aside, take a step back, and look at what’s occurred and start the process over to find new Administrator. He said this would take time and the first step should be to extend his contract for twelve months, Mr. Presnell had done an excellent job making sure that the citizens that they all represented received the services that they deserved. He further stated it made no sense to extend to him a month to month contract or hire an Interim; that would not provide the stability that was needed for the citizens and the Board’s employees. He said by extending the contract would give the Board time needed to conduct the process to find the best qualified

applicant and would also provide for a smooth transition to a new Administrator and make sure they continued to move this County forward. He said it would also demonstrate that the Board was committed to proving leadership needed to conduct business of the County.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **3. Approval of Vendor Payment Over \$5,000**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval for payment to AKCA, Inc. for additional striping on Sawdust Road.

Chair Taylor asked to address the two speakers and explained they had no leverage to discuss non-agendaed items and it was their Policy and Procedures and also their words did not fall on deaf ears.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at this item and the only heartburn he had, why did the engineer not pick this up prior to the bid because they pay him almost \$500,000 a year to do this type work. Chair Taylor said it was change orders.

Mr. Presnell said he asked the same question and when the stripers were here, Public Works reported to him that while they were there and had money left over and they decided to do the edge lines and said with the original bid they were worried about exceeding the \$200,000 and tried to keep the list down to ensure the bid was under \$200,000. He said the bid came in lot less.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was the type of thing he had noticed with bids. He asked the County Administrator if any of the other bids included white lines on the roads.

Commissioner Morgan appreciated Public Works identifying this matter that needed to be addressed and said here they went again "dogging" a vender that was not present to defend themselves because they thought they were after extra money rather than understanding why Public Works said this was a need.

### **COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he just trying to be consistent with the taxpayers' money and there was more money in the General Revenue than they ever had in the history of Gadsden County and wanted to continue to show they were transparent. He said \$10,000 may not be a lot of money but some people only make \$15,000 a year and to him it was not about the money but about principle and being fair and if Public Works was the expert, maybe they did not need the engineers at all and he could make that vote.

Commissioner Morgan asked if he suggested not having an engineering firm and that was a real smart decision.

Commissioner Hinson said that was his point exactly, he could make that vote because he was not going to cheat the citizens.

Commissioner Hinson said to Commissioner Morgan he was the one the gentleman was talking about earlier that was disruptive because he was always nice to every citizen and the only time he yelled and screamed was when they discuss senior citizens and children. He said again that Commissioner Morgan was the one the gentleman spoke of, that he would get irate and frustrated for no reason at all.

Chair Taylor interrupted and Mr. May spoke from the audience and said he was speaking about Commissioner Hinson.

Chair Taylor called for order and said this was getting out of hand, she had never asked anyone to leave and there would be no shouting out of order and she was Chair and if she felt there was a need to have someone removed, she would do so, Chair Taylor advised them to stay away from being critical of any one person, they were not going to do that, to stay on point and move this item.

Commissioner Hinson said this was out of character for him and he apologized to everyone on the dais.

Commissioner Holt said this was not unusual and did not know why people thought Government was not controversial, it was a debating area and how they set laws and policies. She wanted to say the roads needed to be striped and it needed to be in the bids because of the safety issue.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. SHE THEN ASKED FOR POINT OF CLARITY.**

Chair Taylor said this particular item as far as safety was never entered into the bid and later came because Road and Bridge saw it as an issue and needed striping and Mr. Presnell said yes. Chair Taylor asked if it were part of procedure where there were occasions where striping was not necessary and when they were and Mr. Presnell explained there were a number of reasons to determine why: reflectivity, etc.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew the County Administrator had heartburn about the \$5000 threshold and small things like this they did not need to entertain and they should go back to the old policy.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**4. Post Approval for Payment to Ring Power Corporation for Emergency Replacement of New 911 Transfer Switch for Generator located at Woodham Building**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for post approval for payment to Ring Power Corporation for the purchase and installation of a new 911 transfer switch for the generator at the W. A. Woodham Building and said that the old 911 transfer switch would no longer automatically perform the generator transfer in an emergency situation. He said it failed prior to the last storm and this was for post approval.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**5. Approval of Contract with The Planning Collaborative to provide ongoing professional planning consulting services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a contract with The Planning Collaborative and for authorization for the Chair to sign the contract for planning consulting services for long term and current planning projects including the update and revision of the documents that comprise the County's land development regulations.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell to explain about the company.

Mr. Presnell said the principal in the company was Allara Gutcher, the former Planning Director, and she was very familiar with the County's comp plan. He reminded them they had budgeted \$100,000 but her bid was a total of \$69,000. Commissioner Holt asked if all revisions were included because they never get approval on the first try with the State and he said yes, she would work with them and whatever was necessary, it would get done.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Commissioner Morgan returned.*

Mr. Weiss said the Department of Economic Opportunity was now heading this up and they were much less strenuous than when they were Department of Community Affairs. He added that the way the contract was drafted was a total payment of \$69,000 split into 12 monthly payments; however if the work under the contract was not completed at that point and time, the Contractor would stay on to complete the work with no additional payment for up to eighteen (18) months. He added after that point, the Board would be able to make the decision if they wanted to cut it off or go to an hourly rate to finish.

Commissioner Holt said if they start the project, it could run over the next election, if they change Commissioners, the project could be kicked out and they would have to start over. He said if they do the contract, they would have to move quickly.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he first read this item he was excited because of the principal party being Allara Gutcher.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He continued and stated she was aware of the County and as Commissioner Holt stated, he was glad to hear that the entity that now approved Comp Plans was not as stringent as the previous department. He added that Comprehensive plans were very viable to economic plans and asked how long it would take to be ready and hoped when it was sent to the State it was not sent back to be revised. He also said he was very excited about the skill set of the firm that was asking to be hired. He said If they could include all of the terms they had concerns with, he felt there would be no problem with moving forward.

Commissioner Hinson said since he spoke for the citizens, last year they had this Planning and Zoning position that was advertised. He said he brought this up 4-5 months ago that someone asked him about the job and what the qualification were.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

When he inquired about it, he was told after consolidation it was decided not to fill that position. He asked how many years were they going to go with this, if it was a one-time thing and was told yes.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a motion and second on the floor and wanted to move the question as soon as possible. He did say that he did not see that the term of the agreement was not specified out to match the number of payments. Mr. Weiss said Paragraph 4 covered that and the contract could be modified.

Chair Taylor concurred Allara Gutcher did a yeoman's job as the Planning Director.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Appointment/Reappointment of Gadsden County's Representative on the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for appointment/reappointment of the Gadsden County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and to select an alternate as well.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION OR RETENTION OF COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Amendment to the Paving Contract for Peck Betts Road**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for an amendment to the contract for improvements for Peck Betts Road.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER IEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Amendment to the Contract for the Resurfacing and Reconstruction of Brickyard Road Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of reducing the amount of the contract with FDOT from \$931,590.00 to \$910,636.00.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Staff and Board for making this project happen. He said they anticipated \$1 Million but it was a lot less.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS**

**ITEM.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if money left over went back to the State and Mr. Presnell said on SCRAP, SCOP and CIGP money, it reverted back to FDOT.

**9. Bid Award for Joel Sampson Architect on the Continuing Service Contract**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to enter into a contractual agreement with Joel Sampson Architect as the Architect on the Continuing Service Contract.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Presnell to explain the continuing contract. Mr. Presnell said with some of the grants they were working on, they required upfront architectural and engineering work to submit the grants. He said they had been working with FAMU but sometimes they needed something small and simple and an Architect could help and he was local. Commissioner Holt said she was looking for architectural designs and how they could make the County look better.

**Joel Sampson** appeared before the Board to address concerns and questions the Board had.

Commissioner Holt said she was looking for extra things, different things.

Chair Taylor said they needed to move with this contract tonight, but did see things that needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Morgan said they were approving to move forward to enter a contract and added that he was a local resident and was familiar with the rural character of the County and was very fortunate to have him to lead them in these efforts.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Emergency Management Response to Hurricane Irma**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this item was to give an update on the response of the Gadsden County Emergency Management (EM) to Hurricane Irma and the future direction of the Emergency Management functions.

Chair Taylor said she asked this to be placed on the Agenda after Hurricane Irma and wanted to have Board discussion on the outcome and what happened.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Emergency Management Group for handling very difficult situation but what he saw in the options: 1) Direct staff to change or modify any current Emergency Management functions. He said he felt before they could do that, they as the Body along with Emergency Management participants, needed to workshop this for them to see if a revision of current Emergency Management functions. He said for what happened during Hurricane Irma, he thanked them for what they did and they were there clearing the roads and making sure the citizens were safe.

Commissioner Hinson thanked first responders and said people don't realize Public Works were first responders as well. He said he felt they needed to be more pro-active and not just clean ditches and culverts and not have to worry about flooding and needed to be proactive on.

Mr. Presnell said Commissioner Hinson was at the Shelter working, signing people in and added they were currently looking at Public Works about drainage issues with the pipes and will have a "point person" on preventative maintenance.

Commissioner Morgan felt Emergency Management did a great job responding and the rest of the State was affected much worse than we were and appreciated how Emergency Management had a game plan to respond. He said the only thing he would comment on the response, and did not go back to Emergency Management, they needed to do a better job communicating regarding power outages, who to contact, etc. He said they had folks in shelters in large numbers that were not just local people, who were from out of County and out of State.

Commissioner Hinson said he also sent out an email to the Emergency Management Director and would like to get the information back regarding food assistance so he could get it to the people that had concerns. He said a lot of people lost power for days and lost food. He said he felt anytime there was a hurricane they needed to have meetings so they could be briefed as a Board because the constituents were calling them.

**Sheriff Morris Young** appeared before the Board and said this topic had been on the Agenda quite a bit and a lot of Commissioners had questions about the role and function of EM. He invited them to come to the meetings when they met with FEMA. He said he did not run shelters and had no say-so about food, Red Cross was responsible. He told them if they did not like the "toys" they get, signs, tents, etc. and wanted to manage that, they would load it up and bring it to them. He said their constituents were his constituents as well and asked that they stop tossing this around.

Chair Taylor said EM was placed under the Sheriff's Department by the Board and Sheriff Young said just like the jail was and he was elected just as they were. She added that each of them had responsibilities as Constitutional Officers and when they bring questions, it was not to target him or them, because sometimes there were questions. She said he was invited to come earlier on and to bring this to a public meeting was not to bash, demean or take away anything that had happened but to improve.

Sheriff asked before this was agendaed again to let him pull in resources, use EOC to be the workshop to get folks there to make sure they could ask their questions and concerns. He said no-one had come to him with concerns about the shelters. He said he wanted to educate the Board about EM and their functions.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the point he made was the last statement he just made. When they workshop, they bring experts in to educate them regarding what the workshop was about and said confirmation of information was knowledge.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought he was the only one that got certified for EM and heard it all and felt sometimes an informed person could ask questions too. He felt it was great to do what he said and felt great to do it before a meeting; get with FAC let them come and educate the Board on duties and responsibilities. He also said he felt Public Works was first responders because if the



ditches were not kept clean, houses could flood. Sheriff Young said that was a daily function for Public Works. He also said Rick Scott made sure everybody knew the hurricane was coming a month before it came.

Commissioner Holt said she appreciated everything that happened during the hurricane and she received a few phone calls but it was about things other than the hurricane. She said when having workshops, they were not having workshops, people come and present at the podium and that was not a workshop.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Sheriff Young said that was why he wanted to do a workshop with a presentation.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Holt said people knew the hurricane was there for days and knew to get certain foods in case of loss of power and food would spoil.

Sheriff Young said he went to the grocery stores and the people were prepared this time and bought the right foods. He commended all the managers, they attended the meetings, everyone was informed, prepared and County was prepared.

Commissioner Holt felt a sit-down workshop would work if it were taken seriously.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he said they needed to bring FAC in was EM could write grants and write \$1 Million things, he went to the class and was in awe finding out what they could get.

Sheriff Young said he was confused about that, what he was speaking of was a recovery grant and said they had to do the right paperwork before the storm.

Commissioner Hinson said at times he was confused on different things because his mind was all over the place. He added when he put something out there, "you can stick it to it". He said at the next meeting he wanted to do a presentation or he could bring information for them to see. He said he spent two days there and if they put EM in Havana, they could get a grant to fix that place up and Sheriff Young said they had, it was already retro-fitted.

Chair Taylor asked to wrap this up and said she attended two of the meetings there during the time of the storm and in observation she saw who was part of team; EMS, Public Works, Health Department, School Board, City Managers and when a Declaration was declared that night, her question was: was there was a sister city somewhere that would help us and was told no. She said when this Board issued a Declaration, the Board was supposed to be involved with all activities from all aspects.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Sheriff Young said Mr. Presnell was there and Chair Taylor said he was not her designee, she was the Chair.

Chair Taylor said she found out from Facebook about the curfew and it should not have happened that way. She said the day before Irma someone wanted to go to Chattahoochee and train volunteers. She said hurricane season was not haphazard, they knew the season and preparation should have been made by the body, She added that during hurricane season was not the time to do that. She further stated they needed to know what to do from this day forward.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said there were issues and concerns that could have been controlled a little better and could have been done better if they had been better prepared.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said he closed the shelters, people had no electricity, and shelters could have been used for few days longer because schools were still out. She said she hoped he would listen in a receptive way and take the walls down. Sheriff Young said the walls were not there, they had not visited his office and said they had issues. She said there were areas they could improve on. Chair Taylor asked him to let her finish what she had to say. She concurred with a full service workshop and with FAC coming in because they supported the County and she wanted to see it improved.

Sheriff Young said they had Animal Control, Public Works just said she wanted this for political reasons and she could have it.

Chair Taylor said sometimes people said what was in their hearts when things got heated but they had calmer heads there and she never had to do anything for political reasons, it was about serving the people with quality not quantity and they had to work together to improve.

Sheriff Young said if she had enough votes, to put it on the table.

Chair Taylor said as far as this item, they were going to hold it for the workshop and set tables and chairs around so at the end of the day they would come out with a plan that was workable.

Commissioner Holt said she did not want to end this adversarial and this was not about fighting amongst each other but getting everything done they needed to do. She felt they did a great job and Road and Bridge did a great job. She further said they would be in this County together when it was over and have to sit down in a workshop and go to work. She also said she wanted them to know their job was to set policies.

Commissioner Hinson said he had been asking for this workshop forever and hoped they could do it his way this time, asked they bring FAC first and then meet with the Sheriff and get a clear picture about how things worked and said they would be surprised about the situation and how much money was on the table right now. He said it was all about the people for him.

Commissioner Morgan said he had listened to the discussions and one thing they could learn as a Board and better understand, every public action taken needed to show leadership and provide

reassurance and that came through communication and execution. He further stated in order to communicate effectively; they needed to have conversations versus presentations and were things they needed to discuss privately and very candidly between different constitutional officers, without breaking the Sunshine Law. He said he and the Sheriff had held conversations many times. He said the bottom line was they all wanted the best for the County.

Chair Taylor said she agreed and as a public servant, their responsibility was to be informed and relay information in such a matter so they could make the citizens' quality of life better.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **11. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said the Local Delegation would be here on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and they were working on the Legislative agenda, meeting with the cities on water projects next week. He said there would be money floating around this year in the Legislature for storm related mitigation projects State-wide and he recommended they ask for some of the money and may want to consider some type of permanent special needs shelter and the equipment necessary to have that.

He said he needed to get the Lobbyists' contracts back on the Agenda, was tabled earlier and the contracts have expired.

He informed the Economic Development retreat would be at the Anheuser Busch facility in Midway on Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> and the time would be determined..

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested when comes to Emergency Management, it looked like it was a very thick subject with lots of layers, they should schedule on a Saturday and could take as long as necessary because there was a lot to learn and they did not need to be rushed. He then asked with the workshop at the Anheuser Busch, what time frame they were looking at and was told the facility was secured from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Mr. Presnell told them Truck and Treat was coming up at Wards' Lot on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they or Talquin Electric was responsible for lights in front of the Tallavana School and Mr. Presnell said Talquin was, the County did not do lights.

Chair Taylor said they did need to review the County Administrator's contract and the last time it was on the agenda they did not have a full Board and a decision needed to be made on where to go and how to do it. She asked for it to go on the next agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt personally he was man of his word, he remembered talking to Mr. Presnell 5 years ago, told him he had his word, had not asked for one favor since he had been here, two years later, he gave him two more years, then informed the public they may not have known, but Mr. Presnell had retired already, after giving him the two years, they said they should give him another year, he raised hand and said, after he had won his first election, he raised his hand and moved to give him one more year, that gave him an additional three years. He said nothing personal, but he made sure he got the two years so he would not lose his retirement. He said the same guy that made his dream come true, never challenged him, never said anything about him or to him that was degrading and now been ostracized and talked about and said for a

constitutional officer to tell him how to vote was farfetched. He said he never went to their office and told them what to do and had been his biggest supporter. He said again, he was retired, officially retired. He said they gave him an opportunity, it was nothing personal but other people had been waiting. He said his decision was to do what Eric Hinson wanted to do.

Chair Taylor said all they were doing was putting this on the agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said they never knew how he thought, everybody thought he was going to get rid of him last time and at the last second he voted for him and brought him back and everybody thought he was going to get rid of the attorney and at the last second he brought him back and it was his decision to do what he wanted to do. He said he did not think they needed to put it on the Agenda, if they wanted to bring it back, make a motion to bring it back.

Chair Taylor said they needed to make an official stand because he needed to know what to do.

Commissioner Hinson said to just do their best and run the race as hard as they could because he (Mr. Presnell) thought he was gone last year. He further said he did not need anyone to call him because whoever called him, he would vote against it.

Chair Taylor said they had to make some strong decisions, they could put it in the Agenda or if Commissioner Hinson wanted to make a motion to bring him back for a year because he always led them. Commissioner Hinson said they could put pressure on someone else.

Chair Taylor said to bring this back on the next agenda.

Commissioner Holt said she was not in favor for bringing this back for another meeting, she was ready to vote at this meeting and wanted to put in a motion tonight. She said no-one could come in and tell her what to do, she judged by performance. She said she was the one that put in the motion to get rid of Howard McKinnon and when Howard needed a reference, he called her. She said her job was to look at the need and fill the need and was not in favor of putting it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Morgan said this needed to be on the Agenda because if public wanted to come and discuss they should have the opportunity. He said he heard the discussion around the Board and it was not primarily about a commissioner and how they would vote, it not about Mr. Presnell, is was about the County taxpayers and the folks that reported to the County Administrator and what was best for the County Government and for the next County Administrator, who they could attract to come to the seat and have the opportunity to transition with the existing Administrator. He said they were "in the cockpit flying the plane sitting back in first class having a cocktail".

Chair Taylor said as one that sits with setting the Agenda with the Administrator, she concurred that they needed to give the citizens an opportunity to have an input, there were people, that allegiance has been made, people that had opinions, it had been voiced around the Board on the number of phone calls they had received. She continued and said one commissioner so eloquently put it, he made his mind up one second before the vote was cast. She added they had always done things in order and she was for putting it on the Agenda and voting on it that night to give him some direction.

Commissioner Hinson said the vote was 2-2 right now, depending on how Commissioner Viegbesie felt. He said the issue was not to bring him back, the issue was what direction they were going and when putting his name out there it looked like they were getting rid of him and they were not getting rid of him. He said they did not want to make the community think they were trying to divide the County. He said true story, Commissioner Holt, Chair Taylor and Commissioner Lamb were the ones that brought Robert in and they stood strong for him, and he had no dog in the fight for Robert, thought he was a great person, a super guy.

Chair Taylor said he made a good point and she did not want to give the impression there was a divide but they needed to let the public know they were organized, decent and in order. She further stated when they got ready to renew a contract or terminate one, a motion could be made to do it then or have it agendaed.

Commissioner Hinson said they were not terminating anyone's contract.

Mr. Weiss said the word "terminate" not a good term to use.

Chair Taylor said she was asking to agenda this item to move forward.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he started not to say anything until the term "terminate" came up. He said the contract had a renewal procedure and the question was, was the contract to be renewed or not renewed. He said with regards to his position on the process that had been made clear and solid since they started. He said they paid all that money, met twice at Creek Entertainment to establish a succession plan and that was what he was sticking by.

Chair Taylor said they did not have a majority of the board to put this on the Agenda and was going to respect the will of the Board. She said she was now looking at the attorney to come up with a direction for the Board that they needed to do legally to ensure they were not left without a leader and did not want anyone to have heartburn with that direction. She then turned to Mr. Presnell and apologized for using the term "terminate" out of context and Mr. Presnell said that would be fine.

Mr. Weiss said what would happen and what they needed to do, if no action was taken on the contract it was set to expire on October 30<sup>th</sup>. He added that currently there was an RFP that was outstanding where one candidate was left, if they were not going to offer them the position, they need to rebid the position. He said the Board did need to take some type of action, whether it be renewal, selection of new administrator, if not, at the next meeting the Assistant would step into the role until a selection was made.

Commissioner Holt said they could motion at any time for an Interim Manager.

Mr. Weiss said not in accordance with their procurement policy and as their attorney, he would advise them not to do that.

Commissioner Holt said at any time the Board could choose an Interim and if the contract ran out, it ran out. She said the gentleman that withdrew his name; she called and asked why he withdrew his name. He said it was because he was never notified first of all that the County received his application and the second was months went by. She said he was notified about the job still being

open and he made the final selection and what happened with that. He said he was called and did the interview on Skype and when he was notified they wanted to do a second interview, nothing was in the interview that said what he was to do differently and gave him the impression they had already selected someone. She said the other problem they may have with putting the advertisement out, once they applied and met the criterion that was put out and they did not select from that pool, that was usually when lawsuits started flying and it was not something to play with.

Chair Taylor said this was one where she was going to lend to what legal said to them, some type of decision needed to be made.

Commissioner Hinson said if no decision was made, the Assistant would take over or whoever they decided.

Chair Taylor said they were not being fair. She said he had the responsibility of leading this County and providing the services they hired him to provide and over the last few years, anything and everything they have asked for was provided through him. She stated this was just common courtesy being given and all she was asking them to do was to put this on the agenda to put it to rest.

Commissioner Hinson said it was already at rest and she asked how. He said the attorney just told them what they were doing now was still incorrect and Chair Taylor said he told them to agenda it. Commissioner Hinson said he did not say that and Chair Taylor said he told them they needed to do something but did not say they needed to put it on the agenda. Chair Taylor said he told them they needed to agenda it to take some kind of action. Commissioner Hinson said they could make those decisions easily because if push came to shove, they could have a special meeting before October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Taylor asked Mr. Presnell said since this discussion was about him, if he had anything he wanted to say. Mr. Presnell said this process had been going on entirely too long, been distracting to the County, this government, the organization, the employees and the public in general. He said whatever the will of the Board was, was what they had to accept. He said it seemed the will of the Board was to transition and his services were no longer needed and that was fine. He said they needed a plan because the applicants did not work out, did not think they would hire the remaining applicant to transition that way and led them back to the Assistant County Administrator or some other person within the organization or outside. He said the Board needed to say that, paperwork get done and move forward. He said he always had been more than willing to work for this government and work with them and in November would be 19 years in a couple of different capacities and was willing to work in any way to transition to their new Administrator and leadership for the County. He said they had gone through the whole process and now they were talking about letting run out without talking about it to the last day, but if that was the way they wanted to do it, that was fine.

Commissioner Hinson said one thing she could not do, and he was always positive and fair as well, everyone knows she was fighting for this and could slow down now, she fought a good fight, demonstrated she fought a good fight, everyone heard she fought a good fight and now was time to leave and move forward because what she was doing was not good. He said before they did anything crazy, to be positive. He said it was their choice to do what they needed to do and felt

personally if it were him, the first thing he would say was he wanted to thank the Board because they did not have to bring him here. He would have said "when I sued the County for all this time right here, right, and these guys dogged me out to a t, Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Taylor, you guys stood firm with me. and I'm gonna tell you something, that was the best decision you guys ever made and I really appreciate that from the bottom of my heart, and then I would have came on and said some other positive stuff that, that this is some of the reasons I give you the reason why you need to have me as County Administrator, if I want to play that part-these are some of the things I have done and I think I have some more energy and synergy that still, I've got some fire in me still." He said it was not about the people, it was all about the Board because they had no problem with Robert but he believed in the process and doing what was right. He said it was OK to agree to disagree and this was one of the best Boards.

Chair Taylor said she was going to get with the Administrator in the morning, talk with him in depth and will then move forward.

Commissioner Viegbesie said had comments regarding the Administrator. He said Item 9 was about Joel Sampson architect that would be retained as the in-house architect and asked if they also had a contract with another architectural firm, and Mr. Presnell said yes and they were also working on an agreement with FAMU as well. Commissioner Viegbesie asked who the other firm was and Mr. Presnell said it was DPB who was also one of the engineering firms. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they had had Joel Sampson in-house before and Mr. Presnell said he had been used off and on for years for the smaller stuff and he was the architect of record for the Ag building and had done some things in the past and mainly had been on the applications. Commissioner Viegbesie said for transparency sake, the reason why he asked the question, there were some grants that have been made, especially for the St. Hebron Park, and when they needed an architectural design to present the package for funding, he did not know they had this architectural firm. Mr. Presnell said the park project was an engineering project, not architectural.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **12. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

#### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she had nothing to report.

#### **Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said at the CRTPA meeting, he raised an issue of some impediment of that the Four Star Freightliner was having with visibility from I-10 to the site. He was told that the right-of-way was the State right-of-way and arranged for a meeting between FDOT, CRPTA and GCDC so they could get some understanding on what the law was and permission to take down some trees so the company could get the visibility they needed from I-10. He said there was so much to know and if they did not have someone with the knowledge, no development would go on on the entire I-10 corridor and they would lose business. He asked if Mr. Presnell could call GCDC to give them a

little highlight of the kind of information that they needed to have to be shovel-ready.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said she felt that would be best done as a presentation at the Economic Development retreat.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone and said this had been a very informative meeting.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said he was not always the smartest man in the room all the time but he respected other people's decisions.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he felt they needed to readdress their procurement policy as far as the level of approval and they had seen several examples as to why it was not working and hoped it could be agendaed.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO PUT PROCUREMENT POLICY ON THE NEXT AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.**

He said new lighting was being put in place at the I-10 exits.

He also mentioned the need to reagenda the County-Wide Communication system as soon as possible and to rectify that problem.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said they elected at a prior meeting to hire a consultant and that would slow things down another 2-3 years and was a travesty and asked it be placed back on the agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO PLACE THE COUNTY-WIDE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ON THE NEXT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION.**

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said Mr. Presnell mentioned High Bridge Road earlier and Mr. Presnell said Old Federal would be first and he would get the dates.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said he had received a phone call from Midway asking why the EMS truck not there anymore. Mr. Presnell said they were trying to be in and out, there were some issues there and when they start, they get in the truck and leave and then they go back. He said he could have the EMS Director come to a meeting and then said he would discuss it with the Commissioner



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later.

Chair Taylor said she wanted to compliment Everbridge and said it was a tele-communication system owned by the County to communicate with everybody and keep them informed.

She then said there were only ten items on the agenda and they should have been out by 8:00 p.m. instead of 9:50 but it had always been historic. She said when there was a short agenda; it seemed to be a longer meeting.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Constitutional Officers for attending the meeting tonight along with the Volunteer firefighters.

**Receipt and File**

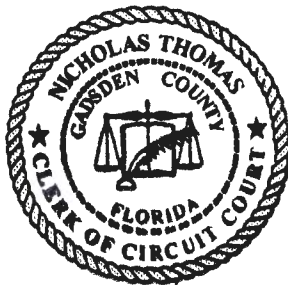
**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

October 17, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:47 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morgan asked to add to the Agenda the upcoming end of the Administrator's contract for discussion and resolution. Commissioner Holt asked if they were discussing the position or the person and Commissioner Morgan said whatever it took to have an Administrator in place after his existing contract ended.

Mr. Presnell said he would like to pull Item 8.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report,

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**1. Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Bob Busch, Motorola-County-Wide Radio Communications

Benjamin Bass, 4570 Memorial Blue Star Highway, Chattahoochee, FL County Communication

System

**Michael Dorian, 145 Alligator Run, Quincy, FL -Corridor roads**

Mr. Dorian appeared before the Board and said he had a history he passed out to the Commissioners for their information and benefit and wanted to highlight a few things listed on it.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Dorian asked that the Board read the information that he provided to them.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**2. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-007, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL amending Section 20-8 of the Economic Development Grant Program Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2016-006, Codified at Chapter 20, Article I, Section 20-8 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to Change one of the Bases for Some Grant Award Calculations; Providing for Repeal, Severability, Inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, Modifications that may Arise from Consideration at Public Hearing, and Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date**

Mr. Weiss said this was the first of two public hearings this evening. He explained this one sought the adoption of an Ordinance amending Section 20-8 of the Economic Development Grant Program Ordinance, Ordinance 2016-006, codified at Chapter 20, Article I, Section 20-8 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to change one of the bases for some grant award calculations. He said one of the words that went into the calculations was the word "payroll taxes"-a certain percentage of a company's payroll taxes could go into the calculation for a grant award. He said it was his understanding when this was drafted, the intention was to have a percentage of payroll rather than payroll taxes but it currently stated "payroll taxes" and further said payroll taxes would be a nominal amount and would not do much to enhance the incentive based on the calculation. He said it was before them tonight to remove the word "taxes" in two different places in the Ordinance and would make it so the incentive would be calculated in part based on payroll rather than payroll taxes.

Commissioner Morgan said if he understood this correctly, they were basing this on total payroll and if they had looked at how it may impact the dollars. He asked if a new business came to town and they had a payroll of \$200,000 a year for five positions, one of which was the owner and he made \$120,000 a year and the others made \$10.00/hour, would that give any weight on how this was done and should that be something they should be concerned about. Mr. Presnell said he would have to check on the cap unless the attorney knew off the top of his head but he knew the project they were currently working on had a pretty sizable payroll and the impact to the County would be approximately \$30,000 and over three years. Commissioner Morgan asked if they wanted to make an Ordinance based on one project.

Commissioner Holt said the reason they looked at this, it gave incentives to companies to try to get them to come and to increase the possibility of jobs for the County.

Mr. Weiss explained the way the grant calculations would work-first there was a score of companies coming in based of what they were bringing in terms of economic development for the County and when go from there, there is the grant calculation award, which one component was

the payroll tax would be payroll and was something the County would then give to the business as an incentive to come to the County.

Chair Taylor asked if this incentive would work with expansions for existing businesses and Mr. Weiss explained it would qualify and depend upon the expansion.

Chair Taylor then announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there was no-one that wished to speak.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative): Consideration to adopt Ordinance 2017-003 to update the Capital Improvements Schedule of the Capital Improvements Element (KSPA-2017-001)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to adopt Ordinance 2017-003 to adopt the Capital Improvements Schedule for Fiscal Years 2017/2018-2021/2022 of the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Weiss said every year they were statutorily required to update the Capital Improvements Schedule of part of their Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive they have to include a list of the publicly funded projects, project costs and funding sources that impact capacity over a 5 year planning horizon.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and no-one wished to speak.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4. Rescind September 7, 2017 action directing Staff to issue a solicitation for the hiring of a consultant to develop specifications for a solicitation for the lease or purchase of a new County-wide communications system**

Mr. Presnell deferred this item to the Attorney.

Mr. Weiss said this was to rescind the decision of the Board's action on September 7, 2017 directing staff to issue a solicitation for the hiring of a consultant to develop specifications for a solicitation for the lease or purchase of a new County-wide communication system. He said they found out in order to hire a consultant to develop the specifications for the system, it would require a lot of time and cost a lot of money. He said if they were going to consider an alternative purchasing option rather than issue a solicitation, they would need to rescind their prior direction to hire a consultant to develop the specs for the solicitation.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney questions regarding this item and what the legal ramifications were if they chose Option 1. Mr. Weiss said he could not tell them what would or would not happen with regard to the Public Records request. He said if they decided to go with a different route for acquisition, they were entitled to do so under their procurement policy; they

were entitled to do so. Mr. Weiss said he could not tell them there would not be litigation.

Commissioner Hinson said it was said if they went through this process it could cost \$100,000 and asked for evidence where that amount of money was paid to get it done. Mr. Weiss said he had been told it could cost as much as \$100,000 to develop specifications. Commissioner Hinson said their decision was based on what he was saying and if he had facts that would demonstrate it and if he was going to make a \$3 Million decision, he wanted to make sure he had all the information before making the decision.

Commissioner Morgan said it was not the County Attorney's job to advise them what it might cost, that was the Staff and Administrator's job.

Mr. Presnell said earlier in the process, they contacted other counties and got estimates from them as to their costs.

Commissioner Hinson said he was a math instructor and that was why he asked two or three months ago for the comparison between the two to make his decision.

Commissioner Holt said the specs they had now were for Motorola and Mr. Presnell said it was a governmental contract.

Commissioner Morgan said the situation was the County had something that was critical and this was a potential life-saving solution. He said this item asked them to rescind an action they took at a previous meeting that they should have not taken in his opinion and he did not vote for it because they were not required to bid anything; this was a problem they were looking to solve, had a local vendor come and assess the situation, make a recommendation and it took several weeks and months to do. They found an existing contract they could legally piggy-back off of and should have done it at that point. He said a Commissioner asked about having another vendor come in and there was no problem, they came in, made a recommendation and was not a bid situation. He further said this was a problem that needed to be resolved and fixed. He said one of the vendors was not going to be chosen and the other will be mad and if they wanted to legally pursue a court case that was their right. He said the attorney was trying to tell them they were within their procurement policy to move forward and solve the problem and they needed to rescind this and approve the next item with whatever direction they were going to do.

Chair Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan because she came face-to-face in a situation with what a deputy was going through with the mike on his shoulder the week before.

Commissioner Hinson said "Personally I think we need to move as well but at the same time we need to make sure that, that, the question is that why we here at this point right here if they did the research before this, why we had to come back and rescind. They saying we found another loophole, why would you say that, I mean, if, you know, once someone say we want to make sure we have, we want everybody's emails and phone records and all this, alright we got another way we can handle this now. Why couldn't we find another way the first time than going through this. That's the thing, how it looks, how it seems. It's nothing about right or wrong, it's how it seems. Because we got the same attorney, same County Administrator here, right, how come they couldn't come before that and say 'Hey, with the research here, this is the legal way to handle this'. We could have voted the same day and moved forward. But, what we did was went

through another process, then once the people say we want to file a lawsuit, not to file a lawsuit, we want to investigate some more and we want County Administrator's phone records, we want the County Commission phone records, the emails, public records request then the next Board meeting we say 'Hold on a second, let's go back, we got another way we can do this without that. Let's go rescind that and come back'. It's just how it looked, how it seemed to the people. I never been accused like that before you know, so I was just saying to make sure we do it smooth and whenever we do it, you know, it may take another month or two. I don't think nobody got a problem with doing the service, but how it looks, how it seems like we got our hand in the cookie jar".

Chair Taylor said from her understanding Williams was still going to pursue and this did not deter or stop.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew a lot of kids getting in trouble and why couldn't they put community centers all over the area, because they had to look at the money. He said a lot of seniors needed a state of the arts facility in the area and why couldn't they do that? He said some things they had to do what was right and no-one was saying not to do it. He felt 100% of the Board members said do it and was something they had to do. He said he wanted to make sure they did what was right. He said he had people contact him that were in support of Motorola, that worked with them with the fire departments and once he told them it was \$3 Million, they were not aware of the amount of money and thought there might be another way. He said once people were given all the information, they could base their decision on that but there should not be a money value on peoples' safety, he just wanted to make sure everything was in line.

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator the costs of Item 6 and Mr. Presnell said \$1.4 Million. Commissioner Hinson said it was originally \$3 Million and Chair Taylor said yes and she wanted the public to know the actual numbers now.

Commissioner Holt asked with this item, how they would pay Motorola and Mr. Presnell said over a period of 5-10 years and there were a number of options on the financing. Motorola offered financing but if they approve this and direct Staff to move forward, they would find the best financing deal. Commissioner Holt asked the option with Williams and Mr. Presnell said it was the same.

Mr. Weiss said under their procurement policy they could develop specs and have it bid. He said their other option was to rescind that direction and make an alternative acquisition under their procurement policy and make a piggy-back purchase off the existing Government contract.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR TO RESCIND THIS ITEM, SECOND MADE BY (COMMISSIONER MORGAN RETURNED AT THIS TIME) COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**5. Purchase or Lease of New County-Wide Radio Communication System**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction or approval for the purchase or lease of a New County-Wide Radio Communication System.

**Benjamin Bass, 4570 Memorial Blue Star Highway, Chattahoochee, FL**

Mr. Bass appeared before the Board and said the number of radios being purchased would not cover the amount needed by fire departments and asked if the numbers could change. He said they were getting brand new equipment and putting it in shelters that do not have good working air conditioning or proper grounding and it would not be properly protected. Mr. Presnell said they had met with the Fire Chiefs with each department.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Presnell said the numbers came from the fire chiefs and some of fire departments may be buying radios just as cities were.

**Bob Busch, Motorola, 67 Seville Chase Drive, Winter Springs, FL**

Mr. Busch appeared before the Board and said four of their employees were residents of Gadsden County.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said they met with EMS, Fire and the Sheriff to go over their solution and was hopeful they picked Motorola as the Communications partner. He said one thing that was clear to them was the need for reliable County-Wide multi-agency communications so they could all talk to each other.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was something that should have been done and they heard from the service users as to the compatibility of Motorola's product. He said they also that the servicing of the equipment from one vendor was in-house and other was outsourced. He said his vote would not change

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Busch about additional towers. Mr. Busch explained the system was a 5 site system and that was included in the proposal. He said there was one transmitter site at the Sheriff's and two additional sites over what they had today and coverage would be increased greatly.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Taylor said they needed help with concerns of Mr. Bass and said she expected the Administrator to do due diligence.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Approval of Revisions to the County's Procurement Policy**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of revisions to the County's Procurement Policy.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was a revision level that he would not support because he did

not think it was appropriate for one person to have that authority, it was too much money. He said Leon County's budget was \$568 Million, twelve times Gadsden County's budget and their County Administrator did not have up to \$25,000 without having to go through the process.

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator with regard to Commissioner Viegbesie's comments, she said the \$25,000 threshold they were looking to approve without Board approval was a bit high but did not want to hinder the government. She said she preferred if there were a number that he saw that he would need to take care of things.

Mr. Presnell said any number would be an improvement to help streamline purchasing, even if they went with \$10,000.

Commissioner Morgan said he was the one that asked this be brought back and the reason was there were several examples brought before them the past few months where it hindered the day-to-day operations of County government and he was not aware of any issues from the prior procurement policy. He thought it worked and was his opinion they should go back to that, if it presented a problem, address it then.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID SHE HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Holt said she could go along with an increase but not \$25,000. She wanted to see a list of projects over a certain period of time. She said she did not mind changing it to \$10,000 but could not vote for \$25,000, it was too much.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.**

**7. Approval of the Contract with Con-Techs Health & Safety to Provide Pre-Employment, Post-Accident, and Random Drug and Alcohol Screening Services and Training Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the services contract with Con-Techs Health & Safety to provide pre-employment, post-accident, and random drug and alcohol screening services as well as training services to the County.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Approval Of Internet Essentials Agreement with Comcast**

Pulled

**9. Approval of the Architectural Design for the New Multi-Purpose Facility for the UF/IFAS Gadsden County Extension Office**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the architectural design for the new Multi-Purpose Facility for the UF/IFAS Gadsden County Extension Office.

Joel Sampson appeared before the Board and presented drawings of the proposed site along with a video.



*Chair Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Sampson explained the lay-out of the new facility.

*Chair Taylor returned.*

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD QUESTIONS. SHE ASKED IF THEY WERE APPROVING IT WITH CHANGES OR APPROVING THE LAYOUT. HE SAID HE WAS PRESETTING THE WHOLE DESIGN. CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**10. Approval of Resolution 2017-033 Supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to Apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature by the Chair in support of the CTST applying for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. He said this was for Phase II of the sidewalk from Crossroad Academy to High Bridge Road.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of the Recreational Trails Program Grant Match**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item. He said the County applied for a Recreational Trails Grant for the property they acquired at St. Hebron and it was awarded and required a \$25,000 cash match and \$175,000 in-kind site work.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said the site work would be clearing with Public Works and there was an issue with that. He said there was a deadline and they wanted a letter stating the Board approved the funding before they executed the contract but made them aware that the \$175,000 in-kind services required posed a problem. He explained they were unable to use gas tax money but they do fund a portion of Public Works with the surtax, which was a penny that was half fire and half Public Works. He said they could legally use those funds but would need to amend the Ordinance.

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He added if they wanted to do this and use their equipment for the in-kind match, they need to revise the Ordinance for the penny sales tax and change the allowable uses of the surtax and add parks and would need to pass with a super-majority vote.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said they would be changing the Ordinance to include parks for services that Public Works would be using for other projects such as bridges, roads, etc. Mr. Presnell said they receive half of that funding each year and have for a number of years. Commissioner

Morgan said he had no issue with a park but they want to make the best decision for that District and the residents. He said based on what he was seeing and hearing he thought there was another grant they could apply for that would not require a match that would not take money away from Public Works and what it was intended for. He asked at the end of the day they had the cost of purchasing the property of close to \$50,000, now another \$25,000 and redirecting \$175,000 that was needed for the roads, bridges, etc. He asked what would be at the Park at the end of the day and Mr. Presnell said a ten foot wide multi-purpose trail around the perimeter. Commissioner Morgan said in addition to that he saw the next item after this that \$60,000 of the \$200,000 would be on fees that would come out. He said he had no issue with a park there but felt this was not the best answer to get this accomplished; there was another grant they could go after.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in the last year's budget there was \$30,000; Mr. Presnell said that was in the current budget. Commissioner Viegbesie said out of the \$30,000 was where the \$25,000 would come from and Mr. Presnell said that was correct. Commissioner Viegbesie said even though the park was in the eastern part of the County it was open to everyone. He added the facilities would create a one mile ten foot wide walking trail, bike riding, and a nature observation trail around the 25.25 acre site and would have educational advantages to it because it would provide opportunities to observe and study plants, birds and wildlife that were native to North Florida. He said if they did this, there was nothing preventing them in the future to do one in west Gadsden. He added that Gadsden County had playgrounds but had no parks and said the motion was made and he called the question.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Mr. Weiss said the Administrator explained in terms of the in-kind services and the need to amend the Ordinance in order for the in-kind to go through and it would require a super-majority vote. He said that would come before them at the next meeting. He further stated this letter attached would be signed and mailed out and if the Amended Ordinance did not pass this was not contingent on that.

Chair Taylor said that was why it was imperative that they do things in a timely manner and said she had heartburn with this because it was like designating a funding source that they did not have approval for and they do this in the proper perspective.

Commissioner Holt pointed out if this were contingent on the super-majority vote they were not out of line. Chair Taylor said the motion was moved to approval not with a contingency on it.

Mr. Weiss said it would be appropriate if they wanted to reconsider it.

Chair Taylor said they could amend the motion to include being contingent

Commissioner Holt said if they had already made the motion and the vote taken, the winning side had to bring the item back. Chair Taylor said that was what she was trying to do.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had no problem but the issue was if the item was on the Agenda and collaborative work by legal counsel, Administrator and Staff, he felt the contingency should

have been a part of the options coming from Staff on the Agenda. He said he was going to amend his motion to reflect what the law said they needed to do to keep them on the right path.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION ONE BEING CONTINGENT ON THE REVISION OF THE ORDINANCE. BEFORE A SECOND THERE WAS DISCUSSION ON HOW TO PROCEED.**

Chair Taylor asked for direction from the attorney.

Mr. Weiss said the appropriate procedural mechanism under Roberts' Rules would be a Motion to Reconsider by one of the prevailing parties and assuming that motion was approved, the next motion should be to approve the option contingent upon.

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to reconsider.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE CONTINGENT ON THE REVISION AND APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**12. Approval if Task Order 2017-016 with DPB & Associates Consulting Engineers for Project Planning and Design Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a Task Order with DPB & Associates for Project Planning and Design Services and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

Mr. Weiss said there was no grant agreement with DEP and this needed to be contingent upon a Grant Agreement with DEP.

Chair Taylor said this item needed to be approved contingent upon the funding was received.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE CONTINGENT OF DEP APPROVING THE GRANT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan reverted back to the previous item and the concerns he stated then and asked the Board to fully consider that in this particular project.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**13. Approval of 2018 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a funding agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and The Florida Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP) for the Solid Waste Program. He added this was for approval for the Chair to execute the agreement and authorization for the Finance Director to approve and sign requests for reimbursements on a quarterly basis.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of the Non Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements for FY2017/2018**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements for FY2017/2018 and authorization for the Chair to sign the agreements.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said she thought it would be good if they could hear from some of the organizations on their activities and how well they were progressing with the funding and what they were doing.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval if the Non Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Human Senior Services for Gadsden County Seniors for FY 2017/2018**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and asked that whoever made the motion to include Havana Senior Citizens to the motion for approval.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND THERE WAS DISCUSSION BEFORE THE SECOND WAS MADE.**

Commissioner Hinson said they eliminated all the “stuff” so they could get their money quarterly and all they needed to do was produce an invoice and a quarterly report. Mr. Presnell said if it were \$5,000 or less, they had been giving it to them because it would not give them enough money to do what they might need to do. Commissioner Hinson said they wanted him to do what they told him to do and “We told you to do and we had this conversation forever and this was something that, just do exactly what the Board told you to do. The Board told you we had this conversation with the Clerk of Court and he was trying not to make it work and we had this conversation here about the Senior Citizens, the Board instructed that they would give us a blueprint of what they were going to use this for; once they give the blueprint, we give them the funding. Because the argument we had at the time is that we had people, like for instance, especially in Havana, if you had to do the bathroom, that’s \$10,000 right there. If you had to go and then do the kitchen, that \$10,000, the floor and then have to do the plumbing outside that’s almost a quarter of a mile down, that’s a lot of money there. So they can’t, they can’t wait until, some people got the luxury to do it, but they built that place so which means they been refurbishing a lot of stuff that’s going on and I think as the Board instructed, the County, we don’t need no bright ideas around here, cause you got to do what the Board said, that’s not illegal to do what the Board said do. The Board said give them the money.” Mr. Presnell said that was what he was trying to say. Commissioner Hinson continued “We don’t want to give them the money

quarterly, am I right? We give them the money straight up so they can use it how they want to use it.” Mr. Presnell said they could verify this and it would bring clarity to the Board because he thought he used the wrong figure. He said they were giving them their money but he said \$5,000 but he thought it was the entire \$10,000 they were receiving.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15a County Administrator Contract**

Commissioner Morgan said this was for discussion and action on the County Administrator’s contract that would be coming to an end in few days if not extended. He asked the Board to extend the contract to the end of his drop term of April 2019 to have a more seasoned administrator.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT UNTIL THE END OF APRIL 2019 AND CHAIR TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Chair Taylor said she had always stood on the premise of twelve months and asked the Administrator for clarity what his preference was and he said he worked at the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to say something about where they stood and how they had gotten here. He said when he came on Board in 2014, Board decided to have two retreats to provide a succession plan, somehow things did not work out according to the timeline and now they were in a quagmire.

Commissioner Holt said there was a plan in place and had done what they needed to do to take care of the position and they needed to move forward.

Chair Taylor said there was a motion on the floor and Commissioner Viegbesie asked that this be a roll call vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie-no  
Commissioner Hinson-no  
Commissioner Holt-no  
Commissioner Morgan-yes  
Chair Taylor-yes

**MOTION FAILED WITH A 3-2 VOTE.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO HIRE ANTHONY POWELL AS INTERIM MANAGER AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was surprised to hear that nomination but since they had voted the first motion down and since the County needed a County Administrator with the transition from where they were to where they were going he would make the second and hearing the credentials, felt they had a formidable person in place to carry the County forward.

**CHAIR TAYLOR SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND SECOND ON THE FLOOR FOR ANTHONY POWELL FOR INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Commissioner Viegbesie-yes  
Commissioner Hinson-no  
Commissioner Holt-yes  
Commissioner Morgan-no  
Chair Taylor-no

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR DEE JACKSON TO BE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said they needed someone now and given where they were, he made the second for her to be the Interim.

Commissioner Holt said she was pretty sure she would vote no and the reason was Anthony Powell had the experience and it was a tough job. She said if they could not choose someone that had already done this and had experience, she would prefer someone from the Range Riders. She said they were paying Association fees and they could send someone that had already done this for several different counties throughout the State and was their job. Commissioner Hinson said he understood that Mr. Powell would be retiring in December. Commissioner Holt said she spoke with him and he said he was retiring but was willing to do this until they were able to find someone.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Commissioner Viegbesie-yes  
Commissioner Hinson-yes  
Commissioner Holt-no  
Commissioner Morgan-no  
Chair Taylor-yes

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE DEE JACKSON AS INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at this time.*

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **16. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded them of the Trunk or Treat at Wards lot on October 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:30 p.m.

He said there was a Workshop at Campbell-Kelly Center regarding Stevens School on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for an update regarding the Greenshade Community fire station. Mr. Presnell said as they knew the County had purchased property and there had been numerous

meetings there trying to get the community organized. He said there were eight individuals that signed up for the training and they needed a minimum of two that were certified to place equipment there.

Mr. Presnell asked to say a few words since this was his last meeting. He said he was glad the issue had been resolved. He said some had been together a good while, they had made headway and he had enjoyed the opportunity to work with them. He said he and Dee Jackson worked well together and if there were any way he could help, she knew where he was.

Chair Taylor said they would go around and allow every Commissioner to say a few words.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew Mr. Presnell before he ran for office and his vote today had nothing to do with the person. He added that Mr. Presnell had been very helpful in helping him grow in his area of expertise, transportation, roads, etc. and he hoped he knew his vote had nothing to do with him as a person but had to do with his feelings about the process.

Commissioner Holt said she came in '02 and Robert was at Road and Bridge at the time and said they had done a lot of things together and had gone after projects together. He said they went through

Commissioner Hinson said personally Mr. Presnell had helped him lot; helped to strengthen his "EQ" and how to connect with other people. He added that this was nothing personal and once they were doing the interviewing process didn't think he was interested and his mind was made up and he started looking to see how would be interested.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to staff, he wanted it on record that Mr. Presnell did not work for the County Commission, they all worked for Gadsden County, he did not work for the Board, he worked with the Board for the County because they were his supervisor.

Chair Taylor said the thing she liked best about him was the team he had put together.

Commissioner Hinson said he came in late the last meeting and decided to look at the meeting himself and looked at the meeting on Facebook and they were being recorded without their consent and was being posted on the County Facebook page. He said the County never approved to air the meeting live on Facebook and what he saw, they were talking and it was being aired 5-10 minutes before the meeting. He said the job of the County was to make the County look great and felt it was not fair to them to be in that situation. Their job was to make them look good and to not show their weaknesses and using County purchased property to do so. He felt it was one of the most unprofessional things he had seen and asked if it were legal or criminal and wanted to know when they bought the camera and what the purpose was; it was never used anywhere else. He asked for it to be investigated and said having speakers there without Board consent was wrong. He added when he saw it, it was one of the scariest things he had seen in his life. He added he had his Wife look at it. He said as a matter of fact he recorded it on his phone and then erased it.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if Florida was a consent state where consent had to be given before recording and added in his class he had rule of no-one taping in his class without consent.

Commissioner Hinson said this occurred five minutes prior to the public meeting.

Chair Taylor asked the Attorney for an opinion.

Mr. Weiss said he would have to look into this matter if prior to the meeting if there were a distinction between being a public forum and having somehow some type of consent by virtue of that. He said during the meeting it was a public meeting and saw no issue with that but would check on prior to the meeting starting.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to let the Commissioners know they were being recorded and being put on Facebook live because that was fair to them. He said they were being recorded five minutes prior to meeting and he recorded it himself. He said to just imagine someone said something crazy-someone could have gone to jail because of a joke.

Chair Taylor said to let legal look into this matter and come back with an opinion.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were recorded before meeting started tonight. She asked if she could ask Mr. Jenkins some questions. She asked if he was the one that put dialogue on FB live before the meeting started and he responded that he activated the cameras just prior to the Chair starting the meeting. Mr. Jenkins said the meeting was being recorded by 3 different devices. Commissioner Holt asked him what time he started recording the meeting and he said when the Chair said to get started. Commissioner Holt said that was being done without any consent. Mr. Jenkins said this was a public meeting and Commissioner Holt said it was not a public meeting before it started. She further stated that people in the room needed to be aware in case they were talking to each other and something was picked up and once the meeting started sure, it was fair game. Commissioner Holt asked to have an answer by tomorrow and thought the Board should have a say-so before going live.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **17. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss told Mr. Presnell it had been a pleasure to work with him and hoped him best in his retirement.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

###### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Chair Taylor welcomed Mrs. Jackson aboard.

She said they needed to look at the issue of the one person left on the search for Manager. She further stated she thought over a year was too long to go on with this process.

###### **Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for a Proclamation.

#### **UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DR. ROBERT GAINES**



**AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

He echoed the sentiment of his fellow commissioners in welcoming Mrs. Jackson aboard and said she was familiar with the "A-team" and he was looking forward to working with her.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson asked for a special Resolution for his Aunt that passed away last week, Betty Bryant.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Chair Taylor said with regards to Mrs. Jackson, they needed to get with the Attorney to bring back a contract and there needed to be a salary adjustment.

Commissioner Holt said they did not say a start date and Chair Taylor said it had to be the 31<sup>st</sup>-

**RECEIPT AND FILE**

**19. Death Resolutions**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**20. November 7, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**


**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:34 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

  
BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson asked to pull Items 5, 6, 20 and said there was an Amended Contract for Item 15.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD  
VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

Commissioner Viegbesie took a moment to recognize some people in the audience.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD  
VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting**
  - b. August 15, 2017-Regular Meeting**
- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval of the 2018 Holiday Schedule**
- 4. Approval to Accept the FY 2018-2019 Budget Calendar**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Linda Hinson, 78 Bell Road, Havana, FL** - problem with neighbors' dog. Ms. Hinson appeared before the Board and said this problem has been ongoing for twelve months. She has worked with Clyde Collins, Anthony Powell, Wade with Animal Control, and she said she had a problem with a neighbor's dog that was peeing on her door, her car; the dog comes and pees in the workers' tool boxes. She said they have gone to the neighbor's house numerous times, the Sheriff's Department had been there several times and 2-3 weeks ago she trapped the dog with a County-owned trap that was brought to her by Wade. She was told once the dog was trapped; he would become County property and would be the end of it. Mr. Powell told her he would recommend the dog not be returned to its owners and was. She was very upset after going through this for the past year and asked that the Commission look into it to see why the County rules were not followed.

***Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of meeting***

Chair Taylor advised her since this was not an agendaed item, it could not be discussed tonight. She asked her to leave her phone number and the Interim Administrator would be in touch with her regarding this.

Dorothy Smith, 814 Dodger Ball Park Road, -Item 7

Betty Atkins, 8440 Salem Road, Item 7

**Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, Trunks of Treats**

Pastor Morris thanked the BOCC for participating in the Trunk of Treat affair.

Patricia Kenon, 1160 Dodger Ball Park Road, Item 7

Marionette Bryant, 207 Charlie Harris Loop, Quincy, paved road – have 10 acre plot-St. John's Church beside Hutchinson Ferry-individuals paid for land but County won't let but 4 people move onto land until paved-asked if something could be worked out with County so could get into own homes

Holt said she needed to talk with Manager and Road and Bridge to see what could be done-start process

Barbara Pople, 506 N. Jackson Street, GCDC Funding and contract-item 21

**\*\* Develin Brown, 540 Crayfish Road, Chattahoochee, FL** – attends senior citizens programs in Chattahoochee and Quincy. Ms. Brown appeared before the Board and said she was a member of the Senior Citizens of Gadsden County. She said she attends the Chattahoochee and the Quincy Senior Citizens and there was not enough there to stimulate their minds, bodies and their spirit. She said the County allocates \$102,000 annually for the programs but they needed the County to think about upping the money so they could bring in programs that would give them benefits to so that. She asked at the next budget season, they consider adding more funds to be able to do more to stimulate their minds.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

5. **PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative) Miller Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment (LPSA 2017-02) Consideration to Transmit a text amendment to Policy 1.1.1.k of the Future Land Use Element**  
Pulled
6. **PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative) Miller Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (LPSA 2017-03) Consideration of the transmittal of a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment**  
Pulled
7. **PUBLIC HEARING- Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-008, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include parks and recreational facilities maintenance and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, providing for repeal; severability, inclusion in the correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above Public Hearing and said it did require a super majority vote.

Chair Taylor said there would be a short discussion around the Board and then she would recognize people from the audience that wished to speak.

There were several members of the audience that waved in support of the passing of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was good for the entire County and would provide access to new funding for parks and recreation across the entire County.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED IF THEY WERE GOING TO ENTERTAIN COMMENTS FROM THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND CHAIR TAYLOR SAID YES.**

Commissioner Morgan said anytime they talk about changing existing ordinances, especially as important as this one was, they needed to have a serious discussion. He said he did not think there were any of them there that did not support or desire the support for parks in their communities but it was a matter of prioritizing whether parks were more important than things such as water and sewer systems, road improvements, fire protection services, maintaining their bridges and other infrastructure needs that they all would benefit from. He asked if the Administrator could call the Public Works Director up for some questions.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were all caught up or if there were items they were still working on that were not finished yet. Mr. Young said they were still working on a few things but most of the items they were working on were grant related. Commissioner Morgan asked about road improvements and Mr. Young said there were still a few roads that needed improvements. Commissioner Morgan suggested they look at another way to fund parks and needed to make sure

they prioritized what was important and these proceeds were originally to be used for fire, water and sewer. He strongly recommended they do not change the Ordinance.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this Ordinance before them; the fund would have nothing to do with budget money from the County. He explained this was money came from grants and the State and the funds would not be competing with existing funds for any other project in the County. He said this was a result of a \$200,000 grant that had already been given to the County to build a walking trail with lights for citizens to use.

Commissioner Morgan made it very clear he was not insinuating that, he said it was a fact they would be taking dollars that were originally intended for infrastructure items that were clearly listed in the existing Ordinance. He pointed out this was not a minor change, it was a major change and would have a direct impact on future dollars as to how they were directed when it came to prioritizing needs within the County. He said he had an opinion that roads, bridges, fire services and things of that nature were much more important than funding parks. He added he had no problem with funding parks, just felt they should prioritize.

Chair Taylor asked Mrs. Jackson for clarity based on the information she just heard from the Commissioners.

**Herb Chancy, Parks and Recreation Director**, appeared before the Board and said he just learned of this item this afternoon.

Chair Taylor asked Mr. Weiss if he could give some clarity regarding this and he said at the last meeting, the Board approved the award of the grant Commissioner Viegbesie referred to. He added that in order to receive the grant, County had to match \$200,000 and the County was able to do an in-kind match. He said the approval at the last meeting of the grant award was contingent upon the approval of the amendment to this ordinance regarding the discretionary sales tax. He added the currently a portion of the Public Works funds come from this discretionary sales surtax. He explained that the statutory authorization for discretionary sales surtax allowed the County to decide how to use the funds. He said currently the County Ordinance had the use of funds limited to maintenance of the existing jail facility, construction and maintenance of pod or pods at the jail; for Public Works infrastructure projects such as road improvements and water and sewer systems, fire protection, suppression, repair and maintenance of bridges. He said the proposed amendment was to add parks and recreational facility, maintenance and improvements as authorized use of the revenue generated from the discretionary sales surtax, which would allow Public Works to use the money to match for the in-kind match. He said that was why the amendment was necessary for the grant.

Commissioner Morgan said what they were talking about doing was making historic changes to this ordinance in order to fund one park from the grant. He said he did not have a problem with them finding and accepting a grant when it was the right thing to do and made sense for the park. He said they were basically looking at a bike path and walking trail. He added there might be other grants in the future that would not require match money. He added that \$60,000 of that money would be coming out and would not be going to benefit the park. He added there was a much smarter way to get this done and this was not it. He said this was not a minor change to the Ordinance.

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator, said she heard the Commissioner say there may be some alternatives to get the same thing done without changing the Ordinance and asked what other ways were available without adopting the changes. Mrs. Jackson said there were other grants out there that and they had applied for several. She said there was also a possibility that the Board could provide cash match versus in-kind services.

Commissioner Hinson said he supported this because Gadsden County had an aging community and they needed to support their health and the seniors had nowhere to go.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Morgan's point was the ordinance was originally for the jail, and then they opened it up for Road and Bridge. She said after that date ran out, the Board had the option of including other things and they included Road and Bridge and EMS. She said this did require a super-majority vote. She said she heard Commissioner Morgan's concerns and thought one remedy might be to place a cap on the funds. She asked if the grant had an in-kind that was not a monetary match instead of money. Mrs. Jackson said they were looking to get an in-kind Services grant.

Commissioner Hinson said he appreciated Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Holt's concerns. He said there were not enough parks and recreation areas in the community. He added that Parks did not cost that much money and could keep people living.

Commissioner Holt said she was not debating, just trying to give options because they needed four votes. She said they needed to make a decision. She said she wanted to make sure the project moved forward and they did not lose the \$200,000.

Commissioner Morgan said one way to be innovative was rather than needing more money; prioritize what money they had. He said that way they could ensure that they would always been in good shape financially. He added they had always put lot of money into Eugene Lamb Park, Pat Thomas Park, Rosedale, etc. and wanted to make sure they maintained them. He said if someone's house caught fire or someone fell from a bridge what was rotten, they could care less if they got to a park.

Commissioner Hinson said they were both right, and said they needed more than one park in a district. He said parks were not that much; they were acting like it was a lot but really was not. He said they wanted to make sure it was spread out; people would donate land so they could have a place to call their own and that was how to build a community. He said he could find 4-5 places in Havana that could be used for parks and rec.

Commissioner Viegbesie called the question.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew of a place Chair Taylor wanted to have a park and if they kill this, it meant they had to pay others to cut down trees but they had staff that could do it (Public Works) that could do the work already.

**Fred Harris, 1050 Solomon Dairy Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he had been listening and had been a great discussion and appreciated everyone's perspective. He said the way he saw it breaking down was, there was a need for the \$200,000 but there was also a concern with the sales tax proceeds. He said he hated to see the County lose the \$200,000 and

suggested to make the Ordinance change but have it sunset after the \$200,000 has been matched unless the BOCC comes back by super majority and put it back in for good.

Chair Taylor said she was one of the two that did not see this moving forward because she had to look at the County as a whole. She said when she took office and took the oath, the first thing they swore to was public safety and if there was an emergency on a road, she wanted to make sure that vehicles could get down it without any infringements.

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney if they were able to approve and put a sunset in place.

Chair Taylor said she was trying to think ahead, they could put a sunset in place but there was a motion on the floor that needed to be amended.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE A SUNSET AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS SECOND.**

Commissioner Morgan said if they do what they were talking about, what would prevent others from wanting to do the very same thing to certain parks and they will be told no. Commissioner Holt said yes, they would have to because it sunset. He asked that they think about what they were talking about getting into and the precedence they were starting to set.

Chair Taylor asked if it sunset for a period of time before the project was completed those wishing to have a project not have an opportunity to come and Mr. Weiss said it would depend on what they put in the sunset provision; if make specific to a date, she would be correct. Chair Taylor said tonight she was probably voting no and the reason was they needed to craft some language based on the conversation tonight.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR TAYLOR VOTED NO. MOTION FAILED.**

Chair Taylor told Ms. Jackson at the next meeting to have the language clear and the legal terminology down and asked this be brought back with clarity.

**\*\*Commissioner Morgan had a Speaker Request Form from Ms. Brown and she asked to speak\*\***

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8. Advanced Training for SWAT Operation**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund to pay for training, boarding and per diem costs for one Deputy Investigator to attend the TYPE 3 SWAT Operator's at Government Training Institute's Joint Operations Center in Barnwell, SC.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Approval of Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement for Design of the Adams Street Sidewalk**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and execution of the Local Agency Program agreement for acceptance of the State of Florida funding for the Design of Adams Street sidewalk Phase 1 and approval of Resolution 2017-035.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval of Change Order #1 to Increase Funding for the Atlanta Street Sidewalk Project**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for Change Order #1 to increase funding for South Atlanta Sidewalk Project.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**11. Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said annually the Public Works Department must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for matching funds according to Florida Statutes, Chapter 388 and this was for Board approval of the agreement.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval to Bid (17-26) to Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the County contract for the purchase of a Mosquito Sprayer to Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**13. Approval of the Security Force Southeast LLC Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the above-referenced contract for the Probation Office.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of Translator/Interpreter Contract for the Probation Department**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the translator/interpreter contract for the Probation division.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**



Commissioner Hinson asked why this item was before the Board when it was under \$5,000 threshold and Mrs. Jackson said because it was a contract and all contracts had to come before the Board for approval.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Approval to Renew the Contract for State Lobbying Services (Chris Doolin and Associates) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said there was an Amended contract before them and instead of the \$10,000 fee; it was being amended to \$20,000.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of the services and suggested \$50,000 and to be split between the two firms (next agenda item). She also mentioned the need to bid this out but said this was not the time to do it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would support the amendment to the contract-\$15,000 for Lawson would give a total of \$35,000 for legislative lobbying services and during budget time next year address they needed to make the lobbying services very lucrative and may could increase to \$50,000.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the importance of quality lobbyists for the County and felt they had been fortunate with the services that had been provided and also have representation with the Small County as well as FAC. He said he was not going to say yes to increase the lobbying fee when he said no to folks here in the County. He recommended between the two firms he had no problem with dividing up that was budgeted for them.

Commissioner Holt said did not think it was necessarily access that they had a concern about. She said if they wanted to bring more money home to the County as they had been doing and said they had been fortunate because they had been doing this but there were specific problems and need people that will go after the money.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they had just heard from a member of the Senior Citizen community of the importance of funding for seniors.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the value of lobbying services and if they were not interested, they would not present the County with a contract. He said he was trying to get the best bang with taxpayers' money.

Commissioner Holt said as Commissioner Viegbesie said, subcommittees were meeting now and they needed to approve the increase in funding.

Chair Taylor said they had gone through the budgeting process and \$10,000 was ear-marked for this, not \$20,000. She said the lobbyist should have had respect to come over and address this need for additional funding. She explained the County belonged to Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and they give the Association \$5,000 every year to be a part of it and one of the services was for lobbying. She said he received money from FAC to lobby for the county and it concerned her

when they were asked for additional money after the budget was set.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED CONTRACT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR, COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN VOTED NO. MOTION FAILED.**

**16. Approval to Renew the Contract for State Lobbying Services (Lawson and Associates) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to renew the contract for State Lobbying Services with Lawson and Associates for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson started to speak and Commissioner Viegbesie said he had a motion to approve and there was a lack of a second and the item was gone and asked to move to the next item.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE AGREEMENT TO \$20,000 FOR THE FIRM AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said she spoke with Mr. Lawson and asked what his firm offered specifically that Mr. Doolin's firm did not and he said Mr. Doolin's firm was good at putting in receivers and his firm was good at getting in and out of legislatures offices and they both had different strengths.

Commissioner Morgan said legislative session had not formally started, the committees had and they needed to maintain continuity through this session and as was commented earlier, their budget was already set for this year. He said one of the lobbying services was resubmitting their contract for the same amount and felt they should honor it and the item should be carried as presented. He felt they should have the Interim Administrator contact Mr. Doolin and let him know it did not fly with the \$20,000. Chair Taylor asked that they stay on focus with what was before them. Commissioner Morgan asked they have the Interim contact Mr. Doolin and tell him the budget was set and as far as this item, carry it as presented.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID THIS WAS SAME MOTION MADE BY HIM THAT DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND AND WHY COULD SAME MOTION BE MADE. CHAIR TAYLOR SAID IT WENT THROUGH THE PROCESS AND SECOND WAS MADE. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney when the motion died, should the same motion be revised. Mr. Weiss said he did not think there was any prohibition with someone else making the same motion.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Holt said the Doolin Contract was still pending and she would like to put in a motion

for the contract to be serviced at the same amount. Commissioner Morgan said that would be under her Commission Comments.

**17. Consideration to Amend the Gadsden County Sublease with QPD for WA Woodham Justice Center**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was to consider amending the existing Gadsden County Sublease with the Quincy Police Department.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this was an action item or to give Staff direction to go into discussion with the possibility of amending the sublease with QPD and the Gadsden County BOCC for the use of the W. A. Woodham Justice Center.

Commissioner Morgan said this originated at his request and when this was first drawn up it was to be a temporary move. He said it had extended into a more long-term agreement and had no issue but there had been costs and the County was the only one participating in the costs of repairs and some has been very expensive.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan asked this be brought back with recommendations by Staff after speaking with the City of Quincy and when reviewed the item, there were no amendments on this agenda request and may have been some miscommunication.

**Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator**, appeared before the Board. He said as this was described to him after the last meeting it was asked to be brought back the same to discuss the cost share mechanism was.

Chair Taylor said she heard staff needed direction as to what they wanted added or discussed.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor suggested a workshop discussion with the City regarding this matter.

**18. Approval to accept the 2017-2018 Mutual Aid Operations Plan between Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and Gadsden County Fire Departments and the 2016-2017 Annual Forestry Report and Operating Plan**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was an annual Mutual Aid Operations Plan between Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and the Gadsden County Fire Departments and the 2016-2017 Annual Forestry Report and Operating Plan.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**19. Approval to Award Bid No. 17-22 for Pest Control to Rudd's Pest Control**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and was to award Bid No. 2017-22 to Rudd's Pest Control for the County pest control services.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not see a bid from Pauls' Pest Control.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Clyde Collins, County Building Official**, appeared before the Board and said an invitation was sent to Paul's Pest Control but a bid was not received.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. ~~Approve the Usage of up to \$150,000 from County Paving Funds to the City of Gretna for Paving~~**  
Pulled

**21. Economic Development Professional Services Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to approve the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the Gadsden County Development Council and the Gadsden County BOCC. Mrs. Jackson pointed out one change was this was for a two year agreement with a one year renewable option.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was an item that should be approved but his only question was it was imperative that they have a location for this business to operate but did not think it was appropriate to make it a part of the contract.

Commissioner Morgan said he was taking a different approach and said regarding the overall economic development game-plan, they just had a four hour retreat. He said he hoped the Board would have an opportunity to present what they felt the model should look like. He said he had no problem with a two year or three year contract; it helped in moving forward. He also said he had no problem with County having an office of Economic Development. He said they currently had space they could work out of. He also said he did not think they should move too quickly, they needed to workshop this and discuss how it should be done.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his take was there were businesses that were currently talking and this was a train that was in motion and don't have time to stop before they started again. He said he saw no reason not to vote on the contract, they needed to vote it up or down and let other stakeholders know it was viable.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.**

The Deputy Clerk pointed out there were Speaker Request forms that were turned in. Chair Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan that they needed to come up with a plan or something specific they wanted to see with economic development.

Commissioner Holt said reason they were doing that now, Gulf County was coming up to Gadsden

with a project, the Deep Water Port Project and asked if someone could speak on behalf of that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he wanted to make clear with his position; he was not opposing a workshop but would not support holding the contract at bay waiting for a workshop.

**Antonio Jefferson, Chair of GCDC**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Holt asked what projects they were working on and if he could give a short synopsis. Mr. Jefferson said they were working on the freights logistic zone package; Project Azalea-a project in the Havana area and another that is on the outside of Havana that was relocating from another area that was in the portal. He said also in working with a third party they submitted Gadsden County's data on the Amazon project as well. He told the Commissioners he understood their concern but they were being hurt and they have had to stop the forward movement because of the uncertainty. He said they were at a point that they had to consider if they needed to close shop.

**Barbara Pople, 506 N. Jackson Street, Quincy**, appeared before the Board and said they had just heard about the positive momentum that was going on in the County and asked this be approved and not to interrupt the businesses.

**Jim McShane** appeared before the Board. He said he had been before the Board on multiple occasions and said this needed to be passed. He said they could not wait another month and would have to stop what they were doing if it was not and said they were attracting jobs to the County.

**Fred Harris, 1050 Solomon Dairy Road, Quincy, FL**. Mr. Harris said he was relatively new to community, has an organic farm and has opened Damfinos Restaurant on the square because they wanted to see the community rejuvenated. He said he was a member of an international law firm, Greenberg, Trurig. He said he had a lot of clients they could reach out to bring them to the County because he felt they had a lot reasons for people to come. He said he had worked with this group and had worked with David Gardner and the Chamber and felt they were both needed. He said they needed to put out their best foot and two things people looked for was workforce and location. He said they had the locations and was a good price for land. He said the biggest negative was education was poor here but felt they should do everything possible to put their best foot forward and provide the information people would be looking for.

Commissioner Hinson said he was on the School Board years ago and was the Planning and Zoning Commissioner. He said he was in Wal-Mart one night and was asked why you have to get your education you had to go to Tallahassee and said their mindset had to be changed first because people that were "dishing this stuff out" was people they gave money to and they are selling a story to someone else that this was one of the worst places in America. He said they had to start dishing out positive stuff for the County. He said not everybody was slow in Gadsden County, there were a bunch of geniuses and had to throw that out there.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Antonio Jefferson for bringing this up and said they were working on the interstate exchanges and felt that should be a priority. He said last year they gave GCDC \$160,000 and \$40,000 to the Small Business Service Center and said it left GCDC \$120,000.

**Jeff Price, Management and Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board. He said that GCDC had received \$160,000 and the Chamber received \$80,000. Commissioner Hinson asked about the

\$40,000 that was to go to Small Business and Mr. Price said that was part of the Chamber. Commissioner Morgan said he thought Commissioner Hinson may be thinking of the prior year and there was \$40,000 that was unused.

**Rob Nixon, Small Business Service Center**, appeared before the Board. He said he did contract with GCDC to coordinate business retention and expansion service at \$40,000 and was part of their budget. He said separately the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce had the Small Business Service Center contract for \$80,000.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**22. Proposal Submission from the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposal between the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center and the Gadsden County BOCC.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the \$80,000 was in the budget and was told yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked, in order to move forward and was his humble opinion, if they did not give money to anyone, if they did not give the money to the Chamber, they had to be 100% in the game working with GCDC and GCDC had to give the Chamber respect as well.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN AMENDED HIS MOTION TO A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS TO MATCH THE GCDC AGREEMENT**

Commissioner Holt asked GCDC representative what their membership was as far as the group they meet with and was told 24. She asked David Gardner how many they had and Rob Nixon appeared before the Board and said there were two staffers dedicated to technical assistance and counseling and administrative support that worked with everyone that came in.

Mr. Weiss said the proposal looked to him to be for \$120,000 and asked if that was correct and was told no, it was for \$80,000.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE AT \$80,000. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**23. Board Direction on County Auditing Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for direction regarding the County auditing services.

Commissioner Holt said this company was contracted in 2014 for the years '14, '15 & '16 and she wanted the contract bid.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BID THIS CONTRACT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Morgan said regarding the auditing services it was something that touched on all the different Constitutional Officers and was extremely important to the County. He said because of some of the changes that had taken place, one way to ensure some type of continuity as they moved forward, thought through the next year with new leadership positions and a New Administrator coming on board, felt they should stay with the current auditing firm.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION ONE TO EXTEND BY ONE YEAR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**24. Board Direction on County Legal Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for Board direction regarding the legal services for the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he read this Agenda item, with the transition they were currently having in the County they needed continuity because they have a new Interim County Administrator that was not very grounded in what has been going on with regard to the items and issues they have been dealing with.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT OF THE PRESENT LAW FIRM BY ONE YEAR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Holt said if not for the Interim Manager, she would request that this contract be bid-she's asked several times for legal opinions with attachments that apply to State Statute, and when contracts were presented and placed on the Agenda they needed to be thoroughly reviewed before getting to the Commissioners. She said if this was granted to the present law firm for another year she requested this be remedied.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**25. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson thanked all Directors for being present at the meeting this evening.

She said she met with DEO yesterday and they have been chosen to participate in a twelve County initiative and they will be able to assist with Economic Development and anything that prohibits the County from creating jobs and getting new businesses here.

She said Staff would be observing Thanksgiving this Thursday and invited all Commissioners to come.

She said she was working on a date to follow-up the Economic Development retreat.

She thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to serve the community.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **26. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss thanked the Commission for the extension of the contract and said he would work on the issues identified.

Commissioner Holt thanked him for that comment.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked today about the City of Midway and annexations and contractions. He said a news reporter asked his input on what he could do and if he could talk to them or get back with them.

Mr. Weiss said this was a City matter and the County did not have any input and could not make a determination regarding that.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the City was created by referendum, could the municipality be dissolved by referendum as well and that may take research before he could answer.

Mr. Weiss said he would be happy to look into it.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

##### **27. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

###### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was sure they had all received an email from the Clerk and provided copies in case they had not seen it.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

She said she was not going to discuss this in this meeting but she addressed comments in the email. She said the item was pulled from tonight's agenda (Road Paving) and would be brought back. She felt it was necessary to address those items since they were so opinionated and due to the way the Agenda item was written, it was written very simply and without supported evidence and made it appear as if they were doing work inside of the City and they were not.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said she read the email from the Finance Director regarding using County funds for City projects and heard her Commissioner Holt say the particular project she was interested in was outside the City of Gretna and Commissioner Holt said yes. Chair Taylor asked if it were because those dollars were going into the coffers of the City of Gretna and she said no. She asked the Attorney if he were familiar with this matter.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was the way the funds were to be used was the City of Gretna



applied for a CDGC grant and as part of that grant there was a requirement for \$150,000 cash match. He said Commissioner Holt proposed to use \$150,000 of the road bond money as the cash match. He said there were a handful of roads within the city limit and some were outside. He said they could not use County funds to pave roads inside a municipality and Commissioner Holt said that was not her intent. He said the other issue he had, they would not be following their procurement policy by using the funds in this manner. He said they were choosing roads within their district and if there was one in District 4 she would like to use it for, that could be paved with these funds. He said one way was to talk with DEO and ask if they would accept the County's cash match by the County paving the roads that were part of the grant.

Commissioner Holt said when they look at the roads they were talking about they were County roads and never annexed into the City. She said when approached former manager he said the roads could be paved and Mr. Jefferson applied for the grant. She added this could have been cleared up with a phone call.

Chair Taylor said she felt this particular item was "dicey", was State funding and they had to be very careful in following the Statute on how they should spend it. She said she supported the Finance Department in saying this should not be used in this instant because it was a situation where they should now overstep the boundaries.

Commissioner Holt said there was no request from her to use those funds for a match, only to use the funds for paying County roads in that area.

Commissioner Holt said her other item was she has been asking the Board to look at following the State procurement process for travel policy for travel for County employees when it comes to the gas funding. She said the reason she came up with this, if you were in town looking for a Shell or Gulf station in the dark, the Board in a position where it was inconvenient to use when having to look for a particular station when now all they had to do was pull up GPS and could be computed and could be paid for and taken care of before leaving the County. She said she wanted this remedied. She said there was already something in their policy where it said employees traveling on County business had the option of traveling per diem rates and was not to exceed \$100/day and would like this addressed.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE MOTION THEY RECEIVE THE GAS PER DIEM AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious, when they use their personal car they use the mileage and was she saying when they rent a car without the County Paying for the rental. Commissioner Holt said when they rent the car, they were not getting mileage as they would with their personal car, and the per diem only covered the gas.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he now understood what she was saying. The County would rent the car and gas was paid for by the County but sometimes the cards used did not have money in it, Commissioner Hinson concurred what Commissioner Viegbesie said and added every time he would try to use the card, it never worked.

Commissioner Morgan said he's never had a problem, there was there was a County-issued credit card and said he had always purchased gas and had got reimbursed.

Commissioner Holt said if they took care of the process and made it one option and all she was asking was for the State per diem for gas for the mileage.

Chair Taylor said their decision was the ultimate decision and they could hear from the Clerk as to why there were only two credit cards they had chosen and why there was no money on it when needed and they could state their concerns to him and if the Board agreed, had to rectify or put some stipulation in place to meet what the Board said. She continued and said until he was there and they could have that conversation, in her opinion, she wanted to help the Commissioners to be able to go on their excursions and not run out of gas and not have to use their vehicle but they had to have a dialogue for any of it to happen.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney where it said with the information being turned in prior to a trip, (inaudible) and she had spoken with Mr. Johnson earlier.

**Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Holt said in the travel policy if turned in before the trip, the per diem could be met. Mr. Johnson said in Section H was where she was talking about. Commissioner Holt said it read "Receipts are not required to be submitted when an employee or authorized person claims travel reimbursement on per diem. However, in advance of the travel the employee must submit a travel request that contains the information required under section (2) of this policy". Chair Holt said that was for reimbursement and she was talking about prior to travel. Commissioner Morgan pointed out that was to let them know where they were traveling to, the miles, etc., not that they were going to pay ahead of time. Commissioner Holt said whether they did or not, you turn in the information and once they miles were in there, if you wanted to be paid per diem, why could you not? Commissioner Morgan started to say something and Commissioner Holt said he could not make excuses for it. He said it was not excuses. Commissioner Holt said they had been at this since 2004. She said this was something that when the State did it, it worked and was no reason they could not apply the State policy to this item also.

Commissioner Hinson said the State had a policy and he would like to look into it.

Chair Taylor said unless they wanted to vote on this, she felt they needed to get the Clerk over to get some direction.

Commissioner Holt said the Manager and the Attorney could look into it and she wanted to see what the State said. She said her other item was she would like them to allow the Manager to look into adding the Stevens school project to the Legislative Agenda for the State to see if there were any funding available for that project. Chair Taylor concurred but asked Mrs. Jackson to be mindful of what the committee was asking for, not the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt said they offered Joel Sampson a Continuing Services Contract and asked to offer that to other vendors.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

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

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office and the neighboring

counties for the search for the missing boy in Lake Talquin.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for everything they had done.

Chair Taylor said she reached out to the Public Defender's Office because they have people in the Jail that have been there for a long time and was hoping to get them on the Agenda. She said she went to the Lake and it was horrific and had been keeping in contact with Captain Collins.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said earlier they dealt with the lobbying contract and they did not agree to the increase with Mr. Doolin's contract and technically they have no contract. He asked they reach out to him to see if he agreed to remain as one of their lobbyists at the current amount and if so to re-agenda that item for action.

He said they needed to figure out a way to tighten up their meetings time-wise.

Chair Taylor concurred they could reach out to him.

Commissioner Holt said they need to know by Friday.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

**Receipt and File**

**28. Death Resolutions**

**Letter from City of Quincy**

**Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report for ½ Cent Sale Tax Prevention**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

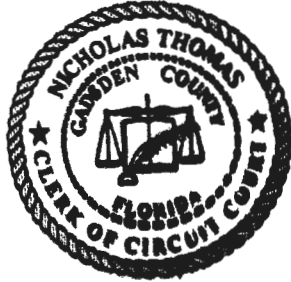
**November 21, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
November 7, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:57 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



  
BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She asked that everyone please mute their phones and then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

Mr. Weiss said the Administrator wanted to pull a couple of items from the Agenda. Mrs. Jackson said she needed to pull Agenda Items 5, 6, and 7 from the Agenda. There was discussion among the Board concerning this matter and they concluded they would pull the items at the Consent Agenda.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Chair Taylor handed the gavel to the Attorney for the reorganization of the Board portion of this meeting.

**1. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO KEEP COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AS CHAIR AND HIMSELF AS VICE-CHAIR. CHAIR TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND TO THIS MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS CHAIR. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND TO THIS MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HOLT AS CHAIR.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson said this was a great day and felt Commissioner Holt would be a great Chair.

**MR. WEISS CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

*Commissioner Holt was voted Chair and she proceeded with nominations for Vice – Chair.*

**Vice – Chair**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS VICE-CHAIR AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT.**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS VICE-CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN’S MOTION WAS FIRST ON THE FLOOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS VICE CHAIR.**

There was discussion concerning rotation of Chair and Vice among the Board. Chair Holt said in the near future that was something they may look at with policy.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to remove Items 5, 6, and 7.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEMS 5, 6, AND 7 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

2. Ratification Memo
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. October 26, 2017-Special Meeting
  - b. September 5, 2017-Regular Meeting
4. Approval of the Library Annual Plan of Service for 2017-2018

Chair Hinson said he had made requests in the past that Department Heads appear before the Board to answer questions and was told this would be handled.

**5. ~~Approval of the Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien for Parcel ID#3262N5W11910000A0010~~**

This agenda item was tabled.

**6. ~~Approval of the Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien for Parcel ID#3262N5W11910000B0020~~**

This agenda item was tabled.

**7. ~~Approval of the Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien for Parcel ID# 3262N5W11910000B0030~~**

This Agenda item was tabled.

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Tanesha Miller, 667 Charlie Harris Loop, Quincy, FL (Scottown Community)**

Ms. Miller addressed the Board with her concerns about animals running wild in a residential area. She said it was not just dogs, but goats and pigs as well. She said she had visited Code Enforcement and was told the gentleman once lived in town and was fined and now has moved everything to Scottown. She said there were elderly and sick people that lived there and they were concerned with the smell. She said the Park was a big issue as there were not enough swings and the kids had to wait in line to swing and slide on the slide.

Chair Holt directed her to get with the Administrator for a resolution of her concerns.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was a serious concern of animals in a residential area. He said she was speaking of hogs and goats, etc. and the smell was not a pleasant one. He said the person that had the animals was not the owner of the property. He said he Code Enforcement needed to get the animals out of the residential area and this situation had been addressed with them.

Chair Holt asked Ms. Miller to get with Administrator and Commissioner Viegbesie to discuss these items.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING-Approval of Resolution 2017-034 Budget Amendments for FY 2017**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and Senior Management and Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017 BOCC budget.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and said she would like to hear from the board first and would then take public comment.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought it would be a great idea for the public to discuss the need for the budget amendments.

**Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board. He commented that at the end of each year, according to the Florida Statutes, they had to have a balanced budget.

He said during the year, various expenditures happen that were more than budgeted and adjustments have to be made to balance the budget. He said each amendment took from the General Fund to the individual funds and balanced them out to zero. He asked if there was a particular one they wished to discuss.

Commissioner Morgan said they were running on a zero based budget, meaning they did not necessarily spend all the budgeted dollars but may have been areas they spent more in than others and there were transfers to be able to balance.

Mr. Price said the Indigent Tax was a prime example and in one of the amendments, they received more money and had to increase the revenue side of that.

Commissioner Hinson said this was one of the reasons he wanted to have more dialogue during the budget session to see how they could better address the issue. He said he was told that the problem came from citizens not paying their bills and he found it hard to believe that all the citizens were not paying and then found out the problem came from the overtime with EMS (\$813,877) and was a concern that needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Hinson and as he had mentioned several times during the budget process, this particular item with EMS would require a change in the model, how they had it set up. He said it was not necessarily citizens not paying their bills but the matter that the County was providing services for which they were not being reimbursed. He said if they looked at the past several years, it was on the incline and was increasing and will be over \$1 Million very soon. He said there was a way to make it work and other Counties were doing it and it required them to change their model.

Chair Holt asked for public comment and there was none.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. Approval and adoption of Resolution No. 2017-036 and the Purchase and Financing Agreements for Purchase of New County-Wide Radio Communication System from Motorola Solutions, Inc.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and adoption of Resolution No, 2017-036 and the purchase and financing agreements for the purchase of a New County-Wide Radio Communication System from Motorola Solutions, Inc. and authorization for the Chair to sign the agreements and all related documents.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. MR. WEISS HAD A COMMENT.**

Attorney Weiss said the purchase Agreement was slightly abbreviated from what was being approved because it was approximately 600 pages total with the exhibits. He said the equipment was identified and the general contract was identified but the attachments were abbreviated.



Chair Holt called representatives from Motorola up in case there were questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the Attorney if he had reviewed the Contract carefully and he answered yes. He said they were paying 3% and using their financial agent. Mr. Weiss explained it was a separate financing company through Motorola but was a separate legal entity.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was he had not gone to Banks personally. Commissioner Hinson said this was a \$2 Million project and no other Agency had been contacted. Mr. Weiss said he had not contacted banks but the Assistant Manager contacted different banks and potential financing institutions.

Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator, appeared before the Board. He said if they would look at the bottom of the package or last page, it showed a Sole Source Provider Certificate. He explained while they were in the early acquisition stages, one thing they wanted to do to ensure prudence of the County's dollars, they went out based on their procurement policy. He said in the process of doing so, they began to receive: 1) Interest rates that were 1 or 2 points off; but across the Board they found that individuals were assessing them much like they would do any individual or institution by looks at auditing multiple years of their budgets, debt services and more importantly, requesting a security interest.

Commissioner Hinson said the Attorney said he had no idea about the banking at all and how could he comment on what he had not seen.

Mrs. Jackson commented the County Attorney had seen this and what Mr. Johnson was trying to say was, financial institutions knew what their financials were and they were asking the County to put collateral up, for instance the half-cent sales tax and by law they could not do that.

Commissioner Hinson said he was going by what the Attorney said and no-one else because no-one else could speak for the Attorney. He said until they had a comparison of the two projects that was the only way they could make the deal, they had to have a check and balance system before making a decision.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion and he had had at-length discussions with the Attorney regarding this issue and the interest rates in the recent months and weeks were on the incline. He said a 3% interest was nothing compared to lives that could be saved and this was a solution to a problem that had existed for 20+ years and he was not going to argue on 3% or 2% at this point. He said the Attorney had looked at this and felt good about it and there was a motion and second on the floor and he called the question.

Chair Holt said she had not heard from Commissioner Viegbesie.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had no problem with calling the question but commented he felt the reason the interest rate was a low as they were was because there was a guaranteed revenue that was being used to secure the loans and with the revenue debt ratio, getting the 3% interest rate was a good rate.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan called the question.

Taylor asked why this was back again; it had been on the Agenda several times and thought it had previously been approved.

Mr. Weiss said what was approved at the last meeting was the purchase of specific equipment. He said the only option that we had for a long term fixed rate unsecured loan was through Motorola's credit company and all others wanted some type of security. He said the determination was made that this was the only financing option and the reason it was back before them was the way the action was taken at the previous meeting was the financing had to be approved by the Board and ultimately the Sale Agreement were separate agreements.

Commissioner Taylor asked the last time they approved the agreement fell through.

Attorney Weiss said when the board approved the vendor, there was no contract approved and it had to come back. She said the reason it did not go through as normal was because they were to go through the State and purchase the equipment using their purchasing policies and was why it did not go through their regular RFP process.

Mr. Weiss said it was not purchased through the State, it was a cooperative piggy-back type of purchase and this was for the final approval.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Review and Approval of the Amended 2018 Legislative Priorities**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the County's 2018 Legislative Priorities. She added that the Stevens School would be added to this list, asking for \$1.2 Million for renovation and to build two additional buildings.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to add to the list under Transportation and Infrastructure the Resurfacing and Widening of Attapulugus Highway.

Chair Holt asked if that could be been done under SCRAP or SCOP.

He replied that it could but if it were on the Legislative Agenda, they were attacking it from every possible angle.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said the Senator and State Representative said they needed to focus on what they wanted to get and if they put too much out there they could end up getting nothing. He recalled a discussion with the Legislative Aide from Broward County and was told anything put on now was too late. He said they have moved everything up and this would just make the

constituents feel good.

Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Taylor had no comment.

Chair Holt said they may be able to go through FDOT. She also said she felt the Shelter would go on a matching bill. She said the House had already closed up and there would be no matching bill, but they could go after study money.

**Ulysses Jenkins , Projects Coordinator**, said they had were able to get information regarding the Shelter in on time but the issue they had with Stevens School they will work with them on it. He said the Engineer got back with him regarding numbers on the Five Year Work plan and they received an increase of little over \$1 Million on the work plan. Chair Holt asked about the 5 year work plan and Mr. Jenkins said that was the roads that FDOT were planning to do. Chair Holt said regarding the Shelter issue, if it was built out at the facility they already had, if looking for build-out money and it was on the hospital grounds, it would have to be so that it was built out to the standards of a hospital. She added that it would be good when they went to the Capitol to have palm cards so they could speak off the cuff on any of the items.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with Emergency Management regarding the food stamps assistance after the hurricane and was told they told FEMA they needed assistance with Food Stamps. He also said since he was on the Board of Directors with the Association of Counties, they said initially they were going after a lot of storm water projects but asked if it would be an adverse effect to the County if they told them they did not need any help. He said they said in the Board of Directors meeting to tell they needed everything because when you told them you needed nothing it was hard to go back and say yes, it was needed.

Chair Holt said to workshop the issue.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED GADSDEN COUNTY 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIOROTIES AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**11. Approval to Extend the Lease for Dental Equipment to the Gadsden County School Board for Fiscal Year 2018**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to extend the leased dental equipment that was currently located at Havana Magnet School to the Gadsden County School Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTIONFOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON INTERRUPTED. CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND ASKED FOR A SECOND. CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was for this but asked where the dental chair was. Mrs. Jackson said it was at the Havana Magnet School. He asked if there were services there and Mrs. Jackson said it was her understanding they were providing services at the Magnet School now but she would check on that. Commissioner Hinson said the chair was \$130,000 and wanted to make sure the kids benefited from it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if he remembered correctly, the chair was leased to the Neighborhood Medical Service Center.

Commissioner Hinson interrupted and said he did not remember correctly and Chair Holt asked him to wait because the Commissioner was in the middle of a sentence and he would have a chance to comment. Commissioner Viegbesie yielded to Commissioner Hinson and he said there were two; one was at Havana Magnet and the other was at Havana Neighborhood Health. Commissioner Hinson said he just wanted to make sure they were using the chair.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Hinson and furthermore, the lease called for whoever was using the chair, to have it moved and recalibrated at their expense. He asked how is the lease renewal was different from the prior lease.

Mr. Weiss said there were no changes to the lease; it was an extension of the existing lease.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval of the 2017 State Grant Application for Upgrade of E911 Primary PSAP**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for Board approval of the 2017 E911 State Grant Application for Upgrade of E911 Primary PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) and authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIOENR HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**13. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson SAID SHE WANTED Board recommendation whether she could have a workshop regarding Land use and Growth Development that was requested by the Consultant. Chair Holt said she was in favor of that. Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated her mentioning that and this needed to be a series of progressive land use workshops and should be a building exercise; what the primary role was; what impact it had, etc. and be a building exercise. He said they could bring along the public and help them understand the process. He also felt they should be held prior to the regular Board meeting and be no longer than hour to hour 1/2.

Chair Holt said they have not workshopped with the Planning and Zoning Board and she suggested inviting them along as well so they would be on the same page.

Mrs. Jackson said the BOCC would have a Christmas Float in the Christmas Parade on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 5:30 and asked that all Commissioners be there and ride on the float and staff would walk along side.

She informed them the Economic Development retreat has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Tri-Eagle from 4:00 -7:00 pm. Commissioner Hinson asked they start voting

on times to meet because there were days it was very inconvenient.

She told them the office would be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving and wished them all a Happy Thanksgiving.

She said last week she attended the Legislative Conference and while she was there they started talking roads and she asked they keep in mind there were 50-60 people representing counties all over the State and the Speaker asked if anyone was there from Gadsden County and she raised her hand. He said he wanted to tell her that some of the best roads he had seen were in Gadsden County and said Curtis Young and his guys were amazing. She said it made her proud and thanked Mr. Young. She also said two weeks ago after the Board meeting, FEMA came by and brought Jeff Price with her and told Mrs. Jackson that he had the best records they had seen and she thanked them publically.

She said the County Office will have a Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 12:00p.m. at Public Works.

### **Facebook Live**

She said there were some Commissioners that wanted Facebook Live and some that did not and asked for permission to agenda it for discussion and a vote. Commissioner Hinson said he did not think they needed to agenda it because the Board never decided to put it there and did not think it should be brought to their attention and did not think it was appropriate for her to bring up. Chair Holt said they could decide now. Commissioner Hinson said they were already paying for services now and if they wanted to do Facebook Live, like Mr. Southerland said, he could control all of that, edit it and make it real nice, but they did not need to have free-style anything because two things with Facebook Live, the comments on Facebook Live could be detrimental. He said someone could be from New Mexico looking at it and making comments about Gadsden County. Chair Holt said an option would be to have Mr. Southerland stream his on FB Live and be done with it. Commissioner Hinson said they needed to do the same thing he had, go in their communities and meet the people and talk with them.

Mrs. Jackson said for the record it was not streamed tonight.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the meetings were being televised and the Clerk also was streaming it. He said it was good for them to have publicity and the ability for the rest of the world but the image the world saw was the image they as Commissioner portray during their policy making process. He said if they wanted a positive image they should carry themselves and conduct themselves with decorum so that the rest of the world did not see them as a dysfunctional body. He said the other thing was, he understood the concerns of Commissioner Hinson because if that Facebook media was to be used, it should have been mentioned before its use. He said he also saw comments that were made on Facebook that were derogatory to some of the Commissioners. He said he felt the Interim County Administrator was being as administratively neutral as she could and he felt it should be an agenda item.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Administrator for bringing it up and said it was something they needed to address and whatever the Board wanted to do he was good with. He said they had the responsibility to recognize any effort to shine the light on their public meetings and make it as

accessible as they could, particularly when there was no costs involved. He said they could have Facebook Live and we could “control” it or someone from the general public could come in and set up shop and stream the meeting live. He said it was a matter of deciding if they wanted to do it or have someone else do it and was worth discussing.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no comment.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it would be appropriate or did they need to motion for it to be placed on the agenda so they could discuss the pros and cons and let them vote on it.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to have Facebook Live and Chair Holt asked him to hold on a second.

Chair Holt said to take it out until they decide and they could bring it back on the Agenda. She said if they really wanted to do this, it could be attached to a workshop. She said they needed a marketing department that they did not have and if a company was thinking about coming to Gadsden County, they watched Facebook. She added it was the image of the County that they were trying to attract companies.

Commissioner Morgan said this was not a cost to the County and there was no reason to have a marketing department, just stream it live. The only other reason they might not want to do it was the image of the County. He said they should understand that moving forward, there could be someone from the public coming in and doing it and they would have no control over it. He pointed out they were taking away a service that they were providing and there would be talk about it.

#### **Clerk's Memo**

Commissioner Morgan recalled the Clerk's memo where he alerted them to the two grant- funded items that were major and was making them aware of the line of progression and getting the project completed and he was concerned about it. He asked the Interim County Administrator for an update and her comments regarding the completion of the Courthouse renovation and the Ag Center because they have had extensions.

Mrs. Jackson said they were working diligently on both of them and both have been awarded and she would find out the next day the actual start date was for the Courthouse and it was awarded to CRA and they were responsible for everything regarding the Courthouse. She yielded to Clyde Collins for the Ag Center.

Mr. Collings said the Ag Center was on track and they were just about through with the engineering for the drawings and the architect in Gainesville was still reviewing some of the drawings and they were moving forward with the mechanical. He said he hoped to go out to bid in January. He said it had been a process and that USDA in Marianna had helped out a lot.

Commissioner Morgan asked what happened if the deadline was missed.

Mrs. Jackson said they would have to finish the project.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why they received a letter from the Clerk; if it was not timely done, would they lose the funds and they should have started much earlier.

Mr. Weiss said there were a lot of different players, more so in the Ag Center because they were involved with the USDA. He said he did not know that it was due to the County dragging their feet, he could only speak to documents that he was asked to review. He said there was extended times going back and forth trying to work out the contracts, different levels of review between the Contractors, the State and trying to coordinate.

Chair Holt said they were trying to get additional monies to get all the work done on the Ag Center. Commissioner Morgan said they received the extensions from the Legislature and they would not keep receiving them and they needed to prioritize. He said they needed to focus in the next 8 months and stay on top moving forward.

Mrs. Jackson said regarding the Courthouse grant, she did know that anything with the Historic Preservation that was not billed, they did not charge and they did not receive funds for work that was not done.

#### **Satellite Social Security Offices**

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested that they look at the probability of establishing a satellite Social Security office at the Havana Library and it would provide quick access to the east side of the County.

Chair Holt said they needed to show a need.

Commissioner Morgan said anytime services were offered they should make it available everywhere and he would like one for Chattahoochee.

#### **Board Meetings airing in Chattahoochee**

Commissioner Morgan said he knew the Interim County Administrator was aware of the BOCC meetings were not being aired in Chattahoochee and it was an ongoing issue that had to be fixed ASAP.

Mrs. Jackson said they were working on it and Mr. Southerland was aware and working on it and she would follow-up with him.

Mr. Southerland appeared before the Board. He said the situation in Chattahoochee had always been a problem and said in this County were four cable systems and were supposed to have government access. He said he had access to Quincy, Havana, and Gretna and had never had access to Chattahoochee. He said the company changed hands and was no longer Brighthouse, it was now Spectrum. He said his contact was promoted and moved to another position and he visited Mr. Garner and he has also tried to make contact to no avail. He said it is aired the next day at Noon and 8:00 p.m. and streamed on the world wide web.

Commissioner Morgan said he was putting this on the City of Chattahoochee and the County because they were required, if not mistaken by the contract, to provide them with a governmental

channel and they should insist that it be done. He said they had to press the issue and was a process between the County and the City of Chattahoochee and they were required to provide a governmental channel. Commissioner Morgan continued to say that made the value of Facebook Live all that more important.

Mr. Southerland said he had a conversation with Mr. Collins earlier and there was no reason that the signal he recorded that could not be streamed to Facebook Live. He said it should be on the air, since everyone did not have a smart phone or a computer.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Weiss said he had no comments and was available for questions and said Happy Thanksgiving.

#### **14. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Commissioner Morgan asked about the existing public records request that was on the table and asked for feedback on how they had responded and what the legal ramifications were for not complying.

Mr. Weiss said Staff had assembled all documents that could be assembled. He said they had asked for documents from all commissioners as well and there had been some responses. Some commissioners had responded to some degree by way of letting them know what they may or may not have. Commissioner Morgan asked what the legal ramifications or responsibilities were. Mr. Weiss said there was an obligation to respond fully to public records requests and to provide all public records that existed and it was very broadly defined. He said a party that made a public records request and did not receive all records could bring a civil action to enforce compliance and there could be criminal and non-criminal penalties. He also stated that Martin County just got in trouble for failing to appropriately respond to a public records request.

#### **Redistricting & Public Records Request Discussion**

##### **Redistricting in the County**

Commissioner Morgan asked about the redistricting in the County and the importance and legal responsibility of the governing body. He said the reason he asked was he just reviewed numbers county-wide of each of the districts, the number of registered voters, etc. and there was a great disparity among the districts.

Mr. Weiss asked that they let him do research before he spoke on it and there was a legal obligation. He said he could report on it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Taylor commented that the redistricting was based on the census and the last one was in 2010. She said the percentage needed was not there to redistrict and that was why it was not done and they had the Supervisor of Elections to come in and validate that their numbers did not require it and they were in compliance. She said in 2020 if the numbers were at a level they needed to look at, they could look at it then and they were still governed by the numbers of 2010. She said with regard to the Public Records request, she was concerned; that Mr. Jenkins had reviewed her phone and if he said that only one commissioner had complied, she wanted to meet with him or advise she who to meet with so she could be in compliance.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it would be picked up off their emails.



Mr. Weiss said it was broader than the emails and involved phone records, text messages, there were several different items. He said he would be happy, at everyone's convenience, to let him know. Commissioner Hinson said if no-one called him and he sent all emails to his email. Mr. Weiss said if there were no phone records that existed that were to or from the numbers he provided, no voice mails, no text messages or emails, just let him know. He added that he had sent a few emails and had not received responses. Commissioner Hinson said he thought they took it from their computers and Mr. Weiss said that was true of if it went to a Gadsden County email and if that was all that existed, they had produced all that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with regard to this issue, when the public records request came in, he specifically responded that there was no email contact between him, either private or county, and there were no phone calls and he had nothing so he did not respond.

Chair Holt said she needed help pulling up. Mr. Weiss said he could try to help them to try to retrieve their emails. Chair Holt said she would go through and delete all "kinds of stuff" because she would not know who they were and she would "clear out junk". Mr. Weiss said they needed to be real careful about deleting things because they could not delete anything that would be considered public records.

Commissioner Morgan said he brought both this items up and it was to highlight this matter as a priority because he knew they as a board wanted to respond appropriately and comply with the request. He said specifically back to the redistricting; Commissioner Taylor had mentioned about the 2010 census, things had changed drastically and in more than one district and they wanted to make sure the citizens were represented appropriately and fairly. He said every ten years they were required to do that and if there were any changes, anyone could challenge and bring before the Board to make sure they were complying.

Chair Holt asked regarding the other item, that he resend the email back out to all of them on the Public Records request.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was there was a grace period that redistricting was allowed after the census, could it be visited any time before the next census or was there a period for it to be done.

Mr. Weiss said it had to be done in odd years.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **15. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

#### **Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was happy to represent Gadsden County at the CRTPA and was elected as Vice-Chair and meant he would be the upcoming Chair. He said he was happy to be the voice for the County and they were soliciting for membership for the Citizens Multimortal Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Holt asked that it be added to the County website for nominations for the committees.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their positions as Chair and Vice. He said his hope was to move Gadsden County forward. He asked if the GCDC had a two year contract and what the stipulations were and said he was told they had a three year contract. Mr. Weiss said it was a two year contract with an optional one year extension and believed there was a mutual option to terminate the contract. He said he was also told they receive \$160,000 and give them 80,000 in one lump sum and Mr. Weiss said he thought that was accurate. Commissioner Hinson said the personally thought it should be divided up in 12 payments in case they parted ways with them.

Chair Holt said any contract had to be tied to deliverables and it had to be done in the contract.

Commissioner Hinson stated he recommended monthly or 3 month payments and he would like to protect the County.

Chair Holt said they had not put anything or any procedure in place that said they would like for companies to hire within the County.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan said in all fairness to the party involved, they should have this discussion with them present at the meeting and should be placed on the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THIS ON THE AGENDA (SINCE HE WAS ON THE WINNING SIDE OF THE VOTE). CHAIR HOLT ASKED WHEN THE NEXT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WOULD BE HELD.**

Mrs. Jackson said that would be December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION THAT THEY BRING GCDC IN FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR BOTH GROUPS TO BE PRESENT. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson stated his motion was only for GCDC and Chair Holt said she withdrew her motion and Commissioner Taylor made the second.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE BOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked for a point of clarity, if that item would be for discussion only or a vote as well and Commissioner Hinson said both.

**Procurement Process**

Commissioner Hinson asked how the contractors were selected for the Courthouse.

Mrs. Jackson said groups were brought before the Board and they selected them.

He then asked how they could select additional architects. Mrs. Jackson said there were currently two architects under contract and they went out for bid; one contract would be up next year and the other was just renewed for a two year contract. Mrs. Jackson further explained one was from Quincy and the other from Tallahassee and a request was sent to both. She also stated the way the Procurement policy was it had to be bid.

Chair Holt said she would like to see it out there to see if any other local people were interested.

Mrs. Jackson said when a bid was put out, anyone could bid, local or not. She asked if they would like her to create a Local Preference Policy.

Mr. Weiss said until they adopted a Local Preference Policy as a part of their Procurement Policy, they could not put any weight on selection.

Chair Holt said for them to bring back the Procurement Policy itself as a discussion item.

Commissioner Morgan said it needed to be talked about among the Board. He said they went over this a short time ago and asked what the issue was.

Commissioner Hinson said they may not want to be a part of the process. He also said Dr. Henry Grant was very instrumental and felt it would be a good idea to discuss the Ag building with him and he could be used as a consultant.

**Outreach**

He also mentioned that Major Barkley's brother passed away yesterday. He asked for continued prayers for the family. He also mentioned some tragic situations that dealt with kids: Angela Bush died last year and asked for donations for the family: Freda Houston, has 4 children as well and they worked together at the School Board years ago and would like to help those children as well. He asked for the Board to support on a personal level. He said AKAs and Alphas would also be helping. He asked for prayers for the young man killed at the Lake and thanked the First Responders and Former Chair Taylor.

Hinson said at a lot of meetings, the Staff sat up front and felt they should have their Staff upfront as well for quick responses and to make things run smoother.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan wanted to make sure Staff understood that it was Commissioner Hinson's idea that wanted them up front. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said there was so much to be thankful for.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOTIONED THAT REDISTRICTING BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION REGARDING WHAT CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE 2010. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

He asked for an update on the County Administrator position and said he knew it was a pressing matter at one time and did not know if they wanted to discuss it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood Commissioner Morgan's point of view and was one that expedited the transition plan be put in place. He said currently they had an Interim Administrator that was still very "wet behind the ears" and needed a better understanding so when someone came in they had something to transition to the new person. He said it was too soon to know.

Commissioner Morgan said that was what he was trying to do.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor congratulated Commissioner Viegbesie for being voted Vice–Chair twice in one day. She thanked Chair Holt as well on becoming Chair. She also thanked Commissioner Morgan for her one year of service as Chair.

**Stevens School**

She said this process was moving extremely well. She said they were moving in the right direction and thanked the former Administrator and the new administrator for all their work.

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Chair Holt said she would like to bring the travel policy back before the Board for discussion and action.

She said she also had on her list Economic Development and deliverables.

She said the other thing was Gadsden Day at the Capitol and the costs. Mrs. Jackson said she had met with the City Managers and there were sponsors for all the events for that day at the Capitol. Chair Holt said she was concerned with Floor 22 that was usually where the costs were and they needed to go after the committees that went after the money and be selective.

**Receipt and File**

**16. Death Resolutions**

**Letter from FDOT**

**Letter from DEO**

**Letter from Florida Health**

**Letter from the City of Miami Beach**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**December 5, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 5, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2  
Eric Hinson, District 1  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 4  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to silence their phones. Commissioner Viegbesie said the Invocation would be by Pastor Williams of First Community Primitive Baptist Church. Everyone was asked to stand and Chair Holt then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to add to the Agenda Item 8a-Economic Development Professional Services Contract.

Commissioner Morgan said that item was about funding and was not publicly advertised and asked why it was on this Agenda without being properly advertised. Chair Holt said she spoke with GCDC and with the Manager and since there was no change in the contract itself and the money was approved and budgeted, just a change in how the money was disbursed. Commissioner Morgan pointed out again that it had not been publically advertised and placed on the Agenda and did not understand the urgency in this without it being advertised. Chair Holt said to vote on the Agenda and then they could discuss this matter.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR HOLT SAID ITEM WOULD NOT BE ADDED, NOT ENOUGH VOTES TO DO SO.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Presentation**

(Andy Thomas, Public Defender for Leon County)

***\*\*Mr. Thomas arrived late and his presentation was after Mrs. Anderson below\*\****

Andy Thomas appeared before the Board concerning the overcrowding at the jail.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Thomas said he had spoken with the Sheriff concerning this matter and how the overcrowding

could be addressed. He suggested they could look at non-monetary bail where someone was established and known in the community and was not a flight risk.

Commissioner Taylor said the person that sparked the conversation she found out had been in jail long past what their sentence would have been if they had been sentenced. She asked if this could be taken up at their budgeting session.

Chair Holt said she would like to see some programs and they could do that before the budgeting session.

Mr. Thomas said one thing they could do was pretrial release and bail reform.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for coming and said he did not know how much he worked with the Public Safety Coordinating Council, and if there was not one here, maybe they could work on establishing one.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

#### **CONSENT**

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Rosetta Hylton-Anderson, 8215 S. Virginia Street, Quincy, FL**-appeared before the Board regarding National Hookup of Black Women, Inc.

Mrs. Anderson said she wanted to appear before the Board to make sure they knew who they were and what they do. She said they were active in the community, do literacy training with young people at every library in the County; do a Domestic Violence presentation where a victim gives testimony before young people and she spoke with Sheriff Young and he gave them a male and female felon who were Quincy residents and now trying to make a life for themselves. She also passed out a brochure to the Commissioners.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-009, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include parks and recreational facilities maintenance and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary and improvement as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration as public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date**

Ms. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for adoption of an Ordinance amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include parks and recreational facilities maintenance and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes.

Chair Holt announced it was a public hearing and explained the Ordinance to the public.

Ms. Jackson pointed out it did require a super majority vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was first adopted in 1995 and amended in 2011. He said this was not about the \$200,000 but would enable Public Works to work in all the parks and recreational centers in the County. He said using Public Works in any of the parks have violated their own ordinances.

Commissioner Morgan said he was confused because they talked about this item in a public hearing at their previous meeting and this appeared to be the same as in the previous and as a point of order since it did not pass, how was it before them again in the same form.

Mr. Weiss said his recollection was it was requested it come back for further consideration with revisions and since they found out that Public Works could not do any work on any parks and they decided to bring this back before the Board and limitations could be placed on this along with it being sunsetted after a period of time.

Commissioner Morgan said this was not a good move and was not the way to get this done.

**Jeff Price, Budget Director**, appeared before the Board. Chair Holt asked how the Public Works department was funded and he explained the County Transportation-gas tax money. She asked about SCOP and SCRAP and he explained that was different grants. He said with the surtax they were discussing, half went to Public Works and half to Fire.

Mr. Weiss said funds for the operating budget for Public Works Department came solely from gas tax revenues, whether State or County and was restricted funds. This discretionary sales tax the County elected to charge, and was a penny on all sales tax and the County could establish the uses of the funds derived from that tax by Ordinance and could elect to use it however they wanted with limitations. He said the uses had to be set forth in an Ordinance.

Chair Holt said there was State tax money, SCRAP, SCOP, etc. but the sales tax was where this particular one came from and when the public would buy items in the County, a surtax was paid and it originated when the jail was being built and then was designated to include fire. She said she had a concern in that the Road and Bridge Department could work on other projects and had done so and did not believe they were breaking any rules or regulations because she had seen them do it.

Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud a legal opinion (no copy provided).

Commissioner Hinson called the question and Chair Holt said they had not heard from the public. He said last time he voted in favor of this but could not do something that would affect the other districts.

Commissioner Morgan said he was unaware of any violations of this ordinance they had and would need to be shown and what this was about was prioritizing what they look at as needs for the sales tax dollars and had no problem with funding parks if they found a way to do so through services from Public Works but it went back to budgeting and prioritizing. He asked what was more



important than fire, safety and other things they were currently spending the dollars on. He cautioned them if they opened this up, it would never stop.

Chair Holt announced it was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and there was no-one.

Chair Holt said if they do this how would Road and Bridge and at the Fire Department be compensated.

Mrs. Jackson said way they had used Public Works in the past had been in-kind services where no money came from the pot.

Chair Holt asked if they were going to do the work and the County was going to pay them, why it was being discussed.

Mrs. Jackson said according to the Attorney, currently the Ordinance stated they could not provide in-kind services because their labor was to be used only on roads and bridges. Chair Holt said he was not saying when they have events and they come to set up chairs, etc. and they had been doing that for years. She said she did not understand why that could not be an in-kind service.

Commissioner Taylor said she was confused and if Clyde Collins wanted Curtis Young to have Public Works cut St. John's park, if Mr. Collins would have to budget the funds to pay Mr. Young's department, would the taxing part that would be affected not be Mr. Collins' department and not Public Works.

Mrs. Jackson said with this particular grant, inmate labor could not be used and Public Works had equipment that Parks and Rec did not have and that was the reason for the change in this Ordinance to enable the park to be built.

Commissioner Taylor told Commissioner Hinson if he would put his district out there, she would put hers-she hated to return money.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Mrs. Jackson since she was the grant writer and the person who completed the grant application for this grant, if the Public Works in-kind match included in the grant application and approved by the former County Administrator before being submitted and she said yes.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what now prohibited the use of Public Work services as in-kind match for the \$200,000 and in his opinion had "every trace and smell of some kind of retaliatory sabotage and was just too conveniently coincidental for me that this ordinance was invoked when it came to a grant that had been approved and the Public Works in-kind services were actually used as a collateral for the application for this grant". He said if this was an Ordinance that should have been used, then it should not have been referred to as the leverage to get this grant. He said again that this was a retaliatory action in not getting the park through.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Holt asked Mrs. Jackson if, when she wrote the grant, was she told in-kind services could not be used and she stated no. Chair Holt asked the Attorney why he did not inform them of this and he said he was not sent the grant application for review and had no knowledge of how the operating budget for the Public Works Department was comprised. He said the former County Administrator asked him if they could use the surtax proceeds toward in-kind services for Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Morgan said if he were hearing the conversation, they were suggesting they make an exception for one situation and what would happen when someone comes in five years later and are told no, if they did this, they were opening something they did not want to do, along with the legal ramifications. He said it was poor judgment and if it warranted this much discussion, it simply was not good judgment to use the dollars for parks. He said those dollars were meant for other items much higher up the list of priorities than parks. He said if they wanted to fund the park, fine, if the majority wanted to, do it that way. He added that changing the Ordinance for one project was not using good judgment.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like the citizens of the County to understand that the \$200,000 was not out of the County budget but was a grant that was approved and the Public Works in-kind services were actually a part used for leverage for the grant. He said his issue was if that was the case when the former Administrator, who was a former Public Works Director, knew it was inappropriate to use Public Works in-kind services as leverage, why after the grant was approved, was it suggested to do in-kind services if known the funds could not be used.

Chair Holt said the Board approved the grant and everything they have talked about was talked about and voted on in this room.

Mr. Weiss said he did not think the Board approved the application but the action the Board took was to accept contingent on the amendment to the Ordinance. Chair Holt said it was on the Agenda before the surtax because she asked why the grant was approved before they approved the funding.

Clyde Collins came forward. Chair Holt asked him who cut grass in the parks and he said he did. She asked who took care of the facilities and he said he did and she asked if it came from a fund for parks and he said yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Administrator about the in-kind portion, they were not asking for money and Mrs. Jackson said no. She then asked if the in-kind that Mr. Collins department could generate was not enough to cover what the grant was requesting and Mrs. Jackson said that but also that Mr. Collins did not have the equipment.

Chair Holt asked if the Road and Bridge Department could not volunteer their services and Mrs. Jackson said according to their Ordinance, no. Chair Holt said they could volunteer their services, she did not say out of that fund, she asked if they could volunteer their services and Mrs. Jackson said no. Mr. Weiss asked if she meant the county employees volunteer their time and not be paid for it and she said yes. He said anyone could volunteer and do whatever work they wanted on the property but the equipment could not be used. Chair Holt said this should have been done before.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT**

**MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Chair Holt asked if this was exclusive to the one time. Commissioner Viegbesie said if they were not going to make the changes now that they had opened “Pandora’s box”, any citizen anywhere could take legal action on what they do as a government if seen that they were violating their own ordinance. He said he wanted a change to the Ordinance for future reasons.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR HOLT, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR ONE TIME APPROVAL TO GET THIS MATTER PUSHED THROUGH AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. MR. WEISS ASKED FOR CLARITY.**

Mr. Weiss said the best way would be to be specific and establish a date they knew the work would be completed and that would be the cut-off date and funds for this purpose would sunset at that time. Mrs. Jackson asked if could be make specific to the project without a date. Commissioner Viegbesie said this was not for the park because the architectural design of the park would cost \$4. Million dollars; this was for \$200,000 grant for the walking trail. He said the \$4. Million was what the community itself was working on through the legislature.

Commissioner Taylor said she never wanted to give a funding agency the impression that they did not need or want money and she could not sit back and say no.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR STATED AGAIN HER MOTION WAS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2017-009 IN ITS CONTENT ADDING THAT IT WILL SUNSET IN 2019 AND BE SPECIFIC TO THE GRANT WRITTEN FOR THE \$200,000 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked Mrs. Jackson for a breakdown of dollars and she said she did not have that information in front of her at this time. He said of the \$200,000, they knew \$60,000 was going to the designer but that was standard. Commissioner Morgan pointed out they were not getting \$200,000 for a park for Gadsden County. Mrs. Jackson said it had to be drawn and that was the standard allowable rate. Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if he was comfortable with this moving forward and he said yes.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Commission for doing what they just did and added they could not continue to do what they have been doing and get results.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**3. Cooks Landing Road SCOP Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson started to introduce the above item.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED THEY LET THE PUBLIC KNOW WHAT THEY WERE DOING.**

Mrs. Jackson said this was for approval to do work on Cook Landing Road and was a FDOT SCOP Agreement for widening and resurfacing.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

**4. County Road 65B (Old Federal Road) SCOP Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the FDOT SCOP agreement for the widening and resurfacing of this road.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan pointed out the attachment was not correct. Mrs. Jackson said the correct attachment was before them.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**5. Bell Road SCRAP Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the FDOT SCRAP agreement for the widening and resurfacing of Bell Road.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked what district this was in and Mrs. Jackson said District 1. Commissioner Hinson said there was no address and he was told it was the whole road.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Request to Apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request to apply for a Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant and was submitted by Redeemed, Inc. for \$1.2 Million over the course of three years and she wanted to make sure the Commissioners saw that the County would administer the awarded grant funds while Redeemed would focus on the service provision and expansion outlined in the grant.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Redeemed has been doing outstanding work with the Sheriff's Office and the Jail but his concern was addressed, which was Redeemed was a non-profit organization and was applying for the grant through the BOCC. He asked what that would do to other non-profit organizations. He said he understood Redeemed was directly under the Sheriff's Department and working with them and if they received this grant it would be monitored by the

Clerk's Office. He said with that understanding, he would make the motion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH QUESTIONS. SHE ASKED IF MRS. BERRY COULD STEP FORWARD TO DISCUSS THE GRANT.**

**Annie Berry, Director of Redeemed, Inc.** appeared before the Board. She said the grant was to expand Drug court and the Pretrial Release Services that they provide, to monitor people going to jail to see if there are any mental health or substance abuse issues and then tailor them with a coordinator to ensure they receive the needed services and would be paid for through the grant.

Chair Holt said she did not see a copy of the grant attached. Mrs. Berry said she did not bring a copy of the grant, only an outline.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

Commissioner Morgan asked the process to be explained as far as it coming back before the Board. Mrs. Berry said she needed an answer at this meeting because she needed to do a Letter of Intent that was due the next day.

Mr. Weiss said they were approving the application of the grant tonight and he assumed the grant would come back before them for approval if they were responsible for the grant. Mrs. Jackson explained the grant was being submitted under the name of Gadsden County Board of County Board of County Commissioners and if it was awarded, they would subcontract the grant with Redeemed, Inc. for them to administer the services.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE THE GRANT MUST COME BACK BEFORE BOCC FOR FINAL APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. 2017 Striping Project Phase II-Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the bid of the 2017 Striping Project Phase II to AKCA, Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$175,951.00.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Mrs. Jackson if there was a chance of this item coming back with change orders and she said no, they were not doing change orders.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION. CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Morgan had a question and asked about the striping product used and she asked Curtis Young to step forward.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director,** appeared before the Board and said they were using paint but changed because the thermos-plastic lasted longer and was a better product.

**8. Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to Conduct an Active Shooter Training Involving Faith-Based Organizations**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it sought funds from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to conduct active shooter training and exercise in a church setting. She explained the training was scheduled for early December 2017 and would involve local law enforcement and faith-based community members.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor questioned the wording in the agenda item. Chair Holt explained. Commissioner Hinson said he had no problem with this but asked with it being faith-based, could they support it. Mr. Weiss said they were not promoting religion and no single type of religion and in his opinion it was ok.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**9. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson gave an update on the Ag Center. She said the Architect would be done by the end of this month and it will go out for bid the first of January and they were not in jeopardy of missing a timeline. She said regarding the Courthouse, there was a discrepancy as far as the timeline and will be meeting at the end of the week to update the timeline. She said regarding the Greenshade Fire Station that will be going out for bid next week to get started with the building.

She reminded them about the Christmas parade Friday at 6:00 and if they planned on participating, be at Ward's Lot.

She said the Christmas luncheon will be at Public Works next Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

She said there will be a Public hearing by the Florida House of Representatives in these Chambers on December 11 at 3:00 p.m.

She reminded them there is a Community Meeting on Stevens School on December 11<sup>th</sup> at Kelly Campbell Building at 6:00 p.m.

She said there is an Economic Development retreat on Tuesday December 12th at Tri-Eagle at 4:30 p.m.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mrs. Jackson said Collins Forman, a former Gadsden County citizen that currently lives in South Florida, was interested in selling Ingram's Marina and it was suggested by a Commissioner that it be run by the Board to see if they were interested in purchasing. She said she was not asking if they were interested but for Board direction as to whether they would like it brought back as an Agenda item. Commissioner Viegbesie suggested they hold a workshop on this matter.

Mrs. Jackson said there were changes being made to day-to-day processes at the County and it would not affect budget and being done to increase safety and streamline process. She said she would be submitting electronically monthly newsletters to all Commissioners to keep them abreast of day-to-day highlights.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

She thanked them for allowing her to serve and thanked Staff.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to get back to striping. She said there were left-over funds for roads in each district and she has three or four roads in her district that need to be striped with new type of striping.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for updates. He asked about the status of the County-Wide communication issue. Mrs. Jackson said everything had been signed and submitted and the application submitted for the FCC license.

He asked about televising meetings and the issue with problems in the Chattahoochee area. He said Spectrum had now lost the governmental channel and asked her to keep them abreast of what was going on. He asked if there was anything they could do here to broadcast the meetings live over the internet. She said there were some upgrades they could enact and she would discuss this with the IT Director if it were the will of the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was when they got contract with Mr. Southerland; the Clerk's office was streaming this live already. Chair Holt explained the Clerk was not an issue; Mr. Southerland came first and then the Clerk; then the contract was cancelled with Mr. Southerland and the Clerk put cameras up. The Deputy Clerk explained the meetings were not streamed live; the meetings were placed on the Clerk's website the following day. Chair Holt said she had no problem with Facebook Live or any other live since people were filming anyway. She asked that they look into all the options. Commissioner Hinson said he image was everything, they had four or five ways the meetings could be viewed now and somethings they did not want to get bogged down that could make the County look horrible and was his opinion the people that were supporting this did not want the County to grow. He said Tallahassee did not have live meetings and it could hurt the image of the County if put on live.

Commissioner Morgan said this was strictly to provide access and they needed to get over their insecurities of not wanting people to see the Board and if the Board as a whole did not want to do it, fine. He said they were in the day and age now where information was processed differently and people look for ways to access information immediately.

He said he had discussed redistricting issues with the Administrator and she was gathering information.

*Commissioner Viegbesie left the meeting at this juncture.*

Mrs. Jackson said she reached out to the Supervisor of Elections, they were 29,747 registered voters in the County; District 1 had 7,813; District 2 had 6,517; District 3 had 4,780; District 4 had

4, 994; and District 5 had 5,643. She said as to whether they had to redistrict, she was not able to get an answer because the Supervisor of Election was out of town.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a wide disparity with the largest district had 7,813 voters and the smallest was 4,780.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the County Administrator position itself and she said there had not been any direction from the Board to proceed.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **10. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he could speak on the redistricting.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Weiss said this was mentioned at the last meeting and now was happy to respond to specific questions. Commissioner Morgan asked if he could explain to the public why it was important to redistrict and he did so. He said there was a mandatory obligation to look at each district after the census and the Commission was to look at numbers during odd numbered years to see if lines needed to be redrawn.

Commissioner Morgan clarified why he was bringing this up and if it did not require change that was fine, but wanted to make sure they had met their legal requirement to meet statute. Mr. Weiss said to his knowledge nothing happened after the 2010 census. He reiterated they did not have to redraw lines but did have to make a determination if it was necessary. He said if their determination was not necessary, they had to take action to reaffirm the line and that did not happen.

He spoke regarding the woman that appeared before them about livestock being kept in a rural residential area and Code Enforcement action was taken and fined them for keeping livestock on the residential property and they have attempted to persuade the gentleman to remove the livestock and he has refused. He asked what the Board wanted to do about it and to him; their option was to bring an action to enjoin him from keeping the livestock on the property and would entail a lawsuit. He asked if the Board wanted to file a lawsuit against him or wait to see if the neighbors filed.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked of the Attorney and Administrator, it was his understanding that the offender has been charged \$50.00/day for approximately 60 days. Mrs. Jackson said much more was involved, the person won the lottery and the fine was not an issue.

Clyde Collins appeared before the Board and said they had sent citations out and the man who owns the hogs did not own the property. They have taken her to the Magistrate, he had ordered a fine and being fined \$50/day for the violation and had been going on for little over two months.

Chair Holt said they needed to think about what they wanted to do and this was not an isolated incident.



Commissioner Taylor said he said the property owners were in violation and there were rules on the books.

Mr. Weiss clarified the Code Enforcement Ordinance was adopted years ago.

Commissioner Taylor said they had already exhausted the processes and her sentiment went to people living next door because of the odor.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO START LEGAL PROCESS. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Weiss-1) they talked in the past about process or direction and who had the ability to add or take items off the Agenda and was still confused. Chair Holt said when she was first was on the Board, any Commissioner could put items on the agenda. She continued and said after Commissioner Croley and Commissioner Lamb came on, Commissioner Croley asked if they could and she said yes, they had the right to add things regarding their district. She said in recent years, they started voting and it made no sense.

Mr. Weiss said according to their Ordinance, the Agenda shall be prepared by the County Administrator in an appropriate form approved by the Commission and to him, the County Administrator prepares the agenda and the County Administrator puts items on the Agenda.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought every Commissioner on the dais had one vote and did not think the Chair should dictate or determine what goes on the agenda and if something affected a district that Commissioner should be able to contact the Administrator to have it placed on the agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with him but there had to be some finalization and she has asked for Policies and Procedures to be placed on the Agenda to be discussed. Mrs. Jackson asked if she wanted an Agenda item or a workshop and Chair Holt said it could be a workshop.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney about emails he was still receiving about the Public Information request that was being sent to them and asked the status. Mr. Weiss said he had received responses from all the Commissioners, had assembled all the documents Staff was able to assemble, and was waiting on a couple of items from a couple of Commissioners and was told they were waiting on service providers to get back with them regarding the records. Commissioner Morgan said it was in the record that everybody was aware of their responsibilities and Chair Holt said yes. Commissioner Morgan shared with the Commissioners a copy of an article that was printed in the Tallahassee Democrat regarding Commissioners in Martin County that were facing records violations charges.

Mr. Weiss responded to Commissioner Morgan's statements.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**11. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they finished the meeting at 6:40 p.m. and it was now 8:40 p.m. and felt the cameras slowed them down and felt they now needed to stay focused to help out seniors, youth and the community. He hoped they could put a strong emphasis on community centers and parks because when people were healthy, there was a less chance they may need EMS or go to the hospital.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said some churches had their own community centers.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said Churches that had community centers had basketball courts, etc. where people could get in exercise and he thanked the Churches for that but some did not have the money or resources to provide that and felt it was the responsibility of the County. He said the County was supposed to protect public health, safety, and welfare and they were getting away from the responsibility.

Chair Holt asked if he wanted to make a motion and he said he would bring something up in the future.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to reiterate having the Administrator bring back how much funds were left in the paving project and to look at the roads done in her district the past two years.

**Emergency Fund**

She asked about the amount of money set aside for emergency fund for the Commissioners' district to repair houses. She said she knew there were some language concerns and maybe a moratorium set in place by former administrator and wanted to know where were now because there were people that were in need. She asked the attorney how would they handle, being in a small County, how they would handle things with everyone being kin. She said if someone was related to a commissioner could the funds be utilized.

Mr. Weiss said the first part was the Clerk expressed concerns about the program, the process and the availability of funds. He felt mainly it was more of a notification issue and the Clerk had expressed a desire to codify the policy and Ordinance and have some procedures and it would address some of the concerns. He said the way he understood, they could refer people who had needs, it operated like the SHIP program except it was money coming from the BOCC and not the State. He said there were a few exceptions due to the emergency nature of the repairs but for the most part, it was made known the availability of the funding, made known through the County website, make people aware through workshops they conduct and when people are referred, there was a program in place and the policy stated what the criteria are for qualifications and the

submittal requirements for applications and they follow the process. He said he did not see where that would not qualify as a public purpose and did not see why they could not use the funds and the Clerk was the one who ultimately writes checks. He said he saw no harm in adopting the policy as an Ordinance. He said as long as they had the funds, he did not see any prohibition against someone who had a relative using the funds, but they could not show favoritism.

Commissioner Taylor said per his discretion, they could utilize the dollars moving forward because of how it was vetted in the SHIP department. However, he did say that the Clerk had issues with it but the Clerk worked for them, he took direction from the Board on how they wanted to spend their dollars. She said she did not want to get into a tug-of-war because it would hurt the citizens trying to receive the services. She said she felt they needed to try to bring back something that made “the whole picture bright” so they could move forward. She said if the SHIP department was doing it right approving the applications and orchestrating the deliverable services, fine.

Commissioner Hinson said they just had an audit report and asked if they said something about that and Mr. Weiss said not that he was aware of. Commissioner Hinson said to move forward, it had been working forever, people did not have time for another week or two for them to make decisions, and they needed help. He said they had already voted on this matter during the budget workshop; the auditors had no problem with it and felt they should vote on this tonight because Christmas was coming and did not want folks freezing because of having no heat in their house.

Chair Holt said she thought all recommendations went to the Manager anyway. Mr. Weiss said the way he understood it and the way he thought it should work, Commissioners could make people aware of the program; tell them to contact the Administrator or the SHIP department and the Commissioners should not be involved in choosing them. Chair Holt said as long as they stayed within the law they were good.

Commissioner Hinson said his thing was, for the record, he never had that kind of problem, he just recently found out they could do this and he said he wanted to put a motion out to keep it as it was.

Chair Holt said they did not need a motion to keep it as it was.

Commissioner Taylor said that was perfect but her only concern was “whether or not the fellow across street would pay the bill based on what his concerns are”.

Mrs. Jackson said she thought if the Board decided this was the way they wanted to move forward with the funds, the Clerk had to honor it and she would see to it.

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had two things:

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE AMANDA GEE, WHO TURNED 100 YEARS OLD ON JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

He then suggested this weekend he heard something the County should take a look at; Pasco County has a County Food Ordinance and he asked them to send him a copy and thought they

could look at it to see if they wanted to explore to help their citizens.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said she had two items, the Chamber and GCDC contracts. She asked if the invoices had been paid yet and Mrs. Jackson said no money had been disbursed yet and said their contracts were not fully executed until tonight when it would be signed by the County Attorney and would then go to Clerk and their first payment would be \$40,000. She said she wanted to have this on there to get the same pay-out for the groups and said both were behind because they backed up the Economic Development plan. Chair Holt said she felt they should work on the deliverables as well. She also said she heard people were getting frustrated with the projects that were coming up in Commissioner Viegbesie and Commissioner Hinson's district.

Mrs. Jackson said she would like legal direction on what to do with the contract and said it was voted on at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to approve and would be the thirty days. She then asked the Board if they were questioning the contract or questioning the fee schedule of the contract.

Mr. Weiss said the action taken by the Board at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was to approve the contract and if GCDC or the Chamber wanted to enforce the terms of the contract, they could. He added the Board previously approved it and that was why the Agenda item was drafted the way it was when they started rethinking the pay schedule was they could rescind the prior action and approve a new contract. He said they could enforce the contract, be agreeable to change the terms, or it takes a party to try to enforce the contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the attorney had just addressed his comment. He said since the commitment has been made, and said he knew for sure because he spoke with one of the businesses, if the parties to this contract, this Board and GCDC and the Chamber, if they accept what they were due now for them to go on with what they do and they agree to modify the payment of the other part to monthly, quarterly or whatever they agree on, so no-one breeched the contract, felt that would be a way it could be amended harmoniously. He added they could work with them, draw up a new contract and move forward.

Commissioner Taylor said any contractual agreement has room for amendment, there was a thirty day leeway in there and was not sure why it was not added to the Agenda tonight, but since it was brought up, it needed to be amended to include how they wanted the payment arrangement made. She said if they wanted to counter after the contract was presented, they then had the right to negotiate.

Chair Holt said her request was to have payments in installments like the Chamber had.

Commissioner Hinson said they had thirty days and it started November 7<sup>th</sup>. He asked if they could wait another day or two or did they need to make decision tonight? Mr. Weiss said the contract said in terms of the pay schedule, one payment of \$80,000 was due upon approval of the contract by the BOCC; that happened. He said if it were him and he represented them and wanted to enforce the contract, he would say they were owed \$80,000, it was approved. He said if they wanted to enforce the terms of the contract, it would not matter if they took action tonight or two weeks from now. He explained the thirty days come into play, in terms of payment, thirty days of submission of the invoice, if they have not yet submitted an invoice, the argument would be it would not matter that we approved it, an invoice has not been submitted and there was thirty

days from submission to pay, but did not mean they would not be entitled to the payment. He said there was the thirty day termination clause which allowed them to terminate the contract within thirty days but again, they would have to give thirty days' notice and would not change the payment provision in the contract.

Commissioner Morgan said the reason it was not on this Agenda tonight was because he made a motion to pull it because it was not properly advertised. He said if they looked at the Agenda, they should be on Discussion Items by Commissioners, things the Commissioner wanted to bring up and made the Board aware of. He said it was not about action items at this point of the meeting and this was what kept them there until 10:00 p.m. He said all he was asking was to do this in the proper fashion, put it on the Agenda in time for it to be advertised properly or wait until the next agenda. He said to communicate with them, let them know where they were and put it in the next Agenda and vote on it.

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO SET UP A PAY SCHEDULE THE SAME FOR GCDC THAT THEY HAVE FOR THE CHAMBER AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PUT THE GCDC AND CHAMBER CONTRACT ON THE NEXT AGENDA FOR THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Holt held up the Policies and Procedures and said they were going to start giving time for rebuttal and then move on. She added they were probably going to start being on live tv because she noticed some people brought their phones in and noticed they were recording tonight and may be better they cut it short. She said she had a comment from a lady that was sitting in the back and said people were tired of hearing family stories, what they thought about what was going on, address the item, stay on point and go home. Commissioner Hinson said they could not worry about what people said. Chair Holt said a lot of them were saying that and they were going to start cutting it short, for a short agenda they were still here at 9:45 and it was too long.

#### **Receipt and File**

- 12. Letter from Duke Energy  
Letter from FDOT  
Letter from the City of Miami Beach  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance-Budget & Actual**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**December 19, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
December 5, 2017 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BECORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:34 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**BRENDA HOLT, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2  
Eric Hinson, District 2-appeared by phone  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked everyone to make sure their phones were on vibrate and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Morgan gave the Invocation and Chair Holt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. Approval to Accept the FY 2017 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report**
- 2. Approval of the 2018 BOCC Meeting Calendar**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. September 19, 2017**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County BOCC**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the GCBOCC and for authorization for the Chair to execute the documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**5. Approval of the Agreement with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department to Provide Security Services at the Edward J. Butler Building**

Mrs. Jackson asked to table this item.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM BEING TABLED.**

**6. Selection and Appointment of Members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for selection and appointment of members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council. She also stated that Mr. Matt Thro wished to stay in that position.

Commissioner Viegbesie nominated Linda Dixon to be appointed to the Council.

Commissioner Morgan said there was someone serving through the end of the year and had indicated they were willing to continue. He said he understood the need to appoint someone to Councilman Holton's position but felt they should wait on the second appointment until the end of the current term.

Chair Holt said there were several people that were interested in the position and applied. She said they also looked at the vacancies and absences and these were sent from the Council. Commissioner Morgan recommended they vote on the two appointments separately.

Commissioner Hinson asked that she repeat what they were talking about. She said Commissioner Morgan asked that they vote on the positions separately. Commissioner Hinson said Cathy Johnson had submitted her application but it was never received by staff and was not included in the packet.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM.**

**7. Economic Development Professional Services Contract-Gadsden County Development Council**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion, review and approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the GCDC and the BOCC.

Commissioner Viegbesie said based on the conversation had and concerns he heard from some fellow Commissioners, was about the payment plan. He said having heard that and after reading



this, he made a motion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if option 3 was still for two years and he was told yes. He said he was comfortable with one year instead of two and asked if the attorney had any problem with the contract. He said there was word in contract that concerned him. He asked about Paragraph 6 and the Attorney addressed his concerns.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**8. Economic Development Professional Services Contract Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for discussion, review and approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between BOCC and the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Morgan wanted the term for two years as with the GCDC contract.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 WITH 24 MONTHS AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTE 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Taylor asked for deliverables and Commissioner Morgan agreed-two good organizations working to try to improve their Economic Development situation and felt it was incumbent upon them to verify the deliverables, measure them on a consistent basis and as Commissioner Hinson reminded them, there was a 30 day out clause in both agreements and was their responsibility to make sure they were adhering to the deliverables.

**9. Approval of the Amended Security Force Southeast LLC Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Amended Security Force Southeast, LLC contract and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Request to Revoke Authorization for Redeemed, Inc. to Apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant and Designation of Redeemed, Inc. as the Applicant on behalf of the County**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request to revoke the authorization for

Redeemed, Inc. to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant. She said that after the last meeting of December 5<sup>th</sup>, Staff learned the Sheriff was not aware of the grant submission nor in support of it and the County had not traditionally designated nonprofits as grant applicants and authorized them to be responsible for grant program design and implementation on behalf of the County because the County was ultimately responsible for the grant.

Chair Holt said she spoke with the Sheriff last week and he informed her he knew nothing about this grant. She said there were a lot of non-profits in the County and the problem would be the grant coming through the BOCC and them not giving other non-profits the opportunity to administer the grant.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he mentioned this to the Interim County Administrator and as soon as they were out of the meeting, he received a call from a citizen and they advised him it was a federal grant and the implication of it and that the Sheriff was not aware of the grant being applied for. Commissioner Viegbesie then talked with the Sheriff and he was not aware of the grant, meaning he did not approve it. He asked if the County had a Criminal Justice Diversion Program outside of the Sheriff's Office and Mrs. Jackson said not that she was aware of. Commissioner Viegbesie said he was personally disturbed when he heard this information and he was leaning toward option 1.

Annie Berry appeared before the Board and said she did not represent that she was with the Sheriff's Department, none of the language she provided to the Board stated that and therefore she said the Sheriff did not have to know about this. She then said they already approved this at the last meeting and said she was told by the funding agency it was too late to change this now.

Chair Holt said in the meeting it was mentioned that she worked for the Sheriff's Department by herself, the Manager and they said the vote was contingent upon the application to come back before them for approval. Mrs. Berry said the application had not been submitted but the Letter of Intent and the Agency that was applying for the grant had already gone and she said the County Administrator had a copy of the application.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was the one that made the motion and had the hand-out that was provided by Mrs. Berry at the previous meeting. He said the handout stated everything specified Gadsden County, if he had realized this at the previous meeting he would not have made the motion and he was glad this was back on the Agenda for him to correct the wrong he did because of the lack of knowledge.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything wrong with the contract and Mr. Weiss said there was no contract. Mr. Weiss said he recalled the question asked was if a non-profit could implement the program. Commissioner Hinson said it came down to what was fair.

Commissioner Morgan said when the item originally came before them she called him to discuss it and he thanked her. He said he agreed with some of the comments Commissioner Hinson made. Commissioner Hinson said if the Sheriff was OK, he was OK. Commissioner Morgan said he called the Sheriff and the Sheriff was not OK with this. He said he felt if they supported a non-profit in this capacity, they were setting themselves up for future issues.

Commissioner Taylor said they could not get in the habit of doing this.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Taylor said this was the second time they had put an organization on notice for approval and then revoked their approval and this could compromise their integrity.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Taylor said she could appreciate the Sheriff and his position. She said there should be some kind of way that Redeemed and the Sheriff's Office could work this out.

Mrs. Berry asked if the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department had a drug court and said no, Redeemed did; she asked if Gadsden County Sheriff's Department had a pretrial release program- no, Redeemed did. She said the Sheriff's Department did not have the whereforall or the experience to fulfill this grant.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt this application should have come through the Sheriff's Department and let him approve this and the Sheriff was not OK with this.

Mrs. Berry said it was known that the Sheriff said he did not support this and she never said this was coming from Sheriff Department and was their assumption. She said she did not understand and did not appreciate the way the Board was handling the situation because of their assumption.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND IF THERE WAS A SECOND, ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said it was indicated earlier or suggested Sheriff said he was applying for the grant and Mrs. Berry said yes and Chair Holt said if he were applying for the grant it would be on the form but issue was what they were doing now with it.

Mr. Weiss pointed out at end of option 1 stated "and advise DCF of the revocation and that Gadsden County does not intend to submit a grant application" and if Gadsden County intended to submit a grant application, they should remove the last part.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO EXCLUDE GADSDEN COUNTY DOES NOT INTEND TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

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

**BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. REVOCATION GRANTED.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**11. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson said they reached out to GHI (hospital board) because there are three members whose terms expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> and Mr. Craig McMillan's recommendation was to dissolve the Board.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan said he had volunteered for a long time and he supported his position if he wished to do this. He suggested they agenda this item and ask him to come before the Board so it could be discussed.

Mrs. Jackson thanked them for them attending the Staff Christmas party and told them the float won first place in the Christmas parade.

She said there was a Memo in front of them regarding the timeline for the Courthouse renovations and she would also be providing them with a timeline for the Communications project and the Ag Center.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for the updates and asked about the ongoing issue of the BOCC meetings not being aired in the Chattahoochee area. She said they had reached out to Spectrum and they were doing all they could to get that going. He said they were airing the meetings on Facebook on the County page until approximately 1 ½ months ago and have had several inquiries as to why it was removed.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said he thought they were going to re-entertain that and there was no costs to the County and would continue to ask about this at every meeting until it was addressed. Mrs. Jackson said Staff took direction from the last Board meeting and they are looking at Facebook Live or some other alternative and it would be brought back before the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the County Administrator's Position, he said they were in a rush to get the position filled a few weeks ago and now had heard nothing about it. She said Staff had not been directed to do anything regarding that matter.

Mrs. Jackson thanked everyone and said Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Taylor said to the Administrator and staff congratulations for winning the Christmas float in the parade. She then said something happened a few minutes ago with the last Agenda item and hoped this would not be the direction the Board would continue in with giving someone their blessing one meeting and then revoke it at another meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie wanted the Interim to look into the voter registration and wanted an update regarding same.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**12. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WILLIE SIMMONS, NOW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT FAMU AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR SHANNON FAISON AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson then recognized Antonio Jefferson as he was recently recognized by North Florida Rural Caucus.

He then asked for a Resolution for a young couple, Terrance Roberts and wife Natalie Roberts and wanted to recognize them at the next Board Meeting.

He also wanted to recognize the Havana Kiwanis Club for their Christmas baskets.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan mentioned for a future workshop or discussion, the Sheriff's Office. He said approximately three years ago they entertained a new Administration Building in an effort to improve efficiency and reduce costs and felt the Board would be wise in discussing it because it could save money. He said he would also encourage them to discuss updates and modifications to improve the efficiency at the Jail.

He said he appreciated the efforts the Interim County Administrator has put into the position she was in charge of and encouraged her to continue.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she did not vote for the FAMU thing and asked to change her vote.

She said one of their schools was recognized as the Number 2 school in the Nation to move in Mathematics and they would be recognized sometime in April.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

She said with the Workshop held earlier, she concurred with Commissioner Viegbesie it was probably better to not add those type meetings in front of a regular board meeting because it was just too much.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

She suggested having a meeting sometime soon to keep the “irons hot” and moving forward.

Commissioner Morgan said it was very important and sessions needed to be short enough to retain information and build on it.

Commissioner Taylor said the point she was trying to make, she was tired and sure everyone else was as well about what they should have done

**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Gadsden County Economic Development Council for the event at Creek Entertainment yesterday.

He also commended the Sheriff’s Department for the Active Shooter exercise and the Faith-based community for their response and attendance.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2018.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DELSONTA JACKSON AND A RESOLUTION FOR HAVANA MAGNET SCHOOL, SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator to look into the status of Havana Elementary School and the status for Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary-had heard rumors.

Chair Holt asked that they call the Administrator on some of these items before the meeting to get things out of the way to move the meetings faster.

She said GCDC did an outstanding job yesterday and told them to continue doing so.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**January 2, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
December 19, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**